

HUGUENOTES

Spring 2015
Volume 6, Issue 1

THE FRENCH PROTESTANT (HUGUENOT) CHURCH

CHURCH: On the Corner of Church and Queen Streets ✧ OFFICE: 44 Queen Street; Charleston, SC 29401
<http://huguenot-church.org/> ✧ www.facebook.com/TheFrenchChurch ✧ french@huguenotchurch.com ✧ castbiz.com ✧ (843) 722-4385

A TIP O' THE HAT TO OUR TOUR GUIDES

Our congregation is blessed to worship in a historical landmark, a tourist destination even. We're a unique stop, too. Huguenot? What's a Huguenot? And who better to answer such questions than members of our own congregation who volunteer their time serving as tour guides in the spring and fall.

On average about 200 visitors a day tour the church to find out what a Huguenot is and see our beautiful building. On just one day this March, our tour guides hosted visitors from points as far flung across the globe as Switzerland, Canada, Germany, Mexico, Spain, and Slovakia.

The most common questions tour guide Connor Gantt and her tour guide partner Larry Bryant field are related to the memorial plaques along the walls of the sanctuary. Are those people buried under the church? Were George and Martha Washington members? Legitimate questions. Who would guess that what started as a way to raise funds for the church during a financial crisis and honor admired and loved ones of Huguenot descent would make our walls into living history with real names, places, and moments in time, giving the curious something to read and wonder about during a tour—and maybe only very occasionally during a Sunday service. Joris Jansen Rapalye, when you left the docks of La Rochelle, France, in 1624, was the new world of Fort Orange, New York, all that you'd dreamed it would be? From the perils of religious persecution to the land of Mohawk Indians and smallpox and eventually to a little up-and-coming place called New Amsterdam. And that's just one plaque! How remarkable to think that each one of the plaques is a life lived—some famously so, like George and Martha, Alexander Hamilton, and the Swamp Fox, and most less so but still inciting our curiosity.

The tour guides get to introduce the plaques and all the other beautiful features of the church to visitors, as well as give a brief history of the Huguenots'

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Tip O' the Hat to Our Tour Guides	1
Sunday School Session: <i>Weapons of the Spirit</i>	2
Ambassador of France Visit	2
Dean of Westminster Delivers Lecture	3
Chrismon Tree	4
Winter 2015 Oyster Roast	6
Piccolo Spoleto	10
Sermons	10
Facebook	10
Annual French Service	10
Huguenot Classifieds	11

journey from bloody persecution to freedom and life in the Lowcountry. Sometimes they must tackle questions about Calvinist theology and the character and tenets of the worship service.

The strangest question Connor remembers being asked came recently from a nice young couple trying to understand the by-gone system of paying for pews so a family could have its place every Sunday, indicated by a brass name tag on the leased pew. What the couple wanted to know was, if you bought the pew could you decorate it the way you wanted?

Now that would be something. Our tour guides handle such questions and welcome our visitors with aplomb and warm hospitality. They are our gracious ambassadors charged with answering, Huguenot, what's a Huguenot? by capturing the spirit and essence of our sanctuary, our history, and our congregation. No small task! Perhaps a plaque is in order? For now, we'll have to make do with a tip of our hats and our many thanks.

Our fearless, fabulous tour guides: Frances Henderson, Dick Donohoe, June Iseman, Chris Iseman, Linda Iseman, Frances Townsend, Pat Hiott-Mason, Larry Bryant, Connor Gantt, Maurice Thompson, Ravenel Mansfield, Sandra Thornton, Bill Thornton, Gail Jeter, Gloria Hedden, Christy Cabaniss, and Bob Hellebush.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SESSION: *WEAPONS OF THE SPIRIT*

On Feb 8, Stephen Bucher led this Sunday school class with a showing of the documentary movie *Weapons of the Spirit* from the story written (and filmed) by Pierre Sauvage about 5,000 refugees being sheltered from the Nazis by Christians through a unique conspiracy of goodness in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France, during World War II. In preparation for the class, some class participants had read the related books: *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed* by Philip P. Hallie and *Village of Secrets* by Caroline Moorehead. There were lively discussions in the follow-up class sessions.



AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE VISITS THE FRENCH HUGUENOT PROTESTANT CHURCH

The Ambassador of France, His Excellency Mr. Gérard Araud, traveled to South Carolina on March 16-17, 2015. During his visit to Charleston, SC, he toured our church. He is pictured here with the Reverend Philip C. Bryant, Beatrice Frask-Ramos, and Stephen Bucher.



DEAN OF WESTMINSTER DELIVERS LECTURE

At the invitation of the Royal Oak Foundation, the Dean of Westminster, The Very Reverend Dr. John Hall, gave a lecture on the life of Westminster Abbey on Thursday, October 30, 2014, at the French Protestant Huguenot Church in Charleston, South Carolina. He was accompanied on his US tour by the Director of the Westminster Abbey Foundation, Valerie Humphrey.



CHRISMON TREE

Something new was introduced to our church in 2014, as we enjoyed our first Chrismon Tree at 44 Queen.

Sixteen members of our church shared their talents by cross-stitching the 83 beautiful gold and white ornaments. We owe our thanks to the following ladies:

- Cathy Bonner, who stitched 39 of the 83 ornaments!
- Gail Jeter
- Marina Scalia
- Charlene Roumillat



- Barbara Claypoole
- Louise Carraway
- Kathy Crawford
- Margaret Garrett
- Karen Karam
- Patty Bucher
- Jan Benson
- Leigh Amrhein
- Mary Lilith Peters
- Maurice Thompson
- Vickie Guerry

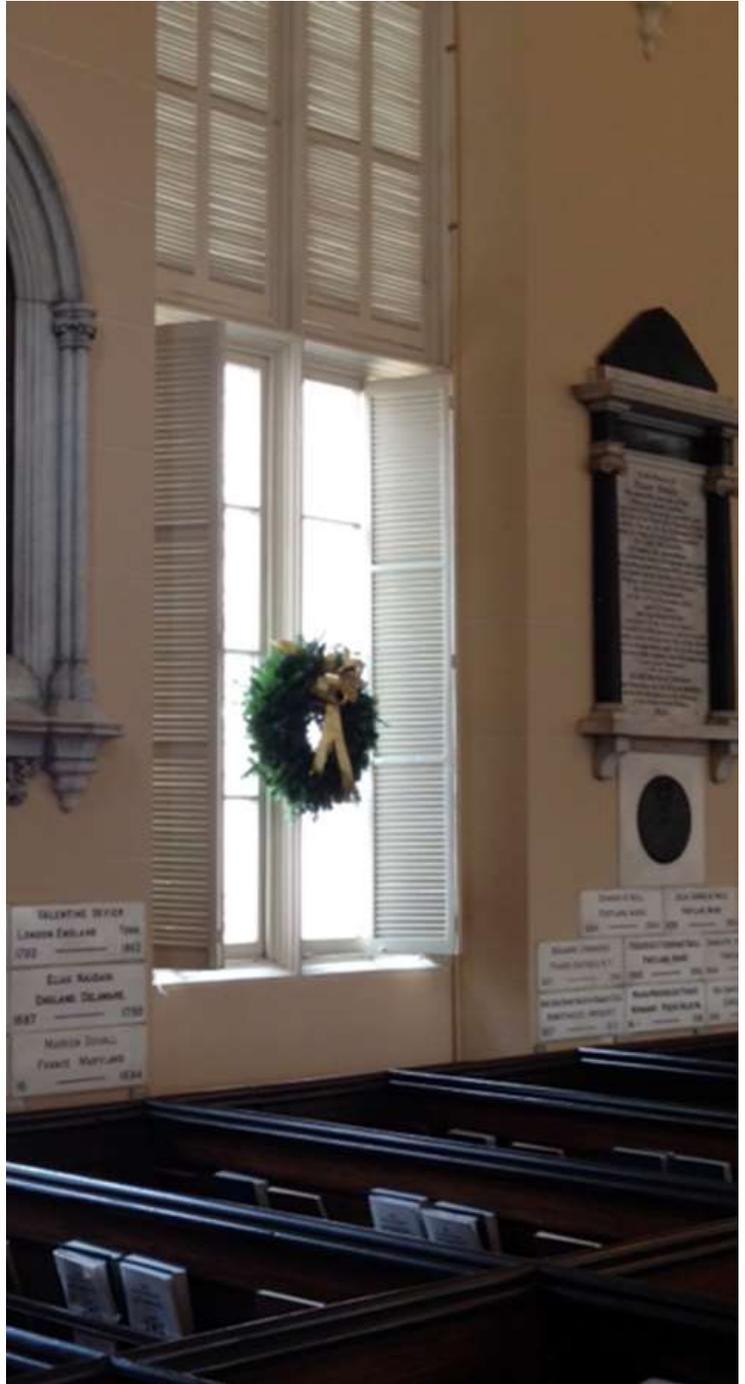
Tom and Vickie Guerry framed the ornaments, and labeled each one with the name of the person who stitched it, as well as the year. Marina Scalia, Ben Guerry and Vickie Guerry decorated the tree.

During Advent, bulletin inserts showcased several ornaments weekly, in order to help the congregation understand the meaning of each Chrismon.

The women of the church purchased the tree, and Charlene Roumillat gave a generous donation to go towards the cost of the materials.

Thank you to all who participated and to all who enjoyed the tree! Look for it again next year!

Below are pictures of Tom Guerry, Pat Hiott-Mason, and Barbara Claypoole decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.



WINTER 2015 OYSTER ROAST

The Winter 2015 Church Oyster Roast was held on February 26, 2015. Many thanks to Mackall Horres for coordinating this event. Suzi DuRant and Chris Iseman also assisted with this event.



WINTER 2015 OYSTER ROAST



WINTER 2015 OYSTER ROAST



WINTER 2015 OYSTER ROAST



PICCOLO SPOLETO EVENTS

As part of *Piccolo Spoleto's L'Organo Series*, organist Julia Harlow will be in recital Friday, May 29, at 10 o'clock in the morning at the Huguenot Church. The 50-minute performance promises to be an excellent showcase for the church's historic Henry Erben tracker organ.

The L'Organo series has been part of Piccolo Spoleto for nearly 30 years, during which time organ recitals have been given on several downtown-area pipe organs. Julia Harlow, organist and choir director at Second Presbyterian Church, will be assisted by Esther Senft, baroque violin, and Jack Cleghorn, harpsichord, on several pieces.

A variety of works from the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries will be performed to display the unique qualities of the fully restored 1845 Erben organ. Among those works are three by eighteenth-century composers: *Voluntary* by English composer John Stanley; *Violin Sonata in F* by French composer Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre; and *Concierto no. 1 for Two Keyboards* by Catalan composer Antonio Soler.

Although there is no admission charge, a \$10 donation is suggested.

In addition, there will be afternoon concerts for the *Piccolo Spoleto Early Music Series*. This series of concerts will include Baroque music on original instruments and be held in the Huguenot Church sanctuary at 3:00 PM on the following dates: May 23, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31, June 1-5.

More information may be found on the Piccolo Spoleto website: www.piccolospoleto.com.

SERMONS

Our sermons are now online at: <http://www.huguenot-church.org/sermons.html>

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

ANNUAL FRENCH SERVICE

Our annual French service is scheduled for Sunday, April 12, 2015. Janice Roddenberry from Lawrenceville, NJ, will be our guest liturgist.

HUGUENOT CLASSIFIEDS

- 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: french@huguenotchurch.comcastbiz.com 722-4385.
- 3) Worship/Altar Guild: Communion Silver Polish four times per year. Communion Linens as needed. Contact: french@huguenotchurch.comcastbiz.com 722-4385.
- 4) Newsletter: Contact: Beth Dixon beth.dixon@gmail.com or Mackall Horres mackallhorres@gmail.com.
- 5) Collation (Ongoing): Pick a Sunday soon. Just sign up to bring a dish. Contact: french@huguenotchurch.comcastbiz.com 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) Louise Carraway is available to teach beginner - intermediate piano lessons to children and adults. Anyone interested should contact her at 803-236-7249 or louisecarraway@gmail.com.

