



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.

December, 2016

Pastor's Page

"It is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come" (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

This year Kemble Church made a difference in the Greater Woodbury Community and the world through God's word and our deeds:

- From inspiring 33 children and their families from the Greater Woodbury Community through our Summer Music Camp to sponsoring 7 children in Uganda for a lifetime
- From providing an average of 65 meals each month to homeless and needy people through our Kemble's Kitchen Community Lunch to providing breakfast for 89 children and adults during our Bethel for Kids Sunday School Kick-off
- From partnering with the Gloucester County YMCA in opening a Teen Center at our church to providing space for the Woodbury Youth Group Drill Team to rehearse
- From the inspirational three-week Prayer Clinic to the 31 Days of Prayer for America, and
- From hosting 70 business people through the Greater Woodbury Chamber of Commerce to welcoming the Mantua Mom's Club for their weekly meetings,

Kemble Church has had an impactful year. We have accomplished more outreach to the greater Woodbury Community and the world this year than can be said for many past years.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. advised, "If you cannot fly, then run. If you cannot run, then walk. If you cannot walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." Kemble Church has shown that we are moving forward through the five drivers of vital congregations, described further below:

1. **Giving in Mission:** Kemble Church is a mission-minded church. We support a host of local, national and global organizations to provide funding for mercy and justice ministries around the world, including, but not limited to: A Future With Hope Campaign, The Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries, the Camden Neighborhood Center, Scholarships for college-bound youth, Habitat for Humanity, and CROP Walk to feed the hungry. In total, we will give more than \$70,000 dollars to missions by the end of 2016.
2. **Participation in Hands-On Missions:** Our members are involved weekly in a number of hands-on missions in the community and throughout the world: Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries Food Pantry, the Neighborhood Center in Camden, Pitman Manor Shopping For Seniors, Seeds of Hope in Camden, Quilt Ministry, and Angel Tree Prison Ministry. In the Fall of

2015, our Men's Ministry Discipleship Group launched the Kemble Kitchen Community Lunch - a monthly free lunch for the needy. Approximately 22 members volunteer for this outreach ministry each month. We have served up to 92 homeless and needy people in one month.

3. **Small Groups:** We have 20 small groups that meet routinely throughout the year and we are strongly committed to our members' growth in their faith through these groups. Two new small groups were started this year. Small group ministry is one of our key Church goals for 2017.
4. **Growing in Professions of Faith:** This year we conducted three New Members' Classes. As a result, Kemble Church has welcomed eleven new disciples.
5. **Average Worship Attendance:** This year we are averaging 138 people in worship. Last year we averaged 154 people in worship. This year's worship attendance is reflective of the thirty-two members who transferred or withdrew their membership. Through our focus on the Annual Friends and Family Sunday and four Invite-A-Friend Sundays, we are leaning into God's plans for our church.

Kemble Church is moving forward. We have collaborated with the Gloucester County YMCA to open a Teen Center at Kemble Church. The Men's Ministry Discipleship Group established Kemble's Kitchen Community Lunch. The Audio Visual Committee installed a new Audio Visual System in the Church Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Further, our Church Office Staff launched a New Church Website, which features opportunities to connect with church ministries and strategies to increase one's faith in a loving God.

Kemble Church's greatest challenges remain in the areas of tithing and discomfort around our cross-cultural appointment. If there is anything that will hinder the future of our church it is the reluctance of our members to tithe and the unwillingness to embrace the cultural changes that comprise our present reality.

Many thanks to Kemble Church groups that are on the move and for the many Kemble leaders and members who are growing together in our faith journey with Christ through Bethel for Kids Sunday School, the Men's Ministry Discipleship Group, United Methodist Women, and other small groups, the Trustee Board, the Worship Committee, and the Media Ministry - just to mention a few.

"I give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in my prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:2).

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Mike

Church Officers for 2017:

Names that appear in boldface are new to the position

Church Council

Church Council Chair – **Dottie Lange**
Church Council Secretary – Norma Warren
Lay Member to Conference Karen Perrone
Reserve Lay Member – Mike Perrone
Co-Lay Leaders – **Bob and Donna Grebb Catando**
Nurturing Ministry – Pastor Michael Harriott
Sunday School Supt. - **Pam Fuller**
Missions/Outreach Chair – Position Open
Asst. Sunday School Supt. - **Beverly Wellons**

Historian – Grace Holdcraft
Communications – **Diana Ballistreri**
UMW Co-Presidents – **Jill Magill** and Norma Warren
Trustees Chair – Robyn Austin
Staff-Parish Chair – **Michael Razze**
Finance Chair – **Bob Stankard**
Treasurer – Andrea Giedosh
Witness Ministry – Pamela Harriott
Stewardship – Position Open
Worship – Heather Barford

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPR)

Chair: **Michael Razze** (year 2 of 3)

Beverly Wellons (year 3 of 3)

Dave Shamlian (year 3 of 3)

Donna Grebb Catando (year 3 of 3)

Karen Perrone (year 2 of 3)

Linda Tingley (year 2 of 3)

Linda Haigh (year 1 of 3)

John Sooy (year 1 of 3)

Board of Trustees

Chair: Robyn Austin (year 3 of 3)

Paul Jackson (year 3 of 3)

Paul McMahon (year 3 of 3)

Mike Perrone (year 2 of 3)

Carol Davis (year 2 of 3)

Kevin Counsellor (year 2 of 3)

Jeff Wagner (year 1 of 3)

Doug Fuller (year 1 of 3)

Miriam Wilson (year 3 of 3)

Nominations and Leadership Development Committee

Chair: Pastor Michael Harriott

Ginny Kelly (year 3 of 3)

Jeff Pirog (year 3 of 3)

Nancy Brzuska (year 2 of 3)

Rusty Loper (year 2 of 3)

Joan Zumoff (year 2 of 3)

Danielle Jackson (year 1 of 3)

Mary Alice Smith (year 1 of 3)

Colleen Tighe (year 1 of 3)

Nurturing Ministry

Chair: Pastor Michael Harriott

Joy Wagner (Altar Guild representative)

Steve Bruce (Adult Sunday School representative)

Pam Fuller (Bethel for Kids, Children's Sunday School representative)

Bob and Donna Grebb Catando (Co-Lay Leaders)

Steve Bruce (Lay Servant)

Carol DeLucas (Membership Care)

Bob Catando (Men's Ministry representative)

Normajean McMichael (PTO Pre-School)

Jill Magill and Norma Warren (UMW Co-Chairs)

Heather Barford (Worship representative)

Open position – (Stewardship representative)

Open position - Youth Director

Finance Committee

Chair: **Bob Stankard**

Diana Ballistreri, Financial Secretary, non-voting

Andrea Giedosh, Treasurer

Dottie Lange, Church Council Chair

TBA, SPR Committee representative

Michael Harriott, Pastor

Miriam Wilson, Preservation Fund representative

Bill Holdcraft, Stewardship representative

Donna Grebb Catando, Lay Leader

Robyn Austin, Trustees Chair

Karen Perrone, Lay Member to Conference

Mission and Outreach Committee

Chair: Position Open

Jane Butler

Cynthia Raymond

Mary Alice Smith

Joy Wagner

Mary Jane Warfle

Ministry Fund Committee

Facilitator: Michael Harriott, Pastor

Robyn Austin, Trustees Chair

Bob Stankard, Finance Chair

Michael Razze, SPR Chair

Dottie Lange, Church Council Chair

Bob and Donna Grebb Catando, Co-Lay Leaders

Karen Perrone, Lay Member to Conference

Safe Sanctuary Committee

Chair: Lynn Kopko

Pam Fuller

Pastor Michael Harriott

Normajean McMichael

Colleen Tighe

Scholastic Assistance Committee

Chair: Bob Catando

Liz Cheshire

Danielle Jackson

Dave Jenkins

Bunny Stubblebine

Jeff Wagner

Miriam Wilson

Media Ministry

Chair: Luis Bonilla

Pastor Michael Harriott

Pamela Harriott

Bob Stankard

Stewardship Committee

Chair: Position Open

Carol DeLucas

Pastor Michael Harriott

Grace Holdcraft

Bill Holdcraft

Ginny Kelly

Paul McMahon

Worship/Music Committee

Chair: Heather Barford

Liz Cheshire

Tony DeLucas

Grace Holdcraft
Brenda Hufsey (continued on next page)
Karen Perrone
Mike Perrone
Mary Jane Warfle
Joan Zumoff (ex officio, Interim Organist)

Pastor Mike's article and the above list of officers and committee members for 2017 appeared in Kemble's Report to the Greater New Jersey Conference for 2016, along with the budget report. After its approval by the Kemble Church Council, this report was presented at the Church Conference on October 29. To obtain a copy, please contact the church office.

At the Church Conference, District Superintendent Rev. Myrna Bethke addressed the Conference theme for the year: *creating a culture of generosity*. The Conference will help local churches to bring this theme to life as she and Rev. Brian Roberts, District Superintendents for the Southern Region, explained in their September letter:

"The Southern Region is excited to be partnering with Horizons Stewardship for the next year to assist us in creating a culture of generosity. Horizons was founded in 1992 by [Dr. Clif Christopher](#), an ordained United Methodist pastor and stewardship consultant, to assist churches and other faith-based institutions to make strategic decisions and grow in faith, while securing the necessary capital to accomplish their vision for ministry. The use of the word stewardship in the company name is very intentional. We believe we were all created by a generous and loving God who gifted each one of us that we might use our gifts to enable God's will to be done. We will be working with [Scott McKenzie, PhD](#) who is a United Methodist Elder, author and senior vice president at Horizons."

Watch for more on this, and pray for all the incoming officers who will be formally installed on a Sunday in January.

Farewell, Christine!

Music Director Christine Laquintano tendered her resignation in September for health reasons. We thank her for her spiritual as well as musical leadership, and will keep her in our prayers as she recuperates. Joan Zumoff is serving as Interim Organist through the end of the year.

Advent Family Dinner & A Movie

Purpose: Help feed needy families and help your children learn the Christmas Story

When: *Tuesday, December 6th, 6:00pm to 7:45pm*

Where: Kemble Church

Tickets: Kids 12 and under are FREE, Adults \$7

Benefits: Proceeds go to Kemble Kitchen Community Lunch program

Tickets available online at

www.kembleumc.org, or by calling the church office at 856-845-1627

Agenda: Kid-friendly meal, followed by "The Very First Noel" animated movie, followed by a family Carol Sing

Need Stocking Stuffers or Hostess Gifts?

The UMW will be selling homemade chocolate candy on *December 11th and 18th following both services*. We will have some available or if you wish to order on the 11th, you can pick it up on the 18th. Proceeds will benefit UMW mission projects.

Hoagies Again!!

Square Circle will be selling Italian or turkey hoagies on *December 4th following both services*. Take some home to enjoy during the Eagles game. There will also be desserts available to go with your hoagies. Help support Square Circle's mission projects.

Angel Tree Returns

On December 4, we will celebrate Angel Tree Sunday. Church members will choose an angel from the tree and purchase a Christmas gift for a child of an incarcerated parent. The gifts will be collected on December 18 and delivered to the families by our church members. Each year we have been able to increase the number of children we serve. This year we have 20 children ranging in ages from 1 through 16. We will help make a better Christmas for these families. Thank you in advance for your help.

-- Joy Wagner, Coordinator

Bethel For Children's First Christmas

This is the first Christmas season for our new Sunday School program. In our classes, we emphasize the joy of belonging to God's family/our church family, made of people in all ages and stages of life. We want our children to feel they are members of, not just our Bethel Sunday School, but also our congregation.

Generosity is an attribute we all need to learn and practice. Our Christmas project for our first year is sponsoring Clara's Mitten tree, previously handled by our Youth and our Mission Committee. This tree was the inspiration of Clara Brazier, a Kemble member who passed away in 2007. She spent her life giving to children and to Kemble—as an elementary school teacher of first graders, as a Sunday School teacher of 4 and 5 year olds, as the first director of the Children's choir, assistant organist and chair of Missions for many, many years. Our first work trip to West Virginia happened when Clara Brazier was Mission chair.

As in Clara's time, a large tree has been placed in Fellowship Hall for the Kemble community to fill with hats, gloves and scarves. These items will be delivered to the Woodbury Child Development Center a few days before Christmas. Each Sunday School classroom will have a mini tree for kids to put mittens on so they can feel and see the difference they can make.

Family Christmas Service/ Children's Nativity Pageant

Children of the congregation are invited to participate in our 7 p.m. Family Christmas Eve service by becoming part of the Nativity pageant. There will be one rehearsal on Sunday, December 18. After the second service, we will begin by sharing bag lunches brought from home (drinks, chips and cookies will be provided), then rehearse. Sunday School teachers and the Sunday School table in Fellowship Hall will have forms for parents to complete so that children, ages four and over, may participate. *Forms must be returned by Sunday, Dec. 4th.*

Church Family

We welcome new members:

Francine and Wayne Fellows, Mullica Hill
Shanyn Fleming, Woodbury Heights
Patricia and Richard Peterman, Woodbury Heights
Rose-Ann Rodrigues, Philadelphia
David Shamlian, Woodbury
Katie and Eric Steines, Mullica Hill

We extend sympathy to the family of Margaret (Peggy) Ballistreri who passed away on November 18.

Children and Communion

God has given us a vision to "Make Children The Face Of Kemble Church." We are reviewing our programs for children and addressing concerns and opportunities to increase children's participation in worship and the complete life of Kemble Church. Since children now stay in worship during communion services, the question has been asked, "Can children take communion?"



In The United Methodist Church, children are welcome to receive communion. Our Book of Worship explains, "All who intend to lead a Christian life, together

with their children, are invited to receive the bread and cup." By Water and the Spirit: A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism, our statement on baptism, says, "Because the table at which we gather belongs to the Lord, it should be open to all who respond to Christ's love, regardless of age or church membership." Parents may decide when their child can begin receiving communion. For a fuller explanation and suggestions for introducing children to communion, please visit www.umc.org/what-we-believe.

Celebrating the Offering

December 4 is Stewardship Sunday

Members have received a mailing containing a Commitment Card for 2017 pledges and a return envelope. Those present on December 4 may place their cards in the basket. Those who cannot be present may mail them to the church.

To aid members as they prayerfully consider their pledge, Doug Fuller, Interim Chair of Finance, offered some numbers:

Support of Budget 2016

Total Expenses	\$379,300
Total Income	
Member Giving	\$190,000 or 50%
Special Gifts and	
Investment Income	\$125,000 or 33%
Reduction of Investment	
Principal	\$ 64,300 or 17%

Doug observed that balancing the budget by drawing down investment principal is not sustainable.

Pledges for 2016 Breakdown

Total Number of Giving Units in 2016 = 177

Avg. weekly Gift	Number	Percent
\$1 - \$5	62	35%
\$6 - \$15	35	20%
\$16 - \$30	35	20%
\$31 - \$50	25	14%
\$51 - \$100	13	7%
\$101 - \$150	6	3%
\$150 +	<u>1</u>	<u>1%</u>
	177	100%

Average weekly gift = \$20.64

From the Commitment Card: "Everything we have belongs to God. Therefore, in response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and his church, I plan to reevaluate my present giving and answer the question, "Am I giving God my very best?"

Delucas, Magill, Warfle Receive Service Awards

On October 9, three Kemble members received recognition for commendable and lengthy service. They are:

Tony Delucas, for his many years of service as Head Usher, and numerous other roles;

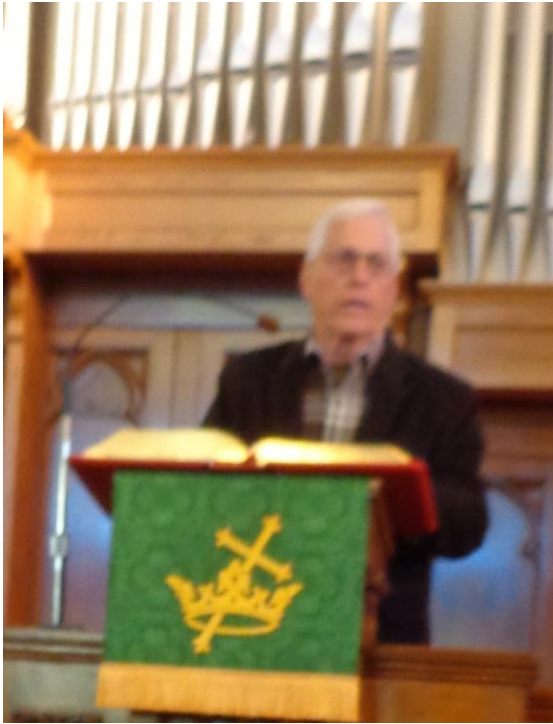
Mary Jane Warfle, for the 10 years she taught the Adult Sunday School Class (she was 'In the Spotlight' in the last issue of *Kemble Connection*);

Jill Magill, for her service as Chair of the Music Committee, ensuring the presence of a musician at Sunday services, and her continuing leadership of the children's Sanctuary Choir and Christmas Pageant.

PTO Toy Drive

PTO Director Normajean McMichael announces the opening of the PTO Toy Drive, which will continue through December 12. New, unwrapped toys are wanted; they will be delivered to the GWCM Food Pantry the next day.





Stand Down of South Jersey

On November 13, when Kemble observed Veterans' Day, Bob Catando spoke about his work with Stand Down of South Jersey. Your editors asked him to tell us more about it.

For 15 years, Bob and about 25 other volunteers from the Battleship New Jersey, as well as many others from other organizations, have worked with homeless veterans in the seven counties of South Jersey. Stand Down is a national organization whose sole function is to help homeless veterans from all branches of the armed forces to seek a better life and to provide the essentials to achieve it. Conceived by two Vietnam veterans in 1988, Stand Down has grown out of the conviction that the huge number of homeless veterans was unacceptable, and that the veteran community had to respond. It is important to note that 1/3 of homeless adults in the USA are veterans, and there about 9000 homeless veterans in New Jersey.

As a volunteer, Bob has two responsibilities: (1) During the summer, he sends out almost 300 manila envelopes filled with information to veterans' organizations such as VFW and American Legion; other service organizations such as the Salvation Army and churches with

thrift shops; key individuals and state veterans' services. (2) He trains other volunteers (150+) to be escorts for each veteran when Stand Down of South Jersey conducts its business on the last Friday of each September. At the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill, veterans in need are escorted to the various stations for registration, a haircut, lunch, civilian and/or military clothing and a backpack filled with food. This process takes 1 1/2 – 2 hours. It takes all year to assemble the resources for the 250-275 men and women who benefit from this program each September.

Bob regards his part in this program as his way of giving back to society by serving these men and women veterans, many of whom are homeless, who have done so much for our freedom to continue. He invites anyone to join him in this ministry. All gave some, but some gave all.

Scavenger Hunt!

Can you find this?

A porcelain wall plaque depicting "Lord's Last Supper" stamped Capo Da Monte, made in Italy. It is 10 x 16 inches horizontal. This valuable plaque was from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Roland McMahon and given to Kemble by Helen McMahon in 1982.

-- or this?

A brass plaque honoring Elizabeth Duffield Kemble, mother of William Kemble, philanthropist from Philadelphia, who gave money to build our present church in her memory. She was a faithful member of the congregation for many years.

Tie breakers: Who was the pastor in 1888 when the church was built? Where is his picture?

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

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Address Service Requested

(856) 845-1627
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
www.kembleumc.org

Senior Minister: Michael Harriott
Editors: Grace Holdcraft and Joan Zumoff

Sunday Services:
8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School:
Nursery through 6th grade – 10:45 a.m.

2016 Advent Calendar --

Any time – Bring hats/mittens/scarves for
Clara's Mitten Tree

December 4 – Sunday

Stewardship Sunday – Turn in Commitment
cards

Return registration forms for children's
participation in Christmas Eve pageant

Make reservations for Advent Family Dinner
and A Movie

Square Circle Hoagie Sale

Pick Angel Tree Names

Festival Choir lunch and rehearsal – all are
welcome!

December 6 – Tuesday

Family Dinner and A Movie – 6 – 7:45 p.m.

December 8 – Thursday

All choirs rehearse – 6:30 and 7 p.m.

December 11 – Sunday

Advent Musical Presentation by the Festival
Choir at both services

UMW Candy Sale

December 12 – Monday

Last day for PTO Toy Drive

December 17 – Saturday

Kemble Kitchen Community Lunch - Noon

December 18 – Sunday

UMW Candy Sale

Christmas Eve pageant lunch and rehearsal

December 24 – Saturday

Family Christmas Eve Service and Pageant –
7 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service - 11 p.m.

December 25 – Sunday

Christmas Morning service(s) – TBA

2017

January 13-15 – Women's Winter Retreat