

Friends Report

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

December 2018

2018 Mimi Conklin Upmeyer Concert Series

Every year, the Friends of the Locktown Stone Church hosts its Fall Mimi Conklin Upmeyer Concert Series. This is a wonderful way to showcase the beautiful acoustics of the Locktown Stone Church as well as the fine job that is being done in preserving this gem in Delaware Township. Proceeds from the concert series as well as donations go to further fund preservation efforts.



This year's concert series was dedicated in memory of Mildred Wehr of Baptistown NJ. Mildred had been very active in the preservation efforts of the Locktown Stone Church, and was a valued trustee of the Friends of the Locktown Stone Church for many years. Her gentle nature, smile, stories and anecdotes, as well as her breadth of knowledge of the area will be greatly missed.

The concert season opened on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, October 21st, with a performance by **Ensemble Sebastian**, a Baroque Trio featuring **Marcia Kravis** (harpsichord), **Eve Friedman** (baroque flute), and **Eve Miller** (baroque cello). Their program, "All in the Family": The Works of J.S. Bach and Sons" featured works of Johann Sebastian Bach, Johann Christof Friederich Bach, Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach, and George Philipp Telemann (CPE Bach's Godfather). The performers shared the significance of each piece and explained the special features of each of their instruments.

Ensemble Sebastian



Our second concert, on Sunday October 28th, featured the return of **City Winds Trio**. This award-winning ensemble, formed in 2001, has performed in over 100 chamber music series on the East Coast. The Trio features **Crispian Fordham** (flute), **Meredyth Coleman** (oboe) and **Yuki Highashi** (bassoon). They performed works by Haydn, Telemann, Schickele, Vivaldi, and Devienne.

Their spirited performance was interspersed with anecdotes regarding each piece.

City Winds Trio



The final performance on Sunday November 4th, featured Jazz Duo **Bill Ware**, on Vibraphone and **Matt King**, on the electric keyboard. Separately, both musicians have performed and recorded internationally with other Jazz greats. At the Locktown Stone Church, they performed works by Joseph Kosma, Charles Mingus, Rahsaan Roland Kirk, Euble Blake, Thelonius Monk, and Chick Corea. Bill explained the inner workings of the vibraphone, and both provided historical perspective of the pieces they performed.

Jazz Duo



It is always nice to greet familiar faces, and to meet new ones during our concert season. We hope you will join us for our concert series next year. If you would like to receive updates regarding the concert series, please email us at flsconcerts@gmail.com.



Made possible by funds from the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

President's Letter 2018 – The Friends of the Locktown Stone Church, Inc.

As we try to deal with the leaves that have fallen on the church courtyard and get ready for the cold weather to really settle in, we know that another year has almost passed. Next year, however, 2019, will be the year that marks the two hundred and fiftieth year that the old stone church has been here. The president of our new country in 1819 was James Monroe, who crossed the Delaware River a few miles south of here on Christmas Eve 1776 with General Washington to march along the icy river to take back Trenton and Princeton from British control. These victories were essential to keep alive the new country's fight for independence.

We need to keep alive this revered church which now stands as a community meeting place for Delaware Township. It is the Friends of the Locktown Stone Church who have agreed to do the work necessary to keep the church painted, heated, cleaned and ready to greet this town's community needs. We have done remarkably well with our concert series, bringing musicians with international experience together in our little haven on the Wickecheoke Creek. We have brought school children to the church to see the upstairs galleries with hand-carved initials from children who lived in Locktown hundreds of years ago. We try to have poetry readings, visits by notable authors, and weddings for people who want a very special place to marry. Recently we have had requests by musical groups to record their music in our exquisite chamber and we have received funding from personal estates and the State of New Jersey and other financial groups.

As we move ahead, we need to protect the beautiful neighborhood we are in, while still making adequate parking available for our visitors. One primary goal we are presently examining is to provide some environmentally safe closed-water bathroom facility to replace the porta-john we must bring in for events. This project needs to be done with the professional help of engineers, surveyors, architects, attorneys and others who will make sure our applications are appropriate. This will cost money.

We are also thinking of ways to encourage recognition of the two-hundred fiftieth anniversary of this little church we are lucky enough to have in our neighborhood. So, in keeping with our regular year-end fundraising efforts, we need to encourage everyone to help us raise the funds necessary for these purposes.

Please give extra thought this year to contributing whatever you can so we can do this together. All the money goes to the church itself. None of the trustees or advisors receive anything but a sense of pride working on behalf of the church. Please join in our efforts again. We thank you for what you can contribute. See you at the church!

*Sincerely,
Rick Conley, President*

Treasurer's Report

With the concert series just completed, we have fresh in our minds the magnificent acoustics of our gem of a building in Locktown. We could not enjoy the concerts, host Delaware Township School students or provide a wedding venue without your support.

From the beginning of 2018 to October, we have been supported by 42 individuals or families. Sadly, this year, many donations were made in memory of Trustee Mildred Wehr who passed in April.

The Philadelphia Foundation, H.F. Lenfest showed extraordinary generosity and confidence in our stewardship with donations totaling \$30,000. Hunterdon County and The Large Foundation are also long-term supporters. We have our volunteer Debbie Cifelli to thank for preparing grant applications to government, corporate and private foundations.

Combined with funds raised several years ago in a successful capital campaign, this year's fundraising has given us the confidence to embark on a strategic plan that includes the possibility of building a semi-permanent running water sink and flush toilet building with parking area lighting. There are many hurdles to getting there but the Strategic Planning Committee is diligently pursuing that goal.

The all-volunteer Board of Trustees thanks you for your support in helping to maintain our building, fund the concerts and provide the community with a historic venue for events.

Robert Roop, Treasurer

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Delaware Township Schoolchildren Make Yearly Visit to Locktown Stone Church

The Friends of the Locktown Stone Church hosted its annual tour for students from Delaware Township School on May 31, a day-long program of activities relating to a curriculum prepared by teachers Stella Maltese and Moira Ganun. Third grade classes and their teachers Andrea Gristine, Sherry Mariat and Tracy Kell, along with Ms. Ganun, toured the church, although the rainy weather prevented them from visiting the nearby cemetery. The students also took part in a "scavenger hunt" which aided them in learning about the history and architecture of the church. Students deciphered the inscription on the church date stone, pondered the use of the short flight of stone steps by the roadside in front of the church, looked for names carved on the backs of the gallery benches, discovered how the shutters



Hard at work making a replica table out of rolled newspaper!

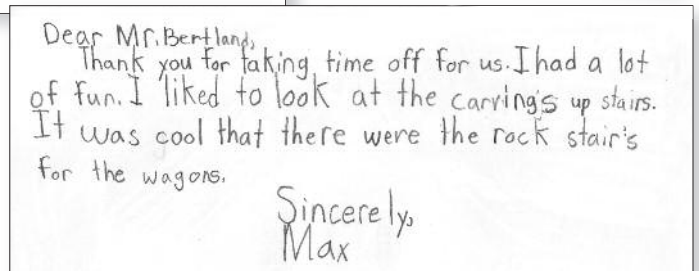
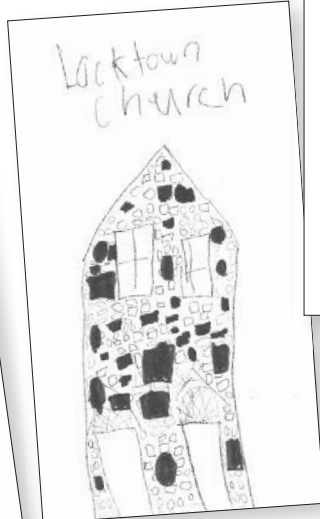
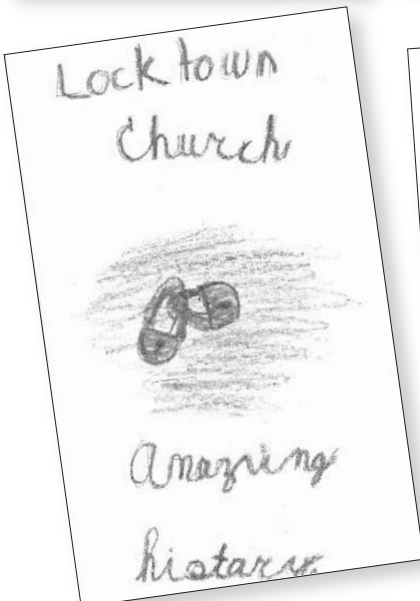
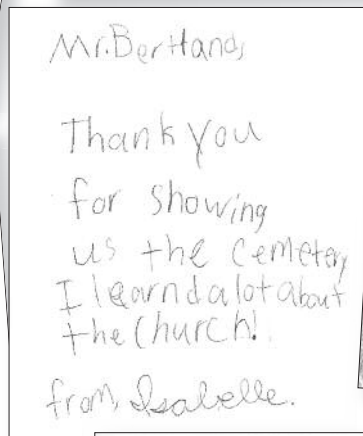
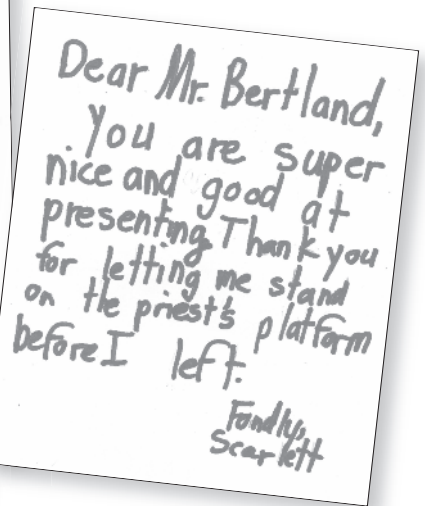
functioned to regulate air circulation and sunlight, and learned why the ceiling is curved.

After lunch the students broke into several groups to engage in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) project in which 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.

The Friends look forward to hosting students from Delaware Township School again next year.

Moira Ganun & Dennis Bertland



Friends of the Locktown Stone Church, Inc.

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www.locktownstonechurch.org



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THANK YOU!!!**