



Monday Matters

November 24, 2014

It Is Alive and Well!

I had the privilege of serving as the church administrator at First (Scots) in Charleston, SC. The church was founded in 1731 and this month the church is celebrating the 200th anniversary of its sanctuary which opened in 1814.

Being located in the historic part of Charleston and by Charleston Harbor, there are many regulations that must be followed during any renovation and construction. It is extremely restrictive. During my time at the church we undertook replacing the pipes for the HVAC system under the sanctuary floor. The floor was located just above the ground with very limited access available to remove the worn pipes that were ready to burst and flood the sanctuary. It created quite a challenge in order accomplish this task and preserve the ancient floor. At the same time the entire sanctuary was to be painted after re-plastering parts of the ceiling due to water

damage. Careful attention was given to preserving the building's integrity.



This sanctuary has withstood the test of time. In the past hurricanes have caused damage to the building. Earthquakes have come and gone. One day while crawling through the attic I noticed the charred wooden ceiling joists from a fire many years ago. In climbing into the bell tower I saw where steel reinforcements had been installed to prevent the two towers from separating any further from the building structure. The church even made it through the Civil War in the 1860's. Fort Sumter located in Charleston Harbor is where the first shots were fired that started the war. To this day there is a cannon ball embedded in the church's structure.

To me the structure told many interesting stories from the past 200 years. But there is a story that goes back many more hundreds of years that is of greater importance. The Bible tells us in Matthew 16, "*You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.*"(MSG).

I was reminded of the song *The Church Triumphant*. The words of the song are so beautiful.

This ship's been through battles before

*Storms and tempests and rocks on the shore
Tho' the hull may be battered,
Inside it's safe and dry
It will carry its cargo to the port in the sky.*

*Let the Church be the Church, let the people rejoice.
Oh, we've settled the question,
We've made our choice.*

*Let the anthems ring out, Songs of victory swell
For the Church triumphant is alive and well.*



The Church Triumphant
Gaither Homecoming

Let us rejoice. Jesus Christ established The Church that no matter what is thrown in its way it will not be destroyed, not even the gates of hell can stop it.

Hallelujah!



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