

Mini-museum construction completed

A unique 10-year historical preservation effort, led by the Elk Run Church Site Preservation Committee, reached a major milestone on Aug. 31 when its mini-museum received its final occupancy permit.

In 1999, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, in collaboration with St. James Episcopal Church, led a community effort in acquiring this historical property, and archaeologically located, defined and preserved the foundation of a 1750s Anglican Church in Elk Run.

The property was donated by Ned Browning, a descendent of the Anglican Church's first minister, Rev. James Keith, the maternal grandfather of Chief Justice John Marshall.

The all-volunteer archaeological effort was conducted from November 1999 until October 2006. Conversion of the archaeological site to a Historical Church Park started in November 2006.

The construction of a mini-museum over a re-excavated segment of the old church foundation was completed in August 2010.

The preservation committee needs the community's support in acquiring the necessary funds to prepare history items for the museum walls, which would include the history of the area, its first inhabitants, the church, its first minister, and the seven-year archaeological and park preservation effort.

Citizens, organizations and businesses are asked to contribute in achieving this important Historic Church



Courtesy photo

Glimpse into the past

The Elk Run Church mini-museum is built over the site of a re-excavated segment of the old church foundation.

Park goal.

The committee is also planning to update its current video documentary so it can replace the one currently used in Fauquier schools and libraries.

Funding will also be used for installing two external interpretative signs at the site for visitors to learn about the seven-year archaeological work and the discovered cemetery.

The committee needs approximately \$1,200 for each of the interpretative signs, another \$1,200 to complete the final wall items, and \$2,400 to update the video documentary.

If you are inclined to help, organizations and/or individuals can send checks payable to the "Elk Run Church Site Preservation Fund" and sent in care of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 8538

Greenwich Road, Catlett, Virginia 20119.

All donations are tax deductible, and we can cite the organization or individual who contributed to a particular history display item on a plaque.

Specific details on this 10-year effort can be found on the Elk Run Church website at www.elkrunchurch.org.

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