

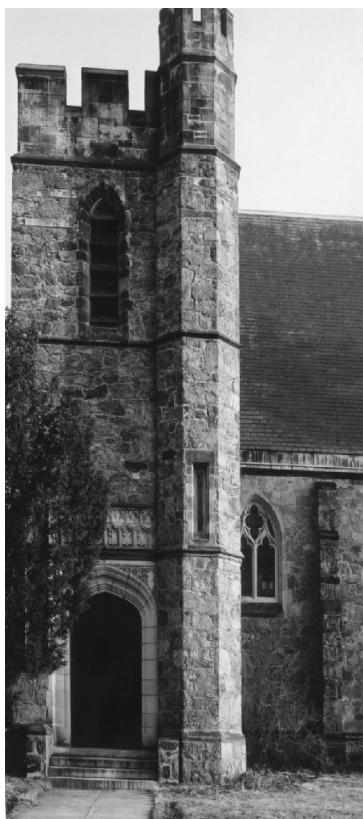
Connick Windows

Thoughts, news and comments concerning the art and craft of Connick stained glass, published periodically by...

The Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation, Ltd., Orin E. Skinner, Founder Marilyn B. Justice, President Summer, 2006
Directors and Officers: Jonathan Ambrosino Theresa D. Cederholm Peter Cormack (Honorary) Judith G. Edington
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The Connick Foundation Plans For A New Home

The Connick Foundation Directors



The time has now come for The Connick Foundation to establish a physical presence in order to develop and expand its work. Church of the Open Word, pictured to the left, is the ideal place to create this vision.

Just behind the business district of Newtonville, Massachusetts, on the edge of a Victorian residential, tree-lined street stands the noble stone Church of the Open Word designed in 1893 by America's distinguished church architect Ralph Adams Cram. Connick windows were installed in 1916 and 1917 when the chancel was extended. Connick's creative solution to time constraints and the financial demands of providing an entire glazing scheme for Church of the Open Word was the installation of what he called 'temporary glass' for the nave windows. In reality this glass, so beautifully executed in its arts and crafts idiom of rectilinear design became comfortable, familiar and permanent at Church of the Open Word. However, the chancel window utilizes the grisaille motif and symbolizes Jesus, Moses and Elias. See below.

In addition to being a manifestation of the frequent artistic partnership of Ralph Adams Cram and the Connick Studio, there is a special connection between the Connick family and this Swedenborgian Church. It is the church where Charles Connick's funeral took place and his wife Mabel was a member. A handsome stone parish hall is connected to the Church by a porte-cochere. The modest stucco wing of this parish hall, pictured on the overleaf, seems perfectly situated to house the Foundation's national headquarters.

The impetus for a home for the Foundation comes not only from our existing program needs, which are considerable. It also comes from a calling to address in one place a distressing phenomenon taking place all across the country, but especially in the Northeast and Midwest. Churches and synagogues are being abandoned and the artwork, including stained glass, that formed an important part of worship is being orphaned or misused. This increasingly common occurrence was detailed in a June 12, 2006, Associated Press article in the *New York Times*. The article, titled "And the Relics of a Church Shall Be Rescued," describes a Philadelphia diocese that has a warehouse of religious artifacts from closed churches. Many of these artifacts are placed in other churches where demographics are growing churches rather than closing them. Other artifacts, however, are lost into private hands. In some cases such artifacts are destroyed to ensure that they are not improperly used. The Connick Foundation considers its partnership with Church of the Open Word as a means to help maintain this sacred place as was originally intended by the Swedenborgian congregation, the architect, Ralph Adams Cram, and the stained glass artists, Charles J. Connick and his associates.



Chancel window, Church of the Open Word
Newtonville, MA

Courtesy of Connick Archives, Fine Arts
Department, Boston Public Library

Scholars, researchers, archivists, historians of churches, synagogues, libraries, universities and hospitals continually contact the Connick Foundation for information concerning Connick stained glass windows and the Connick Studio's contribution to American art and architecture. The Connick Foundation needs to establish a public place to serve the ever increasing requests and to continue to preserve and perpetuate the Connick tradition of stained glass.

The Foundation has retained the architectural firm of Adams & Smith that specializes in library design and consulting, historic preservation, and renovations of historic buildings. Plans are currently being drawn up for the renovation of space to be used by the Foundation. The space will include environmentally controlled areas for our conserved designs, cartoons and various records of the Connick Studio, an office area, stained glass repository and study area. The renovation will extend to shared space that will be available to the Foundation for lectures and other programming.

Soon we will be at the point where serious fundraising must begin. We invite your suggestions as the master plan is being developed and timelines with specific goals are put in place.



Stucco wing of the parish hall, Church of the Open Word,
Newtonville, Mass.

Stay Tuned for News of the Orin E. Skinner Lecture!

The Connick Foundation is eagerly anticipating the return of Peter Cormack to present this year's Orin E. Skinner Lecture. Mr. Cormack, an honorary director of the Foundation, is Keeper of William Morris Gallery in London, England; Honorary Curator of Kelmscott Manor (William Morris' country home in Oxfordshire); Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries; and Honorary Fellow of the British Society of Master Glass-Painters.

Details of the date (tentatively, November 15 or 16) and location will be publicized as soon as confirmed.