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ISSUE 21 Spring 2020

Friends of Sacred Structures Newsletter

Inspired Space



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Upcoming!

FOSS will celebrate historic preservation month during May. Please watch for details regarding the fundraising event and opportunity to tour the church buildings where FOSS worked in 2019.

Recent Events Supported by FOSS

The "Unhappy Hour" fall event supporting recognition of Alta Vista Christian Church La Gloria de Dios as one of a statewide designation of "Places in Peril" benefited from nomination by FOSS board member Cynthia Ammerman, whose objective was to raise community awareness. Historical significance of the 1931 church to the Hispanic and Latin Heritage organization reflects the challenges the congregation faces as the building ages in an era of gentrification. Announced on the eve of Hispanic Heritage/Latin American Heritage month, the event ran through October 15.

Seeking assistance, the historic church in the Armourdale/West Bottoms area identified (pictured on p. 3) needs to insure its stability. A thorough engineering assessment and estimate of work determined appropriate solutions to extend the serviceable life of the structure. Contact for contributions to this initiative is Pastor William B. Rose-Heim of Christian Church Disciples of Christ Greater Kansas City, billr-h@kcdisciples.org.

Ms. Ammerman continues to work with Grandview Park Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, KS, (pictured above & page 3) assisting in strategic preservation

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PowerPoint, Slideshows & Tours cont'd.

considered a full day tour. Our coordinator can offer suggestions for places to visit or lunch arrangements. You can help design the tour and focus on what best suits your group.

Custom designed tours are available during the week and on weekends, depending on availability of the facilities. We ask you to provide the bus and passengers. We provide insights into the history of the churches and synagogues that we pass en route to the structures on the tour. We request a donation per person of \$10 for a half day and \$15 for a full day. Many groups choose to bring a sack lunch for participants and several churches offer their dining facilities for lunch. Arrangements can be made for lunch at a local restaurant.

Friends of Sacred Structures was organized in 1992 to assist local older and historic religious properties that provide social services to their communities. Our building assistance team partners with the congregations to determine their needs when possible. As a not-for-profit 501c3 organization, we provide free assistance to those member congregations we work with and offer our speakers bureau as an educational opportunity to local community groups.

To schedule a tour or presentation, or for more information contact FOSS at 913-831-4752, or Joanie Shields, Speakers Bureau Coordinator at 913-908-7840 (email kcjoanie1@gmail.com).

Note Of Thanks From A Recent Tour

"I am writing to thank your organization for the fascinating tour of churches. A group from Brookdale Overland Park saw several churches and entered two, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and Victorious Life Church. We are grateful to Joan Shields who planned the tour and guided us. Please give this letter to your volunteer, Cynthia Ammerman, who gave us a wonderful talk at the latter church. This building was formerly a synagogue, and as a Jew, I was especially interested. We were happy to contribute to your important mission."

-Elizabeth Appelbaum

Would you prefer your newsletter via email?

FOSS would like to offer your newsletter via email. Interested? Please email us at fosskc@supportkc.org and we will send our next informative issue of Inspired Space to your email address. We will also keep you connected with FOSS tours, presentations and events via email!

Inspired Space is published periodically for members, friends and donors of Friends of Sacred Structures.

To submit articles, story ideas, or address changes, email fosskc@supportkc.org or visit our website at www.fosskc.org.

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Recent Events Supported by FOSS, cont'd.

planning for the restoration and utilization of the building at 1613 Wilson Boulevard. The congregation and its historic building play a pivotal role in the Prescott Neighborhood as a resource for the Latino community through bilingual services, social programs, a community kitchen and food pantry. To date, the congregation has raised an estimated \$75,000 in funds toward the renovation of "La Cocina de la Paz," which in the summer is the center of a youth program for 99 children. The completed project is estimated closer to \$95,000 and will result in a new kitchen, pantry, and dining facilities.

Led by Pastor Rick Behrens and Pastor Carmen Flores, Grandview Park celebrated its 130th anniversary as a congregation in the fall. At that time the community announced a formal youth education partnership with the Kansas City Latin Jazz Orchestra which will launch in June 2020. Contributions to this initiative may be received by contacting Pastor Behrens, grandviewparkpc@gmail.com.

In addition, the FOSS Building Preservation Team offers on-site evaluation and recommendations for keeping the building up to code as well as for improvements. While there is no charge for its services, a congregational membership is encouraged. Board members recently granted a monetary gift to Grandview Park from the Elmer Denis Fund.

FOSS Offers PowerPoint, Slideshows, & Tours

Discover the beauty and architecture of some of Kansas City's finest churches, temples and synagogues through PowerPoint presentations, slide shows and bus tours offered by Friends of Sacred Structures (FOSS), a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting historic churches and synagogues with maintenance

issues. FOSS volunteers can bring local religious properties to life in a 30 to 45 minute program which includes professional photographs of up to sixty historic sacred structures. The programs also offer a view of the social services provided to the community by some of the congregations. Our friends at

Kingswood, Brookdale and Park Meadows Retirement Communities, local service clubs such as PEO, Rotary and Lions Clubs are among many who have enjoyed our presentations, as well as numerous Sunday School groups and Over 50 clubs. We ask in return a small donation to FOSS.

Many organizations choose to follow up the slide or PowerPoint show with a tour of some of the sites shown in the presentations. Our volunteer tour guides will custom design a half or full day tour and make all of the arrangements for passengers to get a private inside tour led by docents who are pastors or members of the congregation. A short half day tour of two facilities or a full day tour, including lunch, of up to four structures is available. A stop for lunch would be

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Recent tour group enjoys an organ recital in the choir loft at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Kansas City, MO.

President's Spotlight—Service

A message from Dorothy I. Reed, FOSS President, Board of Directors

FOSS is committed to supporting vital neighborhood needs and making a difference in communities. We focus on projects that not only preserve religious structures for their historical importance, but also for their improvement of the vitality and stability of neighborhoods. Our outreach goes beyond the immediate religious congregations to the outside communities by helping to provide them with needed services.

FOSS accomplishes its mission through a voluntary Board of Directors, a Building Preservation Team, collaboration with other organizations, architects, engineers and local businesses who offer their expertise free of charge. We invite you to join us in our ongoing efforts to preserve the beauty and history of religious structures and make a difference in our communities.

Our organization, a 501c3, is a place where you can connect and get something done. Check us out, call us. We're ready for you and ready to help you lead the way to change our communities for the better.

Dorothy I. Reed
President, Board of Directors

New Board Member, Michael A. Adams

A native of the Quindaro neighborhood in Kansas City, KS, Michael graduated from Sumner Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the University of Kansas where he studied Economics. He currently works at Commerce Bank. His interests include making art, history, trivia & architecture. He previously served on the Centennial Committee of the Mutual Musicians Foundation and worked on the preservation of historic Wheatley-Provident Hospital, and with Cynthia Ammerman helped write the National Historic Register nomination.



Michael A. Adams

Having volunteered with various area charities such as United Way, he helped pioneer the R.I.S.E. program as an ELL instructor for the Kansas City Public Library. Michael currently assists FOSS with projects on the finance committee and hopes to use his skills in business, links to the Kansas City artist community, and knowledge of historic preservation to aid the organization in whatever way he can.



Grand View Park Presbyterian Church



La Gloria De Dios

Yes, I want to make a gift to the Friends of Sacred Structures!

All members receive our periodic newsletter, invitations to special events and discounts for workshops and events.

Congregational members also receive technical assistance, information and referrals.

- Friend - \$60
- Congregational Partner - \$100
- Patron - \$250
- Corporate Partner - \$500
- Sustaining - \$1,500
- Other -\$
- Donation Designated for the Elmer Denis Memorial Fund

Please detach and mail with donation to:

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