

HUGUENOTES

Spring 2016
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THE FRENCH PROTESTANT (HUGUENOT) CHURCH

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ESPRIT CAFÉ!

Adult Sunday school interviews Arthur Ravenel April 3rd

If there is anything the French Huguenot Church of Charleston does well, it is passionately preserving our history and reveling in our church community. Both our church and our community are unique, elegantly stylish, and full of amazing stories!

The Spring and Fall tours of the Church are well attended with upwards of 150-200 visitors a day. In addition we offer a tour of the church each Sunday after services. As a tour guide, I can tell you that our Huguenot story is as important to tell today, if not more so, than it was in the church's early years. I know I'm not alone when I say I do not take it for granted as I unlock those Gothic doors and usher in a new day!

"Collation," the French Huguenot social gathering that occurs after Sunday service at 44 Queen Street, maintains an interactive teamwork in producing hors d'oeuvres and a wonderful showcase for the stories of our lives together. It's busy, bustling, and everything a social gathering should be; just watch you don't block the passageway between the adjoining rooms. It's always where all the last-minute or most important conversations start and end. Sure we grumble about the effort of signing up for duties or cleaning up, but it's our heritage and here to stay. Often deeper conversations begin and connections that could flourish into more meaningful friendships get interrupted with jokes and excitement over an amazing hot artichoke dip. Really, what's better than those hot mashed potatoes with all the fixin's? But sometimes we need to share on a deeper level.

As a newly elected elder at the French Huguenot Church I suspect I'm not the only member who has some ups and downs each week. I'm looking for meaning and biblical support and want to share and learn on the journey. I know a church body can

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replenish and restore each other and I hope to give each and every one of you an opportunity to find that here at Esprit Café'!

Esprit Café'! is our newest addition to the French Huguenot Church. Adult Sunday school has returned with a new name and mission, starting on April 3rd at 9:30 am. A welcoming French Café creates an atmosphere for sharing on a deeper level. Have a prayer request? Send it to Lynn at the church office during the week and we will pray for you. Want to dive deeper into the Old and New Testament lesson before you hear it in church? Come join us! Over the next year we will have guided classes by our reverends, guest speakers, fun Bible-based workshops, and activities that explore our Huguenot history. Opportunities to get to know each other better as well as opportunities to revive your spirit and faith await you. Come ready to grin and learn more about the new adult Sunday school.

In honor of all we do best, the kick-off class began with an interview of Arthur Ravenel, which was recorded for our archives. Arthur told his tales (of course) and shared his journey toward opening the doors of the church in the 1980s.

If you have ideas or suggestions or want to contribute and lead a class; email me, Christie Cabaniss, at christycabaniss@gmail.com.



ESPRIT CAFÉ!

Pictured at left: Arthur and Ric Ravel

Pictured below: Arthur Ravel, Jr. and June Iseman

Many thanks to Christy Cabaniss, who is busy editing the Arthur Ravel interview footage so that we will have a film that is both enjoyable and lasting! The film will be made available as soon as possible.



BOWLING – FEBRUARY 21, 2016





SERMONS

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

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH NEWS

by: Pat Hiott-Mason

If you have ever wondered about how our church was established in Charleston, there are members of our congregation that can tell you the story. Six months out of the year members of our church tell our story to visitors from all over the world. And oh yes, our French Protestant Huguenot Church is the only active Huguenot Church in North America today. Listed below are the 2016 tour guides.

Frances Henderson, Dick Donohoe, June Iseman, Chris and Linda Iseman, Frances Townsend, Pat Hiott-Mason, Larry Bryant, Connor Gantt, Maurice Thompson, Ravenel Mansfield, Peg Eastman, Gloria Hedden, David DuBose, Christy Cabaniss, Beth Hendrix, Eleanor Durgee, Betty Felder, Jan Benson, and Bill Thornton.

SOLIDARITÉ

A vigil for prayer and reflection was held at the French Protestant Huguenot Church, Thursday, November 19, 2015, in support and solidarity of our brothers and sisters in Paris following the November 13th attacks that killed at least 129 people. The service was well attended.



CHRISTENINGS



Pictured Above

Date: February 21, 2016
Parents: Glenn and Mackall Horres
Son: Ernest "Ernie" Glenn Horres III

Pictured at Left

Date: February 28, 2016
Parents: Katelyn and Jesse Collins
Son: Thomas Steven Collins

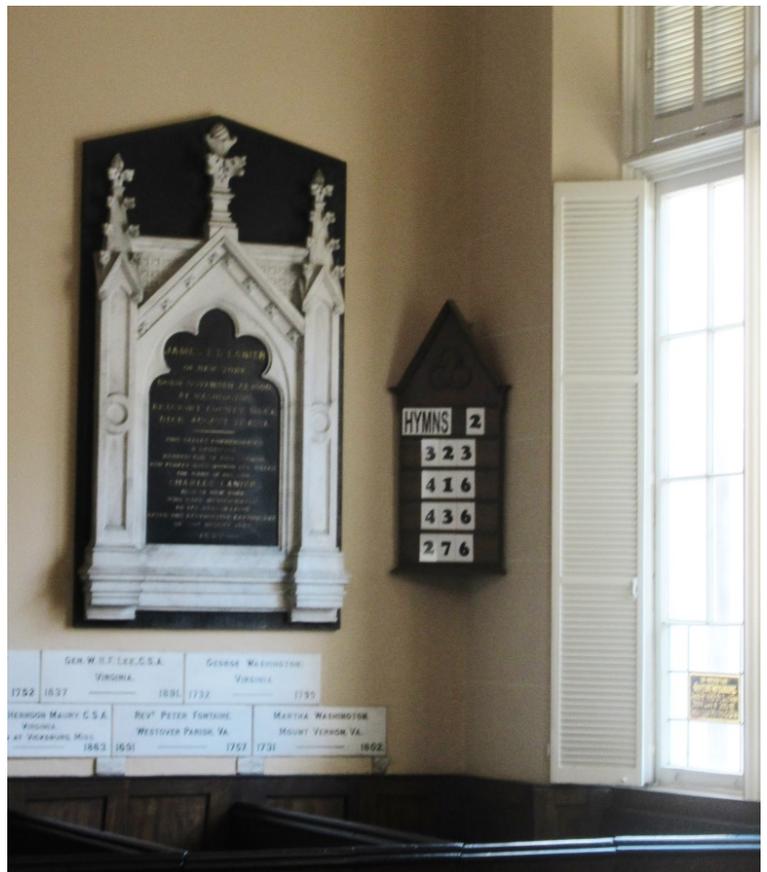
THE MEMORIALS “FROM OFF”

Two memorials in the church that have little or no connection with South Carolina By Richard Donohoe

Two years ago, a visitor from Galena, Illinois, toured the church and, in the course of taking pictures, zoomed in on the windows in the southeast corner and saw Galena, Illinois! There are only two leaded glass panels in the church, inserted into the bottom of the sash in each of the two windows in that corner. The one to the left memorializes Gratiot Washburn, and the one to the right memorializes his mother, Adele Gratiot Washburne, both born in Galena, in the northwest corner of Illinois. The memorials were requested by her widowed husband, the Hon. Elihu Washburn, before his death in October 1887. Washburne was a native of Maine, who studied law at Harvard and headed west in 1840 to practice law in Galena. He served in Congress and was active in the formation of the Republican Party in the 1850s. He was an advisor to Lincoln in the election of 1860, and during the Civil War he promoted his fellow Galena resident, Ulysses S. Grant, to Lincoln. When Grant became president, Washburne served as Secretary of State and as Minister to France. His service as Secretary of State lasted only eleven days, but it gave him clout for his diplomatic mission that lasted for the next eight years.

General Charles Gratiot (gra-SHOW) was born in St. Louis in 1786 and was appointed to West Point by Jefferson in 1804, where he studied engineering. Upon his graduation, he was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers, and in 1808, he became a captain and was sent to Charleston to assist in the construction of Castle Pinckney, the masonry fort that replaced the 1791 fort that had been severely damaged by a hurricane. After two years, he was sent back to West Point to command the Army garrison there, and during the War of 1812, he built forts in Ohio and Michigan Territory. Later he served in Virginia before returning to his home in St. Louis. There is no record of his ever having returned to Charleston, so he was only here for two years in his early twenties.

The Gratiots were a prominent Huguenot family in La Rochelle, who fled to Switzerland after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Gen. Gratiot's father, Charles Gratiot Sr., was the progenitor of the Gratiot family in America. He was born in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1752 and, as a young man, immigrated to New France, first to Montreal, then to New Orleans and, finally, to St. Louis where he engaged in fur trading. None of these cities is generally associated with Huguenots. In the 1820s, Gen. Gratiot's brother Henry and two other brothers came to Galena from St. Louis to speculate in the emerging lead mining industry. In 1826, Henry's daughter Adele was born in Galena, and seventeen years later, she married Elihu Washburne.



On December 11, 1887, the *New York Times* published an article under the headline “HUGUENOT MEMORIAL WINDOWS From the Charleston (S. C.) News.” The text of the article reads:

“Before his recent lamented death the Hon. Elihu B. Washburne requested the privilege of placing a memorial to his late wife, Adele Gratiot, in the Huguenot Church of this city. The ancestors of Mrs. Washburne were expelled from La Rochelle, France, following the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and during the American Revolution her uncle, Gen.



Charles Gratiot, lived in Charleston, and was the friend and compatriot of Gen. Francis Marion.” This last statement was, perhaps, a bit of hyperbole, as Gen. Gratiot was not born until three years after the Revolutionary War ended, and he would have been an eight-year-old boy growing up in St. Louis when Gen. Marion died in Orangeburg County in 1795.

The article goes on, “In his letter preferring the request Gen. Washburne expressed ‘the greatest love and veneration for the Huguenots,’ and said that if, in memory of his wife, he could testify this in some simple and proper method he would be glad to do so. The request was immediately granted, and the memorial was erected in the Huguenot Church last week. It is chastely beautiful, and in keeping with the many tablets with which this sanctuary abounds. A new interest attaches to it now that in the same year the venerable statesman whose last wish it fulfills has passed from earth.” A minor inaccuracy: Mr. Washburne was not a general but a politician and diplomat.

The article continues, “In compliance with specific requests and wishes from the descendents of Huguenots elsewhere, the corporation of the church here has resolved to permit and invite like memorial windows – inasmuch as the walls are nearly fully occupied with marble tablets – to distinguish the Huguenots throughout our whole country.” There are no other memorial windows in the church.

The article concludes with a reference to the Lanier tablet that is on the east wall in the same corner of the church: “The tablet which is to perpetuate the memory of Mr. T. D. F. Lauier (his name was, in fact, James F. D. Lanier) and the splendid benefaction of his son, Mr. Charles Lanier of New York, is now in the hands of the artist, and will soon be completed.”

James F. D. Lanier was born in Beaufort County, NC, in 1800. He was the descendent of Thomas Lanier, a Huguenot of Bordeaux, who was driven from France by persecution near the middle of the seventeenth century. He went first to



England and then to Virginia either in company with or at the same time as John Washington, the ancestor of George Washington. There he married a daughter of John Washington and ultimately settled in North Carolina. His great-grandfather married a sister of the mother of General Washington. His grandfather served in Colonel William Washington's regiment of light cavalry in the Revolution and later in General Anthony Wayne's 1794 expedition against the Northwestern Indians.

Shortly after James was born, the family moved to eastern Kentucky, where his father lost his fortune in defective land deeds and then relocated to southwestern Ohio, where young James received a rudimentary education. In 1817 the family moved to Madison, Indiana, the year after it became a state, where his father opened a dry goods store. There James received a superior education, studied law, became clerk to the state legislature, invested in banking, and made a fortune. In 1844 he built a splendid Greek Revival mansion in Madison, now a state historic site, but in 1851 he relocated to New York and expanded his banking empire, investing in railroads. His son Charles D Lanier, who contributed "munificently" to the church in his father's memory following the 1886 earthquake, continued in his father's banking business after his death in 1881. There is no evidence of any family connection to Charleston or the Huguenot Church other than a French name and Huguenot ancestry. Considering the relationship of the Lanier family to the Washington family, it is intriguing that the memorial plaques

commemorating George and Martha Washington were placed under the Lanier tablet. The memorial plaque program was initiated twelve years after the Lanier tablet was erected. Was that coincidental or intentional?

We are grateful to Barbara Virtue Townsend, the visitor from Galena with her own Huguenot roots, for furnishing a copy of the December 11, 1887, New York Times article, which inspired research into the Gratiot and Lanier families.

CHRISTMAS AT THE FRENCH HUGUENOT CHURCH – DECEMBER 20, 2015



SARAH MARSHALL
ON VIOLIN



COCKTAILS IN THE COURTYARD OYSTER ROAST – FEBRUARY 18, 2016







PALM SUNDAY EASTER EGG HUNT – MARCH 20, 2016



Lilly, Moorea, and Silas (left) give out palm crosses prior to the Palm Sunday morning service held March 20, 2016, at the French Huguenot Church.

Following the service a collation and Easter Egg hunt were held at 44 Queen Street. The eggs were hidden in the courtyard and typical happy results are pictured below!



Pictured above: Lilly, Moorea, Silas, Chase, Dalton and Hall

EASTER – MARCH 27, 2016



Tray Stephenson, our choirmaster, and Diane Power, who was the organist for the Hallelujah! chorus on Easter Sunday are pictured above.

ANNUAL FRENCH SERVICE HELD



Rev. Phillip Bryant and Dr. Janice Roddenbery, Guest Speaker

ANNUAL FRENCH SERVICE HELD

Our annual French Service was held Sunday, April 10, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. Janice Stultz Roddenbery was our guest liturgist this year. Dr. Roddenbery began studying French at age ten. She majored in French at Tufts University, received a Master of Arts in French from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and earned her PhD in Romance Languages from Princeton. A collation at 44 Queen Street followed the service.



EASIER LISTENING

Hearing aid devices are now available in the church. Just let one of the members at the entrance know if you'd like to use one.

If you find yourself helping out at 44 Queen during the service, do not fear. We now have speakers available at 44 Queen so you won't miss a word.

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.

