



# Kemble Connection Newsletter

*Kemble Church is a welcoming, caring, and faithful Christian community offering hope and support to make a difference in the world through God's Word and our deeds.*

January, 2016

---

## Pastor's Page

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."  
(Hebrews 13:8).*

A businessman had to travel to a small town for a meeting and he invited his wife to go with him. She was excited about the trip until she learned her husband would be flown to the small town in a twin-engine Cessna plane.

"Honey, I've decided not to go," she said.

"What! Why not?"

"I am not going on a little bitty, twin-engine Cessna."

Her husband smiled knowingly. "Honey, your faith is too small."

She responded, "No, the plane is too small."

The businessman really wanted his wife to go with him, so he cancelled the Cessna and booked their travel on a major airline. His wife was once again excited about the trip, not seeing that the object of her faith determined how much faith she decided to have.

The beginning of another year offers us an opportunity to look in many directions. A new year offers us the opportunity to look back on the past year, take stock of our lives and the choice to look forward to the year ahead with great optimism. The Scripture says, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* (Hebrews 13:8). So wherever we look, we can be assured that Christ is never far away - He stands in eternity, which has neither beginning nor end. Let us look back, look forward, look inward and look to Jesus.

*Let us look back* at the past year positively and thankfully. Acknowledge how far God has brought us as a people and as a nation and how far we still have to go. Last year was a difficult year, but we are still here. But for the grace of God we are here. We give

God thanks for the evidence of faith overcoming doubt, hope overcoming despair, courage in the midst of suffering and eternal life overcoming death.

*Let us also look forward* to the year ahead with faith, hope and love. Love conquers all things. It is not a coincidence that the New Year comes right after Christmas. Christmas brings good news that God is with us and if God is with us who can be against us? In Christ we have a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Because God is with us we can look at each new day with keen anticipation and hope. Because God is with us we know that tomorrow is going to be alright. *"He is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

*Let us also look inward.* Take stock of yourself. Ask yourself: Am I where I want to be? Am I doing what God wants me to do? Am I growing in love with God and increasing my faith? Am I offering my time, talents and treasure to help the least, the last and the lost? Am I maximizing my potential or am I just taking up space and marking time? The Psalmist prayed *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."* (Psalm 139:23-24).

Finally, let us *look to Jesus* "the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2). In 2016 let us seek to spend more time with Jesus who endured the worst so that we can have the best – a personal relationship with God in this life and the next.

Imagine a conversation an unhappy kite was

having with itself. The kite said, "If only I could get rid of this string. If the string was not holding me back, then I could really fly. I could fly above the clouds. I could fly as high as I want to. If I could get rid of the string, there would be nothing holding me back! I am limited by this string."

One day the kite got its wish. The string broke. The kite did not fly high above the clouds. Instead the kite came crashing down. What the kite did not realize was that the string that secured the kite to earth, kept it up in the sky. Cutting the string did not free the kite. The severed string meant a downward spiral and the end of its possibilities.

Staying connected to Jesus in 2016 will keep us uplifted. Whatever we may encounter tomorrow, or next week, or next month or six months from now, let us look to Jesus each day growing more like Him in faith and love. He will see us through to new possibilities. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"* (Jeremiah 29:11).

Multiplied Blessings,  
Pastor Mike

endeavor that offers a hot meal to those who are experiencing a rough time. Church members volunteer to purchase supplies, prepare and serve the meals. Pictured here are some of those volunteers. Talk to one of them about joining them.



Tony DeLucas (L) and grandson Nicholas Razze wait on tables.



L to R: Mike Wierski, Paul and Betty McMahon serve up the meatballs.

## Successful Start for Kemble Kitchen Community Lunch

The third Saturday of November and December saw an average of 30 persons at Kemble for the first two Community Lunches. Paul McMahon and the Men's Discipleship Group lead this



John Sooy guards the desserts?



## Johnson, Lacobie and Krauss Receive Service Award

Dr. Jim Johnson, Ms. Evelyn Lacobie and Mr. Jim Krauss received the Kemble 2015 Service Award plaque, which reads, “For Commendable Service to Christ at Kemble”. Further, it is to “honor those who work hard among you,” from 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:12.

Dr. Johnson is a retired professor of Dentistry at Temple University. At Kemble he has been chair of the Church Council, a Food Bank volunteer, among other activities. Ms. Lacobie worked as billing clerk in a busy physician’s office until her retirement. She is a former member of the Senior Choir, and has worn many other hats. For more years than your editors can remember, they have served as Worship Leaders at the first service every week that they are able. Normally, they arrive about 7 AM, unlock the doors, turn on the lights, set up the altar, place floral arrangements, prepare elements for communion, and place a glass of ice water at the pulpit and the organ console.

Mr. Krauss is a retired Woodbury High School teacher of music and a jazz musician. He sings in the Senior Choir, and is its self-appointed librarian, arriving many Sunday mornings soon after Jim and Evelyn. He created and maintained the church’s first website, a new version of which will be unveiled soon. Jim wears his thick mane of white hair in a long ponytail. Twice, he has donated hair to organizations that make wigs for those who have lost their hair.

Kemble is fortunate to be able to recognize such deserving members.



## Julia Magill Named Miss South Jersey

Kemble members who have seen Julia Magill mature into a lovely young lady were thrilled to see this headline recently: "The Miss South Jersey Scholarship Organization announces that Miss South Jersey 2016 is Julia Magill. Julia, 19, attends Rowan College at Gloucester County and has aspirations to obtain a degree in early childhood/special education.

"Her platform, "Feeding Our Families," is very close to her heart and she has been working throughout the community to promote her platform raising money and awareness for World Vision, an organization that feeds people throughout the world." Julia also volunteers her time and makes donations to the Food Bank of the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries.



In addition, she is a gifted dancer: she performed most recently at Kemble's Advent Lessons and Carols service to the strains of "Breath of Heaven", sung by her mother, Jill.

## Audiovisual System Installed

Members and visitors have noticed the enhanced sound, as well as the large monitors, in the sanctuary since the installation of a new audiovisual system in October. Funds from Jake Evaul's generous gift made this dream possible. Before services, announcements appear on the monitors. Projecting the words to songs not in the hymnal multiplies the choices for congregational singing.

Luis Bonilla has stepped up to learn how to operate the system during services. He is training others to do so, including Paul Jackson, and hopes soon to have enough trained operators to set up a monthly rotation. He assures your editors that the system is easy to operate. He feels teenagers in particular would enjoy doing it. Please visit him in the balcony after a service if you are interested.



*Luis Bonilla at the console*

Luis Bonilla joined Kemble in October. He is a Philadelphian, born and raised, a 1974 graduate of Mastbaum Vocational Technical High School. He has recently retired after 39 years with the U.S. Postal Service. Luis is now single, has four children – 2 college age and 2 grown - and two grandchildren.

## All Winners at Chili/Bingo Night



Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of November was a lucky day at Kemble. Many thanks go to the members who contributed time, chili, cornbread, desserts and prizes to the first ever Chili/Bingo event, sponsored by U.M.W. and chaired by Grace Holdcraft. The purpose of this gathering was to enhance fellowship among members, and feedback from the 80+ who attended indicates this goal was achieved.

Everyone came away well-fed from the 12 batches of delicious homemade chili, mounds of cornbread and a mouth-watering array of desserts.

Special thanks are due to Ginny Hewitt, who expertly called the Bingo games, backed by her experience doing so at Pitman Manor. Thanks also to the Manor for the loan of its Bingo set.

The challenge of clean-up was met by more members and volunteers, including Lynn McQuade.



*Kem*

*ble members join other volunteers at the  
Neighborhood Center Thanksgiving Flash Grocery  
L to R: Krista Galvin, Bill Holdcraft, Drew Boros,  
Grace Holdcraft, Jane Butler*

## Blessings of Thanksgiving at the Neighborhood Center

By Monday morning of Thanksgiving week, 500 families had signed up for the Flash Grocery Store, made up of donations of food from which these families can make choices for their Thanksgiving dinner. This meant the Center needed 500 turkeys and on Monday morning there were only 105. S.O.S. calls were made and emails were sent. By Monday night the Center had 550 turkeys! Bob Platzer, owner of PJ Whelihans and Chop House donated 50. Thank you, Mr. Platzer.

So, everyone had a turkey and plenty of food and the best part was that the fresh produce was a hit! One of the goals of the Neighborhood Center is to support good nutrition in an area of food poverty.

On Wednesday, the Store needed to be disassembled to prepare the gym for Thanksgiving Day. A group of Philadelphia Flyers came to take down the tables, store the left-over food and vacuum the floor. As the same time, a Health Inspector arrived on the scene and began to train them on the proper procedure for drying plates (even though she was told they were volunteers)!

Thanksgiving week ended at the Center with a

traditional Thanksgiving Day sit-down dinner. The Center thanks all who volunteered and/or donated foods and turkeys. They provided Thanksgiving blessings to many.

## Church Family

On October 4th we welcomed new members:

Luis Bonilla, Sr., of Woodbury  
Patrick and Kristen Heaney of Mount Royal  
George Templeton of Woodbury

Baptized October 18th:

Samuel Patrick Heaney, son of Patrick & Kristen Heaney  
Carmela Concetta Midure, daughter of Leo and Alicia Midure  
Darren Alexander Ranton, son of LaRoy and Gwendolyn Ranton

*Pictured below: Clergy, choirs and members from the congregations on the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministry gathered at Kemble this year for the annual community Thanksgiving service.*

## Angel Tree Ministry



Joy Wagner coordinated Kemble's participation in the Angel Tree Ministry, in which church members provide gifts for children whose parent is incarcerated. Several church families delivered the gifts: Andrea & Elizabeth Giedosh, Elaine Miller, Lynn Kopko and granddaughter Eva, The Counsellor Family, Heather Barford, Mary Jane Warfle and Joy Wagner.



In addition to the gifts we provided, a woman named Angel Petruzzi contacted us and wanted to help. Her two daughters were past recipients of Angel Tree gifts and she wanted to give back. She works for a local company called ServPro, and they purchased a gift for each of the 15 children and also gave gift cards to each caregiver. So each child received 4 Christmas gifts! The children's families were most appreciative. We invited them to attend our Christmas Eve service.

Thank you to all who donated gifts and to those who delivered them.

### Clara's Mitten Tree

The Missions and Outreach Committee and

the Woodbury Child Development Center thank everyone for the generous contributions to Clara's Mitten Tree. We delivered 35 pairs of children's gloves, 12 pairs of teenager gloves, 31 hats, 3 hat and glove sets, 2 scarves and 2 pairs of socks to the Center. Your thoughtfulness will make a difference in the lives of many children and families.

### \* \* \* \* Two Positions Open \* \* \* \*

Kemble seeks a caring and faith-inspired *Youth Director* and a Sunday morning *Nursery Attendant*. Both are paid positions. Please contact the church office for job descriptions and more information.



resident as well.



At left: Kemble Choirs presented an Advent Service of Lessons and Carols in the beautifully decorated sanctuary.

Below: Pitman Manor volunteers, coordinated by Carol Davis and Henrietta Sauter, baked, packed and wrapped and delivered tins of cookies for residents. The Auxiliary enclosed a book of postage stamps in the greeting card for each

## Kemble Connection Newsletter for 2016

Your editors propose three more issues this year. Please submit news and pictures to [getaz.zumoff@comcast.net](mailto:getaz.zumoff@comcast.net) for issues in:

- early April by March 31
  - late June by June 15
  - late September by September 15
- All deadlines subject to change!

Another Charitable Initiative --





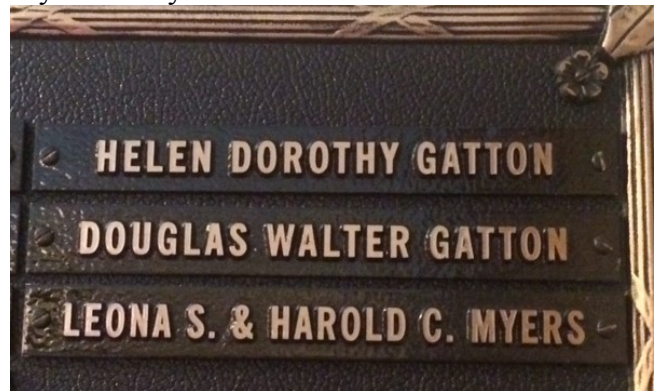
Jessie McMichael, daughter of Normajean McMichael, Director of Kemble's Parent's Time Out Pre-School, organized a toy drive to benefit the client families of the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministry Food Pantry. Thanks to the generosity of our pre-school student's parents, and Kemble's congregation, over 100 toys were gathered, which helped to brighten quite a few Christmas mornings. Great job Jessie!

### Teen Center Fee Dropped

To make attendance possible for more teens, the fee to attend the after school Teen Center at Kemble (in partnership with the YMCA of Gloucester County) has been dropped. At the Center, teens may participate in various activities, and receive homework and study help under the supervision of YMCA staff. Students in 6-12 grades may be enrolled by contacting Latrice Marianno at 856-845-0720.



The Gattton family gathered in November for the unveiling of their (grand)parents' memorial plaques. Doug and Helen first came to Kemble in November, 1969. Doug served as Associate Pastor several times, most recently 1989-2000. Kurt and Denise Gattton and their children paused for a picture with Pastor Mike. Members of the Myers family were unable to attend.



Kemble's veterans were honored on November 8

## Kemble to Host Woodbury Chamber

Kemble will host the February 24 meeting of the Greater Woodbury Chamber of Commerce. As Pastor Mike reminds us often, Kemble “is a church in the heart of the city, with the city at its heart.” It is also a longtime member of the Chamber.

The meeting is a breakfast gathering, beginning at 8 a.m. All Kemble members are invited to attend and welcome the 100+ business persons from Woodbury and surrounding area, some of whom are Kemble members as well.

## Church Goals for 2016 Adopted

At the Church Conference in October, Kemble’s goals for 2016 were recommended and adopted. These are:

1. Launch a Small Group Ministry by June 5, 2016, to include at least six small groups that meet spiritual growth criteria. One of the six small groups will be comprised of young families.
2. Host one 10:45 a.m. service per quarter that will focus on children. Children and Sunday School teachers will stay and participate for the duration of the worship service.  
[N.B. The date for the first of these services will be announced soon]
3. Work with the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries to ensure that the Food Pantry is open one evening per week. Kemble will be represented by 5 volunteers to assist in their efforts.
4. Identify at least 3 programs by March 1 that focus on local youth. Kemble Church will direct 50% of our mission dollars towards supporting the programs and their initiatives.

## Officers for 2016 Installed

On January 3, Pastor Mike led the congregation in the Covenant Service and Installation of Church Officers. Those who will serve for the coming year were introduced, and pledged to do all in their power to carry out their tasks. Church members promised to support them

in all ways, especially with their prayers.

Pictured below: New board and committee members attended an orientation session January 10. They reviewed the church’s vision, mission and goals, then met with members who had previously served to learn how their new responsibilities fit into the big picture.



## Men's Discipleship Enjoys Dinner Meeting

The Men's Discipleship Group met at the home of Carol and Tony DuLucas the first Monday in January. In addition to their meeting, they enjoyed dinner and informal fellowship. Your editors are told that Tony entertained the group with stories of ... but you will have to ask him! The next meeting will be the first Monday in February.



## Birthday Girls



Two of our beloved senior members celebrated their 90's birthdays within days of each other.

Gloria Mills, on the left, joined Kemble in June, 1960, when Dr. Neal Raver was Pastor. She was a member of the Mary-Martha Circle. Like their biblical namesakes, this group spent many hours and days in Kemble's kitchen preparing suppers for the congregation. Gloria was also a member of the Altar Guild and the Pitman Manor Auxiliary. She enjoyed visiting with the residents when she was a Manor shopper.

Jeanne Jones, on the right, joined Kemble in June, 1950, when Rev. Fred Stacey was Pastor. She and her late husband, Joe, led the Youth

Group for 7 years, were Sunday School teachers for 12 years, and served on the Altar Guild for 25 years. They made a great team! She was a member of the Naomi Circle until it disbanded in 2000, whereupon she joined the Golden Circle.

## Sunday School Celebrates Christmas

The cardboard home seen in the picture above was created by the Sunday School children who attended the annual Christmas Celebration on December 11th. In the story, December, written by Eve Bunting, Simon and his mother are homeless, living on the streets. Despite their circumstances, they never lose hope and maintain their Faith. One Christmas Eve, they hear a knocking on their shelter. It is an old woman in need of a place to stay warm for the night. Instead of sending her away, they take her in and share what little they have. On the wall of their home, Simon and his mom hang a calendar picture of an angel who they call December. On Christmas morning, Simon wakes up to find that the old woman is actually December, the angel, who has come to show them God's grace on a very special day. It was a Christmas they will never forget, and neither will Kemble's children.

(continued on next page)



Kemble Memorial United Methodist Church  
19 S. Broad Street  
Woodbury, New Jersey 08096

**Address Service Requested**

(856) 845-1627

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

www.kembleumc.org

Senior Minister: Michael Harriott

Editors: Grace Holdcraft and Joan Zumoff

Photographer: Virginia Steward

**Sunday Services:**

8:30 & 10:45 a.m

**Sunday School:**

Nursery through 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 10:45 a.m.



The 7 pm Family Christmas Eve service was a great success again this year. Thank you to the children who participated and to those who worked so hard to bring the miracle of Christ's birth to life for all those in attendance.



On December 20th, the Sunday School children once again took part in a school-wide nativity pageant that was cast, narrated and directed by Mr. Herbert Lancaster. Every child took part and a great time was had by all, including the teachers who were more than willing to lend their voices to a variety of stable animals.

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT No. 3  
Woodbury, New Jersey