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***For Immediate Release:***

### **K&Q Holiday Historic Church Tour**

The King and Queen Community Development Corporation (KQCD) is presenting its first King and Queen Holiday Historic Church Tour on Saturday, December 6 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Much like home and garden tours, KQCD has organized a church tour featuring some of the oldest and most historic churches in King and Queen County. This first tour focuses on churches in the Walkerton, St. Stephens Church and Bruington areas of the County including: Bethlehem Baptist (Bruington), Bruington Baptist (Bruington), Mizpah United Methodist (Walkerton), New Mount Zion Baptist (Walkerton) and Shepherds United Methodist (St. Stephens Church.) In future years KQCD would like to feature churches from different areas of the County.

Tickets are \$10 per person and include admittance to all five churches on the tour. Children ages six and under are free. Tickets will become available for sale in October. Lunches will be available through pre-orders only through Bruington Baptist Church. The church tour will benefit KQCD and the Marriott School Restoration Project which is the planned renovation of the Marriott School into a community/cultural arts center for residents of King and Queen County and the Middle Peninsula. Business sponsorships are available in support of the church tour. KQCD is pleased to announce that the King and Queen County Historical Society is sponsor for the church tour.

Bruington Baptist Church, located on Rt. 14 in Bruington, is one of five churches on the tour. This church was organized in 1790 by 150 members from Piscataway Church (now Mt. Zion) in Essex County. Dr. Robert Baylor Semple, distinguished minister and historian of Virginia Baptists, was its first pastor and served 41 years. He and his wife are buried at the church cemetery. The first sanctuary was built in 1791 followed by the second, which was made of brick in 1832. When the sanctuary cracked and became unsafe, a new building was erected in 1851 – this same worship space is used today. The first Sunday School at Bruington was not started until 1835 when an independent organization's Sunday School was taken over by the Church. In 1957 Sunday School rooms and a fellowship hall were added to the current 1851 sanctuary. Three other Baptist churches were formed from the Bruington Congregation over the years: St. Stephens (1842), Bethlehem (1871), and Mt. Zion (1870.)

Bruington Baptist Church celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1990. Since 1790, twenty-one ministers of the Gospel (men and women) have been ordained at Bruington and four of those, Dr. Semple, Dr. Richard Hugh Bagby, Dr. Cabell Hening and Rev. Ellen Gwathmey, served as pastors at the Church. The Revs. Brent and Michelle Kimlick have been serving as co-pastors since June 2006.

If you would like more information or would like to participate in or volunteer with KQCD and the historic church tour, please contact the KQCD office at 804-769-9656 or email info@kqcd.org. For more information about KQCD and the Marriott School Restoration Project, please visit [www.kqcd.org](http://www.kqcd.org).

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