History, Heritage and Culture: Day 2

The 2nd History Day of the Beaufort County Senior Leadership (BCSL) Program began “South of Broad” at the Bluffton Branch of Beaufort County Library. The afternoon sessions were spent visiting the Church of the Holy Cross and touring the Heyward House Historic Center in Old Town Bluffton. The day ended with a class mixer at Truffles Café located in Belfair Towne Village.

Dr. Steven R. Wise, a local historian, author, Director of the Parris Island Museum and Cultural Resource Manager of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot started the second day of History, Heritage, and Culture by presenting with clear images and stories the role of Beaufort and Port Royal in the Civil War.

Grace Cordial, an award winning Senior Librarian, Beaufort District Collection Manager for the Beaufort County Librarian System and coordinator for the Beaufort History Museum/Beaufort County Library Local History series gave a “powerful” and eye-opening talk on how hurricanes have affected the history of the Low Country.

After lunch, students met at the Church of the Cross. The church was erected in 1857 and stands as a beautiful example of a cruciform Gothic structure along the banks of the May River in Old Town Bluffton. Docent Jim Cheesman delighted the class with the rich history of the church and the unique qualities of the architecture.

From the church, a number of the students enjoyed or endured a “chilly” walk to the Heyward House Historic Center, which is owned by the Bluffton Historical Society. It includes a house museum that was built in 1841 by John J. Cole. It is considered to be an early example of Carolina Farmhouse style. Included on the property are a summer kitchen and a slave cabin. The students were broken up into several groups and followed the Center’s friendly and knowledgeable docents from room to room of the house and adjacent buildings.