

OAHE CHAPEL NEWS

Fall 2016

Newsletter of the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society

Pierre, SD

Sprucing Up the Oahe Chapel, One Project At A Time

The Oahe Chapel will soon have a new roof, thanks in part to funding from the South Dakota State Historical Society's Deadwood Fund Grant program. The cedar shingle roof was damaged in a recent hail storm and required replacement. The Oahe Chapel Preservation Society's Board of Directors applied for a Deadwood Fund Grant, which was awarded in April. Local contractor Jim Wald has added our chapel to his schedule this fall. We greatly appreciate Mr. Wald's willingness to tackle this project and keep our chapel in good repair.

The Board of Directors is also preparing an application for an Outside of Deadwood Grant from the City of Deadwood to aid in the repainting of the chapel next summer. High winds and hail storms in recent years have taken a toll on the chapel's exterior. Sections of the siding need to be repaired or replaced, and the entire chapel needs a new coat of paint. The board anticipates that this work will be undertaken in the summer of 2017 if the grant is awarded. Please see the box at right for more about this project.

Finally, the Board of Directors wants to extend a huge THANK YOU to local carpenter Cecil Staples for building a new transom for the front door! The old transom window had deteriorated to the point that it was not repairable. Mr. Staples was able to use the old transom as a pattern for the new transom, which he constructed over the summer. The new transom was painted and installed just in time for our third annual pie social, and it looks great! Thank you, Mr. Staples!



Want to make a lasting contribution to the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society? Donate now to **help us paint the chapel!** Located on top of the Oahe Dam, our chapel is frequently hit by strong winds and storms, which can cause damage to the exterior. At our most recent board meeting, we voted to paint the chapel in 2017. While we are seeking grant funding to help with this project, **we also set a goal to raise \$10,000.** If you'd like to donate towards this cause, in addition to your annual membership fee, please send a check to OCPS, PO Box 7201, Pierre SD 57501. Please include "Painting" on the memo line of your check.

OAHE CHAPEL PRESERVATION SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OCPS Adds Two New Board Members

The Oahe Chapel Preservation Society is pleased to welcome two new additions to the Board of Directors. Mary Jo Gourneau and Lori Hall were recently elected to three-year terms on the board.

Lori's interest in the Oahe Chapel stems from her love of old country churches, while Mary Jo was married in the chapel three years ago. Both bring to the board a passion for this important historic place and a desire to help with fundraising and various maintenance projects. Welcome to the board, Mary Jo and Lori!

We do still have one open seat on the Board. If you'd like to know more, please call (605) 773-3458.

Strong Winds Couldn't Extinguish the Fun at the Third Annual Pie Social

The third annual pie social fundraiser was held on September 25th. The event, which has become our major yearly fundraiser, netted \$892 in freewill donations both from attendees and others who weren't able to attend but who still wanted to support the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society.



Above: Oahe Chapel Preservation Society board members serve pie and ice cream at the third annual pie social fundraiser.

Below: Local musical ensemble Surprise Package performs a special concert in the chapel.



Due to the blustery conditions outside we had to move the celebration, which normally happens on the lawn by the chapel, into the neighboring Visitor Center. In spite of the weather, nearly 100 people attended the event. Attendees enjoyed a slice of pie, ice cream, or root beer floats at the Visitor Center and then ventured to the chapel next door to attend the fundraiser concert put on by the musical group Surprise Package.

Carol Gengler, a member of Surprise Package, praised the chapel as a wonderful place to visit and sing: "I love singing at the Oahe Chapel! When I'm there, I wonder about all the people that used the building and how many ways they made use of the space. I'm so glad it's being cared for so future generations will have the opportunity to share in its experiences." We couldn't agree more with Carol's sentiments!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended the event or helped us make the day a success. Special thanks go out to Jenn Hanna of South Dakota Missouri River Tourism for allowing us to use the Visitor Center for the day due to the weather conditions!

The Board of Directors is already planning for our fourth annual pie social to be held in 2017. If you'd like to get involved with this fundraiser, please contact us at (605) 773-3458.

RENT THE OAHE CHAPEL

Call now to reserve the Oahe Chapel for your wedding, church service, family reunion, or other special event! The Chapel is available for rent year-round at the cost of \$50. Members of the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society are eligible to rent the facility for a reduced rate of \$35. The historic Oahe Chapel provides a unique setting and a beautiful view to make your event truly memorable. Events for 2017 and beyond are being booked now. To learn more, call (605) 773-3458.



The Oahe Chapel is rented for several special events each year.