



# GRACE NOTES

Grace Episcopal Church, Pemberton, New Jersey

Volume 2, No. 1

Winter 2018

Almighty and ever-living God, we ask you to help us grow this year. May we see your hand at work in the world around us and enthusiastically join in. May we be living examples of the glorious transformation that comes from a relationship with your Son, Jesus. Grant us a heartfelt concern for those who need a spiritual home, and give us what we need to invite them into the marvelous new life you promise. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen. (A Collect for Growth)

## Upcoming Events

- Lenten book study and Night Prayer every Wednesday in Lent at 7:00 pm
- Anti-Racism Workshop for Discernment Committee & Vestry — February 24<sup>th</sup>
- Prayer shawl Blessing — February 25<sup>th</sup>
- 234<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention — March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Congregational Conversation — March 4<sup>th</sup> (single service at 9 AM, continental breakfast)
- Fish Fry — March 9<sup>th</sup> — Grace Church Men's Group
- Daylight Savings Time — March 11<sup>th</sup>
- Evensong — March 11<sup>th</sup>, 4 PM
- Discernment committee meeting March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM
- Food Pantry — March 17<sup>th</sup> and every third Saturday each month
- Vestry Meeting — March 19<sup>th</sup> and every third Monday in the month
- Our former organist Michael Ryan is presenting his senior recital on March 24<sup>th</sup>
- Palm Sunday — March 25<sup>th</sup>
- Discernment committee meeting March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM
- Maundy Thursday with agape supper and stripping of the altar — March 29<sup>th</sup>
- Good Friday — March 30<sup>th</sup>
- The Great Easter vigil — March 31<sup>st</sup>
- Easter Sunday with an Easter Egg Hunt — April 1<sup>st</sup>

# Olympian's Ties to Grace Church

Eddie Meyers, father of two-woman bobsled Olympian, Elana Meyers Taylor, was an acolyte at Grace. Many of you will remember Don Spering wearing a parka to church with words across his back expressing his joy in having a grand-daughter in the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Don's daughter is Elana's mom.

Elana won a bronze medal in Vancouver as a pusher in that sled. She transitioned to bobsled pilot for the 2014 Sochi Olympics, winning a silver there and repeating that feat this year in Pyeongchung — another silver medal.

Charlie Meyers, Elana's other grandfather, was a vestry member at Grace Church and the mayor of Pemberton Township.

**Right:** Shortly after her first Olympics, Elana visited Grace Church and brought her bronze medal. Bill Hess was among those who got to meet her and hold her olympic bronze medal.



## Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise & haste, & remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly & clearly; and listen to others, even the dull & ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud & aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain & bitter, for always there will be greater & lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery.

But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity & disenchantment it is perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings.

Many fears are born of fatigue & loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees & the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors & aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery & broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful Strive to be happy.

By American writer Max Ehrmann (1872-1945), *The Poems of Max Ehrmann* (1948). In 1956, the rector of Saint Paul's Church in Baltimore, included Desiderata in a compilation of devotional materials for his congregation. The compilation included the church's foundation date: 1692. Consequently, the date of the text's authorship was (and still is) widely mistaken as 1692. (Wikipedia).

# Older Adult Ministry

## *Committee for Ministry with Older Adults Report for the 234<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey*

Having grown up in the Church, and now having served as an ordained minister for more than 27 years, I am profoundly aware of how many deep and wonderful relationships I have had with seniors, those who have experienced life and its vicissitudes, who have perspective on so much. One of the great gifts of being church is our cross-generational identity. As I repeatedly remind us all, the Church is one of the only places in our culture where four and five generations of people gather regularly to worship God, to pray together, to care for one another and to serve one another and the wider community. I can think of few other aspects of life more valuable than these. Our Annual service to honor our older adults is a very special occasion on our diocesan calendar. It's an opportunity for us to pause and give thanks to so many who are the "treasures of the church" whom we often take for granted. They are among our most faithful disciples and have given us our present heritage. It is right that we "rise before" them.

—The Right Reverend William H. Stokes

### ***Older Adults Ministry***

The Committee for Ministry with Older Adults seeks to:

- Celebrate the blessings of aging
- Help the church to advocate for the needs of older adults
- Share the wisdom of older adults
- Provide resources related to aging

There are many more facets to this ministry. For example, the Committee is working on adding to their mission, promoting parish groups to discuss concerns of aging, and preparing for the Evensong for Older Adults on September 29, 2018. Grace Church is proud to have been blessed with ten honorees since 2013.

### ***An Evensong Celebrating Older Adults***

On Saturday, September 30, 2017, An Evensong Celebrating Older Adults, sponsored by the Committee for Ministry with Older Adults was held at Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, New Jersey. Fifty-one (51) churches in our diocese honored 147 older adults. Trinity Cathedral was filled to capacity, the organ resounding with joyful music, the choir singing praises to God for this momentous and grace-filled affair. It is one of Bishop

Stokes most favorite services; I clearly understand his enjoyment.

Grace Church, Pemberton honored Joe Patykula and me, Kathy Waugh, on this day in September 2017.

Although Joe was unable to be there with so many honorees, he was with us in spirit and prayer.

This distinguished Committee for Ministry with Older Adults was formed in 2013 by the Reverend Jane Brady-Close and the Reverend Jayne Oasin. The event has now become one of the important events at Trinity Cathedral. Grace Church has been blessed with the following honorees: September 28, 2013 - Jean Cook & Bob Reeves; September 27, 2014 - Joy Riley & Fred Mehler; September 26, 2015 - Marcella Johnson & Dave Herbert; September 24, 2016 - Freddie Woodall & Jim Cochran; September 30, 2017 - Joy Patykula & Kathy Waugh.

### **RESOURCES**

*All of the following websites are reachable through links on the Diocese of NJ Older Adults page.*

#### **Diocese of New Jersey**

[www.dioceseofnj.org/olderadults](http://www.dioceseofnj.org/olderadults)

Two of the many resources available on this site:

#### **Planning Your Funeral**

(An online guide from St. Luke's Church, Ewing)

#### **Worship Service for Caregivers**

(A Word document)

New Jersey Division of Aging Services [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home/index.html)

#### **NJ Foundation for Aging**

[www.njfoundationforaging.org](http://www.njfoundationforaging.org)

#### **Administration on Aging**

<https://www.acl.gov/about-acl/administration-aging/>

#### **National Council on Aging**

[www.ncoa.org](http://www.ncoa.org)

#### **National Resource on LGBT Aging**

[www.lgbtagingcenter.org/](http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/)

#### **Diocese of NJ Contact Information**

For information and/or involvement for you and/or your congregation, contact: The Rev. Dr. Carolyn A. Bradley, LCSW, Dcn. Email: [\(732\) 768-5781](mailto:cbradley@monmouth.edu)

# How I Became an Episcopalian

## Part Three



by: Robert (Bob) Reeves

I am writing this from memory which is failing me. The Grace Church fire occurred in September 1978. It was a beautiful fall day and at that time, the church was not locked.

The young man, David Attwood Mitchell, went into the church through the side door. He took prayer books and hymnals, choir vestments, contents of the safe which was also left unlocked, then piled them in front of the altar and set fire to them. He then took the processional cross and walked down Elizabeth Street. Mr. Bill Jarvis who was the chief of police in Pemberton Borough, picked him up and put him under arrest.

Judy Scott McGuiver daughter of Leona Scott decided to visit her mother who lived across the street from Fenwick Hail on Davis Street. She saw the smoke and turned in the alarm. Father Summers, who was our priest at that time, was away at a meeting.

His wife, Lorraine taught school across the street in the Borough. She immediately came home and, with the help of a lot of the neighbors who lived nearby, started taking things out of the church, such as candle sticks, communion vessels, and sacraments.

I was senior warden at the church and, at that time of day, I was driving a school bus. My boss, Roger Gardner, got in touch with me to tell me to park the bus

We have undertaken some significant repairs of our organ over the years and provide regular tuning and maintenance. The largest repair to date was after the 1978 fire and subsequent water damage.

We have contracted with Kurtz Organ Company to begin the restoration; the cost will be \$39,000. The organ will be removed from Grace Church in May 2018 with

and get to the church as it was on fire! I returned the bus to the bus garage, got my pick up and proceeded to the church. By then the police had Elizabeth Street blocked off. I explained to them who I was and they let me go to the church. When I arrived at the church, the fire was out; the firemen were gathering up their hoses and setting up fans to get rid of the smoke and smell. The culprit was in Mr. Jarvis' police car; I recognized him as one of my former Sunday school students. I saved the newspaper article about the fire; I gave it to the church for their archives. (Editor's Note: Bob's archives allowed us to create the historical article that follows this one).

The altar was badly burned, including the floor in front of the altar, and the altar rail. The smoke and water damage were extensive. You never saw such an outpouring of help.

Father Summers got home to find parishioners and townspeople gathering to help clean up the mess.

This happened on a Friday afternoon; we were able to hold a service in church on Sunday.

The Methodist Church offered us hymnals, Mrs. Herbert Wills, a parishioner, offered us her electric organ. The men moved the organ and we used it until our pipe organ was rebuilt. The church insurance covered most of the damage estimated at \$30,000.

Father Summers took the altar to Philadelphia and had it rebuilt. The altar rails were replaced. We had the plaster walls repainted but the cedar above the altar is still charred from the fire. The parish really came together and helped in any way they could to return things to normal. The one who started the fire was taken to Ancora mental hospital.

an estimated return before Labor Day. Our organ fund has been growing thanks to so many devoted donors and fund raisers. Please be in touch with the wardens or office administrator if you might be interested in underwriting the repair and restoration of one or more of the pipes as a gift in honor of, or in memory of a loved one.

# Pemberton 'Prophet' sets fire to church

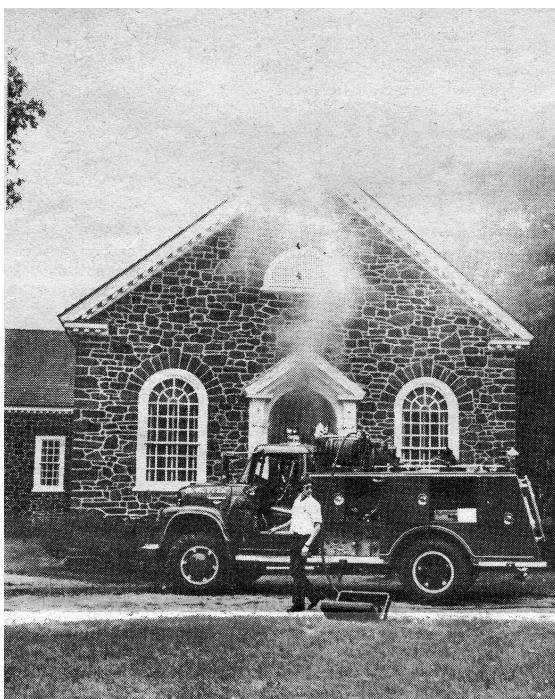
by: S.J. Hagenmayer, Times-Advertiser Editor

"Give me God's justice," shouted David Attwood Mitchell through the closed window of the Pemberton Borough police car while locked inside as local fire fighters worked to extinguish the blazing hymnals and prayer books allegedly torched by Mitchell at the altar of the Grace Episcopal Church, Elizabeth Street, Pemberton.

The bizarre Tuesday afternoon arson attempt has resulted in the arrest of the self-proclaimed prophet and local resident Mitchell, who has been charged thus far with malicious burning of a church, malicious burning of church goods and chattels, and with larceny of property over \$200, according to Pemberton Borough Police Chief William Jarvis. The offenses are high misdemeanors.

The church was saved from any serious structural damage when an unidentified passerby stopped at the church to pray and was confronted by Mitchell who threatened to burn down the church. The passerby then called Chief Jarvis whose immediate response to the situation as well as the rapid mobilization of area fire companies was responsible for limiting the damage done by the blaze.

Responding immediately to the passerby's call, Jarvis proceeded to the church. However, prior to arriving the police chief observed 28-year-old Mitchell. "He was marching down the sidewalk dressed in church vestments and



SMOKE pours out of the front door to the church as volunteer fire fighters contain the arson attempt.

ALTAR of the church is badly burned from the fire started with prayer books and hymnals, the charred remains of which surround the altar area.



carrying the cross on a staff about 6 feet high," recalled Jarvis, who is a member of the Grace Episcopal Church and served as an altar boy as a teenager. Jarvis immediately recognized the articles as belonging to the church.

"I immediately pulled my police vehicle over and grabbed hold of David and put him in the rear of the patrol car" recalled Jarvis. The chief then proceeded to the church about 100 yards further down the road.

"David spontaneously stated 'Bill please don't go in there, the church is on fire and there are spray cans that may explode and you may get hurt,'" recounted Jarvis as he described his arrival at the church grounds.

"I pulled right up on the church lawn, got out my 15 pound fire extinguisher, ran up to the choir section, and emptied my extinguisher on the fire — knocking a lot of the flames down," continued Jarvis. His fire extinguisher now empty, Jarvis made his way back outside for fresh air — at times getting down on his hands and knees to get under the thick smoke filling up the church interior.

As Jarvis exited from the church, Pemberton Township police Ptl. Robert Willits and Ptl. John Lucas arrived and were asked to guard the prisoner as the borough chief of police prepared to re-enter the building. At about this time the first fire truck arrived and Jarvis instructed the five Good Will volunteers to put



FINISHING UP the job of putting out the blaze that was started in the Grace Episcopal Church are local volunteer fire fighters as a cloud of smoke hovers above them.

on Scott air packs, while he returned to the church's interior with a booster hose.

Eventually responding to the call for assistance were units from the Good Will Fire Company, Magnolia Road Fire Company, Juliustown Fire Company, the Browns Mills Fire Company and the Community Emergency Squad.

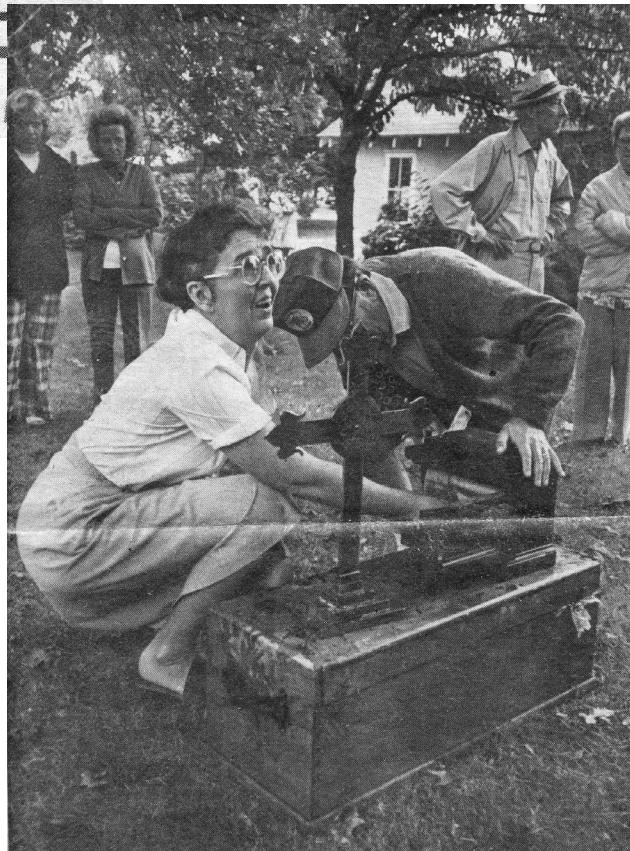
Although saved from serious structural damage the church did suffer both water and smoke damage with such church property as hymnals, prayer books, cushions, several pieces of furniture, vestments, and the wooden altar all sustaining heavy damage.

"I couldn't have possibly put the fire out with my extinguisher, it was the quick response of the fire companies that saved the building," commented Jarvis downplaying his own role in saving the building. He noted that while the building is made of stone on the outside, the interior is made mostly of oak and cedar with a cedar shingle roof topping off the structure.

As the volunteer fire fighters arrived and began working their way through the thick smoke within the church Mrs. Lorraine Summers, wife of the church's pastor, began seeking the aid of the fire fighters in the hopes of recovering the church's sacrament box from behind the altar before it suffered any damage. Finally, after several attempts and the retrieval of various other items mistaken for the sacrament box, fire fighters did retrieve it unharmed.

Father Charles Summers, rector of the Grace Episcopal Church, indicated that this was just the latest incident in a long series of confrontations between himself and Mitchell, who lives at 109 Hough Street, Pemberton.

"He (Mitchell) is a religious fanatic and he has come to the church before even in services and harassed the congregation and has come here at night and threatened me," recounted Father Summers. "He believes he is God's



RELIEVED is Mrs. Lorraine Summers, wife of the Grace Episcopal Church rector as she examines the sacrament box that was brought out of the fire by one of the local volunteer fire fighters.

judge," continued the rector who noted that the problem has existed for three or four years now.

"He (Mitchell) has never harmed anything before, this time he got carried away," concluded Rev. Summers.

Thirteen-year-old Gary Clark, an altar boy at the Grace Episcopal Church, was coming home from school when he noticed the scene at the church and stopped to learn more about the fate of his church. Clark recalled that Mitchell had once a couple years, ago, "started shouting about something — there was no God or

something like that — during the church's services. The men in the church tried to push him out and did."

Scenes like the one described by young Clark have occurred at other Pemberton area churches as well with many of the local pastors having had similar difficulties with Mitchell.

Rev. John Hibbard Jr., pastor of the Pemberton First Baptist Church, discussed the problem as he viewed the aftermath of the latest clash.

"I think he (Mitchell) has harassed every congregation in the Pemberton Area. He thinks of himself as a prophet. David the Morning Star is one name he goes by," commented Rev. Hibbard.

"About eight months to a year ago, he came to our church and warned that if we didn't do what he wanted, judgment would come against us," continued the Baptist pastor.

One incident with the First Baptist Church led to the arrest of Mitchell early in 1977 with Mitchell then being

placed in Ancora State Mental Hospital for about six months, according to Chief Jarvis.

Father Summers has indicated that no monetary figure has been placed on the damages as of yet, although an insurance adjuster is expected to view the damage before the end of today (Wednesday). The rector noted that the tragedy has brought the congregation [together and the] members are particularly thankful to the Good Will Fire Company for their rapid response.

The police investigation into the matter is continuing with Pemberton Borough Chief Jarvis and the borough's arson investigator Ptl. Henry Haverkoch, Detective, Gene Morse from the Burlington County Prosecutor's office and a state police arson investigator working on the case.

Mitchell is presently confined in the Burlington County Jail while waiting for arraignment at a later date.

The preceding article and pictures were copied from a local newspaper that Bob Reeves had saved. Here are the particulars on that paper:

## BURLINGTON COUNTY TIMES-ADVERTISER

Vol. 44, No. 31

Pemberton, N.J., Wednesday, September 20, 1978

15 Cents Per Copy

Serving Pemberton Township, Pemberton Borough, Southampton, Woodland, Springfield, New Hanover, North Hanover and Wrightstown.

The Times-Advertiser was published every Wednesday from 1935-1982. This issue that Bob Reeves saved was printed at the TAPCO printing plant (the building still exists, but not the company) at the corner of Ft. Dix Rd and Catesville Rd. The Burlington County Library has issues from February 27, 1935 to April 1, 1982 on microfilm. Interestingly, the paper's banner **TIMES ADVERTISER** was printed in red, the only color in an otherwise black and white paper.

## Night Prayer

The offering of prayer late in the evening, by laity, religious orders or clergy, often called Compline, has sometimes been described as the "goodnight prayer of the Church". It rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night. As the psalmist wrote: "I lie down in peace and take my rest for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid."

Every Wednesday in Lent at 7 PM during this time of Transition for Grace Church, we offer "Night Prayer" and book study at various parishioners' homes. Check the announcements or call the office for the location of where night prayer will be offered that week. The book we are using is *Lent 2018, The Lord is our Salvation* by Katie Z. Dawson. You don't need the book to participate, but it is helpful.

# Thoughts on the Diocesan Convention

by: Rt. Rev. William H. Stokes, D.D.

Delegates attending Diocesan Convention March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Crowne Plaza in Cherry Hill can look forward to a completely modified convention format. There will be no keynote speaker; no sermon; there will be fewer reports; there will be Dwelling in the Word and there will be blocks of time given over to delegates to engage in conversation about mission and ministry. Here are some of the highlights:

## Dwelling in the Word –

During the Convention Eucharist, in place of a traditional sermon, delegates and guests will be invited to participate in Dwelling in the Word. This is a process of biblical reflection using a Lectio Divina approach to engaging scripture. The passage (Acts 11:19-30) will be read twice in English and Spanish and each person will be afforded an opportunity to share with others in small groups what they are hearing in the biblical reading. This assumes that the Holy Spirit has a word to speak to each person and to the church gathered.

Marks of Mission Conversation Blocks – Built into the Convention agenda are five blocks for reflection, presentations and conversations about the Five Anglican Marks of Mission. The intention of this is to help everyone in the diocese to become more familiar with them; to tell stories through speakers and videos of how they are being lived out in the diocese already; to consider ways they might be more completely lived out; and to discern how our deeper understanding of them might

sharpen our sense of diocesan mission and ministry. At the start of each block, I will offer a reflection on the particular Mark of Mission being considered. This will constitute my “Bishop’s Address to Convention.”

Consent Calendar – For the first time at Diocesan Convention, assuming delegates approve it with the Rules of Order, we will use a Consent Calendar. This is a tool which will allow us to address noncontroversial items, resolutions and reports in a block without having to take a vote on each. Use of the Consent Calendar will help the convention be more efficient in its handling of business.

Chaplains – The Reverend Allen Wakabayashi and The Reverend Diane Mumma-Wakabayashi will be our Convention Chaplains. Allen and Diane are at St. Luke’s, Gladstone, where Allen serves as Curate. They will pray at the opening and closing of each business session. For the Saturday morning Eucharist, Allen will be the celebrant and Diane will preach.

Please keep Convention and all clergy and lay delegates in your prayers.

Blessings and peace,

The Rt. Rev. William H. Stokes, D.D.  
Bishop of New Jersey

# Grace Memorial Garden

*Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.*

*Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God. You turn us back to the dust and say,*

*“Go back, O child of earth.”*

*So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.*

Psalm 90:1-3, 12

A place of reflection and prayer, where we give thanks for our loved ones who are with the saints in light.

**MEMORIAL PLAQUE:** Because this is a small and intimate space for the benefit of the Grace community, no

flags, emblems, decorations, or headstones are permitted. The names of those interred may be included in the bronze memorial plaque that forms part of the garden.

## INTERMENT:

The family works with a funeral director of its choice to arrange for cremation of the body. The Rector will officiate at the brief service of committal in the garden, at the time of the funeral or another time.

## A SERVICE TO PARISHIONERS:

The fee for interment in the Memorial Garden for communicants in good standing of Grace Church is \$500 and includes the cost of the bronze memorial plaque. Fee for past members and relatives: \$750. In

order for this holy space to be preserved in perpetuity, memorial gifts for those interred in the garden are to be directed by family members to Grace Episcopal Church's Endowment Fund.

If you are interested in the **Grace Memorial Garden** regarding Interment, or including the Grace Memorial Garden in your plans or perhaps to make a gift in honor of a loved one, to be used for the upkeep of the Grace Memorial Garden, please contact:

Memorial Garden Committee  
Grace Episcopal Church  
45 Elizabeth Street Pemberton NJ 08068-1215

Or call the church office at (609) 894-8001.

Grace Memorial Garden — a place of comfort, reflection, remembrance, and thanksgiving for members of the



*A place of reflection and prayer, where we give thanks for our loved ones who are with the saints in light.*

parish (and their immediate families).

Each year the names of those whose remains are buried in the Grace Memorial Garden are included in the Prayers of All Saints Day.

*Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and mighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Burial of the Dead, Rite II Book of Common Prayer



Please consider an endowment to Grace Church honoring a loved one interred in the Grace Memorial Garden.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Rev. Mark Van Sant blessed twelve prayer shawls on February 25<sup>th</sup> bringing our total to over 350 since 2005. Please contact the church office if you would like

to add a name to the list of recipients or if you would either like to make a donation towards this ministry or knit or crochet a prayer shawl for blessing and delivery.



# Pemberton's Poet Laureate

Grace Church parishioner, Noelle Kocot, is Pemberton's Poet Laureate. Noelle honored mayor Harold Griffin on the occasion of his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday at last month's Borough Council meeting by presenting him and the rest of council, with copies of her poem "Pemberton."

She is the author of eight collections of poetry, seven in the United States and one in the United Kingdom. Noelle has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Academy of American Poets, the Fund for Poetry, and the American Poetry Review.

## Pemberton

That was the promise, a triumph  
Of the soul. I still believe that. The  
Waters are delinquent, the rivers  
Unfold and unfold. A heron's unreadable  
Ink, the coast of whatever rearrangement  
"Happened" to us in our bright petal  
Coats hung around the half light of the  
Stars. A hand so deliberate, an energy,  
A drum. Is this the end of your empire,  
Or is it just the world, coming as it is?  
What I want from this town is for you  
To have joy, the evergreens of your little  
Floral shop. The sky unrolls onto a vast  
Expanse of spring dirt, and you go on sparkling.

# Friends of Music

by: Kathy Waugh

**Mission:** Artistic musical enrichment of the parish and the greater Pemberton, New Jersey community through concerts, special services, outreach, and support of musical events.

**Goal:** Generate increased financial support for the music program through stewardship. For example, repair and preservation of the Holtkamp organ, purchase of ancillary music equipment, sound systems, guest singers/instrumentalists, and musical events.

The Music Committee throughout 2017 consisted of Mother Jane Brady-Close (until her departure August 31, 2017), Michael Ryan, Wayne Sabin, Carlo Sitoy (our new organist), Tara Perrien (Music Director), Lynn Sabin, Toby Green, Mike Gephart, Ingrid Welsh, Tomaso Collick Migliaccio, and Kathy Waugh, Chair.

The Friends of Music had a very busy year; the committee met at least six times in 2017. We sponsored a Hymn Sing in February, our second Joy of Music program in May, Michael offered a tremendous recital in June in conjunction with the very special Dedication of the Peace Pole, music for Mother Jane Brady-Close's farewell event in August, Joy of Music in October, Ecumenical Thanksgiving service with United Methodist Church of Pemberton, Advent Lessons &

Carols at the Evergreens in December, and Advent Lessons & Carols at Grace Church in December.

The organ fund established in 2016 has grown through the generosity of people and memorial gifts. The expectation is that we will be able to completely restore our Holtkamp Organ this year with the repairs commencing in this summer.

Throughout the year, a brief narrative is included in the Sunday announcements and posted on the Grace Church Facebook page regarding composers, sacred music, lyrics, hymns, psalms canticles, chants, and other musical information. The narrative provides the reader with insight into the exceptional and varied music program at Grace Church.

Kathy Waugh, Chair

# Saints of Grace Church

by: Ken Maskell

As I was helping prepare this issue of the newsletter, I happened to find the obituary of one of the saints of Grace Church whom I was privileged to have known. Charles was the wise, kind, and gracious person described by O.G. Christian. He and his wife Ruth were part of the warm and welcoming atmosphere of Grace Church. Charles played a significant role in leveling the employment playing field in Philadelphia.

Did you know there were two train stations in Pemberton Borough? The one on the north side of the borough still exists. The one Charles walked to for his commute to Philadelphia was located between what is now the Sunoco Station and Creekside Glass on Hanover Street. Charles related that story to me, the station was gone when we moved here in 1978, but the tracks were still visible.

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Charles Allen Shorter Sr., 91, former executive secretary of the Philadelphia Chapter of the NAACP, died Saturday in his sleep at his home in Pemberton Township.

He had lived in Pemberton since 1947 and was a native of Washington, D.C.

Mr. Shorter served as executive secretary of the Philadelphia Chapter of the NAACP from 1945 to 1947 and again from 1952 to 1960.

He began his work in the civil-rights movement with the Armstrong Association, which later became the Urban League of Philadelphia, as an industrial and research assistant from 1937 to 1942. That position, as well as his work as a personnel director for the Sun Shipyard during World War II, made Mr. Shorter quite qualified to help the NAACP deal with economic issues confronting Philadelphia's black community.

In his book, *Cecil's City: A History of Blacks in Philadelphia 1638-1979*, Arthur C. Willis wrote that after making strides in the development of both a strong community and a strong church, Philadelphia's blacks were ready for the next step: seeking economic justice.

"What was needed now was someone trained to operate in a new kind of social environment - a professional to guide the destiny of blacks in



Charles and Ruth celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 1986.

Philadelphia in a fast-changing world," Willis wrote. "The local branch of the NAACP found such a potential leader in Charles A. Shorter. ... The community needed someone with a background in acquiring jobs and apprenticeship positions for black citizens."

At Sun Shipyard, Mr. Shorter succeeded in opening up "unprecedented job opportunities to blacks," Willis wrote.

According to Willis, among Mr. Shorter's accomplishments was the organization of an interracial group to seek an end to discrimination in hiring practices of department stores, banks and industrial plants.

In 1946, Mr. Shorter's efforts resulted in Gimbel Brothers department store allowing black women to work in sales positions, an advance that was followed quickly by successes at other department stores. That same year, Philadelphia General Hospital was persuaded to accept black interns.

Shortly after returning to the NAACP in 1952, Mr. Shorter and the local chapter's leadership successfully tackled the problem of discrimination in recreational facilities in the city, beginning with a privately operated swimming facility at Broad and Patterson Streets.

"He was a great worker, very intelligent, and a fair-minded person who spoke with great wisdom," said

O.G. Christian, a past president of the West Branch of the NAACP in Philadelphia who is now on the board of directors of the Willow Grove Chapter of the NAACP.

In a 1957 Inquirer interview, Mr. Shorter, discussing education, told the paper: "Philadelphia should set the pace for the nation. Historically and in other ways, this city is ahead of them all. We should be ahead in this matter, too."

Mr. Shorter also had a weekly radio program in the 1950s. In 1957, he was honored by the Newspaper Guild of Greater Philadelphia as one of the recipients of its Page One Awards.

After leaving the NAACP, Mr. Shorter worked for a time in public relations for the Philadelphia Gas Works and then as a contract compliance officer investigating discrimination cases for the Department of Labor until he retired.

He was a 1930 graduate of Howard University, where he received his master's degree in American history in 1934. He also had done advanced studies at the University of Pennsylvania and Swarthmore College and studied at the Charles Morris Price School of Journalism in Philadelphia.

He was a member of Grace Episcopal Church in Pemberton Borough, where he was a member of the vestry.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Ruth Hampton Shorter; sons Charles A. Jr. and Richard L.; daughters Caroline S. White and Susan L. Shorter; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday in Grace Episcopal Church, 43 Elizabeth Street, Pemberton Borough.

Memorial donations may be made to Grace Episcopal Church, 43 Elizabeth Street, Pemberton, NJ 08068; or to the NAACP, 4805 Mount Hope Dr., Baltimore, MD 21215.

*This obituary appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer. The photo is compliments of Richard Shorter. Interestingly, Richard could not find a picture of his father that didn't include his mom.*

## Church School All Saints Project

by: Sarah Dattilo

Throughout the end of November, the elementary church school and high school classes worked together to learn about All Saints Sunday and some saints from our past. After hearing about where All Saints (or All Hallow's) Day originated and reading an illustrated version of the hymn "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God," the students had their outlines traced on poster board and chose a saint to represent on those silhouettes. There were many books about saints from which to choose to use as a guide, including Saint Francis, Saint Nicholas, Saint Brigid, and Saint Valentine. Together we chose a few key things to know about each saint and added



Naima Johnson with her saint and some hot chocolate.

an information card. After being displayed in Fenwick Hall, students took their saints home.

From *Growing Together: Volume I* by Finley, DeVillers, Mailander, and Coffey:

### Why Do We Celebrate Today?

Long, long ago, the people who lived in what we now call England and France were known as Celts. They had no electric lights, freezers to store food, or central heating. The Celts worried that the cold, dark winter would bring hunger, sickness, and sometimes even death.

The Celts had another reason to fear winter. They believed that it was the season when witches and



L-R: Israel Johnson (St. Patrick), Emily Asch (St. Brigid), Lillie Dearson Naima Johnson (St. Nicholas), Joey Dattilo (St. Joseph), Emilie Dearson (St. Lucy), Elaina Gephart (St. Francis).  
Not pictured: Matt Dattilo (St. Matthew), Sarah Gaffney (St. Anne)

evil ghosts flew everywhere. The Celts even believed that ghosts slipped inside animals who roamed around playing tricks on everyone. To scare away the ghosts: the Celts lighted big bonfires.

They did magic and wore costumes to fool the evil ghosts into thinking that the Celts themselves were ghosts.

When Christians (people who believed in Christ) came to the land of the Celts, the Christians told everyone some good news: All of us who follow Jesus

are saints. When we die, we don't turn into scary ghosts. We go to live happily with God. Even our bodies are made new again in a real way, just as Jesus' body was made new on the first Easter Day.

Long ago the Christians in England chose a special day to honor all the saints, or followers of Jesus, who had died. November 1<sup>st</sup> was chosen as All Hallows' Day, which we now call All Saints. The evening before was called All Hallows' Eve, which we now call Halloween.

# Grace Episcopal Church

43 Elizabeth Street  
Pemberton NJ 08068-1215  
Phone: 609 894-8001  
Email: [graceepiscopalnj@comcast.net](mailto:graceepiscopalnj@comcast.net)  
[www.graceepiscopalchurchnj.org](http://www.graceepiscopalchurchnj.org)

## PARISH STAFF

Paula Asch, Director of Christian Formation  
Tara Perrien, Choir Director  
Carlo Sitoy, Organist  
Lucia Sharapoff, Office Administrator  
Kathy Waugh, Sexton

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

## Leadership Team

Wardens: Kathy Waugh, Bill Shorman  
Vestry: Paula Asch, Sadie Durham, Bill Gaffney, Kathleen Gruver, Joan Hess, Rick Hunt, Tara Perrien, Dave Tuck, Ingrid Welsh  
Clerk: Tara Perrien  
Treasurer: Ingrid Welsh  
Rector: See Discernment Committee  
Editorial Team: Kathy Waugh, Ken Maskell  
Bishop: The Right Revd. William H. Stokes, XII Bishop of New Jersey