Future Exhibits Designed To Appeal And Educate

One of the most visible activities of the Presbyterian Heritage Center (PHC) each year is its research and design of original exhibits.

The PHC is always working 18 to 24 months ahead of an exhibit opening to identify artifacts and archival treasures from the center’s collection and from other museums and collectors. Tying in the exhibit to educational activities also must be explored.

The PHC offers unduplicated educational heritage programs for youth and adults involving 21st Century information technology — computers, large screen televisions, touch-screen kiosks, quick-response codes for smartphones, digital puzzles, etc. — to more traditional formats — lectures, international conferences, special events, book discussions, panels, film and Discover series of educational booklets written by our part-time staff.

Among the future exhibits being planned for 2020 and 2021 are:

- Native Americans & Presbyterian Missions
- Biblical Archaeology & Its Impact

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Annual Meeting of Atlanta Friends for Presbyterian Heritage Jan. 26th

The Atlanta Friends for Presbyterian Heritage 2020 annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 3:00-4:30 pm, at the historic Roswell (Georgia) Presbyterian Church.

The free program will feature noted theologian Dr. Richard A. Ray, former President of King University, and Rev. Scott Tucker, the popular Associate Pastor of Peachtree Presbyterian Church. These two men from very different generations will be in conversation about “Unsung & Fascinating Heroes of our Faith.”

This organization gathers Presbyterians from across the Atlanta region for a program on our faith heritage and for a time of fellowship. The Atlanta Friends group was formed several years ago at the Piedmont Driving Club, and it is sponsored by the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat.

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PHC Future Exhibits

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☐ China Missions in the early 20th Century (1900 - 1959)
☐ 125th Anniversary of Montreat’s Founding (1897 - 2022)

The guidelines for exhibits are many.
As the Smithsonian observes: “Exhibitions are complex presentations that convey concepts, showcase objects and excite the senses. However, as museums recognize the diversity within their audiences, they realize that exhibitions must do more: exhibitions must teach to different learning styles, respond to issues of cultural and gender equity, and offer multiple levels of information. The resulting changes in exhibitions have made these presentations more understandable, enjoyable and connected to visitors’ lives.”

The Presbyterian Heritage Center believes that exhibits should involve different senses. Exhibit displays should be visually interesting – asymmetrical, varying sizes of images, objects, labels, etc. The use of timelines, maps, photos, illustrations, audio and audio-visual materials, digital picture frames, touch screen kiosks, large monitors/TVs, documents and artifacts are all important to telling the story.

There should always be a Montreat history exhibit being displayed, a mission history exhibit and important milestones celebrated. The PHC generally designs its own exhibits, rather than renting some traveling display.

Displays should be interactive, if possible. The PHC seeks to develop 4 - 6 exhibits a year. No exhibit should be permanent, allowing rotation and new topics to be introduced. Exhibits will be displayed for 6 to 15 months depending on the subject.

PHC exhibits must be accurate, objective and cover all viewpoints — both positive and negative. There are generally at least two viewpoints on many subjects, for example the good and negative impact of mission work and the change to a culture.

Native Americans & Presbyterian Missions

Our second home mission exhibit will deal with Native Americans. It will cover missionary efforts beginning in New England and the Mid-Atlantic Colonies during the 18th Century down to today’s mission activities. Special focus will be on the South and how Presbyterians helped and hurt tribes, including the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Creek, and others. We will be working with various institutions to borrow documents, photographs, illustrations and artifacts, such as Yale University Divinity School Library, the Cherokee Museum and more.

Biblical Archaeology & Its Impact

Ever since Helena in the 4th century began collecting relics from the Holy Land, Christians and archaeologists have been exploring Biblical sites. This exhibit will trace the origins of Biblical Archaeology and expert Dr. William Albright, offer interactive educational activities and highlight the state-of-the-art in archaeology today.

China Missions in the early 20th Century (1900 - 1959)

The mission field in China seemed to deal with crises throughout the early 20th Century — the Boxer Rebellion, end of the royal dynasty, wars, civil unrest, natural catastrophes, Communist takeover and more. This exhibit looks at the men, women and children that lived and died for their faith.

125th Anniversary of Montreat’s Founding (1897 - 2022)

The PHC is seeking artifacts and other materials from the Montreat community as we design a locally curated exhibit. Rare photographs, documents, audio-visual elements and other items will illuminate the 125 year history of this valley and its impact on the world. Please contact the PHC if you have something that might be pertinent to this effort.

Cyrus & Sophie Byington, missionaries to the Choctaws.
C.S. Lewis & Inklings Symposium & Exhibit

More than 625 registrants, including students and professors from high schools and regional colleges, gathered in Montreat in early November to hear from a world-renowned lineup of C. S. Lewis and Inklings scholars. At top right, Dr. Don King interviewed Doug Gresham, C. S. Lewis’ stepson, about his memories of the family.

From left-to-right below, the pictures show Dr. Diana Glyer on Lewis and Tolkien; the closing panel with Dr. King, Dr. David Downing; Dr. Jerry Root and Dr. Hal Poe; and Dr. Crystal Downing on Lewis and Dorothy Sayers. Photos by Dr. Alan Snyder, Southeastern University.

In addition to the symposium, the Presbyterian Heritage Center opened an exhibit on C. S. Lewis, the Inklings and Friends, which will run through August 2020.

At left, Gill Campbell opens the giant wardrobe door to enter the land of Narnia. First editions of the novels, rare letters and other archival treasures are on view in the exhibit.

At right, radio broadcasts, films, scripts and lobby posters of Narnia and Dorothy Sayers’ Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries are displayed or are available on the computer kiosk. Photos by Nancy Midgette and Ron Vinson.
2020 PHC Displays

The 2020 exhibits at the Presbyterian Heritage Center include:

Who Are Presbyterians?
From John Calvin and John Knox to Presbyterians coming to America, this exhibit explores all facets of Presbyterianism. Ongoing.

Summers in Montreat:
History of Youth Clubs & Camps
This exhibit uses photographs, artifacts and oral histories to highlight the interesting story of clubs and camps in the valley. Open.

C. S. Lewis & Inklings Exhibit
Rare photos, first editions of fantasy novels, religious treatises, artifacts and paper ephemera will highlight the history of the Inklings, including Lewis, Tolkien, and others, as well as friend Dorothy Sayers. Open through August.

Central American & Caribbean Mission Histories
Cuba, Caribbean Islands

Step through the wardrobe into the land of Narnia. Right. A kiosk offers oral histories of Montreat clubs and camps. Left.

PHC Contribution Options
The PHC relies on contributions to conduct its educational activities, create exhibits and preserve its various collections. Help us in our mission. Please give by mail, in-person or online at www.phcmontreat.org/donations.html

Support the Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat

Yes, I/we want to support the Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat.
Here is my ☐ donation or ☐ pledge

of $ ______________ or

of $ ______________ annually for three years.
If a pledge, please indicate when you want to be invoiced. Date(s):

Write how you want your name(s) listed

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Annual Operational Fundraising Levels
☐ Celtic Circle $ 100 - 499
☐ Kirklin Circle $ 500 - 999
☐ Tartan Circle $ 1,000 - 2,499
☐ Witherspoon Society $ 2,500 - 4,999
☐ Knox Society $ 5,000 - 9,999
☐ Calvin Society $ 10,000 - 24,999
☐ Heritage Society $ 25,000 +

☐ Other Amount $ ____________________

Legacy Kiosk — contact the PHC for more information on permanently profiling your family or church through video, photos and biographical information on kiosks in our lobby.

Naming Opportunities
☐ Levels of $10,000, $25,000, $50,000, $100,000.
Please call to discuss 828.669.6556

Adopt a Collection or Digital Preservation (help preserve and protect valuable artifact & manuscript collections, as well as films/photos housed at the Presbyterian Heritage Center)
☐ $5,000
Please call to discuss 828.669.6556

Send your contributions to:
Presbyterian Heritage Center, PO Box 207, Montreat, NC 28757