

I.U. FAMILIES' ASSOCIATION

61st Old Friends Day ~ September 13, 2009

A Family Tradition Continues

Plan to join with family and friends at historic Christ Church, I.U. in Worton, Maryland, for a happy day of reunion in a wonderful setting full of memories and fellowship. Our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. James J. Shand will return to I.U. to preside at the 11:00 am services. All are welcome to attend the service.

Afterwards, the Association will host our traditional picnic on the beautiful church grounds. After the blessing and as the picnic progresses, we will offer impromptu tours of the church and its graveyard. Younger folks may find a variety of activities for their amusement. Everyone is encouraged to bring pictures of previous celebrations to the picnic.

In addition to memories, please bring a covered dish or dishes of sufficient food for sharing to be placed on a central buffet table. Iced tea and other cold drinks will be available. Tables and chairs will be provided and we have made arrangements in the event of inclement weather.

The feasting and fellowship will be followed by a brief annual meeting of the I.U. Families' Association. Highlights of the business meeting will include the election of our Advisory Board members.

Of course, in addition to connecting us

with the past, Old Friends Day raises funds for the endowment that helps the church membership preserve and restore this unique chapel and landscape.

Families' Association News

Sixty one years ago, the I.U. Families' Association, Inc. was established by local and distant persons having a concern for the maintenance of Christ Church, I.U. Among the Association's founders were P. Medford Brooks (Chairman), Margaret S. Payne (Secretary) and Lloyd P. Hepburn, who suggested the name. Today the Association is led by three officers (elected for a two year term in even numbered years) and a six member Board of Directors (serving two year terms and elected in odd numbered years).



The objective of the I.U. Families' Association is to assist the Parish in the maintenance and preservation of the Christ Church building, cemetery and grounds. Incorporated as a non-profit organization by the State of Maryland in 2001, the Association's current bylaws were adopted in 1999. Since 1948 the funds raised by the members of the Association have been placed in a permanent endowment. Each year, the Association distributes only funds generated as interest from the endowment which support projects, identified by the Parish Vestry, that ensure the continued preservation of the property. Thanks to your contributions, in 2009, the Association provided almost \$6,500 to the Vestry in support of our collective mission. The Association will present a comprehensive fiscal report at Old Friends Day.

An Exception to the Rule

Most visitors to Christ Church, I.U. observe the brass plaque affixed to the outside of the church near the front entrance. The plaque proudly identifies that our church is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in American history. The National Register is the nation's official list of important places and is maintained by the National Park Service, a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Listed in 1980, the official National Register documentation states that:

Christ Church represents a well-proportioned example of a small Gothic Revival structure interpreted in brick, the most popular local building material. It is

fortuitously sited in the middle of a pre-existing churchyard and retains its precious rural character in this setting. Its exterior detailing, while relatively straightforward in accordance with the modest scale of the building, is executed in an appealing crispness and clarity. The unaltered interior space is characteristically light, accented with fine carved woodwork in an excellent state of preservation.

This official statement of significance is limited to the architectural qualities of the building. Because of the separation of church and state established in the U.S. Constitution, it is difficult for a federal agency to recognize historic places associated with religious institutions. In fact, churches and other properties owned by religious groups are specifically excluded from official recognition, unless they have other important characteristics, such as the distinctive architecture at I.U., or are the location of an important event, such as St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia, site of Patrick Henry's famous "Give me Liberty" speech during the American Revolution.

The constitutional conflict presented by federal recognition of historic churches began in the mid-1930s when Congress directed the National Park Service to identify all of the nationally important historic sites across the country. While no one at the National Park Service would deny that religious groups have played (and continue to play) an important role in American history, the problem arose as to how to objectively distinguish between the accomplishments of the various religious denominations.

The general policy of excluding churches

from official recognition was formally adopted by the National Park Service in 1962 as a result of a nomination for Old Bohemia Church, in Cecil County, Maryland. The present chapel at St. Francis Xavier Church, as it is formally known, dates from the late 18th century, although a fire in 1912 destroyed its early interior. Old



Bohemia's earliest history is associated with a Jesuit School and the establishment of the Roman Catholic Church in Maryland.

As a result of the Old Bohemia case, a compromise was enacted whereby more than 7,700 historic churches in the United States, like Christ Church, I.U., have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places by way of an exception to the rule.

Lost Relatives?

As any genealogist would tell you, the internet has made researching one's family tree much more exciting and interesting. Esther Sprinkle has uploaded the information contained in *A Listing of the Gravestones existing in the Christ Church I.U. Cemetery as of July 1986* to a commonly used genealogy website. The list of gravestones was presented at the 1986 Old Friends' Day by Mr. Robert Sparre and Mr. Francis Lamb. Now more folks across the country will be able to seek out and find their lost Kent County relatives. For more information go to: www.findagrave.com.

Election Day 2009

The following individuals have agreed to serve as Advisory Board members of the I.U. Families' Association's Officers for the period, 2010-2012. Additional nominations may be offered at the membership meeting or by contacting Advisory Board Member Mr. J. Rennie Stavely.

Mrs. Nancy Sharon Hepbron Ash
Mr. William J. Hepbron III
Mr. Thomas Noble
Mr. J. Rennie Stavely
Mrs. Anita Williams

How Can I Help?

The easiest way to help further the mission of the I.U. Families' Association is to make a donation to our endowment fund. Donations can be cash, securities, or other commodities. We distribute a special envelope with our annual newsletter for collection at Old Friends Day in September. Contact our Treasurer, Reyner Meikle, to make your tax deductible contribution.

Baptisms

Mary Jane Hall Joiner
Henry Celzo Martinez

Marriages

Anna Works and Mathew McKinney
Robin Keen and Deric L. Green

Cacy Angeline Williams and Benedict
Vincent Aspero, Jr.

In Memoriam

Bobbi Townshend
Wayne Pinder
Olive K. Stavely
Elizabeth LaMotte

Christ Church, I.U. Parish

<http://www.iuparish.org/>

Officers

Mr. John E. Nunn, Sr. Warden
Mrs. Nancy Robson, Jr. Warden
Mrs. Jane Hukill, Registrar
Mr. Thomas Noble, Treasurer

Vestry

Mrs. Nancy Nunn
Mr. Harry Keen
Mrs. Deborah Reilly
Mrs. Brenda Rocconi

I. U. Families' Association Incorporated

<http://iufamilies.org/>

Officers (2009-2010)

John H. Sprinkle, Jr., Chair
603 Johnston Place, Alexandria, VA 22301

Matilda W. Wessel, Secretary
10974 Worton Road, Worton, MD 21678

Reyner S. Meikle, Jr., Treasurer
255 Appleby Road, New Castle, DE 19720

Board of Directors (2008-2009)

Mrs. Nancy Sharon Hepbron Ash
Mr. William J. Hepbron III
Mr. Thomas Noble
Mr. J. Rennie Stavely
Mrs. Anita Williams