

Old St. Anne's Church and Cemetery
Some Facts of Interest

- 1704. Sep 1, residents of the area applied for title to ten acres to build a church
- 1705 A small wooden chapel was built, its exact location now in doubt
- 1708 First "settled pastor", the Rev. Mr. Jenkins arrives from England, sponsored by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.
- 1709 July 30, The Rev. Mr. Jenkins died, presumably buried near the church, but we have no record of where.
- 1746 The most notable of the early pastors was The Rev. Philip Reading, who served here from 1746 until his death on Oct 29, 1778. He and some of his family are buried near the main church entrance. His son (or nephew), Philip, was a delegate to the General Convention of 1780, which created the constitution of the American Episcopal Church
- 1768 Undoubtedly people were buried here every year since 1705, and there are many gravestones with illegible epitaphs. The earliest one we have a record of is 1768, of one Peter Hanson, who died Feb 8, 1768 at the age of six years. He is buried in his family's plot in the old section, near the new baby oak tree.
- 1772 The present structure was finished. The new building included "a commodious gallery ... in the West Wall, ... allotted solely for the reception of Negro Slaves, as an encouragement to them to attend Divine Service."
- 1791 First convention of the Diocese of Delaware.
- 1840 First burial in the West section, Phoebe George Bradford.
- 1847 Major remodeling, adding an outside porch, and two chimneys for use with stoves. Pews were realigned to face the altar rather than the pulpit.
- 1851 Acquisition of 0.39 acres for \$25 from J. P. Cochran, consisting of a triangle at the corner of St. Anne's Church Road and Broad Street
- 1872 Erection of the Town Church completed as the congregation outgrew this one.
- 1919 Acquisition of eight acres, for \$450 from The Delaware Railroad company, a swath 350 feet wide from St. Anne's Church Road up to the Appoquinimink Creek.
- 1943 First burial in the North Section, Kathryn T. Baum.
- 1955 Under the pastorate of the Rev. Joseph Koci, (who is buried here) a second major remodeling was accomplished to restore as much as possible the historic condition of the Church. The porch and chimneys were removed, the pews returned to original positions, and some "graffiti" that were scratched in the backs of pews around 1830 were saved and protected.
- 1956 Acquisition of 21 acres for \$6800 from the Delaware Railroad Company up to 40 feet from the railroad track and north to the Appoquinimink Creek, and including Deep Creek with its beaver dam.
- 1973 Old St. Anne's Church listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2000 Erection of the Remembrance Garden with spaces for 80 niches in the columbarium.
- 2005 A white oak sapling was planted at the 300th anniversary of the parish. It is intended to replace the Great Old Oak when it ends its days.
- 2009 Burials here now include at least 1020 persons with a known Date of Death, and at least 63 unmarked graves. Total area 34 acres.

May 3, 2009