



# The Herald

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## Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat, NC

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### Museum Management

With great effort, the retired missionaries carried a heavy box into the Presbyterian Heritage Center (PHC). Inside was what looked like an Aztec stone sculpture, which they had bought from a Central American farmer who said he had plowed it up in his field.

The couple asked, “Would the Presbyterian Heritage Center like to have the pre-Columbian idol for its collection?”

It was a simple question with a highly complex answer. What was the object? When was the sculpture acquired by the couple? Was it real or fake? What are the current laws regarding such a cultural or religious object, both in the country of origin and in the United States?

Accessions to museum collections are just one of the



Articles on museums returning artifacts are appearing everywhere. Shown here are stories by the National Geographic, Associated Press, and the New York Times.

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### National Missionary Summit

Is the historical era of Christian world missions now fading away? Or is the Church standing on the threshold of an unprecedented new period of missionary outreach?

“These are some of the critical questions we will be examining during our National Missionary Summit,” stated Ron Vinson, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Heritage Center, which is sponsoring the September 7-8, 2023 event. Subtitled “Missions in a Changing World,” the program will include a number of

internationally-known mission workers, denominational leaders, and scholars from multiple denominations and organizations.

Keynoting the event will be the Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of the World Mission Initiative (WMI); a unique effort by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, which has sent over 500 seminary students to serve in almost 60 global and domestic contexts. Before going to Pittsburgh, Dr. Farrell served in Peru and the Congo, and also was Director for World Missions for the PCUSA. In his latest book, Dr. Farrell seeks to help congregations free themselves from restrictive cultural patterns so they may become more faithful and effective in a Christ-centered theology of missions.

Included in the program will be a special panel on denominational mission efforts led by three former moderators, including Dr. Heath Rada (PCUSA

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moderator, 2014-2016), Dr. Bill Dudley (Evangelical Presbyterian Church moderator, 2013-2014), and Dr. Roy Taylor (Presbyterian Church in America moderator, 2021-2022). Other speakers and panelists will include the Rev. Dr. Jen Haddox, Director of Global Engagement for the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO), the Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller, Director of The Outreach Foundation, Frank Dimmock, who has worked as the PCUSA missionary liaison and regional administrator for more than 30 years in Central Africa, and Dr. Jim Singleton, Associate Professor of Pastoral Leadership and Evangelism at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Of special interest will be a celebration honoring active and retired missionaries and their families and descendants on Thursday, September 7th. "We not only want to look to the future during the National Missionary Summit, but we want to honor the past – and also to learn from it," stated Executive Director Vinson. The PHC is currently building an extensive missionary data base, including missionary biographies, photographs and interviews.

The National Missionary Summit will not only explore the challenges and opportunities facing the Church in a post-pandemic, rapidly-changing (and often chaotic) world. It also will give participants insight into the ways God is at work in some of the most difficult (and even hostile) places of the world. Joining in the National Missionary Summit is the Rev. Dr. Sasan Tavassoli, an Iranian who experienced a radical encounter with Jesus Christ and courageously left the Muslim faith. Dr. Tavassoli now leads a critically important TV and online ministry to reach Iranians with the Gospel. He also supports house churches throughout Iran and provides leadership training for ethnic Iranian church leaders worldwide.



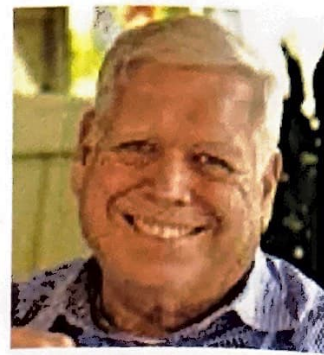
**Dr. Sasan Tavassoli**

Registration for the National Missionary Summit is limited. For further information and registration, call Sarah Aiken at 828-419-9813, or go online at: <https://montreat.org/events/missions>.

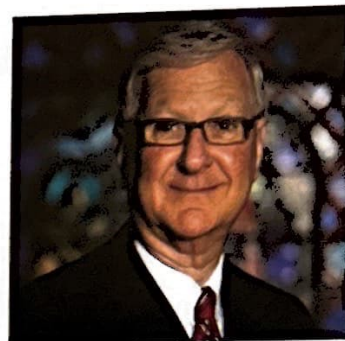
Registration is \$100 until July 10th, when the regular fee will be \$125.



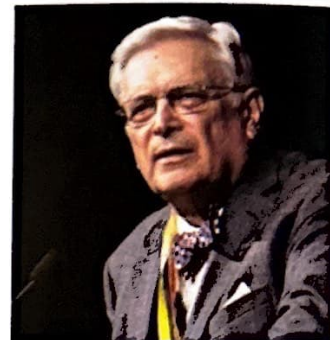
**Dr. Hunter Farrell**



**Dr. Heath Rada**



**Dr. Bill Dudley**



**Dr. Roy Taylor**



**Dr. Jen Haddox**



**Dr. Mark Mueller**



**Frank Dimmock**



**Dr. Jim Singleton**



# Montreat Tour of Homes

After a resounding success last year, the Presbyterian Heritage Center's Montreat Tour of Homes is returning this summer. The Tour will be held Saturday and Sunday, August 12th and 13th, from 2:30 to 6:00pm. This year, the tour will feature homes and buildings on North Carolina Terrace, one of the earliest streets to be developed in Montreat in the early 1900s.

Four residences and two buildings will be featured in the walking tour. Participants will begin at the Presbyterian Heritage Center, a classic "Montreat style" stone structure built in 1954. From the PHC, tour goes will leisurely stroll up and down North Carolina Terrace visiting the homes and seeing special sites of interest along the way, all of which will be identified in a complimentary tour booklet. The final stop will be the William Black Lodge, adjacent to Assembly Inn. There, refreshments will be served and lodge tours provided.

Last year's tour saw attendees from as far away as Texas, New York, and Washington state. As one attendee noted, "It was a wonderful tour through Montreat homes representing Montreat's past and present. It was a great way to see friends and meet new people."

Tickets will be available at the Montreat Post Office in advance and at the Montreat Conference Center's Women's Retreat for a donation of \$20 per ticket. All proceeds support the ongoing work of the PHC. Although the tour is a walking tour, limited transportation will be available from the PHC to the top of North Carolina Terrace.

The PHC Tour of Homes is graciously organized and produced by the PHC Heritage Council. Mari Gramling chairs this year's Tour of Homes.

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## National Missionary Summit Program

**Thursday, Sept. 7**

**Opening Keynote**

*Missions in a Changing World*

Dr. Hunter Farrell

**Presentations**

*The Challenges of Mission Crises & Conflicts*

Dr. Mark Mueller

*Collaborative Missions Strategies*

Dr. Jen Haddox

*In the Mission Field: Africa Medical Missions & the Future*

Frank Dimmock

*Just Like the Book of Acts*

Dr. Sasan Tavassoli

*Panel Session (missions in the Far East, South America, Africa, Middle East)*

*Celebrating Missionaries & Their Families*

Dr. Jim Singleton & Dr. Hunter Farrell

**Friday, Sept. 8th**

*Panel: Church Trends (Local Churches & Mission Efforts)*

*Panel: Viewpoints on Missions*

Former Moderators - Dr. Heath Rada (PCUSA),

Dr. Roy Taylor (PCA), Dr. Bill Dudley (EPC)

**Closing Presentation**

*Revitalizing Missions in the 21st Century*

Dr. Jim Singleton





## Museum Management cont.



*The PHC houses several masks like the one shown above from the Salampasu tribe.*

behind-the-scenes tasks that PHC staff addresses hundreds of times each year.

An item can be an African elephant ivory tusk, an artifact picked up by a missionary in the Holy Land a century ago, a Native American religious icon, a 16th century Ethiopic Ge'ez vellum manuscript, or a Congo facemask.

Regardless, the PHC staff must know the history and current status of the constantly changing cultural laws and be up-to-date regarding topic, provenance, and the timeline when acquired. This is just one of the many tasks that staff handles.

Staff also must know where to research information on antiquities across the globe.

If the staff gets it wrong, Federal agents could be knocking on a museum's door – whether it is a giant museum like the Metropolitan Museum of Art or a small museum like the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat.

As the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat prepared to open in 2008, the creation of an accession policy was a high priority. A key paragraph in the document which continues to be used in the revised current accession policy is: "The Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat will not directly or indirectly acquire objects that have an unethical history of ownership. The PHC will not knowingly acquire or exhibit artifacts which have been stolen, illegally removed from their country of origin, illegally salvaged, or removed from commercially exploited archaeological or historic sites."

Regarding the possible Aztec stone sculpture, the PHC did not accept the item into its collection. We recommended contacting the federal authorities.

## Colonial Collecting & Current Debates

Colonialism in the 19th century spawned an ethnological frenzy for new and already existing museums to display human history. As the March 2023 issue of the National Geographic magazine noted, "Just as colonial powers didn't send explorers to map new corners of the globe for pure love of knowledge, objects didn't simply fall into museums. Anthropologists, missionaries, merchants, and military officers worked with museums to bring wonders ... back to Europe."

The pendulum has swung from the rampant collecting of items 100 years ago to a modern day controversy about returning or loaning artifacts back to countries of origin.

This debate over collecting versus repatriating cultural and religious objects has intensified over the past decade.

Some museums have been actively returning important artifacts to their country of origin. Other museums, like the British Museum in London, have argued against such returns both on the value of amassing collections to teach human history, as well as the security and protection of such artifacts by museums. The concern for preserving history was highlighted in recent years. Many antiquities and archaeological sites have been destroyed by militias and radical religious groups in the Middle East, Africa and other global hot spots.

It's a debate that will continue well into the 21st Century.

The Presbyterian Heritage Center will continue to be sensitive to the varying viewpoints as we create exhibits and acquire objects for our collection. Our collection reflects our slogan: Honoring the Past, Informing the Present, Influencing the Future.



*This oil juglet is an example of Holy Land artifacts in the PHC's collection.*

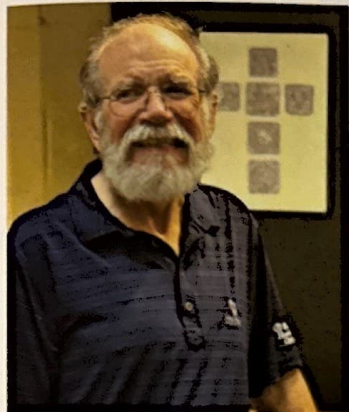


*Missionaries brought home a variety of artifacts from their time in the Congo. This is a glass lantern slide from the PHC collection displaying some of these artifacts.*



## Retirement Pending

Earlier this spring, PHC Executive Director, Ron Vinson, announced that he will be stepping down from his PHC duties at the end of this year. Ron has served as Executive Director since the PHC's inception in 2008.



As the PHC's first Executive Director, Ron started with a nearly empty space in Spence Hall. His vision, and that of the board, was to create an educational and entertaining experience. As such, he did not want the word "museum" in the name of the new

entity, as it might connote something unexciting to young people. Further, his idea was to have a threefold focus: a history of Presbyterianism and Reformed theology, a history of Montreat, and a focus on global Presbyterian mission history. So, a business plan was developed and implemented to make the vision a reality.

Since that time, the threefold focus has remained a keystone in the work and direction of the PHC, with slight evolutions along the way. Through the years, Ron has brought a strengthening missionary focus, upgraded research capabilities, and enhanced the amount and richness of display artifacts and materials.

In 15 years, Ron has been a catalyst for growth and has transformed the PHC into a major research organization in the three areas of focus. The result is the PHC "builds support and advocates for why history is important and why Presbyterian history is doubly important to people worldwide," as Ron recently stated. His hope for the future is that the PHC continues to innovate and grow, meeting the needs of visitors, especially young people.

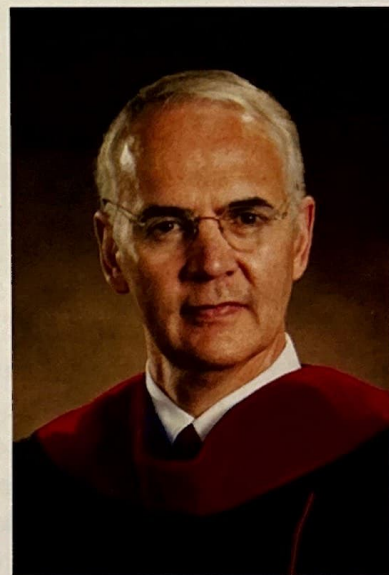
After Ron concludes his work at the end of the year as Executive Director, he plans on doing some consulting, playing golf, and enjoying time off with his wife, Ann. In the meantime, the PHC has formed a search committee to find Ron's successor. A special email address, [search@phcmontreat.org](mailto:search@phcmontreat.org), has been established for interested parties to request information about the position and to submit resumes.

## Reformation Lecture

Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons, Senior Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, South Carolina, will be the lecturer at the Presbyterian Heritage Center's 2023 Distinguished Lecture on the Reformation. The third annual Reformation Lecture will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, October 27th, in Upper Anderson in Montreat.

The title for Dr. Gibbons' lecture is "Rediscovering Redeeming Love: Reformation Principles in a World of Social Media, Smart Phones and Digital Playgrounds." He will explore whether Reformation principles of old Europe in the mid-16th century have anything to say in a world of 24-hour news cycles which focus on negativity, cynicism and controversy. The lecture will address what a gospel of love and grace has to offer in a digital society.

Dr. Gibbons is a native of Scotland. He holds joint honors in Ecclesiastical History and Systematic Theology from the University of Glasgow and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Highland Theological College in Inverness, Scotland. Dr. Gibbons chaired the "World Summit in Defense of Persecuted Christians" in Washington DC in 2017 and was Chaplain of the Day for the U.S. Senate in 2018. He served for four years as Chair of ECO Denomination's Theology Task Force.



Dr. Gibbons has authored several children's books and written a number of hymns. His book *Conspiracy Theory – When God Is Seemingly Against Us, a reflection on Psalm 139*, was published in 2021. He and his wife Ruth have been married for 40 years. They have one son, Michael.

Please make plans to attend the PHC's 2023 Distinguished Lecture on the Reformation in Upper Anderson on the evening of Friday, October 27th.



# Calendar of Events

## Ice Cream Social, July 22, 2023

Join us on Saturday afternoon, July 22, from 2 - 4 pm at the Presbyterian Heritage Center for an Ice Cream Social event for our surrounding Montreat community. The ice cream is homemade by members of the PHC's Heritage Council.

Join friends and family outside the front entrance to the PHC. Cool off inside our facilities while exploring the many exhibits about Presbyterian and Montreat related history and our library.

## Tour of Homes, August 12 -13, 2023

The Tour of Homes will be returning to Montreat on Saturday and Sunday, August 12th and 13th from 2:30 to 6:00 pm. There will be a different set of Montreat homes and buildings featured this year, primarily along North Carolina Terrace.

The tour will begin at the PHC where the tickets may be purchased for a donation of \$20 per ticket. Participants will receive a tour booklet providing information about each house and establishment featured in the tour.

Refreshments will be offered at the last stop in the William Black Lodge, and visitors will be allowed to tour this facility as well.

## National Missionary Summit, September 7 - 8, 2023

On September 7-8, the PHC will be hosting a conference about the current state of the mission field in a post-pandemic world. The conference will focus on the future of the mission field as well as its past and what the missionaries and laymen of today's Presbyterian church can learn from it.

A wide range of scholars and mission workers from across the United States will come together to discuss their experience in the field, at home and abroad.

Registration for the conference will be limited. To learn more about the event or to register call Sarah Aiken at 828-419-9813 or register online at the Montreat Conference Center website: <https://montreat.org/events/missions>  
Advance registration is \$100 a person until July 10th. After July 10th, the fee is \$125 per person.



*Members of the PHC's Heritage Council helped to make and serve homemade ice cream for last year's Ice Cream Social event.*



*Shown above is one of the houses along Alabama Terrace featured in the 2022 Tour of Homes, built in the year 1907.*





# Current and Upcoming Exhibits

The Presbyterian Heritage Center has several new displays that have opened for the spring and summer of this year. There are some continuing exhibits including the Mt. Mitchell Railroad, the Reformation, Civil Rights & Presbyterians, 125th Anniversary of Montreat, and World War II Repatriations. A few of our newer exhibits are detailed below.

## Hallie Paxson Winsborough: Activist for Social Justice

A small exhibit has been dedicated to Hallie Winsborough and her work with the Woman's Auxiliary. The display details her time as Executive Secretary and how she was the first woman to address the General Assembly.

The Woman's Auxiliary had a special relationship with Montreat and funded the construction of the Montreat Gate in 1922, the Winsborough Building, and the World Fellowship Hall in 1937. To learn more about Hallie Winsborough and the Woman's Auxiliary, pick up one of the pamphlets accompanying the exhibit.

## Minting A Tradition: Communion Tokens

The most recent exhibit to be opened at the PHC features a unique tradition involving the Lord's Supper. The custom of using a token to receive communion in church was started by the Protestant Reformation leader John Calvin himself. These tokens were made from a variety of metals, and some were even made of paper.

On display are tokens from 18th century North Carolina and 19th century Scotland, as well as a mold for making communion tokens and several Scottish communion cups.

## Worldwide Missions in a Changing World

This display will open this summer before the National Missionary Summit in September. It will explore the mission field at home and abroad from the early 1800s into the 20th century.

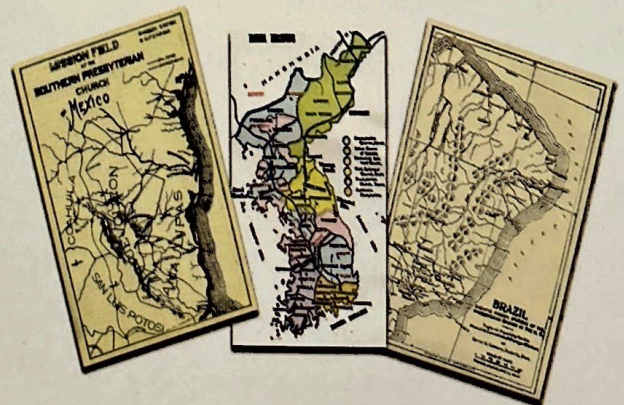
It will highlight some of the many struggles that missionaries have dealt with in the past as well as the present, including wars and pandemics alike.



*Dr. RC Anderson and Hallie Winsborough in Montreat*



*Above are three Scottish communion tokens from the 18th and 19th century (from left to right): 1827 Errol Church of Scotland; 1765 Kenback Church of Scotland; and 1802 Associate Congregation Church, Glasgow.*



*These maps highlight Presbyterian mission fields in Mexico, Korea and Brazil.*



# 2022 Heritage Fund Report

Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of supporters, the 2022 Heritage Fund annual giving campaign raised \$353,149 in 2022. The Heritage Fund provides virtually all the operating funds for the PHC. Most Heritage Fund contributions come from individuals. Contributions from individuals were \$280,997 in 2022 versus \$235,707 in 2021, an increase of over \$45,000.

The number of individual contributors rose from 268 in 2021 to 321 in 2022. Our goal is to continue to increase both the number of individual contributors and the total amount we receive each year. The Heritage Fund also received \$33,750 in contributions from foundations in 2022. Contributions from churches and presbyteries to the Heritage Fund in 2022 were \$5,845 and \$1,525, respectively. The sum of \$1,500 was received from Montreat civic organizations.

The expenses of the Presbyterian Heritage Center totaled \$379,500 in 2022, some \$26,000 more than revenues due to several one-time expenses. The deficit was covered by the prior year's excess of revenues over expenses. Almost 79% of that amount was spent on PHC programs. Another 15% of expenses were for management and general costs. Only about 6% of the

The PHC, in its quiet little corner of Montreat, speaks loudly in helping preserve Presbyterian history, mission heritage, Montreat history and so much more. And it is not just about the past. The PHC honors the past, informs the present and influences the future. As a donor said, "I give to the PHC because it is helpful to the church to learn from the past in order to do its mission today."

Please consider a gift to the PHC this year. You may give by:

- Sending a check to the address below
- Through a QCD
- On our website at [phcmontreat.org/donations.html](http://phcmontreat.org/donations.html)
- For instant giving, text "give" 828.373.3559
- Or scan the QR code below

We are grateful for your generosity.

Scan here:

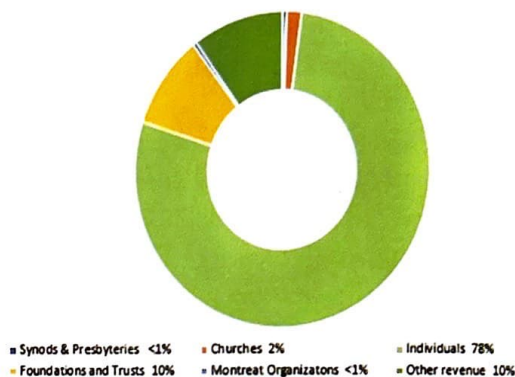


Presbyterian Heritage Center  
PO Box 207  
Montreat, NC 28757

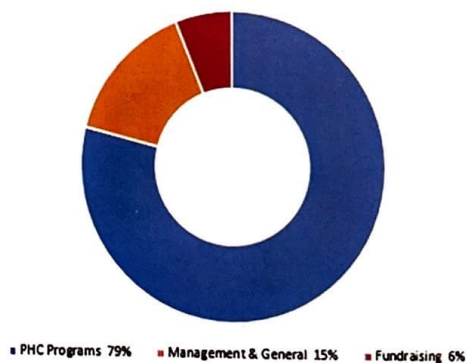
PHC's expenses were spent on fundraising. The bottom line is that a very large percentage of our supporters' donations to the PHC goes toward funding its programs and management.

The 2022 PHC Endowment Fund campaign was also successful. The campaign raised a total of over \$50,000. A contribution of \$100,000 to the Endowment Fund was received early in 2023. Although the Endowment Fund was established just two years ago, over \$200,000 is now invested in the PHC Endowment Fund to help insure the future of the Presbyterian Heritage Center.

Income 2022



Expenses 2022



## PHC Annual Heritage Operational Fund

- Celtic Circle \$ 100 - 499
- Kirkin 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_