

Friends Report

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

November 2010

Jack Schoenherr

Former Trustee and Advisor John Schoenherr passed away on April 8, 2010. Jack contributed the art work which is on all the FLSC letterhead and flyers. In late 2009, Jack also contributed a new digital rendition of the Church which appears in this Newsletter. Jack and Judy became associated with the FLSC at the time of the incorporation and remained active supporters of the Church and its programs throughout the years. His quiet, jovial personality will be sorely missed.

Restoration of Stone Wall

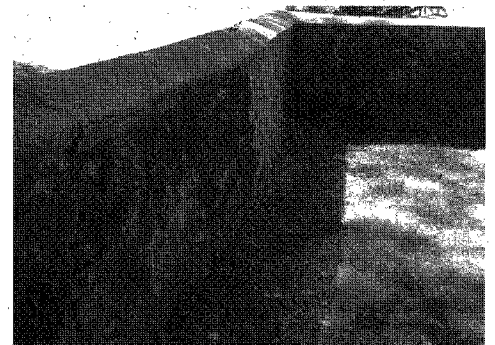
Robert Roop

The stone wall at the south of the Church extends to the rear of the building. It is an important historical feature of the site using a face stone and rubble fill in combination with a soft lime mortar typical of the time the Church itself was built. It had suffered tree falls and water damage that cracked the protective concrete caps and collapsed a section near the road.

In November, thanks to a generous grant from the 1772 Foundation and the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission, we were able to begin repairs and stabilize the wall. A specification for historically accurate repairs was prepared by the Restoration Committee and competitive bids were solicited. Repairs included removal of damaged cap and its replacement with intact cap from the rear section of the wall; rebuilding the collapsed sections at the front

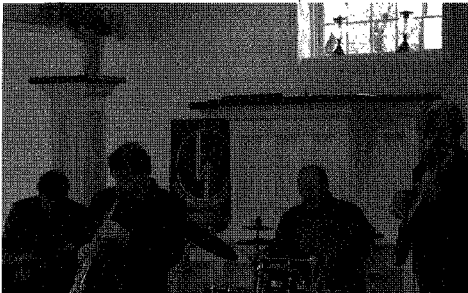
and a heavily damaged length at the rear; and reinstalling wrought iron pintles into the stone at the entry for a gate.

While the restoration was limited, the most important steps in preservation of the wall have been completed. We look forward to completing pointing and less complex repairs over the next several years.



2010 Concert Series Summary

Caroline Beidelman



Eric Mintel Jazz Quartet



Carol Thompson, Harp



Due Solisti

The Friends of Locktown Stone Church sponsored three concerts during Fall of 2010. The concerts provided a nice variety of genres, and were well received by the audience. On October 17th, the Eric Mintel Jazz Quartet opened the concert series with a lively program, playing mostly music from Dave Brubeck. This was the first performance by the Eric Mintel Quartet at the Locktown Stone Church. On October 24th, we shifted gears, with Carol Thompson giving a wonderful performance of mainly celtic music on the brey and level harps. This was Ms.

Thompson second performance at the Locktown Stone Church. On November 7th, the concert series closed with Due Solisti, featuring Kathleen Scheide (harpsichord) and Žofie Vokáľková (flute), performing music by female composers. We were lucky this year not only with the quality of the musicians, but with the beautiful colorful fall weather. All the artists commented on the wonderful acoustics of the Locktown Stone Church, and Due Solisti hopes to come to record at the church in the Spring. Also in the plans for Spring 2011 is a Friends of Locktown Stone Music

Fest, featuring local talented musicians.

The concerts are made possible in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through funds administered by the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Society, and by your donations.



Dear Members and Friends,



The Friends of the Locktown Stone Church, Inc. have renewed a 10-year lease with Delaware Township, almost 25 years since the building was placed in our custody; so it is appropriate to look back see how much physical progress we have made. When the Friends first incorporated in 1986 the building was in a sorry state with broken glass and graffiti on the plaster walls. Floor joists were rotted, the front doors needed rebuilding, the roof needed repair and there was poor drainage along the outside of the walls. In addition, there was no functioning heating system.

The Trustees met at the Locktown Grange and private homes to conduct the business of the FLSC. There were numerous work days, one per month, where significant volunteer labor was expended digging ditches, removing concrete walks, removing and storing pews, removing rotted structural members. Over the course of the first three years of work a considerable amount of ground work was performed by the volunteers, but professionals were needed for archeological investigations, structural engineering, restoration-architecture advice, reconstruction, painting, roof repair, electric, heat, and drainage installation. Fund-raising was done by direct appeal to Delaware Township residents. This was because the building was purchased with \$90,000 of Green Acres Funding through the Township and an innovative \$43,000 long-term bond arrangement that was put in place by Donald Jones for the benefit of Delaware Township. The first fund-raising was done with simple letters.

The more formal Friend's Report first appeared in September of 1992 and was produced by the now Honorary Trustee, Marfy Goodspeed. Prior to that time there were internal quarterly reports which were prepared with a similar professional style, also by Marfy. The Friends Report has continued to the present and has been used for both fund-raising and reporting back to our supporters. Public donations remain an important source of support, as are the wedding rentals and income from our concert series. Our first concert was held in 1994 and was free. The concert series began in 1995 and they have continued with a dedicated following for these cultural events. We hope to expand this program with new concerts to offer in the Spring of 2011.

Structural work, drainage and painting was performed in the years 1991 through 1993. The first wedding rental occurred in 1993. The doors were rebuilt in 1996, heat followed in 1998. The Covered Bridge Artisan's craft fair started in 1996. The roof was restored in 1999; the windows were rebuilt during 2002. Exterior lighting was placed in the trees during 2003, which greatly improves safety during the darker months. Our student essay series started in 2005. The roof was repainted in 2008, because the historically correct paint hadn't bonded properly with the terne metal roofing. The North window fan light was rebuilt in 2001; the rest of the window was restored in the winter of 2008. In late 2009 we gave the interior the second coat of paint and had substantial repair done to the stone wall. The complete restoration of the stone walls will be done in increments as funds become available. Along the way we have taken down diseased and old trees that threatened the structure and planted new Redbuds in their place. In addition, lost chairs, oil lamps and a kerosene can have come "home" to the Church through donation from their custodians.

The Trustees are a dedicated group, as evidenced by an excellent attendance record and by the longevity of service. Trustees Richard Brozman, Rick Conley, Robert Hornby and Phoebe Wiley have been with the FLSC since the beginning of the preservation efforts. Phoebe deserves special recognition because her grant writing skills have raised over \$220,000 that has been used to preserve the structure. The Trustees have singled Phoebe out this year, by adding her name to our Major Donors' Plaque, located inside the East entryway. We thank her for her contribution to preserving history, the building and enhancing Delaware Township, the County and State by working so hard over the years.

Finally, would you please help us with a contribution this year? It is not easy to keep this building up, and we have a lot to do in the next 20 years.

Sincerely,
 Mark Zdepski
 President, 2010

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Stone Church 2010

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- Robert Roop
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- Leslie Jones Sauer
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- Rachel Wingerter

Landscape

Rebecca Wong

Standing at the edge of the forest by the Locktown Stone Church in late June, Karl Anderson takes out his notepad and jots down plant names. Species and subspecies are called back and forth as Karl, Tama Matsuoka, and Gil Smith discover different plants on the forest floor. "Jack in the pulpit, spice bush, Japanese honey suckle, enchanter's nightshade." We hear a sound above us resembling a rubber ducky being squeezed. It is a pair of red-shouldered hawks, endangered in New Jersey.

We are walking the edge of the parking lot by the church, finding many interesting plants right by the road shoulder. If the multiflora rose and other invasive species were cleared out in that area, people would be able to see all kinds of good species right by the church. We find bitternut, a tree with a pretty orange bud, and a couple of young American elms.

Moving along the road from the church parking lot to the creek bridge, we find spirulos wood fern, black raspberry, and a bad patch of burning bush. When we reach the bridge, we make our way down to the creek bank where we find porcupine grass, mugwort, water plantain, St. John's wort, fringe loosestrife, clearweed, and wood mint blafulia. We also spot silky dogwood on the opposite bank of the creek, which only came in after the overwhelming sea of multiflora rose

was removed. If invasive plants were to be weeded out from this side as well, a group would have to maintain it, returning year after year to the creek. It would require long term help, but the beneficial results might be worth it.

Next we climb up from the bank to the woods between the church and the creek. There we find a huge beautiful tulip poplar tree, which is so big because the species grows faster than other trees. Karl takes samples of mints and stores them in plastic Ziploc bags to examine under a microscope later. We walk further through the woods, avoiding the little elms and ducking under branches, until Tama calls, "Karl—What's this?" Her finger points to a medium-sized plant with long leaves growing in a strange, curved, shape on a narrow stalk. Karl curses under his breath, "It's a green dragon!" The green dragon, or *asisaema dracontium*, plant has a CC number of 7, according to New Jersey botanists, meaning it is a rare and incredible find.

And that's not the only treasure Karl, Tama, and Gil found that morning. Walking among tall grasses further down the creek, they found several specimens of spotted phlox *maculata*, or "Wild Sweet William." There have only been six to twenty documented occurrences of this plant in all of New Jersey. It is therefore listed as



"S2 imperiled" in the state.

To see the full report including the list of plants and their information, go to <http://bhwp.org> and look under "Wickecheoke corridor." The vast majority of the plants listed will have numbers greater than zero, which means they are considered historic to the land of New Jersey prior to settlers. Plants with numbers greater than five may actually represent a quality habitat where the soil has not been plowed or turned over. The resulting community of soil, plants, microbes, and wildlife cannot be recovered once it has been bulldozed or plowed. According to this report, compiled by Karl Anderson and Jeannine Vannais, the land around the Locktown Stone Church and the nearby Wickecheoke Creek is a valuable historic treasure. If you are interested in knowing more about these plants or management of the land, please contact Rebecca Wong at beckybugx@aim.com.

Fourth Annual Essay Contest: Thoughts on Local Cemeteries

Phoebe Wiley

As part of our mission to interest elementary and middle school students in the history of Delaware Township, the Friends sponsor an essay contest on a topic of local interest. Teachers at the school help choose the topics and also judge the essays, certainly a great help to the Friends, and much appreciated. This year students were asked to research and develop essays on some of the many local cemeteries in the township. Also, besides the first, second and third prizes, the Friends offered special recognition for the best 6th and 7th grade essays.

The five winners include:

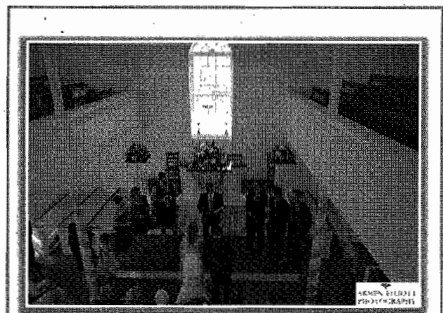
- First: Julia Tonnessen - Sutton Family burying ground
- Second: Taylor Cox - Moore Family Cemetery
- Third: Lauren Bailly - Cemetery of the Old School Baptist Church of Locktown
- Seventh Grade: Chiara Rossi - The Opdycke Cemetery
- Sixth Grade: Lily Davis - The Rosemont Cemetery

On June second the winners read their essays to an enthusiastic audience of parents, trustees and Friends, accepting congratulations and prize bonds from Mr. Richard Conley, long time trustee and Chair of the

Education committee. The essays were of such interest they prompted Mr. Milt Smith, Trustee Emeritus and renowned story teller, to get up and tell a few. A great time was had by all.

The following is an excerpt from Julia Tonnessen's first place essay on the Sutton Family Burying Ground:

"Tombstones, even those that time has made illegible, and cemeteries themselves memorialize the lives of individuals who had unique hearts, minds, and souls. The burial ground on Sutton Farm Road is no less of a burial site than the Pantheon in Rome, even though the artist Raphael and kings of Italy are laid to rest there. A cemetery isn't any more important because the people that are laid to rest there attained notoriety in their lifetimes. All burial grounds, those that are international landmarks, and those that are nestled in the woods in Delaware Township, are significant because they honor the individuals laid to rest there and because they hold pieces of history that link us to our past."



Weddings at the Church

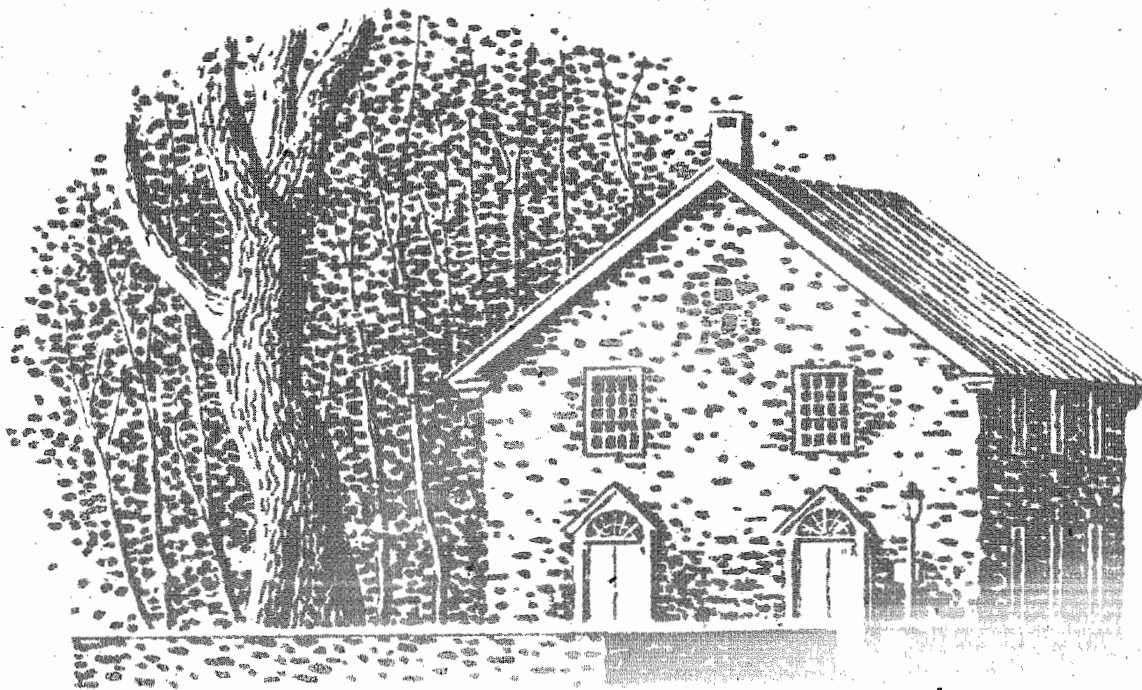
There was one wedding held at the church this year. On a hot day in May, Mr. and Mrs. Pfenninger married. The two met while working together in the Dominican Republic. Later the ceremony progressed to the Green Sergeant's Bridge about three miles from the church. To find out about having a wedding at our lovely historic church, please contact Luise Wingerter at luisewingerter@centurylink.net.

Friends of the Locktown Stone Church, Inc.

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www.locktownstonechurch.org

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Spring Music Festival

This spring, the Friends of the Locktown Stone Church will be holding the first ever Spring Music Festival. This one day event will be more casual than the Fall concert series, including student music groups and more informal performers. Everyone is welcome to come, have a picnic on the lawn, listen to some music and celebrate spring.