

Huguenotes

The French Protestant (Huguenot) Church

REFLECTIONS FROM A PASTORAL INTERN by Ross Scarborough

My job here at the French Huguenot Church began on the 2nd of June at a Board of Elders meeting. It was at that time that Rick Mullin helped define what my job would be: I would be given a set of tasks, and would complete them, one after the other. Rather than a usual office intern, clocking in daily from 9 until 5, I would simply be given the freedom to complete these tasks as I needed to, in the time they required. Now, six weeks later, I have successfully completed a hospital visit, led a children's program, designed a new newsletter, delivered a sermon, and baptized a cousin. Above all else, though, I have learned the value of connecting with people in a way that allows me to share the love of Christ.



Our first intern, Ross, in London

Prior to board of elders meeting, I had a lot of questions about what my specific job was to be. I'd grown up serving at St.

Michaels as an acolyte, lay reader, chorister, and I volunteered with a youth group at Sewanee. I talked with Phil in the weeks before I returned home, but never got a definitive job title. But, as Phil said on my first Sunday, he wanted me to have the opportunity to serve a small parish in whatever way God called me. The goal of my internship, then, wasn't to teach me about how an office runs, or how a church is supposed to be administered. The goal was to allow God to use my gifts in a way that would reach a group of people I hadn't interacted with before.

God blessed me through every interaction I had at this church. What I have learned, and what others say that have learned from me, could only come from what I call a Holy experience.

Training my voice to communicate the scriptures on Sundays has had just as much impact on me as meeting with the parents of a sick man in the hospital. Prior to this job, I had absolutely no experience working with youths younger than 6th grade. I was even able to overcome this handicap, and successfully ran two summer youth nights.

Editor's Note: Welcome to the inaugural issue of the e-newsletter *Huguenotes*. We hope to distribute this quarterly and look forward to help from the congregation. Please send submissions, JPEG photos, and updated email addresses to postmaster@frenchchurch.org. Enjoy! Anne Blessing

I wrote a sermon that personalized a timeless biblical lesson. I intended to show others how relatable the fact that God has a plan for our lives really is. And, I was given feedback that confirmed that I was successful. I recognized that I didn't give that sermon alone: It was God's will that I would succeed in touching the *(con.)*

hearts and minds of many. I opened myself to what God wanted me to say, and in doing so, I conveyed a message from God to the congregation.

On June 8th, Phil asked me to help him with a baptism for a young man who was roughly my age. Phil asked if I would simply share the story of my life in Christ with him leading up to where I was today. I cannot say that I have lived a perfect life. But, because I have striven to implement God's will in my life, I have been able to help others do the same. Like every believer, I have certain issues I struggle with. I confront doubts and periods where I feel out of touch with God. But through my time at the French Huguenot Church, I have seen God's hand at work. "I know that my redeemer liveth," says the prophet Job, and nowhere is His presence stronger than in the community of the French Huguenot Church.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER CHAIN by Martha Riebe

Some of my best memories of Charleston and The French Huguenot Church will be centered around the women I have met through the Women's Bible Study and Prayer Chain. Especially I will remember the homes we've met in - truly 'Charleston' homes - Rick Ravenel's historic house where we could look out on Fort Sumter; her 'comfy' home in Hell's Hole; Beverly LaHue's lovely home; Bonnie Oulla's lush and 'lowcountry' home on the river; the beautiful setting of Judy Brinson's home; and more recently the stately home of Gloria Hedden. In all these homes we were met with the most extraordinary welcomes.



There were also 'retreats' where we could get away from it all except each other. I remember especially Edisto and St. Simon's Island; Edisto where I first met and became friends with the late Josephine Jones; St. Simon's where I first met and became friends with Sara Edi Boyd.

I regret that I missed many meetings last Fall and Spring due to having double bypass heart surgery, but I was comforted by the many cards and calls I had from friends from the group.

I think the most we learned was how to pray for one another, and for those who were not with us, for strangers we had never met, indeed, for the entire world. Each Monday night, under the guidance of Judy Brinson, our teacher, a Bible passage would be read and discussed. I can't say we always agreed, but we ultimately came back to the true meaning of God's Word.

The following people are in attendance whenever they can be: Judy Brinson, Nancy Bryson, Frances Gaillard, Gloria Hedden, Arla Holroyd, June Iseman, Beverly La Hue, Nancy Longerbeam, Rhonda Marcum, Carol Peekson, Rick Ravenel, Martha Riebe, Candy Solyan, Beth Stoney, Sandra Thornton, *and pictured left to right, Michelle Sheeley, Bonnie Oulla, and Mary McNab.* We sincerely miss Sara Edi Boyd, Reed Ellis (who lives in Morocco and comes when she is in Charleston), Marty Ginn, Rosie Ong, Virginia Godwin, and Lynn Riebe.



We hope (and pray) that we will see everyone in September!

**REPORT FROM THE ELDERS by
Chairman Rick Mullin, pictured with on
right with Rick Karam**

The elders meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month. In our form of church governance, the Elders are responsible for the spiritual matters of the church, and the board handles the temporal matters.



Early this year, in response to the growing needs of the church, we formed a special Assistant Pastor Search Committee under the procedure outlined in the church bylaws. This committee selected Mason Pope as chair and retained Rev. Philip Porcher as advisor. The committee has held several initial interviews and has prepared a comprehensive written overview of the church to use to introduce our church to candidates and reference sources. Research for this self-study document included the March congregational survey that enjoyed a high response rate. Thanks to everyone for your participation in the survey. We are using it to shape our direction and decisions. See the following page for a review of the summary.

In the first half of the year we have focused on maintaining what makes the Huguenot Church work, and making a conscious commitment to the unity this congregation enjoys. We thank the Women of the Church for their long and faithful sponsorship of the Sunday collation. The elders have accepted responsibility for the collation this year. We also thank all of you who have contributed dishes this year.

For the second half, the elders will continue the important work of the Assistant Pastor Search Committee. Most notably, in the second half of 2011 we have set goals to strengthen our internal church communications and to define opportunities for service and involvement by each of our interested members. These are needs we have clearly identified from the aforementioned survey.

The elders' guiding text for the first half year was from Ps. 133 "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity". A new text we are keeping through year-end 2011 is from James Ch. 1, "Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only". The entire Epistle of James caused quite a stir among the early Protestant reformers, most notably Martin Luther, who thought less of James than the other canonical texts making up the Bible. Luther struggled greatly with James' statement, "not by faith alone" (Jam. 2:24). In fact, he once offered his doctor's cap to anyone who could reconcile it with Romans 3:23 and scoffed at his friend, Philip Melancthon, for attempting it. Luther called James' letter "an epistle of straw" that had "nothing of the nature of the Gospel about it."

James' emphasis on good works was just too big a departure from the core of the Protestant reform embodied in Ephesians 2:8, "By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God", and in Romans 3:28: "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the Law." However, in the Huguenot Church of Charleston, someone clearly thought James' teaching highly important, because it is prominently inscribed above the center door of the church sanctuary, where it remains for us to this day as a guiding text.

Body of Elders

Rick Mullin (Chair) rmullin@infionline.net 830-8093; Anne Blessing (Vice-Chair) anneandbo@yahoo.com 860-4556; Mason Pope (Chair Search Committee) mpope@sfg.com 324-2938; Mary McNab (Outreach) jim254@aol.com 209-2011; Price Oulla (Rep. to Board of Directors) cbdland@bellsouth.net 224-1204; William Applegate (New Membership & Outreach) william@yarboroughapplegate.com 972-0150; Bill Thornton (Worship) sandwthornton@comcast.net 722-7630; Nat Benson (Treasurer Liaison) nat@bensonmiller.com 971-9477.

SUMMATION OF SURVEY RESULTS**by Ross Scarborough**

A common theme in the responses was that members of the congregation want to be better equipped to take their Christianity into the world; that is, to be

prepared to meet the challenges of the world with the gospel of Christ. Through church organized and sponsored community service events, members of the congregation will be able to act on what they learn in church, outside the church. The lessons they learn in Sunday school and in the pulpit would be put into action, building a bridge between Sunday morning education and the world. In essence, this kind of community service event would give a Huguenot who wanted to learn what it meant to be a Christian in the world feel more secure about how to live out their faith outside the church. Getting people used to acting out their faith in an environment outside the sanctuary will better equip them to live out the gospel. By getting members of the church used to these sorts of activities, it will help them “inject Christianity into day-to-day living,” as one survey responder said. While working in a service environment may not seem to directly correlate with living out the gospel in a day-to-day environment, they are connected in that they both apply the gospel in a setting outside the church.

If the above scenario is applied, you can strengthen Christian education. Members of the congregation are taught in Sunday school the social, moral, Biblical, reasons for the specific community service events the church has taken on. Parallels can be drawn between the community outreach projects and situations in the Bible. You can strengthen in-reach. Thorough fostering a strong community outreach team, you can empower members of the congregation to organize, promote, and take pride in events that they help create. Finally, you can strengthen outreach. The French Huguenot Church will fully live into being “doers of the word, not hearers only”; and, not only will members of the congregation be engaged in the community, the community will become aware of the Church, combating any notions that the French Huguenot Church is just a quaint institution that exists solely on its historic value. It will show to the community that Charleston’s oldest church can be as vibrant, resilient, and engaging as any other kind of church or religious organization around.

Other common requests included the hiring of a new associate minister. The two biggest expectations the congregation has for the new minister are to be able to work with the youth and compliment Phil’s style of preaching. Currently, there is no structured youth program in place at the French Huguenot Church. The new assistant would need to be able to work well with youth, and create an engaging, spiritually fulfilling curriculum for them. A background in

(con.) youth ministry would be a good thing to look for while searching for the new assistant. Many parishioners recognize that youth is the future of the church and are very eager to see a strong youth program put into effect. This will become even more crucial as the youth of the church begin to enter middle school, when most local churches begin to focus their youth programs around teen-aged and young adult issues. Phil's ratings on the survey were phenomenal. Members of the church have come to expect a very high quality in the sermons they hear. While it is impossible to expect the new assistant to equal Phil in style, content, and delivery, it is true that the new assistant will need to be prepared to respond to the wants of the congregation in their sermons. It would be foolish to try and find a 'second Phil' while looking for an assistant pastor. However, the French Huguenot Church has cultivated a taste for a very specific style of sermon. It is imperative to find an assistant who can uphold this standard.

Another important quality in the new assistant is respect for the liturgy. While similar to other Calvinist based liturgies or a "low" Episcopal service, there is nothing quite like the French Huguenot liturgy. The new assistant should cherish and strive to maintain this, as many people in the survey commented on how they loved the liturgy and wanted to keep it the same.

NEWS FROM THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH by Pat Hiott-Mason

I want to begin this first newsletter by introducing the officers of the WOC:

Chairwoman: Pat Hiott-Mason
 Co chairwoman: Mary McNab
 Secretary: Martha Riebe
 Treasurer: Barbara Bryant
 Committees:
 Garden: Suzi DuRant
 Flowers: Rebecca Sheriff and Frances Henderson
 Church Tours: Gloria Hedden/Pat Hiott-Mason
 Silent Auction: Pat Hiott-Mason
 Special projects: appointed as needed

Meetings are called according to need. All women of the church who are interested in being involved are welcome. The ongoing projects at present are the 44 Queen Bride's Room and the 40 Queen Sunday School rooms.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL by Anne Blessing

Led by Jean McDowell, the children ages 8 to 12 studied the VIPs of the Old Testament through stories, games, and arts and crafts. This group met at 9:30 and then attended the service. As this was the first year of this special class, we had a small group. We will have twice as many students next year. They enjoyed the special rooms on the 2nd floor of 40 Queen.



The younger children continued with the *Walk With Me* Curriculum downstairs at 40 Queen during the 10:30 service. Each week's lesson is reinforced by an art project.

HUGUENOT CHURCH CHOIR by Barbara Claypoole

The French Huguenot Church finished its year with a grand finale of music May 22, 2011. Then, June 5, 2011, we honored Valerie Osborn and Yun Hao Jing (*pictured*) for their vocal performances and years of dedication to the church. Val is going to Boston to begin her masters in vocal performance, and Yun Hao is going to Chicago for the same. We wish them well and hope to follow them throughout their careers.



We have hired Jonathan Boyd to replace Yun Hao in the choir. He is a baritone and a rising junior at The College of Charleston in vocal performance and music theory. We are still searching for a replacement for Val.

We also would like to see if there are any parishioners who would like to volunteer to sing in the choir for the upcoming year. Our choir practices every Wednesday from 6-7:15pm on the third floor of 44 Queen St. We also have to be at church at 9:45am on Sunday mornings to warm up and practice. We are a small group, varied in ages and sexes, but we get along very well and learn from each other. We are a small family within a bigger family. If you are interested, please call Tray Stephenson, our choirmaster, at 588-0103. He will answer any questions you may have. We start the first Wednesday after Labor Day and sing until the third Sunday of May. You must commit to singing for Christmas Lessons and Carols (second Sunday of Advent), Palm Sunday and Easter and the finale in May.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP by Bob Brinson

The Adult Sunday School Fellowship has ended its year-long excursion into “The Truth Project,” a video series produced by Focus On the Family. This has been one of the deepest, most stimulating projects we have ever undertaken. We explored all aspects of the search for Truth, including biology, psychology, sociology, evolution and many other topics. We had attendance of 15 to 25 members throughout the year who enjoyed the lively discussions we had each week.

Adult Sunday School will start again on September 11. We will be returning to one of our most popular formats: Dr. Ray Van Der Laan, founder of That the World May Know Ministries, will host us on a video series of tours recorded on site throughout the Holy Land. He will explore both Old and New Testament sites, drawing on their significance in relation to scriptural truths. This series affords an ideal way to experience the Holy Land.

Plan to join us each Sunday morning for a fun, relaxing time of fellowship over coffee and donuts, song, prayer, study and discussion. You will be blessed.

Judy and Bob Brinson and Rick Mullin, Leaders

NOTES ON HUGUENOT HISTORY by Maurice Thompson

July is a great time to begin explorations into the history of French Huguenots. Not only do we celebrate our Independence Day on July 4, but the French Revolution, influenced by the Huguenot Exodus/Diaspora is celebrated on Bastille Day, July 14. The American Revolution was greatly assisted by Huguenots and Huguenot descendants such as: the duPonts, who made gunpowder used by Colonials; Henry Laurens, who succeeded John Hancock as President of the Second Continental Congress; Paul Revere, whose ride was significant in warning of the landing of the British in Boston; Israel Bysselle, who actually completed that ride to Congress in Philadelphia; Jack Jouett, who rode from Cuckoo Tavern to warn Thomas Jefferson and others that Tarleton (yes, “our” Bloody Tarleton) was coming to arrest them; Francis Marion, our “Swamp Fox”, (*right*) who is credited with developing modern guerrilla warfare in tormenting the British; and our own Isaac Mazcyk, in whose pasture was our Liberty Oak, under which Christopher Gadsden read the Declaration of Independence for the first time in South Carolina. The reading was followed by a collation. (My daughter maintains that in the event of any Huguenot-oriented gathering, food seems to be a necessity.) Our Liberty Tree was burned and destroyed by the British during occupation after the siege of about 1780. A glance at the many plaques in our sanctuary gives us the names of many other Revolutionary Patriots.



Our success in the Battle of Sullivan’s Island, at Breach Inlet and at what would become Fort Moultrie, on June 28, 1776, just a few days before the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, was the first time that Colonials, including many Huguenots, defeated British Regulars in pitched battle. The resulting hole in Sir Peter Parker’s pants on that day proved that we could, indeed, shoot the pants off the British. It is also true that more engagements of our Revolution were fought on South Carolina soil than in any other colony.

Over the next few months we plan to explore further the events and deeds of Huguenot history as it has developed in the last 5 centuries or so. It is a proud history, remarkably complicated, and extending from early events into the tales of the sheltering of Jewish children during the 20th century Nazi Holocaust by families of, at least, mixed religious heritage in the Cevennes, in France. Perhaps the most central theme throughout the history of Huguenots is that of personal freedom.



A SPECIAL PRAYER: Thank you, God, for the safe surgery and speedy recovery of Your Servant, Phil. Thank you for allowing him to share his many gifts with us. Amen.

From l to r: Barbara Claypoole, Phil and Barbara Bryant

COLLATION, JULY 17, 2011



Thanks to the many contributors to our bountiful collations.



Jo Plaehn and Joan Davis



Mary and Neil Hatcher



D.A.B. and a visitor



Larry Bryant and Officer David Fair



Price Oulla and Joan Middleton

Huguenot Classifieds “Therefore by their fruits ye shall know them.” (Matt. 7-20 Geneva Bible 1560)

- 1) Crisis Ministries service days: Contact: William Applegate. william@yarboroughapplegate.com 972-0150. First one will be August 30.
- 2) Fellowship/Social Events Committee: Interested? Join a committee to look into having a new quarterly congregational social supper. Contact: postmaster@frenchchurch.org 722-4385.
- 3) Worship/Altar Guild: Communion Silver Polish 4 times per year. Communion Linens as needed. Contact: postmaster@frenchchurch.org 722-4385.
- 4) Newsletter: Contact: Anne Blessing anneandbo@yahoo.com 860-4556.
- 5) Collation (Ongoing): Pick a Sunday soon. Just sign up to bring a dish. Our Hamby’s hostess Kathy Ashworth sets up and breaks down. It’s not about laboring in the kitchen all day like the old days! Contact: postmaster@frenchchurch.org or 722-4385.
- 6) Ushers: Contact Bill Thornton sandwthornton@comcast.net 722-7630.
- 7) Lay Reader: Contact Bill Thornton sandwthornton@comcast.net 722-7630.
- 8) "Interested in the history of the church? Volunteer to lead a tour for visitors after normal Sunday worship. Contact Gloria Hedden 881-8831.

The French Protestant (Huguenot)
Church

[Recipient]

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Address Line 4