



A BRIEF HISTORY OF GRACE-ST. PAUL'S CHURCH¹

Mercerville, New Jersey

THE FOUNDING OF THE PARISH

Grace-St. Paul's parish is the realization of a vision by forward-looking parishioners from two congregations, Grace Church in East Trenton and St. Paul's in South Trenton. Both congregations began as missions of **St. Michael's Church**, which itself was organized in 1703, and is the oldest Episcopal parish in the Greater Trenton area, as well as one of the oldest in the state of New Jersey. St. Michael's provided financial support and the properties on which each initial congregation built its' church. St. Paul's was organized in 1874 and became a parish in 1901. Grace began as a mission in 1875, and became a parish in 1896.²

According to Carl Swinger, former Treasurer for both Grace-St. Paul's and the Diocese of New Jersey and the Diocese's first archivist, **St. Paul's Church** was originally established by a small group of St. Michael's communicants who held planning meetings in "private residences on Centre Street."³ Centre Street was one of Trenton's "largest and most prominent thoroughfares" in the city's historic Trenton Ferry District.⁴ Swinger offers the following details of St. Paul's founding and development:

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

- St. Michael's was founded by immigrants from England during the colonial period and has a rich and interesting Revolutionary and Post-Revolutionary War history.
- In the nineteenth century, the congregation began to focus its energies specifically on mission work; in due course, St. Michael's would become known as "The Mother Church of Trenton."
- Its many missionary projects included the establishment of a school for the children of German immigrants in the 1840's, a refuge in the 1860's for African-American freedom seekers, and, most pertinent to this chronicle, **St. Paul's** and **Grace** Churches, organized in 1847 and 1875, respectively.
- St. Michael's Church web address is www.stmichaelstrenton.com.

¹ This history is compiled from a variety of sources, including from a previous historical statement printed in the Grace-St. Paul's parish directory, printed c. 1995, from a variety of partially archived materials, such as newspaper clippings, service leaflets/programs, and other official and unofficial documents, etc.; from web site searches; and from written or oral testimonies from current parishioners, circa 2009-2010. For purposes of brevity, resources/references will not be rigorously documented. Note that a dearth of available/accessible archival information/materials on St. Paul's Church explains the lack of its presence in this account.

² St. Michael's Church website, <<http://www.stmichaelstrenton.com>>. Accessed 28 September 2009.

³ Carl Swinger, from page one of a typed manuscript entitled "Grace-St. Paul's Church," which is collected in the GraSP archives, circa 1987. Swinger's information, according to a note attached to his manuscript, was "compiled from Vestry Minutes and Old Diocesan Journals."

⁴ From "Trenton Ferry Historic District Nomination (Draft)," on the Trenton Historic Society web site, <http://trentonhistory.org/Documents/FerryHistDistNomination.html>. Accessed 28 September 2009.

...First services were held in the offices of Messrs. John and Charles Hewitt of the Trenton Iron Company on Hamilton Avenue. The establishment of this company appears to be a factor in creating this parish as a number of the employees were Episcopalians.

In 1848 Captain William E. Hunt donated the site for the Church which was completed and consecrated in 1849. St. Michael's Church provided financial support for many years and eventually St. Paul's Church, with growth in numbers, became a self supporting incorporated parish in 1901.

The parish ministered to the South Trenton community and the parishioners who no longer lived in the area until 1955 when the congregation voted to merge with Grace Church in Mercerville in the developing of a strong parish in this area.⁵

St. Paul's Church, located at 337 Centre Street is on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.⁶ It is noted for its Norman Revival style architecture and features a front gable, main stone block and stone tower, along with Gothic arch windows and Gothic arch central entryway plank doors. The original construction consisted of the brownstone church, which was remodeled in 1881, and a parish school, enlarged in 1885. Currently, the building is occupied by the Damascus Christian Church.⁷

That which would ultimately become known as **Grace Church**, was



From **A HISTORY OF TRENTON, 1679-1929: TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS OF A NOTABLE TOWN WITH LINKS IN FOUR CENTURIES, VOLUME 1** (1929)

St. Paul's Church was the first daughter of St. Michael's. The parish was organized in 1848, by a group of persons who deemed the time was ripe for another Episcopal church, and that the location of such was needed in South Trenton. The building was erected in 1848. The wardens and vestrymen chosen were: John Hewitt, Josiah N. Bird, Edward Cooper, Jacob B. Gaddis, Charles Hewitt, William E. Hunt, Abram Salger, Joseph Tompkins.

The formation of St. Paul's parish was due to the establishment about that time of the Cooper & Hewitt iron mills in Trenton, which drew here a large number of industrial workers, chiefly Irish and German, though there was evidently a contingent which desired the ministrations of the Episcopal Church. Peter Cooper, the New York philanthropist, was the head of the firm and the other member was his son-in-law, Abram S. Hewitt, subsequently mayor of New York City.

St. Paul's Church has had twelve rectors, of whom the Rev. Benjamin Franklin was the first; others were Francis Clements, J. L. Maxwell, Thomas Drumm, John C. Brown, John Bakewell, Henry S. Williamson, Fred H. Post, J. McAlpin Harding, Horace T. Owen, Wilson E. Grimshaw, and the present rector, the Rev. William H. Decker. Of these the Rev. Mr. Harding served from 1886 to 1906 and the Rev. Horace T. Owen from 1906 to 1924.

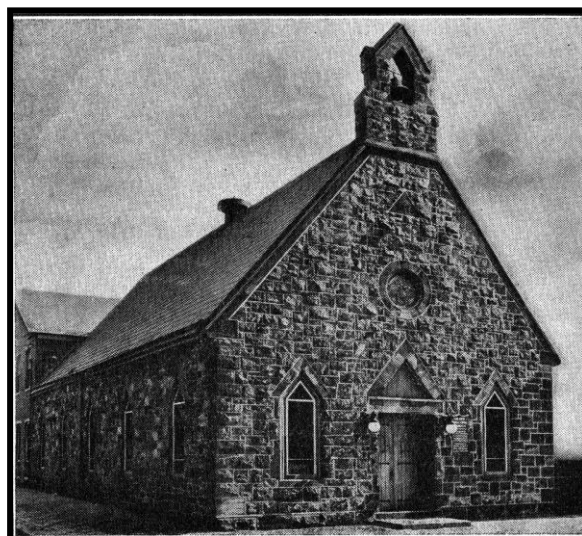
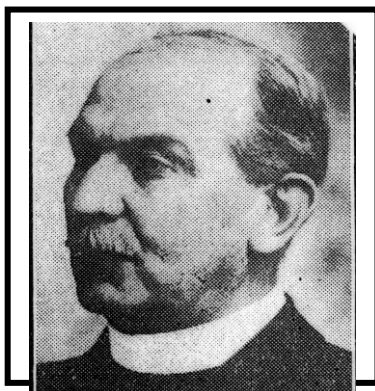
⁵ Swinger.

⁶ Period documents note St. Paul's address as 335 Centre Street, but twenty-first century resources list the its location as 337 Centre Street.

⁷ This information is current as of August 2010. Adjacent text box: Edwin Robert Walker, et al. [Trenton Historical Society.] *A History of Trenton, 1679-1929: Two Hundred and Fifty Years of a Notable Town with Links in Four Centuries*, Volume 1. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1929); accessed via Ancestry.com.

established as another mission of St. Michael's Parish, to serve the "growth and the needs of that part of the city known as 'East Trenton.'" A room was rented at the northeast corner of Clinton Avenue and Sheridan Street and Sunday School classes began on February 21, 1875—attendance was 30 persons. The residents of that particular area of East Trenton were largely of English lineage and many families were connected to the pottery industry.

The mission quickly outgrew its accommodations and in just a little over a year's time money was offered by the Senior Warden of St. Michael's to help build a proper church building for the mission. Ground was purchased on the southeast corner of Clinton and Sheridan, and St. Michael's Chapel was officially open in September 1876. The mortgage for the chapel was paid off in eight years. Around the chapel's seventeenth anniversary, the **Reverend Milton A. Craft**, originally from the Diocese of Southern Virginia was elected to assist the rector of St. Michael's Parish, which put him in charge of the Chapel. In 1896 under the guidance of Rev. Craft, the Chapel became a self-supporting and incorporated parish known as Grace Church. When Grace Church celebrated its sixtieth anniversary in 1937, it had had only two rectors. Rev. Craft ministered to the congregants of both chapel and church until 1935 and for a total of forty-two years.



From *A HISTORY OF TRENTON, 1679-1929: TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS OF A NOTABLE TOWN WITH LINKS IN FOUR CENTURIES, VOLUME 1* (1929)

Grace Church had been started as a mission of St. Michael's Church in 1875, the ground being the gift of Samuel K. Wilson, a warden of St. Michael's Church. In 1896 it was organized as an independent parish under the Rev. Milton A. Craft, who had been assistant minister in the charge of the chapel since 1893. Two flourishing missions have since in turn sprung out of Grace Church, St. Andrew's in 1895 and St. Luke's in 1913. Those responsible for the formation of the parish, besides Mr. Craft, were James Walkett, George Cochran, Henry Robinson, Harry Klagg, Jr., and Charles Bradbury.

The present and the only rector the parish has ever had is the Rev. Milton A. Craft, whose ministry covers a period of thirty-five years. His twenty-fifth anniversary was observed by the parish on September 24, 1918.

† † †

Milton A. Craft, rector of Grace Church, North Clinton Avenue, has spent his whole ministerial life in Trenton, being at present probably the oldest pastor, with perhaps one exception, in point of continued service in the city of Trenton. Mr. Craft was graduated from the Alexandria Seminary in 1892. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1893 and came to Trenton the same year to act as assistant minister of St. Michael's Church with special charge of Grace Mission. Thus he has served one congregation for thirty-five years. The celebration of his twenty-fifth anniversary, September 24, 1918, was a notable event in the city and brought together in the Crescent Temple a large assemblage of his parishioners and friends.

On Rev. Milton A. Craft
(from a description found on a small framed photograph of Rev. Craft located in
Grace-St. Paul's Library; author unknown)

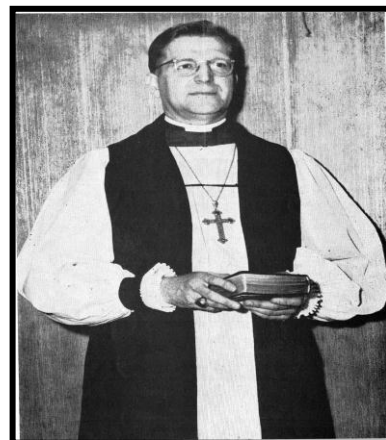
"...a devoted minister of the Grace Episcopal Church in Trenton. He was the only pastor I ever knew that practiced what he preached. A 6 ft., 2" large man, physically, he was the gentlest in nature. After many years of service retired to a small house he owned on the Delaware River. At his death, never forgotten by those who had the privilege of being one of his parishioners, and all others with whom he came in contact. This photograph was my Mother's."

A brief notice announcing a congregational meeting to discuss the possible relocation of Grace Church appeared in a Sunday service leaflet dated August 5, 1945:

NOTICE—CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On October 9, at 8:00 p. m., there will be held a special congregational meeting for the purpose of discussing the desirability and possibility of changing the location of Grace Church. This is a matter in which all those who are connected with Grace Parish are keenly interested, and it is therefore very important that all the members of the congregation should attend this meeting and should, if they wish to do so, express their opinions on the subject.

The very next year, the congregation of Grace Church sold its Clinton and Sheridan Avenues' building and relocated to Mercerville where suburban expansion created a new potential for growth. In a letter written December 4 by Grace Church Junior Warden and Church School Superintendent Frederick J. V. Hancox one of the reasons for a Mercerville relocation was explained thusly: "This district is a growing residential community where many of the members of both parishes [i.e., Grace and St. Paul's] now live, and is more than two miles from the nearest Episcopal church."⁸ According to Carl Swinger, "During the period of October 6, 1946 to August 17, 1947, services were held with St. Paul's Church on Centre Street. The two churches were very eager to consolidate into one, but, according to consolidation documents archived with the Diocese of New Jersey, although the Standing Committee was in favor of the union, they acknowledge opposition from St. James' Church in Hightstown. Attorney Frederic M. P. Pearse, who was brought into the process to assist the churches and diocese in the legal procedures for merging, indicated in a letter early in 1947, that the Rector and Vestry of St. James' didn't oppose a merge *per se*, but hoped,

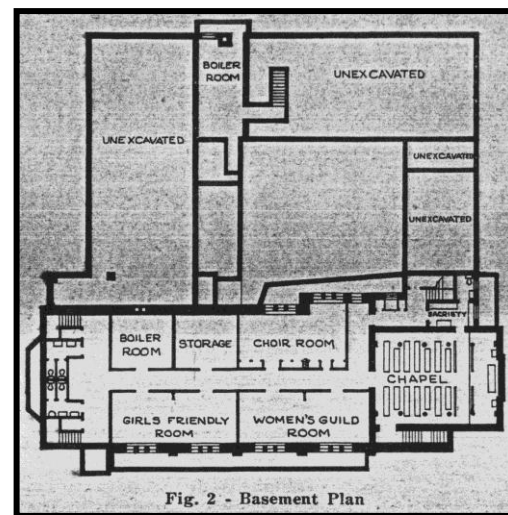
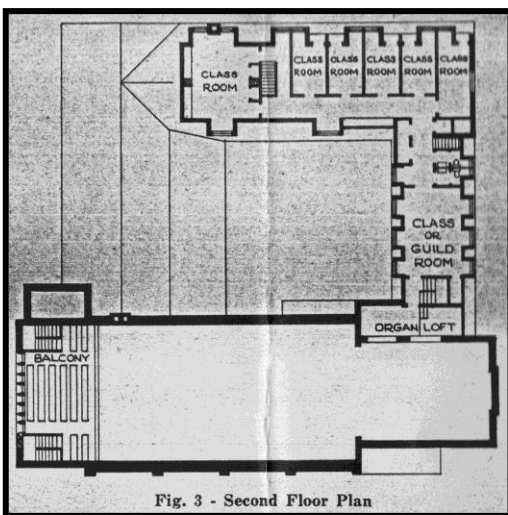
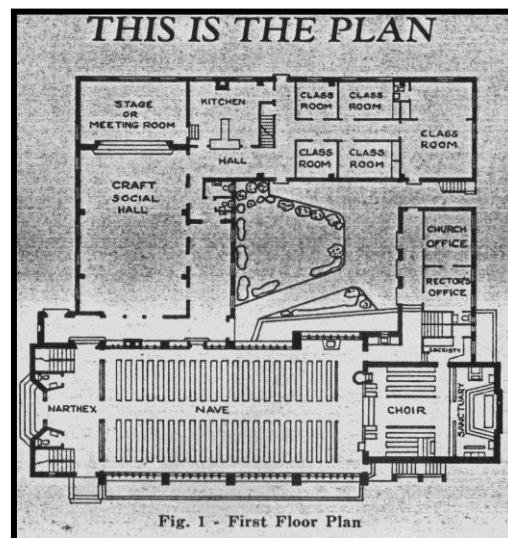
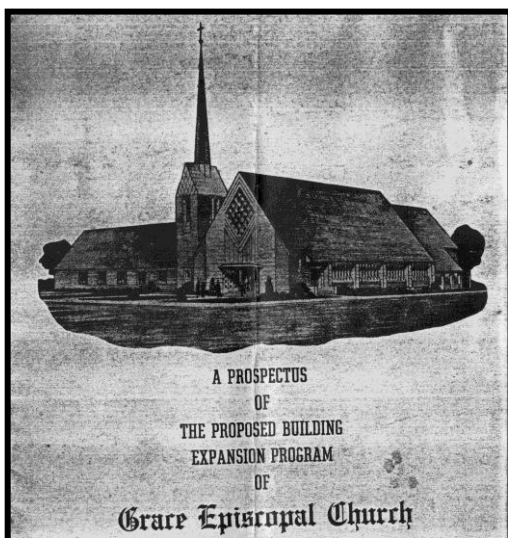


...that some arrangement might be made whereby [Grace and St. Paul's] could find a place which would perhaps be more desirable on the outskirts of Trenton than Mercerville in view of the fact that quite a few of the Episcopalians of Mercerville are members of St. James' Church.⁹

⁸ Frederick J.V. Hancox to Frederic M.P. Pearse [Jr.], 4 December 1946, in Grace-St. Paul's Consolidation Documents, Archives of the Diocese of New Jersey, Trenton, NJ.

⁹ Frederic M.P. Pearse [Jr.] to Frederick J.V. Hancox to Frederic M.P. Pearse, 7 January 1947, Archives of the Diocese of New Jersey. Frederick J.V. Hancox to Frederic M.P. Pearse

The **new building plan**, designed by architect William Heyl Thompson, called for the construction of one building with three floors (i.e., basement, first floor, and second floors) and four basic units: 1) the Church Building, 2) the Administration Building, 3) the Christian Education Building, and 4) the Social Activities Building. According to the prospectus: “The first two units are new buildings which are to be added to the present structures. The two latter units are existing buildings which are to be renovated for their new functions.”¹¹



The financial goal for the building campaign was \$275,000—a figure that equaled \$2.2 million almost sixty years later—and was to be raised by volunteer Grace Church canvassers. The prospectus proper ends with the statement below, which was no doubt intended to bolster or convince the more conservatively-minded, frugal or skeptical members of Grace on the expansive expansion:

As you have viewed the entire plan, you may say, “this is far more than we need at present.” This may be true, but as a living Church we must “plan today to be adequate for tomorrow.”¹²

¹¹ Ibid., 4.

¹² Ibid., 7.

Unfortunately, Rev. Dr. Lager and his congregation did not realize plan as put forth in 1953, nor in 1954. However, development of a different and long hoped for sort would occur in 1955 with the consolidation of Grace and St. Paul's Churches.

GRACE-ST. PAUL'S CHURCH: 1955 –THE PRESENT

On October 14, 1955, just four days after Bishop Alfred Banyard and the diocesan Standing Committee unanimously consented to the consolidation of Grace Church with the parish of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Trenton, a special meeting was held at the Mercerville locale to merge both parishes and their personnel under the corporate title of "The Rector, Wardens, and Vestrymen of **Grace-St. Paul's Church** in Mercerville, New Jersey."¹³ In the October 1955 issue of the Grace-St. Paul's *The Disciple*, Rev. Dr. Lager provided an early statistical **indication** of the success of the consolidation:¹⁴

AN INDICATION

THE Attendance figure for the three services last Sunday was 432. What is more encouraging is the fact that this is only a beginning.

The Rev. Dr. Lager, according to long-time Grace-St. Paul's parishioner Roberta Cash, was "a great man...he was compassionate, a doer, and a builder..."¹⁵ Accordingly, with the parishes finally merged, Lager and his amalgamated and revitalized congregation returned to the plans for expansion to accommodate their ever-growing numbers. Carl Swinger, who was the Building Fund Treasurer during the post-merge expansion period, notes in a letter from 1994, that the original building program had to be cut back, because it proved "too ambitious for the congregation having exhausted all borrowing and credit."¹⁶ Swinger indicates that in 1956, the year the **cornerstone for the new church** was laid, the parish owed \$149,000. Resultantly, dreams for an administration wing, a second floor to the

LAYING OF CORNERSTONE
FOR THE NEW CHURCH BUILDING
SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1956
4:00 P. M.
BISHOP BANYARD TO OFFICIATE

social activities and Christian education units, a stage for theatrical performances, etc., were all dashed. Swinger notes, "You only have to look at the door from the 'courtyard' to the Rector's Office to see the building 'cut off.'"

Another unfortunate architectural casualty of the original plan was the high tower with cross. However, it was not a lack of funds that put the kibosh on it, but instead the neighbors, who complained that the **tower** went beyond the building

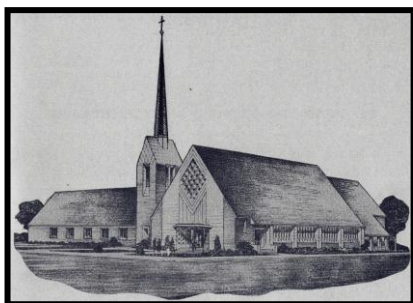
¹³ Reproduction of legal document outlining and certifying the steps of consolidation of Grace-St. Paul's Church, addressed to the "Clerk of the County of Mercer," and filed by Rector Olin Gluck Lager and "Secretary of the Rector" Robert C. Carhart. Date original certification was filed was 15 October 1955. Photocopy found in Grace-St. Paul's archival materials.

¹⁴ *The Disciple* 2, no. 8 (October 1955): 3. *The Disciple* is the forerunner of *The Parish Pulse*.

¹⁵ Roberta Cash, 2009. Cash also noted Lager's interest in antiques, and of the quality of his wife, Mrs. Lager, who "was a real lady."

¹⁶ Carl E. Swinger to Judith Carlson, 19 September 1994. In Grace-St. Paul's archives.

line and slapped an injunction on its erection; this stopped the building, which had already started, and financially impacted Grace-St. Paul's further in lawyer's fees.



Comparison of Proposed Church Design (c. 1953) with Final Scaled-Back Design

Eventually the new church building was built and then dedicated on December 15, 1956, just in time for Christmastide services. One final addition to the Grace St. Paul's Church complex was heralded in the February 1957 edition of *The Disciple*:

THE CHURCH BELL

Will be soon calling the faithful to worship. The first and foremost requirement being the procurement of steel for the erection of the tower. This has been accomplished by the graciousness and efforts of Freeholder Mr. Charles Kovacs and his deputy, Mr. Harry Goodwin. To them our sincere appreciation and thanks.



The above item makes reference to the **1,600 pound bell** removed from St. Paul's Church tower on Centre Street. The bell was placed in the inner courtyard of the new Grace-St. Paul church complex, and continues to call the faithful to worship every Sunday morning.

DON'T FORGET THE

ROAST BEEF DINNER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th

Serving from 4:30 until 7:30 p. m.

• • • • •

SPONSORED BY THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Help will be appreciated — Don't wait to be asked

• • • • •

VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICE

**The Start of a Grace-St. Paul's
Tradition, 1955**

CLERGY AFFILIATED WITH GRACE-ST. PAUL'S CHURCH*

Rev. Dr. Olin Gluck Lager, Rector, 1955-1966
 Rev. Donald B. Duncan, Rector, 1966-1969
 Rev. Edward R. Cook, Rector, 1969-1989
 Rev. David R. Adams, Interim Rector, 1989-1990
 Rev. Patricia A.P. Wight, Deacon/Priest Associate
 Rev. Elmer L. Sullivan, Priest Associate
 Rev. Jack Zamboni, Rector, 1990-2008
 Rev. Lee Alison Crawford, Priest Associate
 Rev. Veretta Hoston, Deacon
 Rev. Susan Norris, Priest Associate
 Rev. Linda Carlson-Scholer, Priest Associate
 Rev. Cornelia P. Spoor, Deacon
 Rev. Denise Cavaliere, Parish Secretary
 Rev. Lois J. Schembs, Interim Rector, 2008-2010
 Rev. Susan Richardson, Rector, 2010-2012
 Rev. Amy S. Cornell, Priest-in-Charge, 2012-

*List is not exhaustive; does not include supply priests.

**GRACE-ST. PAUL'S CHURCH
SOCIETIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND TRADITIONS**

THEN

- Altar Guild
- Annual Yuletide Fair and Bazaar (held at the Army Training Center, Nottingham Way), later Christmas Bazaar and Cafeteria Supper
- Card/Bunko Parties
- Church Choir
- Church School and Council
- Couplers Club
- Electric Youth Group
- Craft Show
- *The Disciple*
- Episcopal Church Women
- Episcopal Young Churchmen
- Father-Son Banquet
- Girls' Friendly Society
- Jr-Hi Youth Group
- Lenten/Advent Dime Folders
- Men's Club
- Memorial Flower Committee
- Mothers' Club
- Navajo Indian Gift Giving
- Roast Beef Dinners
- St. Elizabeth Guild
- Sales: Food, Bake, Candy Apples and Christmas and Easter Candy
- Semi-Annual Rummage Sales
- Strawberry Festival
- Suppers: Oyster, Buffet, Peach Festival
- "Teen-Agers" /Teen-Agers Canteen
- Valentine Dance
- Women's Auxiliary
- Young People's Fellowship
- Youth Choirs (Boys and Girls)
- Young Adult Club
- Youth Group



GRACE-ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Mercerville, New Jersey
The Rev. Dr. Olin Gluck Lager, Rector

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
July 23, 1961

Holy Eucharist
8:00 A. M.
11:00 A. M.
No Sermon or Hymns

MORNING PRAYER 9:30 A. M.

Processional	No. 266
Order of Morning Prayer	Begins on Page 3
Opening Sentences	
General Confession and Absolution	Pages 6-7
Lord's Prayer	Page 7
Venite (O Come Let Us Sing)	Page 9
Psalm #126	Page 505
Gloria (Glory Be To The Father)	Page 9
Gospel for the Day	Page 199
Jubilate Deo (O Be Joyful in The Lord)	Page 15
Apostles' Creed	Page 15
Versicles and Responses	Page 16
Collect for the Day	Page 19
Collect for Peace and Grace	Page 17
The Grace	Page 20
Offertory	
Prayers	Pages 17-19
General Thanksgiving	Page 19
The Grace	Page 20
Sermon Hymn	No. 416
Sermon	James Fields
Prayers	
Benediction	
Recessional	No. 337

**TAKE A VACATION,
BUT NOT FROM GOD!**

**Sunday Service Leaflet from 1961
Featuring Morning Prayer**

GRACE-ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Mercerville, New Jersey
The Rev. Dr. Olin Gluck Lager, Rector

ADVENT SUNDAY
December 1, 1963

HOLY COMMUNION AND CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30 A. M.

Processional -----	No. 1
Order for Holy Communion -----	Page 67
Collect, Epistle, and Gospel -----	Pages 90 - 92
Nicene Creed -----	Page 71
Offertory	
Recessional for Class Attendance -----	No. 572
Sermon -----	The Rector
General Confession and Absolution -----	Page 75
Canon of Consecration -----	Page 80
Prayer of Humble Access -----	Page 82
Administration of Sacrament -----	Page 83
Benediction -----	Page 84
Recessional -----	No. 544

THE SOUL OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, the 35th President of the United States, was commended unto God, and his body laid to rest on a grassy hill in Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, November 25th. The nation and the world paid tribute. Our prayers are offered this morning for the repose of the soul of John F. Kennedy, for the entire Kennedy family in their bereavement, for Texas Governor John Connally who was wounded by the same sniper who assassinated President Kennedy, and for President Lyndon B. Johnson as he assumes the enormous responsibilities of national and world leadership.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed there today to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sallie Jewell Mercier and Mary Jewell Brenfleck, and Willard F. Grant, Sr.

FLOWERS placed on the altar on Thanksgiving Day were in memory of William T. and Ellen Morris and sons William C. and Frank W., Frank and Annie Wolfinger and daughters Nellie Harrison and Edna Carter.

AN ALTAR GUILD MEETING will be held this morning, immediately following the 9:30 Service, in the GFS Room in the Undercroft.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES: Wednesday, December 4th, 7:00 P. M. for Juniors
Thursday, December 5th, 8:00 P. M. for Seniors

A GENEROUS GIFT to our Building Fund and General Fund has been received from Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Anderson of Seaside Heights, New Jersey, and is gratefully acknowledged.

IF YOU WANT A CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL for a loved one, get in touch with Mrs. John C. B. Wouters, at WUliner 7-0327, at a very early date.

**Sunday Service Leaflet for the Sunday
Following President John F. Kennedy's
Funeral Service, December 1963**

<p>GRACE-ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Mercerville</p> <p>Twenty-sixth Sunday after Trinity Nov. 19, 1967</p> <p>Collect, Epistle & Gospel Page 117 (Epiphany 6)</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Proposed Liturgy</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Family Service</p> <p>PREPARATION AND MINISTRY OF THE WORD</p> <p>Hymn #276</p> <p>Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy) #702 Merbecke</p> <p>Gloria in excelsis</p> <p>Old Testament Lesson</p> <p>Hymn #260 (3 stanzas)</p> <p>The Epistle</p> <p>Sequence Hymn #402</p> <p>The Gospel</p> <p>Nicene Creed</p> <p>The Peace and Prayer</p> <p>LITURGY</p> <p>The Offertory - "Jesus"</p> <p>Hymn #398</p> <p>"All things come of thee, O God"</p> <p>Presentation of the Gifts</p> <p>The Consecration-"An Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)</p> <p>Prayer of Consecration</p> <p>Our Father</p> <p>The Breaking of the Bread</p> <p>"Christ our Passover"</p> <p>The Communion - "And the Blessing"</p> <p>The Thanksgiving (Sanctus)</p> <p>Hymn #269</p> <p>The Dismissal</p> <p>The Flowers are given to John and Maria Proctor and Thomas Sawadski.</p> <p>Sunday, November 26th</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Family Service (Morning Coffee)</p>	<p>NEWS LETTER from GRACE-ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Mercerville, N. J. 1968</p> <p>H. S. SAYS "THANK YOU!"</p> <p>CHRISTIANS MUST ACT NOW!</p> <p>If our nation is to survive in the fashion that we hope for, (ie. a nation of democratic institutions in which men of all races and ethnic backgrounds live together in harmony and justice) then those who call themselves Christians must begin to act NOW.</p> <p>The winds of change are blowing across our country: The black man is demanding his rightful place in society; students and young people are rejecting the "Old politics of the smoke-filled room" by which the American people are presented with a choice of "the lesser of evils" at the polls, and are demanding full participation in the democratic processes; even the Church is being dismissed by many as an "antique" institution which is out of touch with reality.</p> <p>Christ in the Gospel has something to say about all of these things, and Christians are bearers of the Gospel Message. But the Gospel is not made relevant by people who sit in all white suburban fortresses while the cities of the nation crumble. The Gospel message must be borne into the arena of politics, the Ghettos, and into all of our institutions. Our nation is changing! Whether it changes for better or for worse depends upon what Christians do in the fight against bigotry and racism in our communities.</p> <p>The thrust of the Gospel message which we bear is LOVE, and it is the only force which can solve the problems of our nation. And, we who are Christians are REQUIRED to live the Gospel message each day, for this is the way that we carry it to others; this is the way we must begin to act NOW! "And this commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." I John 4:21.</p> <p>CHURCH FINANCES</p>
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Sunday Service Leaflet From November 1967—Includes a Note on an Ostensibly Contentious Proposed "New Liturgy"

Rev. Donald Duncan's Christian Call to Action in the Midst of the Local and National Civil Rights Movement, as Printed in the Grace-St. Paul's Newsletter, June 1968



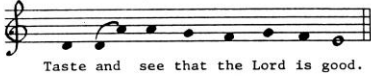
Roberta Cash on Worship during "The Merge" and beyond (1955-1980):

"The main altar was black marble, and when parishioners came forward for communion, they went all the way up toward the altar where there were railings. Eucharist was celebrated the first Sunday of every month. The 8 a.m. service was held in the [basement] chapel. The chapel was used for weekdays and holy days."

Barbara Bromley on Woman on the Altar:

"Doris Close [and I] were the first women to serve as chalice bearers at Grace-St. Paul's. Under Fr. Edward Cook, Nils Benson served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister. However, when Fr. David Adams was interim, between Fr. Cook and Fr. Jack Zamboni, women were not allowed at the altar."

During the 1960's and into the mid-70's, the parish remained fairly stable, but in the late 1970's families began to migrate out due to corporate relocations. The resulting decrease in parishioners caused budgetary restrictions. A turning point for renewal occurred in two ways:

The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 5, 1989	HOLY EUCHARIST
The Word of God	Rite
The Entrance Hymn: 690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah	Cum
Introductory Greeting and Response (Lent)	Page
Kyrie 5 91	Heal
The Collect of the Day	Page
The Lessons:	
Joshua 4:19-24; 5:9-12	
Psalms 34:1-8	Page
Refrain sung by Congregation and Choir	
	
II Corinthians 5:17-21	
Sequence Hymn: 470 There's a wideness in God's mercy	Beecher
Luke 15:11-32	
The Sermon	
The Nicene Creed	Page 326
The Prayers of the People	
(Appropriate response: Let us pray to the Lord)	

**ORGANISTS/CHOIR DIRECTORS/DIRECTORS OF MUSIC
GRACE-ST. PAUL'S CHURCH***

Mr. Douglas S. Terhune
Mr. Robert Mayes
Mr. Robert Poradhan
Ms. Fiona Smith
Mr. Richard Boyers
Mr. Cliff Bohson
Ms. Cynthia Westbrook

*List is not exhaustive; does not include guest or supply organists.

Gladys Longmuir on the Institution of Coffee Hour at Grace-St. Paul's

"There was a time when Church School used to last longer than the Sunday 10 a.m. service. [Church School used to begin with a church service and then segue into classes and instruction.] Coffee Hour gave parents something to do while waiting for their kids."

Sunday Service Leaflet from March 1989

Roberta Cash on Rector Rev. Edward R. Cook (1969-1989)

"Fr. Edward Cook was a teacher before he became a priest. He was laid back and likeable, although he had a 'Type A' personality and was never still. He lived in the rectory and had a beautiful wife, Marie, and an adult daughter. Marie participated a great deal in the life of the parish—more than is usual for rector's wives."

- ❖ In 1981 the "Venture in Mission" campaign was designed to fund new ministries in the Diocese of New Jersey and which renewed a spirit of commitment at Grace-St. Paul's despite its financial issues.
- ❖ A 1988 vestry retreat was convened to reorder priorities and responsibilities.

Welcome
To



Grace - St.
Episcopal



GRACE-ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Third Sunday of Easter Holy Eucharist, Rite II
April 29, 1990

Prelude *Andante tranquillo (from Sonata III)* F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Entrance Hymn **208:** "The strife is o'er" Victoria

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

PASCHA NOSTRUM (See next page -- congregation joins in singing.)

Collect of the Day Book of Common Prayer (BCP), page **224**

The First Reading: **Acts 2:14, 36-47**

Psalms **116** (See facing page -- congregation joins on refrain)

The Second Reading: **1 Peter 1:17-23**

Sequence Hymn **455:** "O Love of God" Dunedin

The Holy Gospel: **Luke 24:13-35**

The Sermon The Rev. David R. Adams

THE NICENE CREED BCP, page **358**

The Prayers of the People, Form IV BCP, page **388**

Confession of Sin BCP, page **360**

The Peace

THE OFFERTORY

Anthem *Gaudeamus Hodie (Let Us Rejoice Today)* N. Sieht

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A (Stand or kneel) BCP, page **361**

Celebrant People

The Lord be with you. And al- so with you.

Celebrant People

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

SANCTUS: Hymnal S-430

In 1989, a mission statement was formulated by Grace-St. Paul's Clergy Search Committee, whose members broke up to into small groups to develop individually each item of the statement. The mission statement was officially adopted in 1990. It reads as follows:

OUR MISSION...

To provide a spiritual and physical environment for the worship of God and growth of faith.

To spread to all people the Gospel of Jesus Christ by word, deed, and music.

To conduct worship services and to administer the Sacraments according to the liturgy provided in The Book of Common Prayer.

To provide supportive, forgiving, and caring fellowship for parishioners of all ages.

To minister to the sick, the troubled, the infirmed, and all those in need of God's love.

To serve and assist others in our local and worldwide communities.

To support the programs of the Diocese of New Jersey, promote the growth of the Episcopal Church, and encourage Christian unity.


On June 25, 1990, the Grace-St. Paul's community celebrated "a very special 'First'" with the ordination of the Rev. Patricia Ann Page Wight; this was the first priestly ordination to take place within the walls of the church. Rev. "Pat" had served as deacon at Grace-St. Paul's and was a full-time Staff Chaplain at St. Francis Medical Center in Trenton. Following her ordination, she continued her ministry with Grace-St. Paul as Priest Associate until she was called to work a new ministry at Trinity Cathedral in Princeton. In total, the Rev. Wight was affiliated with the church for seven years.

The Ordination
of

Patricia Ann Page Wight
Priest

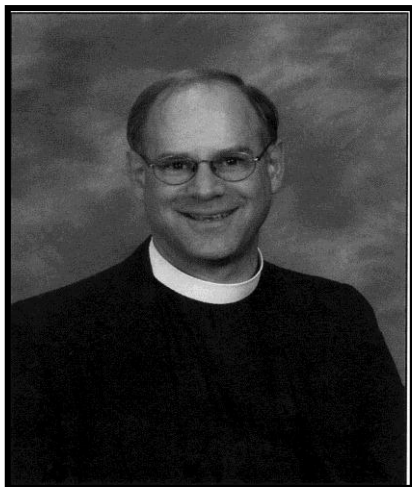
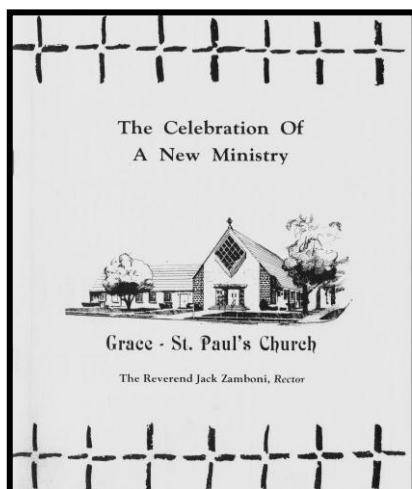
in
Christ's Holy Catholic Church

by
THE RIGHT REVEREND G. P. MELLICK BELSHAW
Bishop of New Jersey



The Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
June 25, 1990 7:30 p.m.

Grace-St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Mercerville, New Jersey



On Rector Fr. Jack Zamboni:

Stephen Cosgriff

"Father Jack's welcoming ear and intuitive glance drew me into the fellowship at Grace-St. Paul's. This was affirmed many times thereafter by Jack and later Mother Susie [Norris] who 'intuitively' was there and gave quiet counsel. What a team!"

Judy Melconich

"When I first came, Father Jack] was our priest. He immediately came over to our table [at coffee hour] to welcome us. I've never know a more caring person and always willing to listen."

Kimberly Bresler

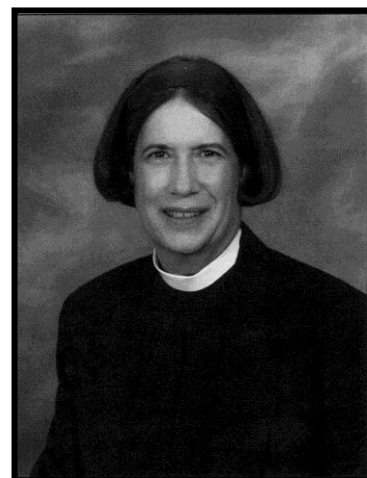
"I was welcomed the first Sunday by Jim Davis and Peggy Wilkinson, as well as Father Jack [Zamboni]. The consistently well-conceived and executed liturgies, thoughtful sermons, and welcoming fellowship have made me love GraSP more and more over the years. GraSP seems to have been blessed with excellent, dedicated, theologically sound, and pastorally sensitive clergy—and this is not something I take for granted..."

The Rev. Jack Zamboni Celebrated His First Eucharist as Rector of Grace-St. Paul's on August 19, 1990

In 1994, **Rector Rev. Jack Zamboni**, the Wardens, and Vestry, of Grace-St. Paul's, along with the Long-Range Planning Committee, developed a vision to carry out its mission statement and to sustain parish life into the twenty-first century. That vision included expanding Christian education; sharing a life in Christ through evangelism and new-member ministry; engaging in ministry to others by committing funds; opening the church building to community groups; providing service through the efforts of parishioners; and renovating the buildings to provide a better environment for worship, education, ministry, and fellowship. Two programs were initiated to make the collective vision a reality:

- ❖ The Emma Henderson Fund for Mission, Ministry, and Education
- ❖ The Building for Ministry Campaign.

The Emma Henderson Fund for Mission, Ministry, and Education allowed Grace-St. Paul's to expand it's clergy; in September 1995, long-time volunteer Priest Associate the **Rev. Susan Norris** was hired on as a paid, part-time member of the clergy staff. The Fund also allowed for the expansion of Christian formation and outreach



opportunities and housed homeless families as a founding congregation of the Mercer County **Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)** in 1997. Several clergy and lay members worked diligently to help organize IHN/Mercer, serving as board members and congregational coordinators. Grace-St. Paul's served as a host congregation throughout IHN's ten-year existence in Mercer County.

Alan Gellert on the Grace-St. Paul's Clergy:
"Susie Norris and Jack Zamboni were clergy when I started. They were both very welcoming and accepting of me and my partner. I knew them briefly before from Diocesan Conventions and Susie as the Chairperson of the Diaconate Program, which I considered joining. I felt compatible with them in many ways theologically and philosophically. There were very pro-gay, saw no impediments to a gay lifestyle and Christianity..."

On Grace-St. Paul's Outreach and the Interfaith Hospitality Network

Greg Cooper

"GraSP participated in the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) with other Mercer County churches. IHN was a program to care for homeless families. Each congregation in the network housed the families for a week, providing lodging and meals. The network provided transportation for the families on weekdays from the host church to the IHN center in Trenton. From there the adults went to work or worked on finding employment and the children went to school or daycare. Volunteers at the host congregation prepared meals, helped kids with homework, took families to do laundry, slept overnight as chaperones, and helped more families in at the beginning of the week and to the next congregation at the end. GraSP was a founding member of IHN of Mercer County and also provided several members for its Board. We hosted families every two to three weeks depending on the number of congregations participating. The Youth Group helped, as did some other churches that couldn't host families overnight."

Susan Higgins

"Having homeless families in our church brought us face to face with a need many of us have never known and taught us much about acceptance, tolerance, and being God's hands and feet in our community. Deacon Veretta Hoston was very involved, as was Jack Dalton and Pam Kelly who was a former parishioner."

The Building for Ministry Program began in Spring 1995 with the goal of making improvements to the church's physical plant and to establish a modest reserve. The program consisted of three phases:

- ❖ Phase 1—Major Repairs
- ❖ Phase 2—Interior Renovations
- ❖ Phase 3—Church Renovation

The Building Ministry Capital Fund enabled the church to renovate its meeting and fellowship facilities, making Grace-St. Paul's accessible to the disabled, and improve its lighting and sound system in the church proper. In 2004, further improvements added a **28-rank pipe**

The Blessing and Dedication of Buildings for Ministry

The Procession to Community Hall

During the singing of the Litany, the congregation follows the second cross and choir in procession to Community Hall.

God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

People: *Have mer-cy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,

Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

Have mercy on us.

O Christ our Prophet, you teach the way of God in truth;

Bless your Church, we pray.

O Christ our Priest, you offered yourself upon the Cross, and now make intercession for us to God, the Almighty;

Bless your Church, we pray.

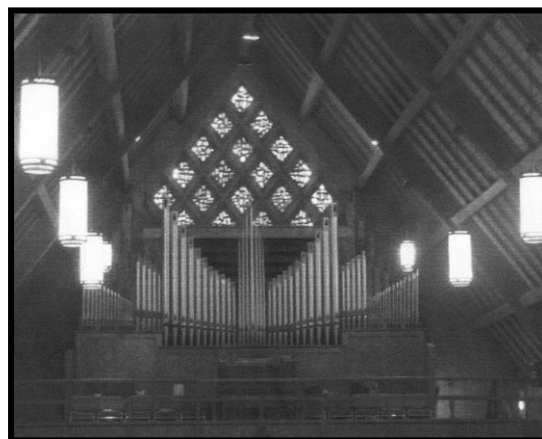
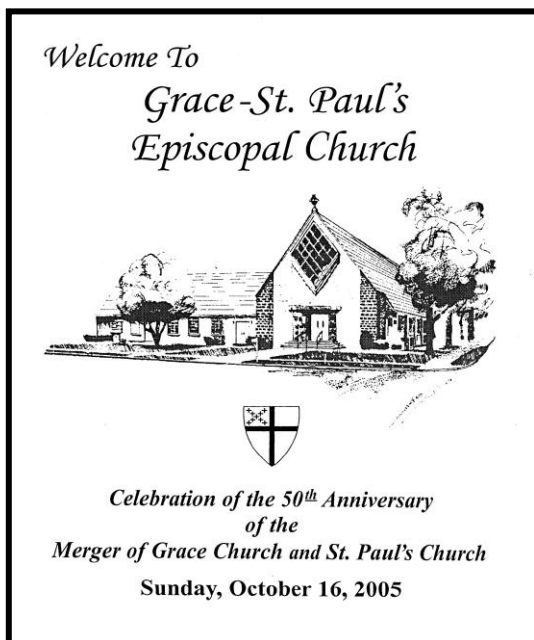
O Christ our King, you reign over all the earth, and make us citizens of your heavenly kingdom;

Bless your Church, we pray.

O Christ, you sent the Holy Spirit upon the Church, clothing it with power from on high;

organ to fill the balcony and the sanctuary with music.

In 2005, Grace-St. Paul's celebrated the **50th anniversary** of the merger of Grace and St. Paul's congregations.



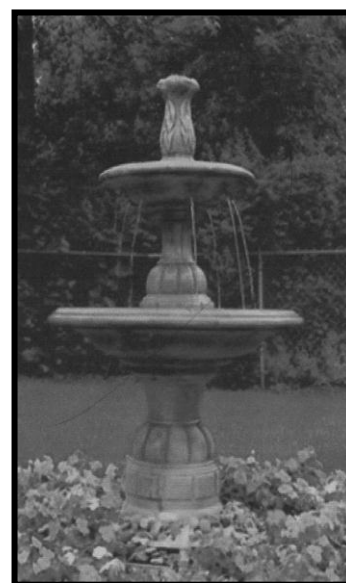
The generous bequest of Mary Burgess in 2006 allowed Grace-St. Paul's to establish three new Funds:

- ❖ The Burgess Ministry Outreach Endowment—for projects beyond Grace-St. Paul's
- ❖ The Burgess Endowment—for support of the ministry budget of the parish
- ❖ The Burgess Facilities Fund—to fund needed capital improvements to the church facilities

Grace-St. Paul's open doors have served the wider community in the final decades of the twentieth century and into the Twenty-first, as local groups use our space. These groups have included:

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Overeaters Anonymous
- Mercerville 5-Pointers Club (seniors)
- DeMolay Society
- International Order of the Rainbow
- Hamilton Masquerade Square Dance Club
- English as a Second Language classes
- African Violet Club
- Enable (respite care for families of disabled children)
- YWCA nursery program
- Hamilton Township Recreational Sports Meetings and clinics
- Red Cross (church sponsored blood drives)

In 2006, a **Memorial Garden** was dedicated on the



grounds of Grace-St. Paul's so that its parishioners may be laid to rest at their spiritual home.

**GRACE-ST. PAUL'S PARISHIONERS
INTERRED IN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN***

Nicola E. Cox
Daniel Cannula
James "Jim" Davis
William R. Cox

*current as of September 1, 2010

**Roberta Cash on the Founding of the
Grace-St. Paul's Memorial Garden**

"Val Noto was the first Chairperson of the Memorial Garden Committee, which... included Roberta Cash, Jim Davis, Amy Davis, Christopher Cox, Barbara Bromley and Barbara Nichols. After parishioner Mariea Labasi, who was in her mid-50's, passed away, her family were anxious to have her cremated. They had a golf tournament in her memory and gave \$4,000 to Grace-St. Paul's to start the Memorial Garden. Fr. Jack Zamboni had gained knowledge of memorial gardens while on staff at a church in Toms River. The Garden is completely sustained by donations."



Grace-St. Paul's Sunday congregational life, as of 2010, is comprised of two worship services at 8:00 and 10:00 am, Church School during the 10:00 am service and after-service Coffee Hour after each service. Coffee Hour should really be renamed *Coffee Hours*, since much of church fellowship happens there, enhanced and fueled by an array of goodies made by congregants; a traditional favorite, **Italian People's Bakery's half-torpedo rolls** with butter; overflowing cups of tea, juice, coffee; and friendly chit chat. The congregation has striven to create a welcoming space for all of God's children to feel welcome, valued, and needed. Age is not a barrier (at times the Vestry members' ages have ranged from 17 years old to 70-something), nor are gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or race barriers to participation and fellowship. The parish includes Cradle



Episcopalians, former Roman Catholics, and new inquirers, and all are invited and encouraged to participate as fully as they wish.

OUR MISSION GOALS

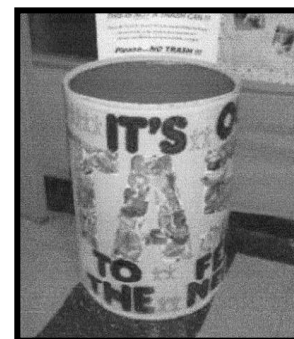
(circa 2010, as stated in the Grace-St. Paul's Parish Profile)

Grace-St. Paul's strives as the Living Body of Christ to:

1. Provide All People under Heaven with a safe, nurturing environment where they can explore and realize their spiritual goals while acknowledging the vast diversity of God's Children
 - Our Buildings and Grounds Ministry works hard to keep the church up to code.
 - Our children explore their voices in their own choir, in our Church School, through Vacation Bible School, and even during the services.
 - People are safe to be who they are; we share our joys and sorrows without hesitation.
2. Act to help all reach God through prayer, music, fellowship, material sacrifice, and a greater understanding of the Word of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - Worship services are provided twice on Sundays and for Healing and Eucharist once during the week, on Wednesday nights.
 - Music is central to the 10 am service.
 - Join us for Coffee Hour after each Sunday service to catch up on the week's events!
 - Each year our Stewardship Ministry inspires parishioners to work towards tithing by giving freely of their time, talent, and treasure.
 - High worship days and festivals are cherished.
3. Nurture a loving, forgiving, caring physical and spiritual space filled with hopeful souls committed to healing and uplifting the sick, troubled, and infirm
 - Our Burgess Outreach Ministry works to fund ministries for children, women, and global renewal.
 - The Church School and Youth Group learn about Giving through projects contributing to local soup kitchens, shelters for women, and Millennium Development Goals.
 - We believe in the importance of pastoral care from our clergy and from each other in times of need; our people really care.
4. Focus our earthly energies, time, treasure, and God-given talents locally and worldwide under Episcopal leadership and values.

At Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church tradition continues to meld with innovation and novelty, especially when it comes to church activities and outreach. The Episcopal Church Women and Girls Friendly Society, juniors through sponsors, are actively involved in the community and the parish.

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen has been a focus of outreach ministry for many years. We support its mission with food (collected in the **T.A.S.K. Barrel**), financial donations, and volunteers serving at the kitchen. Many of our congregation's activities and fundraisers have successfully and regularly included people from the local area. Most notably, our semi-annual Roast Beef Dinner serves at least 500 people on average. An annual English Tea revives a beloved Grace-St. Paul's tradition and has a loyal following, as has Songs and Sweets, a concert with desserts served during the intermission. The annual Rummage Sale has people lined up at the door well before opening time, and several of our parish families first came to Grace-St. Paul's through Vacation Bible School (VBS).



The Rev. Dr. Susan Richardson



became the fifth Rector of the Parish in November of 2010. Prior to her call to Mercerville, Rev. Richardson was an

Assistant Minister from 2006-2010 at Philadelphia's historic Christ Church. She was also an Associate of Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York, and was awarded a 2008 Transformational Ministry Fellowship by the Episcopal Church Foundation. Although she served at Grace-St. Paul's for less than two years, her impact was transformative.



The T.A.S.K. Barrel after a 2011 makeover.

GRACE-ST. PAUL'S CHURCH SOCIETIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND TRADITIONS

NOW

- Advent/Christmas Pageant
- Advent Lessons and Carols
- African Team Ministries
- A&M Nursery Fundraisers
- Bags of Love
- Blood Drive
- Bunco (for American Cancer Society)
- Café GraSP
- Camp GraSP
- Coffee Hours
- Craft/Product Fairs
- End-of-Season Parish Picnic
- English Tea
- Episcopal Church Women
- Episcopal Church Women Auxiliary
- Fall and Spring Clean-Ups
- Fall Family Fun Event
- Girls Friendly Society
- Hoagie Sale Sundays
- Lenten Programs
- Mother's Day Breakfast
- Organ Concert Series
- Palm Friday
- The Parish Pulse
- Roast Beef Dinners with Bake Sale
- Rummage Sale
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Songs & Sweets
- St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals
- Stewardship Fair
- T.A.S.K Barrel
- Church School Teacher Appreciation
- Trenton Thunder Game
- Uno Dinners (local dinner outing)
- Invite-a-Friend to Church Sunday
- Vacation Bible School
- Warming Tree (clothes for needy at Christmas)
- Women's Breakfast
- Women's Retreats

The **Rev. Amy S. Cornell**, a cradle Episcopalian, born and raised in Iselin, New Jersey, answered God's call to become Grace-St. Paul's Priest-in-Charge in August 2012, just one month after graduating from the General Theological Seminary in New York City. While completing her degree, she worked for a year at St. Francis in Dunellen, where she was mentored by none other than former Grace-St. Paul's Rector, Rev. Jack Zamboni.



MORE GRACE-ST. PAUL'S MEMORIES

Barbara Baggott on the **"Songs and Sweets"**

"The Vestry was looking for new fundraisers. I had noticed after being at the church for a few years that Grace-St. Paul's had so many talented, trained singers and we never heard them sing! This included Patricia Bartlett, Lydia Kugler, Richard Kugler, Robert Bullington, our own Fr. Jack Zamboni, and others. A Sunday afternoon recital was planned, with an intermission of delicious treats served in an elegant café setting. The first 'Songs and Sweets' was held in October 1999. The volunteer performers dressed in beautiful gowns and tuxedos and sang a variety of opera numbers, show tunes, and occasional sacred songs. The music lovers who came to the show were thrilled by the entire event. This was a successful fundraiser for Grace-St. Paul's. This event was added to our budget as an annual fundraiser. It was enthusiastically supported by Fr. Jack Zamboni as he personally appreciated the opportunity to use his vocal talent in this way. Over the years, a variety of performers have volunteered their services and many parishioners have continued to provide a lovely 'sweets' intermission. This event continues to be appreciated by local music lovers."





**Interim Rector, 2009-2010,
the Rev. Lois J. Schembs and Her Husband
(and Aproned Helper), Douglas Schembs,
Attending the Spring 2009 Roast Beef Dinner.**

**Lydia Kugler on the
Grace-St. Paul's Banner**

"About 8 years ago [i.e., in 2001-2002], our youth traveled to the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, to participate in the National Acolyte Festival. The banners carried by the various churches were impressive, but, sadly, GraSP did not have one. When we returned home, I spoke with Fr. Jack. He concurred that we should indeed have one and I could take on that project. Working from a 1 ½" corporate seal impression, I created the banner which hangs on the altar. It was created from almost 75% recycled fabric and trims, complete with carrying bag. When the youth returned to Washington, DC, [for a subsequent festival] they proudly processed with our Grace-St. Paul's banner, even receiving accolades from the Washington Cathedral Administrator."

On beloved parishioner and leader **Jim Davis**:

Stephen Cosgriff

"Jim Davis was a warm smile and a welcomed hand when needed. He was both a warm and unassuming companion, and an encyclopedia of church history. He is, of course, greatly missed by all of us, as he wore a 'big set of shoes' in the fellowship of this church."

Barbara Bromley

"Jim Davis was on all committees. He was the go to guy for everything. He never pushed his weight around. Whether he led or was at the bottom rung, he participated 100%."

Paula Alekson

"Unfortunately, Jim Davis suddenly and unexpectedly passed on before the history of Grace-St. Paul's was collected. Jim was a dynamo—especially for someone in his late-seventies, early-eighties. I think he may have signed up to host coffee hour every Sunday. He seemed to have limitless knowledge and energy. Just before his passing, the kitchen was being renovated and Jim, single-handedly, took on the huge project of scouring the range hood/fire-suppression system. He made it shine and gleam like the sun."





Kimberly Bresler on Being a Parishioner at Grace-St. Paul's

"I came to GraSP on Advent in 1999, seeking a new church home after moving to Princeton to attend graduate school. I had been "church shopping" since moving in September and hadn't found a parish that "fit." But once I found GraSP I never left...I was drawn more and more into the life of GraSP, as a lay reader, lay Eucharistic minister, intercessor, chorister, and vestry member, as well as occasional adult ed. teacher. GraSP has been a much needed spiritual constant for me in a sometimes trying world—both personally (diverse, supporting friends through serious illness and death, etc.) and economically (e.g., 9/11, economic downturn, wars, etc.). I feel grateful for all that GraSP has been for me—liturgy, spiritual support, musical outlet, fellowship, education, etc."

A few of Long-time Parishioner
Dorothy Henman's Grace-St. Paul's
Memories:

"Rose Pullen was very involved and active in the church and brought me to Grace-St. Paul's. Rose is the person who started the selling of the greeting cards to benefit the ECW [a ministry that Dorothy took on following Rose]. Rose died at the age of 98."

"Grace Church was 'low Episcopal,' and St. Paul's was 'high.'"

"Coffee Hour in the 1970's featured only rolls and coffee."



Barbara Bromley on the Epiphany Party

"This celebration was held on Sunday at 5:00 p.m. on January 20th or the week before the annual Parish Meeting. The menu featured ham, boiled potatoes, green beans, gold glow salad, tomato juice, and a special "Ten Talents" Cake, which included a bean, a pea, and a dime, etc., put in cake after baking, but before frosting. We sang the same "classic" hymns every time, including "We Three Kings." For this song the men (including Jim Davis) would dress as kings and come in bearing gifts. The tradition ended during Fr. Jack's rectorship, because the church women got too busy to set it up."