

# 1735 TIMES



Brought to you by the Foundation for Historic Christ Church, Inc.

VOLUME 7 | FALL 2020 | ANNUAL APPEAL

CHRISTCHURCH1735.ORG

## 2020 Annual Appeal

*“...none in this Country to be compared to it...”*

In August 1734, Robert Carter’s eldest son John wrote to a London merchant of the extraordinary new church he and his brothers were completing for their father, saying there “is none in this Country to be compared to it.” Indeed, John Carter understood then what we well know today: Christ Church is unique among colonial Virginia churches, revered around the world for its architecture and state of preservation. But John added something to his letter that we also know well: “the Expence occasioned thereby has been very considerable.”

This year, the coronavirus has presented new challenges, but the pandemic shows us now more than ever that history matters. History can inform, inspire, and heal. History builds perspective,



Eldest son of Robert “King” Carter and secretary of the Virginia colony, John Carter (1695/96-1742) worked with brothers Charles and Landon to finish construction on Christ Church for their father, who died in August 1732. Image courtesy of Shirley Plantation, Charles City, VA

understanding, and community. And history teaches us that we will recover and emerge stronger from this.

But to do so we need you! Preserving eighteenth-century buildings comes with considerable costs. Your gift to the 2020 Annual Appeal (envelope enclosed) will help volunteers and staff continue work on critical projects in preservation, collections, education



Christ Church ca. 1857 from William Meade’s *Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia*

and more. It will sustain us through this year and help us prepare for a more normal 2021 and the return of school kids and scholars, visitors and volunteers.

It is easy to imagine guests often leave feeling the same about Christ Church as John Carter did nearly 300 years ago. Please join us in giving generously so this generation and those that follow find inspiration in a building that still has “none in this Country to be compared to it.”

*William G. Broaddus*

William G. (“Bill”) Broaddus  
Chair, Development Committee

*Jill M. Worth*

Jill M. Worth  
President, FHCC

*Robert J. Teagle*

Robert J. Teagle  
Executive Director

## New & Noteworthy

### Meet Paula Stallard

We are pleased to announce Paula Stallard will join the staff on November 2 as Assistant Director for Administration. Paula has an extensive background in advertising, marketing, communications and administration. She served as Vice President of Advertising & Sales at the *Richmond Times Dispatch* and was Communications & Marketing Director for the Better Business Bureau of Central Virginia. She also has experience as a parish administrator for several local churches. Paula is a resident of White Stone. Welcome, Paula!



### Thank You, Trish

In December, Office & Burying Ground Manager Trish Geeson will retire after 14 years with the Foundation. Trish brought tremendous dedication and passion to her position. Always willing to do any task great or small that supported our mission, Trish became a dear friend to hundreds of volunteers and visitors alike.

“It has been such an honor and a privilege to work for and alongside the amazing and dedicated staff and volunteers at Historic Christ Church,” said Trish. “The unwritten benefits of working here are that there is no such thing as a typical day and there is always an opportunity to learn something new.” We will miss you, Trish!



### Virginia Humanities Grant

FHCC was one of 110 museums, libraries, historical societies, and other cultural nonprofit organizations across the Commonwealth to receive funding from Virginia Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan of 2020. Thank you, Virginia Humanities!

## COLONIAL TAVERN FARE 🍷 DECEMBER 6TH FROM 2-4 P.M.



Step back into the 18th-century with this journey into the foodways of colonial Virginia taverns. Enjoy your choice from three delicious entrees, salad, biscuits, and dessert in this drive-by, take-out event that supports the Foundation for Historic Christ Church. Choices include beef burgundy, smoked pork loin and crab & corn ragout, and all food is fully cooked and ready to re-heat and serve. This fundraiser takes the place of our popular “Raise the Roof” Craft Beer Fest and the holiday concert “The Holly & The Ivy.”

Place your order here: [christchurch1735.ticketleap.com/colonial-tavern-fare/](http://christchurch1735.ticketleap.com/colonial-tavern-fare/) or stop by the Foundation office.

Image by Richard Stinely. Courtesy of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

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# Staying Connected in Historic Times

Coronavirus may have temporarily closed HCC&M in mid-March, but volunteers and staff remain busy with a host of projects. High on the list are several important campus improvements: revitalization of the herb garden, a security system upgrade, new windows and shelving for the research room, a service day with Bartlett Tree Experts (see page 3) and the cleanout and conditioning of the Bayne Center basement. Volunteers also worked in the office by answering phones, sending notes, updating files and greeting visitors.

Virtual programs like the HCC&M Readers Book Club, our Public Reading of the Declaration of Independence, and weekly History Mystery contests have engaged new audiences. A new page on our website – History at Home – invites users to explore educational programs, musical performances, children’s activities, oral histories, research materials and more. And recently volunteers have returned to lead tours on a by-appointment basis.

## Herb Garden Revitalization



Master Gardeners with the Virginia Tech Virginia Cooperative Extension joined the HCC&M Herb Garden Committee to combine their talents to revitalize the herb garden. Clockwise from the left are master gardeners Helen Johnson, Gail Cooper, JoAnn Perkins and Marge Gibson, with Herb Garden committee chair Val Verburg.



After removing several boxwoods that had succumbed to blight, the Herb Garden committee used bricks left over from earlier campus improvement projects to replace the wood borders that define each section of the garden.

## Pitching In



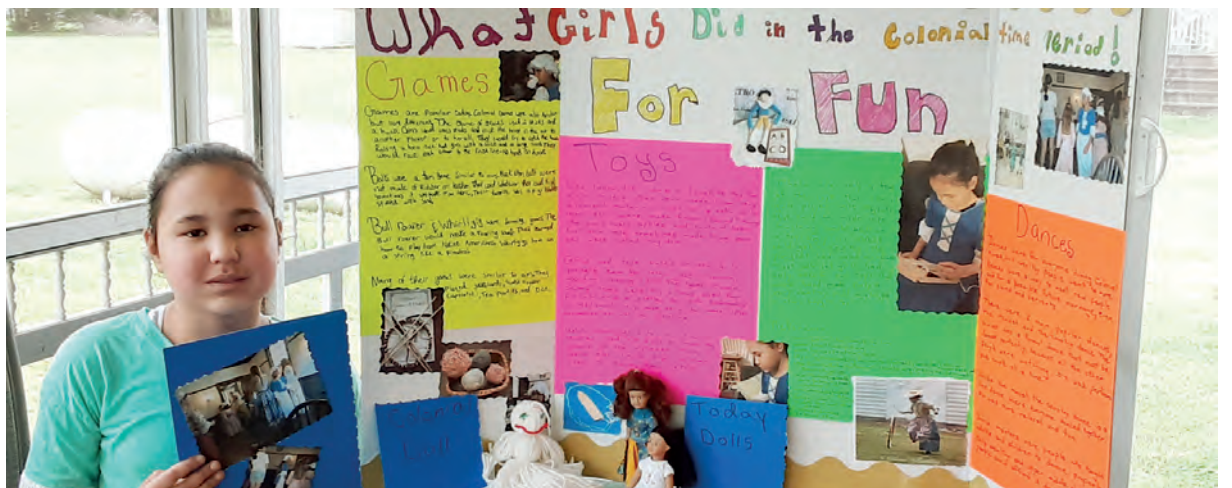
Volunteer Missy MacKimm shows off the latest FHCC Board of Directors Minute Book, where she organized minutes from recent meetings. Missy and other volunteers have been invaluable in helping staff in the office, burying ground, campus improvements and other areas.

## Bayne Center Basement



Buildings & Grounds chair John Bowden has worked tirelessly to clean up the Bayne Center basement. With help from his grandkids and Larry Galgano, John removed all the old wood shelving and installed a new PVC baseboard to combat moisture. Once the space is treated for mold and properly sealed and conditioned, new metal shelving will be installed to store collections, bathroom and kitchen supplies and other items.

## Northern Neck History Fair



School closures and challenges of a historic quarantine did not stop local elementary students from creating some amazing projects for the 19th-annual Northern Neck History Fair. Participants presented their projects virtually, judges reviewed and scored them via email, and students learned who won through a Zoom meeting instead of the traditional awards ceremony at HCC&M. Here Lily Lewis displays her colorful exhibit “What Girls Did in the Colonial Time Period for Fun,” which earned second place and \$75 courtesy of Chesapeake Bank, who sponsors the annual contest along with Connemara Corporation and Anna’s Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria of Kilmarnock

## Northern Neck Scavenger Hunt



HCC&M joined 17 museums across the Northern Neck in a socially-distanced scavenger hunt where participants visited each site to photograph an item visible outside and then answer a historical question from the museum’s website. One of the first families to join the fun at HCC&M was the Weisman family from King George. Mike and Christine Weisman with their daughter Zoe tried to visit all 18 sites in one day!

Go to YouTube to see our Memorial Day Tribute and Reading of the Declaration of Independence:  
**Memorial Day** — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbwvDg79o20>  
**Declaration** — [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6BIF8\\_zAww](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6BIF8_zAww)

## Memorial Day Tribute



Instead of Taps echoing from the ceiling vaults, this year the traditional notes for the Memorial Day service rang out from the entrance. Here Charles Lawson of The Highlander Studios in Kilmarnock captures bugler Donnie Goodman of Richmond, who volunteers for Bugles Across America, an organization that fulfills requests to have Taps played at funerals, memorials and other events.

## Virtual Declaration



FHCC Board Member Regina Gaskins Baylor prepares to read a part of the Declaration of Independence by the Kelley burial plot as Charles Lawson of The Highlander Studios in Kilmarnock readies his camera. This year’s reading became a virtual event, with volunteers and friends from the event’s cosponsors — the Cobbs Hall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Richard Henry Lee Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution — reading different passages at various points around the church and churchyard that Lawson assembled into a video.

## PROUD PARTNERSHIP:

# *The Garden Club of Virginia Centennial Project*

The Garden Club of Virginia's (GCV) relationship with Historic Christ Church began over a half century ago. In 1965 the GCV selected Christ Church for its annual historic landscape restoration project. Under the direction of landscape architect Ralph E. Griswold, the GCV created the cedar alley, circular driveway and modern burying ground west of Christ Church.

This year the GCV celebrated its 100th year. To commemorate this milestone, the GCV selected sites around Virginia for a service day with Barlett Tree Experts. In April, Brandon Frazier and his team from Barlett's Northern Neck office spent a day at Christ Church, pruning the large oaks in the churchyard and other trees that needed attention. GCV Restoration Committee liaison Dianne Spence and Foundation for Historic



A member of the Barlett's team trims a limb on the red oak in the southwest corner of the churchyard.



(From left) Dianne Spence, Brandon Frazier, Mary Hoerneman and Robert Teagle reflect the partnership Historic Christ Church has enjoyed with the Garden Club of Virginia since 1965. All of the services, including Dianne's expertise and Brandon's workers and equipment, were donated through a partnership between the GCV and Barlett in honor of the GCV's Centennial year.

Christ Church (FHCC) Horticulture Committee chair Mary Hoerneman worked closely with Brandon. The FHCC Board of Directors passed a resolution that recognized the GCV's anniversary and its numerous contributions to the grounds at Historic Christ Church since 1965.

The GCV's Centennial project included work at Wilton, Kenmore, and other sites as well as an exhibition at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, which houses the GCV's Restoration Committee papers and photographs.

**Read the FHCC Board of Directors resolution on the Garden Club of Virginia: [ChristChurch1735.org/foundation/gcv](http://ChristChurch1735.org/foundation/gcv)  
The Garden Club of Virginia's Restoration Committee Papers — [Virginiahistory.org/collections/garden-club-virginia](http://Virginiahistory.org/collections/garden-club-virginia)**

## RISING DAMP PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

Field work for the Rising Damp Mitigation Project kicked off in April when Carla and Eric Kuchar with the firm of Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker Architects (MCWB) spent a day taking laser 3-D scans of the church and surrounding landscape. These scans help create incredibly accurate topographical surveys, scaled elevations and digital images that document existing conditions and will help guide installation of the stormwater drainage system.

The Foundation selected MCWB to manage the rising damp project following a request for proposals in February. MCWB directed the restoration of Christ Church's slate roof in 2015–2016. The firm has specialized in historic preservation for nearly four decades, with projects at Monticello, Mount Vernon, University of Virginia, Montpelier and other National Historic Landmarks among its portfolio.

MCWB is working with engineers from the Charlottesville consulting company 2RW to finalize designs for a mois-

ture monitoring system that will be installed in and around the church. The team recently completed construction documents that will go out for bid in the coming weeks. Archaeological investigations and site work to install the drainage system around the church perimeter will begin next year.



Above: Chris Hanley and his team from Hanley Electrical Services, LLC of White Stone use a ditch witch to trench conduits under the churchyard wall and several brick pathways from the church to the Chase Center, where they will provide communication lines for the moisture monitoring system and church security upgrade. Anna Rhodes, senior archaeologist with the Fairfield Foundation and Data Investigations, mapped the conduit routes to document their precise locations following guidelines from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, which has easement oversight on everything inside the churchyard wall.



Left: Mark Wenger from Mesick-Cohen-Wilson-Baker Architects takes moisture readings on Christ Church's exterior walls after recent heavy rains. These measurements help establish baseline moisture conditions to gauge the effectiveness of the storm water drainage system being installed as part of the Rising Damp Mitigation project. The system gathers data through a mix of wireless moisture monitors in and around the church and hand-held sampling like Mark is doing here.

# COLLECTION Spotlight



The July 1878 issue of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* opened with "Some Landmarks of Old Virginia," an illustrated tour through landscapes, waterways and historic sites near Virginia's famed Northern Neck. The journey included a stop at Christ Church, where the writers marveled at the condition of the church's brick walls, describing them as "in perfect preservation [and] but little discolored by time."

More valuable, however, is their description of the chancel, which included a drawing that is the oldest known image of the church's interior. The illustration shows the walnut altarpiece towering above the communion table and chancel railing. Altarpieces typically held the Ten Commandments and often the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed as well.

During a visit to Christ Church in 1837, Bishop William Meade expressed delight that "the two tables of the law, the creed, and Lord's prayer are still to be seen, in large and legible characters." The 1878 *Harper's* account provides more detail: "Above the communion table are two framed tablets of black canvas, with the Lord's Prayer, Creed, and Commandments painted in quaint yellow letters thereon."

Visible in the drawing, however, are several tears in the canvas. By 1902 historian William Standard would report "the Creed and Commandments have been torn from the frames." A photograph (below) taken around this time shows two white spaces (plaster walls) where the canvas tablets once stood.

White board tablets containing just the Lord's Prayer and Creed went up in 1922–23 followed about a dozen years later by the present wood tablets that contain only the Decalogue and have writing patterned after the original tablets at nearby St. Mary's White Chapel, which date to the early 1700s.

Above: *Harper's Weekly* July 1878

Below: *Christ Church interior* ca. 1902





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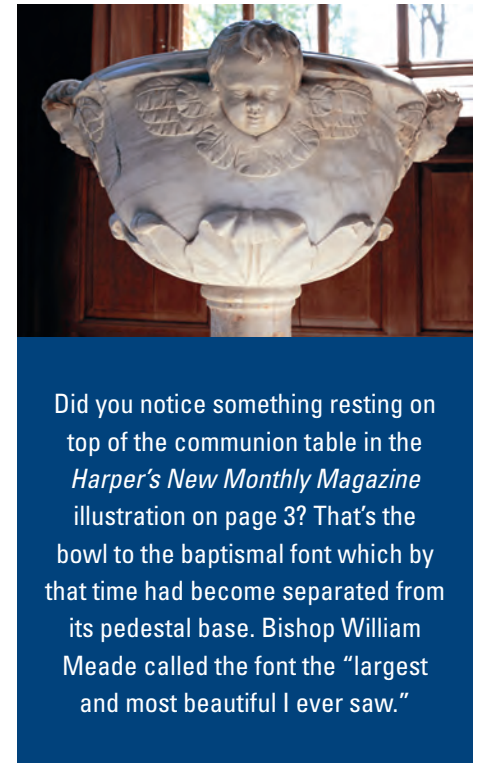
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## What a Difference a Year Makes

*By Jill Worth, FHCC President*

All of us at FHCC looked forward to 2020. We had ended 2019 in such a positive manner and had planned an even stronger calendar of events for the upcoming year. In late February two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Alan Taylor began the programmatic year and, despite miserable weather, there was a large turnout.

In March FHCC appointed Robert Teagle as our new Executive Director. Three days later we realized that the COVID-19 pandemic was not going away and we, like other similar organizations, closed the campus.

Who'd have thought it? And, frankly, who'd have thought that we'd still be dealing with this catastrophic situation months later. But we are. And we at HCC, like many others, are learning to operate in new and innovative ways.

A closed campus does not mean a closed organization. Much is going on... Despite testing positive for COVID, Robert continued to work — from home, of course. He is now completely recovered and back at full speed. Trish fell and severely broke her arm, but she continues to be the one-armed bandit in the office, aided most days by volunteer office help. Our volunteers are AMAZING.

Speaking of volunteers, some of our docents indicated that they would feel comfortable participating in a modified visitors' program — by appointment only! Visitors call ahead, group size is limited to "family" groups traveling together, and docents and visitors wear masks at all times and maintain proper distances. The museum and gift shop remain closed, and we offer no restroom facilities. Visitors who "just show up" are encouraged to tour the churchyard, and they receive a brochure and a bookmark directing them to our online virtual tour.

Committees continue to meet, some via conference calls, some via Zoom and some in person outside under the breezeway between the Chase Center and Carter Center. The HCC&M Readers book group holds regular Zoom meetings with participants joining in from several states. Research Committee members make appointments to use the research library and continue to answer public inquiries.

FHCC has a new staff member, Paula Stallard, who joins the FHCC team on November 2 as the Assistant Director for Administration.

We also have a new event for 2020: Check out the front page for our "Colonial Tavern Fare" fundraiser. Please participate and encourage friends and neighbors to join in the fun, and, incidentally, support FHCC.

While circumstances have changed in this last year, the need to support the mission of the Foundation for Historic Christ Church and to continue to preserve our unique historic property remains the same. These are difficult times for everyone, but with your help we can get through 2020 and be ready for a new year. Won't you please give as generously as possible?

Please take care and stay healthy!  
Jill




Since 1735, as it came from  
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