

Glad Tidings

hearts open to christ - doors open to his world

First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield

November 21, 1871 - November 21, 2021

Charter Members OF THE First Presbyterian Church OF Haddonfield, New Jersey

ORGANIZED, NOVEMBER 21, 1871

The Presbytery of West Jersey at their October Meeting in Salem having been petitioned to organize a Church in Haddonfield the Presbytery appointed a committee for that purpose consisting of REV. DR. REED, REV. L. C. BAKER and REV. FRANKLIN HARRIS with Elders R. E. MORGAN, J. D. RENBOTH and WM. FEW SMITH met in their Hall and in accordance with the forms and usages of the Presbyterian Church organized the **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HADDONFIELD** the members then unanimously elected by ballot DAVID ROE and JOSEPH B. TATEM to the Office of RULING ELDERS after which they were duly ordained and installed in their new and responsible relations.

The following named persons comprised the membership of said Church at time of organization

Mrs. Rebecca Roe	James Anderson, Jr.	William Henderson
David Roe	Miss Rebecca Jane Anderson <small>(Mrs. R. S. Anderson's Daughter)</small>	Henry Craig
Mrs. Ella C. Roe	James Anderson, Sr.	Mrs. Mary Craig
Joseph B. Tatem	Mrs. Eliza A. Anderson	Thomas Witherow
Mrs. Mary C. Tatem	John Anderson	Mrs. Sarah Witherow
William Anderson	Mary S. Williams	Mary Harter
Mrs. Eliza Anderson	Mrs. Sarah Hubbs	Miss Louisa W. Veatch

Presented by M. J. Moore
May, Nineteen Hundred and eighteen

Celebrating 150 Years

Hearts Open to Christ, Doors Open to His world



WORSHIP

In Person
Sanctuary
10 AM Sundays
Masks required

Live Streaming
Go to website and
click on Watch Live

1st Presbyterian Church
20 Kings Highway East
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

www.haddonfieldpres.org
856-429-1960

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Parish Register

Baptized

Cayden Jessie Sommers

child of

Paul Eugene Sommers and Lindsay Carroll Sommers
10/17/21

Thomas Henry Hicks

child of

Brian Hicks and Diana Montagna Hicks
10/24/21

Married

Mark Oswald and Sophia Durand

Joined the Church Triumphant

Kenneth Funk

9/14/21

Richard (Dick) Bell

10/23/21

Jane Sherman Poynton

11/13/2021

Jay Martin-Brennan

11/18/21

Celebrations

Advent Festival

Nov. 28 4:00-5:30 pm

Holy Communion

Dec. 5

Candlelight Service

Dec. 12

Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 24

Glad Tidings

Betsy Westermaier,
Editor
beewulf@mac.com

— Church Staff —

Rev. Dr. Douglas Gerdts
Transitional Senior Pastor

Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante
Associate Pastor

Peter Leibensperger
Music Director

Nancy Ruth Wainwright
Children's Choirs

Lucas Brown
Principal Organist

Gabrielle Heimerling
Director of Youth and Family
Ministries

Marisa McGovern
Preschool Directors

Anne Vial
Office Administrator

Kris Bean
Financial Secretary

Ed Hess
Community Caseworker

Rebecca Mannion
Receptionist

Travis Bogetti
Building Manager

Mark Hall
Security



Peter Leibensperger
Music Director

Music Ministry

Music has always been an important element of worship and participation in our congregation. Today, in addition to our adult Chancel Choir and Moore Bells, we have four children's choirs and three bell choirs that include youth. During our Covid restrictions, Peter has done amazing work providing choral productions for our online stream. Now that we are back in the Sanctuary, we can see the choirs and enjoy our special organ music both in person and in our weekly stream. Below are Joe Routon's photos from past (2012) presentations and a memorial message from Ken Carter who served as our Music Director from 1982 until his retirement in 2013.

Congratulations to First Presbyterian Church on their 150th anniversary.

My 31 years there as Minister of Music were filled with joyful music and wonderful memories. When I reflect on my time there I am reminded of the many Oratorios, New York City trips with the Thomas Sherrerd Choir, the children's musicals and the pops concerts, all of which were great fun. My favorite recollections though are the weekly rehearsals and Sunday worship services with the adult, youth, children and handbell choirs.



What a blessing the members of the church have been to my family. I am so thankful my sons were able to grow up in such a loving church. I wish for you another 150 years of wonderful ministry.

With
love,
Ken
Carter



Timeline

November 21, 1871 - November 21, 2021

The First 50 Years

Rev. E. D. Newberry 1873-1879	Rev. Julius F. Werner 1881-1893	Rev. William Casselberry 1894-1904	Rev. William Allen, Jr. 1904-1915	Rev. Joseph B. C. Mackie 1917-1920
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1858

Henry D. Sherrerd had petitioned the Presbytery to “supply us occasionally with preaching.” Rev. Daniel Steward and Rev. Samuel J. Baird were appointed to preach alternately on the first and third Sundays of every month. The first Presbyterian service was held in Town Hall.

Plans to organize a congregation were delayed by the Civil War, during which services were very irregular.

Finally on September 29, 1871, Joseph B. Tatem prepared a petition signed by 36 people asking the Presbytery to form a congregation. The congregation which had been meeting in Fowler’s store was formally organized as a Presbyterian church on November 21.

David Roe and Joseph B. Tatem were elected the first elders. Rev. E. D. Newberry was called and installed as the first regular pastor in January of 1873 at a salary of \$800 a year.

On February 10, 1872, the Trustees approved a motion that the church be called First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield.

A committee was formed to purchase a suitable lot for a new church. The Elfreth Lot near the new train station was selected at a cost of \$3,800. On July 12 the cornerstone was laid for the new church designed by the noted Samuel Sloan. The membership was 43.

The first church building was completed in August of 1882. In 1889 the Sunday School rooms adjoining the Sanctuary were enlarged. Electricity was installed in 1890 and the first missionary, Rev. Wilbur M Campbell in Hainan, China, was adopted.

In 1882, at the church’s dedication, a choir sang Hallelujah Chorus. These records describe Mrs. Julius Werner, the wife of the second minister: “In the coming of Mr. Werner there came into the services of the church also the inspiration of music through the singing of his bride and her skillful performance at the organ—only a small cottage organ at the time—and her splendid leadership in securing choices from the congregation and training them for choir and chorus work. Her voice was soprano, strong and clear and of correct tone...” After Rev. Werner died in Colorado, Mrs. Werner returned to Haddonfield and became the first paid musical director.

The first pipe organ installed in the First Presbyterian church, Haddonfield, was built and erected by the Hook and Hastings Pipe Organ Company in the original church building in 1899. The organ was built as a memorial to Rev. Julius E. Werner. Funds for the organ were raised under the leadership of William G. Moore, the chairman of the Music Committee.

In 1904 FPC founded the Logan Presbyterian Church in Audubon—the first of 8 daughter churches which included Ashland, Barrington, and Trinity Church in Cherry Hill.

In 1905 Henry Dyer Moore offered to build a new church for the growing congregation in memory of his late son Gilbert Henry Moore. The new church was completed in 1908.

In 1910 the congregation exceeded 1000 and Rev. Hugo and Dr. Laura Muller from FPC became foreign missionaries in Persia.

Within four years of Rev. Allen’s coming to FPC, the congregation was worshipping in a magnificent new edifice. By the time of his death ten years later, the church had grown by 455 members.

Rev. Allen was regarded as being of a “lovable, quiet, and winsome nature...” He fostered harmony within the congregation. He took great interest in all aspects of church life, with special attention to the work of home and foreign missions.

The Second 50 Years 1920-1970

Rev. Dr. Robert Hugh Morris
1921-1942

On May 10, 1921, Dr. Morris was installed as Pastor. He took up residence in the manse with his wife Addy and their three children. His daughter Mary later married William Amos, a church member.

Dr. Morris came to a well-organized church with a membership of 769. During his 21 years of ministry, that number increased to 1540. He served as leader, teacher, and friend to all.

Rev. Dr. Raymon Kistler
1942-1946

On May 12, 1942, the congregation and a special committee on pastoral vacancy voted unanimously to call the Rev. Dr. Kistler, president of Beaver College, Jenkintown, PA to become the seventh pastor of FPC.

On May 29, 1946, Dr. Kistler asked to be relieved of his pastoral duties to devote full time to his presidency of Beaver College, a position he had retained.

Rev. Dr. Bryant Kirkland
1946-1956

On December 11, 1946, Rev. Bryant M. Kirkland was installed as pastor. Under his brilliant leadership the membership of the church would grow to nearly 2800. He undertook a massive capital funds campaign to raise money for the present Christian Education building.

In 1955 he made a world survey of Presbyterian missions and conducted a preaching mission in India.

Rev. Dr. Thomas P. Lindsay
1957-1977

On September 8, 1957, Dr. Lindsay began his 20 year pastorate here in Haddonfield. He was noted for his scholarly sermons which he delivered from memory. Under his leadership funds were raised for major renovations and repairs to the church.

In 1958 Rev. Fred Rhody joined as Assistant, later Associate, Pastor. Rev. David McDowell (64-69) and Rev. Kenneth Young (69-77) added new dimensions to the youth programs.

The Third 50 Years 1971-2021 Much more about the last 25 years next month

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Veon
1978-1989

Dr. Veon was installed on Sept. 29, 1978. His dynamic preaching style and devotion to the youth of the congregation were marks of his energetic ministry. As were Friday morning Bible study, the Prayer Chain and our Senior Center. Best of all he brought the Carters and the Routons to FPC.

Rev. Dr. Roger Dunnavan
1990-1992

The church called Dr. Dunnavan as Designated Pastor in January 1990 for a period on two years while the congregation considers the call for a senior pastor. He streamlined committee structure. The new chancel was designed and built and stewardship increased.

Rev. Dr. William Levering
1992-2001

Dr. Levering was installed as senior pastor in 1992. His dramatic and innovative style made him an effective, thought-provoking communicator. He was also notable for his pet ferret and his leading the FPC motorcycle brigade in the 4th of July parade.

Rev. William Getman
2002-2020



Much will be fondly remembered of Pastor Bill Getman's tenure in our December issue.

History of First Presbyterian Church Haddonfield, New Jersey 1871-1996, edited by Joseph Routon, Jr. Is the primary source of information on these two pages. Additional information provided by David Stedman, Church Historian.

Presbyterian Women

Kiva is an international nonprofit, founded in 2005 in San Francisco, with a mission to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive. More than 1.7 billion people around the world are unbanked and can't access the financial services they need.

As part of our mission, Presbyterian Women has supported Kiva since April 2016 by using \$2500 from Esther Gray's memorial fund. By November 1, 2021, we had lent to people living in 19 out of a possible 77 countries/territories including Albania, Cambodia, Columbia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, Tajikistan, Uganda and the United States.

We have loaned money to a total of 63 persons. Thirty-nine (37) have totally repaid their loans, and twenty-four (24) are currently paying back.

We have loaned money to people for assistance in the following sectors: Education, Health, Services, Food and Retail, for the following activities: beauty salon, education provider, food production/sales, general store, higher education cost, primary/secondary schooling, cereals, food market, fruits and vegetables, grocery store and medical clinic. The majority of these loans (32) have been made to cover higher education costs and primary/secondary schooling.

Here is one of the letters we have received from Kiva, explaining the work that they do:

Dear Kiva Lender,

We are reaching out to you because at some point in the past, you saw a photo and read the story of a person in Ecuador, supported by VisionFund Ecuador, and decided that you wanted to help make the world a better place. We need the help of people like you. People who care about what goes on in the world and want to have a positive impact.

We are facing a unique and challenging time. No matter where you live, from the hectic streets of Kiva's headquarters in San Francisco to the packed dirt roads of northern Ecuador where VisionFund Ecuador helps vulnerable and underserved communities with a loan to improve their lives: we are in this together.

St. Wilfrid's Open Door Clinic

This week marks the **87th straight week** that the Open-Door Clinic at St Wilfrid's has distributed food during the pandemic; **117 bags** again, **8,309 total. Over 207,725 pounds** of food and dry goods, distributed by the all-volunteer, everything donated, nobody gets paid, Open Door Clinic at St. Wilfrid's. Thank you all for your generous collections and contributions.

Saturday November 20 will mark the final Saturday before we take a break on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. After 88 straight Saturdays, The Open Door Clinic will **not** be open November 27. In March, 2020, we vowed to give out food until it ran out. Like the loaves and the fishes, we still have food to distribute. We are thankful

Our Matching Grant program has ended.

Thank you to all who donated. We exhausted all the match grants. We can heat the building, continue with patch pointing the exterior walls, and have the flexibility to respond to changing situations. Thank you so much for caring!

Homeless Bag Items: We're again requesting tuna or chicken in "tear open packages," Chef Boyardee offerings in "flip-top cans" and fruit in individual packaging or flip top cans

NEEDS: Wipes. Tuna or chicken in tear open packages. Cans or jars of fruit or applesauce. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and more wipes. Plastic grocery bags from ShopRite or Wegman's, paper grocery bags to line the plastic bags, and newspaper bags to hold hygiene products, Winter coats or jackets for ages from 1 to 70. *In rentals the landlord has heat set at 55 degrees so the coats and jackets aren't just for outside.* Sweatshirts will help, too, as will hats, mittens, and scarves These may be dropped off in the alcove behind the parlor.

Check the website to learn more.

..... opendoorcliniccamden.org



Paul Urian collects books for the children who come to St. Wilfrid's, and sometimes he reads to them while they wait for their parents.

The Memorial Meditation Garden

The playground and the parking lot of the church were full this sunny Sunday morning when I paused on my way to worship to look at the newly landscaped Memorial Meditation Garden. The peace and beauty of that special place provide a perfect transition from the energy and bustle of the world outside to the quiet of the sanctuary.

In a church like ours which spins with activity most of the time it is important to have a place for contemplation and prayer. The chapel has always been such a place and, more than once I, and others, have paused there for some quiet time. Now, the garden, with its serenity, provides the same kind of space.

The garden has been rebuilt, but it is not new. It was an idea generated in a Session retreat in 1994 and reflects the need for a place close to the church where the ashes of its members and friends could be placed. Gene Holben was charged with the task of learning what other churches had done and what the law required for such a facility. Over the next year, he did extensive research, and in 1995, he presented a mission statement and a conceptual design which was approved by the Session.

Gene was named Project Manager with Linda Wilhelm in charge of paper work and Carol Tatem responsible for financial records. Betsy Baumhauer is the archivist in charge of The Book of Remembrance, which may be seen on a table near the door to the Chapel. The project was funded by a \$25,000 loan from

the Board of Trustees. The stained glass window was funded by a special donation of \$10,000.

Twenty-one people worked on the project. Among them were Barbara Tourtelotte and Mary Lou Winder who worked closely with Jane and Gene Holben to design and procure the stained glass window in the porte cochere. The original design of the garden is the work of Jane and Gene. The actual construction and maintenance of the garden was, and continues to be, a labor of care and devotion.

The garden is nestled in a grassy nook bordered on the east by a low wall and curving hedge and on the west by the protective stone wall of the porte cochere. High on that wall a dramatic stained glass window features a cross which seems to bless the scene below. Pillars mark the entrance and two stone benches invite visitors to linger under the trees.

Twenty-six people are interred in the garden. (*Current update: 51.*) There is a small onetime fee which covers perpetual care.

The recent reroofing of the church building resulted in some damage to the garden which has been magnificently repaired under the leadership of Dick Leach and Gene Holben. Jane Holben once again planned and enhanced the garden design.

Some day, when you come to church and people of every age group are in the building busily learning, and helping others, and raising songs of praise to the Lord, why not rejoice in the opportunity to participate in the activities and then take a moment for meditation in our beautiful garden. — Marcy Webster, 2011



Periodical

How can YOU help Interfaith Caregivers?

SHOP AND VOLUNTEER

Interfaith Caregivers is hosting its first annual Haddonfield Outdoor Holiday Market on December 4th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at its location, 20 Chestnut Street. There will be over 35 vendors with items like candles, wreaths, wooden signs and succulents in reclaimed teacups. There is sure to be something special for everyone on your gift-giving list. Stop by, shop locally and have a bite to eat as well from one of the food trucks. Interfaith Caregivers is celebrating 30 years of service to the community this year. Our mission today, as it was at its founding, is to provide supportive volunteer services to people 65 and older and those with disabilities. You can be a part of this vital service by volunteering. It is simple and rewarding. Email Larissa Willison at willison@ifchaddons.org to find out more. Thank you for your support.

In 1990 Dr. Joan Gault, an active member of FPC, with the help of other Haddonfield congregations, established Interfaith Caregivers which is now headquartered on church property at Wezner House.

