Monticello venues now available for events

IN 1791 Thomas Jefferson wrote to Richard Peter, inviting him to visit Monticello: “Call on me, in your turn, whenever you come to town: and if it should be about the hour of three, I shall rejoice the more. You will find . . . a host thankful for your favor, and desirous of encouraging repetitions of it without number, form or ceremony.”

Jefferson was widely known for his hospitality and was fond of extending invitations to his friends to dine and spend time at Monticello. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation has extended the tradition of Jeffersonian hospitality into the present day by issuing a similar invitation to supporters and friends.

The Foundation is now offering groups and organizations the opportunities to co-host events at Monticello that are consistent with its dual mission of preservation and education. With the addition of the spaces in the Thomas Jefferson Visitor and Smith Education Center, the Foundation is now able to present a versatile set of venue options.

The list of eligible events includes meetings, retreats, talks, meals, and receptions. The indoor locations available include the Jefferson Library, which can accommodate 200 for a reception or 60 for a dinner; the Smith Woodland Pavilion, which can comfortably seat 30 for lunch; and the visitor center’s Theater and classrooms, which are ideal for talks and meetings. Outdoor spaces are also available.

Events can be paired with tours of Monticello that are tailored to the interests of the group, with topics including Jefferson and architecture, Jefferson and wine, the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson and science, plantation life, early American politics, and the decorative arts. Private viewings of the exhibitions at the visitor center and talks by Monticello scholars also can be arranged in conjunction with an event.

The Monticello staff is eager to extend Jefferson’s famous hospitality to supporters and friends. Complete information about holding events at Monticello can be obtained by contacting Natasha Sienitsky at (434) 984-9809 or nsienitsky@monticello.org.