

Media Contact
Carol Smith
p. 803.528.3655
e. carol@bigeyedbird.com



For Immediate Release

New Book Sales to Benefit Preservation South Carolina's Sacred Spaces Fund
Bill Fitzpatrick's "South Carolina's Sacred Spaces" to Help Save Endangered Churches

August 10, 2018 – Prosperity, S.C. – With a large majority of young church going South Carolinians trending towards churches offering more services and convenience and a decline in overall church attendance, more and more small churches are struggling or closing altogether.

Recently, the plight of the sacred spaces in these communities was highlighted in an eye-opening article in The State, "Losing Faith: Why South Carolina is abandoning its churches" by Sarah Ellis. The more attention we can bring to these issues the more we can do for their preservation.

This is where Preservation South Carolina steps in.

"History is embedded in the timbers of these Churches," said Mike Bedenbaugh, Executive Director. "With the loss of rural Christian culture these churches represent a generational shift."

Preservation South Carolina hopes to remind communities of the significance of these buildings that were once a central meeting place, and spiritual and cultural hitching post for many people.

With the release of his new book *South Carolina's Sacred Spaces*, Author and Photographer Bill Fitzpatrick gives a beautiful look at these sources of spiritual heritage. The book also introduces you to the people who work hard to keep these endangered historical sanctuaries from being lost to time. Fitzpatrick has generously donated the publishing rights and proceeds from the sale of the book to Preservation South Carolina to help ensure the future of these sacred spaces.

"In addition to furthering the mission of our organization, I have a personal passion for the sacred spaces of our state," said Bedenbaugh, who had to see the church his great grandfather helped build in the 1880's torn down after the church became empty. Unfortunately, his story has become all too familiar to communities across the state.

Preservation S.C. hopes to keep these churches from crumbling and offer a new outlook to the future of the buildings and the future of the communities to which they have so often been integral. By putting love and repair back into these buildings their goal is to make sure they are ready for their next great purpose (higher calling?), whatever that may be.

Preservation S.C. is the only statewide preservation organization and they are dedicated to preserving and protecting the historic and irreplaceable architectural heritage of South Carolina. For more information on Preservation S.C. please visit PreserveSC.org or contact Executive Director, Michael Bedenbaugh, via email at Mike@preservesc.org

Preservation South Carolina is a non-profit organization operating in South Carolina since 1990, dedicated to preserving and protecting the historic places of South Carolina.

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