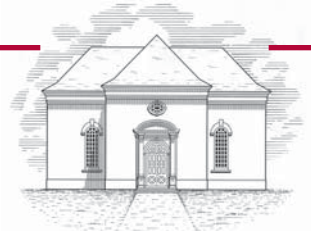


Past Times



SPRING 2009

Winter News and Views

Pristinely preserved Christ Church, the colonial heritage it embodies, and the interpretive resources you have helped create can inspire even the most casual visitor to learn a little history. Without a little history and a thirst for more, the survival level of civic literacy Thomas Jefferson commended to us all is unattainable. The achievements of 2008 set a new benchmark for the Foundation's capacity to provide the needed inspiration in terms of visitors, volunteer hours, number, scale and quality of public events—all while carrying out the most ambitious site improvement project undertaken since the 1960s. Recent comments from volunteers and correspondence from visitors testify to just how brilliant a success the year was. What an appropriate way to celebrate the church's 50th Anniversary! We are blessed by the dedication and talents of all the officers, board, volunteers and staff who made this possible.

We also have been greatly blessed by everyone's financial contributions. Beyond lavish gifts of time and talent, many have risen to the dual challenge to fund the new improvements and meet the 2008 annual appeal goal of \$100,000. It's impossible to say thank you often enough, but let this be an occasion to do so. Your donations helped match the three \$50,000 challenge grants announced last summer, and take the \$2+ million capital campaign past the \$1.5 million mark. What remains to be funded is the new gallery. The sale of commemorative bricks, to be laid in the new courtyard, is a significant part of the 2009 plan to complete this campaign. Brick sales are now underway.

Please contact the Foundation office, or visit the website for details on how you can honor or remember a friend, a family member or an ancestor in this special way.

2009 promises to be as outstanding as 2008, a fitting way to inaugurate our second half-century of inspiration. With a grand opening set for April 25, the new gallery and gift shop bring to our lovely rural community a facility as elegant, meticulously designed and technically current as Christ Church was when it was built. Volunteers once again will offer their acclaimed hospitality, knowledge, and attention to detail as they welcome visitors to an enhanced campus and a lively schedule of public events. The herb garden will enchant in its charming new setting. New publications will emerge from researchers who have now moved in to a beautifully refurbished space. Preservation projects will continue as faithfully as ever, paced to assure application of the most expert advice and skill available.

The special challenge of making 2009 another banner year in the face of a precarious national economy is one the Foundation's board, volunteers and staff are uniquely equipped to meet. Homemade rather than catered, black & white rather than full color, more use of e-mail and less of US Mail, self-funding rather than subsidized events are some of the creative suggestions already received as we look for ways to maintain the programs and activities that inspire and engage all who experience Christ Church. Truly, it will be a wonderful fifty-first year.

— *Camille Bennett*

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SAVE THE DATES

MARCH

Spring Training – See Insert

APRIL

1 – Visitor Season Opens
15 – Volunteer Roundtable
25 – Gallery Grand Opening
& Volunteer Celebration

MAY

6 – Volunteer Council
21 – Annual Meeting
28 – May Wine Party

JUNE

10 – New Volunteer Roundtable

DON'T FORGET!

Volunteer Hours are due. Send to Trish Geeson, Office Manager, or call Shirley Crockett at 804-438-5256.

IN LIVING COLOR

Want to see this issue of *Past Times* in living color? Check the Christ Church website:

www.christchurch1735.org

*From the Council***Remembering the 50th, Looking Forward to the 51st**

Happy New Year and welcome to the 2009 Volunteer Season at Historic Christ Church.

I hope January has given you time to catch your breath, to enjoy family and friends, read a good book, or simply sit by a warm fire. Incredibly, the second half of the 2008 Volunteer Season proved to be as eventful the first half. September and October brought us the Virginia Symphony and a rare opportunity to host a Smithsonian exhibit, "New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music." A series of four lectures in September and October highlighted this music, emphasizing Virginia folk music traditions. The Volunteer Opportunity Fair was a huge success, with 17 new volunteers joining us. In November, more than 100 volunteers attended the Volunteer Recognition Brunch, where we honored 43 people in their 5th, 10th, 15th, or 20th years of service. Special recognition went to Lois W. French for her 25 years of service. Early in December, the Flower and Herb Garden Committees greened the Church. Our finale was the annual carol sing, "The Holly and the Ivy." The Lancaster High School Brass Ensemble, the Christchurch School Chorale, and the voices of a large audience filled the Church with the music of Christmas—a beautiful ending to the 2008 season.

Throughout 2008, our 50th anniversary year, we, as volunteers, worked on these and other such events, tended the garden, greeted visitors, gave tours, prepared mailings, and performed a host of other tasks. Our dedication and hard work allowed over 14,000 visitors to enjoy the beauty and serenity of our local treasure and National Historic Landmark. A very special "thank-you" goes to Bonnie Dawson, who as 2008's Volunteer Council Chair led us with such competence and confidence. There are a few changes to the Volunteer Council. A creative and enthusiastic Ruth McClean will be Vice Chair of the Council. Kathy Moeller, who as newsletter editor made both *Past Times* and *TimeLines* beautiful and professional

publications for the past five years, is turning her job over to Marilyn Hedges, who brings her own talents to the position. Beverly Oren will replace Marilyn as co-coordinator of Docents. Co-chairing Receptionists, Helen McGonegal and Marge Page are relieving Betty Otley and Lee Hall, who have served for three years. Shirley Crockett is assuming responsibility for Recognition, and Pattie Hope and Chris Bressett will assist Carole Jean McConnico, who has agreed to chair the Gift Shop. A "thank-you" to those leaving the Council for all you've done and to all those joining the Council for the commitment you've made.

We have an exciting 2009 Volunteer Season ahead. Our focus will certainly be on settling into our new visitors' gallery. Training is scheduled during March when we'll be able to greet our new volunteers. The annual Volunteer Celebration is on March 28 in the Bayne Center, and we'll open our doors to visitors on April 1. We're targeting April 25 as the date for the grand opening of the new gallery. Monthly e-newsletters will provide details concerning these and other events. If you do not have e-mail, printed copies are available in the office. Thanks goes to those committees who are already busy working on the March and April events. And, of course, we thank our staff—Camille, Bob, Robert, and Trish—whose work never ends. Finally, I would like to say that I am honored to serve as Chair of the Volunteer Council this year. I welcome all the advice, help, and support you can give me; and I look forward to working with you.

— *Glenda Decker,*
Chair, Volunteer Council



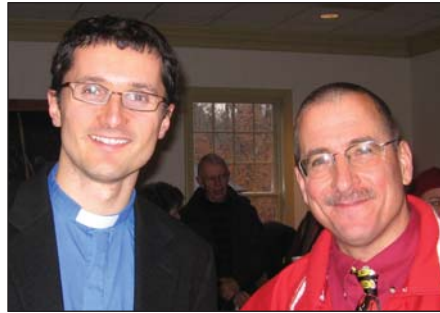
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION BRUNCH
TOP: Camille Bennett, Lois French, John Hunt.
MIDDLE: Lee Hall and Lovey Jane Long.
BOTTOM: Dana Smith and Bonnie Dawson.

THEY WILL BE MISSED

The world lost Christ Church volunteers T. Nash Broaddus, Candy Howard, Chris Jenkins, Bill Johnson, Tom Messemer, Suzanne Nosworthy, Charlotte Patteson, Don Smiley, and Sterling Wright in the past year. We will miss but always cherish them.

A Wonderful Finale to a Special Year

The 50th Anniversary Year was brought to a wonderful finale with The Holly and The Ivy Carol Sing in December. Christ Church was decked out in beautiful wreaths and sprays, thanks to the many volunteers who gathered in the Bayne Center to demonstrate their talents. The Christchurch School Chorale, under the direction of Simon Mainwaring, sang both sacred and secular music, including Mainwaring's own arrangement of "Jingle Bells." The Lancaster High School Brass Ensemble, under the direction of Robbie Spiers, performed Christmas carols. Christ Church Education Director Robert Teagle served as Master of Ceremonies.



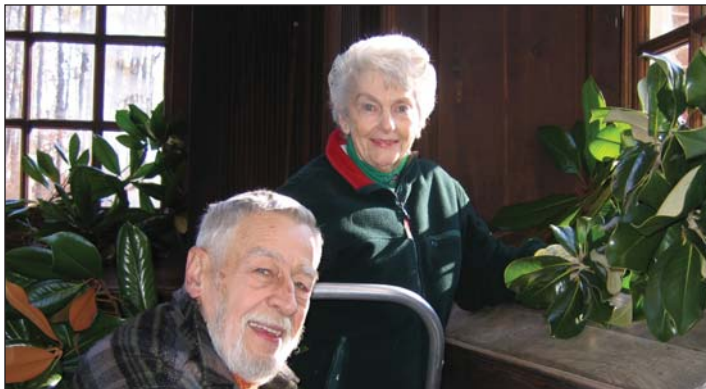
HOLLY AND IVY CAROL SING

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Simon Mainwaring and Robbie Spiers; Christchurch School Chorale, Simon Mainwaring, Conductor; Lancaster High School Brass Ensemble, Robbie Spiers, Director.



GREENING THE CHURCH

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Sue Burrage and Nancy Chilton; Ann Hopkins closing down the Herb Garden; Bonnie Dawson, Ginger Klapp, and Polly Kirksey making wreaths; John and Marge Page; Marge Page on a stepladder.



Parish Crawl to Sabine Hall, Menokin, and Mount Airy



Menokin

Parish Crawlers
at Sabine Hall

Mercer and Peter O'Hara



Mount Airy

A Parish Crawl is only one of the wonderful benefits available to Christ Church volunteers. Education Director Robert Teagle organizes each one and provides not only background on the historic sites we visit, but snacks along the way. The July Parish Crawl to Sabine Hall, Menokin, and Mount Airy was a special one. We first traveled by chartered bus to Menokin, home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and his wife Rebecca Tayloe. Built in 1769 – 1771 of local sandstone, only parts of the exterior walls remain. Director of Menokin Foundation Sarah Dillard Pope treated parish crawlers to a film and a tour of the Visitors Center and the house itself. Although the house is in ruin, much of the interior woodwork was intact and had been removed to what is now the Visitors Center. The Foundation has plans to build a glass shell around the house, revealing the preserved structural elements, which will be returned to their original locations within the house.

Our next stop was Sabine Hall, where the current residents, Peter O'Hara, his wife Mercer Wellford O'Hara, and Carter and Priscilla Wellford welcomed us with a tour of the first floor. Sabine Hall has exceptional Flemish-bond brickwork and stone detailing as well as fine interior paneling and a richly-carved staircase. We crawlers sat on the rear portico overlooking a terraced garden and enjoyed a delightful lunch prepared by our gracious hosts. Sabine Hall was built in 1738 – 1742 by Landon Carter, son of Robert "King" Carter, and has been home to Carter descendants ever since.

Our final stop was at Mount Airy. Built by John Tayloe II in 1760 – 1764, it burned in 1844, but the original exterior walls with Aquia stone detailing remain. Although we were not able to see the interior, Courtenay Altaffer and Anne Neuman, daughters of owner Polly Tayloe, arranged for us to tour the grounds and the orangery, the earliest surviving in North America.

Gift Shop Selections Ordered for 2009 Season



Chris Bressett and Carole Jean McConnico

The ladies who coordinate the gift shop are a small group of volunteers at Christ Church. But their work is seen and appreciated by all volunteers and visitors alike. Carole Jean McConnico and Chris Bressett have

been joined this year by Pattie Hope, who will add her own ideas and good taste to the group. Chris and Carole Jean traveled to Atlanta in mid-January to attend America's Gift Mart, several buildings of vendors selling every imaginable item under the sun. They go during that week of the year because it is when "temporary," typically newer, vendors show their wares. These new vendors generally have more reasonable prices and showcase what is expected to be popular this year. Carole Jean says, "Look for quality housewarming, hostess, wedding, and birthday gifts at good prices, items that are not available locally. When you want a nice gift for yourself or someone else, think of the gift shop at Christ Church." In addition, there will be a broader range of books and new items reminiscent of the colonial period and Christ Church.

All three volunteers are excited that they will be able to display gift shop merchandise in the new Gallery, with its well-lit display cases and good storage.



Pattie Hope

Bonnie Dawson, 2008 Volunteer Council Chair, hosted a coffee at her house to thank the chairs of all volunteer groups.



LEFT: Barbara Hensler. ABOVE: Camille Bennett, Sylvia Dozier, Ersel Buckley-Sharp, Betty Riley

Big Shoes to Fill

After five years as Editor of *Past Times* and *TimeLines*, Kathy Moeller has decided to step down and let another take her place. As Editor, Kathy has contributed many hours of her time attending training and lectures and Board, Council, and committee meetings. She's gone on parish crawls and attended book club meetings. During this time she has also served as a docent, both for individual and special group tours. She has chaired the Volunteer Council and has been both a member of the Foundation Board and an advisor to the Board. She has spent countless hours creating both publications so that volunteers and the public alike can see what Historic Christ Church is all about. She and her husband Joe have been behind the camera at so many Christ Church events that she had no photographs of either of them to share for this issue. She has done a superb job and we all owe her a special thank you. Her shoes will be hard to fill. — *Marilyn Hedges, Editor*

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**Published twice a year
for volunteers of Historic Christ Church**

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HCC Volunteer Council

Glenda Decker, *Chair*

Ruth McClean, *Vice Chair*

Ronnie Gerster, *Secretary*

THE FOUR SEASONS 2009

April 1: Visitor Season Opens

April 25: Gallery Grand Opening
& Volunteer Celebration

April 26: Kirkin' o' the Tartan

May 25: Memorial Day Service

June 7 – September 6: Summer Services
8 a.m. Sundays

June 13: Music Festival (Tentative)

October 4 or 11: Fall Concert and Reception

December 7: The Holly & The Ivy Carol Sing