

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1  
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# TimeLines

## Boards support Master Site Plan

The Lancaster County Board of Supervisors, along with the town boards of Irvington, Kilmarnock and White Stone, has moved to support the Foundation for Historic Christ Church in its long-range plans to improve visitor access to the site. (See page 3 for further details.)

This endorsement by local authorities followed on the resolution taken by the foundation's leadership. The Board of Directors agreed at its February meeting to "... raise the

funds necessary to implement the Master Site Plan in sufficient time to ... complete construction



*Christ Church shines on a warm spring afternoon.*

during the foundation's fiftieth anniversary year 2008."

The site plan calls for a new 40-space parking lot

and administration building as well as a renovation to the Carter Reception Center that will increase gallery and exhibit space by 40 percent.

The Fiftieth Anniversary Initiative, set up to implement the project, is in the early stages of fundraising. About ten percent of the project's \$1.5 million budget has been raised to date. Construction is expected to begin in the fall of 2007.

Contact development director Camille Bennett at the foundation office for information.

## Marketing Committee sets out plan

"We're charged with bringing the magic of our church to the public," says chair Lovey Jane Long of the newly-established Marketing Committee.

She presented a marketing road map through 2006 and anticipating 2007 to the Board of Directors in February. Included were ways to project a consistent image of Historic

Christ Church and to enhance support for the foundation's mission of preserving and interpreting the site.

The committee is working this year to increase booked tours, develop interpretive characters, stage a program of period music and hold stewardship



*The open West Gate invites the public in.*

events that recognize current and past donors and volunteers.

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### DID YOU KNOW...?

**The Board of Directors of Historic Christ Church serves from one Annual Meeting to the next.**

**Directors may serve two terms of three years each.**

**Nominated for election on May 18 at the 2006 Annual Meeting are:**

- Cathryn K. Baumhardt**
- Anne C. Dickerson**
- John Paul C. Hanbury**
- Barbara J. Hensler**
- William C. Hope, III**
- Ann Carter Lee**
- Paul T. Sciacchitano**
- Lloyd T. Smith**

**Thanks are extended to Richard D. Ranc for his years of dedicated service to Historic Christ Church.**

*Memorial Day Service*

**May 29, 11:00am**

*Sponsored by Retired Military Officers Assn.*

*From The Archives*

## Brides and weddings through the years

It caused a stir in some circles back in June 1955 when Nancy Hubbard married Irwin Clark in Christ



*Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Irwin Clark after their wedding at Christ Church.*

Church. As Nancy recalls the commotion, “Everyone asked why I wanted to be married *there!* You can’t see anything, they said.”

Nancy, however, was continuing in the footsteps of her grandmother, Ann Ball Carter, who married Charles Walton Hubbard in June of 1902. A photocopy of a Richmond newspaper article, located in the Weddings Book in the volunteer library, describes the wedding of the descendant of Robert Carter through his son Landon of Sabine Hall. The headline read: **Brilliant Marriage in Old Christ Episcopal Church—Miss Nannie Carter a Bride.**

*Probably never before in the annals of Lancaster county [the article begins] was a marriage performed with more historic surroundings than when Miss Nannie Ball Carter became the wife of Charles Walton Hubbard, in old Christ Episcopal church*

*Thursday. . . The entrance and interior of this colonial sanctuary. . . were strewn with evergreens, while the altar was bedecked in a bower of flowers. The ceremony was performed by Rev. E.B. Burnwell, a former rector of this parish, at the chancel, which is well adapted to picturesque effect, with ancient and high-proportioned pews on either side, and in the front and within the altar the antique clerk’s-table and the marble*



*Ann Ball Carter Hubbard in wedding attire.*

*baptismal font, unused since the days of King Carter. All, barring the participants, gave an old English effect to the wedding scene.*

The details of the wedding can be found in the article, which concludes: “Immediately after the ceremony the whole wedding party proceeded to Irvington, where the bride and groom boarded the steamer Lancaster for a wedding tour.”

By 1988, when Nancy’s daughter was ready to be married, sixteen years had gone by since the Volunteer Council was set up to help interpret the church to local residents and visitors. The high-backed pews were no

longer oddities but venerable reminders of the past as Nancy’s daughter, Cameron Carter Clark, married Charles Yancy Sipe.

*Robert Teagle*



*Mr. & Mrs. Charles Yancy Sipe*

### Wedding Protocol

Weddings can be conducted at Christ Church only if authorized by the rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock, whose trustees own the church and the land inside the church yard wall. **All requests for permission to use the church for a wedding must be made to the Grace Church office.**

Guidelines issued by Grace Church state: “Access to Christ Church . . . is a special privilege, subject to strict rules intended to insure the continued preservation of the church in its pristine state.” Copies of the guidelines are available from the offices of the foundation or Grace Church.

*Foundation News and Views*

## County and towns back 50th anniversary effort

*On March 30 the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution endorsing the foundation's fiftieth anniversary initiative to implement the Master Site Plan. The resolution also pledges the county to act as project sponsor for the foundation's pursuit of an ISTE.A grant through the Commonwealth of Virginia. The town councils of Irvington, Kilmarnock and White Stone passed similar resolutions of support.*

The prologue to the Lancaster County resolution describes Christ Church as a unique and extraordinary example of early colonial architecture, citing its designation as a Virginia and National Historical Landmark. The prologue also notes the approach of the foundation's 50th anniversary in 2008 and states that "the foundation is undertaking significant improvements to the interpretive gallery, grounds and support facilities for the purpose of enhancing the visitor experience." In the

body of the resolution, the supervisors said they:

"praise the foundation for its faithful preservation of Christ Church,

"take note of and endorse the carefully conceived plans to attract visitors and enhance their experience through improvements to its facilities and grounds, and

"commend the foundation and its plans to those funding sources, public and private, from which it will seek support."

The enthusiastic and generous support of the town councils and county board of supervisors resulted from the efforts of foundation president John Hunt and development committee chair Paul Sciacchitano.

*Bob Cornelius*

### Archaeology Update

Phase III work to locate the 1670 Christ Church begins this year with foundation funds. Marty and Bob Scheu's gift will conclude Phase II.

## Foundation Briefs

### School Programs

A key element of the interpretive arm of the foundation is the program for students run by education director Robert Teagle. With about fifteen volunteer school docents to assist him, Teagle runs programs that each year reach hundreds of young people from first grade through graduate school.

The school program works with students on site and at their schools. Fourth graders, for example, who study Virginia history in social studies, often spend the day. In the morning, they visit a variety of stations designed to involve them in learning about the past. They draw the church, inside and out, as they study its architectural elements. They go on an historical scavenger hunt through the gallery artifacts in order to fill in the blanks of a word puzzle. For many of the students, the program's fun peaks when they press clay into wood forms and make bricks.

After lunch, there are colonial

games to play and clothing to try on as well as simulated archaeological dig boxes that yield hidden treasures.

These artifact boxes are the heart of the Archaeology in the Classroom program that Teagle brings to schools as an outreach program. After discussing the role archaeology plays in uncovering Virginia history, the students excavate five "shoebox sites:" a slave quarter, a gentry house, a building site, a tavern site and a Powhatan site. The students use the objects they discover to identify which site is represented by their box.

Whether simplified for first graders or enriched for the high school students who visit for summer workshops sponsored by the College of William and Mary, the core of the school programs remains learning history "hands-on," experiencing the past as a way to make it come alive in the present.

Photos deleted for privacy.

*Visiting Botetourt School in Gloucester County.*

*Fourth grade visitors from Chesapeake Academy.*

*From The Council*

# 2006 season of volunteer programs underway

The dormant season for docents and receptionists ended with the opening of the Carter Reception Center on April 1 and all the new and returning volunteers are enthusiastic about the 2006 season.

Spring Training in early March was a huge success and the Special Group and Redbook Roundtables in late March were very helpful and informative. We are anticipating a continuing education field trip later this spring. Each trip I have taken with the volunteer group has taught me so much about seventeenth and eighteenth century Virginia history.

The Volunteer Celebration, held at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury on March 18 was enjoyed by all who attended. We thank the foundation board for hosting this lovely party and send a special thanks to Karen Mullins and Karin Lamb for their hard work in making it so special. It is always nice for the volunteers, the board, and spouses to get together.

All the committees are up and running for the season. I will mention only a few this time. Sue Burrage and the flower committee are busy preparing the cutting garden. The gift shop looks fantastic and the research committee is always busy. Clerical volunteers have helped with mailings.

I do want to add a special thanks to Dottie Messemmer and Kathy Meyer for taking such good care of the press clippings book that lives in the Research Room. Dottie has been doing this since 1997 and Kathy has been sharing the responsibilities for several years. Together they have been preserving Christ Church history for the end of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first.

After all these years Dottie and



*The flower committee at work in the cutting garden.*

Kathy feel it is time for a change and I am happy to report that Ersel Buckley-Sharp and Eliza Wright have agreed to continue this important job.

The Volunteer Council meets next on May 3 and I am looking forward to in-depth discussions on volunteer matters and how we can better serve Historic Christ Church.

*Betty Martin*

*Volunteer Council Chair*



*The Reception Desk in the Carter Center is command central at Historic Christ Church during the season. Far left, Volunteer Council vice chair Sylvia Dozier talks with receptionist Bill Johnson while, left, receptionist Weezie Kingsley finishes up a gift shop sale. During the eight-month season from April through November, two docents and one receptionist are on duty for each of two shifts six days a week and one shift on Sunday.*

*Spring Training drew new and returning volunteers to four mornings of stimulating talk and camaraderie. Right, keynote speaker Calder Loth of the Virginia Department of Historical Resources and volunteer Shep Speight review the historical antecedents of Christ Church's architecture. Far right, foundation board member Nat Neblett shares his deep knowledge of Christ Church with new volunteer Pauline Sulick and Volunteer Council chair Betty Martin.*



# Carter Connections at Christ Church

When experienced docents sit a group down in the Carter pew, you can see the visitors going back in time. They close their eyes and imagine a voice from the pulpit. They open their



*Peggy Wilson takes a group of travel writers back to 1735.*

eyes and realize they can see only those sitting in the pew with them. Contact with the Christ Church heritage and its founding family becomes real for them.

Backing up the docents who make the past live for visitors are researchers and donors who work to tell the story of Robert Carter and his descendants.

Since 1991, the details of that story have been in the capable hands of volunteer John Page. Supported by his wife Marge, John has created a data



*John and Marge Page on station at the Research Room computer.*

base of Carter descendants. Using software that allows data entry for one descendant at a time, the database provides a separate file for each of Robert's children and their descendants to the present day.

The Pages have no Carter family connection but they do enjoy genealogical work and do it for their own family. John likens family tree research to doing jigsaw puzzles and finds it calms him and "takes him away from the world."

In the days well before computers, a Carter descendant also worked on the Carter family tree. A copy of the tree now resides in the Carter Reception Center and carries this inscription:



*Joyce and Bev Wellford with the tree and one of its roots.*

"Designed and written by R.R. Carter of Shirley from information furnished by members of the family with the assurance that it was correct." With a copyright date of 1897, the tree lacks the current generations of Carters but it makes up for that loss by the graphic, almost living flow of its imagery.

Bev Wellford donated an original copy of the tree to Historic Christ Church and copies made from this are available for sale in the gift shop and on the foundation's web site. The copies are 36 inches square and reproduced on vellum by A & E Reproductions of

Richmond, which offered the shop's initial inventory as an in-kind gift.

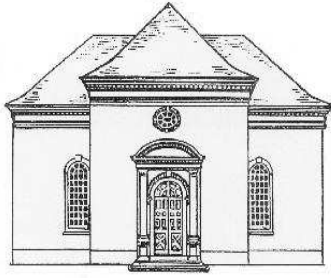
Another new acquisition of Carter memorabilia bears an earlier date. A Greek-Latin lexicon, *Graecae linguae dialecti: in usum scholae*, bears the signature, J. Carter, on its flyleaf. With a



*Bob Cornelius looks for a suitable resting spot for an ancient student text.*

publication date of 1706, the book took its place on school shelves when John Carter, the oldest son of Robert and later secretary of the colony of Virginia, was just ten years old. He likely used the book during his schoolboy sojourn in London.

Lloyd Smith donated the book, which had been in his family since John Carter's day, to Historic Christ Church. His great-great grandfather, Lewis Willis Minor, a naval surgeon for the Confederacy, received the book from the estate of his brother, John Minor IV, a lawyer, scholar and patron of the arts in Fredericksburg. When the book, and other Carter materials, came to Lloyd on his mother's death in 1987, he began a more intensive study of his Carter past. The book now rests close to the home of its first owner.



## **Historic Christ Church**

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the hands of its builders**

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