When the C. H. Jones Memorial Hall was being planned, Dr. Todd was very eager to include a place of worship in it, so in the original plans he provided for what was called, "The Little Chapel," at the south end on the second floor. It was a beautiful chapel with a cathedral-beamed ceiling and an area of about 50 feet by 25 feet for an altar and an altar rail.

This Little Chapel served as a place of worship from 1924 until 1977 and was used for many different religious events through the years, particularly those involving alumni and families of the University.

The Chapel had pews and chairs which were given to the University by some Methodist churches when they were closed or when they had new furnishings. The original furnishings, though used, were in good condition.

The highlight of the Little Chapel was the painting, "The Light of the World", which hung in the front. The painting was given to the College of Puget Sound in 1930 by Mr. and Mrs. William Wolcott Seymour and was a copy of the painting done by the artist Holman Hunt.

Mr. and Mrs. Seymour, in their travels, saw the Holman Hunt picture in St. Paul's Cathedral in London. They decided to have it copied and brought to Tacoma where they hoped to have it displayed in their church. The copy was made by Miss Ursula Wood, a fine London artist, and it was shipped directly to Tacoma and delivered to the College of Puget Sound.

Holman Hunt was born on April 2, 1827, and died in 1910. He had a distinguished career as an artist. In a letter to the London Times, the poet
Ruskin wrote of Mr. Hunt's pictures: "There has been nothing in art so earnest and so complete since the days of Albert Durer."

Mr. Hunt painted many pictures and sold them all over the world at a very excellent price. In 1854, he painted the original picture, "The Light of the World," and William Bell Scott wrote, "For the first time in England a picture became the subject of conversation and general interest from one end of the Island to the other and indeed it continued so for many years."

The painting was purchased by Mr. Combe and given by his wife to Keble College at Oxford where an admission fee was charged to see it.

In 1904, Mr. Hunt painted another "Light of the World" picture, slightly altered from the first, which he declared was for as wide and as free exhibit as possible. This painting was first displayed in all of the art cities of the colonies and later placed in St. Paul's Cathedral in London. It was from this painting that the copy was made which was given to the College of Puget Sound and now hangs in Gail Day Memorial Chapel room.

In a very interesting letter written at the request of Mrs. W.W. Seymour, the artist, Miss Ursula Wood, said:

"It was my first day at St. Paul's when the conditions of work - the difficulty of seeing the picture, and of getting any light on my canvas - seemed almost impossible. Then a Frenchman - a painter - spoke to me, unasked, on the great difficulty of the work, and then said he thought the place itself - set apart for the worship of God - must make a difference, and that if one began with a prayer for help, all good influences would surely lend their aid and the thing could be accomplished. This was a great encouragement to me, when I most needed it, and it was seconded a little later - the same kind of sympathy from a Scotchwoman."
"I cannot remember how many people gave me this kind of 'Godspeed' but there were many who did so, though there were fewer opportunities after the first few days, as I was most often working high up on a step-ladder, in order to see the picture and reach my canvas. An English woman, who knew Oxford well and the other picture of "The Light of the World" in Keble College, came to see my work. She was much interested in learning of its destination and said that she hoped there would be a blessing with its message.

"Always, when people heard where the picture was going they were pleased and interested, and glad to think that America was to have it.

"One day an English woman - a writer, I think - thanked me for letting her watch me at work. She said she was to have a serious operation in a few days, and she had been filling her mind with the picture. She knew that the figure in the garden would be with her even when she was only half conscious and it would help her through. Many - in fact the majority of those who came to look at the original - seemed impressed by the sense that it has a definite message, and several spoke of their hope that my copy would carry a message and a blessing with it.

"In one of the last weeks of work an American who seemed as if he might be some kind of lay preacher or evangelist, a very simple earnest kind of man, came and told me how keenly all around him made him feel the change and decay of all things here and that Christ is the only reality. He spoke with a strange fervor and he blessed my work with earnest sincerity.

"Sometimes people came up to me outside the Cathedral to say how much they admired my copy. One day some Yorkshire girls came to me in a tea shop to congratulate me on it. They had seen me at work that afternoon. I told them that it was going to America and they, bringing forward all they knew of it, said that a friend of theirs - an English woman - had just come back from a place called Tacoma for a few weeks' holiday, and she was already homesick for it and wanting to go back again. When I told them that Tacoma was the destination of the picture they looked almost incredulous of the coincidence.

"A man whose business often brings him to London makes a point of coming to St. Paul's and of seeing this picture, which he thinks the most beautiful in the world. He was as much interested in my copy, and in learning where it was to go, that I promised to send him any account you might give me of its final placing in the church where it is to hang.

"Five or six years ago the glass of the picture was broken and the picture itself slightly damaged by a man who threw a hammer at it. One of the vergers told me about it and showed me a scar on his own hand from the broken glass at the time.
"The culprit was an ex-soldier who by some wretched mistake could not get his pension from the War Office and who did this in the rage of desperation. His grievance was found to be only too genuine a one. The Magistrate had to sentence him to a week's imprisonment for the breach of the peace, but he was sent to spend it in the prison hospital and the damaged verger told me, with great satisfaction, that the poor man - on coming out - received his pension at once with all the arrears owing him. So to this poor soul the picture brought blessing for cursing and I think it must have changed his attitude towards the Master whom it portrays.

"The original of my copy has been all around the world for exhibition. It is said that Holman Hunt was led to paint it - nearly fifty years after the picture in Keble College - because when he went to Keble to see the first one, he was charged sixpence for seeing it. He painted the same subject again on a larger scale and it was placed in St. Paul's with the proviso that no charge should ever be made for its exhibition.

"His signature in red paint is in the tangled foliage in the corner of the picture at the bottom.

"The bat flying out from the ivy at the top is difficult to find at first. It was pointed out to me by a sharp eyed schoolboy before I had seen it myself."

Mrs. Seymour pointed out on several occasions that the signature of Holman Hunt is actually in the picture but it takes considerable searching to find it.

The frame around the picture was given to the University by Mr. John Buffelen, who was a Catholic layman, a good friend of the Seymours and a man whose interest involved the timber industry. The frame was made as closely identical to the original frame in St. Paul's as could be done.

The unveiling of the painting was held on December 18, 1927, at 2:30 p.m. in the Little Chapel in Jones Hall. Arthur L. Frederick, head of
the Department of Religious Education, presided, Andrew Warner, Superintendent of the Tacoma District, Methodist Church, read the scripture; Francis J. Van Horn, Pastor of First Congregational Church and the Seymour family pastor, gave the invocation; Miss Jane Seymour, now the wife of Dr. William Chisholm, an alumnus of the University, unveiled the painting.

Mr. Seymour presented the painting to the College and Mr. Edward L. Blaine, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Dr. Edward H. Todd, President, accepted the painting for the College.

Mrs. Seymour gave an interpretation of the painting. Words of appreciation were spoken by Torrey Smith, President of the Associated Students, and by Dean Allan C. Lemon on behalf of the faculty. R. H. McGinnis, Rector of Holy Communion Episcopal Church gave the benediction.

On the printed program for the event, it says of the painting: "Here it will make its appeal to young people through the centuries to come, in that period of their development when they are making decisions which will affect their character and leadership."

The picture has been a great influence in the lives of students and there have been many people who have visited the campus to see it. One time I was showing an alumnus and his wife the Gail Day Chapel and he had his four-year old son with him. We were looking at the picture and talking about its deep symbolic meaning and the fact that Christ was knocking at the door but it was overgrown with the vines. In the midst of our discussion, the little boy said, "Daddy, did he ever get in?" There was a great silence and then the father, very wisely, said, "Well, son, I guess that depends on each person, individually,"
as Christ knocks at the door."

**Little Chapel Renovation**

In the development of the University of Puget Sound, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Day had been very friendly to the University. Their two daughters, Gail and Doris (Mrs. Allan Sapp) were alumni of the University of Puget Sound. A great tragedy occurred in the family when Gail was killed in an automobile accident.

As a memorial to Gail, I suggested in a letter of November 16, 1949, to them that the Little Chapel be renovated and brought up to date. Mr. and Mrs. Day talked the suggestion over with Dr. Cyrus Albertson, pastor of First Methodist Church in Tacoma, and he agreed that this would be a very good memorial to Gail.

We secured a bid from the Marshall Fixture Company of Idaho, and new pews, new wainscoating, new dado, new altar rail, new altar lighting and new carpeting were installed.

About the same time, Mr. Cleon Soule gave money for an electronic organ which was placed in the Chapel as part of the improvements.

In addition, a subsidy payment came from the General Board of Education of the Methodist Church, through the good graces of Dr. John O. Gross, the Executive Director.

The Gail Day Chapel was dedicated on June 7, 1950, in honor of Gail Pauline Day. The program included an organ prelude by D. Robert Smith, the invocation, solo by Miss Margaret Myles, the presentation by Dr. Cyrus
Albertson and the acceptance of the gift for the College by President Thompson. After the prayer of dedication, the benediction was given by Dr. Milton Marcy, District Superintendent of the Tacoma District.

Through the years the Gail Day Chapel served us well. It was used often for small weddings, baptisms, special meetings, chapel committee meetings and prayer meetings and for other religious and university services.

**Reallocation of Space**

In 1977, when the administration of the University decided more space was needed, it was decided to make offices out of the area used for the Gail Day Chapel and move the Chapel to the back room of the William W. Kilworth Chapel.

Because Mr. Day was deceased, Mrs. Grace Day was consulted about the decision and she agreed that Kilworth Chapel would be a very appropriate place for the Gail Day Chapel.

The painting, "The Light of the World," was removed, the cathedral-beamed ceiling was removed as much as possible, and a new Gail Day Chapel room was reestablished at the rear of Kilworth Chapel. The painting was again placed in the front of the Chapel.

A rededication service was held in the Spring of 1978. The Reverend James Davis, Chaplain of the University, was in charge, and participating in the program were John McGee, R. Franklin Thompson and Robert Albertson. Attending the service were Mrs. Grace Day, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Sapp and their son, Allan, Jr., a senior at the University of Puget Sound at that time,
along with a group of very close friends of the family.

One of the rhododendron bushes from the Day home was moved to a place just outside the door of the Chapel as a living memorial to Gail Day. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Vern Day has also been given to the University of Puget Sound, Mrs. Day retaining a life interest in it.

The Gail Day Chapel has been the very spiritual heart of the University. Often students are found in the Chapel, looking at the picture, and in the evenings groups gather for Bible study there. Many a young person has consecrated himself to the Christian way of life in the beautiful surroundings of Gail Day Memorial Chapel. It has been a great and growing influence through the years.

R. Franklin Thompson
August 15, 1978