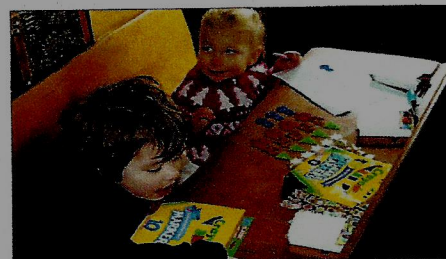


The Slate

2017 Events—Published in This Fall 2018 Edition

Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse, Inc.

P. O. Box 431, Port Republic, MD 20676-0431 • www.calvertoneroomschool.org



2017's Christmas Open House

Once again, the one-room schoolhouse rang with laughter and music at the annual Ol' Fashion Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 17. The beautifully decorated schoolhouse buzzed with excitement, as we welcomed in the Christmas season.

The children were thrilled to see Santa and Mrs. Claus and to share their Christmas wish list. Each child received a candy cane and a bag to decorate, which they could fill with goodies.

Both children and adults enjoyed the crafts, an opportunity to string popcorn and cranberries,

and to decorate a Christmas tree. Christmas messages were written on the colorful origami stars to either hang on the tree or take home.

Hot chocolate, hot cider, and a most delicious assortment of homemade cookies were definitely enjoyed by all. We are grateful to Sterling Myers from the St. Leonard Fire Department who arranged the visit from Jay and Jane McClanahan, our Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Another special treat was our guest flutist, Cheryl Garcia, who delighted everyone with beautiful Christmas music and got us in the holiday spirit.

PLEASE JOIN US AT
2018's CHRISTMAS
OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 16, 2018
11 A.M.-1:30 P.M.



2017 Ice Cream Social Was July 19

The weather was rather warm and humid on that July 19th evening, but that did not dampen the spirits of those who attended the annual One-room Schoolhouse Ice Cream Social. In fact, the delicious ice cream from Mrs. Moo is just what was needed on a warm summer evening!

And, listening to the catchy tunes from the Calvert Dance Band made it a perfect way to spend a summer evening with friends. Folks visited with one another, reminisced about their school days, enjoyed many

different varieties of homemade cookies, tried another flavor of ice cream, toured the schoolhouse, and a few even danced to their favorite tune.

This annual event has become a favorite with many as a way to relax on a summer's evening which recalls childhood memories of spending the evening out of doors and not in front

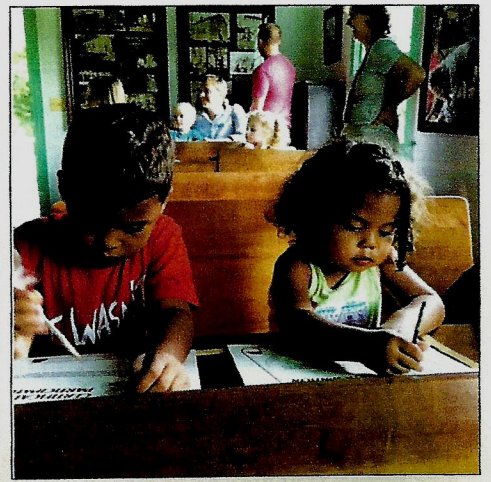
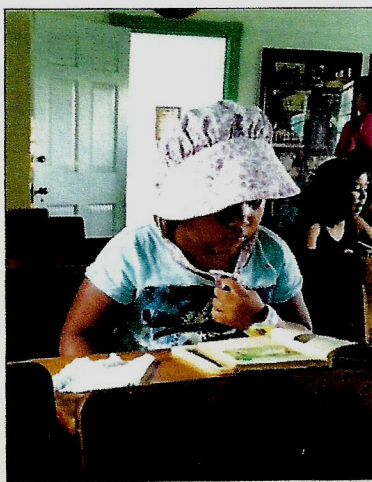
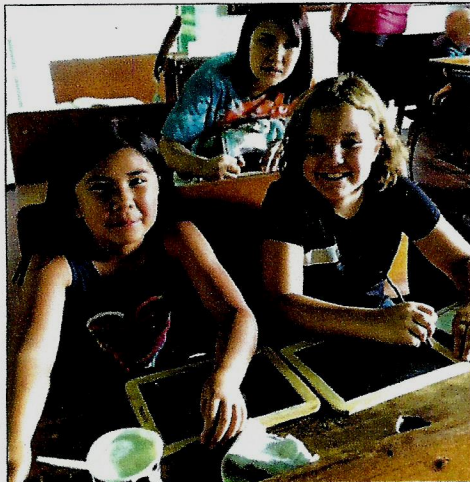
of the television! Children played tag and other games, tried writing on slates with slate pencils, quickly licked their ice cream cones, and yes, tried a different cookie.



Mrs. Moo's ice cream was a hit with all ages.



The Calvert Dance Band's music led to foot tapping and dancing!



Kids of all ages tried out the desks, slates, and books in the one-room schoolhouse.

Volunteers Matter!

by Barbara Fringer

A schoolhouse, like a home, is in need of general maintenance, inside and out. In the case of Port Republic School #7, this past year required volunteers to not only replace blinds within the school but also attach metal strips to the wood steps along the Seven Bridges Trail.

Somewhat unusual was the assistance of an international visitor, Dirk Reinhold, son-in-law to Carol Khalili, who just happened to be visiting from New Zealand at the time. Dirk stepped up in both regards, helping Carol to deliver six new blinds to the school on a warm July morning. Another day, Dirk walked the mile and a quarter trail with Jack Fringer to screw in place several dozen metal treads which offset the slippery nature of the wood. How fortunate to have such a willing helper.

Installation of the six wider roller blinds on the schoolhouse windows took place just before school visitations commenced in September. Carol, Jeff Klapper, and Jack spent a morning carefully aligning the blinds to block the sun's ultraviolet rays, providing the necessary shade to protect photographs, books, and even the desks inside the one-room.

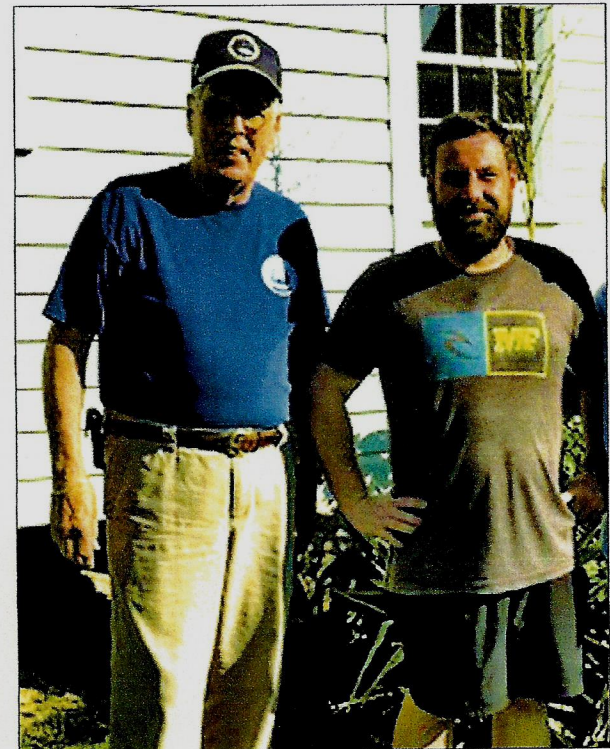
Year in and year out, there are seasonal opportunities for others to assist in maintaining the ORS which continues to teach! Consider becoming a volunteer.



Volunteers Jeff Klapper and Jack Fringer, along with Carol Khalili (not shown), installed six new ultraviolet-light-blocking roller blinds.



Barbara Fringer on Seven Bridges Trail steps, before new metal treads were added.



Jack Fringer (left) and New Zealander Dirk Reinhold screwed metal treads to the Seven Bridges Trail's slippery wood steps.

2017 Celebration Luncheon

by Fran Armstrong

On May 24th, the One-Room School Committee of the Calvert Retired School Personnel Association (CRSPA) and the Friends of the One-Room Schoolhouse held its annual Celebration Luncheon in the Parish Hall at Christ Church.

Jack Fringer, Chair of the Friends' Board of Directors, introduced our special guests who included Senator Bernie Fowler and his wife Betty; Dr. Daniel Curry, Superintendent; Cecelia Lewis, Social Studies Supervisor; Barbara McKimmie, President of CRSPA; and Joan Gott, "Mother" of our One-Room Schoolhouse program. The invocation was provided by Reverend Mariann Babnis, interim rector at Christ Church, and Loujeania Johnson provided our delicious lunch.

Our program has so many high points! We have so many things to be thankful for. The highlights included a certificate given to Jimmy Coffren for recognition of the completion of his Eagle Scout project. Jack Fringer shared that our Honor Roll list of names had been permanently placed on a plaque which we have proudly displayed in the vestibule of the schoolhouse. For our Historical Perspective, this year Carol Khalili read from Waters Ross's reflections. And, we recognized our newest recruits: Debbie Smith, Tommy Luginbill, and Shannon Campbell.

This year we honored our volunteers by presenting two garden benches to the church in their names. The benches were brought into the fellowship hall to be displayed for all to see! They will be placed on the patio outside of the fellowship hall where our classes gather to begin the program and where we convene to dance the jig or the Virginia Reel. They are made to withstand the elements and will serve us well in the coming years.

Teachers were Fran Armstrong, Casey Duehrssen, Chloe Ewalt, Jody Longhill, and Carol Wagner.

Farm Life: Bruce Armstrong, Fran Armstrong, Sherry Burcham, Jack Fringer, Faye Graff, Tommy Luginbill, and Pam Mackall.

Trail guides, under the direction of Barbara Fringer include; Trish David, Kathy Ellwood, Barbara Fringer, Jack Fringer, Bernadette Hager, Sue Hammond, Nancy Highsmith, Connie Hollowell, Tommy Luginbill, Jane Manning, Ruth Mora, Ginny Murphy, Ruth Ott, Bob Platt, and Cindy van Dijk.

With the truly amazing support of our volunteers we have successfully completed another school year here at Port Republic School #7. Another year and another reason to celebrate. Thank you all!

See more photos, at top of page 5



The display table was decorated with period pieces, artifacts, and photographs from the One-Room School era provided by Carol Khalili and Fran Armstrong.



2017's Jousting Tournament Brings 300+ Visitors to Our School

August 26, 2017, was a day with perfect weather for the Jousting Tournament, held annually on the last Saturday in August at Christ Church. The State Sport of Maryland is Jousting, always attracting enthusiastic participants from across Maryland. This year parishioners added extra events for the young and beyond. Paired with great publicity, there was an incredible number of spectators.

The One-Room Schoolhouse participates in Tournament Day by featuring an Open House with docents and volunteers on hand. Though not all visitors sign the guest register there was a steady stream of approximately 300 guests. A second wave of visitors took advantage when the schoolhouse reopened in the afternoon.

Visitors span a wide range, from infants in arms to senior citizens. First timers enter with a look of awe and a quiet that once was the hallmark of libraries. Families with children in a range of ages are especially interested.

Children under 12 years of age quickly declare, "It's just like Little House on the Prairie," referring to the television series based on the books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. These young visitors scurry to pick up a slate board and pencil, take a seat in one of the authentic student desks, and practice writing their name and doing math problems. Some surreptitiously step up onto the raised teacher platform, likely aware that such behavior would have been off-limits for school attendees "back-in-the-day."



Older visitors share that they or a relative attended or taught in a one-room school. We learned that there continue to be one-room schools in operation in very small towns in rural areas of America. Most remark on the pristine condition of our schoolhouse and are impressed with the large collection of artifacts and photographs that attract close inspection.

The sense of appreciation is palpable. We are grateful for the positive response to our on-going commitment and efforts to maintain this gem.

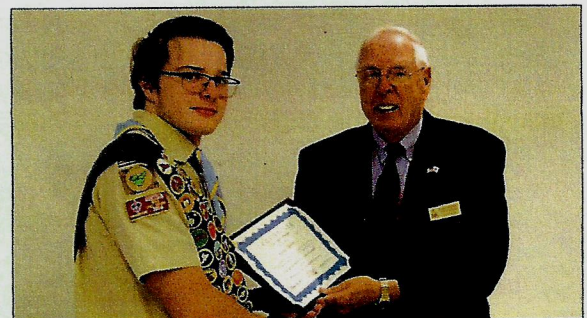
Celebration Luncheon, cont. from page 4



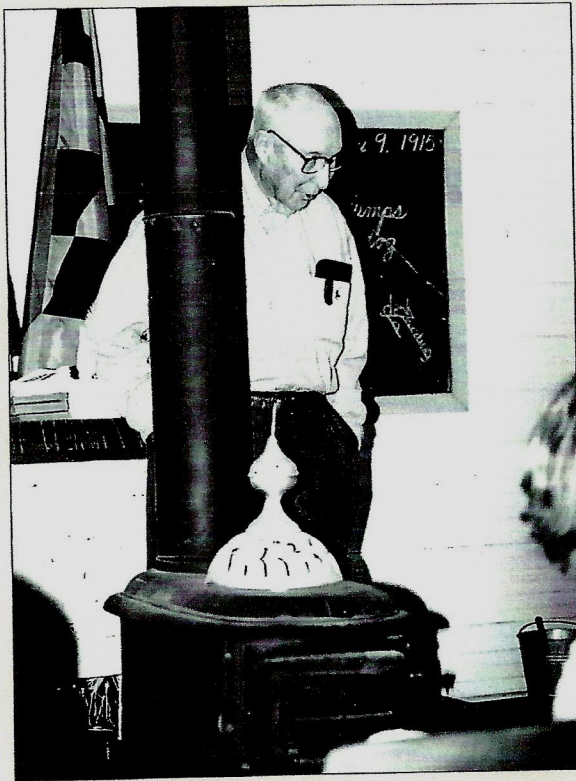
Trail Guides Jack Fringer, Trish Davis, Nancy Highsmith, Ginny Murphy, Pam Mackall, Connie Hollowell, Sue Hammond, and Barbara Fringer. Photo by Bruce Armstrong



Teachers Judy Longhill, Carol Wagner, Fran Armstrong, and Casey Duehrssen. Teacher Chloe Ewalt is not pictured. Photo by Bruce Armstrong



Scout Jimmy Coffren was recognized for his Eagle Scout Project. Photo by Bruce Armstrong



Historical Perspective

As Recounted by J. Waters Ross

A new tradition was started in 2015 at our annual Celebration Luncheon. It is called "Historical Perspective" and it was designed to keep us 'grounded' in the past, and allows for our newer members to fully understand our Port Republic School #7 stories as told in the first person.

Waters Ross attended Island Creek School #6 for his first seven grades beginning in 1924, his great uncle attended in 1869, his grandmother in 1871, his father in 1889 and his mother in 1891.

In addition, his mother taught at Port Republic School #7 from 1903 to 1909 and at Island Creek School #6 from 1909 to 1917. In 1917, she married and her teaching career ended. Incidentally, Waters' mother was Mary Ellen Romney's grandmother. Mary Ellen is currently on the Friends' Board and she is our membership chair. Their One-Room Schoolhouse contributions just keep on coming, generation to generation.

A Typical School Day in a One-Room School of Rural Calvert County

By J. Waters Ross

The rural one-room schools were usually four to five miles apart. So everyone including the teacher walked to school. Upon arriving at our desks we had "Opening Exercises." This period of time lasted about 10 minutes. It began with a student reading some scripture which was followed by everyone praying the Lord's Prayer. After this we had the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag followed by a song such as "My Country 'Tis of Thee" or "Maryland, My Maryland." After opening exercises, everyone settled in for "school."

There were periods of recitations, reading or mathematical calculations. Everything was very orderly, beginning with the first grade and continuing through 7th grade. At 10:30 A.M. there was

a break for about ten minutes. At noon there was a thirty minute lunch period. Most of the lunch period was usually spent outdoors playing.

At 2 P.M. there was afternoon recess for about ten minutes. As can be noted, recreation was a simple matter with most of it improvised and provided by the students. The most popular game was baseball which was played whenever warm enough. Most times we chose teams and played as a team, sometimes this consisted of a 'designated hitter' and his team. The 'designated hitter' did all the hitting for his team, and I credit this role for helping me to come a successful college baseball player.

The educational day ended at 3 P.M. After school, the teacher selected two or three students to clean the

backboards and sweep the floor. Election was usually based on behavior during the day - sometimes a reward, sometimes a punishment. On looking back at the school day, I realize that the elementary teacher never had a minute for herself, but was always with her students.

Port Republic One-Room School
Historical Site, Reflections Series,
2003.

The One-Room Elementary School
of Rural Calvert County,
J. Waters Ross, 2000

2017 Service Learning Project

by Fran Armstrong

What is a service learning project? "Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities."

Port Republic School #7 has been the recipient of the 4th grader's 'penny drive' campaign for their service learning project. Their efforts have brought many new and important

improvements to our one-room schoolhouse site and the program that we provide. This year we replaced two benches on the church patio where we begin our program. This is the same area we use to learn a dance and play with old fashioned toys. The benches provide the much needed seating for our visitors. Also, through our 4th grader's fund raising efforts, we were able to install metal strips along the steps of our trail so we won't slip when the weather is damp or rainy. And, most recently,



we have replaced shades on all the windows. They were fraying and badly needed to be replaced.

Our 4th graders should be so proud of themselves. It is through their efforts that our program has been so richly enhanced. Thanks so much!



Board members Fran Armstrong, Carol Khalili, and Nancy Zinn enjoying a new bench

Benches Make Good Neighbors

For many years a pair of lovely benches have graced the back portico of the Christ Church Parish Hall. Recently the benches deteriorated and the end of winter revealed broken slats and rusted end supports on both benches. Then one bench disappeared and the second was set aside where it would no longer be used for sitting.

ORS volunteers had grown accustomed to having these benches, using them while waiting the school bus arrival, watching the children learn the Virginia Reel, and visiting.

As the spring Celebration Luncheon approached, an idea took shape. The FORS BOD agreed to purchase replacement benches in honor of the

wonderful Trail Guides who lead children along the 7 Bridges Trail through the woods during their visit. A search was done and benches of long-lasting shorea wood were found and purchased. These arrived in flat shipping boxes, assembly required. On arrival day Jack Fringer, Jeff Klapper, and Bruce Armstrong stepped up to the task of assembling two new benches. They were aided by Nancy Zinn, Fran Armstrong, and Carol Khalili. The benches were presented to Christ Church at the 2017 spring Celebration of Volunteers Luncheon.

Meanwhile, the broken, set-aside bench disappeared only to reappear in a short time. Now its wood slats

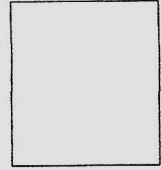


Assembly team of Jack Fringer, Jeff Klapper, and Bruce Armstrong

had been replaced and coated with water repellent. The wrought iron end supports had been sanded and repainted. No one took credit for the repairs, but a twinkle in the eye of Jeff Klapper identified this Friends BOD member as the guardian angel. Jeff has always had a high regard for historic buildings and artifacts. That bench could be as good as new and he proved it

Now there are three benches on the portico, please be sure to sit on them when your next visit to the ORS. It's a lovely shaded retreat, a place to enjoy peace and quiet, to contemplate the contributions of one-room schools in the development of free public school education in early America.

Friends of the One-Room
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*Newsletter layout and design by
Frances Dunkle Poling*

President's Corner

by Jack Fringer, President

As we prepare this edition of the Slate for publication, we are in the midst of another Fall session as the schoolhouse is once again experiencing the sounds of fourth graders enjoying a "Day in History."

Although, the fourth graders only visit in the Fall and Spring, the activities at the Port Republic School #7 continue throughout the year, thanks to our volunteers.

Speaking of volunteers, two key members of the Board of Directors decided it was time "retire" after many years of faithful service. I want to thank Judy Bibb for her service as our treasurer. She has been tenacious in maintaining

our financial records while ensuring our bills were paid in a timely manner. I want express my appreciation to current Board member, Nancy Zinn for volunteering to assume the treasurer responsibilities.

My thanks also go to Jeff Klapper who was not only our Web Master, but he also spent many hours assisting in maintaining the trail. To him goes the "Paul Bunyan Award."

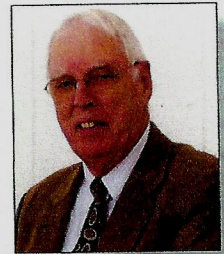
I want to sincerely welcome Beverly Lusby, John Yoe, and Pamela Mackall to the Board. Beverly and John have stepped up to fill the vacancies created by Judy and Jeff's "retirement." Both

bring a wealth of knowledge about Port Republic School #7.

Pam is the CRSPA representative to the Board. She will be instrumental in coordinating our 4th Grade program.

As my term as President ends on December 31, 2018, I want to thank all the members and volunteers for their support of Port Republic School #7. Without you, our program would not continue.

Thanks for your support of Port Republic School #7.



Port Republic School #7 Is on the Web

Website: www.calvertoneroomschool.org • Email: admin@calvertoneroomschool.org