



A Life Dedicated to Children and Families

REMEMBERED

On Sunday, May 21, the Trinity Church Nursery was named in honor of Elizabeth “Bettie” Coplestone in remembrance of more than 60 years of remarkable lay leadership and service to the parish.

Bettie’s story remarkable story at Trinity Church began in 1946, when her husband first joined the choir as a tenor soloist. While a Trinity service was not necessarily the most welcoming place for young children at that time, Bettie brought their children to church with her, and happily settled with them in the front pew.

By the time Bettie had four children between the ages of 2 to 8 years old, The Reverend Theodore Parker Ferris asked her to establish a nursery for young children. As her daughter Sherry Landry explains, Bettie felt a calling to make a difference, and



*Megan Zug,
Parishioner*

responded to this call by founding the Nursery in 1954.

Bettie served during the tenures of five Rectors and through multiple nursery locations over the years. Initially located in the kitchen in the basement of the Rectory at 233 Clarendon Street, the nursery was moved to the first-floor study, then the parish house, and downstairs to what was used as the robing room. After the undercroft and parish house renovations of 2004, the nursery moved into its current bright welcoming space on the 2nd floor of the parish house.

Bettie’s dedication to the nursery has been long-felt and appreciated by generations of children and families. She shared God’s love and acceptance with every child and family that came through, and for many, the nursery provided warmth, welcome, and connection at Trinity. Families with young children note that when they first arrived, the nursery caregivers, often led by Bettie, were the first at Trinity to know their names. Many can recall how their infants wouldn’t nap anywhere away from home, except while being rocked on Bettie’s lap. She was a kind and compassionate friend to countless new parents, particularly mothers, offering counsel and reassurance. Through her care and devotion, she

reminded parents of how wonderful and special their children were.

Her fellow caregivers admired her deep commitment to her role, her inspired leadership, her strength, and her optimism. She was there for them with support, humor, and friendship. Bettie also inspired her husband, daughters, and grandchildren



*Elizabeth “Bettie”
Coplestone*

to serve as nursery caregivers. Her daughter Sherry was made co-director of the nursery when the 85 year-old Bettie was named Director Emeritus in 2005.

For over fifty years, Bettie led the Trinity nursery. And for 10 years beyond that, until she was 94, she continued to serve in the nursery nearly every Sunday, always with a joyous smile, a warm word, and an open lap for the next baby.

Bettie passed away on November 17, 2016 at the age of 96. As her obituary noted, “If the success of a person’s life is measured by her generosity, sense of humor, enthusiasm, positive attitude and smile, then surely Bettie’s life was a resounding success.”



*Sherry Landry,
Children’s Ministry
Cathy Portlock Pacitto,
and former
Children’s Ministry
Director Carol Roberts,
joined Megan Zug, Bill
Rich, and many families
and caregivers to honor
Bettie Coplestone.*



1946
Bettie’s husband joins the choir as a soloist, and she joins Trinity.

1954
Bettie founds the Nursery under The Rev. Theodore Parker Ferris, in the kitchen of the Rectory at 233 Clarendon.

From 1954–2004, the nursery was moved to the first-floor study of the Rectory, then the Parish House, and downstairs to what was used as the robing room.

2004
The Nursery moves to its current location on the 2nd floor of the Parish House.

2005
Bettie named Director Emeritus at age 85.

2017
Nursery named in honor of Bettie Coplestone.