



Thanks to the generosity and kindness of long-time member, **Barbara (Young) Painter** and her family, St. Paul's has been blessed with the financial support to refurbish the Church steeple. Mrs. Painter, the youngest of four children growing up in the Drexel Hill area, enjoyed music (Ravel's *Bolero* is a favorite) and loved to dance. One day, she and her older sister went to Radio City Music Hall in New York City and became enthralled with not only the famed Rockettes, but also the Radio City Ballet troupe. This led her to take ballet lessons from the famed Kathryn Littlefield who founded the Philadelphia Ballet and was the first person to take an American ballet troupe to Europe.

After graduating from Upper Darby High School, Barbara worked for seven years for an insurance company, but dance was never too far from her heart. She took advanced adult ballet, tap and jazz dance classes at night after work and developed into a talented ballerina, performing regularly on stage as part of Philadelphia Ballet Company for Philadelphia Opera performances. During that same time, Barbara met and married Harry Painter in 1954, finding a perfect partner to match her wit, energy, and sense of humor. She and Harry moved to their long-loved Timber Lane home in West Chester in 1955, just one month before oldest son David was born. Two more sons, Jeff and Steve, came along, which prompted the Painter family to look for a smaller church that more closely matched their own family values and where they felt supported. They knew they found the right place in St. Paul's, immediately drawn to the spiritual feel, warmth, and sense of family they felt from St. Paul's community.

Barbara Painter has taken on many roles and responsibilities during her nearly 70 years at St. Paul's – from serving as a lector at the 8 AM services and volunteering in the Church Office to helping with the Church Bazaar. She also brought her love of dance to St. Paul's, opening her own dance school in the early 1960s that operated for 10 years in the Parish Hall (now Getman Hall). Several members of the St. Paul's community fondly remember taking dance lessons from Mrs. Painter during that time, and Barbara remembers feeling like those young women were her own daughters. Today, Barbara Painter enjoys being the matriarch and Mimi of her large family, sharing pictures and proudly bragging to all who will listen about her seven beautiful grandchildren and soon to be seven great grandchildren.