

Bicentennial Bulletin

Upcoming Event

Sunday, November 12, 2017
10:00 a.m. A combined celebration of the Holy Eucharist, followed by a Founders Festival in Keith Hall, the Chapel Garden, and O Street.

Announcement

Congregational Rehearsals

A new congregational mass setting has been commissioned as part of the Bicentennial celebration. The setting will be premiered on Sunday, November 12, during the combined Eucharist, at 10:00 a.m.

In advance of the premiere, all parishioners are invited to join Organist and Choirmaster Tom Smith for one or more rehearsals: Sunday, November 5, 1:00–1:45 p.m.; Wednesday, November 8, 6:30–7:15 p.m.; and Saturday, November 11, 10:00–10:45 a.m. All three sessions will take place in the Music Office on the second floor of the Church building. No particular musical knowledge or choral experience is necessary.



Christ Church
Georgetown
200 years

Thomas Corcoran (1754–1830)

Christ Church, Georgetown, can trace its history directly to St. John's Episcopal Church on "O" Street and indirectly to the Presbyterian Church. Thomas Corcoran was a key figure in this history. One observer said that if, among founders, Clement Smith was "the money man," Thomas Corcoran was the "people person."

After emigrating from Limerick, Ireland, to Baltimore and working in his uncle's import-export business, Thomas Corcoran married Hannah Lemmon and moved to Georgetown where he opened a shoe-making and leather goods store. In 1791, he built a house at 3119 Bridge Street, now M Street.

In the absence of an Episcopal Parish in Georgetown, Thomas Corcoran joined the Presbyterian Church. The Reverend Dr. Stephen Bloomer Balch, Georgetown's only protestant minister, invited clergy of other denominations to conduct worship services there. Saying that he was reciprocating the support that he had received from Episcopalians, Dr. Balch contributed to create St. John's. Thomas Corcoran helped lead the initiative.

Although St. John's flourished to the point that it needed to expand, "means could not be raised for the enlargement...and the enterprise was abandoned." The unfulfilled mission became a vision for a second Episcopal parish.

Thomas Corcoran gathered a group to fulfill the vision. By that time, he had been elected Mayor, a Common Council Member, had been appointed a Justice of the Peace by President Thomas Jefferson, and had donated to a fund for public schools.

Along with creating a committee to find a place of worship until a church could be built and to ask the vestry of St. John's Church to share the services of its Assistant Rector, the Reverend Mr. Reuel Keith, the "gentlemen" chose a committee to find a site for a new church and propose a plan for constructing it.

The final cost was \$15,952.26.

An original subscriber and pew-holder (at \$500), Corcoran served on the vestry for years.

For the complete article, visit the Bicentennial page of the parish website: www.christchurchgeorgetown.org/bicentennial.



Thomas Corcoran by Charles Peale Polk, c. 1802/1810. Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington

Holy Eucharist and Founders Festival

Sunday, November 12, 2017

The year-long observance of the Bicentennial of Christ Church, Georgetown, will commence with a combined celebration of the Holy Eucharist, at 10:00 a.m. The liturgy will feature choral works by Bernard Barrell, William H. Harris, and William Mathias, as well as a new hymn text, *How blest are we for founders' gift*, by parishioner Gordon Silcox. It will include the premiere of a new congregational mass setting, commissioned for the occasion, by distinguished composer Gary Davison. The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of Washington, will serve as celebrant. The Very Reverend Ian S. Markham, Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary, will serve as preacher.

The liturgy will be followed by a Founders Festival in Keith Hall, the Chapel Garden, and O Street. Parishioners dressed as Christ Church's first Rector, the Reverend Ruell Keith, and his wife, Mrs. Keith, will greet attendees. The event will feature period food and drink, including Brunswick Stew, ham biscuits, homemade shortbread, and mulled wine. An exhibit of historic documents and artifacts will include the letter calling Keith to serve as

Rector, the first volume of the church register, the original pew plan for the church, the church's original Bible, vestry minutes, and antique quilts.

Young people will have the opportunity to play games from the 19th century in both the Chapel Garden and O Street.

Join us as we mark the 200th anniversary of the first of several key milestones in the formation of this historic parish. All are welcome!

Breaking News

The Bicentennial and Parish ties have arrived!

Neckties may be purchased from the Parish Office during the week throughout the month of October with cash or check. Standard ties are \$50.00; bowties are \$40.00. The ties will be sold after Sunday services beginning in November.

KIDS' CORNER

Attention all kids! Do you know Christ Church, Georgetown, is about to turn 200 years old? When something is 200 years old, the celebration that takes place is called a "bicentennial." Since kids are such an important part of the Christ Church community, this section of the Bicentennial Bulletin is just for you! We hope you enjoy these Eyes on 200 activities while you learn more about the history of Christ Church and what life was like 200 years ago.

Eyes on 200 Window Search

The picture to the right is part of a stained glass window that was a gift to Christ Church by William Wilson Corcoran, son of this month's featured founder, in memory of his parents. Look around the church and find where this window is.

The answer to this month's puzzle is available on the Bicentennial page of the parish website:
www.christchurchgeorgetown.org/bicentennial.

