

Bicentennial Bulletin

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 4, 2018

10:00 a.m. Young people will pose for a photo and share their contributions to the 2018 Time Capsule.

1:00 p.m. For those who may have missed it, Tom Crocker will give a reprise of his April talk "Christ Church in Georgetown—an Intimate Look at Our Town and Our Founders" in Keith Hall. Weather allowing, there will be a short walking tour of the outside of some of the founders' nearby homes.

Sunday, December 2, 2018

1:00 p.m. Parishioner Sidney Lawrence on the theme and process of his 1818–2018 commemorative painting in Keith Hall.

Sunday, December 16, 2018

10:00 a.m. Virginia Theological Seminary Professor Rev. Robert Prichard, Ph.D. speaks on the history of the Episcopal Church, 1918–2018, in Keith Hall.

Sunday, January 6, 2019

5:00 p.m. Evensong for the Feast of the Epiphany, followed by a festive reception in the Parish Hall Auditorium.



Christ Church
Georgetown
200 years

Interview With Glenn Metzdorf

Editor's Note

What follows are excerpts from an interview with Glenn Metzdorf as part of a collection, now being transcribed for the Oral History Project of the Bicentennial Celebration of Christ Church, Georgetown. Conducted by fellow parishioners, the interviews highlight memories of several decades and provide individual perspectives on the life of the church. Glenn recently retired after 25 years of service as Director of Administration. On September 23, 2018, he was officially designated Archivist of Christ Church, Georgetown.

We look forward to posting the accounts on the Bicentennial page of the parish website, along with a photo of the interviewee, and audio clips of each one.

This interview of Glenn Metzdorf was recorded on May 15, 2018, by parishioner Ann Haas.

Ann: [You are] the author of [CCG's]...only history, at least, as far as I know. Is that true?

Glenn: It's the only fairly complete history that exists as far as I know, too. There are historical documents, sketches, beginning in the late 19th century that are also available, and have higher or lower degrees of accuracy.... We had a lot of original sources in the vault.... [I] became very engrossed in the history, particularly the early history.... You can tease these things out and they're theories really because there's nobody who's ever written it down as a living record—... this is why I did this, ...but you can draw some conclusions. That's what's really interesting especially about local history. You just have to follow-up on these little leads.

I spent many years on the history of Christ Church. I found it fascinating, began to feel like I almost knew the people who started it off in 1817, looked especially closely at all of the rectors and began to feel I almost knew them.... You're almost always dealing with handwritten records. One difficult thing is it can be hard to read. The nice thing about it is once you do it, ...you really feel like you got them or their personality just from their handwriting style, of the way they form it, their phraseology, the way they phrase their sentences

Ann: ...How's the Church changed in the way services are conducted or in composition or the size of the congregation?

Glenn: Happily, the feel of the place hasn't changed much at all from the time I've been here. It's still a traditional church, which has traditional values. Essentially, its values are orthodox in terms of Christian teaching....

It was Sanford Garner who used the "28 Prayer Book," the old prayer book, at eight o'clock until about five minutes before he left here, when he took it out of the pews because he thought it would be difficult for his successor to deal with that, and it would have been. He conducted the liturgies in the current *Prayer Book*, using rubrics from the "28" *Prayer Book*. You almost couldn't tell the difference between them and Rite One. At the time I came to Christ Church, Rite One was really the only style used. Rite Two was almost not used at all.

...There really is something for everyone. Christ Church, when I came, was a church that still did Morning Prayer. Many people remember Morning Prayer as the normal service on Sunday mornings. That changed with the current

Prayer Book so that the Eucharist was intended to be the Sunday morning service generally. At Christ Church, Morning Prayer survived on second and fourth Sundays under Sanford Garner. It continued to survive in that way under Stuart Kenworthy. It's highly valued by a lot of people.

Ann: Did the congregation change through the years or not?

Glenn: The congregation has not changed much, I don't think. It's become much younger. I'd say the average age when I came here was probably 65, or 70.... In fact, in John Anschutz's latter years, he was Sanford Garner's predecessor; there was some concern that the church just would cease to exist because it was so much populated by older people. There were just no younger people.

...Sanford Garner came along. He was a much younger man than John Anschutz, with children and a young family. That attracts other young people.

Exactly the same thing happened when Sanford left and Stuart Kenworthy came.... His children went to the same schools that the parishioner children were going to, and other children from those schools who knew the Kenworthy children would bring their friends to church here and their parents with them. You had this almost explosive growth in the congregation in Stuart's first 10 years.

Ann: The vestry records were interesting. They mentioned that in 1874, the District of Columbia provided \$2,000 as compensation for damage to the church resulting from road regrading. By 1885, the women of the church had raised \$30,000 for the new building.

Glenn: ...Governor Alexander Robey Shepherd, who was governor of the District of Columbia, ...re-graded the Georgetown streets so that some of them were lowered and others were raised. The ones around Christ Church were lowered, leaving the church roughly a floor above the new street level. You had to walk up a flight of stairs to get to the church, and then walk up more stairs to get into the worship space, which was in that building on the second floor of the church. In the process of re-grading the streets, the building itself was structurally weakened so that it had to be almost held together with iron bars, which you can see in the picture that was taken of that interior just before it was torn down. The vestry decided that they would rebuild, re-grade the site to the new street level, and rebuild the church in 1885. The then rector was Albert Rhett Stuart....

Ann: All right. Glenn Metzdorf, archivist, historian, parishioner at Christ Church Georgetown. Thank you so much.

Glenn: Thank you.

William Morton (1782–1855)

William Morton was on the original list of subscribers, for four shares valued at \$100. He subsequently was on the Committee of Eight and was one of the 26 committed pew purchasers. Along with Jeremiah Williams, he was responsible for renting and selling pews in the church. He served on the first Vestry, as well as on subsequent early Vestries.

William Morton's roots were in Charles and Prince George's Counties, MD. His father was a tobacco planter. In 1813 he was a Lieutenant of Infantry in the District of Columbia militia during the War of 1812. Morton appears in the Washington Directory of 1822 as living in Georgetown and working as a clerk in the First Auditor's office of the Department of the Treasury. Unlike many other early Georgetowners who combined government sinecures with private sector employment, Morton appears to have held only the government job. As a result, he appears to have been somewhat less wealthy than some of his peers.

During the 1820s Morton, along with fellow Christ Church founders Corcoran, Pickrell and Jewell, was a member of the Georgetown Auxiliary of the American Colonization Society, which sought to buy freedom for and repatriate slaves to Africa.

William Morton married c. 1806/9 Isabella Thompson (1789–1870s) and had ten children, one of whom, Lafayette, was buried from Christ Church as an infant in December 1823.

KIDS' CORNER

Eyes on 200 Fun Facts

Imagine what it was like to go to school 200 years ago. Circle the 8 things you'd find in schools in 1818.

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|---|--------------|
| Pencils | Computer |
| Kids from different races in the same classroom | Desks |
| Books | Televisions |
| iPads | Teachers |
| Chalk | Calculators |
| White boards | Boys & girls |
| Clocks | Chalkboards |
| | Phones |



Answer: Pencils, books, chalk, clocks, desks, teachers, boys & girls, chalkboards