

Spring Valley AME Church

Album

June 18th, 2022

MORNING PROGRAM

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

270 Spring Valley Road, Glen Mills, PA



Renovated church exterior.



Interior renovation is underway.



A new grave monument.



A refurbished sign.



Fifty chairs from the township.



Film director Glenn Holsten (right) and crew.





Betty Byrd Smith and Jo Lomax set up the table display.





Jamie Wyeth arrives.



Rev Daraan DeShields and Jamie Wyeth



Introductions: Betty Byrd Smith



Invocation: Rev. Daraan DeShields





National Anthems:

“Star Spangled Banner” (sung by Taylor McCleary and friend)

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” (read as a poem by Betty Byrd Smith)



Remarks by Jamie Wyeth about rescuing the discarded church sign 30 years ago.



Concord Township remarks: John Gillespie



Gratitude to contributors: Betty with Jo Lomax





Poem "Spring Valley Road" written and read by Joyce Wilson
with Betty on drums.



After Mary Louise Anderson Tillman read John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled,”
Betty led the formal recognition of the grave monument,
pouring of libations, and roll call, followed by a moment of silence.





Members of Concord Township Historical Society with Betty and Jamie.









Mary Louise Anderson Tillman, who, with siblings Jerline and Jebiz, was eyewitness when the cornerstone was laid in 1948.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Brandywine River Museum & Conservancy

1 Hoffman's Mill Road, Chadds Ford, PA

Prayer: Rev. Daraan DeShields

Powerpoint Presentation: Betty Byrd Smith, Pandora Anderson Campbell, Linda Townsend

The history of the AME Church, the founder William Allen, and how he became a free man.

The theme of Heaven, the Heavenly Band Choir, and the songs of the morning service that promised the joy of heaven.

The Fellowship Hall gatherings in the building behind the church, the dinners and pies, the Ministries led by the Helping Hands, baptisms, weddings and receptions, the bus trips organized by Rev Nixon to take Sunday School classes to Palisades Park and other outings.



2:00 p.m.

Unveiling and discussion by Jamie Wyeth of his painting "Crown of Thorns."





Open-mike poetry readings and testimonials by former members of the Spring Valley AME Church, former residents, guests, and visitors.

3:00 pm

Museum staff remarks and tour of the Andrew Wyeth gallery featuring “Close Friends,” the artist’s works that depict members of the local Black communities throughout his career.



“That Gentleman Study, 1960,” to Betty’s left, features Tom Clark, who was Betty’s relative.

Dedicated to the Spring Valley AME church members, families, and descendants, including but not limited to: Anderson, Bowman, Byrd, Chambers, Davis, Derry, DeShields, Douglas, Lomax, Loper, Nixon, Harris, Hazard, Roberts, Townsend, Trusty, and Winfield families.

Photographs: John Goldie. Arrangement: Joyce Wilson.