



## **It's Not Just Paint!**

The work on our building's exterior is almost complete! Through the craftsmanship of American Steeple and the watchful eye of our architect, Menders, Torres, and Spencer, the restoration of our Meetinghouse followed national standards for historic preservation, even specifying the types of nails, glue, and other materials to be used. These professionals made sure that historical details of our building were not only maintained – but, in some cases, restored details that had been lost.

So what has been done during these months of scaffolding? The obvious answer is that we repainted our church exterior – but many other repairs are not as visible. Our church's weathervane is an example of the workmanship involved. Instead of just repainting, they removed it, sandblasted, re-secured previous repairs, and re-gilded the surface. They reworked the rod that attaches the weathervane to the steeple so that it can turn freely with the wind – both functional and necessary to keep the vane from breaking!

What else did they do? Read on . . .

- Clock – re-schmaltzed the clock face, gold-leafed the original numerals, and reattached minute markers.
- Balustrade – Restored the broken balustrade along the front roofline. When they removed the old woodwork, they located the original attachment points and had new pieces made to the scale of the original woodwork.
- Pinnacles – repaired at each corner of the roof.
- Steeple – removed three layers of rotting wood and replaced with new sheath over a layer of lath for airflow.
- Our Paul Revere bell – re-seated on its supports and weighted so that the bell can be rung from our lobby.
- Replaced the broken “W” directional on the weathervane with a new piece, cut to match from 1” iron.
- Windows – replaced flashing; replaced broken windowpanes with salvage glass that matches our original rolled glass.
- Woodwork – scraped and replaced rotted wood wherever found, including siding, windowsills, along the foundation; reinforced beams in the attic.
- Roof – replaced buckling shingles wherever needed.
- Masonry – re-pointed the chimney and granite foundation.
- Ventilation – replaced attic window with louvered covering to match bell tower, providing weatherproof, year-round airflow in the attic.

***Our grateful thanks to all involved!***