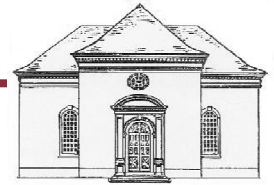


TimeLines



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2
FALL 2006

Staff changes to take place January 1

The new year will open at Historic Christ Church with staff changes designed to meet the evolving needs of the foundation. In the new plan Camille Bennett becomes executive director, Robert Teagle will be curator and education director, and Bob Cornelius will fill a new position of director for finance and administration. A search is on to fill the position of office manager. The individual will replace Margaret Hock, who served with distinction in the role for nearly two years.

Focus on development

The feasibility study commissioned by the foundation in 2004 recommended that 50%

of the executive director's time be devoted to development, a standard for the contemporary interpretation of the role. The executive director will continue to be responsible for marketing, public and government relations, volunteer council support, personnel supervision, and the foundation's corporate management functions.

Focus on finance

The executive director will also maintain overall fiscal accountability and budget control. However, the new position of director of finance and administration will supervise budgeting and accounting, investment and preservation

project management, and have oversight of buildings and grounds, including the cemetery facility, and construction. Bob Cornelius has made a commitment to remain in this position for three years.

Education plus

The education director's position will now include curatorial responsibilities for the new gallery's permanent exhibits as well as planning periodic temporary exhibits and managing the online digital history project and foundation website.

The new job descriptions provide continuity and keep the current staff team together well into the future.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Christ Church glows at all times of the year but perhaps most brightly during the Christmas season. The Volunteer Council invites the members and friends of the foundation to visit the church during the holidays to enjoy its greened beauty.

On December 12 the Council is sponsoring Flowers of Christmas, an afternoon of seasonal decorating and refreshments. Tickets at \$10 will cover costs. Call the foundation office at 804-438-6855 to attend.

Happenings in the Churchyard

The churchyard was a busy place this fall. Conservationist Greg Cowan, below left, and driver E.J. Benedict replace the west panel on Robert Carter's tomb. The Elis Olsson Memorial Foundation funded the project to restore all three Carter tombs. Archaeologist interns, Amber Rhodes and Sarah



Heinsman, right, dig deeper in search of the first Christ Church. Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Scheu funded this work, whose findings will be reported early in 2007. A jigsaw puzzle of glass, lead and brick fragments still needs solving before a final report can be made public.



SAVE THE DATE!

The next issue of *TimeLines* will come out in Spring of 2007. It will carry pictures of the foundation's Annual Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 17.

You can be part of the scene by saving the date and attending the meeting. Be prepared for a delicious box lunch in the churchyard and the visit of a surprise guest. He will be worth the trip.

Charter Members of the Foundation for Historic Christ Church

Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell J. Alga
 Capt. A. O. R. Bergesen
 Mr. & Mrs. William A. Brown
 Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock

Ann Hathaway Francis
 Mrs. Issac Hathaway Francis
 Master Issac Hathaway Francis, IV
 Miss Laura V. Francis

Elizabeth Francis MacKensie
 Mrs. John E. Maher
 Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Pierce McGinnes
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. McGinnes
 Mr. & Mrs. Crosby Miller
 Senator R. O. Norris, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Oler
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 Mrs. C. T. Pierce
 Mr. & Mrs. John H. Randolph
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 Mrs. Charles L. Reiersen
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 Mr. & Mrs. W. Lucius Sanders
 Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Satterfield
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 Mr. & Mrs. Beirne Blair Carter
 Dr. Burr Noland Carter
 Dr. & Mrs. Burr Noland Carter, II
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hill Carter
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Carter
 Miss Susan Noland Carter
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 Mr. & Mrs. Flexmer Chase
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Flexmer Chase, Jr.
 Miss Olivia Chase
 Mr. Cyrus Chilton
 Mr. V. R. Chowning
 Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Churchman
 Dr. & Mrs. H. Tayloe Compton
 Mr. E. Worthington Coslett
 Comdr. & Mrs. Stanley Cox
 Miss Anne F. David
 Mr. & Mrs. C. A. G. Dawe
 Col. & Mrs. Harold Doud
 Maj. Gen. & Mrs. Herbert L. Earnest
 Miss Marjorie Eastwick
 Rev. & Mrs. James F. Ferneyhough
 Mrs. R. Hill Fleet
 Mrs. H. E. Flowers

Above, charter members Cyrus Chilton, Helen Bullock, Louise Dawe, Gridley Dawe and caretaker Wilson Green visit the

church in 1958. Above right, charter member Richard Herndon and Richmond engineer Henry Taylor, Jr. and University of Virginia architect professor Frederick D. Nichols inspect the roof trusses during a 1964 survey of the church.



Bishop Robert Gibson
 Bishop F. D. Goodwin
 Miss Isobel Gough
 Mrs. P. M. Gresham
 Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Hammack
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard T. Herndon
 Mr. & Mrs. B. H. B. Hubbard
 Mr. B. N. Hubbard
 Miss Corrie Hubbard
 Mrs. Walton Hubbard
 Mr. Paul W. Jenkins
 Mr. Carter M. Keane
 Mrs. Henry Kennard
 Miss Dora Anne MacKensie

Mrs. Clarence Squires
 Miss Elizabeth Fallin Squires
 Mr. & Mrs. Ennolls A. Stephens
 Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Stetler
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Stewart
 Miss Betsy Noland Carter Stone
 Mrs. Caleb S. Stone
 Miss Louise Tayloe
 Mr. Paul Valle
 Mrs. Everett Waddey
 Mrs. Harrison Wellford
 Mr. & Mrs. Ashby Wickham
 Mrs. J. L. Wood
 Mr. George Worthington

On the Road to 2008

The Foundation for Historic Christ Church, celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in 2008, was organized around a mission statement that has guided and shaped its work for five decades: *“To preserve and maintain old Christ Church, sometimes known as Robert (“King”) Carter’s Church, in Lancaster County, Virginia, and its surrounding property, near the town of Irvington, Virginia: to preserve its early dignity and beauty as nearly as may be feasible; to preserve and improve its surroundings; to protect and care for the church, its ancient churchyard and surrounding properties; to collect preserve and display the records of its use and of the persons active in its history; all to the end that it may be a memorial to the Christian character of the American colonists, a shrine for continuing religious worship, and a vital and significant sanctuary.”*

With this statement, the Foundation for Historic Christ Church began its work and with it also *TimeLines* begins a five-part appreciation of what has been accomplished since 1958. In this space and continuing over the next four issues, Bob Cornelius, who has been an active partner in the effort since 1999 as executive director and since 2001 as executive vice president, will relate the 50-year story of the foundation’s evolution. Each reminiscence will be themed and will highlight key events and the people who were central to the story. The series opens appropriately in this issue with:

The Beginnings

For a century starting in the mid-1800s Christ Church, while never completely abandoned, was infrequently used, often neglected and occasionally “patched and mended.” By the mid-1900s progressive deterioration prompted Christ Church parish senior warden C. A. Gridley Dawe to declare the building unfit for use as the site of the annual homecoming service.

These dire circumstances called for dramatic action. A building of such historic and architectural significance could not be lost. Its proper salvation would require a sustained preservation effort—to the highest standards—under the stewardship of a thoughtfully conceived organization served by creative, dedicated and well-resourced friends of Christ Church.

To meet the challenge the Foundation for Historic Christ Church was formed in June of 1958.

The notion of transcending the patch and mend maintenance of the venerable building originated in the acquaintanceship of two women: Louise

Dawe, spouse of the senior warden, and Helen Bullock, historian of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A previous restoration effort involving the birthplace of the founder of the Girl Scouts had brought the two together.

Savannah, Georgia native Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scout movement in the United States in 1911. In 1953 the Girl Scouts purchased and restored her birthplace—a handsome 1821 English Regency house in the heart of what became the Savannah Historic District. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, in the person of Helen Bullock, assisted the Girl Scouts in the process. One of the Girl Scout leaders deeply involved in the acquisition and restoration was Louise Dawe.

With the precarious condition of Christ Church causing alarm among many interested parties, Louise Dawe called on her friend Helen Bullock, who then became professionally and personally engaged. At her suggestion and with her guidance, the foundation was formed. Through her relationships at

the National Trust, expert resources, typified by Dr. J. C. (Pinkie) Harrington, were enlisted in the Christ Church cause. The first major gift (\$15,000) was made by E. Worthington Coslett.

The foundation’s first officers and directors were Ennolls A. Stephens, president, Laura Virginia Francis, vice president, C. A. G. Dawe, secretary, Mitchell J. Alga, treasurer, and the Rev. James F. Ferneyhough, *ex officio* chairman of the board. The other founding directors were E. Worthington Coslett, Major General (ret.) Herbert L. Earnest, Richard T. Herndon, Paul W. Jenkins, Carter M. Keane and Thomas D. McGinnes. An impressive roster of charter members, who are listed on the right, supported and encouraged this leadership group.

Thus, through happy coincidence, what might have been a continuation of the tradition of “patching and mending the old church” was elevated to the creation of a premier preservation organization and the restoration of Christ Church to its original glory.

Follow the *Timelines* Road to 2008

Spring 2007: 50 Years of Preservation

Fall 2007: The Landscape

Spring 2008: Talent and Treasure

Fall 2008: Research and Education

Children at the Church:



The three Second Saturday programs bring younger children to Christ Church. That is Meg Teagle, above right, with two fellow diggers ready to plumb the depths of an historical sand box. Top left, a six-year old colonial miss visited from Maryland with her grandparents who live in Burgess while, left, two four-year old local residents show that dress-up is fun for every child.

This year 110 ten and eleven-year olds entered the Northern Neck History Fair. Essay contest winner Beau Nickerson, right, visited with his grandfather David and father Mike. Beau's paper on the Virginia Gazette included research he did in the microfilm files of the Library of Virginia. His family shares his love of history, but his dad advises against asking him about the Alamo "unless you have several hours free."



Reaching the next generation

For Robert Carter children were a blessing. He wrote in 1728, near his 65th birthday, “My children I thank God for what I know are all well. . . I have the blessing of seeing my children’s children before me and. . . every one has the comfort of descendents.” He exercised great care in his children and grandchildren’s education, funding and supervising their training both in Virginia and England.

The education program at Historic Christ Church continues Robert Carter’s emphasis on education for children but reaches out to today’s young people in ways perhaps unknown in his time. The program is interactive and hands-on, designed to involve and stimulate growing minds. Under the guidance of education director Robert Teagle, visiting children and HCC volunteers step back in time together.

Student visitors comprise about one-tenth of the total number of visitors to Christ Church. They come on their own with their parents, either on individual tours or to the special days set aside for them during the summer, or they visit with their classmates for a full-day field trip. Local students can also participate in the annual Northern Neck History Fair.

On the right, fourth graders from Botetourt Elementary School in Gloucester ponder the answer to a artifact hunt question in the gallery; below right, school program volunteer Nancy Chiltern demonstrates how to put on the “history hat” that allows travel through time; and below left, the Botetourt fourth graders exhibit the fascination that graves and grave markers have for their age group as they respectfully approach the Kelley graves.

Photos deleted due to privacy considerations

Life members convene for lunch

Nearly 100 members, friends and guests met on October 26 to recognize the contribution made by the 723 life members to the ongoing financial stability of the foundation. Current board president John Hunt joined former president Louise Denegre in remembering individual members and in pledging to “let us never forget what [the life members] did for the foundation.” The nest egg created by the life member program, they promised, would remain forever dedicated to the care and preservation of the church. It was an afternoon for celebrating old friends and commitments.

On the right are Anne Dickerson, June Higgins and Miriam Bell. Below are Louise Denegre, T. Nash Broaddus, Jane Sheeran and Jeanne and Barbara Hensler.



Above are Jim Hill, Don Miller, Thea Marshall, Chris and Jean Christensen, Weeks Hill, Nancy Clark, Mitchell Alga and Peggy James. Left are Kitty Wooldridge, Richard Higgins, Pat Lewis, John Hunt and Stuart Bray.

Conversations in Time

A number of friends of the foundation have agreed to tell, in their own words, how Christ Church has become the national and community icon it is today. The taped interviews will eventually be part of the archival record and available in their entirety. In this and the next four issues, *TimeLines* will present excerpts from these conversation, beginning with Dr. Burr Noland Carter II, a former foundation board member and direct descendant of Robert Carter and Judith Armistead through their son John. Nick Carter shared his reflections and memories on many topics with Camille Bennett and Kathy Moeller.

Tradition and Family: A Talk with Nick Carter

How does a family pass on traditions and create an identity? As Nick Carter tells it, his father just brought him along.

"When I was a young boy here in school [in Richmond], my father was quite interested in the church . . . I used to accompany him on drives down there in the late thirties. I must say it was in poor condition in those days—the grass was up high . . . the wall crumbling down. It was depressing really—there were a couple of iron gates sagging . . ."

But Nick and his father, Robert Hill Carter, continued to poke around. They investigated the curious tunnels that led from Corotoman to the river and visited the elderly neighbors who kept barrels in their barns filled with artifacts from the site.

The forties saw Nick and his peers go off to war and he next recalls the 1970s when the Corotoman dig led by Carter Hudgins spotlighted the Carter story. During these and later years, Nick's brother Beirne supported the creation of the Carter Reception Center and Nick donated the portrait of Robert Carter that dominates the current gallery.

"Carter Wellford invited us to come down to Sabine Hall, which I did lots of times. There in the hall was this portrait of old King Carter when he was a gruff-looking old man. By this time my father had died, so I thought it would be nice if we could do something . . . in my father's name. So I asked Carter Wellford could we possibly copy that portrait. Matter of fact, we think that's the only original portrait of Robert Carter . . . the rest of them are copies. . . The children, my two brothers and sister [and I]. . . gave the portrait."

Nick's father had also come to a strong feeling of connection to Christ Church in a one-on-one family setting. Nick describes how that happened and then how the process of family interaction is continuing for him today:

"[My father] sat at the foot of two old maid aunts [Polly and Sally], who were post-civil war ladies . . . Daddy got interested as a little boy listening to all these stories . . . Yesterday I went to a place . . . in Caroline County . . . a farm built in the eighteenth century. It belongs to the son of a friend of mine . . . What caught my fancy . . . [was] . . . this was the house where my great-great-great aunt lived . . . After revering the house from top to bottom . . . we got in a pickup truck and went way back up in the woods to this brick graveyard, half of all of which was falling down, and there on the ground was a plaque of [the builder] and next to him was my great-great-great aunt . . . Those kinds of things turn me on . . . That little episode had a personal feeling . . . When I

was back in the house I could see [my aunt and her husband] sitting on the porch . . .

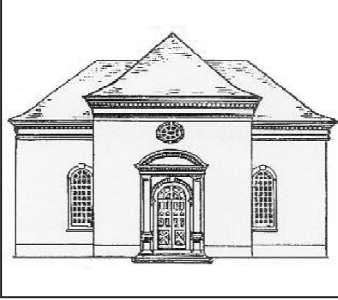
The enthusiasm continues to spill across the generations from father to son. Nick has passed on another painting: *"I have a grand big portrait that I just gave to my son, of King Carter when he was young . . . Ned lives in one of these houses in Alexandria that has high ceilings—he was the only person who could get it in his house. I told him that when he moves or sells his house, I want him to give that portrait to Christ Church."*

In the years since Christ Church was completed in 1735, the Carter family was the first of many families who gathered there both in body and in spirit. They set a tradition of generous caring for the church that the foundation, through its members, staff and volunteers, carries forward to this day.

Music Midst the Leaves



A brilliant October day saw 130 music lovers of all ages enjoying period music performed by harpsichordist Giles Cooke and Sarah Glosson, left, and Jeffrey Phelps, right, on the viola da gamba and cello. Lancaster High School student Jenny O'Shaughnessy, center, attended especially to hear Phelps, who conducts her and other young artists in the Williamsburg Youth Orchestra. The concert was a fully-sponsored fundraiser for Christ Church.



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the hands of its builders

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Editor

Kathy Moeller

Photography

Marilyn Hedges Joe Moeller
Robert Teagle

◆2006 Contributions Update◆

Share the joy of Christ Church during the holiday season.
Gifts can honor a friend or family member.
They can remember those who have gone before.
Gift cards are available from the office to inform your honoree.



The 2006 Annual Appeal is underway.
These funds are not used for capital programs.
They support ongoing education programs for children and adults.
They make certain that day-to-day needs are adequately funded.
They guarantee that endowment income is always available
for preservation.

The Annual Appeal concludes on December 31.
Over 100 new donors and 225 prior donors have contributed to date.



Every contribution, no matter its size, supports the Christ Church mission.
Please remember that mission in your holiday giving.