

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Christmas Shop, Church and Garden Tour St. John's Reformed Episcopal Church**

Charleston, SC – The **Philip Simmons Foundation, Inc.** announces the opening of its Christmas Shop with the release of the 2010 calendar, two new Christmas ornaments and a tour of the historic church and the Philip Simmons Garden.

This year, the Shop will be in the education building at St. John's Reformed Church located at 91 Anson Street. You will be able to purchase unique gift items influenced by Philip Simmons for your family, friends and yourself beginning December 11 to the 29<sup>th</sup> -- closed Sundays and Mondays. There will be silver jewelry, books, Christmas and note cards, wrapping paper, the 2010 calendar, limited edition prints and some small ironwork from the Simmons Workshop. The Christmas Shop will be open from 11 AM to 3 PM Tuesdays - Saturdays.

Tours of the Church will be from NOON to 2 PM. Built in 1850, the church was the Anson Street Presbyterian, which became Zion Olivet Presbyterian (current location on Cannon St), then St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church (currently located West Ashley), and in 1970 it was purchased by St. John's Reformed Episcopal Church.

The building has its unique history which began prior to the Civil War. You will find out what began in this church that spread all across America.

The **Philip Simmons Foundation, Inc.** was established in 1991 to develop the grounds of the church as a tribute to their most renowned member, the late Philip Simmons, master blacksmith, (June 9, 1912 - June 22, 2009). Its mission also includes preserving his legacy.

The Foundation is purchasing the home and workshop of Mr. Simmons and is awaiting final approvals before opening the home to the public. His workshop is being operated by his cousin and nephew who apprenticed with him from the age of 13 -- the same age that Philip Simmons was allowed to work in the blacksmith shop of Peter Simmons.

The public is invited to visit the church to learn about one of the best kept secrets in Charleston before or after shopping for that special gift to send to family, friends or to place under the tree.

For more information about the Philip Simmons Foundation, Inc. visit the website:  
[www.philipsimmons.us](http://www.philipsimmons.us).

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