

A Godly Heritage in Our Midst

by Laura Wichmann Hipp

John Robinson, one of the founders of Second Presbyterian Church in Charleston, was a shipping merchant whose business was to ship others' goods, namely cotton and rice. Robinson had not one but THREE ships attacked and burned by French marauders in 1825. No law, only the gentleman's agreement that he would be responsible for his clients' goods, compelled him to "play the man" of integrity. He had built a fine though not extravagant house northeast of Boundary St., now Calhoun St. Instead of declaring bankruptcy or pleading it was not his fault, John Robinson, in order to pay back those who had entrusted their crops and goods to him, sold his biggest asset: his house. That house is now named for the two successive owners who made it the lavish mansion it is today, the Aiken-Rhett House.

John Robinson's descendants not only remember him, but they have the humble mark of integrity and a lively faith passed down from generation to generation. Our own Florance Robinson Anderson, along with several other St. Philippians, is a descendant of this same John Robinson. No matter where the Robinson family went in their many moves throughout the centuries, some due to war or fire, they always managed to take with them their six-volume set of Matthew Henry's commentaries on the Bible. These tomes undoubtedly shaped John Robinson's faith, as they are now shaping Florance's—she reads them online to protect the originals. They are so relevant that they are still in print!



Florance
Anderson

Florance faithfully mans the sound system at St. Philip's, working quietly behind the scenes, often unnoticed, but always necessary for the smooth running of our church. She welcomes newcomers, helping them find their place in Charleston and often sending these prospective new members CDs of teachings or sermons they may have missed. Florance looks for what can be done beyond her job description to build up the Body of Christ because she is

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not only a Christian working at St. Philip's, but is a longtime faithful member of St. Philip's. I watch Florance with inspiration and admiration at her peace and smile as she does her best for her church. Florance not only lost her husband, Tommy, but before he was buried, she lost her mother, and then she lost her beloved historian mother-in-law, Dot Anderson. Florance is an unsung hero in our midst who exemplifies the Christlike spirit of a servant of our Lord. She is a Proverbs 31 woman, content to walk humbly with our God. Tommy and Florance's two daughters are married to men with ministry in their blood and who are in ministry themselves: Dorothy to Chris Blalock, pastor of Uptown Church, a churchplant in Charleston, and Felicia to Tim Evans, the contemporary music director of North Naples Methodist in Florida. Both Tim and Chris have a heart after God, and they have the perfect wives who back them up in their love of the Lord and who gladly and creatively join in the ministry work of the Gospel. This is a godly heritage in our midst, and it continues to define us today. The chain is only as strong as its weakest link, from generation to generation. They may have lost the house, but John Robinson's descendants never lost the faith, link by link. Praise God for such a godly heritage among us!

Laura Wichmann Hipp has been a member of St. Philip's since 1982. She currently leads the Young Professionals Bible Study on Sunday evenings.