



The Neighbors Who Brought You Trader Joe's!



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St. Mary's Church: *A Landmark Restored*

Following the end of the Civil War, St. Mary's Church, located at 728 23rd St NW, was developed for an Episcopal congregation of freed slaves in the predominantly African American Foggy Bottom community. Noted architect James Renwick, Jr. drew on his extensive design vocabulary—e.g. the Smithsonian Castle, the Renwick Gallery, St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC, etc.—to endow the modestly-sized St. Mary's with the highest design standards of the times.

Today, whether you seek it out as a respite from the daily hubbub, as a place of welcome worship, or to view it as the architectural treasure and historic venue it is, there is no equivocating the role that the current and devoted life-time parishioners have had in making this measured restoration happen. With support from the Foggy

Bottom Defense and Improvement Corporation and a matching NEA grant, the dedicated congregation raised the balance of the funds resulting in a multi-year renovation of the building exterior and the exquisite restoration of the jewel-like interior. According to architectural conservator Marc Fetterman, St. Mary's is one of the few, and possibly only, church of this period that has retained its original design.

The beautiful stenciled chancel wall suffered badly from water damage several years ago. The Foggy Bottom Association Defense and Improvement Corporation Directors recognized the importance of supporting the restoration of the wall due to the church's history and landmark status. Therefore,



Arched entryway looking west from 23rd Street

it provided funds for the restoration with the caveat that they be matched by the church or a third party.

The dedicated congregation was able to provide the balance of the funds and the result is an exquisite restoration of the jewel-like stenciled wall.

The exhibit and reception at St. Mary's Church on July 7 was held in a celebration of thanks to the Foggy Bottom Association Defense and



(Above) Interior view of restored stenciling surrounding altar windows



Rev. Louis T. Wheeler, Jr., Dr. Richard A. English, Marc Fetterman (consulting architect) with close-up of stenciling behind

Improvement Corporation for its gift. It was hosted by the Rev. Louis T. Wheeler, Jr., Rector, the Vestry, and Parishioners. An informative talk about the restoration was led by the architect who has been assisting St. Mary's in addressing structural problems at the church as well as the



Looking east through arched courtyard entryway



Parishioner Lionel Gloster, and FBADIC Directors Jackie Lemire, Ron Cocome, and Bob Vogt

head of the firm that carried out the restoration. Attending the ceremony were current and past FBADIC Directors including Ron Cocome (President), Elizabeth Elliott, Jackie Lemire, Richard Price, Barbara Spillinger, and Bob Vogt.

Keeping Up Appearances – Potomac Plaza Apartment Members Celebrate Completion of Brick Façade Work

For three years, its residents have put up with scaffolding and jack-hammer symphonies as their distinguished 50 year old building had its facade renewed. Potomac Plaza Apartments (PPA) Cooperative members recognized that all homes need periodic sizable investments to maintain both their attractiveness and value. No one likes to tackle these expensive upgrades, but everyone appreciates they just need to be done. And the PPA membership bit the bullet and just did it!

Leadership was provided by

three PPA Board Presidents, Alex Bullock, John Clark and JoAnn Wells. General Manager W. Blair Osborn carried out the day-to-day coordination and administration to make things happen. John Clark provided constant oversight, from the beginning to the very end of the process. This multi-million dollar project was executed by the well-respected Atlantic Company, which recently handled the massive Washington Monument and Building Museum renewals, among many famous buildings.

PPA Board members have remarked at the excellent collaborative relationships among the company, the coop, and an outstanding supervising engineer, Michael Tabassi, of Tadjer-Cohen-Edelson Associates.

This successful collaboration has resulted in a more attractive façade, an asset to its members and the Foggy Bottom community. On June 30, PPA residents celebrated the successful completion of this project and the restoration of their landscaping with a "Just Desserts" party.

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The *Foggy Bottom News* is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the *FBN* reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

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