

HUGUENOTES

Fall 2016
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THE FRENCH PROTESTANT (HUGUENOT) CHURCH

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SERMON ON SILENCE from October 23, 2016

By The Reverend Phillip Bryant, Pastor

If you were to have turned on your radio back in 1964, you may have heard these words being sung by different artists:

*Yes, how many times must a man look up
Before he can see the sky?*

*How many ears does a man need to have
Before he can hear people cry?*

Yes, how many deaths will it take till he knows

Too many people have died?

The answer my friend is blowing in the wind

The answer is blowing in the wind

In 2004 Ed Bradley interviewed Bob Dylan the writer of those words on 60 Minutes and he asked him this question, "Is it true that you wrote that song, which has been recorded by 100 artists, in ten minutes?"

Bob Dylan said, "Yeah, that's probably true."

And then he asked him, "Well, what do you think about being nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature this year?"

Bob Dylan, true to himself, said, "I think it's a joke."

Here, twelve years later, he was not only nominated, but he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Now, as you can imagine, not everyone is happy. A lot of people do not think that lyrics to a song, even though he has written 900 songs, are literature. I read one report in one paper this week that one of the members who awarded this prize is not happy and the headlines were this: *Bob Dylan's Silence on the Nobel Prize is called Impolite and Arrogant.*

I've heard silence called many things but not arrogant and not impolite.

Silence can really get under our skin. Silence can cause us sometimes to even lose our faith.

In our lesson that Philip read a few minutes ago, Elijah is at the mouth of the cave, and he is expecting

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God to speak to him in an audible voice that he can understand.

Here comes the wind, but he's not in the wind. Then there's an earthquake, and God is not in the earthquake. Then there's a fire, and God is not in the fire. The Hebrew says in a sheer silence is where God was.

You look back at history, even recent history, and you will find people of all religions, all faiths, sometimes just asking, "Where was God when I prayed?"

Rabbi Benjamin Blech in reference to God's role in the Holocaust once said, "Jews cried and their Creator did not seem to hear. Jews prayed and there was no response. Jews died sanctifying the name of their Lord with their last breathe on Earth and then there was silence."

I think probably when silence speaks the loudest, if it could, is when we lose a loved one and one minute we are hearing their voice and the next minute it's just silence.

How do we make sense out of God after events like the Holocaust? How do we make sense out of God when we saw images of our neighbors up in North Carolina floating in bacteria-filled water? How do we make sense of some of our brightest and best in oil-stained water in a harbor named Pearl? How do we make sense of God after September the 11th when we

saw with our own eyes and we heard with our own ears the cries? We saw people jumping out of buildings 50 stories up and higher.

Down through the ages where people have had a problem is when they pray and there was nothing but silence. It's been almost the strongest critique against God for people wanted to hear something.

Our text this morning talks about the sheer sound of silence.

When I hear this passage, which is one of the best in the Bible because it has everything from fear to drama, I think back to the 60s with Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel's song, The Sound of Silence. It was another song that came out in 1964, and most people remember this song from the movie, *The Graduate*. It's about Dustin Hoffman who is playing the graduate. He just graduated from a college here in the east, he goes to the airport and people are not looking at each other. They're not seeing each other and you hear these words from that song:

*Hello darkness my old friend
I've come to talk with you again
The sounds of silence*

He arrives home in Southern California. His parents are having a big cocktail party with their friends, and he's upstairs looking at the fish in the aquarium and he hears these words:

*In the naked light I saw
People talking without speaking
People hearing without listening
The sound of silence*

Then there's a scene. One of the best scenes of any film. One of his parent's business friends comes up to him and says to him, "I want to say a word to you. Just one word," and so Dustin Hoffman says, "Yes sir," and the man says, "Are you listening?" and he said, "I am," and he says, "Plastic. You need to be concerned about plastic. I hear plastic is going to be a good thing in the business world."

And we hear the words to that song:

*And people bowed and prayed
To the neon God they made
The words of the prophet
Are written on the subway walls
And tenement halls
And whispered in the sound of silence*

That song's still around 52 years and the reason it's around is because some of us are haunted by silence.

Yet, we know Thomas Merton said this, "If you love God, you're going to love silence."

What we see in our lesson this morning is this: This was not what Elijah had in mind. Yet, this is so often the way God does speak.

Last weekend I was called to the hospital and thank goodness I learned this a long time ago: Sometimes it's best not to speak. Sometimes silence is golden.

I often think of sermon-making and I think of one of my mentors, at least I read all of his works, Saint Francis of Assisi. A young student went to him and said, "Would you teach me how to preach a sermon?" and Saint Francis said, "Sure." So they walked down to Assisi. They walked around the Square. Saint Francis helped a lady cross the street. He knelt down and he petted a dog and they went back and he never said a word. The student said, "I thought you were going to teach me how to preach!" and Saint Francis said, "I did! I helped a woman cross the street. I petted a dog."

I recall Carolyn telling me about years ago she had some rather rambunctious cousins and they were running around all over her parents' house and when they'd leave her Daddy would say, "The storm is over."

Silence can be a very good thing. Noise can be a good thing. When we hear a fire truck, no doubt someone needs that fire truck. When we hear the siren of an ambulance, someone is in need. It's a good sound.

Yet it's also good to have this silence.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Come away with me, and let's go to a deserted place, and let's find some quietness."

I once had a young lady call me. Her father was near death, and she asked me this question, "What should I say to Dad?"

I said to her, "Why don't you read the 23rd Psalm together so he'll know that he's not walking through this valley by himself?"

Then I said, "Why don't you just sit there by his bedside? Just hold his hand, and just look at him."

Sometimes silence can be the best thing.

On a wall in a cellar in Cologne, Germany this inscription was found. Probably a person hiding from the Nazis had written it. It did not have an author, but it said this, "I believe in the sun even when it's not shining. I believe in love even when I'm not feeling it. I believe in God even when he is silent. Amen."

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

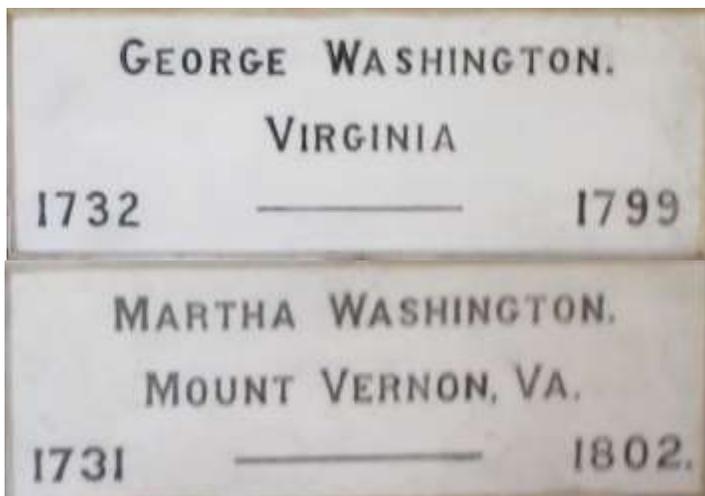
THE HUGUENOT MEMORIAL IN AMERICA

The white marble wall tablets

By Dick Donohoe

A unique feature of Charleston's Huguenot Church is the nearly 150 small, white, marble memorial tablets that line the walls, and the three somewhat larger ones that memorialize former pastors. These are the result of a fund-raising program initiated in 1900 at a time when the church was about to close its doors for lack of operating funds. The first few plaques were erected in 1901. The inspiration for the memorial plaque program and the resolution establishing it, along with the rules and regulations governing it, are recorded in a hand-written, hard-bound volume of lined paper titled *HUGUENOT MEMOIRS*. The resolution established fifty dollars as the price for a memorial tablet in place. Further on, in the Rules and Regulations, "fifty" is crossed out and "one hundred" is inserted above the line.

All of the entries follow the rules to the extent that the entry is headed by a three-line heading with name, place(s) and dates with only one exception. As with many records kept by a sequence of volunteers, the discipline frequently falters after the initial effort. Only the first seven entries, and the twentieth entry, list the date of erection as required in the Rules. Some of the other entries record a date within the body of the text or at the end with the signature of the composer of the memoir. For example, the George Washington plaque was erected by the



Huguenot Society of South Carolina "as a part of the George Washington Bi-centennial celebration," which we know was 1932. On the other hand there is no date attached to the Martha Washington entry, which was erected by the New York City Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; we can only infer from earlier and later memoirs an erection date between 1909 and 1912.

Four of the headings cite names, places and dates but no memoirs. One of them lists Antoine L'Espinard, New Rochelle, New York, 16__ - 16__, From historical records, we know that New Rochelle was settled by Huguenot refugees in 1688, so we can infer that M. L'Espinard was born somewhere in France and died sometime after 1688 and before 1700).

TRANSCRIBED FROM THE BOOK OF HUGUENOT MEMOIRS:

“being brief sketches of the persons to whom stones have been erected and intended as supplemental to the stones.

“The institution of Memorial stones in the French Protestant Church in the City of Charleston, S. C. is entirely due to Col. Richard L Maury of Richmond, Va., himself of eminent Huguenot descent.

“In 1899, learning that closing of this Church was imminent, he commenced his efforts for preservation of the only Huguenot Church in America and continuance of its Huguenot services. “Among other suggestions to this end in a letter of 7th March, 1900, he wrote Mr. J. R. P. Ravenel, Treasurer:

‘The idea of memorial mural tablets as a means of revenue is suggested by recollections of the Church of ‘Notre Dame des Victoires’ in Paris, erected to commemorate the fall of La Rochelle, whose walls are covered by them from floor to ceiling so there is not space for a single one more.

‘These are all of the same size, about eighteen (18) inches square, of white marble and number hundreds, perhaps thousands.’

“The suggestion was adopted and the Executive Committee of the Corporation charged with executing it. That Committee, after consultation with Col. Maury. Adopted the rules herein given relative to these stones.

“The purpose of these stones and of the memoirs requested in supplement of them is not only increase of funds and perpetuation of Huguenot services, but also, largely, to gather and preserve Huguenot memoirs in a Huguenot Church. To make this The Huguenot Memorial in America.

“The money derived from these stones is first applied to their erection and copying into the Huguenot Memoirs book, which is kept in the Church for exhibition to visitors and whosoever else desires to see them; the balance is passed to the permanent fund, only the interest therefrom being used for current expenses.



“Col. Maury has been joined in these labors by his son Mr. Matthew Fontaine Maury, also of Richmond, Va., their efforts have been unceasing, beyond expectations, and through them many of the stones have been ordered.

Richard L. Maury was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, the son of Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury, the “Pathfinder of the Seas,” a world-famous oceanographer. Commodore Maury was a long-time friend of Emperor Maximilian of

Mexico and had conceived of a colony of Confederate exiles in Mexico called “New Virginia. Richard Maury was a major, then a colonel, of the 24th Virginia Regiment. After the war, he followed Confederate exiles to Mexico. Colonel Maury had been appointed Commissioner for Colonization by Mexico’s Emperor, Maximilian. Richard Maury soon returned to Virginia

where he practiced law.



The Women of the Church uses fundraisers to give them the ability to support small needs of our church. For instance, recently we were able to support the choir with extra funds, repair furniture and buy needed furniture, buy cleaning supplies and equipment for our three buildings, pay for a water cooler for the choir members in the choir room, provide Easter and Christmas decorations for the church services, supply paper goods for our collations, and supplement outreach funds. Our main fundraiser is the church tours given to the public in the spring and fall for six months of the year. This fall we are trying a new fundraiser which was suggested by



Linda Iseman (626-252-6981) who will also be the coordinator of this fundraising effort. She is pictured above. A catalog will be made available in 44 Queen for your convenience. All of these products are made in the USA. You may take a catalog with you or see Linda at the collations for orders. All orders must be placed by Linda. Some examples of the products will also be displayed. We hope that you will find items that you need.

WOMEN SHARING

by Pat Hiott-Mason

Last spring some women had an idea of getting together with other women in the church socially. So we did! Every woman was invited to 44 Queen Street and it happened. We did have a good crowd! Wonderful refreshments were served and all gathered in the living room later for discussion. We shared some memories of the church and how each of us came to be part of the Huguenot Church community. All agreed that it was time well spent and decided that we should repeat the event.



WOMEN SHARING



USHERS ALL IN SEERSUCKER FOR COMMUNION, FIRST SUNDAY IN AUGUST, 2016



NEWS FROM OUR YOUTH EDUCATION DIRECTOR by Casey Ridlon

Welcome back! We hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and that the school year is off to a great start. Over at the Sunday School, we are making our way through the Old Testament and studying several important Biblical characters and the ways in which God protected them. Small group discussions help us to understand the scriptures we read and apply them to our daily lives. I would invite parents to comment on the Sunday school materials we use, as we are evaluating our curriculum and need feedback. We hope that you are witnessing growth in the knowledge and character of your child that could be in a small way due to what they are learning on Sundays.

As we prepare for the Christmas season and the birth of baby Jesus, we are planning a number of get-togethers and events. On November 13th, the children will assemble Blessing Bags for the Confederate Home. We will also host a Christmas Cookie Decorating Party in December for the younger children and a night of caroling downtown for the older ones. Finally, we are very excited about performing a Nativity play for our parents and church family during the morning service on December 18th. If your child plays an instrument or is interested in taking part in the performance please contact me. My email address is: caseyridlon@gmail.com and my telephone number is: 757-943-2936. As always, I thank you for all of your support and look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Sunday School Schedule

Story & Snack	10:45-11:00am
Craft & Closing	11:00-11:15am
Departure	11:20am

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE RAMP AT 44 QUEEN

A portable light-weight ramp is available for anyone who needs it to enter 44 Queen Street. It is stored in the basement. Most of our Elders, Board members, and Chris Iseman have a key to retrieve it as needed. The entrance to our kitchen is where it should be used.

ANNUAL FALL SERVICE HELD OCTOBER 16, 2016

The Huguenot Society of South Carolina's Annual Fall Service was held in our church, October 16, 2016. The service is in memory of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes on October 22, 1685. It was followed by a collation at 44 Queen Street.



Helping Hands is a group of church members who reach out to our church family in times of need. There are three subgroups divided by geographical locations. We have groups for Peninsula Charleston, West Ashley/James Island/Johns Island, and Mount Pleasant/Sullivans/IOP. If you are interested in participating in this group, please contact Vickie Guerry at vickieguerry@gmail.com. If at any time, you know of church members who have needs, including meals, please let someone in our group know.

We are grateful to the following persons for actively participating in Helping Hands Ministry:

Peninsula Charleston

Patricia Ewing
Jan Benson
Sandra Thornton
Kathy Crawford
Nancy Mikell
Helen Warren
Gail Jeter

West Ashley/James Island/ Johns Island

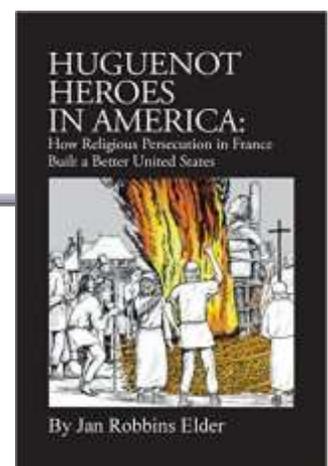
Alice Hambright
Harriett Reavis
Patty Ravenel
Francis Gaillard
Caroline Warren
Renee Marshall
Bonnie Oulla
Nada Arnold
Camille Hilton

Mount Pleasant/ Sullivans Island/Isle of Palms

Emmie and Barry Hammett
Barbara Claypoole
Beverly LaHue
Bessie Gantt
Connor Gantt
Karen Plaehn
Rick/Karen Karam
Gloria Hedden
Chris Mansfield
Patra Bucher
Lara Karam

HUGUENOT HEROES IN AMERICA: HOW RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN FRANCE BUILT A BETTER UNITED STATES

Church member Jan Robbins Elder published her book, *Huguenot Heroes in America: How Religious Persecution in France Built a Better United States*, in April 2016. You can buy it online or ask for it in a bookstore near you!



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

*T*he annual Blessing of the Animals service was held in the church Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 4:00 PM.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

I really enjoyed the Blessing of the Animals. There was a large turnout of both humans and animals. Dogs greatly outnumbered other animals, with at least twenty attending. In addition, there were two cats, a rabbit, and a horse. Thankfully, the horse was blessed outside. The dogs were well behaved. The service was enjoyed by both animals and humans. George Bagwell



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



THE FRENCH PROTESTANT CHURCH OF CHARLESTON & THE HUGUENOT LEGACY

Peg Eastman and Molly Thompson are spearheading an effort to create a book about The French Protestant (Huguenot) Church. The book will include the history of the church, as well as interesting anecdotes from church members about their Huguenot ancestors. The original deadline for submissions was October 31, but because of Hurricane Matthew, they have extended the deadline and invite anyone interested in sharing their Huguenot ancestor/history to contribute to the book. You will be credited for submissions if you so desire. Please contact Peg Eastman at 843.723.0004 or pegeastman@comcast.net and/or Molly Thompson at 843.577.8937 or meht@comcast.net if you want to make a submission. Peg and Molly are the authors, and Beth Hendrix is the editor. As of November 8, the book has over 55,000 words in it!

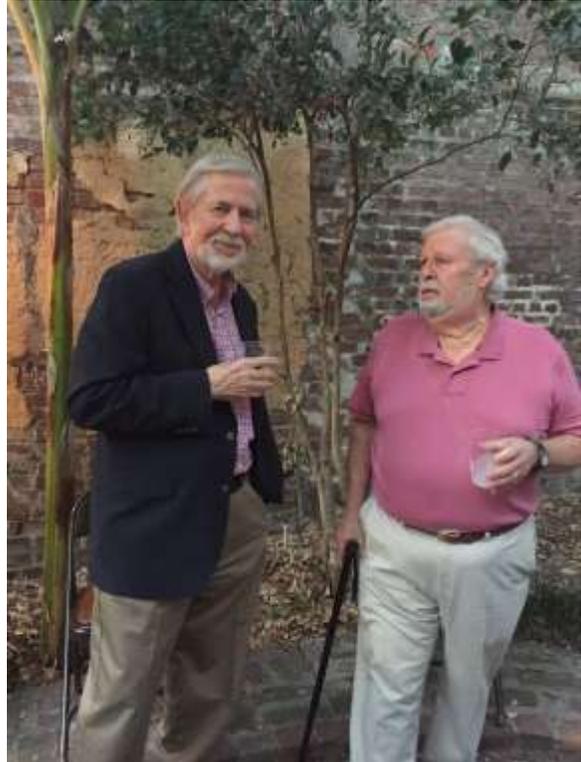


Molly Thompson and Peg Eastman, Authors



Beth Hendrix, Editor

COCKTAILS IN THE COURTYARD – OCTOBER 27, 2016



COCKTAILS IN THE COURTYARD – OCTOBER 27, 2016



Welcome



Esprit Café

Adult Sunday School
Sunday mornings 9:30-10:15

www.huguenot-church.org/calendar.html

843-722-4388

Our adult Sunday school program, Esprit Café has had a busy fall start up! A few highlights include a new original film shot on location at the French Huguenot Church. This film takes a nice slow pace as a French teacher, Mrs. Martha Dougherty teaches us how to pronounce the Notre Pere (The Lord's Prayer) as the Huguenot's would say it in French. This film will be made available for members to watch at home if they wish to practice privately. Also, in honor of the October season, Elder Christy Cabaniss has photographed tombstones underneath the church to correctly add them to the church's register. In addition she has created a PowerPoint presentation on early modern French graveyards, Charleston gravestone art and its meaning in our own grave yard. Please email Christy Cabaniss if you would like to be added to the email list for Esprit Café. mchristycabaniss@gmail.com

TOMBSTONES BENEATH THE CHURCH



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: 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.

