Preservation Maryland Site Visit

Doug Harbit, the Preservation Maryland contact visited August 31st with Fr. Rob. He was very impressed with the accomplishments that had been suggested in the Structural Engineering Assessment conducted January, 2017. Although the year ended in October for the Six to Fix project, we are very fortunate Preservation Maryland will continue working with us and supporting all the Maryland Six to Fix projects in the years to come.

Summer Maintenance

The Structural Engineering Assessment by Keast and Hood offered recommendations to stabilize the Manor House. Three fireplaces and hearths were replaced using the old bricks available and special mortar recommended for historic buildings. The re-pointing of the outside bricks was also accomplished. Ventilation efforts were pursued by making critter proof screens around the entire basement window openings. A screen door was built and installed on the first floor from the basement to allow circulation of air. The Technical Subcommittee under the leadership of Drew Dowdell handled this project.

Donations to:
St. Francis Xavier Church
21370 Newtowne Neck Road
Leonardtown, Md 20650
Memo Line: Manor House Restoration
Contact: Lynn Delahay (240-925-6485)
George Matiak (301-475-9698)
E-mail: Newtownemanorhouse@gmail.com

Newtowne Manor House Restoration

MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Newtowne Manor House, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to ensuring that the Newtowne Manor House, an 18th-century structure, is preserved and restored so that future generations may gain an understanding of and appreciation for its historical significance.
Fall Maintenance
The Manor House Committee thanks everyone who came out either October 7th or October 14th to complete fall work at the Manor House. The existing window covers were taken down and repainted, new vents were installed on the window coverings, new window covers were made for upstairs and painted, weather damaged Plexiglas was removed and replaced, hurricane clips were repainted and reinstalled, and the lean-to was repainted. These measures were taken to winterize the Manor House while continuing to help with ventilation. Special thanks to Joey Thompson, Drew Dowell, George Matisick, Al Rudman, Carol Moody, Marybeth Dowdell, Jim Howe, Walt Hayes, Steve Raley, Tim Cooksey, and Lynn Delahay.

Marybeth Dowdell and Carol Moody are repainting the window coverings.

The crew worked hard accomplishing all the tasks.
Oral History Project

The oral histories of St. Francis Xavier Church and the Newtowne Manor House are continuing to be collected. A special thanks to all who have been interviewed so far and to those who have asked the questions. Documents have also been contributed by Rob Gardiner and Diane Delahay. If you are interested in being interviewed or conducting an interview, please contact Lynn Delahay, 240-925-6485 or Sarah Matisick, 301-247-7416.

Georgetown Project

As part of the Slave Descendant Project at Georgetown University, the Newtown Sacramental Record 1819-1838 has been digitized. The original document is handwritten by Jesuit priests serving at Newtown and is challenging to read. In Edwin Beitzell’s book, “Jesuit Missions of St. Mary’s County” there is a transcription of the record. If you are interested in checking out a family member in the original document, contact Sarah Matisick.

Interpretive Panels

The Newtowne Manor House has been chosen for the FY18 Maryland Heritage Areas Authority grant coordinated by Project Manager, Jennifer Pitts for (1) site panel and (2) interpretive panels at the Manor House. The Panel Sub-committee under the leadership of Steve Raley has been working on this project for the past year. A site visit with the 106 Group including the exhibit developer and design consultant was conducted on November 9, 2017. Thanks to committee members, Steve Raley, Frank Greenwell, Pat Greenwell, Christine Senese, Carol Moody, George Matisick, Mike DeManss, Mike Smolek and Sarah Matisick for their time on this project.

Christmas at the Manor House

The Manor House has been adorned with wreaths and handmade bows. Swags made of greenery and holly have been hung on the doors. Special thanks to Al and Libby Rudman, Drew Dowdell, George Matisick, Richard Edwards, Kathie Kirby and Joey Thompson. The Manor House will be illuminated during the Christmas Eve Mass.

Guest Speaker

On December 3rd the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, Fr. Thomas Clifford, SJ gave a talk on “Early Society of Jesus” and the “Society of Jesus Community Today”. Fr. Clifford serves as the pastor of St. Ignatius Church at Chapel Point and is the caretaker of the historic St. Thomas Manor built in 1741 which is the oldest, continuous-use Jesuit residence in the world.
We’re On the Tour

St. Francis Xavier Church and the Newtowne Manor House have been selected to be on the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage May 26, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is an honor to have been selected. The Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of architecturally significant properties in the State of Maryland. The Pilgrimage has remained constant with this purpose since its formation in 1930.

The Bell ticket is available for $30.00 which will entitle you to visit any of the other 5 counties on the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage Tour. Lunch during the tour is available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to purchase for $15.00 with a pre-paid reservation by May 12, 2018 and will be served at St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall. Lunch choices include: chicken salad sandwiches, portabella mushroom sandwiches or St. Mary’s County stuffed ham sandwiches as well as a gluten-free Caesar salad; a side salad, chips, dessert and a bottle of water. St. Francis Xavier will provide a dessert table and beverages.

For additional information about the tour tickets or lunch reservations, please call Judy Moe at 301-475-7974 or email jemoe@earthlink.net.

If you would like to be on the SFX parish committee to help with this project, please contact Lynn Delahay 240-925-6485.

Walk in the Park 2018

Mark your calendars and plan to join in for the “Walk in the Park” on Saturday, April 28, 2018. More details to follow.

Meeting Attendance

All parishioners are invited to attend the monthly Manor House meetings. Typically the nights are alternated on Mondays and Thursdays. The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 25, 2018.