

# The Old School Baptist Meeting of Hopewell

## New Research, Investigations, and Plans for the Future



Watercolor painting of the Old School Baptist Church building representing an idealized view of the church and grounds. The carriage house originally sat behind the building and cemetery. Painted by Bordentown artist John Collins in 1869 for Catherine Stout. Courtesy the Hopewell Museum.

Moderated by Ian Burrow

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Free and open to the public

Attend in person at the  
Hopewell Presbyterian Church  
80 West Broad St., Hopewell, NJ

Or join online virtual presentation via Zoom –  
Please visit [hopewellvalleyhistory.org](http://hopewellvalleyhistory.org) to register

In the last few years local historical researchers and preservation experts have been finding out more about the history of the nationally important Old School Baptist Meeting House and its congregation, founded in the early 1700's. Come and hear about what is being uncovered, and about planning for the future of this historic Hopewell treasure. Followed by a Q&A session.

### Presentations:

#### The Historic Importance of the Old School Baptist Church and its Congregation

*Christie Alderman,  
Preparer of the  
National Register  
of Historic Places  
Nomination*

#### Researching the Historical Documents of the Old School Baptist Meeting

*Cynthia O'Connor,  
Local Historian*

#### The African-American Old School Baptists

*Elaine Buck and  
Beverly Mills,  
Authors of If These  
Stones Could Talk*

#### The 1747 Graveyard: Where and Who?

*Ian Burrow,  
Archaeologist*

#### Preserving the Old School Baptist Meeting for the Future

*Michael Mills,  
Historic  
Preservation  
Architect*

#### Q and A

*Moderated by  
Ian Burrow*

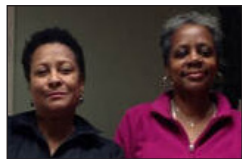
### About the Speakers



**Christie Alderman** holds a Master's degree in Heritage Preservation, has written several nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, and previously served on the board and led preservation planning for the Old Stone Church in Baptistown, NJ. Outside of her volunteer activities, Christie serves as a Senior Vice President for the world's largest publicly traded P&C insurance company, building products to help businesses manage cyber risks.



**Cynthia O'Connor** currently researches family history narratives for people interested in the stories of where their families originated. Additionally she creates house histories – essentially genealogy for buildings – for clients of the Hopewell Valley Historical Society as well as privately beyond the Hopewell Valley. She is also a trustee of the Hopewell Museum and the Hopewell Valley Historical Society. After a business career in the freight rail industry in response to deregulation in the 1980s, she also has worked for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Rutgers Archaeological Survey Office.



**Elaine Buck and Beverly Mills** are the founders of the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum and co-authors of *If These Stones Could Talk*. They proudly received the Kirkus Book Review in October 2018 and in 2019 the New Jersey Author's Award Non-Fiction Popular Works Category. In 2020, they partnered with the Museum of the American Revolution for an exhibition titled *When Women Lost the Vote*. In 2021, they received Doris C. Carpenter Award on behalf of Preservation New Jersey for their work on the March of America's Diverse Army through New Jersey and the Solomon Northup Family Award for uplifting the memory of enslaved people. Their new book, *African Americans of Central New Jersey: A History of Harmony and Hostility*, was released in July.



**Ian Burrow** is a semi-retired archaeologist. He was born, raised and educated in England. After working there for 10 years as a professional archaeologist, he emigrated to the United States in 1988 to continue his archaeological career in New Jersey and surrounding states. He serves on the Board of the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum (among other things).



**Michael Mills** has devoted his career to the preservation and adaptive use design of some of the region's most significant historic structures. He has lectured at Princeton University's School of Architecture and Urban Planning, and serves as Associate Graduate Faculty in the Rutgers University Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies program. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

This program is brought to you by the Hopewell Valley Historical Society, The Hopewell Museum and the Hopewell Public Library.

