PHC Launching Webinars & Treasures from the Attic This Spring

This spring, you can join in a variety of virtual online programs offered by the Presbyterian Heritage Center (PHC).

As a result of new high-speed internet connections, the PHC will be launching a series of lectures on a wide range of topics, as well as audience participation events — Treasures from the Attic, which shares stories and information on Presbyterian and Montreat artifacts.

These weekly virtual programs will be webcast during May and June. Look for the meeting ID information via emails and online at our website — www.phcmontreat.org (click the Events page of the navigation menu).

The half-hour webinar programs will include presentations on Presbyterian missions to Southeast tribes (Cherokee, Choctaw, etc.) and Sioux Nation in the Upper Midwest. There also will be webinar programs on Montreat Summer Girls Camp and Biblical Archaeology.

The 30-minute show-and-tell program, Treasures from the Attic, will feature PHC staff talking about rare artifacts and items from our archives, as well as opportunities for the audience to share their treasures or mysteries. A small in-person attendance for each webcast will be available. You must call the PHC to reserve your in-person spot — 828-669-6556.

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2022 National Conference
From Shakespeare to the Inklings:
The Bible’s Impact on Creative Imagination

From Shakespeare to the Inklings: The Bible’s Impact on Creative Imagination conference will be conducted March 16 - 18, 2022, by the Presbyterian Heritage Center. Registration is now open.

A follow up to the C.S. Lewis conference attended by 600-plus attendees in November 2019, this new conference will feature world-renowned scholars revealing the Bible’s inspiration and illumination in literature, art, and music across the centuries.

Conference experts will discuss how the Bible affected the works of leading luminaries, such as C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, John Milton, Shakespeare, John Bunyan, Handel, Mary Sibley, artists and more.

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Presbyterian Missions & Cherokees, 1750s — Present

When Presbyterian missionaries first began to interact and establish relationships with the Cherokee Nation, it wasn’t just about Christianizing the Native Americans, but also helping tribes to assimilate into the colonial culture. With the occurrence of the Great Awakening in the 1730s and 1740s, more Presbyterians felt the call to mingle with the natives not as outsiders, but to live among them as brothers and sisters in Christ. David Brainerd was among the first missionaries to the Native Americans in the New England area, while Samuel Davies, John Martin, and William Richardson led the efforts to evangelize the Cherokee and other tribes in the southern colonies in the 1750s and 1760s. The French and Indian War and the American Revolutionary War caused disruption in the ministering process.

With the end of the Revolutionary War, the Second Great Awakening (1795-1835) renewed the missionary mindset of the Presbyterians, and they once again began to expand their missionary efforts to convert the Native Americans. This coincided with several moves made by the United State government to “civilize” or change the culture in an effort to expand settlements westward. In 1802, the U.S. started the process of granting land to settlers in the state of Georgia. Much of that land had been occupied by the Cherokee Nation and had been promised to them through a series of land treaties in the decade prior. The encroachment of the settlers set off decades of conflict between the Cherokee and their new neighbors.

Rev. Gideon Blackburn began the first Presbyterian Mission School with the Cherokee in 1804.

In 1817, Presbyterian minister Cyrus Kingsbury was sent by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) to the same region where Gideon Blackburn had been ministering to in the previous decade. Rev. Kingsbury established the Brainerd Mission.

Two years later, the U.S. Congress passed the Civilization Fund Act, providing financial support to benevolent societies that stimulated the “civilization process.” President James Monroe visited the Brainerd Mission in 1819 and was pleased with the efforts he saw.

On March 1, 1831, Georgia passed a law aimed at evicting missionaries, who were encouraging the Cherokee resistance to forced removal. The ABCFM, a Congregational and Presbyterian missionary organization, hired former U.S. Attorney General William Wirt, a Presbyterian, to challenge the new law. On March 3, 1832, the decision in Worcester v. Georgia, authored by Chief Justice John Marshall, held that the Cherokee Nation was “a distinct community, occupying its own territory, with boundaries accurately described, in which the laws of Georgia can have no force, and which the citizens of Georgia have no right to enter but with the assent of the Cherokees themselves or in conformity with treaties and with the acts of Congress.”

While the Cherokee continued to fight for their lands by legal means, President Andrew Jackson began the forced removal through treaties with partial leadership of other Native American tribes, including the Choctaw and the Creek. Rev. Cyrus Kingsbury had relocated to be with the Choctaw where he founded both the Eliot Mission and the Mayhew Mission. On-going legal battles against the U.S. government and states were unsuccessful. The Choctaw became the first of the tribes to be relocated. By 1838, around 2,000 Cherokee had left Georgia. Then President Martin Van Buren sent in soldiers to speed up the removal by forcing them out of their homes. They were then marched over 1,200 miles into “Indian Territory,” now known as Oklahoma. It is estimated that between 3,000 - 5,000 Cherokee died from an assortment of disease and starvation.

This systematic removal is known today as the Trail of Tears.

This poster commemorates the 1986 Joint Council Meeting of the Western and Eastern Bands of the Cherokee, marking the 150th anniversary of the 1836 split that led to the Trail of Tears.
From Shakespeare to Inklings: The Bible’s Impact on Creativity

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Dr. Hannibal Hamlin, The Ohio State University and the Center for the Study of Religion, is an expert on The Bible’s Literary & Culture Impact on Shakespeare, the greatest English playwright. He also will discuss other leading Renaissance writers.

Dr. David Downing is co-director of the Wade Center (the leading U.S. archive and museum on C.S. Lewis) at Wheaton College. He will explore the Bible’s impact on John Bunyan & C.S. Lewis in Pilgrim’s Progress/Pilgrim’s Regress presentation. Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress was the most popular English novel of the 17th - 19th centuries, while Pilgrim’s Regress is the first fictional novel by C.S. Lewis after his religious conversion.

Tim Ternes, program director of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library and director of the St. John’s Bible, will bring some of the most creative art ever to appear in such illuminated manuscripts. His presentation is From Inspiration to Illumination.

Co-director of the Wade Center, Dr. Crystal Downing has written a new Sayers book. Her presentation is Shattering the Stained Glass, Dorothy L. Sayers & The Bible.

Other conference topics include the greatest English legend, which was creatively inspired by the Bible — King Arthur Legend: Sir Thomas Malory & the Inklings. There will be other C.S. Lewis and Tolkien experts speaking at the conference, including Dr. Don King, author of five books about C.S. Lewis/Inklings; and Dr. Hal Poe, author of a new three volume biography of C.S. Lewis that is being published (2019 - 2022).

There are registration discounts for early sign-ups. Space is limited. To register, call 828-419-9829 or go to www.montreat.org/events/inklings.

You can also register by mail (written to MCC, but put “PHC Inklings Conference” on the “For” line on the check) and send to Montreat Conference Center, PO Box 969, Montreat, NC 28757.

Presbyterian Heritage Center Webinars to be Launched in May

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Webinars and Treasures from the Attic will debut on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, from 10:30 - 11:15 am.

The webinars/treasures schedule is:

May 5 — Presbyterian Missions to SE Indian Tribes, from 1750s to the present
May 12 — Presbyterian Missions to the Sioux, from 1870s to the present
May 19 — Treasures from the Attic 1
May 26 — Treasures from the Attic 2
June 2 — Montreat Girls Camp: 1920s — 1960s
June 9 — Treasures from the Attic 3
June 16 — Archaeology in the Middle East (Biblical Archaeology Part 1)
June 23 — Treasures from the Attic 4

Last year, the Presbyterian Heritage Center started to greatly expand its online activities. These initiatives included Facebook, YouTube videos, and the PHC blog.

PHC Consulting Archaeologist Katelyn Powell holds a 2,000 year old Biblical oil lamp.
PHC 2021 Exhibits

Current and future exhibits at the Presbyterian Heritage Center include:

Cultures & Conflict: Native Americans & Presbyterian Missions
From the 17th Century in New England through present-day missions to Native Americans, Presbyterian missionaries have operated schools, defended Indian rights to land in the East, challenged the removal of tribes and much more. Come learn about these epic struggles. Open.

Archaeology in the Middle East
Biblical archaeology has changed the knowledge base of the Holy Land. From the Dead Seas Scrolls to important excavations, come to the exhibit and be enlightened. Discovered with the Dead Seas Scrolls, this replica Psalms scroll contains 11 of the 15 Songs of Ascent (Psalms 120-134). Pilgrims would sing these Psalms while they ascended to Jerusalem. It was in 1956 that a Bedouin discovered Qumran Cave 11 with these 1st century CE (Common Era) Psalms. Opens May.

Fantasy & Fiction: C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien & Dorothy L. Sayers Literature Exhibit
Rare 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.

Mt. Mitchell Railroad
During the 1910s and early 1920s, a logging and sight-seeing steam railroad conducted operations from the Black Mountain sawmill through Montreat to Camp Alice on Mt. Mitchell. The exhibit includes a model railroad of the line. Exhibit opens June 2021, with the model installed by November 2021.

Central American & Caribbean Mission Histories
Cuba, Caribbean Islands and Central America were mission fields for all Presbyterian denominations. Open through Nov. 2021.

Civil Rights & Presbyterians: Centennial of U.S. Women’s Suffrage
Presbyterians were on both sides of the issue of women’s right to vote. Learn how the Suffrage Movement developed political power and pressured Presbyterian President Woodrow Wilson to support the cause. Open.

Who Are Presbyterians?
From John Calvin and John Knox to Presbyterians coming to American colonies, this exhibit explores all facets of Presbyterianism, including the Scottish Reformation. Ongoing.

Presbyterian Heritage Center
PHC 2020 Annual Report & Financial Supporters

The 2020 pandemic year tested operations of the Presbyterian Heritage Center, as well as many other institutions. We were opened to the public for much of the year. We greatly expanded our online offerings — YouTube videos, blogs, Twitter, games and puzzles, webinars and much more! We worked with authors, churches, film makers, and students throughout the year.

Thanks to our 2020 financial supporters and cost efficient management, the PHC just about broke even. While income was down from the budget, we were able to reduce our expenses by deferring two exhibits and other activities. The PHC was closed to the public for several months under N C pandemic orders.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2021.

Heritage Society
Anonymous

Calvin Society
R.C. & S.G. Anderson Foundation
Susanne L. & G. Richard Query
Lerra Jean & Skip Taylor, Jr.
Phyllis & R. Jackson Sadler
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Shepherd Foundation
Missionary Emergency Fund, Inc.

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Terry Brown & Lester Butler
Katheryn Kirk Fouche
Montreat Cottagers, Inc.
Montreat Presbyterian Church
Lila & Richard Ray
William A.L. Sibley, Jr.
Judy & Gene Shuford

Documents, letters & photos highlight the 1964 Civil Rights Act, with support of Southern ministers and U.S. Senators. Donated in 2020 as part of the John Randolph Taylor Collection by Margaret Almeida.

Salampasu mask from the Congo, donated in 2020 as part of the Lucretia & Donald D. Watt Collection at the PHC by Janet Watt Steele & Donald D. Watt, Jr.
PHC Financial Supporters During 2020

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Wooden desk used by Rev. Samuel Hall Chester from 1917 to 1930 in his home in Montreat, NC. Chester served as Executive Secretary and other leadership positions to the Foreign Mission Board, Presbyterian Church, U.S., for more than 30 years. Rev. Chester painted his name and Black Mountain, NC, on a bottom drawer. Donated by Anne Hager.
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Robert Milton Winter
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Mary Jo & Perrin Wright, Jr.
PHC Contribution Options, Including Endowment Fund

The PHC relies on financial contributions to conduct its annual educational activities, create exhibits and preserve its various collections.

During a covid-19 pandemic year, we still have to pay our lease costs, utilities, insurance and numerous other expenses. Our part-time staff carefully trimmed expenses while working on online options — virtual exhibits, a blog, social media communications, games and more. We are working on 2021 exhibits, as well as planning and implementing programs and displays for 2022.

Please help us implement our programs by making a donation now to the PHC Heritage Annual Fund. We hope you agree with educating young people and adults on Presbyterian history and Reformed Churches, their worldwide missions, and the unique heritage of Montreat, but we need your annual financial support.

To fund our mission, the independent PHC depends on contributions from hundreds of individuals, churches of all sizes, and foundations from across the country. We also welcome stock donations. We are an IRS registered 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization and contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

New PHC Endowment Fund Is Now Open

A new endowment fund has been created this year for the Presbyterian Heritage Center. Designed to provide long-term financial stability in the future, the endowment is another option that can be considered in your estate planning. Contact the PHC for more information on naming the PHC as a beneficiary in your will.

How to Contribute

Every day, your Heritage Center is educating and captivating both online and onsite visitors about Presbyterian, mission, and Montreat history. You can mail a donation to: Presbyterian Heritage Center, PO Box 207, Montreat, NC 28757 or you can contribute online using PayPal or Network for Good on our website — www.phcmonreat.org/donations.html.

Through the secure online donations, you can make a one-time gift or set up a sustaining contribution every month.

Contact us if you wish to discuss naming opportunities to honor someone, to talk about our Legacy kiosk video option, or to review estate planning.

Please give by mail, in-person or online. Thank you.

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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PHC Heritage Annual 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 $ ______________

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