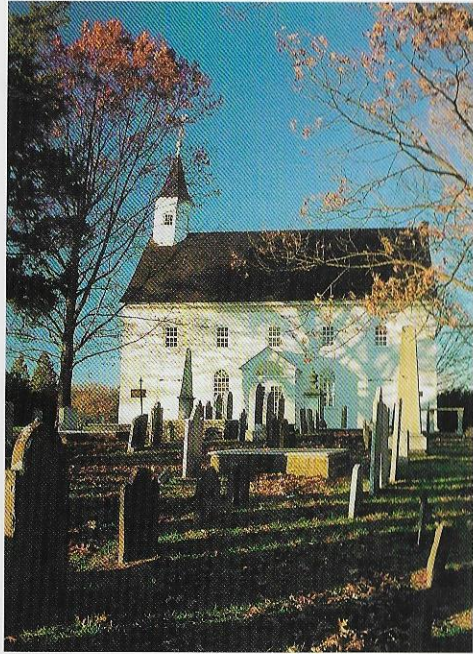


Old Tennent Presbyterian Church and Cemetery



Church Office

P.O. Box 6

Tennent, New Jersey 07763

(732) 446-6299

Cemetery Superintendent

P.O. Box 5

Tennent, New Jersey 07763

(732) 446-9238

Founded 1692

Old Tennent Church and Cemetery

The roots of Old Tennent Presbyterian Church reach back over three hundred years to the border region of Scotland. During the Restoration Period under Charles II, Scottish Presbyterians became the object of intense persecution at the hands of the Crown. The 1680's saw the beginning of an exodus from Scotland and Northern Ireland which was to continue for over two centuries. New Jersey was one of the most diverse and tolerant of the colonies at this time and became the destination of many Scottish Presbyterians.

By 1692 the small band of Presbyterians had built a tiny log church at "Free Hill," about five miles from the present sanctuary. The guiding light through this difficult period was an elder, Mr. Walter Ker, who was instrumented in aligning the Congregation with the newly formed Presbytery of Philadelphia. It was at Free Hill that the first ordination of a Presbyterian Pastor in North America took place when in 1704 John Boyd assumed the pastorate. It was Ker who was instrumental in calling the Tennent brothers, John and William, to the Free Hill congregation.

The Tennents were responsible for making the "New Meeting House" (the present church) a favorite preaching haven for the revivalists of the Great Awakening period. George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, David Brainerd, and Jacobus Frelinghuysen have all spoken from the Tennent Church. The sanctuary was used as a hospital following the Battle of Monmouth (1778).

The cemetery was always an important part of the life of Old Tennent Church. The oldest recorded and marked grave is at the Old Scots burial ground at the site of Free Hill, still maintained by the Cemetery Association.

The Cemetery is non-sectarian and is composed of 72 well-kept acres of rolling hills and landscaped lawns. Well endowed and managed, it shares a Board of Trustees with Old Tennent Church (PCUSA), while it is a separate corporation of the State of New Jersey. The fees are reasonable and include traditional in-ground burial and a new columbarium. Approximately 25% of the grounds are being reserved for future development.

Truly, the colonial sanctuary (1751) and beautiful grounds of Old Tennent Cemetery and Church make for a pleasing and dignified setting for the worship of God and the remembrance of loved ones.

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Church and Cemetery
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