



Historic St. George's
United Methodist Church

Messenger



OCTOBER 2008, VOL. 27, No. 3

235 North Fourth Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106 • 215-925-7788 • www.historicstgeorges.org



Right Rev. Joy Segal, Gloria Dei-Old Swedes' Episcopal Church and Rev. Alfred T. Day, Historic St. George's UMC, preside at a joint celebration of the eucharist. See "We're Still Making History" on page 2.

Image by David Fonda, www.fondaphoto.com



We're Still Making History

What's Been Doin' at St. George's

We bid farewell to Philadelphia area **Bishop Marcus Matthews** in August and welcome newly elected and appointed **Bishop Margaret "Peggy" Johnson** in September. Here's hoping Bishop Johnson will use St. George's the way past bishops have – meeting with ordinands here before Annual Conference... Fall program is off and running... **Homecoming Sunday** welcomed 44 to worship. We received two new members *and* our seminary intern, **Dan Lebo**, a Middler at Palmer Theological Seminary and an Exploring Candidate for ministry in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference... Our second try at a neighborhood **Animal Blessing** on St. Francis Day was a big success. More than double last year's gathering, with lots of cats and dogs and baskets full of donations for PAWS, a local animal shelter. The most unforgettable moment was the Great Dane sitting next to the Miniature Poodle like they were old friends... **Mid week study groups** continue to grow. The **Five Faiths One Community** group has grown to 15, most coming from the neighborhood. We're studying Hinduism... New this Fall, we've joined an **Abrahamic Bible Study** with friends from Society Hill Synagogue, a local mosque, Old St. Joe's RC and Old Pine Presbyterian. We're looking at biblical material our faiths have in common in Genesis... Talk about "still making history," we really and truly did on September 28 and again on October 12 when our "**One in Christ**" study group with **Gloria Dei – Old Swedes' Episcopal Church** – two of the oldest congregations in Philadelphia – culminated in shared Eucharistic services. St. George's gathered at Gloria Dei (September 28) and Gloria Dei (October 12) gathered at St. George's for their main Sunday services. You can read Pastor Day's sermon for the occasion at www.historicstgeorges.org/welcome/sermons/overview. The monumental thing is that Episcopalians and United Methodists haven't officially been at the Lord's Table together since not long

after St. George's helped launch the Methodist Episcopal Church in America (1784). We're thinking about this being an annual event... Wait 'til you see the **Fellowship Hall**. The Trustees have begun some rearranging to increase gathering space for coffee hour and other church programs. Let us know what you think... We're delighted to host ***The Slave Narratives*** October 23, 7:30 pm, an original work by award winning playwright Ed Shockley... and a **Halloween Magic Show** on Friday October 24, 7 & 9pm... **Charge Conference** is October 29, all are invited... St. George's **239th Anniversary Sunday** is November 23. Our friend Bruce Gallup (retired UM pastor, the Wyoming Conference) will be the preacher. It will be good to welcome Bruce and Sarah to their "home" church. The Gallups moved to Winchester Virginia. Plus friends from the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas will join us for the official unveiling of the Absalom Jones portrait in the museum. Special music, too! Be sure to be here that day... Don't forget the **28th Annual Christmas Musical, December 7**. Another amazing line up of musicians. Bring friends. Check the notice elsewhere in *The Messenger*. Post it at your church !

"...how they linger ..."

"Precious memories, how they linger, how they ever flood my soul..." penned Thomas Dorsey in the famous gospel hymn. The summer *Messenger* invited folk to identify memorials with their gifts to St. George's. Thanks to your responses and review of our "Wish List" the William Savery chair featured in the last issue will be restored, and the new-found John Dickins portrait was printed, framed and readied for hanging. These gifts were given by **Edward & Susan Wisnewski** honoring Dr. Robert L. Curry and **Dr. Terry Seaks** in gratitude for Pastor Day's ministry.

Dr. Seaks' gift also allowed us to purchase a print of James Barton Longacre (see page 4 for accompanying article). Longacre was a trustee of St. George's from 1844 –1869 and designed the Indian Head penny for the US Mint.

The museum is flooded with the results of such generosity. Check it out when you come to church or for a visit. When you do, admire the new railing and marble steps restored in part, by a gift from **Rev. Charles Otto** and **Peg Gorman**. Peek into the "old classroom" to enjoy the folk art wooden Noah's Ark, a gift from **John and Sandra O'Neal** in memory of Edna "Nan" Sales.

Gifts like these help us continue the marvelous ministry of memory that is ours. See the next page for a listing of 2008 memorials.



November 1, All Saints Day — gifts given in memory of:

Alma Amey & Concetta Mattioni	by Michael Mattioni
Effie Andreas	by Mrs. George Obrist
Joe Bailey	by Mrs. Joe Bailey
Joseph Bracegirdle	by Eleanor Bracegirdle
Elizabeth T. & Margaret T. Brown	by Elizabeth Brown
Burl Couchman	by Nelwyn Couchman
Rev. Larry C. Derr	by Ethel Baetge & Mrs. Grace Derr
Helen & Wesley Johnson	by Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Shelton
Winifred M. Johnson	by Mr. & Mrs. Donald Johnson
Grace Kreps	by William & Donna Fanning
Vance & Rilla Leonard	by Midge Murphy
Arthur P. Matis	by C. Grace Matis
Grace Hamrick McCarty	by Georgiana Jenkins
Ann L. Neumann	by Albert Neumann
Doris & Wallace Olt	by Barbara Olt Wernham
Edwin M. Patterson	by Maxine M. Patterson
Robert M. Shaw	by Florence Wiseman
Paul V. Sherick	by Janice Sherick
Bob Stine	by Mae E. Stokes
Kathleen Sutton	by Philip Sutton
Bob Watson	by Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Watson

Thank you to all our donors who supported us this year. The names listed here were gifts requested in memory of an individual. Your donations are welcome at any time. The next issue of the Messenger will include a return envelope.

Wish List

Special Gift or Memorial Opportunities

Thanks for your generous responses for the projects that keep St. George's in tip-top shape. Gifts can be designated for all or part of items having significance to you.

Museum Entrance Repair. (\$13,000). Additional work was needed on the marble steps, which required further investment. The next 200 years of visitors will have ease of entry thanks to this repair.

New Tables and Chairs for the Hopkins Fellowship Hall. (\$2,500) With Sunday attendance growing, we need more welcoming accommodations for lunch and fellowship!

Portrait Restoration: Charles Pitman(\$950) and **Joseph Rusling** (\$500). Gerald Hoepfner, restoration expert, has examined these treasures and is eager to get to work.

Two New Microphones for Tour Guides and Worship Services (\$550 each). After extensive exploration of the sound system, we determined that two new microphones would offer the best bargain and sound. With all the programs we have planned, we want to make sure folks can hear.

PARISH REGISTER

Membership

Erin Oldt, Transfer from St. Andrew's UMC, Cherry Hill, NJ
Gay Walling, Transfer from Oceanville UMC, Oceanville, NJ

Weddings

Christine Zecca – Curtis Brodzina, July 12, 2008
Maureen L. Mullin – Larry D. Fowler, Jr, August 16, 2008
Alice Lunsford – William Gibbs, September 27, 2008
Deanna Wood – Wesley Mc Coubrie, October 18, 2008

Opening the Vault:

What's Up at the Museum & Archives

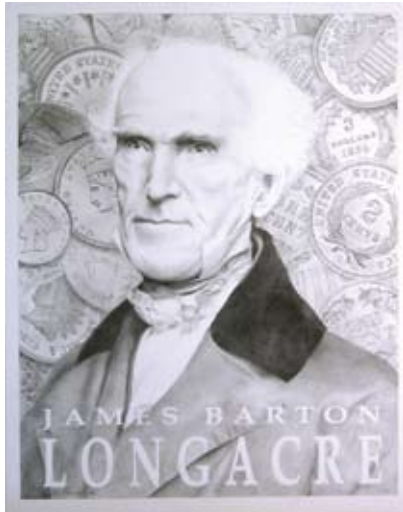


Image by Charles D. Daughtrey. www.lincolncent.com, used with artist's permission



Courtesy of The Library Company of Philadelphia

James Barton Longacre, Trustee and Engraver

In the museum, one corner of a display case held some Indian head pennies and stamps issued in the honor of James B. Longacre, Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint and a former trustee of St. George's. On another wall was an engraving by Longacre of James Hamilton M.D., John Wesley M.A., and Rev. Joseph Cole, outfitted in frock coats and tri-corner hats, strolling purposefully through the streets of Edinburgh in 1790. These were the clues that started me on a journey of discovery. The local Mint historian, the Library Company of Pennsylvania and Rick Snow, a helpful numismatist in Arizona, all provided pieces of the story. J. B. Longacre was a trustee of this church from 1844 to 1869. A delightful story that circulated from the time of the Indian Head penny's design stated that the head was an image of the engraver's daughter, Sarah, wearing the headress of an Indian Chief who was visiting her father. After exhaustive research, Joy Goforth published an article in the November, 1983 issue of Mint Press, indicating that the drawing was most likely a composite of several versions of Longacre's head of Liberty, heavily influenced by sketches of his daughter, who had a remarkably classical profile. The image above shows one of Longacre's original drawings. Our research library now contains multiple articles about Mr. Longacre for future researchers. Evidently Mr. Longacre's dedication to the church was passed on to his descendants: his son, Andrew, was an ordained Methodist minister who served at Arch St. UMC in Philadelphia, among other churches, and his grandson

Lindsay progressed from a degree in mining engineering from Columbia to a theology degree from Drew. After being ordained, he served in New York before becoming a professor at Iliff School of Theology in Colorado.

Take the Penny Challenge! Look through your jars of old pennies ... if you have an Indian Head penny you are willing to part with, we'd love to add it to our display. (You won't be giving away a rare coin ... most are worth \$10 at the most). Let's see how many we can gather before our 240th Anniversary next November.



In Other Areas of the Museum

Thanks to the grant from the General Conference on Archives and History, the portraits of Bishop Asbury and Reverends Pilmoor and White have been restored; next year, Rev. Ware and Rev. Cooper will undergo a thorough restoration and the hand-written journal of Joseph Pilmoor will be cleaned and repaired. We hope you will be able to visit us for our anniversary celebration in 2009 and see these wonderful artifacts for yourself.

What the Wind Blew-in:

Visitors to Church, Museum and Library

Our friend **Mike Beulah** showed up with **J. Gordon Melton**, Director of the American Institute of Religion, Santa Barbara, CA, who was pleased to find his new book *A Will to Choose: The Origins of African American Methodism* on our shelves. **Carolynne Brown**, a student at Boston University, came for background on the relationship of St. George's to Mother African Zoar; we look forward to her paper. **Aaron Goodwin**, a JP Morgan Chase manager who has an avid avocation as history researcher, spent the day gathering material for an article about Richard Allen. **Deacon Barbara Crockett** came on a return visit from Midlands UK. She's here on an exchange via the World Methodist Council, serving Mt. Carmel UMC, Olney, while the pastor there is across the pond. **Lillian Smith**, EPA Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, and **Bishop Forrest Stith** brought a group from the UM African American Heritage Center. Our door bell rang often, bringing delightful visitors from **26 states and 8 countries** – England, Poland, the Netherlands, France, Nigeria, Australia, Russia and Italy. And that's just through the summer! We're always glad to welcome folks in town for business meetings and conventions, too, such as the recent **American Society of Genealogists** and **The American Chemical Society**. The UM Doctrine and Polity Class from **Palmer Theological Seminary** met here for a lecture and Love Feast. **Dean Golding**, from a Presbyterian Church in NJ, was so impressed from his 4th of July weekend visit, that he is bringing the youth from his church to a service in November. They are going to walk across the Ben Franklin Bridge, so they will get a unique perspective on our church.



Photo courtesy of Tom Crane

IRA Rollover Provision Reinstated Through 2009

(Oct. 3, 2008) President Bush has signed into law the \$700 billion economic bailout bill (H.R. 1424, Financial Rescue Package), which includes a two-year extension of the IRA Rollover provision as well as other charitable giving provisions.

The provision had expired at the end of 2007; the new provision will be made retroactive to Jan. 1, 2008, and will apply to gifts made from that date through Dec. 31, 2009.

The provision exempts from taxable income any funds transferred ("rolled over") from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a charitable organization. The following limitations apply:

- The donor must be age 70½ or older.
- The cap on annual IRA rollovers is \$100,000.
- The contribution must be a direct gift to a charity (no planned gifts).



Planned Giving

Historic St George's is blessed by members and friends who include this great church in their estate planning. These gifts are instrumental in helping us accomplish our mission of historic preservation, education, archival and museum development.

We can assist you in developing a bequest to reflect your interests and desires about the work here, and of course there are tax benefits to your estate.

Contact Pastor Day at 215-925-7788 or e-mail him at: pastor@historicstgeorges.org

Plan Now to Attend! (please post for your congregation)



Photo by Dick McCreight ©

Historic St. George's
28th Annual Christmas Musical
Sunday, December 7th

3:30 pm (seating begins at 3)

Parking available at Arch St. Meeting House, 4th & Arch

Rutgers University's *Collegium Musicum* joins the Germantown Academy *Singing Patriots Select*, *John Easterlin*, Metropolitan Opera tenor, Stanford Thompson with the *Philo Brass*, *The Covenant Ringers* from Covenant UMC, Springfield, Delaware County, *The Celtic Women and Friends* and *The Underwood Children's Choir*