

OLD NORTH ILLUMINATED

LET HISTORY LIGHT THE WAY



2022 Annual Report

Dear History Lovers,

As we approach the nation's 250th anniversary, it feels as though the past is very much present.

Colonial Bostonians navigated public health crises, racial inequity, economic instability, and by April 1775 – a political divide that felt insurmountable. We don't have to look hard to find relevance.

From where we sit today, it is easy to judge the people of the past. We identify with historical figures (#SchuylerSisters) and confidently declare what we would have done in pivotal moments. We do this because we know what happened next. But if we challenge ourselves to consider the limited information available, combined with hopes, fears, and uncertainties, we can begin to understand why events unfolded as they did.

In October 2022, we adopted a new name – Old North Illuminated – to reflect our expanding educational and interpretive efforts to shine an analytical light on the past. We believe that understanding the complexity of the past can help us make informed decisions, be courageous, and act with compassion in the face of injustice and division. As we work to build a more just and equitable future, our driving motto is: let history light the way.

Our vision – which articulates the world we want to live in – is a future in which everyone will see their stories, struggles, and hopes reflected in places of prominence and our shared American history. We recognize that, to achieve this vision, we must do our part to recover the voices of those who have been left out of the story. To that end, we are proud to share some of our 2022 highlights:

- We funded a year-long, full-time research fellowship to begin to rediscover the Black and Indigenous congregants who contributed to Old North Church and its community.
- We created a site-wide interpretive plan to guide us in sharing new research and creating meaningful experiences.
- We welcomed over 100,000 visitors to Old North Church & Historic Site, a number that will climb exponentially as tourism continues to bounce back “post-pandemic.”
- Our new classroom curricula and enrichment materials reached 7,416 students in 35 states.

These accomplishments are possible because of our incredible team – the leadership of the Board of Directors, the commitment and expertise of our staff, and supporters like you who believe in the power of history to spark wisdom and empathy. On behalf of everyone at Old North Illuminated, thank you for your partnership and belief in our mission.

With gratitude,



NIKKI STEWART
Executive Director, Old North Illuminated



MADELEINE RODRIGUEZ
Board Chair, Old North Illuminated



Cover photo: Students from the Eliot K-8 Innovation School visit Old North Church & Historic Site for a field trip.

Sharing Our Stories



Catherine Matthews, Director of Education, shares new research in October 2022.



Twelve Points Wealth Management attended the inaugural Director's Tour.

One if by land, two if by sea. Old North Church & Historic Site welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year who come for the story of those famous lanterns and two courageous patriots who risked their lives for a cause they believed in. And yet, with 300 years of history, we have so much more to offer. Where do we begin?

In June of 2022, we completed a major milestone in our 2021–2025 strategic plan: a comprehensive interpretive plan to serve as a blueprint for our storytelling. Our goal is to balance the seminal story of the lantern signals and Paul Revere's ride with an honest account of colonialism and enslavement in 18th-century Boston. We believe that Old North Church's relevance today requires open dialogue about how

our founding ideals and ongoing struggles for equity shape active citizenship in 2023 and beyond.

To spark these conversations, the interpretive plan outlines four essential questions that draw upon the overarching themes that emerge across our 300 years of history:

- What does it mean to be an active citizen?
- How do the perspectives of different individuals or groups change what we think about the American Identity?
- What are the enduring implications for societies given that laws, policies, systems, and customs are often born from inequitable revolutions?
- How does art activate social change?

These questions are complex and open-ended. They prompt visitors to examine their own beliefs and values while connecting the past to the present. These questions help us approach history as an ongoing narrative rather than a fixed story. They leave space to discover new information, wrestle with our biases, and consider conflicting opinions.

Through our on-site visitor experiences, classroom materials, and virtual programming, these questions help visitors and students explore American history in all its complexity.

Dr. Jaimie Crumley Illuminates the Unseen



Dr. Crumley examined Old North Church records at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

In the spring of 2022, Old North Illuminated welcomed Dr. Jaimie D. Crumley for a one-year Research Fellowship. Dr. Crumley has been combing through Old North Church’s records, maintained at the Massachusetts Historical Society, to learn more about the histories of some of the free and enslaved African and Indigenous peoples who were part of Old North’s 18th and 19th-century history. Her work is helping us understand the church’s connections to enslavement and colonialism — two challenging topics that have lasting implications in our city and country.

“How, and why, has the construct of race changed over time? And, what can that tell us about why racial inequity is still so pervasive in the present day?”

Dr. Jaimie D. Crumley, *Research Fellow*

As a historian and ordained minister, Dr. Crumley has the ideal background for interpreting the church’s archival documents. Dr. Crumley is an Assistant Professor of Gender Studies and Ethnic Studies in the School for Social and Cultural Transformation at the University of Utah. She holds a PhD in Gender Studies from UCLA and Master of Divinity and Master of Sacred Theology degrees from Yale Divinity School.

To share her ongoing research with the public, Dr. Crumley launched *Illuminating the Unseen*, a public history video series on YouTube. The series is written and presented by Dr. Crumley and carefully crafted to explore high-level ideas about the study of history, race, and gender in a way that is accessible to a broad audience.

In each episode, Dr. Crumley analyzes different primary source documents, including pew deeds, wills, letters, Books of Common Prayer, and newspaper articles, with an eye toward the people who might be overlooked. Links to images of the

This Old Pew The Humphries Family

Upstairs Gallery
Years: 1740s-1750s

John and Elizabeth Humphries were a free Black couple who first appear in the Old North records in March 1748 with the baptism of their daughter, Deborah. Over the next four years, they would baptize seven more children at Old North: Robert, Richard, James, Catherine, Elizabeth, Thomas, and Ruth. Five children were baptized on the same day which tells us they were not all infants. There were probably many reasons that motivated the Humphries to join Old North congregation, one being to become a part of a community. In October 1765, Elizabeth Humphries married Robert Hunter, an enslaved man. This may be the daughter Elizabeth or the mother remarrying, but it shows that being a church member offered a way to meet people and make connections.

Life was not easy for the Humphries family. They fell in and out of financial struggles and appear periodically on lists of people receiving alms from the church. John Humphries died shortly after the baptism of their last child, making it even more difficult for Elizabeth Humphries to support her family. Three of her children were indentured to a church member, Alexander Chamberlain. Perhaps this was seen as an act of charity and a means to keep the children together. But Elizabeth Humphries was given no choice in the matter, and the youngest of the three children, Ruth, who was only 6 years old at the time, would serve an indenture of 12 years.

After this, the Humphries family largely disappeared from the historical records. But this brief snapshot into the lives of this family helps to shed light on what the experience of other Black congregants may have been.

Unlock more stories connected to the pews: www.oldnorth.com/this-old-pew

New signage shares the story of the Humphries family, a Black family who worshiped at Old North in the 1700s.

archival documents featured in each video are shared in a corresponding blog, so viewers have the chance to examine the primary sources themselves and conduct their own interpretation. Dr. Crumley and her research have been covered by *The Boston Globe*, *WBUR*, *MSN.com*, *Boston.com*, and *NBC 10 Boston*. The videos are available at www.oldnorth.com/itu.

In addition to *Illuminating the Unseen*, Dr. Crumley's research forms an integral part of our new audio tours and our guided tours of the church's gallery, where people of African and Indigenous descent worshiped in racially segregated seating from 1723, at least through the end of the American Civil War. Racially segregated seating was commonplace at interracial Episcopal Churches throughout the Atlantic World.

One story that was recently added to our interpretation as a result of Dr. Crumley's research is that of Beulah Speene. Beulah Speene was a Nipmuc, possibly Afro-Indigenous woman, who married Saul Rogers, an enslaved Black man, at Old North Church in 1767. Speene's racial journey is a compelling one, and it demonstrates that race was – and continues to be – a social construct. In United States history, the idea of race developed to justify why some people had more power and privilege than others.

Born in Natick, a town settled by English missionaries for the purpose of converting Indigenous peoples to Christianity, Beulah Speene's 1743 birth record indicates that she was not a person of color. However, Old North's records describe her as a mixed-race woman who married an enslaved Black man. Decades later, the 1790 federal census data indicates that she, her second husband, and her children were free people of color. We don't know if Beulah's self-identity changed, but we do know that the way society identified her did. Her story begs the questions: "How, and why, has the construct of race changed over time? And, what can that tell us about why racial inequity is still so pervasive in the present day?"

This is just one example of how Dr. Crumley's research is relevant to the questions and issues we still grapple with today.



Scan the QR code to watch
Illuminating the Unseen



ILLUMINATING
THE UNSEEN

Lantern2022

An Inspiring Celebration with Honoree Mike Bloomberg



Mike Bloomberg receives the 2022 Third Lantern Award, with help from our friends at the Eliot K-8 Innovation School.



On April 13, 2022, we celebrated the 247th anniversary of Old North’s iconic lantern signals at Lantern2022. It was an inspiring evening featuring beautiful music, a dynamic reading of the poem “Paul Revere’s Ride” by Michael Bobbitt of the Mass Cultural Council, and a breathtaking lantern lighting reenactment.

Our honoree, Mike Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies and the 108th Mayor of New York City, was presented with the Third Lantern Award in recognition of his decades of public service and philanthropy. The award had special significance

for Bloomberg, who grew up in nearby Medford, MA. As a child, he recited Longfellow’s “Paul Revere’s Ride” at the Patriots’ Day celebration in Medford Square — a formative life event that he credits with igniting a love of American history.

In his keynote address, Bloomberg praised the thoughtful historic interpretation at Old North Church and reaffirmed the need to teach American history in all its complexity. “Every time we face up to our mistakes and failures we grow stronger, because patriotism doesn’t require perfection from the past,” said Bloomberg. “It requires honesty in the present.



Scan the QR code to explore **Bloomberg Connects**



"Every time we face up to our mistakes and failures we grow stronger, because patriotism doesn't require perfection from the past...It requires honesty in the present"

Mike Bloomberg, *Lantern 2022 Honoree*

Each generation is called to refresh the story of America. Not to rewrite history – but to revisit it, recast it, and reclaim it, and pass it down to the next generation, by teaching them about our civic foundations, cracks and all, so that they can continue the work of building a more perfect union.”

During the Lantern2022 program, we announced that a special digital guide to Old North Church was added to Bloomberg Connects, the popular arts and culture app. Designed to be used both on-site or at home, the app allows guests to dive deeper into Old North’s history with a treasure trove of photos, videos, and articles. The Bloomberg Connects app is completely free, can be used anytime from anywhere, and features digital guides to over 200 museums from around the world.

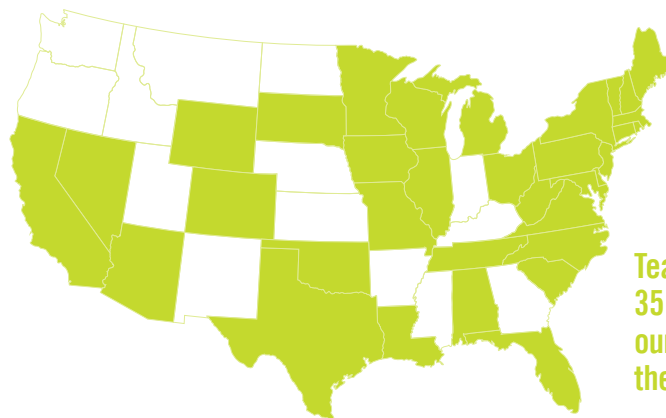
Classroom Programming and Field Trips

The 2022-2023 school year saw significant increases in the number of teachers and students using Old North’s four digital curricular units. In total, 7,416 students across 35 states engaged with one or more of these resources.

	Total Number of Students	% Increase from 2021-2022 SY	Total Number of States
History Mystery	3,758	111%	30
Virtual Behind the Scenes Tour	1,610	69%	19
Cacao and Colonial Chocolate (High School)	947	156%	11 states & Canada
Chocolate as a Lens to the Past (5th Grade)	1,101	30%	12
Total	7,416	88%	35

This school year we also launched a new field trip for high school level students, the Chocolate Spotlight Tour. In this activity, students use primary sources to examine the colonial chocolate industry in Boston and the ways in which Old North congregation members were connected to this industry. They interpret 18th-century recipes to learn about urban slavery and how to write inclusive histories by identifying the hidden labor, such as sugar cane cutters or cacao growers, that the recipes require. In October, students from Fontbonne Academy in Milton, MA came to Old North to participate in this field trip after completing Cacao and Colonial Chocolate in their U.S. History class. Inspired by what they learned, the students wrote a petition to their head of school requesting that the chocolate in the school vending machine be changed to fair trade chocolate and proposed a campaign to educate their schoolmates on the modern day chocolate trade.

In March 2022, we launched a new teacher newsletter to connect directly with teachers and school administrators and share information about the many learning resources Old North offers. Each newsletter includes an update about happenings around campus, a lesson or activity that can be taught in their classroom, and information about new resources and how they can be used with students. As of June 2023, Old North’s teacher community has grown to reach over 850 educators.



Teachers in 35 states utilized our curricula in their classrooms.



Restoring Old North's Historic Crypt



Crew members from Knollmeyer Building Corp. carefully remove the original wooden door from Major John Pitcairn's tomb.

Beneath the floor of Old North's sanctuary is the church's historic crypt — the final resting place of more than 1,100 individuals. When visitors explore this unique space they learn about burial practices in colonial Boston; our founding rector's deep ties to enslavement and colonialism; and the stories of some of the crypt's notable occupants, like Major John Pitcairn and Captain Samuel Nicholson.

In 2022, we launched an eight-month major restoration project, in partnership with the National Parks Service, to help preserve the crypt for generations to come. The restoration work will provide a unique opportunity to see inside some of the crypt's 37 tombs. When the original wooden doors are removed for restoration, archaeologists will create 3D renderings of the tombs without disturbing the burials. This information is critical to the ongoing preservation of this sacred space as both temperatures and sea levels rise.



Archaeologists inspect the inside of an open tomb.

Another important aspect of the restoration work is the repointing of the bricks surrounding the tombs. Since bricks expand in the summer and contract in the winter, the mortar around the bricks can break down and crumble. To repair this damage, masons who specialize in historic masonry work will scrape out and replace the damaged mortar. The process is called “repointing” because a pointed trowel is used to carve out the old mortar.

Finally, the floor on the south side of the crypt will be lowered to install a ramp. This will allow visitors with mobility challenges to enter and explore the crypt for the first time in the space's history. The restoration project is expected to wrap up in late summer of 2023.

WHAT'S

NEXT



REVOLUTION'S **EDGE**

APRIL 18, 1775



Byles, Cato, and Pulling debate the best path forward for their families, and the colonies.

Watch the trailer and purchase tickets.



Revolution's Edge, an original theatrical work commissioned by Old North Illuminated and produced by Plays in Place, will premiere on June 15 followed by a 14-week run. *Revolution's Edge* takes us to the afternoon of April 18, 1775, hours before the signal lanterns would shine from Old North's steeple. With war on the horizon, Old North's Loyalist rector, the Rev. Dr. Mather Byles Jr., is pushed to 'resign' his post. As Byles and Cato (an African man enslaved by Byles) prepare to leave the church for the final time, they encounter Capt. John Pulling Jr., a prominent member of the church congregation, ardent Patriot, and friend of Paul Revere. These three men share a faith but have very different beliefs concerning the right path ahead for themselves, their families, and the colonies. Their conversation explores the intersection of faith and freedom on the edge of the American Revolution.

AUDIO GUIDE



Visitors to Old North will enjoy a new 35-minute audio guide that weaves together the story of Paul Revere's famous

lantern signal with recent research into the lives of Old North's free and enslaved Black and Indigenous congregants. Available in both English and Spanish through handheld audio devices, this project was generously funded by The Lynch Foundation and the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation. An accompanying Old North Church Teacher Guide for K - 12 classrooms will expand upon the topics and themes explored in the audio tour.

NEW EXHIBIT

In the late summer, we will unveil a new exhibit in honor of Old North Church's 300th anniversary with an emphasis on accessible design features that allow visitors with varying abilities to engage and learn. With the generous support of the Yawkey Foundation, we are currently redesigning our sanctuary exhibit to present the story of the lantern signals and Old North's role in launching the American revolution alongside the paradox of liberty and enslavement in the church's history. This exhibit will allow us to provide a deeper look at our country's shared national origins at a time when Americans are struggling with division and difference.



The year in numbers

Old North Illuminated Statement of Financial Position for December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021

In 2022, Old North Illuminated was able to move forward with several capital projects, including the renovation of the Washington Garden and the design of an accessibility ramp to bypass the stairs on our campus, which account for the decrease in cash and cash equivalents. The Statement of Financial position for December 31, 2022 also reflects the Financial Accounting Standards Board's new leasing guidance and the requirement to recognize right-of-use (ROU) assets and lease liabilities for operating lease on the statement of financial position. The most significant impact of adoption was the recognition of operating ROU assets and lease liabilities of \$264,528.

Assets	2022	2021
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,844,457	\$2,606,808
Current portion of grants and contributions receivable	79,451	345,468
Inventory	75,401	68,885
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	14,288	19,654
Total current assets	2,013,597	3,040,815
Other Assets:		
Investments	1,035,833	1,137,158
Grants and Contributions Receivable, net	100,000	150,000
Cash Surrender Value of Life Insurance	70,162	67,061
Operating Lease Right-of-Use Asset	212,917	–
Property and Equipment, net	1,855,061	1,342,854
Total assets	5,317,570	\$5,737,888
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities:		
Current portion of long-term debt	\$61,685	\$46,989
Accounts payable	77,548	32,610
Accrued expenses	18,670	17,147
Current portion of operating lease liability	34,008	–
Total current liabilities	191,911	\$96,746
Other Liabilities:		
Operating Lease Liability, net of current portion	203,909	338,741
Long-term Debt, net	145,876	199,387
Total liabilities	541,696	\$634,874
Net Assets:		
Without donor restrictions:		
Operating	273,157	419,682
Board designated	501,049	500,092
Property and equipment	1,801,485	1,245,096
Total without donor restrictions	2,575,691	2,164,870
With donor restrictions	2,200,183	2,938,144
Total net assets	4,775,874	5,103,014
Total liabilities and net assets	\$5,317,570	\$5,737,888

The Lantern Society

Lantern Society Members are partners, supporters, and advocates who support the mission of Old North Illuminated with an annual gift of \$1,000 or more.

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Twelve Points Wealth Management

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We make every effort to maintain accurate records. Should you notice an error, please contact development@oldnorth.com.

Old North Illuminated (formerly "Old North Foundation") is a 501(c)(3) exempt organization. Our EIN number is 04-3120688. Gifts can be made via check, credit card, stock transfers, or Donor Advised Funds. To learn more, contact Nikki Stewart, Executive Director, at nstewart@oldnorth.com or 617-513-5999.



Old North Illuminated, formerly the Old North Foundation, was established in 1991 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit secular organization independent of the Old North Church Congregation.

OUR VISION describes the world in which we want to live: a future in which everyone will see their stories, struggles, and hopes reflected in places of prominence and our shared American history.

OUR MISSION statement describes how we are going to contribute to creating the world in which our vision is realized: by inspiring active citizenship and courageous, compassionate leadership by interpreting and preserving the Old North Church & Historic Site.

OUR CORE BELIEFS articulate the guiding principles on which our programmatic work, operations, and partnerships are based and carried out:

- Bravery, patriotism, and active citizenship come in many forms. These acts can inspire both large-scale and local change.
- Education and respectful dialogue are key to building a more perfect union that reflects the promise of liberty and justice for all.
- Becoming an anti-racist organization will require active engagement with the legacy of slavery at Old North Church and the ongoing burdens of slavery and racism in our country.
- By preserving and sharing history, space, and stories, we shape our future.



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*Lists reflect December 2022 Staffing and Leadership

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