



The Herald

Independent. Innovative. Interactive.™

Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat, NC

Vol. 15 No. 3

Fall 2023

A Donation of Biblical Proportions

The Presbyterian Heritage Center is honored to receive donations which include both artifacts and grants from the Cousins Foundation in Atlanta. This year, the Heritage Center acquired one of its largest artifact donations from the Cousins in the form of Biblical pottery. Tom and Ann Cousins spent many years collecting ancient pottery from the Holy Lands through several antiquities dealers. The dealers send certificates of authenticity with each of the items sold as required by the Israeli Antiquities Authority. According to the Antiquities Law of the State of Israel of 1978, the artifacts sold in the shops of licensed antiquities dealers must have been discovered or unearthed before the year of 1978.

Much of the collection of Biblical pottery that was donated to the Heritage Center, which is comprised of over 150 pieces, includes whole and complete vessels.



Pottery from Mycenae, Cyprus, and Israel with painted decoration, all donated to the Heritage Center from the Cousins Foundation.

continued on page 5

Congo Reunion Makes Connections

On a Saturday in August, about 30 people with connections to Presbyterian missions to Congo gathered at the Presbyterian Heritage Center. Immediately, the rooms were filled with joyful reunion, storytelling, chatter, and lots of laughter. It seemed a delightful family reunion had suddenly materialized in this tiny cove of Montreat and indeed, that was exactly what was happening.

These folks have long been dedicated to keeping their family's missionary history alive, and how we wish you could have heard their stories! Many of them can speak Tshiluba, a native dialect of central Congo, and sometimes they spoke almost discretely in whispers amongst themselves. The only Tshiluba phrase we have learned so far is "muoyo webe," an expression the Congolese use as a greeting when they pass one another, which means "life to you", as life itself can sometimes be a challenge in Congo.

Among those gathered were two gentlemen from Congo, David Wakuteka and Remy Tshihamba Muya. Pasteur Wakuteka's father was also a minister and leader of the Church in Congo, which today has more than 1,250,000 members, almost 1,000 congregations with 53 presbyteries, 880 pastors and 61 evangelists.

Pasteur Wakuteka asked whether we might have known of a missionary by

Inside This Issue	
Pottery Donation	p. 1, 5
Congo Reunion	p. 1, 2,
Youth Education	p. 2
Reformation Lecture	p. 5
Mission Conference	p. 7

continued on page 2

Congo Reunion

continued from page 1

the name of Angie Anderson. Angie had served in Congo for almost 30 years as an educator from 1956 – 1983. He remembered Angie and her camera, as she documented missionary work in Congo. He related that he did not have and had never seen a photograph of his father or mother and wondered if he might find one in Angie’s collection with us.

We were able to show him 2 boxes of photographs from Angie Anderson’s photographic collection, and he did, in fact, find a family photograph of his mother, father, siblings and himself at the age of 8 years old!

Providentially, a week and a day later, we were blessed with an unannounced visit from the original donor of this collection and were able to share with her how her donation had impacted this gentleman’s life.

It is a joyous and heart-warming occasion when we are able to share our collections with those who ask, which is only one of the many things we do as staff in our work to preserve our Presbyterian history and heritage.

Do you have Montreat, missionary, ministerial or church history items, documents, or photographs that could impact and influence our mission here and the lives of others? If so, we welcome your donations and your family’s history.



This year’s Congo Mission Reunion is shown in Upper Anderson.

Summer Youth Education and Programs

This summer saw the most diversified youth religious programming by the Presbyterian Heritage Center since the COVID pandemic started four years ago. Working with seminarians, youth ministers and collegian club staff, the summer effort involved coordinated activities for both club and youth conferences.

Supported by Richard and Susanne Query, the summer seminarians were Natasha Taylor from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, and Chance Snell from the



University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Des Moines, IA.

“We are most grateful to the Presbyterian Heritage Center for their support,” noted Vice President for MRA Programs Rev. Carol Steele. “The PHC had far-reaching effects for the two interns, the clubs children they

supported through PHC programming and the summer staff who worked in those club groups as counselors.”

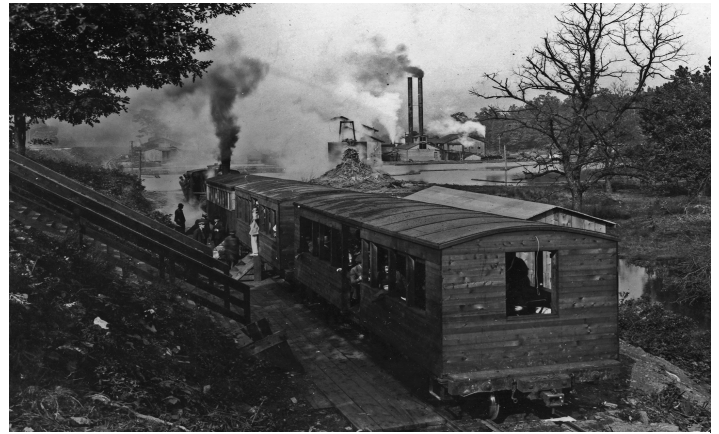
The seminarians presented devotions, programs on the Reformation, English language Bibles, John Knox and other activities. These club offerings were targeted to elementary and middle high school students.

A new youth education program this year included in-depth discussions and heritage hunts for high school youth led by Ron Vinson of the PHC and Bill Buchanan from the Asheville Youth Mission. These advanced activities were attended by groups from Pennsylvania, Florida, North and South Carolina and Georgia. These sessions also explored notable Presbyterians and their historical impact on the United States, including the 1789 letters exchanged by the then newly established General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church and the then newly inaugurated President George Washington (pictured at left).

The Rev. Dr. Bill Buchanan is the Executive Director for Youth Mission Co. He is an experienced Christian educator and an ordained Presbyterian minister. He grew up in Raleigh, NC, and has worked in churches in Virginia and North Carolina, particularly focusing on ministry with youth and mission.

The Montreat Adult Summer Club & Mt. Mitchell RR

The July 23rd Montreat Adult Summer Club program featured Presbyterian Heritage Center Executive Director Ron Vinson and staff member Katelyn Powell. Ron and Katelyn presented a program on the history of the Mount Mitchell Railroad. They described and illustrated how the railroad originated and was operated and how it transformed into the Mount Mitchell Toll Road. In addition to many slides, several artifacts from the railroad and never-before-seen photographs from the PHC's collection were shared with the large crowd that attended. To top off the afternoon, railroad themed snacks were enjoyed by all.



A Mount Mitchell Railroad passenger car prepares to leave the station near the Black Mountain Sawmill.

Record Attendance at Refreshing Ice Cream Social

A hot July afternoon felt overwhelmingly special at this year's PHC Ice Cream Social. Red checkered tablecloths and live musical entertainment set the stage for rich fellowship and good ole fashioned summer fun. Held on the lawn outside the Heritage Center and sponsored by the Heritage Council, the event drew over 400 ice cream lovers; the number of visitors greatly exceeded expectations, almost tripling last years' number of 125.

Fortunately, the 18 or 19 gallons of ice cream held out, although it was a close race to the finish. The word must have gotten out that the Ice Cream Social is something not to be missed!

Homemade ice cream flavors ranged from strawberry to peach to chocolate and vanilla with sprinkles. Servers and volunteers sported new aprons embroidered with "The PHC Ice Cream Truck". Around 40 people participated in the scavenger hunt inside the Heritage Center; three participants won gift certificates to the Huck! The gift of community fellowship and old fashioned Montreat fun was enjoyed by all!

The Presbyterian Heritage Center thanks its Heritage Council and the many volunteers which made the Ice Cream Social possible.

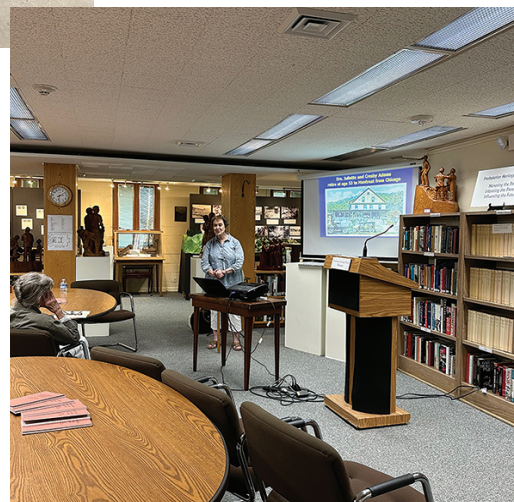


Some photos of those who came to the PHC's Ice Cream social in July.



2023 Volunteer Recognition

The Presbyterian Heritage Center would like to recognize and thank the many volunteers who have donated their time and talents to the PHC during the past year. Many of these volunteers have been instrumental in organizing, leading and staffing several important community events throughout the year. These events have increased awareness of the PHC and educated many residents and visitors to Montreat on the mission and activities of the PHC. These events have also provided important fellowship opportunities for the Montreat community. Other volunteers have assisted the PHC with educational programs, research and other activities. The Presbyterian Heritage Center is deeply grateful to each of the individuals who have offered such valuable assistance to its programming. The PHC's Heritage Council has provided immeasurable support to the PHC mission with its creative activities and events. For the Tour of Homes in August, there were 88 community volunteers who served as docents in the homes on tour. We appreciate all of you who assist us, and we welcome new volunteers, as well.



Pottery Donation

continued from page 1

This collection includes not only pottery, but Roman glass as well. It spans a timeframe of 3500 years, from the Early Bronze Age to the Byzantine Period. The Cousins Foundation loaned the Heritage Center several pieces of the collection in 2014 for an exhibit on the Holy Land and has maintained a close relationship with the Cousins family and its Foundation since that time. After years of the pottery being in storage, the Heritage Center's executive



director, Ron Vinson, announced the generous donation of the collection in its entirety. Several pieces have already been placed on prominent display in the lobby of the PHC, thanks to the generosity of the Cousins Foundation.



Staff member, Katelyn Powell, details the collection to attendees of the PHC's workshop during the MRA's Women's Connection.

Reformation Lecture

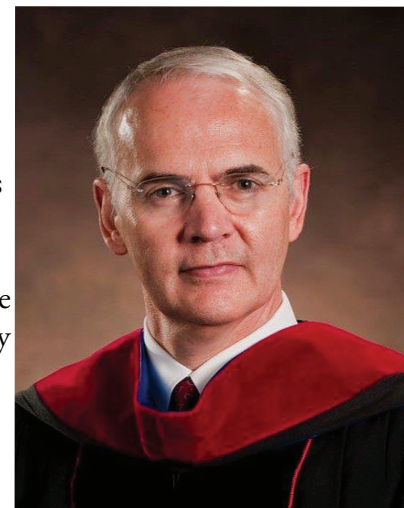
The Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons is the Presbyterian Heritage Center's 2023 Reformation Distinguished Lecturer. Dr. Gibbons' lecture will be held on Friday, October 27th, at 7:00 pm. in Upper Anderson in Montreat as the highlight of this year's PHC Reformation Distinguished Lecture series .

Dr. Gibbons will be speaking on "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. The lecture is open to the public, and there is no charge for attendance.

Dr. Gibbons is Senior Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, South Carolina (ECO), where he has served for 16 years. Dr. Gibbons holds joint honors in Ecclesiastical History and Systematic Theology from the University of Glasgow and a Doctor of Ministry from Highland Theological College in Inverness, Scotland.

This past summer, he and his wife, Ruth, were the guests of King Charles III and HM Queen Camilla at Balmoral Castle. Dr. and Mrs. Gibbons joined the Royal family on August 20th, when he was guest preacher at Crathie Parish Church, with the King and other members of the royal family in attendance. Dr. Gibbons commented, "King Charles and Her Majesty Queen Camilla could not have been more welcoming or hospitable. It was the privilege of a lifetime to conduct worship at Crathie; I was deeply honored to be invited and thrilled that members of the Royal Family were in attendance." In July of this year, Dr. Gibbons was Guest Chaplain to the U.S. Senate.

Prior to being called to First Presbyterian Church of Greenville and to moving to the United States, Dr. Gibbons worked for the Church of Scotland and was based in Inverness. Dr. Gibbons served as co-moderator of the ECO denomination's initial Theological Task Force.



The Global Picture of Changing Missions

One of the top three objectives of the Presbyterian Heritage Center is to increase the understanding of the history of missions. There have been 14 major exhibits on missionaries and mission at the PHC during the past 16 years. These were accompanied by scores of special events.



“Missions in a Changing World” is a multi-country display of foreign missions through photos, archival documents, artifacts and a computer touch-screen kiosk. This large exhibit covers the successes and the failures of the church’s mission programs.



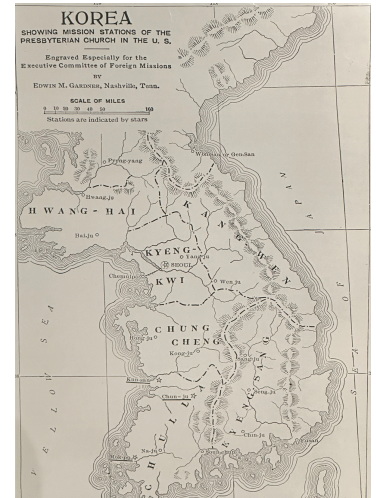
Among the countries covered by this global overview exhibit are Brazil, China, Congo, Korea, Iraq, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, and Syria.

Missions and missionaries have always faced trials and tribulations in their fields over the centuries. For example, Presbyterian Executive Director

of Foreign Missions Samuel Hall Chester saw turbulent challenges across the globe during his 25-year tenure.

These challenges included:

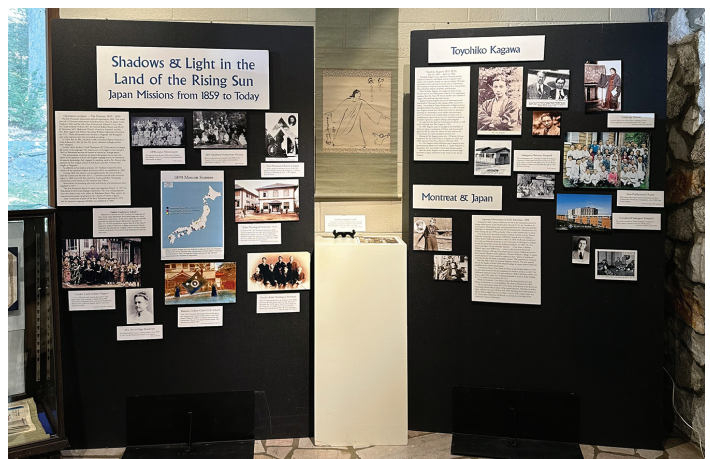
- Financial Panics (depressions) of 1893 and 1896;
- The Spanish American War (1898);
- The Boxer Rebellion (1901);
- Russo-Japanese War (1904 – 1905);
- Congo human rights atrocities (1904 – 1908);
- The Mexican Revolution (1910 – 1918);
- World War I (The Great War).



Because there is limited space to cover all mission history and all countries, the Presbyterian Heritage Center will be adding digital pictures, maps and other materials on its touch-screen kiosk in the PHC lobby.

The mission kiosk also will illustrate modern mission options utilized by local churches conducting direct programs. Perhaps most churches still work with denominational programs. But others are combining with independent, non-denominational missions.

The Presbyterian and Reformed churches have been a significant component to the growth of Christianity in the non-western world for the last two centuries. The church continues to adapt its mission efforts in the rapidly changing world as it seeks to Share the Faith, Heal the Body, and Educate the Mind.



Help Celebrate Ron Vinson's 16 Years at the PHC

On December 31, 2023, Ron Vinson will step down after 16 years as Executive Director at the Presbyterian Heritage Center. It is hard to commemorate the accomplishments of 16 years, bringing the PHC from its birth to a leading educational, theological, and historical organization in the United States.

On November 5, 2023, you are invited to a reception from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the PHC to celebrate Ron's illustrious work and to thank him for his amazing creativity and accomplishments for the PHC.

A round-trip shuttle will be provided from the Anderson Auditorium parking lot to the PHC.

As a tribute to Ron, copies of an in-depth interview of Ron's PHC career will be available. It is a fascinating summary of how the PHC started from nothing to where it is today, full of anecdotes and other special memories. An excerpt of the interview is included in this newsletter.

Come and celebrate 16 years of creativity and growth.



Samuel Hall Chester III (left) presents the 1920s retirement book signed with stories from missionaries for the Chesters. The album was donated to the Presbyterian Heritage Center and received by PHC Executive Director, Ron Vinson.

2024 Mission Conference Plans Announced

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? How should local churches successfully implement their mission program?

These are some of the critical questions that will be debated and explored during the missionary conference to be held on September 5 – 6, 2024, in Montreat, NC.

“The 2024 mission conference will be a unique opportunity to discuss strategies for the future - while honoring the contributions of missionaries and missions of the past,” notes the Rev. Dr. John Akers, Chairman, Education and Special Events Committee of the Presbyterian Heritage Center. “The September 2024 conference is expanding the conference program to provide local churches with additional speakers and panels to help with their mission management. This meeting is perfect for pastors, church mission supervisors, and local committees.”

The “Missions in a Changing World” program will
Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat

include a number of internationally-known mission workers, denominational leaders, and scholars from multiple denominations and organizations.

Of special interest will be a celebration honoring active and retired missionaries and their families and descendants on Thursday, September 5th.

PHC Board member Tom Widmer, a longtime executive with The Outreach Foundation and its global mission endeavors, said: “We have much to learn from those who have gone before us in the mission field. As we explore the future of missions, we must build on the experience, wisdom, and dedication of missionaries.”

A limited number of scholarships to this conference will be available for college and seminary students who may be contemplating missionary service. In addition, the conference will provide opportunities for those who are interested in becoming personally involved in missions to connect with various Presbyterian and Reformed mission agencies and administrators.

2023 Heritage Fund Report

As you make plans for your year-end giving this year, please consider making a generous donation to the Presbyterian Heritage Center. Each year, the Presbyterian Heritage Center depends on the support of individuals like you. Please help the PHC continue to fulfill its mission, including housing the exciting Cousins collection of biblical era pottery and glasswork, by donating to the PHC's annual Heritage Fund giving campaign.

Donations to the annual Heritage Fund campaign are the lifeblood of the PHC. They fund almost all of its operating budget. The PHC's programs and activities, including its museum exhibits, educational activities, library, webinars, publications and archive program, are paid for almost entirely by contributions to the annual Heritage Fund campaign. The PHC will always be a thankful and careful steward of your donations.

The Presbyterian Heritage Center is qualified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Your contributions to the PHC are tax deductible as allowed by law. Various types of donations that provide you with tax advantages, including contributions of appreciated stock and donations of Required Minimum Distributions from IRAs, are welcomed and can easily be accommodated.

Your contributions to the PHC's Heritage Fund annual giving campaign at whatever level, are vitally important and greatly appreciated. Thank you for supporting the Presbyterian Heritage Center and its mission through your annual contributions.

Christmas Tea

December 6, 2023

The PHC's Christmas Tea will be held on December 6th, the first Wednesday of the month from 2:30 - 5:00 pm. All are welcome to come to the PHC for our annual High Tea event.

Join in with the PHC staff for a time for fellowship and snacks. This free drop-by event is a thank you to our contributors and the entire Montreat community for its support of our efforts.



The Heritage Center decorates the library for the Christmas Tea event on Dec. 6, 2023.

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 to the right
- Through a QCD
- On our website at phcmontreat.org/donations.html
- For instant giving, text "give" 828.373.3559
- Or scan the QR code on the right

We are grateful for your generosity.

Scan here:

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 \$ _____



Presbyterian Heritage Center
PO Box 207
Montreat, NC 28757