



ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

"In the Episcopal tradition, Frank has helped us build our legacy of openness, acceptance and service to others. He has cared for us in our time of need, helping us to make sense out of bigger than life situations. He has inspired us as a community and as individuals, encouraging each of us to stretch ourselves beyond what we think is possible, to dream of a better world for people and for this planet and then to take action in our community and beyond to help achieve it. His door and his heart are always open, and his weekly sermons are illustrated with stories as vast as the struggles of global humanity and as intimate as the respect built between one man and one fish. St. Philip's is blessed with devoted leadership, an engaged membership, robust activity, and a strong sense of community and outreach. As we enter this phase of restoration and renewal, we honor Frank and his indelible impact on St. Philip's, our friends and community, and the many people in Philipstown whose lives he has touched."

— **Former Senior Warden
Jan Anderson**

OUR RECTOR

The Reverend Francis H. Geer – Frank – arrived at St. Philip's in 1987 and has been a strong leader, pastor, and steward ever since. As the 20th century closed and the 21st century opened, Mr. Geer has guided the spiritual lives of the parish through years of rapidly changing times. He has expanded church activities, widened the community outreach services of St. Philip's, and pursued a gradual and steady course of improvement of the church buildings and land that is respectful of St. Philip's magnificent history and development.



Under the Rector's guidance, important restoration work has been ongoing to the extent resources have allowed. The church and parish house roofs have been meticulously repaired, and the interior floor of the parish house has been replaced. The historic stone wall abutting the churchyard's Route 9D side has been replaced. The Ruth W. Anderson Memorial Garden was constructed at the north end of the parish house and serves as a greeting and reception area after the Sunday services. The organ was repaired and additional antiphonal organ pipes were installed, and a beautiful grand piano was donated to the church. The music program is exceptional with a renowned organist and accomplished Adult and Junior Choirs. New traditions such as the annual Christmas pageant, Hudson River Sunday,

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and the Blessing of the Animals have become a vital part of parishioners' spiritual lives. The Youth Group, Sunday School, and Nursery School programs have flourished. During these years, the Rector has also established strong ties with community institutions and residents, and regularly makes the Parish House available to Garrison community groups. He initiated important outreach activities, including the New Orleans rebuilding visits, the ministry at Hedgewood Adult Home, and meals for the homeless in Peekskill. He has built cooperative efforts with area churches and synagogues. Fifteen years ago, he co-wrote a book: *Where Was God on September 11?*

The Rector has presided over hundreds of ceremonies of joy and sorrow as he has presided as weddings, christenings, confirmations, and funerals. He stays connected with these families who have chosen St. Philip's for these milestones in their lives. And, by offering himself and the Church as resources on a weekly basis, he has helped countless Church and community members deal with the grief of loss.

This Initiative provides us the opportunity to honor Frank's leadership, dedication, and many contributions to the life of St. Philip's and our wider community.



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WHAT DOES ST PHILIP'S MEAN TO PHILIPSTOWN?

Inside the historic doors of St. Philip's Church is an active, vibrant congregation dedicated to touching lives throughout Philipstown and beyond. St. Philip's members reach out beyond our own congregation in the Hudson Valley as far as New Orleans to help others. Here are some of the ways that so many benefit from St. Philip's:

Adult Education

Periodically, the Rector, Frank Geer, leads two groups: a circle of adult learners exploring an aspect of the Gospel or religious texts of interest to the group, and a book group that reads works of general interest with a spiritual theme and discusses them weekly.

Education in Newburgh

St. Philip's volunteers support two nonprofit inner-city schools in Newburgh: San Miguel Academy, serving middle-school boys, and Nora Cronin Presentation Academy, serving middle-school girls. Volunteer offerings include monthly Saturday Clubs (film, book, food, and outdoor activities), a tutoring program on Wednesdays, cooking programs, and support services to students and families in the process of high school (and later college) applications.

Friends of St. Philip's

This dedicated group of parishioners raises funds that both help St. Philip's and contribute to the needs of other nonprofit agencies. The Friends' annual Harvest Sale brings the community together to shop and share food and fellowship.

Hedgewood Ministry

On Sunday evenings, Mr. Geer and a group of volunteers hold a service in Beacon at Hedgewood, an adult psychiatric group home. The residents organize and participate in this weekly service, led by St. Philip's volunteers.

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When you contribute to the St. Philip's Future Initiative, you are becoming part of an unceasing effort by the spirit of St. Philip's to help the lives of others.

Life Support Group

The group provides a wise and comforting environment for parishioners and community members who come to the group with a wide variety of life problems. In a controlled setting once a week, group members are encouraged to talk freely about death, about illness, divorce, loneliness, the decline and loss of loved ones--about the entire range of problems, challenges, and joys that are part of the human condition.

Meals for the Homeless

Once a month, St. Philip's parishioners gather in the parish house to prepare a meal for roughly 200 homeless people located in Peekskill. This effort was spearheaded by the Rector beginning in 1988, and St. Philip's participation in this effort reflects his longstanding partnership with the Peekskill Area Pastors Association (PAPA).

Music

The St. Philip's Junior and Senior Choirs spread the power of music to local schools and to the community through many concerts during the year. The inspirational quality of these musical performances is considered by many to be a gift to Philipstown and all who attend the concerts. Church services are often enhanced by the performances of guest musicians.

Rebuilding New Orleans

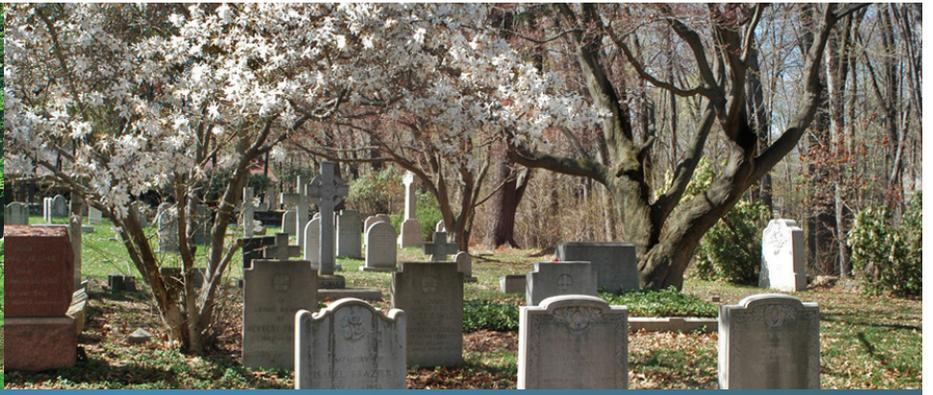
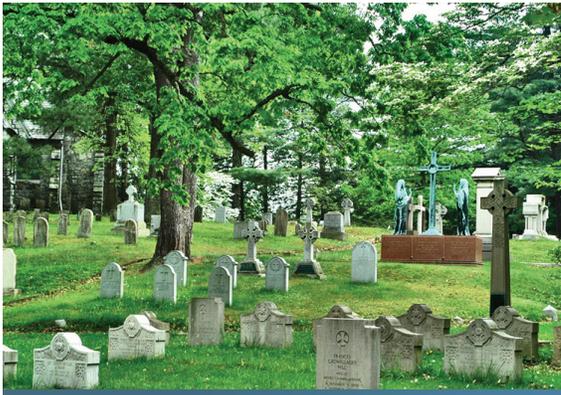
Ever since Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans with such deadly force in 2005, St. Philip's parishioners have traveled to that city twice a year to assist with rebuilding efforts. St. Philip's has recruited and welcomed other community members from Philipstown and surrounding towns to join in this effort.

St. Philip's Nursery School

Preschool children from Garrison, Cold Spring, North Highlands, Highland Falls, Fort Montgomery, and Cortlandt Manor attend the St. Philip's Nursery School. Many hundreds of preschoolers have been educated here since the school was established in 1960. The loving kindness and values that children learn at St. Philip's from their dedicated teachers become part of the culture of the schools that the graduates attend in the area. The Nursery School's annual White Elephant Sale attracts people from miles around to shop and mingle.

St. Philip's Youth Program

The St. Philip's Youth Group, known as the Cross Trainers, is open to all interested young people in middle school and high school. The Cross Trainers meet, on average, twice a month to conduct community service and enjoy fellowship together.



ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

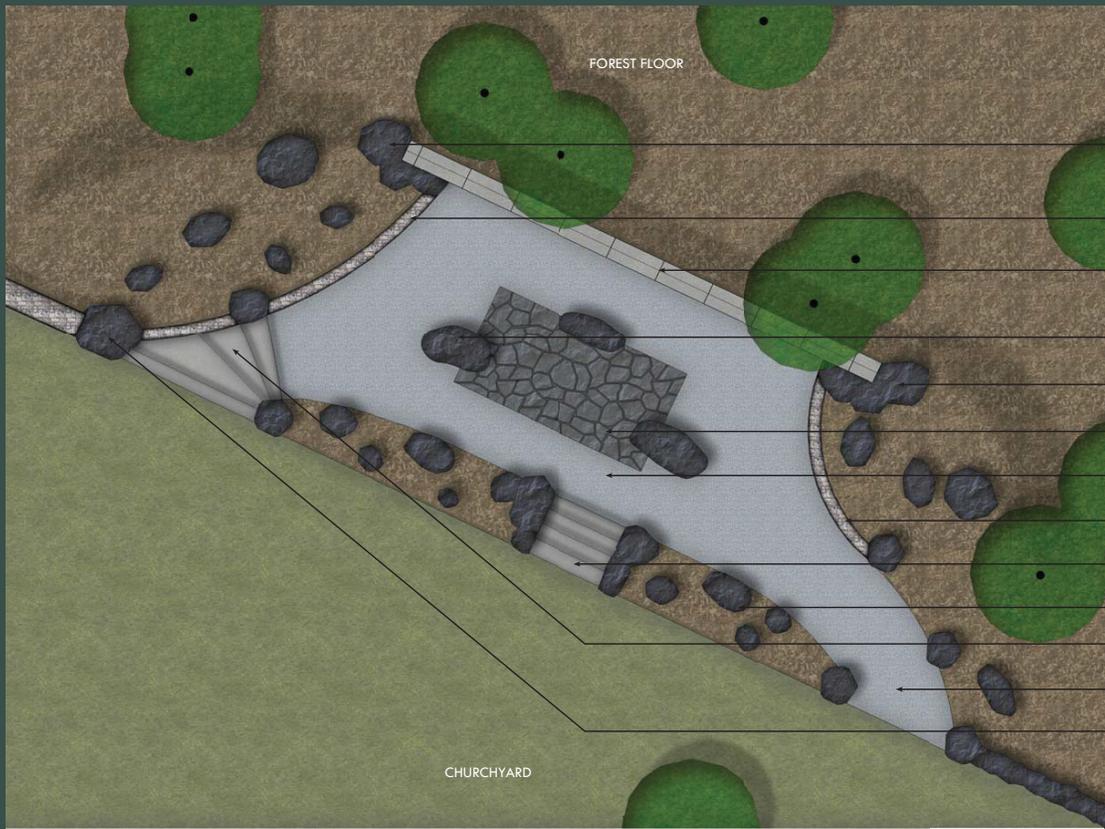
To develop the vision for this installation, members of the churchyard committee worked with Samuel Geer from Urban Ecosystems to develop a detailed design for the space and to request preliminary cost estimates from local stonemasons and landscape contractors. Samuel Geer is the son of the Rector and very sensitive to the necessary parameters for the project and the site. The niches will be available to the St. Philip's community at the approval of the Rector. Sales of the niches can begin as soon as the project is ready to commence.

A ST. PHILIP'S COLUMBARIUM

The St. Philip's Churchyard is a spiritual space in great harmony with its natural setting amidst trees and stones. To provide additional resting places, we propose the construction of a St. Philip's Columbarium and Memorial Garden.

The new Columbarium and Memorial Garden installation will be an emotional focal point for remembrance. The design acknowledges that cremation is the preferred mode of burial in the 21st century, and it will provide a range of burial options in a sacred burial place. The Memorial Garden will expand the churchyard into the woodlands on the north side of the grounds. The space was chosen because of its secluded and peaceful character, providing clear views of the church and the graveyard.

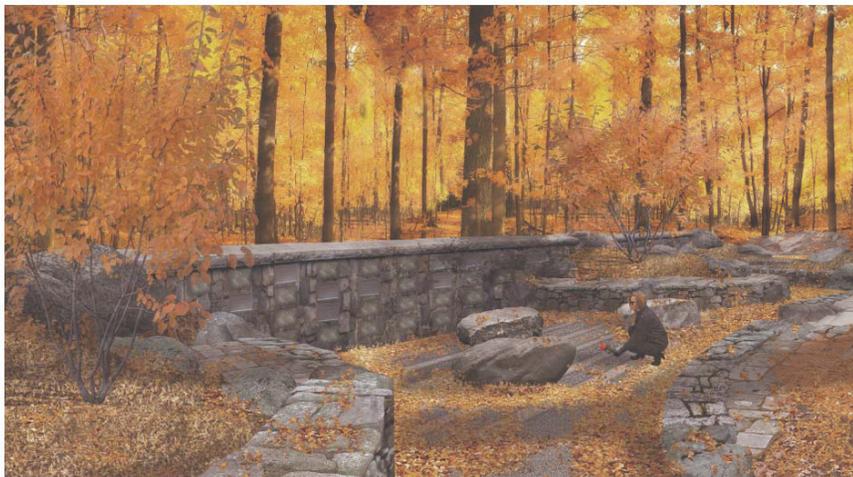
The focal point of the space is a 40-foot-long Columbarium wall containing 86 burial niches for cremains; each niche will hold one urn. The wall is designed to match the character of the recently rebuilt wall adjacent to Route 9D and it will utilize the excess wall stones in its construction. The niches will be covered with copper plates until the cremains are interred and a memorial plaque is permanently affixed. An earthen berm encircles the space, which will include artfully placed boulders that will serve as headstones for in-ground burial plots while also serving to stabilize the existing graveyard walls. At the center of the space are three large boulders which will function as seating elements and a flagstone memorial, which will contain an additional 20-30 in ground burial plots. The space will be universally accessible and able to accommodate large gatherings while also remaining an intimate space for remembrance.



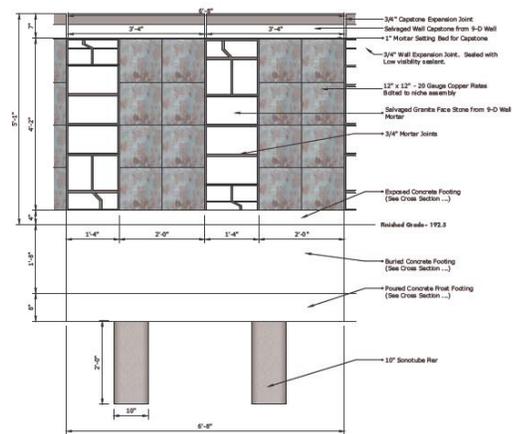
- LARGE BOULDERS TO STABILIZE WALL END
- MORTARED GRANITE SEAT WALL
- COLUMBARIUM WALL
- BOULDER SEAT BENCHES
- LARGE BOULDERS TO STABILIZE WALL END
- FLAGSTONE MEMORIAL
- GRAVEL WALK
- GRANITE SEAT WALL
- GRANITE STEPS
- MEMORIAL STONES SET INTO HILLSIDE
- GRANITE STEPS
- UNIVERSAL ACCESS POINT
- LARGE BOULDER TO STABILIZE WALL END

1 ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN
SCALE 1" = 5'

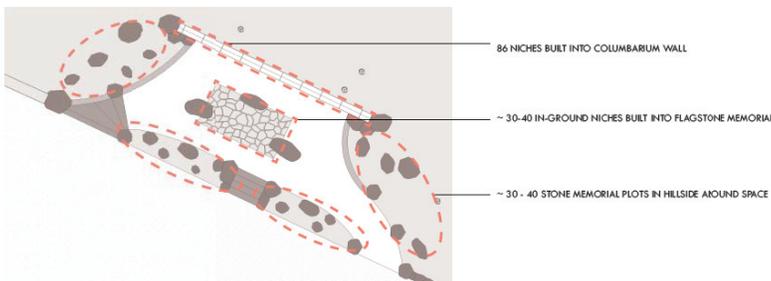
ST. PHILIPS CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS - COLUMBARIUM AND CEMETERY EXPANSION



1 PERSPECTIVE RENDERING

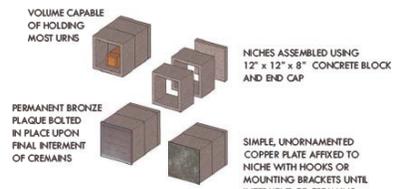


3 COLUMBARIUM WALL SEGMENT DETAIL
SCALE 1" = 1'



2 MEMORIAL PLOT MAP

ST. PHILIPS CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS - COLUMBARIUM AND CEMETERY EXPANSION



4 NICHE ASSEMBLY DETAILS





ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

*"The power and beauty of a pipe organ raises our spirits, it lifts our minds and hearts, and it inspires our lives. With its rich resources, the organ helps explain sacred mysteries, reveals divine grace, and stirs our deepest emotions. The unleashing of the full spectrum of an organ's power can move us to tears, can console our grief, and can enhance our joy. It has been said that no other form of music acts so powerfully as an instrument of both meditation and celebration."**

A NEW ORGAN FOR ST. PHILIP'S

Music began to play a truly vital role in the life of St. Philip's when the Church welcomed its first pipe organ in 1895 — a gift from vestryman and railroad executive John M. Toucey, who also gave an endowment fund for the upkeep of the organ. It was replaced in 1958 by an instrument built by Henry Van Seters of Cornwall, New York; that purchase was facilitated by the Toucey Organ Fund originally established in 1895. In 1991, under then music director Lana Kollath, the organ was enlarged and reconfigured by Norman Andre. In 2001, parishioner Morton Williams donated an additional reed stop to add sound to the organ.

Now, after 58 years of service, this St. Philip's organ is in disrepair, damaged by weather and by mice and squirrels, and often requires emergency repairs in the midst of church services. It has long ceased to meet good musical standards.

In March 2015, the Vestry and the St. Philip's Organ Committee retained a noted pipe organ consultant, Jonathan Ambrosino, to advise the Church on the selection of a new organ builder. After much study, visits to other churches, and analysis, the Committee recommended and the Vestry agreed to engage Schoenstein & Co. of San Francisco to create a custom-built organ that will complement the aesthetics of our historic church and best serve our worship needs. Established in 1877, Schoenstein & Co. is one of the oldest and largest organ companies in the United States.

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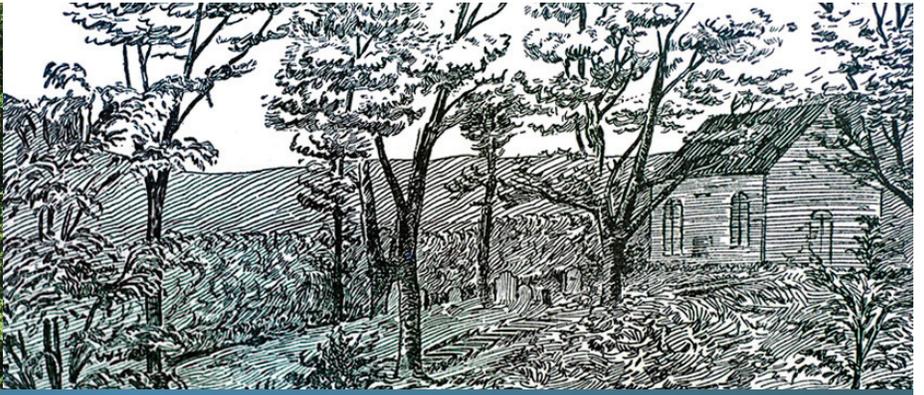
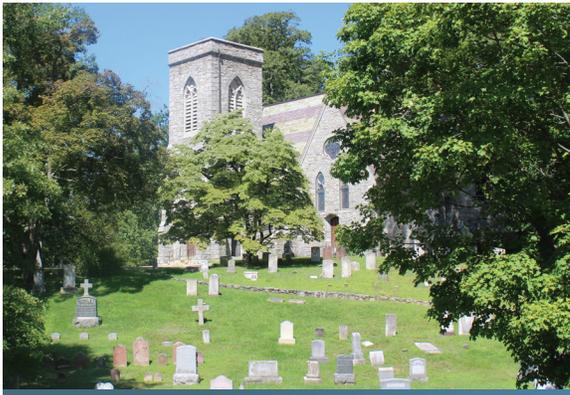
After a visit to St. Philip's by its president Jack Bethards, during which he attended services, met with the organ committee and took measurements in the church, Schoenstein & Co. presented a proposal for a three manual and pedal organ (14 voices - 16 ranks) built especially for St. Philip's. The total cost includes installation, a ten-year warranty, and one of tuning. Also included is the design fabrication, and installation of decorative casework and display pipes, as well as removal of the current instrument.

Installation of the organ will be accompanied by a relocation of choir stalls and the grand piano to create the ideal musical environment inside the Church. And, to extend the life of the organ, the church will be climate-controlled and protected from wildlife.

The key benefits of the new organ project are:

- The new organ will be designed, built, and installed specifically for St. Philip's with the utmost consideration for our history, acoustics, musical and liturgical needs
- The richness of sound of a superb new organ will enable St. Philip's to continue to attract and retain fine music directors, organists, choir members, and a singing congregation, all of whom appreciate a superior music program. The accomplishments of our Senior and Junior Choirs elevate the quality of music throughout the Philipstown community
- Schoenstein & Co., founded in 1877, is recognized as one of America's preeminent organ builders. Their organs are found in such prominent churches as St. James Episcopal Church in New York City and Washington's National Cathedral, as well as institutions such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Eastman School of Music.
- An investment of this caliber will serve us for generations to come. Quality pipe organs, if properly maintained and housed in a climate-controlled environment, can last indefinitely.

** Quote kindness of the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America*



ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

St. Philip's Church in the Highlands began as a chapel, a northern worship outpost of St Peter's Church in Peekskill. St. Peter's itself was founded in 1767 and received a Royal Charter from King George III in 1770. St. Philip's Chapel was built in 1771 to serve residents of what is now Garrison, and was named in part to honor the Philipse family, the largest landowners in the area. The land for St. Philip's was given by vestryman Beverly Robinson, a friend of George Washington's who nonetheless remained a Loyalist and was involved in the 1780 treason of Benedict Arnold; he left for England and thus lost all his property at the end of the American Revolution. Most of the St. Philip's congregation were Loyalists during the Revolutionary War; the rector fled to Canada in 1775, no services were held, and the church was vandalized. There is an old tradition that when George Washington, with his staff, was riding past St. Philip's, one of his officers said, "That is a Tory Church," to which Washington, a loyal Anglican, replied, "It is my Church." (A stained glass window depicting Washington is in the Church vestibule.) Despite Washington's support, the chapel lost its walls and floor and was almost totally destroyed. This small wooden structure was rebuilt by 1807 and housed the St. Philip's congregation until 1837, when a slightly large wooden church was built. St. Philip's officially split from St. Peter's in 1840, reflecting the growth in Garrison's population.

As Garrison grew — thanks in large part to the advent of the Hudson River Railroad that brought new socially prominent residents to the area — so the generosity of St. Philip's parishioners responded to the needs of its congregation. In 1860, a new building was decided on, designed by distinguished church architect Richard Upjohn as a gift to his parish and completed in 1862 at a cost of \$9,350. A Scottish stonemason, Smeaton Forson, came to America to build the Gothic Revival structure. This beautiful and historic Upjohn Church sits steadfastly on a rise in Garrison today, an inspiration to all.

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Dedicated to his Church, Richard Upjohn had previously designed a Rectory, built in 1854; this was replaced by a stone building in 1911 with the cost donated by the family of railroad executive Samuel Sloan, a vestryman and warden. The stone Parish House was constructed in 1900 as a gift from the Toucey family. A sexton's house was built in 1917 through generous contributions from William Henry Osborn and Stuyvesant Fish. So, by 1917, the Church and its grounds looked essentially as they do today.

St. Philip's had another period of growth and expansion in the years following World War II, when new families moved to the area seeking not only Church services for themselves but also a church school for their children; at one point in 1956 there were 100 children enrolled in Sunday School. The Parish House was expanded and adapted to house classrooms. A kindergarten was offered until the public school took it over in 1959. In 1960, St. Philip's Nursery School began providing preschool education to three and four year olds, and has operated continuously since then, introducing many area families to St. Philip's.

Today's St. Philip's in many ways would not be recognized by the first parishioners of the 1770 chapel; women serve on the vestry and as wardens, and there has been a woman assistant rector. Children actively participate in church services and performances, guest sermons are given by social activists and Shakespearean actors, lively neighborhood picnics bring diverse groups together on the grounds. Yet St. Philip's now as then serves as a neighborhood center, bringing people together in times both dark and joyous. The church still stands on its hill as it has since 1771, serving as a beacon to greet visitors to our community and welcome home our friends and neighbors. The health and vitality of St. Philip's have always reflected generous gifts, large and small, from those who find it a home and a meaningful connection.

Sources:

A Short History of Saint Philip's Church in the Highlands 1770 - 1970 by William S. Reisman. Garrison, NY: 1970.

History of St. Philip's Church in the Highlands, Garrison, New York, including, up to 1840, St. Peter's Church on the Manor of Cortlandt by the Rev. E. Clowes Chorley. New York, Edwin S. Gorham, 1912.



ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE 1770 SOCIETY

Named for the year when St. Philip's was founded, **The 1770 Society** has been established to celebrate and thank those donors who support the mission of St. Philip's Church in the Highlands. Membership in **The 1770 Society** is open to all who include St. Philip's Church in their wills or estate plans, making deferred gift arrangements that benefit St. Philip's. Gifts to **The 1770 Society** are acts of hope for the future of our parish. Through your generosity, St. Philip's will be well equipped to serve our community in generations to come.

You may become a member of **The 1770 Society** simply by notifying us that you have named St. Philip's Church a beneficiary in your will or estate plan. We hope you will tell us when you have done so because we would very much like the opportunity to say "thank you" for your generosity. Members of The 1770 Society will be recognized in our publications and by a plaque in the Parish House that will be updated every year. Letting us know of your intentions does not create any obligation on your part, but it does help us to be better aware of your particular interests and will allow us to keep you informed of developments at St. Philip's that may be relevant to your planned gift. Recognition of your gift may also inspire generosity in others.

Forms of Planned Giving

A Bequest in a Will: The easiest and most common way of making a planned gift is through a bequest in your will. You can designate a specific amount of money, a percentage of your estate, or a specific asset. St. Philip's can also be named as a contingent beneficiary.

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Life Income Gifts: Gifts such as a charitable gift annuity, a charitable remainder trust, or a pooled income fund provide you and/or your designated beneficiary income for life. Upon your passing, St. Philip's receives the gift. Life income gifts generally reduce or eliminate certain taxes and guarantee an income for life.

Life Insurance: Life insurance can be used to make a sizeable gift to St. Philip's. For example, you can purchase a new policy and make the church the owner and beneficiary of the policy. You can make St. Philip's the owner and beneficiary of an existing policy you no longer need. Or you can name St. Philip's a contingent beneficiary of an existing policy. Your life insurance could "endow" your annual pledge to St. Philip's.

A Life Estate: You can deed your home, vacation property, or condominium to St. Philip's and retain the right to live in the property and/or receive income from the property for as long as you or your beneficiaries live. A life estate gift reduces capital gains, inheritance and estate taxes and offers an income tax deduction as well.

Depending on the type of planned gift, different assets may be used to fund it. Cash, appreciated securities, appreciated property, or personal property (such as jewelry or art) may be options. Check with your financial and legal advisors before making a gift.

Members of the St. Philip's Investment Committee are happy to help you. Thank you for considering St. Philip's for a legacy gift. Please contact Phoebe Geer at (917) 573-6608 or phoebe.geer@gmail.com to request a follow-up discussion.