

Amazing Grace



GRACE CHURCH (EPISCOPAL)
819 MADISON STREET
SYRACUSE, NY 13210
THE REV. JENNIFER BASKERVILLE-BURROWS, RECTOR

The Legacy of St. Philip's Church
& Syracuse's 15th Ward

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY AT GRACE CHURCH
AND OTHER SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES



*“We are still
in the day of
small things...*

...but we must remember
that God uses the small
things of the earth to
accomplish great ends.”

-The Rev. Herbert G. Coddington,
Rector of Grace Church,
on the second anniversary
of the founding of
St. Philip's Church,
Syracuse, New York,
July 24, 1899



ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY SHIRLEY DAVIS

St. Philip's Sunday Schoolers. Front row: Gary Davis, Sheila Hazel and Gregory Davis. Back row: Robert Clark and Sandra Hazel. According to Gary and Gregory's mother, Shirley Dunham Davis, these children were raised by the rule, "You had to go to church, or you couldn't do anything else."

Amazing Grace



COURTESY BETTY CURRY

The Legacy of St. Philip's Church *1857 to 1957*

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY AT
GRACE CHURCH AND OTHER
SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957

Thank you to everyone who so generously shared family photographs, news articles, research papers and memories to enable us to compile this anniversary booklet, *Amazing Grace*. It provides a glimpse of life at St. Philip's Church and Grace Church through the pictures and stories of just a few of the many people who have been part of these church families.

Published by Grace Church (Episcopal) in celebration of the legacy of St. Philip's Church, Syracuse's African American Episcopal Church, and 50 years of racial integration at Grace Church.

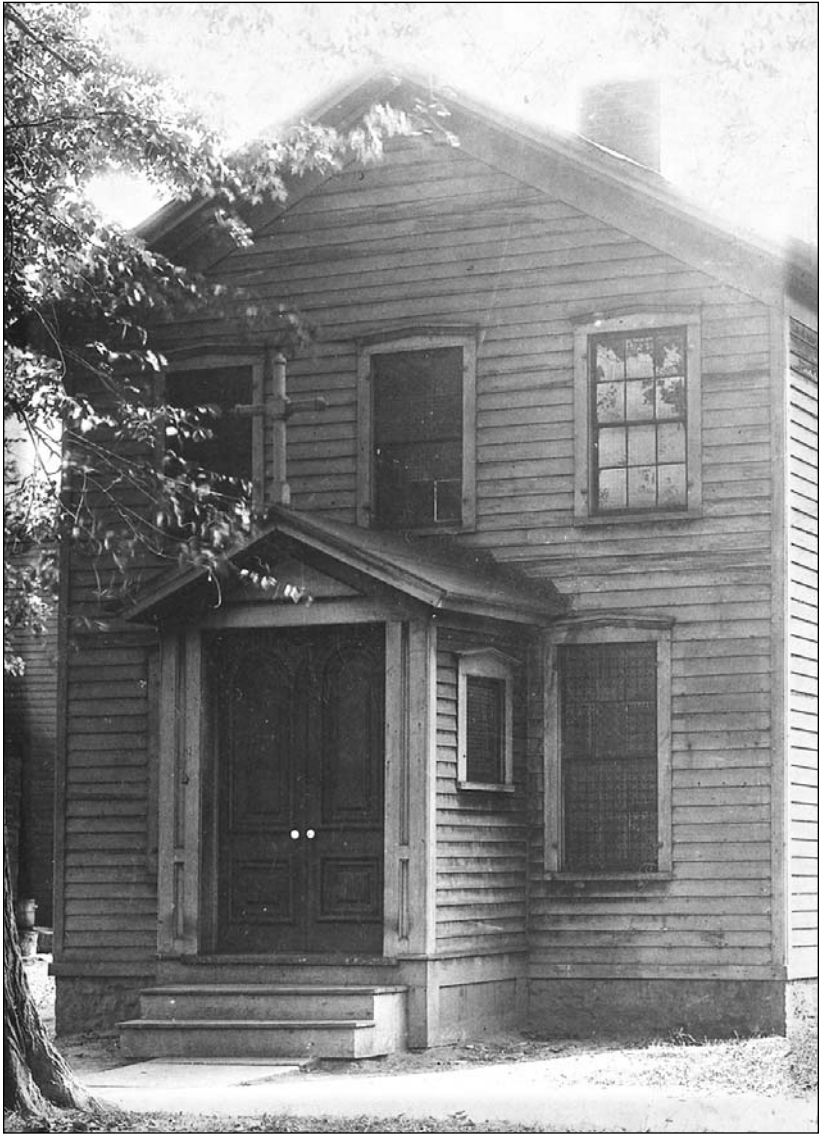
2007 is both the 110th anniversary of the founding and the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of St. Philip's Church.

Compiled by Susan Keeter. Rev. Nov. 2007

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On the cover: St. Philip's Choir (circa 1950-1954).
Front row: The Rev. Walter Parker, Sidney Harrison, ____,
Sharon Fletcher, Gwen Harrison, Judith Wells Brooks,
Ann __. Back row: John Ash, Lorraine Wells Merrick,
____, Louise Miller (choir director), ____, Mary Latham,
____, Dorothea Perez, ____.

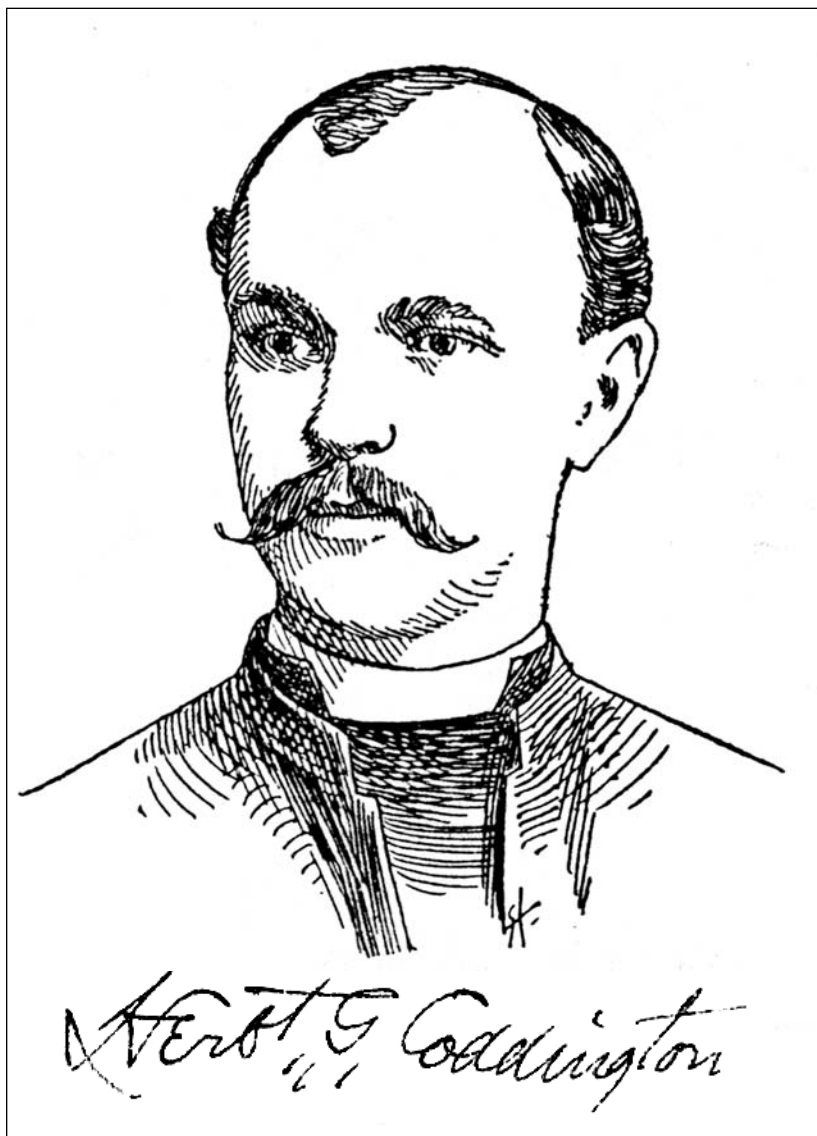
ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY WILLIAM MOORE

St. Philip's was organized in 1897. The parish obtained its own building four years later. "The Free Church of St. Philip" was incorporated on January 16, 1901. The first service was held in this building, located at 209 Almond St., Syracuse, on June 2, 1901. This wooden building was replaced 20 years later with an elaborate, stucco church.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

The Rev. Herbert G. Coddington, rector of Grace Church, organized St. Philip's Church on July 25, 1897 and remained involved in its day-to-day operations until 1914. In 1901 or 1902, Mr. Nathaniel Peterson Boyd was hired as an assistant to Father Coddington at St. Philip's Church. The Rev. Floarda Howard (1904) was the first rector dedicated to St. Philip's Church.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957

CHURCH AND CLERGYMAN'S
BAPTISMS

NO.	DAY.	DATE.	PLACE.	CHRISTIAN NAME.	SURNAME.	Date and Place of Birth.
1	Sun.	Sept. 26	Lodge room, Hendricks Bldg.	Agnes Annetta	Harvey	Sept. 1, 1871, Harrisburgh, Pa.
2	Sun.	Nov. 7	St. Paul's Chapel	Lela Fredrika	Cooper	Oct. 17, 1876, Aurora, N. Y.
3	Sun.	Nov. 7	St. Paul's Chapel	William Addison	Griffin	Dec. 18, 1875, Kaneo Co., N. Y.
4	Sun.	Nov. 7	St. Paul's Chapel	James William	Loguen	Aug. 20, 1884, Ayracuen, N. Y.
5	Sun.	Nov. 7	St. Paul's Chapel	Spirit Spillman	Loguen	July 6, 1886, Ayracuen, N. Y.
6	Sun.	Nov. 7	St. Paul's Chapel	Lauris Douglass	Loguen	Dec. 17, 1894, Ayracuen, N. Y.
7	Sun.	Nov. 7	St. Paul's Chapel	Carl William	Jackson	March 2, 1889, Ayracuen, N. Y.
8	Sun.	Nov. 14	St. Paul's Chapel	Susan Maud	Jordan	May 5, 1875, Ayracuen, N. Y.
9	Wed.	Nov. 17	So. E. Railroad st.	Mrs. Matilda May (John)	Westland	Oct. 6, 1870, Utica, N. Y.
10	Wed.	Nov. 17	So. E. Railroad st.	James Cato	Leonard	Dec. 25, 1870, Adams, N. Y.
11	Wed.	Nov. 17	Grace Church	James Joseph	Jones	Aug. 4, 1874, Harrisburgh, Pa.
12	Fri.	Nov. 19	St. Paul's Chapel	Mrs. Charlotte Christina (Cope)	Johnson	Dec. 13, 1856, Aurora, N. Y.
	Sun.	Dec. 12	St. Paul's Chapel	Josephine	Shaw	Feb. 20, 1876, Shaca, N. Y.
4	Sun.	Dec. 12	St. Paul's Chapel	Alice Mary	Washington	Oct. 20, 1873, Ayracuen, N. Y.
15	Sun.	Jan. 2	St. Paul's Chapel	Wuth Sanford	Talbot	Sept. 24, 1897, Jordan, N. Y.
16	Sun.	June 19	St. Paul's Chapel	John Henry	James	March 14, 1898, Ayracuen, N. Y.
17	Sun.	Oct. 2	St. Paul's Chapel	Edith Alberta	Davis	Oct. 28, 1876, Ayracuen, N. Y.

COURTESY EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

Records show that the first person to be baptized as a member of St. Philip's was 26-year-old Agnes Annetta Harvey. She was baptized at Hendricks Hall on Fayette Street by Father Coddington on September 26, 1897.

After Father Howard (the first rector) left in 1905, St. Philip's had a series of pastors: The Rev. James Empringham (1905 and 1912-1913), the Rev. Karl Heyne (1906), lay ministers (1907-1909), the Rev. Ray Wooten and the Rev. Johnstone (1910), Mr. Wilbur Q. Rodgers and the Rev. William Howard* (1911-1913), the Rev. William S. Hayward (1913-1915), the Rev. A.H. Maloney (1915-1917) and the Rev. W.E. Gillian (1917-1919).

*Father Howard remodeled the wooden church and "the mission began real progress" while Father Gilliam was rector. Father Hayward served at the Onondaga Nation and compiled a grammar book of the Onondaga Language.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957

1	John Wesley Johnson	
2	Louis Douglas Loguen	4 yrs
3	Hildred Louisa Boddy	2 m
4	Mrs. Emily Wendus	
5	Charles Edward Boddy	12 yrs 9 m
6	Mrs. James [Elizabeth] Sanford	
7	Mrs. Louisa (Matthews) Loguen	51 yrs.
8	William Cooper	67 yrs. 11 m
9	Mrs. (Mrs) Sarah Ann Lincoln	41 yrs. 10 m
10	Mrs. (James C.) Eva A. (Gibson) Leonard	35 yrs. 10 m
11	John H. Anderson	42 yrs.
12	Mrs. (Mrs) Elizabeth Rice	62 yrs.
13	William Wendus	
14	Sarah M. Storum	78 y 10 m
15	Mrs. J. H. H. H. H.	8 yrs
16	Mrs. Sarah Cooper	
17	Mrs. (J.T.) Mary C. Cromwell	53 y
18	H. H. H.	

COURTESY EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

Several family members of the Bishop Jermain Loguen and his wife, Caroline, attended St. Philip's Church. They included son Gerrit Smith Loguen (1847-1918) and his wife, Louisa Matthews (d. 1902); daughter Mary Catherine (1854-1907) and her husband, James Cromwell; grandsons Lewis Douglass (b. 1889) and Gerrit Spellman Loguen (b. 1894); and Mrs. Loguen's sister, Sarah Storum (d. 1904). The Loguens' home was the main station of the Underground Railroad in Syracuse.

FUNERAL RECALLS FAMOUS COLORED HORSE TRAINER

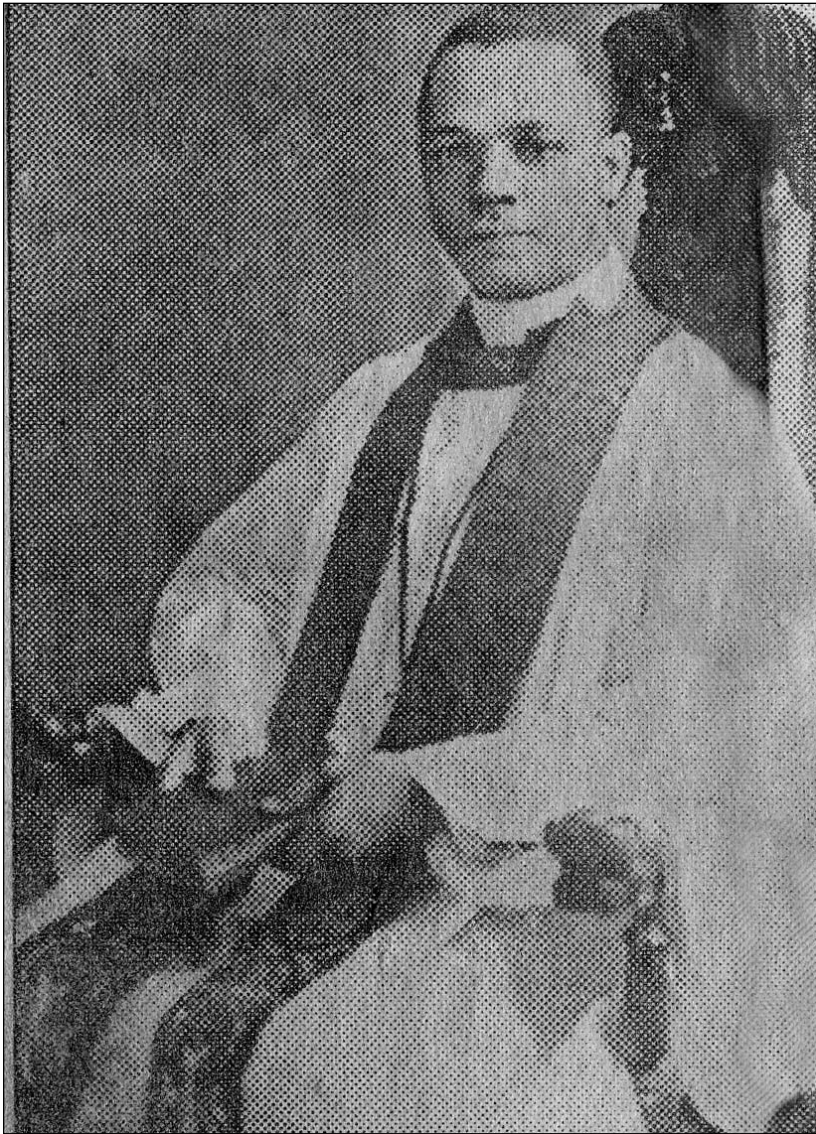
**Henry Kelso, Well Known Here
Generation Ago, Will Be
Buried Thursday.**

The funeral services for Henry Kelso, colored, which will be held at St. Phillips Church at 2:30 on Thursday afternoon and from Cornell, Clement & Wright's undertaking rooms a half hour previous, will bring to the minds of many followers of good horses a man who a generation ago was one of the most prominent drivers in this section. For many years Kelso managed and drove the horses in the stable of

COURTESY SKANEATELES HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

On March 30, 1916, a funeral was held for Henry Kelso at St. Philip's. Born into slavery, Kelso escaped as a youth and was raised by the Loguen family in Syracuse. Mr. Kelso became a renowned horse trainer. The Rev. A.H. Maloney (St. Philip's Rector from 1915 to 1917) officiated at the funeral.

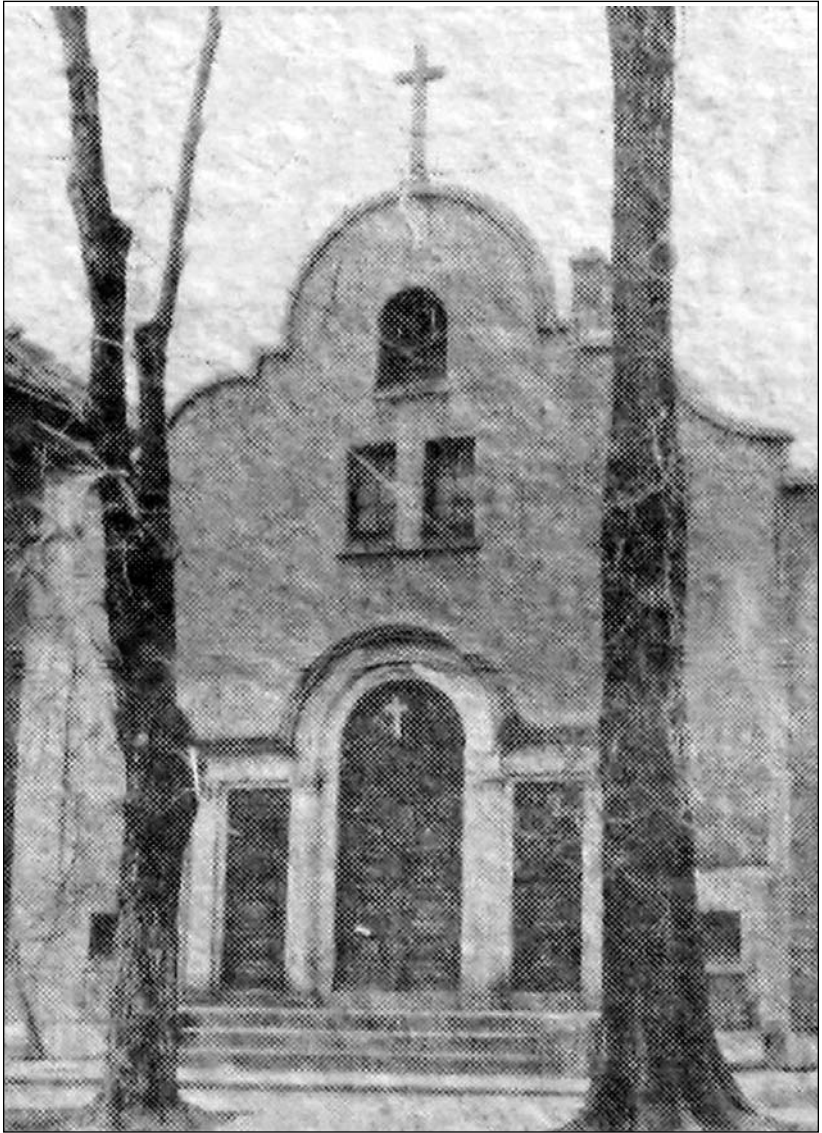
ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY WILLIAM MOORE

The Rev. William S. McKay was rector of St. Philip's from 1919 to 1927. From 1920 to 1922, there was a 350 percent increase in the size of the congregation.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957

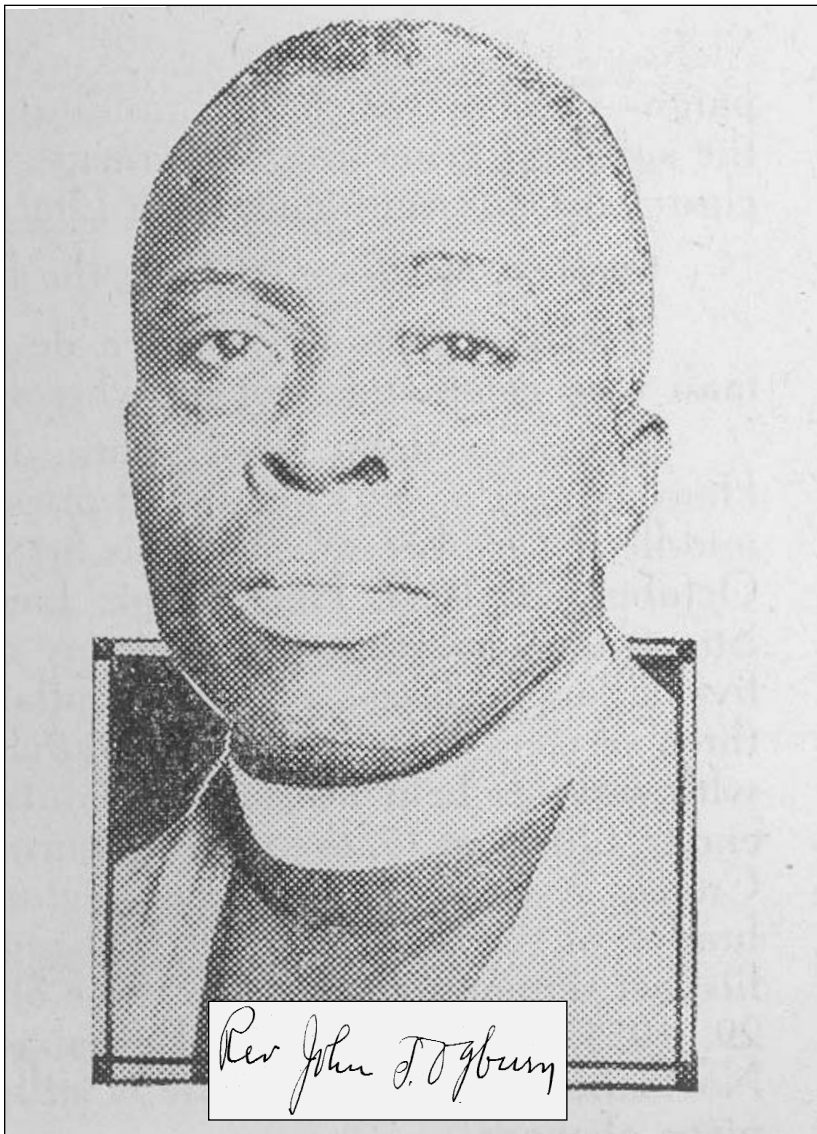


COURTESY ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The cornerstone of the second St. Philip's Church building was laid on Oct. 16, 1921. The Rev. William S. McKay, the church's longest serving rector, presided at the first service in the new building on January 29, 1922.

The Rev. F. Willicom Ellegor followed Father McKay and was rector of St. Philip's from 1927 until his death in 1928.

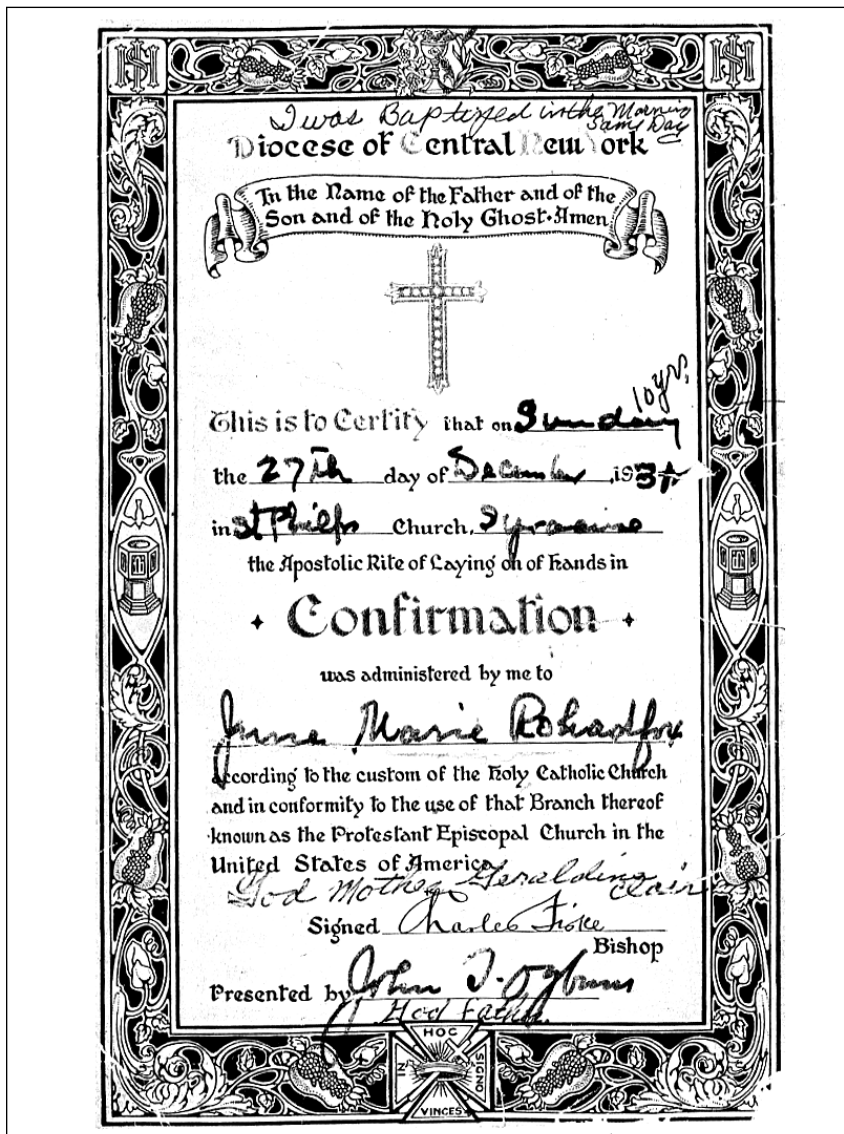
ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

The Rev. John T. Ogburn was rector of St. Philip's from 1928 to 1933. During this time, three services were held every Sunday. Father Ogburn organized the St. Philip's branch of the Daughters of the King, an order for women.

More than a decade later, Father Ogburn returned to St. Philip's to celebrate communion at the church's



COURTESY, JUNE MARIE DIXON

Confirmation certificate for June Marie Rohadfox (Dixon) signed by the Rev. John T. Ogburn of St. Philip's Church, December 27, 1931. June, age 10, was baptized and confirmed on the same day.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Rev. Henry B. Lee was pastor at St. Philip's Church from 1933 to 1942, and was ordained in 1936. He was described as "A devoted priest...Mr. Lee's absorbing passion is to minister to the religious and social needs of his...community."

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Father Lee arrived at the depth of the Depression. Often, there was no coal or money so the church's furnace was fueled by discarded shoes, old hymnals and prayer books.



COURTESY EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

“Father Lee met the emergency of the time by making the church, not only a place of worship but also an employment agency, a center relief, a W.P.A. sewing circle...If ever was a father in God to the people, a loving shepherd to the flock at St. Philip’s mission, that was Father Lee.”

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY BEAUCHAMP LIBRARY

Eleanor Werts with her children, Marjory and Raymond, 1934 or 35. Mrs. Werts was very active at St. Philip's Church. Raymond was an acolyte. Marjory Werts Wilkins remembers that Friday nights were great times at St. Philip's, with roller skating, fish fries and music.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY WILLIAM MOORE

St. Philip's Church member June Marie Rohadfox (Dixon) with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, 1940 or 41. June was a member of the girls' unit at Hartwick Seminary at the time, thanks to the guidance of Mildred Moore. Mrs. Roosevelt was celebrating her birthday with a cake made by June.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY MARJORY WILKINS

June Marie Rohadfox (Dixon), age 19. She taught Sunday school and was dedicated to St. Philip's. June Marie and her husband, Clifford, were married by Father Lee at St. Philip's. Mildred Moore was a witness.

The Dixons had three children, Michael, Patti and James.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY WILLIAM MOORE

A Works Project Administration (W.P.A.) sewing circle provided employment for 50 Syracuse women during the Great Depression. The sewing circle was organized by Father Lee and Mildred Moore of St. Philip's Church. Eleanor Werts (see page 17) was one of the seamstresses. In 1940, Father Lee hired Mrs. Moore as a social worker at St. Philip's.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY WILLIAM MOORE INSET: EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

At right: ledger note by
Father Lee.

Today, Mrs. Moore's son,
William Moore, his wife Mary,
and several of her grandchildren
and great-grandchildren attend
Grace Church, Syracuse.

On March 18th 1940
Mrs Mildred Moore
was authorized to take
up her duties as a
parish worker in
St. Philip's Church.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY JUNIE DUNHAM

The Dunham children of St. Philip's Church.

Leona Dorrine, 2 (1935 or 36); Lillian; Dorris Jayne, 11 (1941); Clarence "Junie," 7 (1941)



COURTESY MARJORY WILKINS

1941. Kathleen Morrison, Alberta Jones and Ernestine Pickord (Long) at a St. Philip's Church camping trip at White Lake in the Adirondacks.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY MARJORY WILKINS

Vivian Jones and Emily Moore at a camping trip sponsored by St. Philip's Church. These annual camping trips were a reward for near-perfect church attendance.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY MARJORY WILKINS AND SHIRLEY DAVIS

Buddy Leonard, left, and Kenneth Dunham were acolytes at St. Philip's Church. Buddy is pictured on Townsend Street, near Adams Street, in the 1940s. Kenneth, pictured at a picnic, was confirmed by Father Lee.



COURTESY ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Rev. Victor Emmanuel Holly was rector of St. Philip's from 1942 to 1950. He was the grandson of the Rt. Rev. James T. Holly, founder and first bishop of the Episcopal Mission of the district of Haiti.

“Only love can bring a just and durable peace...You discipline yourself to look for the best in the people you meet. You practice it in your daily relations. You gain it by meditation and prayer...” – The Rev. Holly

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957

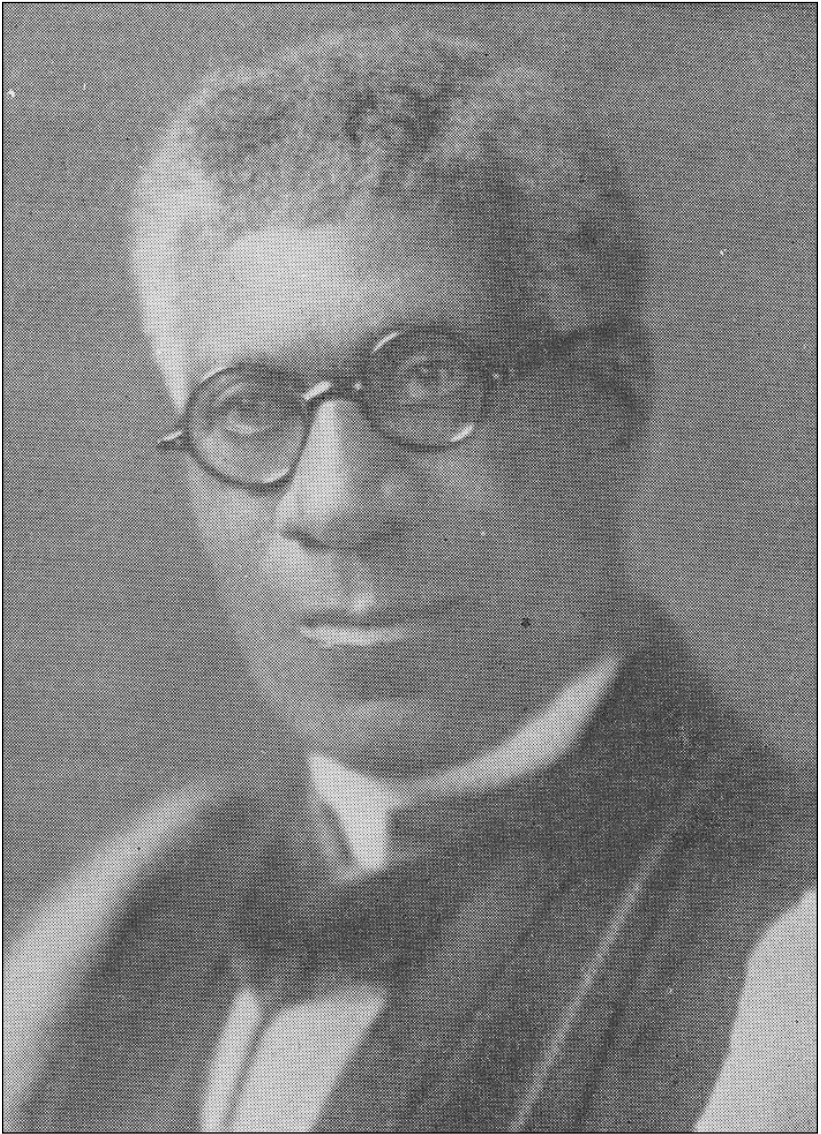


COURTESY SHIRLEY DAVIS

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Davis, circa 1948, in Thornden Park, Syracuse. They were married at St. Philip's by Father Holly and their sons, Gary and Gregory, were baptized there by Father Parker. Raised in the Baptist Church, Roy converted to the Episcopal Church after he and Shirley were married for ten years. The Davises moved to Grace Church when St. Philip's closed and were active members there until Roy's death in 2004. Shirley remains an active member today.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957

COURTESY EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK



In 1947, The Right Rev. Edward Thomas Demby D.D., L.L.D. (b. 1869) preached at the 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of St. Philip's Church. The Right Rev. Demby was the first African American priest elevated to the high office of Bishopric of the Episcopal Church in the United States.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY MARJORY WILKINS

St. Philip's Church parishioner Elaine Hasbrook Jamison graduated from Central High School and Virginia Union College. She was a teacher in Baltimore and Milwaukee.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY SHIRLEY DAVIS

Christmas, 1954.

Robert Clark, Sandra Hazel and Gregory Davis with their grandmother, Dorothy Dunham. All were members of St. Philip's Church. Several of Mrs. Dunham's eight children – Shirley Dunham Davis, William Dunham, and Kenneth Dunham – moved to Grace after St. Philip's closed.



COURTESY BYRON RUSHING

Byron Rushing, center, and his brothers, William and Lawrence, with Father Holly on a visit to the Bronx sometime before 1950. Lawrence Rushing was an organist at St. Philip's. A Massachusetts State representative since 1983, Byron Rushing returns to Grace periodically and spoke at the installation of the Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows in 2004 and at the Walter Welsh Forum on Racial Reconciliation in 2007.



COURTESY JOANN EDWARDS

The Luttrell sisters were baptized and confirmed at St. Philip's. Today, these sisters—Dorothy Corsey and JoAnn Edwards—are very active members at Grace Church.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY BETTY CURRY

Walter and Betty Curry were married on September 3, 1949 at St. Philip's Church. Father Holly officiated. They had a reception at the home of Bertha Washington, Mrs. Curry's aunt.

That same year, Betty was crowned queen at St. Philip's first Coronation Ball. According to the program, "The purpose of these programs (Coronation Balls) is twofold: to recognize young people graduating from high school; and, to honor those two members of St. Philip's Church who have been outstanding and contributed most to their church."
(Mr. Louis Smith was crowned king that year.)

Today, Walter Curry, age 87, is one of the oldest living members of St. Philip's Church and a parishioner at Grace Church.

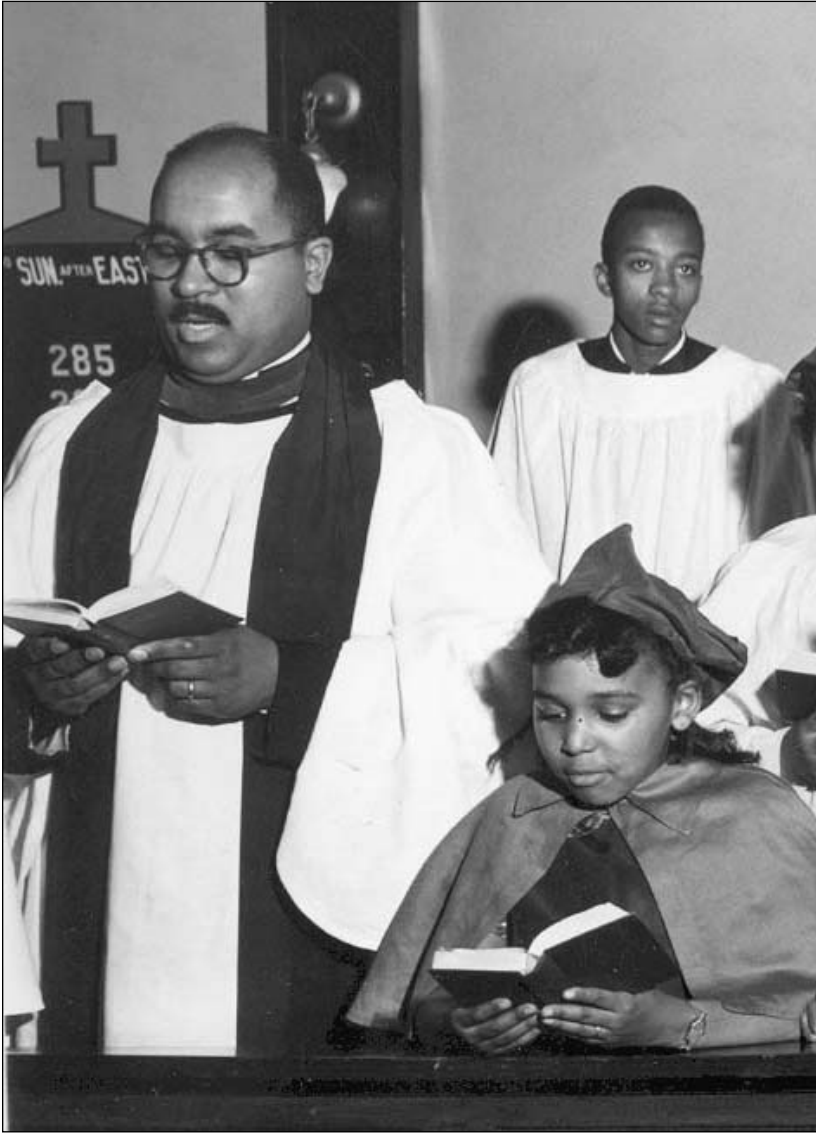
ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY BETTY CURRY AND ROSLYN FORT

Top: High school students Mary Belt, Barbara Pickard Cole,* Helen Rowe, Leslie Belt and Roslyn Bagby Fort* with a LeMoyne College student (third from left) at the Dunbar Center, circa 1950. *Cole and Fort were members of St. Philip's Church. Roslyn Fort and her family are active members of Grace Church today.
Bottom: Children's pageant at St. Philip's Church.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

The Rev. Walter P. H. Parker was rector of St. Philip's Church from 1950 to 1954. He is pictured with youth choir members Sidney Harrison and John Ash. Father Parker served on the board of directors of the Dunbar Association, as voluntary chaplain at University Hospital, and as president of the Syracuse chapter of the NAACP.



COURTESY ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Second Coronation Ball, 1951, sponsored by the Friendly Guild of St. Philip's Church. Pictured are Phyllis Fletcher (Queen Aurora II) and Harley Hall (King Borealis) being crowned by Betty Curry and Louis Smith, former king and queen. Father Parker, is pictured back row, center.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

The Friendly Society on the steps of St. Philip's Church. Members included June Dixon, Lillian Reddick, Connie Murphy, Doris Smith, Louise ____, Catherine Dixon, Mrs. Mildred Mitchell (the pastor's wife), Clarisse Hasbrook, Mrs. Van Horne, Miss DuBois, Edith Foy, Ora Hogan.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

St. Philip's acolytes with the Rev. Raymond Mitchell in 1954.
Front row: John Ash and Stephen Pride; back row: David
Ransom and Roswell Frank.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Betty Curry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Shepherd, was organist at St. Philip's Church in the 1940s and '50s. She is an active member at Grace Church today.

In 1954, a *Post Standard* reporter visited St. Philip's and wrote, "... (Dr. Coddington)... would have been pleased... the most striking advance has been the church music... with Mrs.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY SHARONTINSLEY

Clifford Rohadfox with Father Mitchell.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY ROSLYN FORT

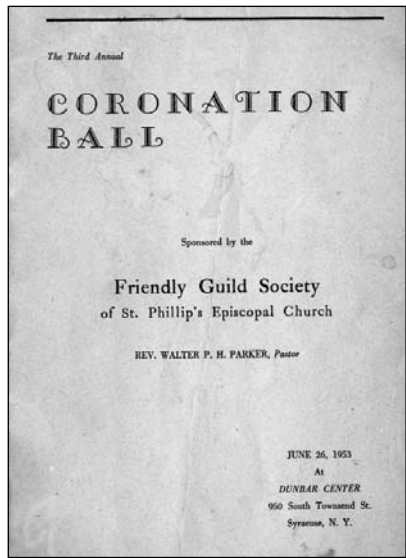
St. Philip's Church parishioner Roslyn Bagby (Fort), age 19, Christmas 1954. Today, Roslyn Fort is an active member of Grace Church.



COURTESY SABRINA COLEMAN

Ralph Derby, father of David, Charlotte and Sabrina, was a parishioner at St. Philip's. His wife, Loretta, and daughter, Sabrina (at right), attended the 2007 candlelight vigil on the site of St. Philip's (see pg. 81). Sabrina Derby Coleman remembers mittens on the Christmas tree, Easter egg hunts, singing Christmas carols at the hospital, and church breakfasts. Mrs. Coleman and her family attend Grace Church today.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY SHARON FLETCHER, PROGRAM: MARJORY WILKINS

The St. Philip's Coronation Balls were begun in 1949 by Mrs. Victor Holly, and were held every two years at Syracuse's Dunbar Center.

Left: Mrs. Fletcher and Clifford Rohadfox. Above right: Coronation Ball King and Queen Clifford Rohadfox and Patricia Pride.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY SHARON FLETCHER

Top: Girls and their escorts in procession.

Bottom: Girls present themselves for the dance.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY BETTY CURRY

Top: The Rev. Mitchell's last service at St. Philip's Church (Second Sunday in Trinity, 1957) – a Solemn High Mass. At the altar, l. to r., Byron Rushing, the Rev. Mitchell, unidentified deacon, and Clifford Rohadfox. All acolytes marched in the last service wearing new robes made by the women of the church. Bottom: Parishioners remember the sun shining through the windows during Sunday morning services.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY BETTY CURRY

St. Philip's Church parishioner Betty Curry with her mother, Martha Shepard.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY JOANN EDWARDS

Mr. Hillard Luttrell (1909–1967) in Thornden Park, after Sunday services at St. Philip's Church with his family, circa 1957 (see pg. 47). He and his wife, Mary, attended St. Philip's and were baptized at Grace Church on March 8, 1958 and confirmed the following day. Mr. Luttrell was born in Memphis and his daughters have the original documents that freed their ancestors from slavery in Memphis.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY JOANN EDWARDS

Sisters JoAnn (Edwards), Dorothy Mae (Corsey) and Cheryle (Maudsley), far right, with their mother, Mrs. Mary Chomiak Luttrell (1921–1981), after services at St. Philip's Church, circa 1957.

Today, JoAnn and Dorothy are active members of Grace Church. JoAnn Luttrell Edwards serves on the vestry and as a church office volunteer. Dorothy Luttrell Corsey does pastoral care, is head of the Altar Guild, and heads all the repasts. In the 1980s, Dorothy Corsey and Marguerite Wright co-founded the first church-based food pantry in Syracuse at Grace Church.

Sister Cheryle lives in Gadsden, Alabama and is an active member of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY GLORIA VANDERPOOL

Bernice Vanderpool, in white coat and hat, and her cousin, Mrs. Dunlap (front row, on the right, wearing a hat with a white plume) attended St. Philip's Church. Bernice was the eldest of 17 children. Her younger brothers, Chuck and Ron, attend Grace Church today.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY BETTY CURRY

The Rev. Raymond Mitchell was rector of St. Philip's Church until June 1957. He is pictured with his wife, Mildred, and daughter Monica, at Monica's confirmation in 1962.



COURTESY BETTY CURRY

Deborah Curry, daughter of Walter and Betty Curry, was baptized at St. Philip's Church and confirmed at Grace Church. She was 5 years old when St. Philip closed and her parents moved to Grace Church.

*The
Transition*

The Closing of
St. Philip's
Church 1957

AND THE MOVE TO GRACE
CHURCH AND OTHER SPIRITUAL
COMMUNITIES



COURTESY BEAUCHAMP LIBRARY

In 1954, Marjory Wilkins was a maternity nurse at Memorial Hospital when she first met Father Welsh of Grace Church. She remembers, “A minister asked if I was taking care of his wife. He said, ‘Please kiss her and tell her I love her.’ I resisted, but he kindly insisted, saying, ‘Please tell her.’ So, I gave her his message, and a kiss, and Mrs. Welsh responded, ‘Oh, I love him, too.’ That was my first experience with the Welshes – the day their youngest daughter, Wendy, was born.”



COURTESY CONNIE CUTLER

The Rev. Walter and Mrs. Marie Welsh. Father Welsh was rector of Grace Church from 1949 to 1978. In 1963, the church received a bomb threat during Sunday worship. In a news article, Father Welsh commented that, "...as an integrated church, we must expect to be a focal point of high feelings generated by the Negro push for equality." A 2006 editorial, published shortly after his death, read, "We are all better for the battles he fought and the difference he made. His legacy is a reminder that we should all strive to make a difference."



COURTESY JUDITH BROOKS

Eldest sister, Lorraine Wells Merritt, walked down the aisle by her father, Robert T. Wells. The Wells family – who have lived in Syracuse for seven generations – chose to move to Grace Church after St. Philip’s closed in 1957. Daughters Judith (next page) and Lorraine had a double wedding at Grace Church in 1960.



COURTESY, JUDITH BROOKS

Judith and Walter Brooks' wedding at Grace Church, three years after the closing of St. Philip's. Mrs. Brooks was a school administrator and Mr. Brooks was a professional baseball player. He died in 2003. Mrs. Brooks and her grandchildren, Michael Johnson, Constance Brooks and Paige Brooks, are active members of Grace Church today. Judith was 'given away' by her grandfather, William Copes of Auburn, NY.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



COURTESY CONNIE CUTLER AND SHARON FLETCHER

Top: Father Welsh officiated at the wedding of Sharon Fletcher and Tommy Tinsley. The maid of honor was Arlene Rohadfox.

Bottom: Grace Church with Father Welsh, 1968.



COURTESY CONNIE CUTLER

Acolytes in procession during a worship service at Grace Church, 1968.



COURTESY HOLLIS LIDDIARD

Walter and Hollis Liddiard's wedding at Grace Church. Hollis was baptized there in 1916 and has been a member ever since. In 2007, a news reporter asked Mrs. Liddiard to describe the integration of Grace in 1957. "Some of them (Grace parishioners) couldn't quite cope with the black people at the church," recalled Liddiard. "Most were very accepting. The people who came were lovely people, and they added a lot to the congregation in numbers and in spirit."



COURTESY GRETA JONES AND BETTY CURRY

Top: Grace Church parishioners, clockwise from lower left: Nicole Overstreet, Jerome Curry, Louise Foster, and Marcia Irons (unidentified baby).

Bottom: Grace Church parishioner Sue Strunk with children at a Grace Church picnic in the 1960s.



COURTESY BETTY CURRY

Father Welsh, second from left, brought joy even at the sad times. Pictured at Morningside Cemetery after the burial of Jerome Curry are Martha Shepard (his grandmother), Father Welsh, Betty Curry (his mother), Jim Tierney and Jean Tierney. (The water fountain at Grace Church was given in memory of Jean Tierney.) Inset: Jerome Curry with his children, Jereen and Kennetia.



COURTESY PAMELA FREEMAN

Ada Knight Prettyman grew up in the 500 block of East Washington St., attended St. Philip's Church and graduated from Syracuse's Central High School and NYC's Lincoln School for Nurses. In 1944, she was hired at Good Shepherd Hospital, becoming its first Black nurse. Later, she became head nurse and clinical instructor at Upstate Medical Center. Mrs. Prettyman joined Grace Church, where her daughter, Pamela Freeman, attends today.



COURTESY MARJORY WILKINS

Edith and James Foy were very active at both St. Philip's and Grace Church. They are pictured outside Grace Church, en route to a church picnic. Mrs. Foy directed the junior choir and Easter and Christmas youth events.

In 1945, Mr. Foy was a vestryman and Mrs. Foy was president of the Girls' Friendly Society at St. Philip's Church.



COURTESY EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

After the 1957 closure of the church, the Episcopal Diocese assigned the Rev. Isaiah G. Bell, left, to assist St. Philip's parishioners in their transition to other parishes.

Left to right: Father Bell, Canon to the Ordinary, with the Rev. William H. Cole, center, and Grace Church parishioner Frank Wood, right, at a 1959 reception at All Saints' Episcopal Church.

Frank Wood was director of the Dunbar Center and a revered community leader. His widow, Peggy Wood, is a parishioner at Grace Church today.

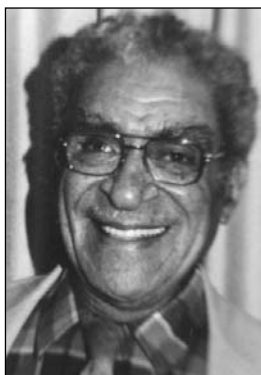


COURTESY EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

Angels at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1800 South Salina Street, Syracuse.

While most St. Philip's parishioners joined Grace Church, some moved to St. Paul's Cathedral, All Saints', Trinity, and Calvary churches in Syracuse, and St. Luke's in Camillus.

REMEMBERING ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



COURTESY MARJORY WILKINS

Former members of St. Philip's Church.

Top row: Clarisse Williams, Lucille Pritchard (Mrs. Foy's sister), Mrs. John Reddick.

Middle row: Estella Kemp, Frances Lippens, Harley Hall.

Bottom row: Eleanor Sweeney Ransome, Minnie Turner, Clarine Pickard.

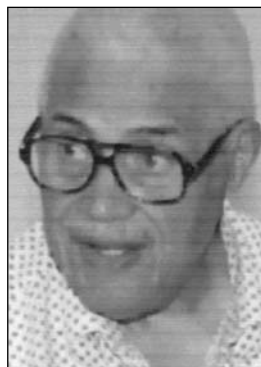
REMEMBERING ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



COURTESY MARJORY WILKINS

Former St. Philip's Church members. Top row, at a Cue Reunion: Jean Broome, Bruce Buck, and Marilyn Broome. Middle row, at a senior picnic: Martha Shepard (Betty Curry's mother), Willie Mae Wilkins, and Eleanor Werts (see page 17). Bottom row, masters of ceremony at a Cue Reunion: Clarence "Junie" Dunham and Bill Moore.

REMEMBERING ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



COURTESY ROSLYN FORT, BETTY CURRY, AND MARLORY WILKINS

Former St. Philip's Church members. Top row: Buddy Leonard's mother (see page 24), Evelyn Jones Frasier, Ernie Powell. Middle row: Junie Dunham's sisters, Dorris Jane Holmes and Lillian Eleanor Allen. Bottom row: Walter Curry, Stephanie Harder McKinney, and Rita Harder (Stephanie's mother.) Rita Harder was a Sunday school teacher and counselor at St. Philip's youth camping trips.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



COURTESY CONNIE CUTLER

Grace Church, 1968.



COURTESY CONNIE CUTLER AND MARJORY WILKINS

Top: Leon Shepard, Betty Curry's stepfather, was very active at St. Philip's and Grace churches.

Bottom: Mrs. Archibold and Frederika Harder at Grace Church.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



COURTESY GRETA JONES

In the 1960s, youth camping trips were organized by the men of Grace Church, many of whom remembered their childhood camping trips organized by St. Philip's Church. (See pages 22 & 23)

Top: Ron Vanderpool and Michael Jones, 8, display just cleaned fish; bottom: Michael's father, Win Jones (right) sets up camp with the group.



COURTESY CONNIE CUTLER

Grace Church parishioner Connie Cutler and her husband, Bill.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



COURTESY GLORIA VANDERPOOL AND HESTER OSGOOD

Top: Charles “Chuckie” Vanderpool, his wife, Gloria, and daughter, Renee; Ronald Vanderpool. Second row: Bradley Vanderpool, James and Bernice McLaud, 1971. Chuck, Ronald, Bradley, and Bernice are four of the 17 children of Gertrude Brown and Grant Vanderpool. All were raised in St. Philip’s and were members of Grace Church.

Chuck and Gloria have been attending Grace Church since their marriage in 1961. Both are very active: Gloria co-manages the food pantry and serves on the vestry; Chuck is instrumental in building and grounds restoration and maintenance.



COURTESY JOSIE ATKINS

Top: The Atkins Family, circa 2002. Joseph and Bessie Atkins (top photo, far right) raised their children in St. Philip's Church. Today, their son, Michael, and his wife, Josie (back row, center) are members of Grace Church.

Below left: Bessie Atkins with her granddaughter, Cynthia Atkins, at Grace Church. Below right: Grandson Mike Atkins, Jr. and David Kears were acolytes at Grace. Circa 1982.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



COURTESY MARJORY WILKINS AND SHIRLEY DAVIS

Top: Grace Church family, 1957. Former St. Philip's acolyte, William Dunham, with his family. From left: daughter Deborah, baby Alec, wife Idelia, and daughters Pat and Jeannette.

Bottom: St. Philip's Day at Grace Church. Betty Curry (see pages 32 and 38) and Donald Caldwell. Mr. Caldwell was an acolyte at St. Philip's and is a member of Grace today.



Location: Syracuse
New York
 Rector: The Rev
Walter N Welsh
 Communicants: 397
 Budget: \$ 46,500
 Pledges: \$ 27,000

When Blacks join Whites

BY CHARLES OSGOOD AND CHARLES V. WILLIE

TODAY MANY CHRISTIANS are divided about the way to be the Church in the city. One group believes the usual parish setup can work; another is determined to find an entirely new model for downtown mission. Grace Church in Syracuse, New York, continues its attempt to demonstrate that both these ways can be combined in a parochial setting.

For fifteen years, Grace Church has worked to develop a heterogeneous congregation including various racial, social, and economic groups. This has happened chiefly because many former parishioners of St. Phillip's, Syracuse, transferred to Grace.

Grace Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1971. Situated between downtown and Syracuse University, and on the edge of an inner-city black ghetto, people thought of Grace Church as the University parish for several decades. Business and professional people as well as professors who resided in the University section were members.

Five blocks away stood a small parish called St. Phillip's. The Diocese of Central New York supported St. Phillip's for approximately fifty years as the mission for Syracuse's Negro people. In 1957 St. Phillip's vicar resigned. Bishop Walter Higley concluded that the diocese was, in effect, encouraging racial segregation by con-

tinuing to support the mission. When St. Phillip's closed, the bishop and others encouraged all members to affiliate with other nearby Episcopal churches. The approach placed the burden of seeking new relationships in strange and new congregations almost entirely upon black people who had been segregated for years.

Meanwhile, the Rev. Walter N. Welsh, a young minister strongly influenced by the social gospel movement, came to Grace Church in 1949. He encouraged parishioners to become involved in community issues, particularly issues pertaining to race.

Although the congregation was almost all white and middle class, many persons interested in social problems were attracted to Grace Church by its rector. These members chose the closing of St. Phillip's as an opportunity to diversify the racial and economic composition of their congregation.

Rather than wait for St. Phillip's members to find Grace Church, ten Grace members decided to make direct overtures to these black Episcopalians. At first they proposed that they each invite a black family from St. Phillip's into their homes for dinner. After family consultations, all but two families rejected this idea but all endorsed the idea of a dinner in the parish hall.

This convenient compromise en-

abled some white Grace Church members to reach out to black Episcopalians in a less awkward way. Even in the parish hall, the proposed meeting of blacks and whites was a novelty surrounded by unsure and incomplete arrangements. For example, Grace Church members assumed St. Phillip's members would be pleased to be invited. The invitation was extended without any details. As a result of the situation's awkwardness and the reticence of St. Phillip's members, only three black families showed up for the covered dish supper.

This first of many experiences Grace Church was destined to have, appeared to be a failure. But in reality it was a prelude to new and more hopeful encounters. The invitations to black families as well as the rector's growing reputation as a believer in racial justice encouraged more black families to transfer to Grace.

From 1957 on, one race-related crisis after another caused Grace both to lose and to gain members. Financially the parish has been on the ropes several times; and yet it has bounced back. The parish is now stabilized as a congregation for all sorts of conditions of people. It is integrated racially and economically.

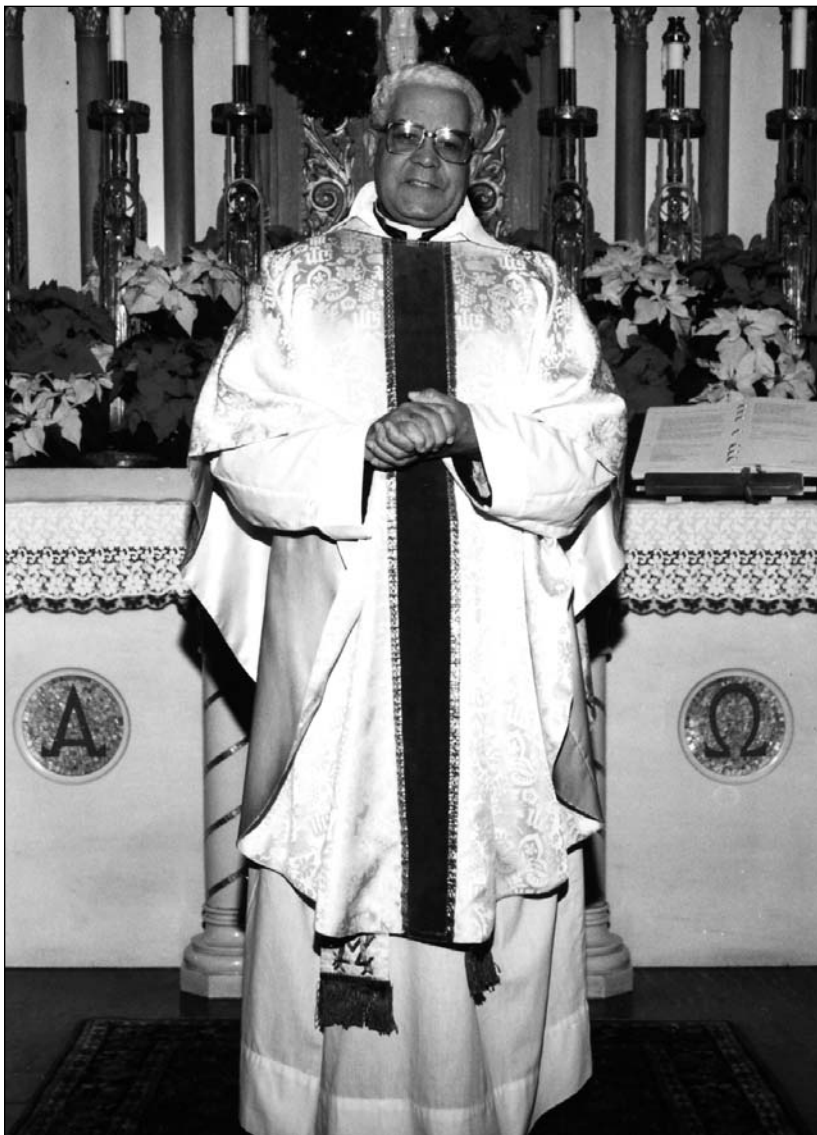
Many people have experienced true

Continued on page 26

THE EPISCOPALIAN

In May 1970, Grace Church parishioners Charles Osgood MD (above left) and Charles Willie PhD co-authored this article for *Episcopalian* magazine.

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1897 TO 1957



COURTESY THE REV. RAYMOND MITCHELL

The Rev. Raymond Mitchell, rector of St. Philip's from 1955 until its closing in 1957, in 2007. Today, he is 89 years old, and just retired from 21 years as rector of St. Augustine of Hippo Episcopal Church in Norristown, Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Mildred, remember "the great kindnesses of the people of Syracuse" and he assures us that "our prayers and good wishes have followed them all these years."



Remembrance Events 2007



2007 marks the 110th anniversary of the founding and the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of St. Philip's Church, Syracuse's African American Episcopal Church.



Grace Church (Episcopal) hosted a series of events in celebration of the legacy of St. Philip's Church and 50 years of racial integration at Grace Church.

REMEMBERING ST. PHILIP'S AT GRACE CHURCH, 2007

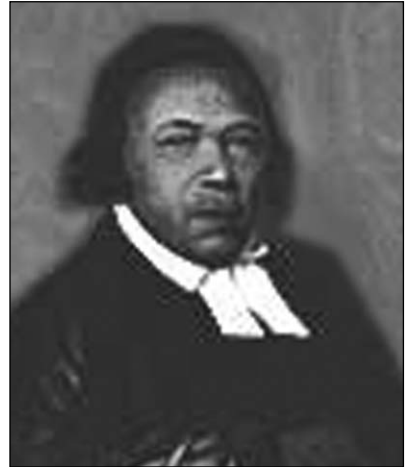


COURTESY SUSAN KEETER

The Rev. Canon Ed Rodman (center), Professor of Racism Studies and Social Change at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA, began our 2007 remembrance events by preaching at Grace Church on the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. He is pictured with the Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, rector of Grace Church, and parishioner Peggy Wood, with her biography, *Something Must Be Done*.

REMEMBERING ST. PHILIP'S AT GRACE CHURCH, 2007

COURTESY SUSAN KEETER



Top: In February, the Grace Church youth choir sang at the Absalom Jones Celebration and Evensong. Taylor Handy (back to camera) lead the choir as her grandfather, former St. Philip's Church member Chuck Vanderpool, listened.

Lower left: The Rev. Michael Hopkins, rector of St. Luke and St. Simon of Cyrene, Rochester, gave the sermon. Members of "Two Saints" visited and stayed for an evening meal.

In March, Grace Church held a Faith Dialogue on the Sin of Racism facilitated by Jayne Oasin, Social Justice Minister and Social Justice Ministries, National Church Center, NY, NY.

REMEMBERING ST. PHILIP'S AT GRACE CHURCH, 2007



COURTESY MARJORY WILKINS (FATHER WELSH) COURTESY WILLIAM MOORE

The Welsh Forum on Racial Reconciliation, April 2007.

Top row: Karen Ettinger, daughter of the Rev. Walter Welsh; Dr. Charles V. Willie, Professor Emeritus, Harvard University; Bea González, President, Syracuse Common Council. Middle row: Father Welsh; The Rev. Dr. Michael Battle, Provost, Cathedral Center of St. Paul, Los Angeles; The Rev. Canon William Barnwell, Canon Missioner, National Cathedral.

Bottom row: Byron Rushing, Massachusetts State Representative; Jackie Cho, Syracuse University student; Lyn Headley-Deavours, Justice Missioner, Episcopal Diocese of Newark.

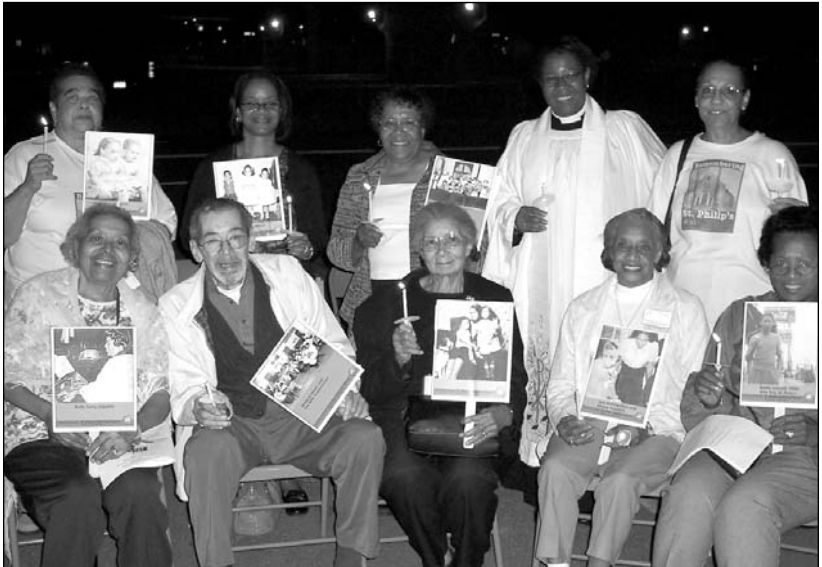
REMEMBERING ST. PHILIP'S AT GRACE CHURCH, 2007

COURTESY THE REV. HANSON AND
THE REV. JENNIFER BASKERVILLE BURROWS



In May, the Rev. Dr. John Hanson, Episcopal Chaplain at Rutgers University, was guest preacher for the Feast of St. Philip. Above right: In September, Grace Church hosted a Youth Anti-Racism Summit.

COURTESY SUSAN KEETER



To mark the 50th anniversary of its closing, a vigil was held at the site of St. Philip's Church, 209 Almond St., Syracuse. In attendance were former St. Philip's parishioners (front row) Betty Curry, Bill Moore, Marjory Wilkins and June Dixon; (back row) Dorothy Corsey, Sabrina Coleman, Judith Brooks and JoAnn Edwards. The Rev. Jennifer Baskerville Burrows (rector of Grace Episcopal Church) officiated and many friends, including Shirley Edge, front row, right, participated.

REMEMBERING ST. PHILIP'S AT GRACE CHURCH



COURTESY CAROL GREIS

Longtime Grace Church member Carol Clos Greis remembers attending St. Philip's dinners as a teenager.

Carol's mother, Jean Elizabeth Strowbridge, (pictured as a baby, above right), her twin sister, Joan Elizabeth, and brother, William Joseph, were all baptized at Grace Church around 1918. Their parents, Winifred and Albert Strowbridge, came from England to settle in America.

As an adult, Carol's mother and family moved and transferred to Calvary Church when Carol was a youth. At the time, Calvary and St. Philip's had a partnership. Carol remembers attending social functions at St. Philip's in the mid-1950s.

Today, the twins are still living and will be 90 years old on March 22, 2008.

Reflections

2007



REFLECTIONS ON ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



MARJORIE CARTER of Syracuse was not a member of St. Philip's Church but she remembers Father Lee and she remembers singing in the choir and attending the summer Adirondack camping trip, sponsored by St. Philip's Church. Mrs. Carter remembers that the choir wore long black robes with white collars and wore caps that reminded her of square black pillows.



FROM MACEO FELTON,
ST. MARY'S, GEORGIA,
OCTOBER 2007

Note: In 1960, Grace Church parishioner Frank Wood spoke with Bishop Higley and secured a \$250 college scholarship for Maceo Felton.

Even today after 50 years, I have very fond and clear memories of St. Philip's Church and growing up in the 15th Ward on South Crouse Avenue.

My brother Thaddeus, my cousins Reggie Felton and I joined St. Philip's in 1954 or 55. We went there because we followed our best friends John and Lorenzo Sayles and their cousin, Sharon Fletcher.

They lived directly behind our house on Irving Avenue and we were at their house everyday. On Fridays we climbed the fence and had dinner at their house because their mother, Mary, would stop at the A&P downtown and buy the best brownies you ever tasted. She made the best spaghetti and hot sausage dish I have eaten in 65 years.

Also, they had **THE ONLY COLOR TELEVISION IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND THAT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO US.** We watched Howdy Doody, American Bandstand and pro football on Sunday afternoons.

The main reason we went to St. Philip's is that we were following the girls, like Stephanie Harder, Elaine Wells and all the other pretty girls.

REFLECTIONS ON ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

There were a lot of older teenagers there like Junie Dunham, Roslyn Bagby Fort, Bonnie and Frank Wood, Judy and Lorraine Wells and Marsha Irons.

We were all acolytes along with Byron Rushing, David Ransome, Clifford Rohadfox and John Ashe. I dreaded serving at 8 o'clock service on Sunday morning, because if we had a party or dance at Dunbar Center on Saturday night, you had to be in church and dressed by 7:45 a.m. or Father Raymond Mitchell would be on your case. He didn't tolerate any foolishness.

Father Mitchell taught us a lot of things – not only about religion and being an acolyte, but how to respect young ladies, your parents and others. He was a stickler about us doing our homework and doing well in school. If you were failing, he would say concentrate on your homework and less playing outside during the week.

We had the best youth group in Syracuse. We met every Sunday evening in the church basement and visited many other youth groups in the Syracuse area. Father Mitchell let us dance in the basement and we had two or three dances there to raise money for the group.

The pinnacle event was the cotillion in 1957. We were all decked out in our Sunday best and served a formal dinner. Father Mitchell taught us how to set tables, wait tables and put our best foot forward.

My brother and I were baptized and confirmed at St. Philip's by Bishop Walter Higley. Mr. Jim Foy was Thadd's godfather. Mr. Foy loved my brother. He was always giving him quarters and 50 cent pieces. The Foy's lived around the corner from us on East Fayette St. and Jim Foy always drove a big Lincoln.

Jim Foy, the late Ernie Powell, Luther Rohadfox, Harry Ransome and Frank T. Wood were my mentors. They taught me to be responsible, to stay in school, get a job, and to take care of my family when I grew up. They served me well and I have tried to carry on their legacy in my life by giving back to young people whom I come in contact with.

REFLECTIONS ON ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MACEO FELTON, CONTINUED

My 30 years with Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (National Grid) is a tribute to the men I mentioned, who made it possible for me to succeed, along with the guidance of my parents, Maceo and Winifred Felton.

I remember church picnics where people who didn't even go to St. Philip's showed up.

Looking back on things, I remember some of the excuses that were given for closing St. Philip's Church in 1957. They were going to take the church because Route 81 was being built. But they couldn't use that property because right across the street (on Washington St.) was the LC Smith Typewriter plant and they certainly were not taking that building! Why, it took dynamite to blow it up in the 1990s.

They also said it was for integration. Well, look around the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York in cities like Utica, Binghamton, Ithaca and Syracuse. You don't see much integration in the church after 50 years except at Grace Church, Syracuse. Some things really have not changed in 50 years.

Grace Church, however, has been on the cutting edge of change in Syracuse for 50 years, from the days of the late Rev. Walter N. Welsh until now with the Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows – spiritual leaders who truly have made their mark on changing attitudes and behavior in Syracuse and Central New York.



Clarence "Junie" Dunham,
teletype tester, Western Electric.

Former St. Philip's parishioners Bill Moore (text pg. 83 and pgs. 66 & 77) and Junie Dunham (at right & pg. 66) organize the Cue Reunions, which bring together people who grew up in Syracuse's 15th Ward.



COURTESY JUNIE DUNHAM

REFLECTIONS ON ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WILLIAM MOORE,
SYRACUSE, NY
SEPTEMBER 2006

I remember Father Lee from St. Philip's. He was progressive, adventurous. He wanted everyone involved in church. Father Lee organized camping trips for boys and girls at a lodge in the Adirondacks. Junie Dunham and I used to wrestle over who carried the cross, who lit the candles. Father Lee had a hand in getting my mother, Mildred Moore, hired as an outreach worker for St. Philip's church.

My mother had two children: me and my sister, Emily, who was an entertainer, a beautiful singer. She married late and didn't have any children, but she loved our children. My wife, Mary, and I have six children, including an adopted son. I have an older daughter from before we were married.

My mother's parents were Jared and Anna Persett. She died when my mother was eleven. He was a coachman, and a bartender at the Yates Hotel, a job he could get because he was light skinned. His mother, my great-grandmother, Grace Craig, was a white Scottish woman who was a member of St. Philip's church. There wasn't a lot of difference in the lives (social stature) of white bonded servants and slaves. They had a lot in common. They were reaching for the same fate.

†††



Grace Church acolytes
D'Sean Handy and
Yohance Patterson.
D'Sean's grandfather,
Charles Vanderpool,
attended St. Philip's
Church as a child.



This book and the 2007 Race and Reconciliation events presented by Grace Church, Syracuse, have been supported by the Episcopal Diocese of CNY, Hendricks Chapel at Syracuse University, CNY Community Foundation, Inc., Gifford Foundation & Cultural Resources Council/ NYS Council on the Arts.

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