

Freinds of the Locktown Stone Church, Inc.

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www.locktownstonechurch.org

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~SPECIAL THANKS TO JOHN SCHOENHERR FOR THE CREATION OF OUR NEW DIGITAL LOGO ARTWORK~

Friends Report

Annual newsletter of the Friends of the Locktown Stone Church, Inc.

November 2009

Dear Members and Friends,



The year 2009 has been an active one for the Friends with several restoration projects funded and completed, an education program continued and a great new concert series this fall. It has also been a year of welcome to new members and advisors, which brings new energy and excitement to our programs. In addition, we received several generous grants which have greatly helped our restoration projects.

Restoration for 2009 included fixing the North Window, the last of them needing repair, as the others were completed in 2007. It was taken down and completely restored by James Zdepski (my brother) during April and early May. Some of you may remember that James has been involved in the restoration of the Church since the mid-1980's. He and our brother Paul stripped, restored and repainted the entry doors. They also assisted our father Stephen in the many projects that he took-on during his tenure as an Advisor and Trustee from 1986 through 1999.

On the North Window, James had constructed a new Fan Light Window during 2001 to fit into the upper arch portion of the stone opening. The new frame is based on the Fan Light windows that are over the entry doors. The original had rotted prior to the preservation of the property; the replacement was constructed of plexiglass and lath creating what was most-likely intended to be a temporary fix. In 2009, James removed the rest of the North Window, repaired mullions as needed and replaced the broken or cracked glass with antique hand-blown glass. This was done in his home-shop in Mt. Joy, Holland Township, NJ. The antique glass used in the repair, had been accumulated by our father Stephen, most-likely during the tear-down of the old Flemington school on Academy Street. James re-glazed all the panes and painted both window and sash. In the process, he discovered important details about the original pulpit.

James finalized the re-installation on May 2, the same day that the Trustees were conducting their annual cleanup of the building and grounds. Because we were all assembled, James was able to show the Trustees that what appears to be a curious repair to the window trim behind the existing pulpit is actually an original treatment that most-likely provided support for a small wooden bench placed behind the first pulpit. We also now know the platform was smaller and higher than the current one. The "shadow" of the older configuration can be seen with close inspection of the plaster and paint behind the pulpit. The original small bench is still stored in the building and by careful measurement of it, and the wall, James determined that it was originally positioned directly in front of the North Window. The line of the old platform level can be seen, as can the ends of the former stair treads that were used to mount it. James demonstrated for us that a preacher standing in this slightly more elevated-position could easily make eye contact with every seating position on both floors of the building.

This year we have had Caroline Beidleman join us as a Trustee. Wil Wong had joined the group in 2007. In addition, Robert Roop and Bill Beidleman have joined as very active advisors, attending each business meeting. Robert has taken charge of both the painting and stone-wall projects. We have also had Rebecca Wong take on the task of creating this year's Newsletter for the Friends. She started by meeting with Marfy Goodspeed to gain some insight on how it is done. Please take the time to look over Rebecca's efforts for the Friends of the Locktown Stone Church. Thank you Rebecca for taking time from your summer vacation to make this contribution.

This year the Friends are celebrating our 20th year of hard work preserving and managing the building for the citizens of Delaware Township. We have taken the building from a vacant relic to the vibrant meeting place and cultural center of today. Your interest and support in the past has enabled us to keep this part of our community history alive and growing. Throughout the next year please check our website www.locktownstonechurch.org to see what we are doing. We are expanding on a presence started by Marfy Goodspeed and her sister Dorothy Rankin. We plan to keep it current, using technology that has become second nature to so many of us. Please use the enclosed envelope to help us again this year.

Sincerely,
Mark Zdepski
President, 2009

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2009 Concert Series Summary

Caroline Beidelman



The Friends of Locktown Stone Church sponsored three concerts this year. On October 11 2009, classical guitarist Scott Wiley performed with Clinton violinist Robin Zeh. This marked Mr. Wiley's third performance at the Locktown Stone Church and Robin's first. At the end of the concert Robin remarked that the church had a wonderful "bright" acoustic quality. On October 18, we welcomed back singers Ricard Bordas

and Margaret Kelly Cook, internationally renowned singers who first performed at the church several years ago. They especially thrilled the audience with a "duo da camera" performance of Handel's *Tanti Strali*. The final concert in the series took place on Sunday November 8. It featured Brooklyn Baroque, a trio that specializes in music by Bach, Beethoven as well as other 17th century composers. The performance by

cellist David Bakamjian, harpsichordist Rebecca Pechefsky, and flutist Andrew Bolotowsky marked their first concert appearance at the Locktown Stone Church. All three concerts were well attended. For jazz lovers who missed their usual fare this year, there will be a jazz/contemporary concert planned for the 2010 series. Thanks to new trustee Caroline Beidelman for organizing this year's concert series.

Landscape

By the Locktown Stone Church flows the Wickecheokee Creek. Beyond is surrounding countryside filled with rare native plants and endangered species. The Wickecheokee has been classified as a New Jersey Category One Creek. This means its water is at the highest quality level in the state and that the creek should be valued and protected as an environmental asset.

There have been recent sightings of a pair of red-shouldered hawks, flying around the church property. Sightings of these birds are rare, but having a breeding pair is especially uncommon as it is endangered in New Jersey.

The importance of the land as a habitat has caught the attention of many environmentalists. There is even a possibility of conducting a plant stewardship survey next year to assess what native plants are growing there. In the past, trustees have worked to help preserve the natural environment, making sure the church parking lot was never hard-paved. This prevents excess rain water from flooding the creek too quickly. In the spring, church trustees and advisors conducted their annual clean-up day. In addition to cleaning the church interior, volunteers picked up litter and inspected the environmental conditions along this special creek.



