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PUBLIC INFORMATION

For Release: January 12, 2015

HISTORY OF ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH BOOK RELEASE AT THE OLD EXCHANGE

Charleston, SC – The Old Exchange Building is hosting the book release of “St. Philip's Church of Charleston- An Early History of the Oldest Parish in South Carolina.” Authors Dorothy Middleton and Peg Eastman will give a short presentation on the history of Charleston’s oldest congregation, followed by a book signing at the Old Exchange Building on Wednesday January 28 at 6 pm. The Old Exchange is located at 122 East Bay St. Admission is free; a \$3.00 donation to the Old Exchange is suggested.

A native Charlestonian, Margaret (Peg) M.R. Eastman was a professional guide at Winterthur Museum in Delaware. She coauthored “Hidden History of Old Charleston,” “Remembering Old Charleston,” “Old Charleston Originals: From Celebrities to Scoundrels,” and “Hidden History of Civil War Charleston.” She is a freelance writer for the Charleston Mercury and has lectured on Charleston architecture.

Dorothy Middleton Anderson is a former society editor for the Charleston Evening Post. Anderson and her sister, Margaret Middleton Rivers, updated and republished their mother’s book entitled “Jeremiah Theus: Colonial Artist of Charles Towne.” She also had the letters about her great-grandfather’s exciting blockade-running days published by the Bermuda Quarterly. In 1995, for fifty years of volunteer work, she was given the Charleston Federation of Women’s Clubs Hall of Fame Award. She has since worked as the church’s unofficial archivist and historian. As Archivist, she rescued McCrady’s history of St. Philip’s Church and had it reprinted.

St. Philip’s Church was commissioned shortly after the Carolina colony was founded in 1670. Because the Church of England was the established church, St. Philip’s tried to meet the spiritual needs of the early settlers and also was responsible for oversight of elections, education and social services in everything from healthcare to disaster relief. St. Philip’s churchwardens and vestry enforced morality laws and levied taxes. The colony’s first state funeral – that of Governor Robert Johnson – took place in the church, as did that of the controversial, one-time vice president, Senator John C. Calhoun. Buried in the churchyard are Founding Fathers, pirate hunters, war heroes, statesmen and even the unfortunate victim of a sensational murder. This book recounts the early years of St. Philip’s Church, the people who walked its aisles and some of the early religious conflicts that shook the community.

To learn more visit www.oldexchange.org or call 843-727-2165.

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