

GRACE

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, Portland, Oregon

A parish for all people in the heart of the city.

Solar Paneled Borehole Well Project Transforms Lives in Liberia: Trinity Cathedral & BW Harris Episcopal School Celebrate



On the left, Charles A. McGee II, co-senior warden at GMEC, Portland Oregon, visits the Very Rev. A-Too Williams, Dean at Trinity Cathedral at the site of the Borehole Well Project at the B. W. Harris Episcopal School in Monrovia, Liberia. *Victor Paasewe, photographer*

Clean water is increasingly hard for people to access around the world, especially in post-war nations like Liberia that is still suffering from the destruction of major infrastructures. To this end, Grace Memorial Episcopal Church in Portland, Oregon, recently raised \$25K to implement a Solar Paneled Borehole Well Project for Sister Companion Parish Trinity Cathedral and B.W. Harris – its parochial school, located in the Episcopal Diocese of Liberia. The well has been completed and work on the solar panel is underway. Thanks to B.K. Enterprises CEO Boakai Kollie for providing technical support.

Very Rev. A-Too Williams, Dean of the Cathedral, visited Portland last year in July of 2024 to raise awareness about the project. He described the gift of water as a symbol of God's grace and a long-term investment that is now saving the Cathedral the associated costs of purchasing water daily. He expressed excitement for the pending visit of a delegation from Grace Memorial at which time the project will be dedicated to honor Mary Tedi Bryant, the longest serving Choir Director and Treasurer of the Cathedral. The names of the donors have been inscribed on a plaque in appreciation for their generous donations*. For her part, Rosa W. Allen, the School's principal, is elated that the project has brought positive changes by reducing the risk of waterborne diseases, and the spread of diseases related to poor sanitation practices.

Fr. Martin Elfert, Rector of Grace, commended Grace Memorial, Trinity Cathedral in downtown Portland, St. Philip the Deacon in Portland, the So Hum Foundation, as well as B.W. Harris School Board and Spartans Emma Rodell Williams and James Skirving Smith among others. He also expressed appreciation to Companion Parish Committee Members: Sally Baldwin, Anne and Roger Crockett, Rev. Judy Meckling, Rev. Dr. Liz Klein, Cecelia Anderson McGee, and Charles A. McGee II, the Chair. Fr. Martin also showed gratitude to those families who hosted and entertained Dean Williams during his visit to Portland.

The Companion Parish Relationship was launched early '90s when Trinity was struggling to reopen after the civil war. Fr. Stephen V. Schneider was Rector at Grace, and retired Archbishop Jonathan B.B. Hart was Dean of the Cathedral. Grace shipped a 40-foot container with food supplies, and Oregon Episcopal School donated school supplies. In 2000, the late Rt. Rev. Edward Neufville, Bishop of Liberia, and retired Rt. Rev. Robert Ladehoff, Bishop of Oregon, exchanged pastoral letters cementing the relationship. Over the years, Grace continued to provide humanitarian support. Trinity Cathedral gifted Grace a beautiful wooden processional cross used during worship and African Chasubles and Stoles. In January, 2009, a delegation from Grace made a mission trip and paid a courtesy call on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Other clergy from Trinity Cathedral, Liberia, who have preached at Grace were the late Dean Emmanuel W. Johnson and Fr. Himie-Budu Shannon, and Dean Hart.

***Trinity Cathedral Solar Paneled Borehole Well Project**
Dedicated in Appreciation for Outstanding Services of Sister Mary Tedi Bryant
Choir Director & Treasurer, Trinity Cathedral
Spearheaded by:
Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, Sister Companion Parish, Portland, Oregon, USA

PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS

<p>Dr. Kate Bryant Mary Tedi Bryant Warren Burkholder, Jr. Roosevelt Carter Rev. Dr. Corbet and Myra Clark Ann & Roger Crockett Cameron Denney Andrew Eshleman Jeffrey Ewen So Hum Foundation Sally Fraser Debra Galaty Robin Gault Kirstin Greene Matthew Haines Eugenia Harris Rev. Dr. Liz Klein Boakai & Charlene McGee Kollie Alicia Lehrle Barbara Leighton Margaret Lloyd-Patton Steven & Connie Lovett</p>	<p>Caroline Maroten Cecelia Anderson McGee Nora McLaughlin Rev. Judith Meckling Niki & Tod Moquist Kathleen Park-Lindsay Paul Parker Janet Plog Trinity Cathedral Portland St. Philip the Deacon Portland Deborah Pratt André Pruitt Janine Rinehart Rev. Stephen V. Schneider B.W. Harris School Janie R. E. Smith James Skirving & Carolyn Smith Rev. Canon Dr. Richard & Elaine Toll Gary Voice Celia Wagner Thomas Westarp Emma Rodell Williams Yassa Yeken</p>
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Charles A. McGee II, Chair, Companion Parish Committee
Rev. Martin Elfert, Rector, Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, Portland, Oregon, USA
Rt. Rev. Dr. Diana Akiyama, Bishop of Oregon

Trinity Cathedral Building & Grounds Committee
Very Rev. A. Too Williams, Dean, Trinity Cathedral
Rt. Rev. Dr. James B. Sallee, Bishop, Episcopal Church of Liberia

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GMEC: home of Grace Institute, Grace Art Camp, and Outreach programs in the city & the world.



