



FRIENDS of TIMMONS TEMPLE

February 2017

Dear Friend of Timmons Temple,

Thank you so much for your faith in the effort to save Timmons Temple from demolition two years ago. We've been steady-ahead ever since the building was saved by a generous community, and moved to the adjacent historic Silver Springs Park, at 1055 E. Webster. We are so grateful to our fellow Springfieldians for coming together like we do here in the Ozarks.

We'd like to update you on our progress to turn the former church into a multi-purpose event space for public and neighborhood use. The native rock building looks really beautiful in the park, and perfectly matches the park's existing Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-era artistic stone walls, amphitheater, pavilion and other features.

Fundraising continues for the remaining costs needed to be able to open for use - We're almost there!

Oh so close... Together with a wide variety of partners, we've saved this cultural icon. Together we've made a huge accomplishment - inspired by those whose stories we are hearing and collecting by the dozens. Please see the other side of this letter for descriptions of what we're still needing.

**MILESTONES:**

- We are now officially Friends of Timmons Temple, a 501c3 non-profit organization! So far we've used only private donations and volunteers to fund this initiative, and we are very proud of this.
- Our partnerships have been the reason this project has succeeded, including the wonderful Springfield-Greene County Park Board, and the crucially helpful Springfield & Vicinity Local Trade Union Council and their unions: IBEW 453, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 178 and Carpenters Local 978. The union representatives and their apprenticeship programs have donated all their labor and expertise!
- The porch has been rebuilt and is awaiting replacement of the original stone; two bathrooms are roughed in; almost everything is plumbed and wired, ceiling is restored, and we're awaiting some approvals.
- We have been fortunate to uncover original interior details including the original bead-board ceiling, hand-painted wainscoting on the walls, and irreplaceable gorgeous leaf-pine floors.
- In January, we met with Park Board leadership about planning the new life for the building once the renovation is completed, we hope, by the end of the year! We're excited about seeking public input to help in this journey. The recurring theme we've been hearing has been to use the space for music performance, and use the interior walls as a small museum that will tell the stories of this landmark gathering place. We look forward to seeing a multi-purpose place for small to medium sized events.

There are also new opportunities to engage! Give us your input on how you think the building should be used, and support our Give Ozarks campaign, on May 9, when we'll be raising \$4,700 to restore Timmons Temple's original leaf-pine floors. Imagine being able to dance on the same floor as those who built this temple did. It was built by hand with love and strength, as a gathering place for their members as well as anyone else of any faith - for neighbors, for strangers, for friends, for the needy.

We hope you're able to help the Temple again. After an intense two years, we see the light at the end of the tunnel, and it's very bright! Thank you for being a part of this, and for giving from your heart.

Gratefully,

Paula Ringer, Chair  
Friends of Timmons Temple

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