

FOUNDATION FOR HISTORIC CHRIST CHURCH, INC.
LOUISE BELOTE DAWE AWARD

Created in 1983 in the name of **Louise Belote Dawe** (1890-1994), this award recognizes those who have made an outstanding contribution of time and talent to the successful fulfillment of the Foundation's mission.

The first recipient of the award was Mrs. Dawe. She first became interested in restoration and preservation of the church in 1933. With her husband Charles Alfred Gridley Dawe, friend Helen Bullock, and many others, Mrs. Dawe helped form the Foundation for Historic Christ Church in June 1958. Over four decades she gave of herself unstintingly in raising funds, researching and writing the first handbook for guides, publishing a history of Christ Church, and working in countless ways to ensure the foundation's future success.

The second recipient (1984) was **Mrs. Henrietta Goodwin**, whose tireless efforts in research were matched by the energy and generosity with which she and her husband, Conrad, marshaled the resources and made possible the excavation of their "front yard"—which happened to be the site of Robert "King" Carter's home plantation, Corotoman, in the late 1970s. Mrs. Goodwin's dedication to thorough, accurate research and her tireless efforts to impart her knowledge to volunteers and the public set a lasting standard for the foundation.

The 1985 recipients of the award were **Clarence "Buck" and Lloyd Weaver**. Lloyd, a Charter Member of the Volunteers in 1973, through her research, style and creativity and with quiet dignity led the efforts of the Flower Committee, produced its first educational materials and set the standard which still guides these efforts today. Buck too began volunteering in 1973 and applied his talents as a Director, Vice President, Chair of Maintenance, Awards, Long Range Planning, Landscape and Buildings & Structures committees, and as a member of the Executive Committee. The Weavers' joint contribution represents an outstanding contribution to the foundation's continuing success.

The award was not given again until 2007, when the Foundation bestowed it on **Mrs. Louise Radford Denegre**, a Charter Member of the Volunteers. Her first term as Council Chair – 1975 – stood as "a year of transition: growing, moving, feeling the need for structure in our organization." She ably met the challenge of developing a culture of "accuracy, excellence and responsibility" in the two-year old volunteer organization while managing transition of functions and people during the remodeling and additions that turned the "Vestry House" into Carter Reception Center. In 1978 Mrs. Denegre chaired the committee that wrote the first job descriptions for council members and created "Rules and Guidelines" for volunteers. From 1983 to 1986 she chaired the committee that carried out a three-year celebration of the 250th anniversary of the building of Christ Church. Highlights of this effort included two living history productions, co-authored with Mrs. Goodwin and performed by local volunteers and professional reenactors from Colonial Williamsburg, and a week-long volunteer festival featuring exhibits and performances by talented volunteers. During this same period, Mrs. Denegre led the effort to bring accounting and budgeting functions to a more professional level within the Foundation. Under her leadership, the first in-house computer-based accounting system was designed and installed.

The 2008 recipient, **Anne C. Dickerson**, became active in the preservation and interpretation of Historic Christ Church when she first moved to the Northern Neck. Through her friendship with those already active in pursuit of this mission, Mrs. Dickerson took an interest in helping the foundation successfully navigate the dramatic technological and cultural changes at work as the organization moved into the 21st century. Mrs. Dickerson managed all foundation operations seamlessly through a period with limited professional staff members and helped hire Robert A. Cornelius as Executive Director in late 1999. She led the Cultural Resources Management Committee, and through it the board, to adopt a set of interpretive themes, media and methods designed to preserve the foundation's focus and effectiveness and helped lead the effort to shape the 50th Anniversary Site Plan for needed improvements to the Foundation's museum, research library, office space and campus layout.

Madeline Hooper, one of three Dawe recipients in 2009, dated her interest in Historic Christ Church from the time she first moved to the Northern Neck and volunteered her efforts in company of her husband, Kellam, who served from 1969 to 1978 as a Director, Vice President and Treasurer of the Foundation. She helped organize and found the Volunteer Council in 1972, and under her leadership as the Volunteer Council's second Chair, first scheduler of guides and receptionists, first trainer on guiding conduct and procedures, and Chair of the first receptionist committee ("22 men and a few women"), a volunteer organization was put in place that has become a model for non-profit entities across the nation. Mrs. Hooper also served as Chair of the Clerical Committee for 21 years, as a Director and the Foundation Secretary from 1989 through 1992, as keeper of the service records for all volunteers from 1973 through 2004, and as a member of the office staff whenever an administrative vacancy occurred. Throughout her more than four decades as a volunteer, Mrs. Hooper remained a singular source of information about the Foundation's history and a vital link in communicating with the Foundation family. She enlisted scores of volunteers and other members of the Foundation to share her dedication and made many other significant contributions to fulfillment of the Foundation's mission.

The second 2009 recipient, **Dixie McCaig**, became interested in Historic Christ Church in 1988 when she first volunteered as a docent, enlisting the efforts of her husband, Capt. James T. McCaig from 1989 until their retirement in 2007. She contributed her experience and knowledge to the creation of a formal, rigorous training program for docents and to the compilation of their first "Red Book," a guide to the history of Christ Church and Christ Church Parish that remains an integral part of training. Mrs. McCaig also served as Chair of the Costume Committee, enhancing the historical accuracy of the costume collection, offering continuing education programs on its proper use, and seeing to its care and condition. She served as a vital member of the Research Committee's Parish Profile Project, as a Special Group Docent and as a mentor to scores of volunteers in each of these and many other activities, always setting and upholding the highest standards of historical accuracy for providing for students and for visitors to Historic Christ Church the best experience possible.

The final recipient in 2009, **Jane Sheeran**'s interest in Historic Christ Church began when she first moved to the Northern Neck and volunteered her efforts in company of her husband, The Rev. Robert Sheeran, who as rector at Grace Episcopal served as *ex officio* Chairman of the Board from 1963 through 1982. Mrs. Sheeran became the Foundation's

first business manager in 1967 and five years later helped found the Volunteer Council. Under her management, the affairs of the Foundation - from inspecting the attic of the church, to setting in place and executing office procedures for proper conduct of its business, to providing administrative support for the efforts of its volunteers - were faithfully tended until her retirement from the staff in 1985. Mrs. Sheeran then continued to serve as Chair of the Newsletter Committee, as a vital member of the Clerical Committee, as Historian for the Volunteer Council and in many other capacities until her second retirement in 2007. She, too, enlisted scores of volunteers and other members of the Foundation to share her dedication and made many other significant contributions to fulfillment of the Foundation's mission.

- 1983 Louise Belote Dawe
- 1984 Henrietta Goodwin
- 1985 Clarence "Buck" and Lloyd Weaver
- 2007 Louise Radford Denegre
- 2008 Anne C. Dickerson
- 2009 Madeline Hooper, Dixie McCaig, Jane Sheeran
- 2010 General William C. Louisell
- 2011 John Joseph and Marjorie Ruth Page
- 2012 John H. Hunt, II
- 2013 Nathaniel P. Neblett, A.I.A.
- 2014 Douglas D. Monroe, Jr.
- 2015 Mitchell J. Alga, Sr.
- 2016 The Rev. Hugh C. White, III
- 2017 Camille E. Bennett
- 2018 Col. Mowton L. Waring, Jr., USA (Ret.)
- 2019 Robert Neil McKenney
- 2020 Mary K. Hoerneman, Robert A. Cornelius
- 2021 Bonnie P. Dawson