

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Aspire



Honour and majesty are  
before Him; strength and beauty  
are in His sanctuary.  
Psalm 96:6

Aspire to greater things - that is the meaning of a spire. Spires lend a certain majesty to a community by being focal points and landmarks. They add interest to the skyline by leading your eyes upward toward heaven in the Gothic tradition. Human beings have had a fascination for such structures since the beginning of time—the tower of Babel, the great cathedrals, along with contemporary aluminum devices. Can it be that these mute architectural creations feed the soul?

The United Presbyterian Church in Lyndonville (photo above) has recently completed the restoration of their church spire at no small cost. The congregation had several options to make concerning a leaking problem in the 100-year-old spire. But having a reverence for their historic building, they opted to repair it in a traditional manner with integrity for the original architectural design. In other words, common sense prevailed! The restoration work was done by the Upstate Ariel Co. of Canandaigua in the traditional steeplejack fashion with ropes and bosun chairs. Cedar shingles were used to emulate the design of the original shingles. The Upstate Ariel Co. would not have done the job otherwise. In fact, they determined that some of

The First Presbyterian Church of Yates was organized with 16 members on Oct. 15, 1833. The first church was erected on the present site in 1838 for a cost of \$3,000. In 1888, the original spire was removed and a 20-foot extension was added to the front of the older church building with the present tower and spire. It is around 60-feet in height, being located at the northeast corner of the building. You can see, this is all very timely for Lyndonville Presbyterians, as this year is the 150th anniversary of their founding. The sesquicentennial of the erection of their church and the centennial of the completion of their facade and spire.

It is plain that this congregation aspires to greater things by keeping the integrity of their building intact, which has cost more than doing it in a cheaper fashion. This all indicates to me that pastoral and congregational leadership in the church are sound. Congratulations for a job well done. The leaking and rotting around the base of the spire had been caused by water infiltrating behind vinyl siding which had been applied a few years ago. Had vinyl not been used, the recent problem probably would never have occurred. Over \$11,000 has been spent on this project thus far, which has been raised through different groups within the church and by many generous individuals. Another \$6,000 is still needed to finalize the financial commitment.

The Rev. Stephen Devine, pastor of the church, indicated: "This project says something to the community, that we take pride here in our spot on Main Street!" Forsyth!