

# HUGUENOTES

THE FRENCH PROTESTANT (HUGUENOT) CHURCH

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## ASSOCIATE PASTOR, TOM GUERRY



For many years, Tom Guerry has helped Phil on Communion Sundays and filled in when he was needed. Last fall, his involvement became more official. As Associate

Pastor, he preaches the first Sunday of the month and teaches the Sunday school class the last Sunday of the month. During the week, he helps Phil with pastoral visits and other projects. Everyone has been thrilled to have him and his wife, Vickie, enhance so many different aspects of our church.

Tom was born and raised in North Charleston and has the right lineage for this church, as a descendant of Pierre Guerry. He and Vickie, who is a speech pathologist and Certified Interpreter for the Deaf, have a son, Ben, who is a senior at Clemson University. Tom also attended Clemson, Erskine College, and the Southeastern Seminary. During his career, he has held pastorates in Florida, Virginia, and North Carolina. Tom was an adjunct teacher at Limestone College, Erskine Theological Seminary, Webster University, and a member of the Charleston Southern University faculty for 27 years. He retired in 2008 and continues his interests in woodworking and travel. He is an avid reader and says books are not just an interest but “a passion”!

The Sunday school class has benefited greatly from Tom’s scholarship and vast teaching experience. We are also so lucky in this church to have not one but two wonderful preachers. As Phil says, “Everyone should be as fortunate as I am to have someone like Tom to work with on a weekly basis.”

We are blessed at the Huguenot Church to have Tom and Vickie here. What wonderful additions they are to our church community!

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## HUGUENOTS' CORNER

**Contributed by: Alice Batchelor Hambright**

**M**y name is Alice Batchelor Hambright. I have very much enjoyed attending our church for the past few years as an Associate Member. I am also a member of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina.

My paternal grandmother's family were Huguenots. We are descended from the Marquis Jean Paul Frederick de Hulingues, a young Huguenot nobleman of the old French Province of Bearn, who was a companion of Henry of Navarre and attached to his court.

The following paraphrased excerpt from *Memorials of the Huguenots in America* by Ammon Stapleton (pp. 44-45) tells our story:

*During the sojourn of Navarre at the court in Paris the young Marquis de Hulingues became betrothed to Isabella du Portal, a lady in waiting*



*to Catharine de Medici. It was at this period that the awful massacre of St. Bartholomew took place (1572). The Marquis and his affianced wife, made their escape to Dieppe where they were married. Here they took a vessel and put to sea. Adverse winds, however, drove them far beyond their original destination, and they landed in Sweden where they were taken under the protection of the court. The Marquis had but one son whose name is not known. A grandson was Lars, (Laurence), Huling who came with the Swedish immigrants to the Delaware sometime prior to 1640.*

I am a direct descendant of Lars Huling, and each time I attend our lovely Huguenot church in Charleston I feel like I am home.

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**Contributed by: Catherine King**

**M**y mother, Francoise Meier (maiden name Baumgartner) was born in 1926. Her father, Marcel Baumgartner, was a business man - he owned a textile factory in Sainte Marie aux Mines (Alsace). During the war, as an Alsatian, he was required to join the German army, he and his brothers refused. They went into hiding.

My grandfather and one of his brothers were caught and sent to a concentration camp.

My grandfather jumped out of the train that was taking them to the camp, his brother was not so lucky, but he survived.

My grandfather spent the rest of the war in hiding.

My grandmother, Georgine Baumbartner (maiden name

Rufenacht), was originally from le Havre in Normandy. Their house in Sainte Marie was taken over by the Germans so they fled along with my great grandmother, Mary Rufenacht (maiden name Latham) to the south of France hoping to find refuge there.

Like most Protestants in France, they knew that the region around Mazamet and Le Chambon sur Lignon was a "protestant stronghold" and this is where they would have the most chance of finding people who would help them. They did indeed find refuge there and the three of them stayed in le Chambon for the remainder of the war.

My mother attended the college whose director was Andre Trocme. (One of my sisters also

attended her last two years of high school there).

My father, Jean Meier, was also from Sainte Marie, his father, Bernard Meier owned the other textile company in the town! They were Swiss nationals and therefore were not forced to leave Alsace.

Recently, my mother sold the family home in Le Havre, we had to sort out four generations of documents and among them I found my great grandmother's "journal de guerre" ( war diary). Three thick notebooks covering daily events from 1940 to 1945. I have started reading them, and if I find something interesting I'll send you a note.

## Report from the Elders

As many of you may already know, David Crawford and Stanley Claypoole were elected as Elders for four year terms at the congregation's Fall Annual Meeting. The Elders are most happy to have them joining us. The Body of Elders this year is made up of David, Stan, Anne Blessing, Nat Benson, Mason Pope, William Applegate, Mary McNab, Bill Thornton. Barbara Claypoole and Bill Marshall alternate on a monthly basis as member appointed by the Board of Directors. Officers of the Elders are Vice Chairman-Nat Benson, Secretary-Stan Claypoole, Representative to the Board-Bill Thornton (temporarily), Chairman-Bill Thornton. For general information on the Sunday workings of the Elders, Duty Elder watch is on a monthly basis and is scheduled usually three to four months in advance. The Duty Elder is responsible for selecting the readers for each Sunday during his or her watch, as well as the ushers for communion and collection. If for some reason the appointed reader can't make it at the last minute, the watch stander has to do it or draft someone else to fill in. There are other nitty-gritty details such as making sure the parking signs are out, the hymn placards gibe with what hymns are to be sung, handling the seating of latecomers, etc. Our worship service is the reason our Church exists, but our Collation is a very important social part of our Church community and gives us an opportunity to get to know one another. The Collation Duty Elder has overall responsibility for the smooth functioning of the three Sunday a month Collations. This watch is also on a monthly basis and on a three to four month in advance schedule. When the Collation is not scheduled for one of the three Sundays, it is sorely missed. The Duty Elder Schedules are as follows:

<b>Month:</b>	<b>Duty Elder:</b>	<b>Collation Duty Elder:</b>
February	Nat Benson	Anne Blessing
March	Bill Thornton	Mary McNab
April	Mason Pope	David Crawford
May	Stanley Claypoole	William Applegate
June	Bill Thornton	Anne Blessing

If an Elder finds it impossible to attend to his or her duties on a particular Sunday or for a whole month there is the ability to switch off, so the above schedules are not written in stone. There is, however, always coverage.

It is apparent that our Congregation is growing and, as a result, the Body of Elders believes that our Church would be well served if the Body's membership be increased to thirteen from a total of nine as provided in the Church by-laws. An enlargement will require amendments to the by-laws which is the province of the Board of Directors. Elders are currently working with the Directors on proposed amendments to three Sections of the by-laws governing the terms, number and method of election. With an increase in the number of Elders, among other benefits derived, the Body will be more representative of the congregation.

In a subsequent article, the committees of the Body of Elders will be covered along with the names of the Chairpersons and the committee functions.

If there is any comment, question, or suggestion, concerning the Church, Congregants should feel free and are encouraged to speak to any Elder about it. That elder will bring it to the attention of the Body of Elders. A determination can then be made as to whether it is a matter to be within the Body's jurisdiction. If it can't be handled by the Elders it may be within the purview of the Board.

**Bill Thornton, Chairman of the Board of Elders**

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

The 2011-12 Huguenot Youth Sunday School has thrived under the guidance of lead teacher, MaryCole McCants. Eight students between the ages of 8 and 11 meet weekly to study the New Testament in a

fun, stimulating classroom setting at 40 Queen Street. In addition to learning the Bible lessons, MaryCole reports the students practice looking up verses and navigating the Bible each week. Classes wrap up with Bible trivia,

which is very popular with the children. A huge thank you goes out to the Women of the Church who graciously donated funds to create a game/lounge area also enjoyed by the youth program!

**Contributed By: Anne Pope**

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## THE GASTON BRIDAL SUITE AT 44 QUEEN STREET

Thanks to the women of the church for refurbishing this room.





# FALL MEETING OF THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

October 2012





# FELLOWSHIP

## December 2011 Oyster Roast







## LE BUDGET / BOARD REPORT

The Board of Directors and the Body of Elders collaborate every December before passing next year's budget. Each line item expense is then dissected: salaries, music, collations, insurance, maintenance, and outreach. The 2012 budget is \$ 319,385.00, and the church's primary revenue comes from weekly offerings and non-member weddings.

We have an accurate financial history of both, but the hard part is the balancing of the two. Ronald Reagan once said, "We might balance the budget if all of us lived closer to the Commandments and the Golden Rule. " That's sound advice, and that's exactly what we must strive to do.

When last year ended, we found ourselves with a \$1300 deficit. We were able to end the year with such a small deficit, during these difficult financial times, due to the congregation's support during the month of December. Our congregation's generosity and God's grace consistently amaze me.

One of the primary focuses of the Director's monthly meeting is monitoring the budget. We are always open to suggestions on how we may increase revenue or decrease expenses without diminishing our church's programs. If anyone has such a suggestion, please drop a note to me in the collection plate. The Directors will study each suggestion.

I will close with another quote from Ronald Regan, "Balancing the budget is like protecting your virtue – you have to learn to say no."

**John Hilton, President, Board of Directors**

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## 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](mailto:william@yarboroughapplegate.com) 972-0150.
- 2) Fellowship/Social Events Committee: Interested? Join a committee to look into having a new quarterly congregational social supper. Contact: [postmaster@frenchchurch.org](mailto:postmaster@frenchchurch.org) 722-4385.
- 3) Worship/Altar Guild: Communion Silver Polish 4 times per year. Communion Linens as needed. Contact: [postmaster@frenchchurch.org](mailto:postmaster@frenchchurch.org) 722-4385.
- 4) Newsletter: Contact: Anne Blessing [anneandbo@yahoo.com](mailto:anneandbo@yahoo.com) 860-4556.
- 5) Collation (Ongoing): Pick a Sunday soon. Just sign up to bring a dish. Contact: [postmaster@frenchchurch.org](mailto:postmaster@frenchchurch.org) or 722-4385.
- 6) Ushers: Contact Bill Thornton [sandwthornton@comcast.net](mailto:sandwthornton@comcast.net) 722-7630.
- 7) Lay Reader: Contact Bill Thornton [sandwthornton@comcast.net](mailto: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.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Caroline and John Warren for the birth of their daughter, *Dalton Louise*, born Feb. 24, 8 lbs, 20 inches

