

raise funds for the extensive improvements, restoration and maintenance of the building.

Worship services are now conducted **every Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day** and on **the first Sunday of every month** from Labor Day to Memorial Day, all at **11:00 AM**.

The most recent issue of the *Stone Church Newsletter* (No. 7, Summer 2003) details the renovation of this architectural masterpiece during the nine years since the *Friends of the Stone Church* assumed control of the Chapel. The ten-year restoration project envisioned by Cragsmoor architect Ken Bovo is on schedule and has included a new concrete basement, the installation of a new furnace, roof repair, replacement of mortar and re-pointing the stone work, new lighting, the installation of an indoor bathroom, and restoration of two of the stained glass windows, at an expense of approximately \$185,000 to date. A magnificent new Church sign has been installed, the work of gifted Cragsmoor artist Roger Baker. The sign is mounted on two pillars made from local stones and recites both the Chapel's 1897 dedication and its 1997 rededication. (See photo below. All images in this article are from the collection of Sally Matz; other than the below recent photo, they are from early 20th century postcards.)



The work continues, funded principally by donations and weddings. Couples of all faiths and orientations may be wed at **the Stone Church**. The fee is \$500, which covers cleaning before and after the wedding as well as candles for the ceremony, which may be held inside or outside, weather permitting. Couples receive a certificate designed by John Duncan with beautiful individualized calligraphy by Della Sue, as well as a memento of **the Stone Church**. Reservations and additional information can be made by calling Sally Matz at 845-647-6384.

Thirty-five weddings have been scheduled at the Chapel for 2003, with October being the most popular month (two weddings each and every weekend during the month). Six reservations are already on the books for 2004. Sally Matz has been analyzing where the wedding parties live and how they came to know of the Chapel's availability. Geographically, the largest number come from Orange County and many learned of the Chapel from hiking at **Sam's Point**. There is no doubt that **the Stone Church** is one of the most beautiful churches in the area and that the surroundings afford multiple "photo ops."

All funds from church rentals (weddings) and donations go directly to the restoration project and maintenance of the Chapel. Much still needs to be accomplished.

Stone Church Day has been scheduled for November 2, 2003, at which the artisans who have worked on the Chapel will talk about their discoveries and their challenges in restoring the 106-year-old building. The time of the program is still tentative, but the community is invited



to save the date and watch for further details. For those who want to learn more, copies of the newsletter are available at **the Stone Church**. Additional information came from an informational sheet published by the Friends, plus Katharine Terwilliger's historical writings and conversations with Sally Matz.

The Friends of the Stone Church deserve the area's gratitude for their selfless dedication to the preservation and restoration of this architectural and historic treasure.

Well done!

Note that the **Town of Wawarsing Bicentennial** ornament project chose **the Stone Church** as one of the first two ornaments to be released in 2003. Additional copies have been ordered and will be available again in late October, just in time for holiday giving. ☆

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