

Dinner Meeting

Monday, November 26, 2007

6:30 pm. Dinner; program following at 7:15 pm

Fellowship Hall

At Trinity Presbyterian Church

3115 Providence Road



Dinner Program Topic will be: "History of the Sharon Church Community"

Our next meeting will feature a History of the Sharon Church Community. Sharon Presbyterian Church has existed as a congregational body practicing the reformed tradition in present-day south Charlotte throughout three centuries of profound regional change. Sharon Church is writ large amid the lives and circumstances of historical Mecklenburg County, and for the greater part of two past centuries, "Sharon" referred

interchangeably to a congregation, a populace and a place.

In celebration of its founding, Sharon Church in October 2006 published *Sharing Our Heritage: 175 Years of Faith, Fellowship and Food*. Featured within the heritage cookbook is a history of the area known since the 1970s as SouthPark. This essay - "Sharon: Church and Community 1830-1960" - is the work of church member, Charlotte native and profes-

sional historian Jane Starnes. In her daily professional life, Jane directs research operations for the Office of Development at Winthrop University. She previously served as the Director of Prospect and Donor Research for the UNC Charlotte Office of University Development and established that office's research program.

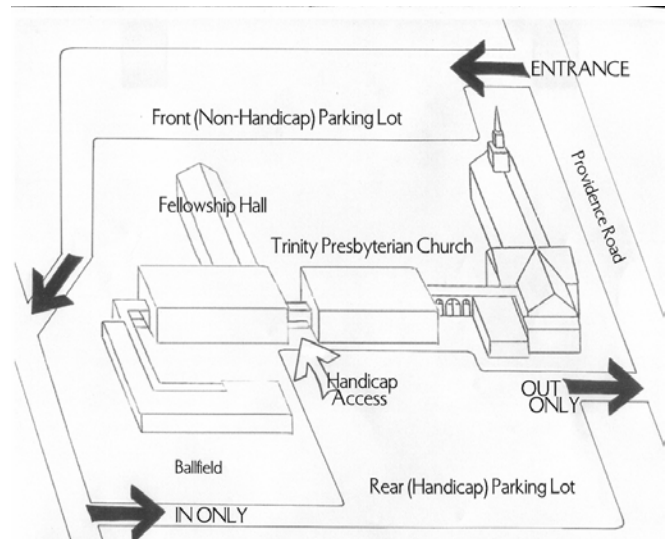
Reservation Form to be returned by
Wednesday, November 20, 2007.

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The MHA meets in Trinity Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall.
3115 Providence Road



Remarks from the President...



We are in the midst of the Holiday Season and are blessed with abundance, and hopefully, with the promise of rainfall for the parched springs, streams, and reservoirs! And it is time for our next meeting.

AT OUR LAST MEETING, we were treated to the history of Pineville, or Morrow's Cut as it was known, presented by Joe Griffin. He spoke to us of its role as gateway to the Indian communities of Waxhaw and the Catawbas, a mule trading center during the era of King Cotton, a sponsor of new churches in the area, and as a racing center with a race track and 50,000 fans! He also related the history of the Polks and the Spratts. The insights of his book make for wonderful reminiscences and a tremendous stocking stuffer or gift for your favorite historian!

MORE ON OUR SPEAKER!

Jane served as the Mint Museum of Art Curator of Costume and Textiles for ten years prior to her fundraising career. "Southern Arts and Crafts" - only the second major, traveling exhibit to be organized by the Mint Museum - and the museum's first major costume exhibit, "The Gilded Cage," are included among her curatorial credits. These programs are gems which you must experience. Please plan to attend!

THE MAY 20TH SOCIETY will honor the MHA and Docents for their support of the Captain Jack bronze project and other efforts to promote an awareness of local history at a picnic prior to planting a LIBERTY TREE at Freedom Park.. This takes place on Sunday, November 11, 2007. That organization is doing wonderful things and we support their efforts. The Captain Jack project is proceeding nicely. If you wish to be a part of this excellent project, please give me a call at 704.366.6625.

MEMBERSHIP

We had good attendance at our last meeting but always have room for more! So please bring a friend. The food will be great!

CONDOLENCES to the family of Betty Nisbet, a descendant of the signers, devoted historian, and former MHA President upon her passing.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Our Dinner Program Schedule for this year features programs on Nov. 26, 2007 (History of the Sharon Community), March 24, 2008 (Biography of Harriet Morrison by Kathy Herran), and May 19, 2008 (Paul Buckley and Ellen Poteat on their new reference book about Elmwood Cemetery).

Chase Saunders
MHA President

From the Docent Committee Alice Bostic, Docent Chairman

On Monday, December 3, 2007 the Docents will host their **Annual Docent Christmas Tea**. The Christmas Tea will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church. As usual, it will be on a Monday, so that historic site staff can join us. The business meeting will begin at 9:45 am followed by a wonderful program at 10:00 presented by Kitty Wilson Evans. After the program we will enjoy delicious food and festivity. As always, MHA members are invited. We are honored to have Kitty presenting "Christmas in the Quarters," a program from the context of her eighteen years as a full-time slave interpreter at Historic Brattonville. Preparation for

"The Big Times," as the Christmas season was known in the slave quarters, included making toys for the children, decorating the Big House, and seasonal singing among families, as the holiday afforded them more time together. **Liberty Tree Event!** On Veteran's Day, Sunday, November 11, The May 20th Society, assisted by MHA Docents and other historic interpreters will dedicate the North Carolina Liberty Tree from 3 to 5 p.m. near the band shell at Freedom Park. This is a 12 foot Yellow Poplar descended from one of the original Liberty Trees of the American Revolution. It will be located prominently in Charlotte's Freedom Park, surrounded by an iron

fence, and a brass plaque will record the details of the dedication. The May 20th Society, will dedicate the tree, supported by an honor guard with muskets and cannon and the MHA Docents huzzahing and cheering loudly. The May 20th Society wants to honor and reward the docents and reenactors for all of the support they have provided over the years and will host a Carolinas Barbeque luncheon just prior to the event. Arrive between 1 and 2 to enjoy the feast. Anyone in 18th century dress is invited to come. See what good things happen when you dress up?

Project Updates

KUDOS to Jim Williams, Linda Dalton, and Robin Cochrane for their diligent efforts at making Settler's Cemetery a better place. With proceeds from a donation by Jane McColl, they brought in a brick mason, Mike Trinkley, to restore many of the brick, raised gravesites. The restoration will be in period fashion using mortar and bricks compatible with 18th Century technology. The one thing our ancestors did not have to suffer was the number of

permits required to do this worthy work! But now Jim can add "mason" to his many skills as cobbler, fifer, winemaker, and re-enactor. Robin is leading efforts to ensure that Settler's will not be overwhelmed by the many condominiums which will surround and make use of it. This is most important work.

THE CATAWBA COOKING GUILD, a committee of the Docents, is setting up a website which they will link to the MHA website. Hopefully, their great recipes will be available for the

Holidays and throughout the years. Another great resource!

WEBSITE. We are in the process of evaluating a re-design of our website. If there are additional links, or if there is content or some special feature you would like us to add, please contact Chase Saunders or Jim Williams!

See you on the 26th of November!

Gift Membership to MHA...

Consider giving a gift membership to family, friends and clients. It's a marvelous way to enjoy outstanding programs on Charlotte Mecklenburg history, dinner and fellowship. The proceeds benefit M.H.A. Checks may be made payable to "M.H.A." per the following table [right].

You may mail your check to:

Kathy Herran (M.H.A.)
5015 Sharon Woods Lane
Charlotte, NC 28210

You may also bring your check with you to the dinner program.

category	single	couple
senior citizen (over 60)	\$12.50	\$20.00
general	25.00	45.00
patron	50.00	90.00
life (single payment)	300.00	500.00
student	free	n/a

November 26th Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

**Mail to: Mecklenburg Historical Association
c/o Kathy Herran
5015 Sharon Woods Lane
Charlotte, NC 28210
or email: kathyherran@hotmail.com**

Mark your calendars now for future meetings of the Mecklenburg Historical Association. The next meeting is scheduled for **March 24, 2008.**

Please make checks payable to Mecklenburg Historical Association
Questions? Please call Linda Dalton, 704.364.1618.

Enclosed: \$ _____ (total) for _____ seats (\$11 for Seniors)
\$ _____ (total) for _____ seats (\$13 for all others)



"Preserving Mecklenburg's Heritage"

Post Office Box 35032
Charlotte, North Carolina 28235

ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT
WWW.MECKDEC.ORG
