

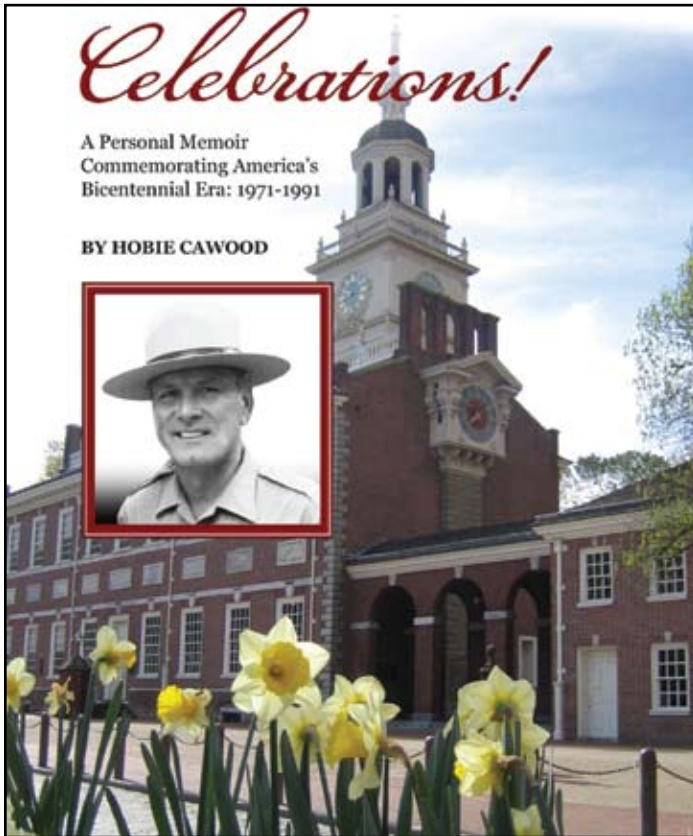


Historic St. George's
United Methodist Church



MESSENGER

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An Evening with Good Friends: *Cawoods Honored at Independence Hall*

Former Historic St. George's church member, trustee and Superintendent of the Independence Hall National Park, Hobie Cawood, was honored by the Friends of Independence Hall in February. The occasion was the publication of his book *Celebrations! A Personal Memoir Commemorating America's Bicentennial Era: 1971-1991*.

Folk from the church were delighted to reconnect with Hobie and wife Addie Lou, active here through the early 1990's. The real treat came when the Cawoods paid a surprise visit for Sunday services. Active in a large United Methodist Church in

Ben Franklin Sighted in Texas!

St. George's loves to hear from our Associates, who bring their love of history to life throughout the world. If you have the opportunity to be in Houston, TX, be sure to visit the Museum of Printing History ("A Place for All Types"). There, you might meet Ben Franklin, also known as **Harry Benson**. Harry has been a supporter of St. George's since 1994 when he came north to do research on his alter ego, Ben. Harry has appeared as Ben at the Houston museum for the past twenty years. The museum has a web site at www.printingmuseum.org and is located at 1324 W Clay Street, Houston, TX, 77019.



Harry and his wife are very proud of their granddaughter, Emily Marie Smith, of Austin, TX who is studying to be a Methodist minister at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. We hope Emily will make the journey to Philadelphia to visit the birthplace of Methodism in America.

Also in our mailbag ...

This letter captures what so many of our visitors tell us... "I was a guest at St. George's while attending a conference in Philadelphia... the congregation was so welcoming. I appreciate the time you took to show me the museum and tell about the history of the church. A life-long Methodist, it was truly a 'heart-warming experience to be in such a historic place.'" – Jann Ingmire, Chicago Temple, First UMC

**Antique
Appraisal with
Dr. Lori.
May 17, at 1 pm.
See last page!**

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Cawoods Honored

western North Carolina, where Hobie still works for the National Park system, the Cawoods say they miss the warmth and intimacy of the people and the sanctuary at St. George's.

Hobie Cawood was the Superintendent of the Independence Hall National Park for the five years leading up to this nation's Bicentennial in 1976. He was responsible for planning the major events, including moving the Liberty Bell to its new home, playing host to a joint session of Congress in Philadelphia, and greeting various heads of state who came to pay their respects at the birthplace of American freedom. Cawood's book is full of amazing stories of creative ingenuity: seemingly insurmountable obstacles overcome, and amazing encounters with some of the most famous people in the world. An autographed copy of the book is in the church library.

The book is available in our Gift Shop or through Diane Publishing 800-782-3833, online at www.dianepublishing.net.

We're Still Making History

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

Winter keeps us busy with other downtown churches in caring for the burgeoning population of homeless. We're delighted to report that a dozen of us will work at Arch St. UMC's **Grace Café** cooking breakfast once each month until May for 50+ folks living on the street. Kudos to our **Evelyn Leidy** who puts her school kitchen savvy to work creating feasts for Grace Café guests...

WE'RE ALMOST THERE! The Pastor and Administrative Council challenged the congregation to raise \$1000 in support of the homeless shelter opened each winter by neighboring Old First Reformed UCC. St. George's doesn't have the space to offer such a service to the community, but has supported Old First financially in the past to a lesser amount. As of this writing, we've received more than \$800 towards our expanded goal. If you haven't had the chance to share your gift, send it earmarked "Homeless Support/Old First"...

STUDY GROUPS ARE GROWING!!! The "*Five Faiths, One Community*" Wednesday group has grown to 12 folk from church and community. We finished exploring Islam in January with a special guest Imam Shakur Abul-Ali, whose journey into faith began at Mother African Zoar UMC (an outgrowth of St. George's). Small world. Our **Elaine Barnes** worked with Shakur who was also a chaplain at Ground Zero. He was also a Muslim Chaplain in the US Army in Iraq... The group has now moved into Buddhism, then onto Hinduism, then Christianity in autumn...

The "*Make Us One With Christ*" study group shared with the Gloria Dei/Old Swedes Episcopal Church is also on track, reconnecting our two denominations towards a full Eucharistic sharing covenant to be ratified by UM and Episcopal judicatory bodies in the near future. A shared communion service celebrated by St. George's and Gloria Dei is in the offing after Pentecost...

SAY A SPECIAL PRAYER. **Bill Patton**, one of the homeless men who attends here every Sunday was the victim of a hit and run and is in serious condition at Hahneman Hospital...

We miss the **Gallups**, (Bruce's inspired preaching and Sarah's singing) who have relocated to Winchester, Virginia. We sent them off with Godspeed in January.

Thanks to **Gladys Chambers** for purchasing the copy of Hobie Cawood's book for the church library.

Parish Register

Baptisms

Raelynn Marie Wilkenning on January 9, 2008
Daughter of Raymond J. Wilkenning & Melissa Schwartz.
Granddaughter to Patricia Rezzi Wilkenning, Great
Granddaughter to Anna Rezzi

Max Ruo-Jun Ferris on March 30, 2008
Son of Christopher and Heather Ferris, Brother to Ava
Ferris

Weddings

Lynn Ledwith & Joseph Clark on December 31, 2007

Bethanne Borodynko & Kevin Overbeck on
February 8, 2008

Jennifer Burns & Craig Kamopes March 15, 2008

Mi Hye Kim & Taehoon Kim on April 12, 2008

Membership

Elaine Barnes – Charge Conference, UM clergy, retired

Janet Mc Murray – transfer, Central UMC, Frankford

Joyce Wilson – transfer, Central UMC, Frankford

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 Marble Step Repair. (\$13,000). Thanks again to Rev. Charles Otto and Peg Gorman for their memorial gift of \$1000, which paid for the railing repair. It turns out that some work also needed to be done on the marble steps, which required further investment. Knapp Masonry is teaching us the intricacies of "dutchman" repairs, making the newer portions of the steps fit seamlessly with the old. The next 200 years of visitors will have ease of entry thanks to this fine workmanship.

Portrait Restoration: Ezekiel Cooper – 1763 - 1847 (\$950) and **Joseph Rusling** (\$500). Restoration experts have looked at these treasures and are eager to get to work.

New Tables and Chairs for the Hopkins Fellowship Hall. (\$2500) We would love to offer visitors on Sunday a place at the table for lunch and fellowship!

New Volumes for the Library (\$500). For purchase of contemporary books to add to our collection; e.g. *Reasonable Enthusiast: John Wesley and the Rise of Methodism* by Henry Rack, *Freedom's Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, The AME Church and the Black Founding Fathers* by Richard Neumann and numerous others.

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

Planned Giving Opportunities

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. Historic St. Georges 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 or e-mail him at pastor@historicstgeorges.org

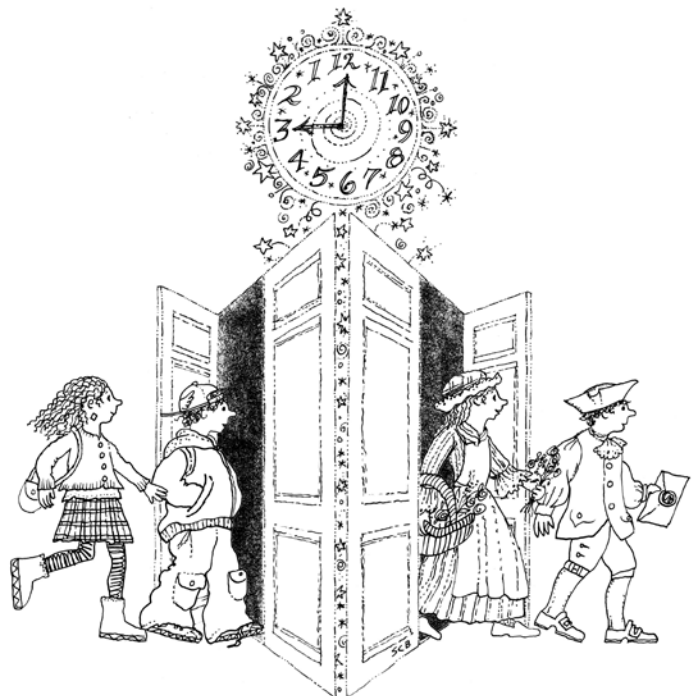
"Be A Time Traveler!"

That's the invitation drawing big crowds to Historic St. George's on March 8 and May 10. Confirmation classes and curious United Methodists from the three neighboring conferences will experience history firsthand, including an appearance by colonial lay preacher, Simon Blessing, who first visited here Anniversary Sunday. Simon is the creation of actor Peyton Dixon, who developed the character portrayal for the national park's "Once Upon a Nation" program.

More than 200 are registered for the March date. Over one hundred are registered in May, when confirmands are encouraged to bring their mothers to hear about the role of St. George's Anna Jarvis in the foundation of Mother's Day.

Visitors will explore the Museum and its eye-opening learning centers, sing Methodist hymns in the 18th century, unaccompanied "lining" style, go on a scavenger hunt, and hear testimonials about the infamous day when Richard Allen and Absalom Jones led a walkout from the church. Groups will enjoy the rest of the afternoon in Philadelphia's renowned Historical District: Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Carpenter's Hall ... History is Waiting!

Watch for pictures in the next issue.



Opening the Vault:

What's Up at the Museum & Archives

Pastor Day presented a paper, *A View from the Balcony: New Insights into the African Exodus from St. George's in 1792* at the December meeting of the Phi Beta Club, a clergy organization of the Eastern PA Conference, devoted to intellectual stimulation and the exchange of ideas. The paper evolved from of an article published in *Annals, The Journal of the Eastern PA Conference Historical Society*. Much of the research was done here... Another paper presented to Phi Beta that month and researched here: *"That Dear Man of God: Edward Evans and the Origins of American Methodism"* a biographical sketch of one of St. George's original trustees and the cordwainer (maker of women's shoes) whose work bench is in our museum. Joseph DiPaolo, pastor at Wayne UMC and chair of the EPA Historical Society is the author. We hope to make these papers available on the St. George's website... Doing some unrelated research, Joe came across a citation in a 19th century Methodist History text that indicates the remains of **John Dickins** were removed from St. George's burial ground and placed in the Bishop's plot of Mt. Olivet cemetery (Francis Asbury's burial place) Baltimore, Md. Gaps in Mount Olivet records keep this from being verified. You'll pardon the mixed metaphor, but there's more digging to do. We'll keep you posted...

WE FOUND ONE! A print of Rembrandt Peale's portrait of Absalom Jones, that is. Now, brother Jones can take his rightful place in museum portrait gallery aside cohort Richard Allen and contemporary Harry Hosier.

AND ANOTHER! Although there is no contemporary portrait of John Dickins, there was a woodblock image made during his lifetime. From that image, illustrator Charles Hargens, Jr. had painted a portrait of Dickins for the Methodist publication *Together*, back in 1961, at the bequest of editor Leland Case. Mr. Hargens' son is allowing us to make a print from the color transparency taken of the original. If you find yourself in Mitchell, SD, be sure to go to the Dakota Discovery Museum (www.dakotadiscovery.com) where you will see the collection amassed by Mr. Case, including original artwork of Mr. Hargens.

Thank you for your gifts:

An envelope for giving will be included in next newsletter. Your faithful support means so much to growing our museum and archives into the excellent touchstone to Methodist tradition we seek to be!

What the Wind Blew-in:

Visitors to Church, Museum and Archives

Visitors from twelve states and three countries toured this touchstone to Methodist tradition since the last issue of *The Messenger*. Six confirmation classes totaling nearly one hundred students, pastors and teachers enjoyed the same... The Rev. Dr. Robert Williams, General Secretary of the UMC General Commission of Archives and History (Madison, NJ) preached here in February... The Eastern Pa. Conference Historical Society met here on February 16 and heard new research indicating John Dickins grave in the church yard may not be his final resting place after all (see the article elsewhere in this issue).



Confirmands from Princeton UMC joined us at worship in December.

Historic Drama Explored

Pastor Fred Day recently convened a meeting of Philadelphia playwright Ed Shockley with ministers from Mother Bethel AME, Mother African Zoar UMC, and The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. Ed is looking at the possibilities of dramatizing the exodus of African American members of St. George's, beginning with Richard Allen's departure in 1792. The lively discussion gave him more material than he bargained for. We look forward to Ed's next step.

Many of Ed's plays have been well received, including *Bessie Smith: Empress of the Blues*, the initial production of which broke box office records at Frank Silvera's Writers Workshop in New York, then won the 1981 Audelco Award for Best Musical Production and went on to break more records in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and Seattle.



Two-by-Two, Noah and His Animals Arrive at St. George's

Brightening our classroom, we now have the addition of a hand-made Noah's Ark, given by Associates John and Sandra O'Neal in memory of Edna "Nan" Salles. The whimsical ark, made by Maryland contemporary folk artist, Ted Nichols, is reminiscent of popular American art of the 18th and 19th centuries. You can see more of Ted's work at www.noahs-ark.com.

Progress on Building Master Plan

Church Trustees are moving forward with a number of recommendations set forth in John Milner and Associates' architectural assessment received last year. The next step will be elevation drawings for a proposed addition. Creating a new entry way via the adjacent courtyard and full accessibility for all to the church, museum, library and offices are the key elements. Any one who has maneuvered all our steps to attend St. George's can imagine how an elevator would be put to good use. Enhancements to the Hopkins Fellowship Hall, increased gathering space, and improvements to the library, museum and offices are also part of the vision.

Pray for the church's leadership at this exciting time of new development. Pray for both the wisdom and insight we'll need to find partners in the public, private sectors and church membership constituencies to gather the financial support we'll need going forward.

Antiques Appraisal at St. George's Saturday, May 17, 1 – 3 pm

At Historic St. George's, we are fortunate to spend each day surrounded by antiques dating back to the start of our denomination, which coincided with the start of our city and our nation. Everyone has an item or two in their home that has been handed down through generations or that were unearthed in a visit to a garage sale. Do you ever wonder what that item is worth? You will have a unique opportunity to bring your treasure to the site of the oldest Methodist church in America and have it appraised by the entertaining and highly competent **Dr. Lori**.



Dr. Lori appears regularly on Comcast CN8 TV's "Your Morning" and "Money Matters Today" which broadcasts to 9 million homes from Maine to Virginia. She has also been seen on Comedy Central's The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, ABC, CBS, NBC, Daytime, and Retirement Living TV. A Ph.D. art historian, syndicated columnist, certified fine art and antiques appraiser, and award winning TV personality; Dr. Lori is the director of the fine art and antiques resource www.DrLoriV.com and Masterpiece Technologies Inc.

Tickets for the May 17 event are \$10. You may bring up to three items; there is a charge of \$5 per item for the appraisal. Plan to arrive in plenty of time to register. Cash or check accepted, no credit cards.

Recently, Pastor Day, Rev. Elaine Barnes and Administrator Donna Miller traveled to Wallingford for a Dr. Lori event. They took along three items: a straight razor belonging to Francis Asbury, the pocket watch that Asbury gave as a memento to his mother, and a family heirloom from the Boxer rebellion. While Donna can't retire on her item, our pocket watch attracted a lot of attention. Dr. Lori explained that because it was made in London in the late eighteenth century and still had its original crystal, face and hands, made it very valuable; being associated so closely with Francis Asbury greatly increased that value. She admonished us to display it carefully, and we listened!

Even if you don't have an attic treasure to bring, you will enjoy Dr. Lori's refreshing approach to teaching us about the value of our belongings. As she is fond of saying, "You Have the Stuff! Don't let your brother-in-law throw it into the dumpster."