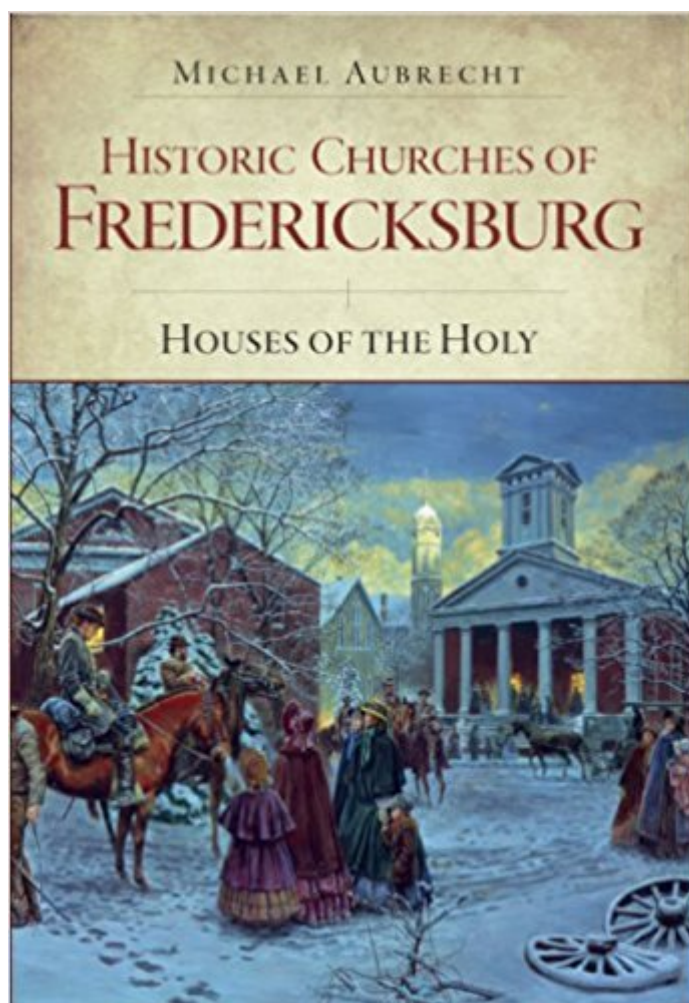


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# Historic Churches Of Fredericksburg:: Houses Of The Holy



## Synopsis

Historic Churches of Fredericksburg: Houses of the Holy recalls stories of rebellion, racism and reconstruction as experienced by Secessionists, Unionists and the African American population in Fredericksburg's landmark churches during the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. Using a wide variety of materials compiled from the local National Park archives, author Michael Aubrecht presents multiple perspectives from local believers and nonbelievers who witnessed the country's Great Divide. Learn about the importance of faith in old Fredericksburg through the recollections of local clergy such as Reverend Tucker Lacy; excerpts from slave narratives as recorded by Joseph F. Walker; impressions of military commanders such as Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson; and stories of the conflict over African American churches.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Historian Michael Aubrecht has dedicated his studies to the histories of Major League Baseball and the Civil War. From 2000 through 2006, Michael authored over 375 essays on the history of America's national pastime for Baseball-Almanac. Today, Michael primarily writes books on the Civil War, as well as historical features for the Free Lance-Star newspaper and Civil War Historian and Patriots of the American Revolution magazines. He also hosts a popular Internet video-show titled The Naked Historian and consults on independent documentary films. In the fall of 2009, Michael appeared in and coproduced The Angel of Marye's Heights with director and filmmaker Clint Ross. A popular tour guide, lecturer and radio guest, Michael is vice-chairman of the National Civil War

Life Foundation and the founder of The Jefferson Project. He works as a technical writer for the U.S. Marshals Service and lives in historic Spotsylvania, Virginia, with his wife Tracy and four children, Dylan, Madison, Kierstyn and Jackson. For more information, or to book Michael for your engagement, please visit his website and blog at [www.pinstripepress.net](http://www.pinstripepress.net).

In his recent book, *Historic Churches of Fredericksburg: Houses of the Holy*, Michael Aubrecht provides a look at disunion, war, and reconstruction (literally and figuratively) as experienced by Secessionists, Unionists, and African Americans in landmark churches of Fredericksburg, Virginia, during the Civil War era. I enjoyed it especially due to the author's significant attention to the use of the churches as hospitals - indeed the town itself was referred to as "one vast hospital" - and the subsequent damage due to that use. To document the history of five Fredericksburg churches during the war, Aubrecht drew on an impressive array of sources, including archival material from the individual churches; sources at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park; soldier and civilian journals, letters, and memoirs; and - most interesting - postwar "Court of Claims" documents. The book is handsome and is amply illustrated with more than eighty photographs and engravings. The narrative is lively, especially when the author incorporates first-hand accounts. Each chapter begins with a brief sketch of the church's origin, a lengthy section on the wartime experience of the church (for the building and parishioners), how the church and community were rebuilt postwar, and the state of the church today. Though the book lacks annotation or an Index, the author's attribution of material in the book is clear enough that readers will not have difficulty identifying sources from the Bibliography.

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