



The Laymen's Club 2015 All Saints Day Remembrance

This handout is meant to be taken home to use in your private devotions. Please remember in your prayers, all the saints of God, past, present and future, but especially those members of The Laymen's Club who have died in the past year and those other good and faithful souls who have served our Cathedral and its community.



James "Watty" Strouss

Watty was an active member of The Laymen's Club including holding the position of Second Vice President and thus was responsible for the Membership Committee. He represented the club at many Diocesan wide events such as Conventions and Ordinations. Watty and Chris Scott carried the Laymen's Club banner at The Re-dedication of the Cathedral on November 30, 2008. He was also a member of the NY Festival Singers which sang at the Cathedral's New Year's Eve Concerts for Peace. Memorial services were held at both his parish of St. Clemens and at The Cathedral in Saint James Chapel, followed by an Inurnment in the Columbarium.

Astor Benjamin

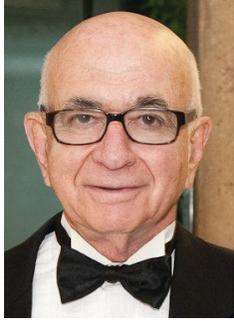
Astor was generous with her time and resources: At the Cathedral, she served as an acolyte for many years, was a member of the Congregation of Saint Saviour as well as the Board of Regents. She served on the Board of Governors of The Laymen's Club, and diligently promoted our club. In addition, Astor was a member of the Church Club of New York and she served on the Board of Trustees. She also was an officer of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. In her later years, she became a member of the parish at Saint Bartholomew's Church, Manhattan where she served on the Altar Guild.



Kelsey Graham

Kelsey was a member of The Laymen's Club and worshipped at Grace Episcopal Church in Nyack, where he was a past vestryman and warden. For many years, he was a member and chair of the Property Support Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and received the Bishop's Cross for his service and contributions to the diocese.

Kelsey is survived by his wife, the Rev. Suzanne Hope Graham



James S. Marcus

James served on the Board of Trustees of The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine from 1999 to 2014. He gave wise counsel, humor and humanity to the Cathedral Community and will be missed by the clergy and staff. Beginning in his childhood in Upper Manhattan, Jim made the Cathedral his home, enjoying decades of live music performances and celebratory pageantry. He gave generously of his time and resources to the Cathedral, as well as the Metropolitan Opera, the Juilliard School and Lenox Hill Hospital.

Linda Schoener

Linda died unexpectedly of cardiac arrest this spring. A memorial service was held in the St. Martin of Tours Chapel in the Cathedral. Linda was a long time member of the Congregation of St. Saviour and active in The Laymen’s Club some years ago. Linda received a Master’s from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. She believed in social justice, loved public events, wrote about broadband, and was grateful for the fellowship The Cathedral community provided.



Ted Lippincott



Edward N. Lippincott, a past President of this club, who went on to his reward in August. He died peacefully at his home in Montclair, NJ. Ted was President of The Laymen's Club from the Spring of 2000 to 2003. It was delightful to see Ted attending the Cathedral this year and while wheel chair bound, he made the trip from NJ with the help of his dedicated aide and an enormous black Chevy Tahoe. Ted was a wonderful presence for many years at the Cathedral and, in addition to his deep involvement in The Laymen's Club, he was head of the Altar Guild and a frequent attendee at retreats.

Etta Watson

Etta was Hubert Watson's mother, who died unexpectedly in September. As many of you know, she lived with Hubert and he was her dedicated caregiver for many years. She took care of the fair linens for the Cathedral for many years. Hubert’s has carried on her sense of service to our Cathedral as both longtime usher and past Laymen’s Club Governor. Etta’s funeral took place at First United Methodist Church in Mount Vernon, NY.



Austin Flint

Austin and his wife Aili faithfully attended the 11 AM service at the Cathedral for many years. Sadly, he passed away on February 1st, 2015. He was a member of both the Congregation of Saint Saviour and the Board of Regents. Austin was a playwright and a Professor of Creative Writing at the Columbia University School of the Arts. He generously gave a benefit at the Cathedral where he performed a monologue of his play “The Flaming Spider: Jonathan Edwards in Northampton”. He is survived by his wife Aili, his son Petri, his daughter Christina and 5 grandchildren.

Kevin Scott

Kevin was the youngest brother of the Laymen's Club's past president Christopher Scott. Sadly, he passed away in January, 2015. He was a lifelong resident of Hoboken, New Jersey and a retired postal employee. He is survived by his wife, Marlene and his children Sean, Brian and Melissa.



Robert Rudolf "Rudy" Gainer

Rudy, the husband of Marshan M. Gainer who is a long term Cathedral usher, lector and Laymen's Club member, died on August 2nd, 2015. Although he was a long time member of Flatbush Tompkins Congregational Church where he served for many years on the Board of Directors as Chairman, he always enjoyed joining his wife at special services at the Cathedral such as those on Christmas Eve and Saint Francis Day. Rudy was also a Thirty-three Degree Mason. Retired from the MTA, he gave generously of his time and resources to many community endeavors. He is survived by his wife, 5 children, 11 grandchildren and one great grandson.

Louise Gordon, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who died on July 13, 2015, had grown up in Norwalk, Connecticut, where she was born on May 7, 1946. After college she came to New York and worked as a writer; she also took courses at the Art Students League. To be near her parents in their retirement she later lived in Wakefield, Rhode Island. In 1993 Louise moved to Cambridge, where she continued her career as a freelance writer and editor. On trips to New York she loved visiting the Cathedral as an oasis of beauty and serenity.



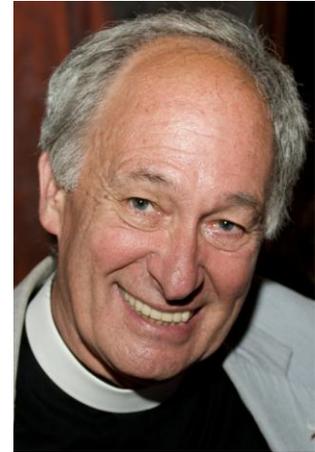
Concerning those who have fallen asleep, brothers and sisters,
do not be sad like those who have no hope;
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
God will bring forth with Jesus all who have fallen asleep believing in Him.

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-14

Tonight's Speaker and Celebrant

Rev'd Thomas F. Pike, DMin, DD

For four decades, Reverend Pike has served as an Episcopal rector at Manhattan churches, most notably Calvary/St. George's near Gramercy Park, while somehow finding countless hours each week to volunteer as a leader at city agencies and nonprofits, including the Landmarks Preservation Commission where he served for 17 years, and The New York Landmarks Conservancy, Partners for Sacred Places, Preservation League of New York State and Partnership for the Homeless. In 2009, the Historic Districts Council of New York City bestowed its Landmarks Lion Award on Father Pike as a preservation advocate and pillar of the community.



Tom has a strong passion about preserving religious buildings. He once said, "I began to see the relationship between preservation and social justice." Old churches and synagogues, he added, "enable a community to tell its story honestly, tangibly, and graphically, in a way that can't be denied. And the diversity of American religious buildings celebrates the diversity of our whole society. If we erase the buildings, we're rewriting history."

A long time Trustee of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Tom serves as the all important Chair of the Fabric Committee. It is responsible for the physical fabric of the Cathedral; buildings, art works and grounds. This is the connection point between The Laymen's Club and the Cathedral Board of Trustees, because the Club President is an ex officio member of the committee.

It is an honor and privilege to welcome Father Pike to our gathering tonight.