



Photo credit Damon Winter, NYT

# FORD3

ARCHITECTS, LLC

Despite its strength, a historic building is just as susceptible to the passage of time as anything else. This is certainly true of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, which has stood as a testament to craftsmanship and resilience since 1875. Over 140 years of harsh winters and general wear and tear had begun to loom large on the old church spires, and in order to save them from the grip of time, it would require time-tested skill.

That tremendous skill would be provided by a pair of talented construction teams: Ford 3 Architects and Deerpath Construction Corporation. The squad of architects at Ford 3 has a knack for finding the balance between historic and contemporary influences, which made them ideal for the FAPC project. Similarly, Deerpath Construction has produced consistently high-quality work with over 40 years of masonry projects under their belt. Together, their hands were the perfect fit for shaping the old stones at Fifth Avenue.



Exterior renovation

## Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

### DOCUMENTATION MADE EASY

As you might expect, a church so deeply rooted in the past had all those years reflected on its exterior walls. When Katherine Frey, Preservation Architect at Ford 3, first set eyes on the building, it was clear there was much work to be done. The FAPC project primarily involves brownstone restoration along with exterior window replacement for both of the main structures on the property, as well as the parish house attached to the back of the sanctuary. With so many stories and detailed crevices to assess, Frey sought a tool to help make her inspections less burdensome.

*"We had a team survey the building about 4 years ago to document the conditions, so we've been preparing for the restoration ever since then,"* says Frey. *"When we first started construction, I was taking photographs with my camera and coming back into the office to download them. We soon found Fieldwire while searching online, and when I started using it, I was really impressed by how user-friendly it was from the very beginning. I started using the phone app to snap photographs and everything became faster and more simple to manage."*

*"Fieldwire greatly assisted with communication between myself and the contractor. The app hasn't been bogged down at all. Photos get sent right to them, and I am notified whenever they finish the repairs."*



## A FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNICATION

The Ford 3 and Deerpath crews faced many hurdles atop the aged church, but communication was never a concern. Their correspondence was both tracked and boosted thanks to Fieldwire's real-time notification system, which let Frey and Matt McGarry, the Project Manager at Deerpath, know anytime a task had been updated with new content. This saved them the trouble of checking back in with those assigned to specific repairs. The software keeps a living transcript of comments, photos, and any information included within tasks, housing everything in one convenient place. *"From a project management standpoint, it's essential,"* says McGarry. *"A program like Fieldwire really makes things a lot easier and a lot more efficient. I absolutely recommend it."*

***"If I didn't have this app, I'd be creating a new report every day about each thing and trying to get that information to them in an understandable way,"***

*- Katherine Frey, Preservation Architect at Ford 3*

## PRESERVING HISTORY

The restoration of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church is nearly complete. If the weather behaves, the last of the repairs will wrap up and all of the exterior scaffolding will be taken down by Thanksgiving. With only a month or so left on the job, the Ford 3 and Deerpath teams have the finish line in sight. Thanks to Matt McGarry and Katherine Frey, and the mettle and expertise of their colleagues, the wounds left by time on this historic church will soon be healed. Their industry know-how, and some steady help from Fieldwire, ensures that the FAPC will be preserved for another century, if not longer.

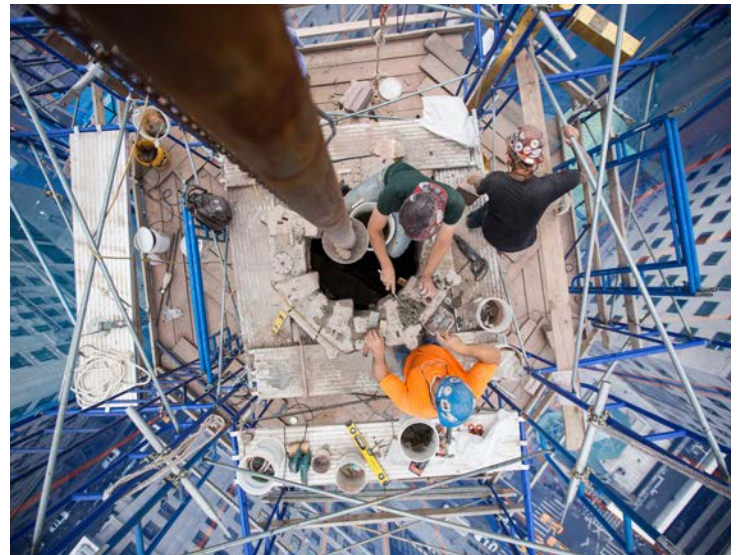


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