

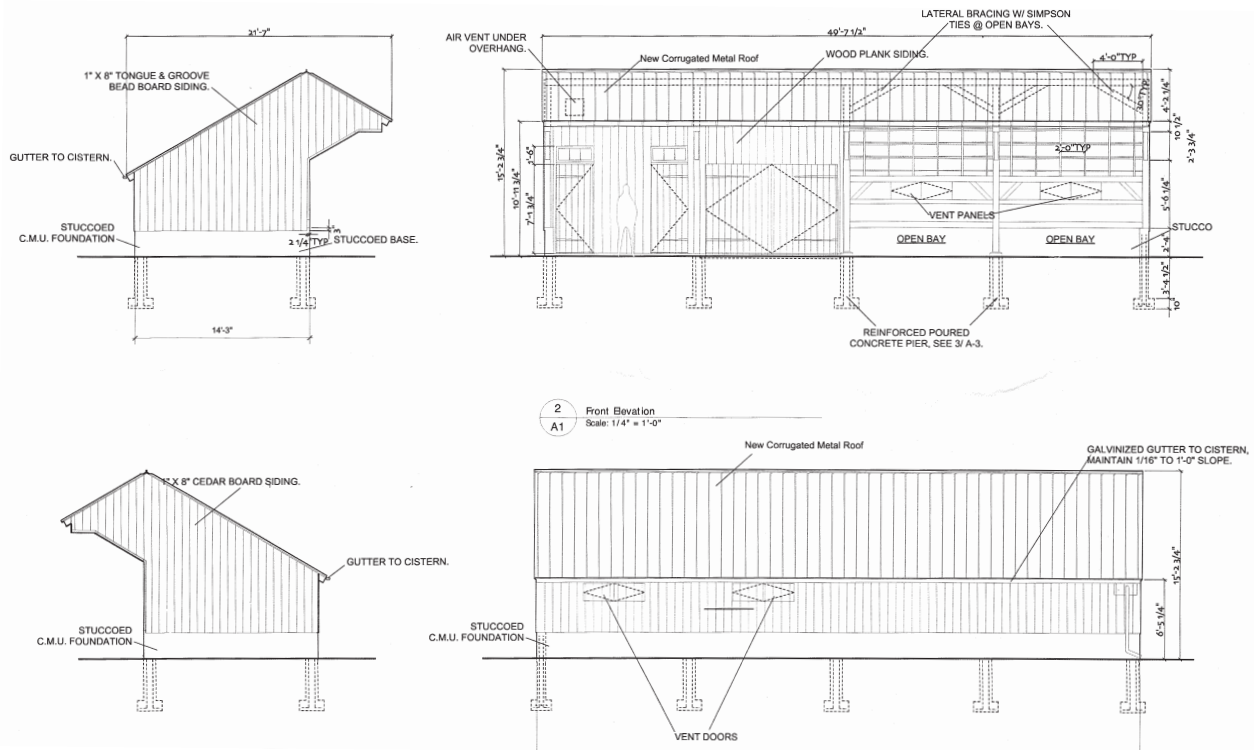
Friends Report

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

December 2021

FRIENDS of the LOCKTOWN STONE CHURCH CARRIAGE SHED PROJECT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Wil Wong



The Friends of the Locktown Stone Church Board of Trustees has approved a Capital Campaign to raise \$240,000.00 for the design and construction of a much needed "Visitors Amenities" building on the site of and replacing a carriage shed that once adjoined the church. The structure will house wheelchair accessible washrooms, dressing room and a multi-functional room (with kitchenette) to support events including weddings, meetings and concerts. Together with a covered outdoor storage bay, the entire building will resemble the historic carriage shed in form and design.

The Board of Trustees will approach the State of New Jersey,

Hunterdon County as well as Delaware Township in the execution and as partners in funding the project. Public and Private Foundations will also be approached. Finally the Board will look to the church's many friends, neighbours, advisors and trustees to make a contribution to the capital campaign.

The carriage shed will be designed to follow high environmental standards, sustainable construction practices, follow period aesthetics and adopt an ADA plan.

A two-year long campaign is anticipated so there will be more event opportunities and news to follow...

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President's Letter 2021 – The Friends of the Locktown Stone Church, Inc.

The past year has been another of little public presence within the building. Activity has been occurring both virtually and in person, albeit slowly. The COVID-19 restrictions seem to have a very long tail end! In January 2021 we received a Wetlands Permit that allows disturbance of 750 sq. ft. of Wetlands Buffer. The permit remains open for only five years, a start date was given as December 1, 2020. Therefore, we currently have four years to raise money, start construction and complete our Carriage Shed project. This project was originally proposed in our 1989 Historic Structures Report as a recommendation for the future historical interpretation of the site. We've used the 1989 report as our template for planning the restoration and the Carriage Shed is the last remaining recommendation.

John Bolt, AIA, is our architect. John actually assisted us in the conceptual design of the Carriage Shed beginning in 2002. John has prepared a hand-drawn rendering for our use in promoting this project. The idea is to build a replica, or interpretation, of the horse and carriage shed that had been used by the church members during the late 19th century. That structure also had an outhouse in the south end for the use of the members. We were originally exploring the possibility of installing a composting toilet which, we found, would be impractical, so put the project on hold. Briefly, the project will result in a fully accessible restroom for the disabled with a hand wash sink and flushing toilet. Water will be provided by potable water deliveries to a storage tank. Adjoining the restroom will be a small kitchen preparation area and there will also be a small room for storage and other uses. The north end will be open bays, similar to the original. Unfortunately, we have no close-up photos of the original structure.

We have engaged Bayer-Risse Engineering for septic holding-tank design and permitting document preparation. We have the holding tank design drawings in-hand and are at the stage of seeking Township signatures for approval and being a co-permittee for the septic system. This is a closed system that will require pumped removal of effluent and reporting to NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection under a Treatment Works Approval Permit.

This project will require a significant fund-raising effort. The Trustees will need your financial support, but we also have several openings on the Board and we will welcome any of you to join us as a Board member. It will be refreshing if we could have a new perspective. We would like to expand our use of the building taking advantage of the strong acoustic characteristics of the interior, but there are other possibilities too. Our newest Trustee, Deborah Kline, is a long-term Delaware Township resident who recently retired from corporate life. Deb has taken charge of our Facebook Account and is managing our presence on social media. She finds content where she can, starting with historical photos during the Spring and most recently posting a rendering of the Carriage Shed project prepared by John Bolt. Please consider joining us as a Trustee for the fund raising efforts, and create new content for Deb at the same time. We are all looking forward to a challenging project that will improve the functionality of the Church and will help to fulfil our mission of public use that is spelled out in our lease from the Delaware Township Committee.

Mark Zdepski, President



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Treasurer's Report

With the help of our generous supporters the Friends of the Locktown Stone Church again had a positive cash flow so far in 2021. Several sources of income in 2020 and 2021 were lost however. Most importantly our beloved concert series was a victim of Covid 19 once again for the second year in a row. We also lost funding from Hunterdon County who have supported the concert series for years.

In a normal year subscriptions and tickets sold at the door for our concert bring in about \$2,000. With grants as income and expenses including performers, heat and bathroom rentals we just about breakeven.

For this 2021 year we have managed net income as of November of \$6,600. With a significant contribution to our capital

campaign, we have been able to fund permits, engineering and architectural fees. We are in earnest that the construction of amenities including a bathroom in a historically accurate carriage shed style building will markedly increase the use of our site and improve rental income.

Individual contributions remain the significant source of our funding. We are disappointed not to have been able to thank you with concerts and other programs. Rest assured, we are dedicated to the continued use and improvements to the Locktown Stone Church and recognize with gratitude your trust in our stewardship of the site and the resources that you contribute.

Robert N. Roop, Treasurer

Original Locktown Stone Church Painting by Alexander Volkov to Help Support Capital Campaign

Debbie Kline

The Friends of the Locktown Stone Church are thrilled to announce that Alexander Volkov, a Frenchtown-based fine artist, is capturing the simple, unpretentious beauty of the Locktown Stone Church interior in an original painting. The painting will be available for sale to help support the capital campaign in its pursuit to fund the new Carriage House facility.



A self-taught artist who lists William Turner, Vermeer, Franz Hals, Rembrandt and many others from the previous centuries as well as Edward Hopper, Maxfield Parrish and Andrew Wyeth of the 20th century among his influences, his style of realism is a perfect fit for this endeavor.

Alex spent several hours in the church during various times to study the unique play of light that comes through the antique bubbled glass of the church's deep-set windows. According to Volkov:

"There is no greater mystery to me than the conflict of light and dark. In the way they clash and penetrate each other, there is the source of everything. Whether I paint a landscape, a still-life or a portrait, within it there is always a story of light traveling through darkness."

The end result is greatly anticipated and expected shortly after the arrival of this newsletter in your mailboxes.

Stay tuned for further details and

events surrounding the painting and its availability. In the meantime, check out some of his existing works at www.alexandervolkovfineart.com

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Concert Series

Caroline Beidelman

Last year, the Friends of the Locktown Stone Church made the painful decision to cancel its Fall 2020 series due to the pandemic and our concern for the health & safety of our supporters and the musicians who planned to perform. We so looked forward to bringing live music back to the Locktown Stone Church during the Fall of 2021 with a live audience once again reveling at the magical acoustics. Unfortunately, with another variant taking hold, live music events would present a challenge in our small venue, where social distancing is difficult and structural modifications are limited by preservation constraints. We therefore had

to once again make the difficult decision to cancel our Fall 2021 series. We miss not seeing our “regulars” and meeting newcomers, but the safety and health of our concert attendees and performers continue to be our primary consideration.

We look forward to the time when we can share the magic of music at the Locktown Stone Church with our public. Until then, we hope you all stay safe and healthy and enjoy the holidays!

Delaware Township Schoolchildren Make a Virtual Visit to Locktown Stone Church

Moira Ganun & Dennis Bertland, December 2021

After a one-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, The Friends of the Locktown Stone Church once again hosted third-grade students from Delaware Township School, albeit virtually, for a program of activities relating to a curriculum prepared by teachers Moira Ganun and Stella Maltese. On May 6th, Moira and fellow-teachers Cindy Weil and Ann Weinhover joined Locktown trustee Dennis Bertland for a video-recorded tour of the church and nearby cemetery. With the tech support of Jack Fetzer (former DTS student and 2021 graduate of Hunterdon Central High School), the “raw” footage of the tour was turned into the video that was used as a teaching aid. The students were able to take a virtual “scavenger hunt” which helped them in learning about the history and architecture of the church. The students were still able to interpret the inscription on the church date stone, consider the use of the short flight of stone steps by the roadside in front of the church, discover how the shutters functioned to regular air circulation and sunlight and learned why the ceiling is curved.

After viewing the video tour, students broke into several groups to engage in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) projects. In one project, the students had to design their own version of the table whose top holds the flat rectangular memorial stone of the Rev. David Bateman, who died in 1832 and was buried beneath the church. Working under a time limit, the students used newspapers and other simple materials to construct a replica that had to remain standing for one minute. Another project was building a new courtyard wall designed to withstand heavy winds; the model walls were constructed of glass blocks and had to withstand the “winds” of a hairdryer! Students also made “stained glass” windows from clear plastic sheets and crayons to reflect the community and their church.

A link to the program video will be listed on our website. The Friends look forward to hosting students from Delaware Township School again next year, hopefully in person.

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