

St. Hubert's Chapel was constructed in 1886 for Mary Kinney. Constructed of native stone the initial construction included 8 stained glass windows which were produced by William Gibson's Sons of New York City. Mary was a devout Catholic and up until then had to travel 7 miles to the nearest Catholic church. Francis Kinney purportedly had the chapel constructed on the island to maintain the separation of "church and state". The Chapel was consecrated on October 25, 1889 under the patronage of St. Hubert the patron saint of huntsmen. Francis Kinney then decided to commission the Tiffany Glass Company (formed to produce stained glass windows and interior design) to enhance the interior which led to 3 years of research and design. The end results were spectacular and included the beautiful celtic cross window, memorial tablet, marble mosaic floor, altar, furniture and other decorations. The chapel was used by the Kinney family and when Smoke Rise was created it's use as a place of worship continued.

As the number of residents increased it became too small and services were moved first to the Village Inn and then to the Community Church of Smoke Rise (constructed in the early 1950s.)

In 1957 a group of 4 Smoke Rise teenagers vandalized the Chapel, breaking stained glass windows, smashing the marble altar and throwing chairs and other artifacts into the lake. They were caught but the damage was done. Reclamation and restoration began in the 1960's and continues today.

The increased pace of repair and restoration in the last several years is impressive. Stained glass windows have been recreated, the cherubs have been recreated as well. The stag's head (badly damaged) has been restored. Work continues on the altar and the wheels for the front door have been recreated and will be installed in 2018.

Smoke Rise and St. Hubert's Chapel Conservation Committee fund exterior maintenance of the chapel, oversee the use of the chapel and promote an understanding and appreciation of it's historic and artistic aspects. Comprised of volunteers the Committee meet monthly and are always open to interested Smoke Rise residents. Kinnelon Heritage Conservation Society (a 501 c-3 corporation) is tasked with fund raising for continued interior restoration work.

There are a number of opportunities for volunteer work for those who are interested including Chapel Docents for younger residents. Docents are trained and conduct tours during chapel open houses although residents are welcome to stop in for a look if someone from the Committee is out on the island working. This offers a chance to see restoration work “in progress”. The Chapel committee also welcomes “Angels”—those who may not have unlimited free time but would be able to help with the tours or other one time projects.

Anyone interested in participating should contact JoAnn Brett, our volunteer coordinator (973-838-8228 or [jobrett@optonline.net](mailto:jobrett@optonline.net)) or Katie Smith coordinator of the Docents (973-349-9651 or [Kes10@optonline.net](mailto:Kes10@optonline.net)).

The Chapel is also available for weddings, christenings and other events for Smoke Rise residents. Seating is limited to 35 and any event must be approved by the Chapel Committee. Details and application forms are available at the Smoke Rise Office.