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Editor: Deborah B. Crall, Trinity Cathedral, 100 West Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, AZ 85003
TheHistoriographer@gmail.com

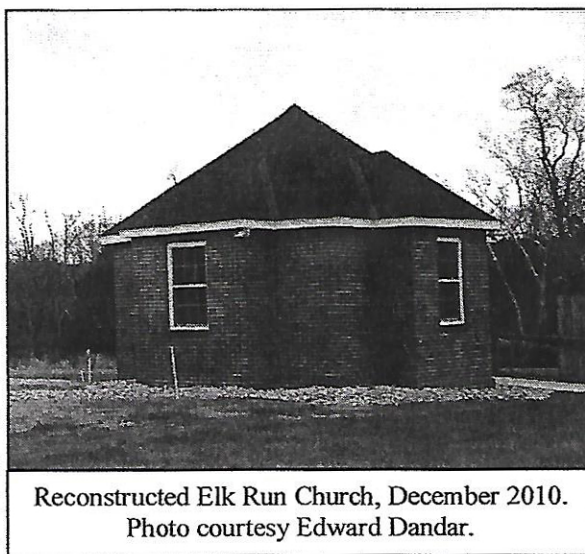
Elk Run Church Preservation Project Reaches Major Milestone

In 1999, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Catlett, Virginia, in collaboration with St. James Episcopal Church in Warrenton, Virginia, led a Community effort in acquiring this historical property.

The Elk Run Church Site Preservation Committee archaeologically located, defined and preserved the foundation of the 1750s Anglican Church in Elk Run, Fauquier County, Virginia. The property was donated by Ned Browning, a descendent of the Anglican Church's first Minister, the Rev. James Keith, and maternal grandfather of Chief Justice John Marshall.

The all-volunteer archaeological effort was conducted from November 1999 until October 2006 exposing the heretofore unknown stone foundation, laid down in the 1750s in the form of a Greek cross. Numerous artifacts came to light, including Indian arrowheads, handmade nails, ceramic fragments, early coins, brick and glass. A cemetery was discovered adjacent to the Church.

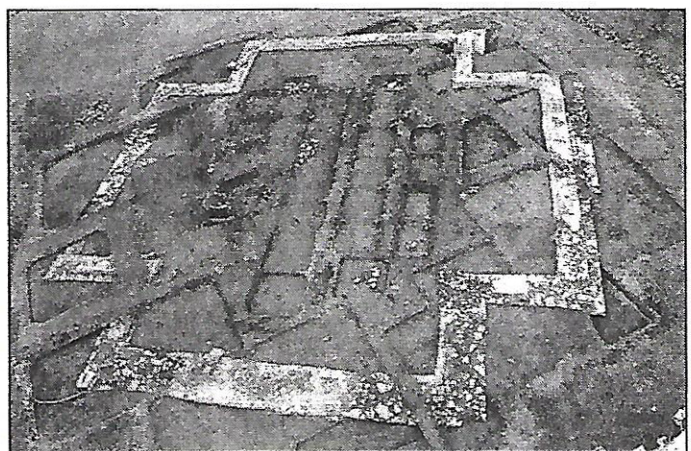
The archaeological effort included local residents, church members, grade school, high school and col-



Reconstructed Elk Run Church, December 2010.
Photo courtesy Edward Dandar.

lege students, Boy Scout troops, and visitors from outside the county and the state. Ultimately, over 54 units were excavated by the volunteers. A total of 129 volunteers provided over 5,803 hours of service between 1999 and 2006.

Conversion of the archaeological site to a Historical Church Park started in November 2006. The construction of a Mini-Museum over an excavated seg-



The stone foundation of the original church.
Photo courtesy Edward Dandar

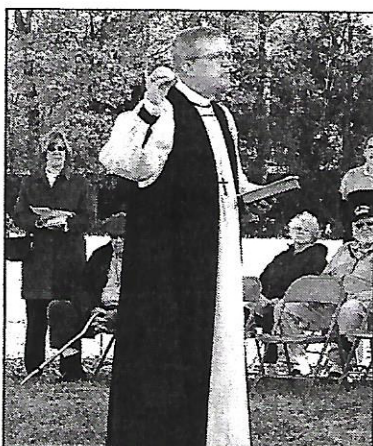
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ment of the old Church foundation was completed in August 2010.

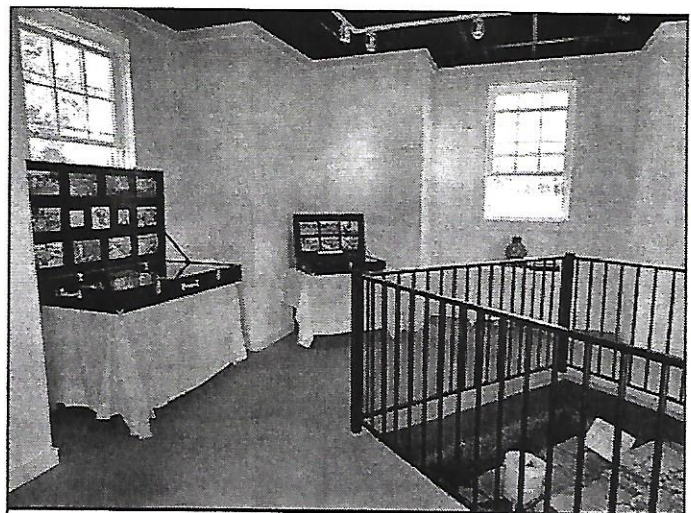
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church held a Dedication



The Rt. Rev. E. (Ted) Gulick, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, officiating at the Dedication Ceremony.
Photo courtesy Edward Dandar.

Ceremony for the new Elk Run Historical Church Park Mini-Museum building on 14 November 2010. A short church service was held within the outline of the old Church foundation for the first time in over 200 years. Officiating at the Dedication was the Rt. Rev. E. (Ted) Gulick, new Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia.

The Museum's goal is to depict the history of the area (Native Americans and settlers), the Church and its first Minister, the seven year archaeological effort, and conversion to a Historic Church Park. The Committee needs about \$5,000 to prepare and hang all of the Museum wall items: about \$1,200 for each of the Interpretative Signs, and \$2,400 to update the video documentary. The current video documentary is being used in Fauquier schools and is available in County libraries.



The interior of Elk Run Church, with display cases highlighting artifacts and pictures from the archaeological dig. The lower right hand corner of the photograph shows part of the exposed foundation of the original site.
Photo courtesy Edward Dandar.

If you are inclined to help finish the Museum Walls, organizations and/or individuals can send checks payable to the "Elk Run Church Site Preservation Fund" in care of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 8538 Greenwich Road, Catlett, Virginia 20119. All donations are tax deductible. Further information on our efforts over the past eleven years can be found on our website at www.elkrunchurch.org.

*Edward Dandar
efdandar@us.net*