



# 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.*

**April, 2016**

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## Pastor's Page

“Weeping may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” (Psalm 30:5)

A number of years ago, someone came up with the great idea of putting playrooms in pediatricians' offices. Oftentimes parents bring their sick children to the doctor and have to wait to be seen. The playrooms are designed to distract children from the pain of their problem until the doctor can see them. These playrooms give the children (and their parents) joy through a tough situation.

That is the way God works. Though things may not be going the way we would like them to on the surface, God has designed a “playroom” in our souls. In the midst of our troubles, He intends for his joy to distract us from our pain until He makes provision for us.

In John 17:13 Jesus prayed, “I am coming to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.” Jesus prayed that we would have his joy within us. He wants us to have his joy, because the joy of the Lord is our strength.

I must mention that there is a difference between happiness and joy. Happiness is short-lived but joy is long lasting. In John 16:21 Jesus teaches us the enduring nature of joy. He says, “When a woman is in travail she has sorrow, because her hour has come; but when she is delivered of the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a child is born into the world.”

I have seen this picture of a woman in labor up close and personal. I was in the delivery room for the birth of each of my three children and I must say labor looked

like it really, really hurt! Giving birth is an agonizing experience. However, in an instant a mother's pain becomes joy as she meets her baby for the first time. Jesus says that is the way times of trial work.

Today, there is much pain and grief in Pakistan because of the Easter Sunday suicide bombing, but Pakistan will rise again. That is what Jesus promised the disciples as well. The disciples would see Jesus die on the cross, but they would later experience his resurrection. God delights in performing resurrections in our lives. We do not live in a world without pain but God promised to take our pain and turn it into joy.

The Bible says, “weeping may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning” (Psalm 30:5). If I had the option, I would order the joy without the suffering. Yet, Jesus said, that is not the way it works. Joy comes not from a change of circumstances – joy comes from having Jesus in our hearts.

Have you discovered joy through a personal pain that has allowed you to form a deeper relationship with God? Have you discovered the joy of releasing fear of death and looking instead to certainty of an eternity with God? Have you discovered the joy of knowing that whatever happens you are going to be all right because God is with you?

Jesus prayed that you would have his joy in you. Do you?

*Many Blessings,*

*Pastor Mike*



## Juliet Lancaster Avila

We are pleased to better acquaint you with Juliet Lancaster Avila, who recently resigned after nearly 5 years as Sunday School Superintendent. Juliet lives in Woodbury with her husband, Jesse, and daughters April, 11, and Lily, 8. Juliet's parents are Janet and Jerry Lancaster.

Juliet graduated from West Deptford High School in 1994, where she excelled in track and field and swimming. School records that she set in shot put, breaststroke and freestyle swimming still stand. She majored in Elementary Education and Fine Arts Theater at Rider University, and participated in the swim team there.

Her teaching career started at Runnemede, then took her to Oaklyn, then Gloucester City for ten years. She is now Head Coach for the West Deptford High School swimming and diving team and assists with the Girls' Spring Track team.

At Kemble, she began teaching Sunday School in 2009, and became Superintendent in 2011. Most visible to the entire congregation were the mission projects she organized in the Sunday School: Toasty Toes where over 400 pairs of socks were collected; Mission Not Impossible where gifts were sent to the military; Stamp Stampede; Powerful Pennies, and lastly, the just concluded Project PB&J.

**Thank You!**

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with the children of Kemble over the past five years. Educating and guiding children in all areas of their lives is not only my chosen career path but is also a passion that I carry with me each and every day. It has been an absolute blessing to get to know the children of Kemble and to witness their growth both as Christians and the future of our world. My goals and ambitions for Kemble's Sunday School program have always been centered around providing our young people with an active hands-on and authentic learning environment that encourages fellowship and the desire to continue learning about the Lord throughout their entire lives. What gives me peace is that I know that in my time here, I have been able to see this goal come to fruition.

I must take the opportunity to thank all of you who have supported Kemble's Sunday School program through teaching, assisting, volunteering, donating, supporting our missions and lifting up our children's ministry in ways too numerous to mention. Running the Sunday School program here and teaching our children has been a true ministry for my entire family. I cannot say thank you enough to my parents, husband and children, especially Janet Lancaster, who has spent countless hours teaching, planning and developing this program. I would not have been able to accomplish all that I have in life and in my position as Sunday School Superintendent without your dedication and love. God Bless you all.

*Juliet Lancaster Avila*



## Project PB & J Wrap Up

On April 3, 2016, the Sunday School wrapped up its peanut butter and jelly collection mission in aid of the Food Pantry of the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries. At our children's group worship service in September, the children learned about the nutritional value of peanut butter and other nut butters and how a 48oz. jar of peanut butter can make 42 sandwiches and provide a week's worth of nutrition for a family of four. A goal of collecting enough peanut butter and jelly to make 1,000 sandwiches was set at that time.

With the help of the entire congregation, the children have collected enough peanut butter and jelly to make well over 1,600 sandwiches, providing a family of four with over 33 weeks of nutrition! Just think about the impact this will have on the lives of countless families in the Greater Woodbury area. Thank you to the entire congregation for making this mission such a success.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family & Friends Sunday Observed April 3

Many enthusiastic 'Hallelujahs!' and 'Amens' greeted Pastor Mike's inspiring message, "Living My Best Life" at Friends & Family Sunday services.

Guest speaker Mr. Joseph Jones, III, Superintendent of the Woodbury School District, spoke about 'what is right' in the

schools. Several successful programs are being viewed as models by other schools. On many measures, Woodbury Schools compare very favorably with others in the region such



as Haddonfield and Moorestown.

A presentation of two old-fashioned spirituals by the Mighty Glorifiers Gospel Singers had toes tapping and hands clapping. Thanks to Cynthia Raymond for recommending them!

Afterward, 120 people enjoyed a complimentary catered lunch in Raver Hall.

## Church Family

Baptized April 10<sup>th</sup>:

Anna Mary Phelps, daughter of Heather and Daniel Phelps of Westville

In Memoriam:

William (Bill) Heughan March 19, 2016

## New Look for Kemble Website

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

In this electronic age, an organization's web address is equal in importance to its geographic location. Kemble's online presence has undergone a recent facelift. Church secretary Dee Ballistreri reports that people have already taken advantage of the ability to sign up for a baptism, to register children for PTO, to place soup orders for the UMW Soup Sale fund raiser, and simply to contact the church online.

There are six headings on the home page:

■ **I want to sign up for...**

Register for PTO classes and pay tuition

Register for new member classes

Sign up for weddings, baptisms

Register for the "Lounge" teen center

■ **I want to volunteer...**

Sign up to help at the Kemble Community Lunch, during Sunday services, at the Neighborhood Center, etc.

■ **Faith Tools...**

Listen to recorded sermons

Pastor's Message

Morning Guide to Praise and Prayer

Daily Scripture reading

■ **What's Happening...**

Latest Kemble news & events

Member news – scholarship application forms, condolence announcements, member events, etc.

■ **I want to purchase...**

Make donations to Scholarship and Preservation Funds;

Reserve places and pay for tickets to special fund raisers;

Buy Altar flowers and other seasonal flower purchases

■ **Give**

Donate online with a one-time or recurring gift

To see latest photos from Kemble events, and the Pastor's message, simply scroll

down on the home page.

## Apply Now for Kemble Scholastic Assistance

Kemble members enrolled in accredited post-secondary education programs may apply for assistance from the Kemble Scholastic Assistance Fund by submitting an application form by MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016.

Completed applications are due in the church office by 3:30 p.m. Forms are available at the Welcome Center in Fellowship Hall, or online at [www.kembleumc.org](http://www.kembleumc.org) under "Member News"

Members enrolled in all levels of post-secondary education – certificate, associate, bachelor, master doctor. Past recipients may apply again. Scholarship awards will be sent directly to the enrolling institution, and not to the candidate who has received the award. All awards must be utilized within one year.

Awards will be announced on Sunday, June 12, 2016. Questions may be addressed to Robert Catando (848-8386) or Bunny Wilson (845-3613). Since 1985, the Fund has awarded over \$145,000.

NOTE: Other loan and scholarship opportunities are available through the state and national United Methodist Church. For details visit the website

<http://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships>.

## News from Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries

We thank those who contributed to the 'Mardi Bras and Briefs' campaign in February. 250 bras and 400 briefs were collected and \$900 donated.

Handy Helpers had no jobs for February. [Think 'spring cleaning', and contact Kemble's GWCM representative, Donna Lightcap, if you would like their assistance.]

Upcoming Events:

May 1: CROP Walk

July 25-29: Vacation Bible School at Holy Angels

November 20 at 7 p.m.: Community Thanksgiving Service at St Stephen's

Kemble Hosts WCC Coffee Klatch

The February 24 Coffee Klatch of the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce (WCC) met at Kemble with 60 members in attendance. For many it was their first opportunity to see the inside of our facility. John Campbell, Executive Director of WCC, expressed his pleasure at having a meeting in a very visible local church.

Kemble Church is a long-time member of the Chamber. In addition, many church members are individual members of WCC, including Bill Holdcraft, Bob Duffield, Dottie McQuade and Dottie Lange of The Monogram Shop, Paul McMahon, Bunny Stubblebine, Rick Ballistreri, Robyn Austin, and Chris Eastlack.

Representing the “church in the heart of the city with the city at its heart”, Kemble’s Mission and Outreach Committee recently visited businesses in Woodbury to assess needs in the city and how Kemble might



help to meet them.

WCC President Christopher Eastlack addresses the group in Fellowship Hall.

The GWCM Food Pantry needs disposable



Kemble Trustees Chair Robyn Austin speaks with Dr. Barry Coniglio.

## Neighborhood Center News: Come May 14 for the annual luncheon!

The Center will return to a grand tradition of holding the annual luncheon on the grounds of the Center’s picnic grove on **Saturday, May 14** beginning at 10:30 a.m. There will be a BBQ Lunch, prepared by Chef Lou, fun and games for the community, tours of the newly renovated Main Building, garden planting opportunities for our Urban Farm and music and performances by our Teen Jazz Artists.

Please RSVP to [Christa@ncicamden.com](mailto:Christa@ncicamden.com) or call her at 856-365-5295. Also, let her know if you are available to volunteer in the gardens. Please bring the whole family!

The cost is “Pay as You are Able”. The proceeds will benefit the Center’s Evening Teen Programming.

For more interesting and exciting information, please check out the Neighborhood Center of Camden Facebook page!

## UMW Sunday Celebrated

Services on January 31 were led by members of the United Methodist Women, in recognition of the work done by UMW members. Co-President Norma Warren read the Purpose of the UMW. Carol Lesser received the Person of the Year award for her volunteer work in many areas of the church.

The offertory was a poem about the UMW, set to the tune of “Oh, Susannah”, presented by the Senior Choir and joined by the congregation.

The message of the morning was given by four United Methodist Women of Faith: Mary Jane Warfle, Lisa Lattanzi, Jane Butler and Jan Lancaster. The service concluded with the singing of “On Eagle’s Wings”.

## UMW Annual Plant Sale Orders due April 24

Rebecca Circle announces that orders are now being taken for the annual plant sale. As usual, plants are provided by Powell’s Greenhouse in Mickleton. Order forms are available at Welcome Center in Fellowship Hall. Questions may be directed to Mary Jane Warfle at 845-3805.

## Protecting Children Through CASA

Kemble member Bunny Stubblebine is a CASA volunteer. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. Almost 10,000 children in New Jersey currently live

in foster homes. They were removed from their family home due to physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, outright abandonment, or neglect. These children live in foster homes, group homes, and residential treatment facilities throughout the state.

In New Jersey, CASA volunteers, appointed by Family Court Judges, work within a network of local, county-based CASA programs to ensure that these children have a voice in court proceedings that impact their future. CASA volunteers advocate for these children, making sure that they are safe, that they get the services they need, and that they are placed in a nurturing, permanent home quickly, and with as few moves as possible.

CASA volunteers become the ‘eyes and ears’ of the Family Court Judge out in the community, and a powerful ‘voice in court’ for the child or children. They investigate and understand what is going on in a child’s life, report how the child is doing medically, educationally, psychologically, and socially, and advocate for the best interest of the child(ren).

Bunny currently works with 2 brothers who are in foster placement. She works with them, their foster parents, and the court to find permanent placement. The boys are 5 and 7 years old and now know her as a friend. Please say a prayer for these children, who, through no fault of their own, find themselves out of their homes and sometimes dealing with adult problems before their time.

If you would consider volunteering with CASA, call Bunny for information at 856-468-3890.

## Men's Discipleship Group

At recent first Monday night meetings, averaging about 13 men in attendance, the Men's Discipleship Group has been discussing the Book of Luke. Two more meetings remain before the summer break: May 2, and June 6.

## **\*\*Kemble Community Lunch Program**

As organizers of the Kemble Community Lunch Program on the third Saturday of each month, the Men's Discipleship notes with satisfaction that it has grown from serving 25 community members at its first meal in November, to 59 in March. It is really filling a need.

**All volunteers are welcome and encouraged** to help with these lunches. Visit [www.kembleumc.org](http://www.kembleumc.org) and click on 'Volunteer' under the 'I Want To...' tab, or speak with Bob Catando or Paul McMahon.

## **From the Organ Bench -- Choir News**

We thank those church members who participated in the Festival Choir's presentation of the Lenten cantata, "Amazing Love", on March 20.

We welcome new Chancel Choir members Travis and Peyton Wahl, and new Senior Choir member Steve Bruce!

## **Special Music for Summer**

Summer approaches quickly and choirs will disband, so sign up now to present a solo or small ensemble during July or August. The sign up calendar is on the organ. See Music Director Christine Laquintano soon to get the date you want.

## **Starting Conversations With Children ---**

These new children's books, published in 2015, take readers around the world, and into their own backyards. Circumstances may differ, but the characters' hopes and struggles are universal.

--- About service

**Last Stop on Market Street**, by Matt de la Pena, follows CJ and his nana as they leave their church, and board a bus. CJ is full of

questions and complaints, and Nana's resolute responses articulate the glories of their rich, vibrant life in the city, as presented by the bus passengers. A tattooed man checks his cell phone; a woman keeps butterflies in a jar; a musician tunes and plays his guitar. When the pair arrives at their destination, the local soup kitchen, CJ sees familiar faces, and is glad they came to help. (appropriate for preschool thru grade 2)

--- About working together

**The Miracle on 133<sup>rd</sup> Street**, by Sonia Manzano, is the coming together of neighbors from a variety of backgrounds to make Jose's Christmas celebration something truly special. (appropriate for preschool thru grade 2)

--- About

communication and patience

**In Mango, Abuela, and Me**, by Meg Medina, Mia

is shy about meeting her grandmother, who is moving in with her from the faraway tropics.

Abuela speaks Spanish and "can't unlock the English words," and Mia's espanol is not good enough to bridge the

divide they both feel. Soon they find ways of getting to know each other. Abuela's adjustment to her new home is sensitively portrayed as she and Mia bond over their different cultures and shared heritage.

(appropriate for grades 1-3)



## **Trustees Recognized**

Kemble's Trustees were recognized at services on March 13. A slide show highlighted the many projects they are concerned with around the physical plant. One of the most visible is new steps at the back entrance. These replace steps installed in the 1930s!



Whitney Cheshire and Maryjane Warfle at a recent meeting of the

Worship Committee.

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](http://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 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 10:45 a.m.

**Easter at Kemble**

