

Historical Society receives key to Little Brown Church

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A happy group of people associated with the Pacifica Historical Society gathered on the sidewalk in front of the 95-year-old Little Brown Church on Francisco Boulevard Sunday to celebrate the recent signing of a lease with the City of Pacifica and the acquisition of the key to the building. The fact that the party was on the sidewalk pointed out the challenge facing the Little Brown Church Preservation Committee; no one is allowed to use the building until it is renovated and made safe for occupation. Pacifica's first city manager, Karl Baldwin, who leads the preservation committee, accepted the key to the former church and most recently, police station, from Mayor Julie Lancelle.

A Little Brown Church cake, provided by Mayor Pro Tem Sue Digre, along with fudgy brownies and other treats, competed for attention with memories of good times from the past.

Dody Payne was showing off a photograph of the Little Brown Church from years ago, with a big crowd on the scene. Why wasn't she in the picture? "I took the picture," she smiled. Likewise, Connie Mason Brown and Mason Brown were enjoying memories of having been married in the Little Brown Church. And Catherine Montgomery reminisced about attending church there when Reverend Harkins was the Presbyterian Minister.

The lease agreement with the City requires the Pacifica Historical Society to have a financial plan within a few years and complete the project within a decade. Supporters are confident that fund-raising and grants will pay for what they admit is going to be a challenge. But it will be a labor of love, mixed in with memories. On Sunday October 23, 2005, they were celebrating a new beginning.