

HUGUENOTES

Summer 2012
Volume 3, Issue 1

THE FRENCH PROTESTANT (HUGUENOT) CHURCH

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BRAVERY—BARNEY FIFE

By Ross Scarborough
Sunday, June 24, 2012 Sermon

Barney Fife, besides being the perfect role model for deputy sheriffs all across the Carolinas, is also a good example of someone who just seems to always swing and miss. While Andy Griffith always seemed to keep a cool head, do

what is right, and save the day; Barney was excitable, unprepared, and oftentimes made situations worse.

Barney's heart was always in the right place, but Barney's execution was always lacking. That's why he always fumbled while putting that one bullet in his pistol. He saw a problem that needed justice, but was never prepared enough to actually administer that justice.

Barney Fife pretty well illustrates the difference between knowing what is right and acting on that knowledge. It's not always as easy as Barney had it to assess a situation for what is right and what is wrong. And once you've figured that out, you're faced with the task of how to act:

Do you drop the proverbial bullet, and passively keep the thought to yourself, hoping that the situation self-corrects?

Or do you humbly yet assertively point out the problems you see and offer a constructive solution?

In today's reading, we saw a young King David choose the latter of those two options.

For David, the answer was simple: the Philistines were taunting King Saul and his warriors with Goliath, their massive war machine. Everyone realized the situation was bad, and that if Goliath wasn't defeated, it could be the end of Israel.

David didn't just draw a conclusion about the situation. He acted on it. He went to Saul and said,

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"Don't worry, I will do what God has commanded. I will do what is right."

David had all the assurance of God with him when he approached Goliath. How else could a man so young defeat a giant? To David it was clear what needed to be done, and with God on his side, he went and did it.

Some of you may have heard about the death of Marley Lion last week. Marley had just graduated from Academic Magnet High School, where we had gone to school together for one year. Marley had a lot going for him- he was athletic, intelligent, and had the best friends someone his age could have. But it was all taken away from him in a West Ashley parking lot only 6 miles from here. The reason Marley was in a parking lot at 4am was because he was under the influence and couldn't safely drive any further. What looked like a smart move turned deadly when two careless individuals fired into his car, shooting him in the chest.

As I watched Marley's friends on television this week, sharing stories with the evening news about their lost friend, I couldn't help but notice their shared sense of regret. I don't think any one of those friends can or should be held responsible for the death. It was not their fault.

But what if just one of them had had the courage to intervene? What if just one had been brave enough to say, "Marley, just stay here if you think you can't make it all the way home," or simply, "there's nothing wrong with staying here, just sleep it off and drive in the morning."

No one saw this death coming. But that one brave act- intervention- could have saved a life from an undeserved fate.

As Christians, we have a unique opportunity not only to learn what is right and wrong, but also to learn how to act-- even in situations that are as big as Goliath. Both David and Jesus in today's lesson kept their cool in situations where most of the men around them were too afraid to even think clearly. Because of their confidence in God's will, they were able to effectively resolve the situations they found themselves in.

How different could our lives be if we began assessing every situation with a similar, Christian

worldview and then acted as our Father would have us act?

You might know the saying from Romans 8:32: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

While that might be a very good Christian sound-byte, there's a whole lot more to it than just that.

I'll be the first to admit that I fail to remember this myself, time and again. But there is no reason to be dismayed! I know that God has forgiven me for both "things done and left undone," and that he is always willing to use me as his hand in the world-- but I have to be willing, too.

That's why, regardless of the terrible things that have happened this week, or month, or any time in our life, we can face the future with a positive attitude. We can know that, if we're really doing the right thing, then God has our back, and no harm will come to us.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi, Ms. Blessing.

What a wonderful surprise and blessing to receive the newsletters from you! I read each article with much interest. It is so good to learn about the life of the church. I had yearned to know more since becoming an Associate Member in 2005, but my requests for some news went unanswered. It is particularly pleasing to know that the church is a thriving one living out the responsibilities of Christ, its Head. And not just an historic church.

My ancestors were Isaac DuBose and Suzanne Couillandean who fled France and arrived in Charlestown in about 1685. In the mid-1700's some of their grandchildren settled on the east bank of Lynches Creek and that's where we have been ever since - my line, anyway: Lee and Darlington Co. My wife - a good Irish-background Presbyterian (Carrigan) and I live in Darlington. I am a member of the Huguenot Society of SC.

Our church - Darlington Presbyterian, in which I am a ruling elder - recently voted to leave Presbyterian Church in the USA; we have only three weeks ago been officially accepted into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

My wife has attended one worship service there on a Sunday when we DuBoses were having a reunion in Summerville.

Thank you, again, for a well-done newsletter. Keep up the good work! I look forward eagerly for the next one. Grace and Peace!

Bill DuBose

The French Protestant Huguenot Church is on **Facebook!**
Please "Like" us at www.facebook.com/TheFrenchChurch

HUGUENOTS' CORNER

Contributed by: **Bill DuBose, Darlington, SC**

My ancestors were Isaac DuBose and Suzanne Couillandeu who fled France and arrived in Charlestown in about 1685. In the mid-1700's some of their grandchildren settled on the east bank of Lynches Creek and that's where we have been ever since - my line, anyway: Lee and Darlington Co.

(Excerpt from Mr. DuBose's Letter to the Editor.)



OUR LITURGY by Ross Scarborough

The French Huguenot Church is an incredibly unique parish, not the least because of its liturgy.

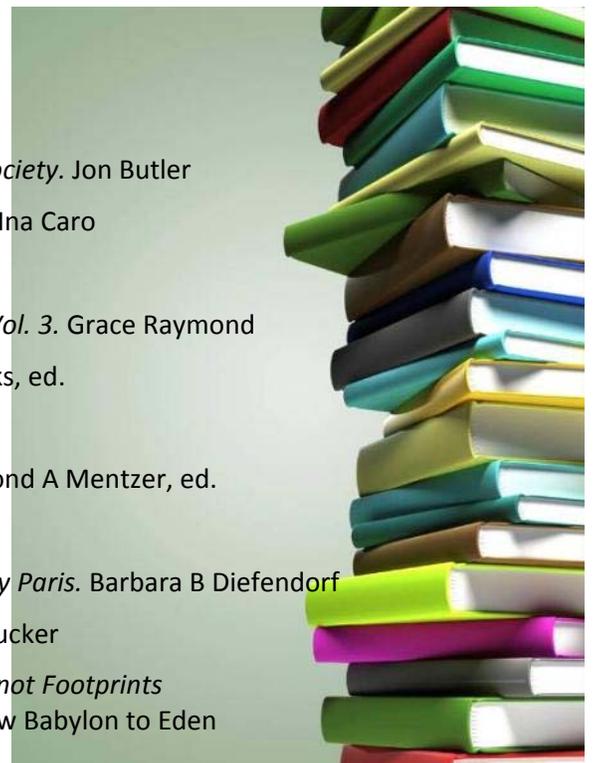
As an independent church, our church is sometimes grouped in with a lot of non-denominational, far right, or "mega" churches. Liturgy is hardly present in the worship experience of these churches. So, among independent churches, we are unique in the fact that we use such an elaborate, historical liturgy.

Most churches in downtown Charleston fall into one of the mainline protestant denominations, such as Episcopalianism or Presbyterianism. Although we are protestant, and do follow a liturgy that is similar to these other denominations, there is no other church in Charleston or even the USA that follows our exact liturgy. Among all the liturgies in the Holy City, we have the distinction of having a one-of-a-kind liturgy that has been used by Huguenots since the 18th century.

HUGUENOT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Suggested reading from the Huguenot Society of South Carolina:

- 1) *The Huguenots in America: a Refugee People in New World Society*. Jon Butler
- 2) *The Road from the Past: Traveling Through History in France*. Ina Caro
- 3) *The French Huguenots: Anatomy of Courage*. Janet Gray
- 4) *How they Kept the Faith: A Tale of Huguenots in Languedoc, Vol. 3*. Grace Raymond
- 5) *Memory and Identity*. Bertrand Van Ruymbeke & Randy Sparks, ed.
- 6) *Faith and Fortunes of France's Huguenots*. Philip Benedict
- 7) *Society and Culture in the Huguenot World 1559-1685*. Raymond A Mentzer, ed.
- 8) *French Wars of Religion*. Mack P Holt
- 9) *Beneath the Cross: Catholics & Huguenots in Sixteenth Century Paris*. Barbara B Diefendorf
- 10) *Driven into Exile: A Story of the Huguenots*. Charlotte Maria Tucker
- 11) *The Huguenots and Their Migration to Colonial SC and Huguenot Footprints - The Journey to America*. Bertrand Van Ruymbeke, From New Babylon to Eden



DOCENT LUNCHEON

Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 12 noon a luncheon was held for the French Protestant Huguenot Church docents at Maurice Thompson's home on the porch.



FRENCH SERVICE COLLATION

The Annual French Service was held Sunday, April 15, 2012 followed by a collation in the 44 Queen Street courtyard.



THE HUGUENOT CHURCH CHOIR by Beth Dixon

The Huguenot Church choir is very fortunate to have Tray Stephenson as our Choir Director for the past 7 years. Under the skillful leadership of Tray and the Director of Music, Barbara Claypoole, the choir produces beautiful music and singing for our church services year-round.

This year our choir has 13 singers: 5 sopranos, 3 altos, 3 tenors, and 2 basses. Tray and Barbara work closely with the College of Charleston Music

Department to locate and hire gifted students for our program. Many of these students go on to have excellent careers in the music industry and former members often keep in touch after they have left the choir.

We want church members to know a little more about our gifted choir members and plan to profile them in the Huguenot Church newsletters. Below are profiles for 4 of our choir members.

Renee Blankenship

Renee has been a member of the choir since September 2011 and sings alto. She is a recent graduate of the College of Charleston receiving her Bachelors in Arts Management. She was born and raised in Rock Hill, SC. While in college, Renee was a member of the College of Charleston Concert Choir and Madrigal Singers. She also appeared with Charleston ProMusica, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Chorus, the opera chorus of Opera Charleston's inaugural performance of Carmen and the Taylor Festival Choir. Renee enjoys reading fiction novels on her Kindle and redecorating. She resides in Charleston with her beta fish Azul, guinea pigs Chip and Dale, and Yorkie puppy Charlotte.



Renee Blankenship



Jordan Boyd

Jordan Boyd

Jordan joined the choir last year and sings tenor. He is from Clover, SC and is a Senior at the College of Charleston majoring in Vocal Performance and Music Theory/Composition. He is a member of the CofC Concert Choir and Opera Company, and has performed with the Madrigal Singers. Jordan was recommended to the Huguenot Church choir by his friend, Val Osborn, who was also a choir member here until last year. When not singing, Jordan enjoys travelling and riding his beloved horse Ms. Kitty.



Brian Ross and Jordan Boyd

Pictured at right: Fernando Troche, Dick Donohoe, and Yun Hao Jiang. Fernando is profiled on page 6. Dick is a volunteer member of the choir and Yun Hao is a former choir member who recently returned for a visit to sing with us.





Louise Carraway

Louise Carraway

Louise joined the choir 4 years ago as a soprano. She is a native of Sumter, South Carolina. She started her vocal study at age 11, attending the Caroline Mack Center for the Arts. In high school she attended summer vocal programs at Florida State University, University of South Carolina, and Westminster Choir College. She was also a part of the National American Choral Directors Association Honor Choir 2001. She continued her vocal study as a vocal performance major at the College of Charleston under Suzanne Fleming-Atwood and Deanna McBroom. She was active in the Concert Choir as a section leader and the Madrigal Singers. In addition, she has been featured as a soloist in the Piccolo Spoleto's young artist series and has sung in the Early Music Series. Louise was an Honors winner in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions competition at the state level, and then moved on to the regional competition in 2008 and 2009. As a member of the College of Charleston Opera, she performed roles in several operas including: *Sally - Die Fledermaus*, *Nella - Gianni Schicchi*, and *Peep Bo- The Mikado*. She has also performed in the company's children's operas: *The Three Little Pigs* and *Billy Goats Gruff*. She graduated from the College of Charleston this past August 2011 and is continuing her vocal study here with Margaret Cook. When asked about her hobbies, she responded "Haha singing is really my only hobby!" Then she added that she likes to play piano, teach piano lessons, and sing solos for church weddings.

Fernando Troche

Fernando has been a member of our choir for 4 years and sings tenor. He graduated from the College of Charleston in May 2012 and is currently enrolled in the Artist Certificate Program at CofC for 2 more years, where he is studying classical guitar with Grammy Nominated Guitarist Marc Regnier. Fernando is featured in the Student Profile section of the homepage of the College of Charleston. In the past, he has performed with the Charleston Ballet Theater, in the Monday Night Concert Series, the Early Music Series and the Young Artists Series during the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, and in the St. Luke's Chapel Series among others. He was featured on WDAV radio during the 2010 Spoleto Festival. Besides music, Fernando's interests include Chinese culture and language studies. He earned first place at the Chinese Performance Contest organized by the College of Charleston and the Citadel in 2011. He has also been nominated by the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs as Outstanding Student of the Year.



Fernando Troche

HISTORICAL NOTES ON HENRY ERBEN AND OUR MUSICAL GEM by Bill Thornton

Most of our congregation know that we are the owners of a valuable and interesting musical instrument built by a rather prolific manufacturer of organs. Details of Erben's life and some of those of the life of our organ are not as well known. Information from The Organ Historical Society, a national organization which promotes the preservation of organs of historical import, indicates that when our current church building was being constructed in 1844 and 1845 there was only one organ builder in Charleston named Baker. The first name and the quality of his work are not reported. It does not appear that there was much of a local choice of builders of these instruments. Dr. William D. Gudger, a professor of music history and theory, has noted that a John Baker was Erben's representative in Charleston.

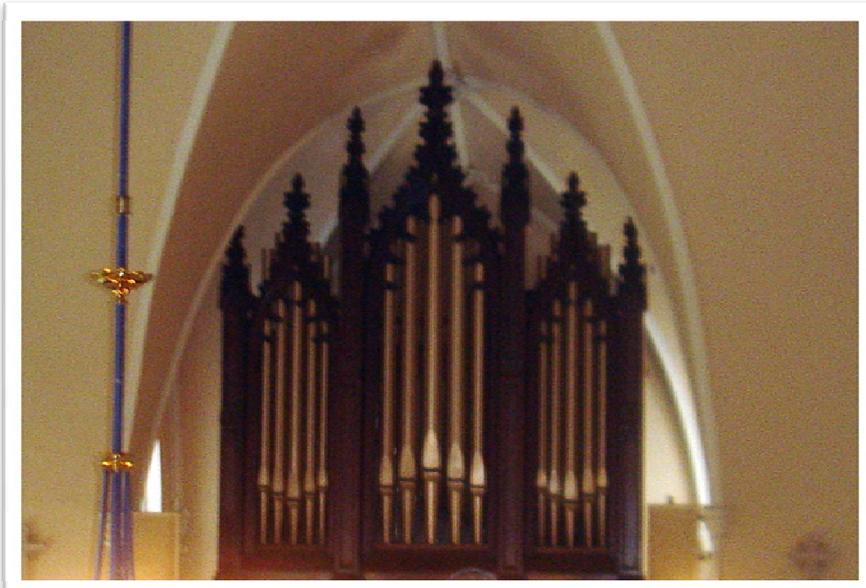
Probably the two were one in the same. Gudger suggests that Baker may have done the installation and repair of the organ. In any event, Erben's works were not strangers in Charleston's houses of worship. Dr. Gudger has remarked that Erben was probably

the best organ builder of his time and may have had as many as eighteen in Charleston in one period. Records indicate that Erben built organs for the First Baptist Church in 1832, Temple Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim in 1841, our church in 1845, and Grace Church in 1848.

Henry Erben was born in New York City in 1800 and died in that city in 1884. His father, Peter Erben, arrived in New York from Philadelphia in the late 18th century as an organ builder. In 1820 he became the organist at Trinity Church on Wall St. serving until 1839. His son, Henry, was apprenticed at age eighteen to Thomas Hall, an organ maker. Organ making is a highly technical craft, and it requires much skill and intelligence. Henry must have been a bit of a prodigy, as he finished his apprenticeship and was taken into

partnership by his former employer four years later at age twenty-two in 1822. Already by 1824, he was listed as builder of the organs for St. Patrick's old Cathedral as well as other New York City churches for Lutheran, Episcopalian, Dutch Reformed, and Baptist congregations for a total of five, quite an accomplishment for someone so soon out of apprenticeship.

The Organ Historical Society lists him as the builder of 302 organs during his career, with the last one being completed by Henry Erben & Co. in 1886 two years after his death. It is probable that someone who was winding up his affairs completed an unfinished instrument. His pieces were installed across the nation, generally to places where they could be shipborne.



San Francisco and Portland Oregon were destinations for his works in 1851. 1845 was a busy year for him. That year he installed organs at the First Presbyterian (Old Whalers) Church in Sag Harbor on Long Island, New York, Christ Episcopal Church in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Trinity Church in Fairfield, New York,

Nativity Catholic Church and University Place Presbyterian Church in New York City, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Jersey City, New Jersey, and our Church. It appears his years of greatest productivity were from 1835 to the mid 1860's.

According to all reports, our Erben tracker organ was specifically built for our Church in the years 1844 and 1845. If so, why is the year 1820 painted in bold numerals on the back of the organ? If memory serves correctly, it appeared to be in the usual paint of the period, i.e., a reddish brown iron oxide color with a casein carrier. The answer could be Erben's longstanding relationship dating from 1818 with the shop that he eventually took over in 1835. In that shop there must have been plenty of good spare parts and good

wood from other organs lying about with various names and dates on them. If he succeeded to these items, why not put them to good use, especially if they were not likely to be seen.

About the same time our organ was being built in New York City, the square rigger "John Ravenel," hailing from Charleston, was being launched in Baltimore. One of the larger organ pipes was painted "John Ravenel Esq. Charleston Organ No. 6" in large letters. It would be interesting to know about "No. 6". Were there at least five other organs headed to Charleston on board ship or was it the sixth organ built that year? One could wonder if "John Ravenel" meant that the new organ was to be delivered to the ship "John Ravenel" to be transported to Charleston, or whether it was to be delivered to John Ravenel, Esq. in Charleston. The latter thought is probably accurate. John Ravenel and William Ravenel, of Charleston, were partners as owners of the ship.

The Erben organ had enhanced our Church's worship service for 20 years when in 1865 it caught the fancy of a detachment of the Federal Army of occupation. It was looted from the Church, taken to the docks for transport to the north. The question is, what was going to be done with the stolen goods after it arrived at its destination?

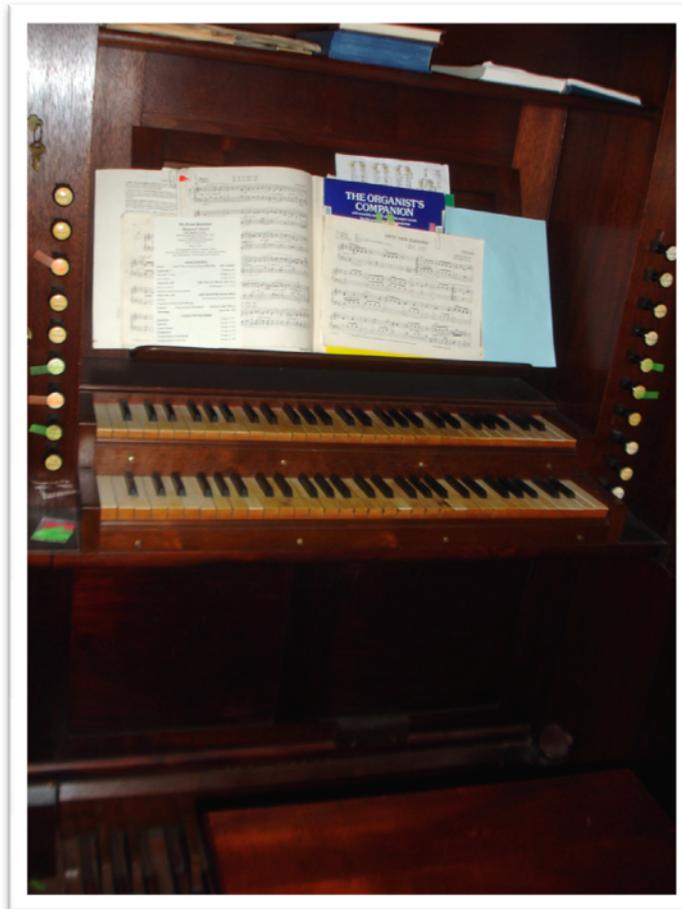
Sold? Was it to be a gift to a church from the Commanding Officer? This disgraceful business was ended when our church organist, Mr. T.P. O'Neale, along with some influential friends, prevailed upon the detachment to leave it in Charleston. The organ was taken to Grace Church where it remained until the Spring of 1866 when it was returned to our Church. It seems church organs were considered fair game by

Federal troops. Reports have it that they loaded the organ from the Edisto Presbyterian Church onto a barge in a nearby creek to be taken to a larger ship for delivery to the north. That incident had a very unhappy result, as the organ fell overboard from the barge and ended up on the bottom. Both the Church and the Federals were the losers.

The organ has undergone surgeries, "improvement", repairs and replacements since the 1865 difficulty. The organ literature indicates that as the 18th century progressed, the tonal quality of the American organ declined. Organs became regarded as an imitation orchestra. In 1929 our organ fell victim to this trend when it was altered to conform to this orchestral approach. A January, 1969, repair and restoration was performed on the organ under the auspices of the Preservation Society. It is understood that on this occasion, the 1929 "improvement" was rectified. In April of that year the renowned E. Power Biggs performed a concert on the organ under the sponsorship of the estate of the widow of Henry Erben's grandson.

The repair and restoration work done at the end of the last century by Knowlton Organ Co. of Davidson, N.C., seems to be the most extensive of all. Their public report of the work done is impressive. The detail of this work report is so extensive that it puts this

unmusical writer at a loss to describe it. One thing that is clear is that they rebuilt the hand bellows. This writer worked them one Sunday service when the electricity was off. (I didn't get the usual dime for services rendered as the pumper did in the old days.) It seems the major thrust of their efforts was to make the organ sound as it did when it came out of Henry Erben's shop in 1845.



THE HUGUENOT SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA by Renee Marshall

The Huguenot Society of South Carolina was founded in 1885 to honor and preserve the memory of the French Protestant men, women and children who faced great and seemingly insurmountable challenges in their struggle to escape religious persecution. The Society's objective is to preserve the history of the Huguenots and to promote a better understanding of the principles and values they upheld.

The membership of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina includes almost 1,700 individuals in 38 states and several foreign countries. Membership is open to those who can document their descent from known Huguenot emigrants who left France or another country prior to the promulgation of the Edict of Toleration on November 28, 1787.

The Society's library began in 1885 as one bookcase and today is one of the largest and most valuable depositories of Huguenot holdings in this country. The Society's collection numbers approximately 5,000 volumes and files and contains materials dating from 1577 to the present day pertaining to Huguenot history and genealogy in both Europe and America, and South Carolina in particular. Researchers are always welcome and the library is open to the public Monday to Friday from 9 am to 2 pm.

More information on the Society, information on membership and access to the library's catalogue can be found on the Society's website: www.huguenotsociety.org

COMMEMORATING THE 450TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUGUENOT EXPLORER JEAN RIBAUT'S LANDING AT PARRIS ISLAND by Renee Marshall



On Friday, May 25, 2012, a group met to commemorate the 450th Anniversary of the landing of Jean Ribault on Parris Island. The ceremony was held at the Ribault monument, which is on a bluff with a stunning view of Port Royal Sound. Pastor Bryant was asked to give the benediction. He did so with the following prayer: "God of our Fathers, who kindled in those souls who came to this island 450 years ago a love of liberty, and gave them such faith that they were able to sail vast rolling seas and explore strange shores, we ask you to bestow upon us their descendants a love of liberty such as theirs, and support us in all our endeavors so we neither grow faint in our faith, or fail in our courage to meet our challenges. Amen."

In February 1562, three small ships and about 100 men sailed from Dieppe, France bound for "La Floride" in the new world. Led by devout Huguenot Jean Ribault, the expedition sought to stake a claim for France in the new world while also establishing a refuge for Huguenots fleeing persecution. Arriving off the coast of what is now northern Florida, Ribault eventually landed at what is now Parris Island, SC. The men built a small wooden fort that they named "Charlesfort" in honor of Charles IX of France. The colony was a failure and the fort was abandoned in less than a year, but the expedition was the first European attempt to settle in what is now the United States – 3 years before the establishment of St. Augustine and 25 years before the Roanoke Colony!



JUNE 10, 2012 COLLATION

44 Queen Street



COCKTAILS IN THE COURTYARD

The French Protestant Huguenot Church welcomed all members to “Cocktails in the Courtyard” on the first day of summer, Wednesday, June 20, 2012 at 6:00 PM. The event was held in the 44 Queen Street courtyard.



COCKTAILS IN THE COURTYARD



Church Elders Installed

Congratulations to our new Elders: Beth Dixon, Suzi DuRant, Mikell Richards, and John Warren who were installed at the May 20, 2012 French Protestant Huguenot Church service.



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.
- 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. 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.
- 9) Children's Sunday School, nursery, and activities: Contact Anne Blessing anneandbo@yahoo.com, 860-4556

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Cal and Vitre Ravenel Stephens on the birth of their son, Charles Albert Stephens, "Chase", Tuesday May 8 at 11:49 PM.

