



THE DIOCESE OF WEST TENNESSEE

ONE LORD ONE FAITH ONE BAPTISM



GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

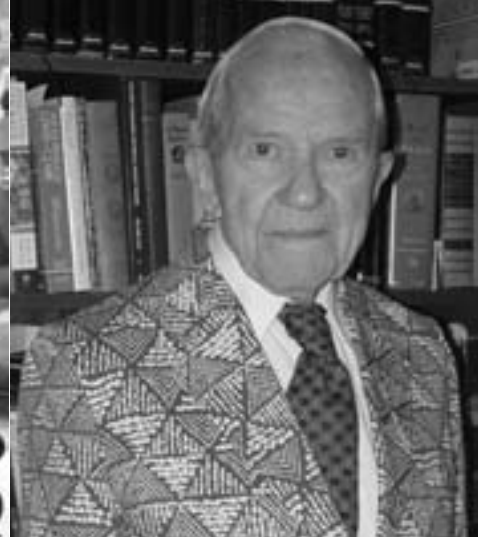
1982

2007

25 years

"Where God's promise in Christ is good news for all people"

Where God's promise in Christ





is Good News
for all people

25th Anniversary Committee

The Rt. Rev. Don E. Johnson
Mrs. Betty Ashley
The Rev. Donald E. Brooks
The Rev. Reynolds S. Cheney II
Mrs. Stephanie Cheney
The Rev. Susan K. Crawford
Mr. Charles M. Crump
The Rev. Deacon Mimsy Jones
Ms. Myra Ann Kelso
The Rev. John P. Leach
Mr. James E. McGehee, Jr.
Mrs. Maxine Patterson
Mr. Pat Patterson
Ms. Hallie Peyton
Mrs. Christi Shaw

Many thanks to the committee for their hard work to make the 25th Anniversary of The Diocese of West Tennessee a great success!



Prayer for the 25th Anniversary of The Diocese of West Tennessee

Almighty God, the Creator of all things,
the giver of life and of all that is good and true and lovely,
be with our diocese as we celebrate the harvest time of witness that is past,
the seed-planting opportunity before us in this present moment,
and the growing hope we have in Christ that allows us
to become his eternal bread for the sake of a hungry world.

May we become ever more clearly a place
where your promise in Christ is good news for all people.

Build us up where we need to be strengthened.

Guide us courageously to walk in the path you would have us go
as Christ's disciples, and let our lives always bear witness to you as
we offer to the world a faithful witness to the gift of your incarnate love.
All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

- By the Rt. Rev. Don E. Johnson, Bishop of West Tennessee



Dear Friends,

There is a Latin proverb to the effect that “Nothing is certain except the past.” I suggest that even this certainty depends on who is recalling the story. Yet honor the past we must if we are to arrive at a clearer understanding of ourselves.

By looking back to see who has formed us in mission, we discover that in West Tennessee, we continue to be a people of mission. On this occasion, when we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our diocese, we recall those people, places, and events that have shaped us for the ministry we share today. We recall them with love and honor them in our hearts.

Through a generous gift to the Diocese from St. Elisabeth’s Church, Bartlett, we present this brief book of recollections about our not-so-common life of Christian witness in West Tennessee. Thanks to St. Elisabeth’s and the fine work of writing and editing by Patricia McFarland, Christi Shaw, and Lauren Stone, this volume has been compiled for your enjoyment. Thanks also to each congregation for their submission of a reflection on life in their parish over the past 25 years, which you will find on p. 18-49. On your behalf, I extend to them our appreciation for this collection of verbal snap shots that recall our history as a people in witness to God’s good news for all people. This is a book about our common heritage and how it has shaped us for mission today. Looking back, we give thanks for the memories. Since the collection of this material began, many changes have taken place in our diocese, so please visit p. 50 for updates.

While we look to those who have gone before us for the light their efforts shed on their journeys of faith, we also see that the light is now being handed to us like runners carrying the Olympic torch. It is now in our hands, and, with God’s help, we will carry the light of Christ into the dark places of the world around us. May we look back then with thanksgiving and look forward in hope as we carry the Christ light for years to come.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don E. Johnson", with a small cross symbol to the left of the name.

The Rt. Rev. Don E. Johnson
Third Bishop of West Tennessee

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The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee

Celebrating 25 Years

December 31st, 1982 - December 31st, 2007

“The Diocese of West Tennessee was born, to be precise, on December 31, 1982. Its infancy, childhood, and adolescence have been compressed into only three weeks, for we are now, in this Convention, to come of age, to elect the first Bishop of West Tennessee, and to take our place as one of the basic and constituent units of the Church, which is the Body of Christ.” Bishop William Frederick Gates, Jr. in his address on January 20, 1983, to the first Convention of the diocese.

In September 1982, a group of almost 50 Tennessee Episcopalians traveled to New Orleans for the 67th General Convention of The Episcopal Church. The group included the deputies from Tennessee, delegates to the Women’s Triennial, members of the Structure Committee, a host of clergy and lay leaders and their families, and Bishops William Evan Sanders and William Frederick Gates.

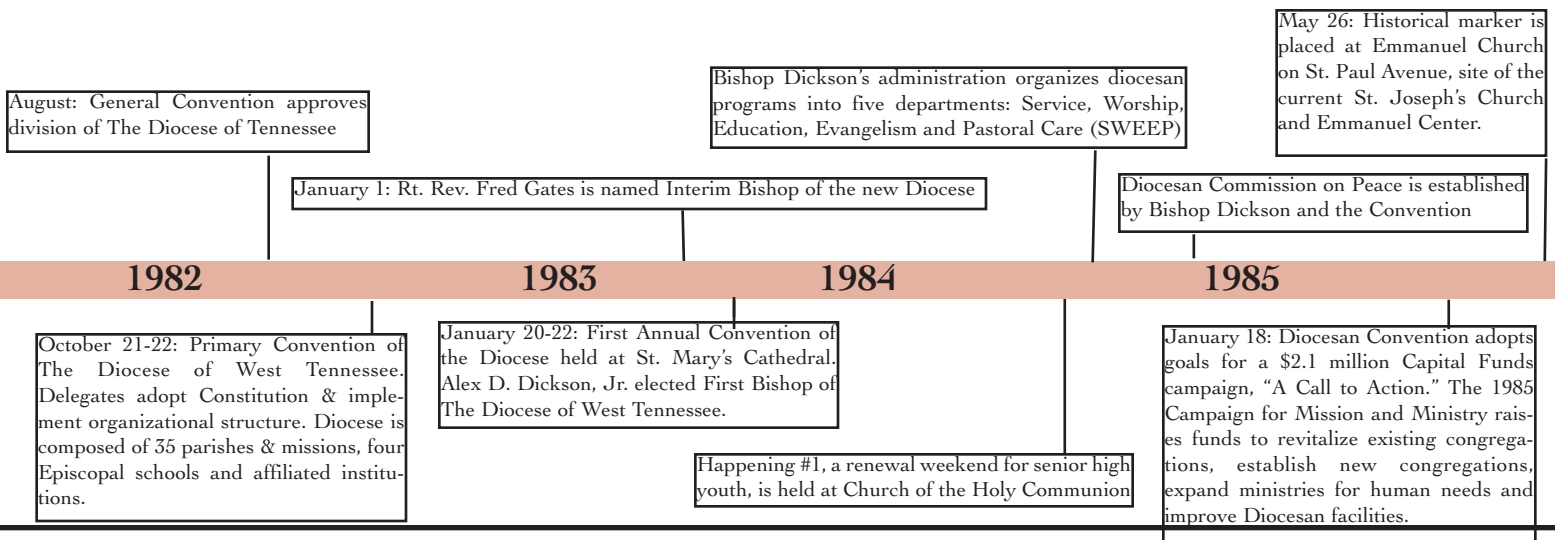
The General Convention that year would pass resolutions concerning creationism in public schools, the Lutheran-Episcopal Agreement and implementation of The Jubilee Ministry to meet basic human needs. However, the group traveling to the “Crescent City” from the “River City” was focused on another issue of importance before the General Convention. More than 150 years after The Episcopal Church came to West Tennessee, the Convention was set to approve the creation of The Diocese of West Tennessee as the first of three dioceses in Tennessee. Upon overwhelming approval by the Convention, “a joyful group of Tennesseans marched to the podium for a ‘demonstration’ to celebrate the Convention’s action,” according to an article in *The Tennessee Churchman*.

“We ... ask for God’s guidance and His blessing upon this undertaking. It is an endeavor that has been long in the

making,” Bishop Sanders said in his sermon at the opening service of the primary convention of The Diocese of West Tennessee at St. Mary’s Cathedral on October 21, 1982.

“We recall with some amusement,” Bishop Sanders continued, “that the second bishop of The Diocese of Tennessee, Bishop Quintard, in 1866 had this vision, saying, as he looked across the State of Tennessee and at the needs of a war torn area, that it was important for the Church to be near the people, and he recommended we form three Episcopal dioceses in Tennessee at that time. Periodically, the issue has risen throughout our history. For the last five years, we have studied it seriously. I suppose our former bishop, Bishop Vander Horst, in looking over the long period of time in which we have deliberated this action, would say that on some occasions we have been suffering from ‘the creeping gangrene of participatory democracy.’”

In a 1981 slide and tape presentation to the state’s Bishop and Council, Bishop Sanders made a case for the division. Three dioceses would: Strengthen the Church’s mission and ministry; Conserve demands on the time and energy of the bishops; Increase the sense of community in each area; Prepare the church to better serve the state’s projected population increase between 1981 and the year 2000.

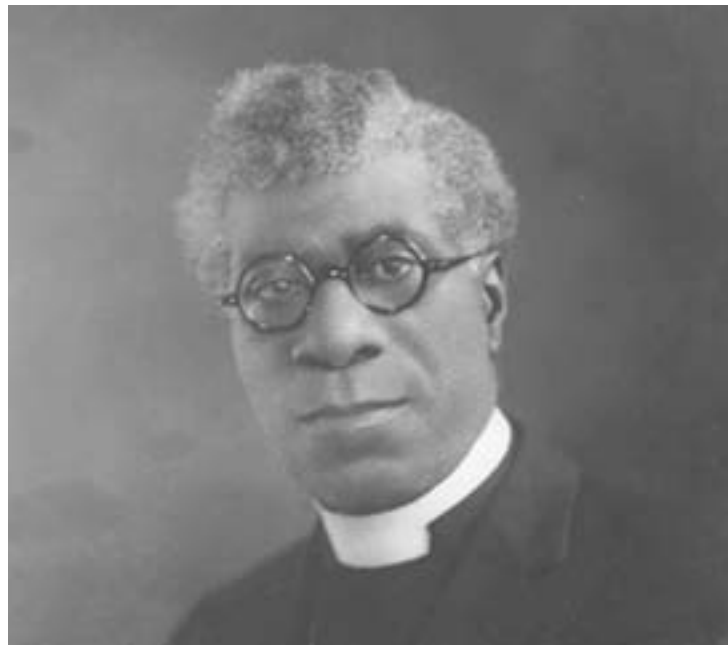


Our Founding Brothers and Sisters

The Episcopal Church has a rich history in West Tennessee that began many years before the creation of the original Diocese of Tennessee, which encompassed the entire state. Some of the Episcopal churches in West Tennessee were founded more than a century before the formation of the Diocese. Many clergy and lay leaders of these parishes played a vital role in the Church's history.

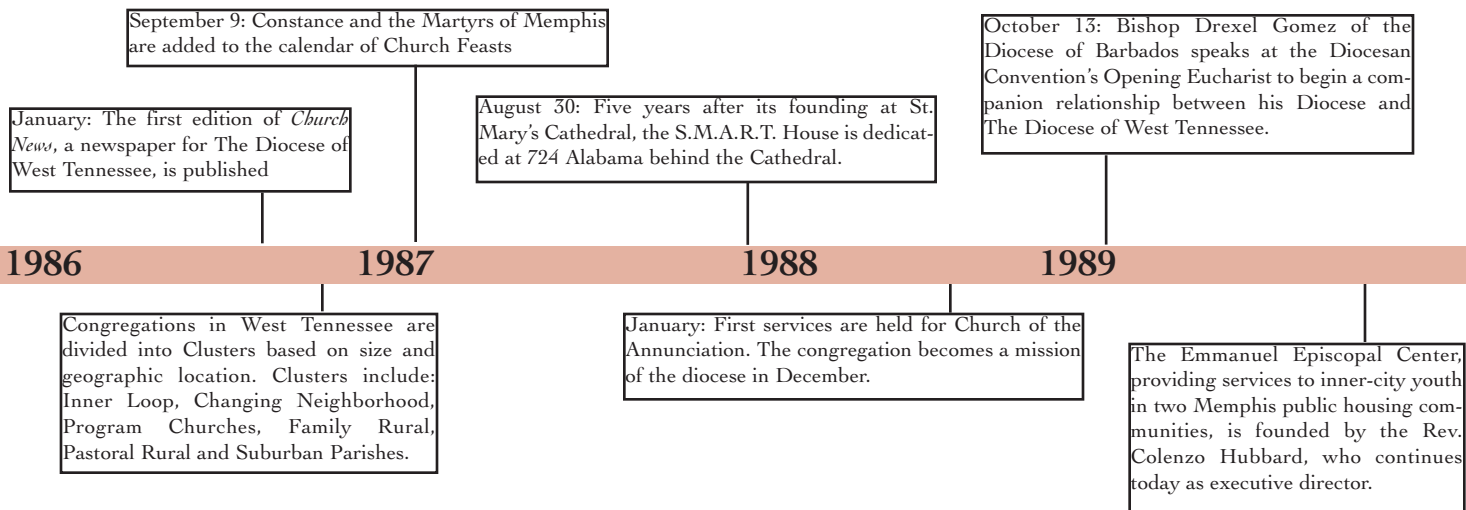
The oldest congregation in West Tennessee, Immanuel Church in LaGrange, continues to hold services more than 175 years after the church's founder, Mary Hayes Willis Gloster, traveled with her family from North Carolina to Lafayette County on a covered wagon. Immanuel's annual fall Harvest Eucharist brings many worshippers to LaGrange, where they enjoy the church's beautiful interior and grounds.

Others significant in the Church's history were Constance and her Companions, members of the Community of St. Mary, an Anglican order of nuns. Four of the Sisters died nursing victims of Memphis' Yellow Fever epidemic in 1878. An official Episcopal Feast Day honoring



the Sisters as The Martyrs of Memphis was established in September 1986. Sister Lucy of the Community of St. Mary in Sewanee, Tennessee, attended the first official commemoration of the Martyrs of Memphis in 1986 at St. Mary's Cathedral. She recalled the Sisters' sacrifices in an article in *The Commercial Appeal*, saying, "Wherever a saint has dwelt or wherever a martyr has given his or her blood, there is holy ground, and sanctity shall not be far from it."

Also of note is a local priest who came to national prominence, the Rt. Rev. E. Thomas Demby. Demby served as priest of Emmanuel Church in Memphis from 1907 to 1914 and became the first African-American Bishop of The Episcopal Church upon his appointment as Suffragan Bishop for Colored Work of the Diocese of Arkansas. Many other persons of color have since faithfully served and built on his strong foundation.



Celebration and Grief

West Tennessee Episcopalians have enjoyed many marvelous celebrations over 25 years, including the consecrations of three Bishops: the Rt. Rev. Alex Dickson (1983-1994), the Rt. Rev. James Coleman (1993-2001) and the Rt. Rev. Don Johnson (2001 – present). These three bishops shared joys and sorrows with their West Tennessee Episcopal family. Many clergy members and lay people shared the grief of Bishops Dickson and Coleman at the deaths of their spouses, Charnelle Perkins Dickson in 1995 and Mary Carter Hughes Coleman in 2004.

Two recent disasters also spurred a tremendous outpouring of community support and love in West Tennessee. The first, in August 2000, was a devastating fire at the 100-year-old Diocesan House. The Diocesan House fire, which started with a spark from a painter’s blowtorch, caused extensive damage to the second and third floors of the historic building. One firefighter called the blaze “the hottest fire I’ve ever been in.” Thankfully, the fire did not spread to the adjacent St. Mary’s Cathedral. In the days after the fire, a party was held in front of the Diocesan House on Poplar Avenue to honor the many firefighters who worked tirelessly for hours to not only put out the fire, but also save many paintings and valuable antiques. In July 2001, after being displaced for almost one year, the Bishop’s and Cathedral’s staffs moved out of their temporary trailer offices and back into the Diocesan House, where restorations of almost \$1 million were complete. Newly elected as West Tennessee’s Third Bishop, Johnson quipped, “given my background in East Tennessee, I thought the double-wide trailer offices were to make me feel at home.”

The second disaster occurred in May 2003, when a tornado slammed directly into downtown Jackson, hitting the nave of St. Luke’s Church. The tornado claimed 11 lives and

damaged not only St. Luke’s, but also much of downtown Jackson. The church suffered extensive structural and water damage, and the pews and stained glass windows had to be restored and repaired. The church held a dedication service for the rebuilding of the nave in September 2006, more than three years after the tornado hit.

Global Missions

In the 25 years since the Diocese was founded, our bishops and congregations have reached beyond the boundaries of West Tennessee on numerous mission trips to Haiti, Honduras, Jerusalem, Tanzania and other countries. A Companion Diocese Relationship with The Diocese of Barbados was established in 1988 and continued for six years. West Tennessee Episcopalians made several trips to the Caribbean island, and representatives of the Diocese of Barbados also traveled to West Tennessee. According to the report of the Companion Diocese Committee published in the Diocesan Journal of the 14th Annual Convention in



November 25, the Feast of Christ the King: A blessing of Iona House is held at St. Columba Retreat and Conference Center. Under the direction of Father Anthony-Gerald Stevens, Iona House served for many years as a facility for individual silent retreats or spiritual direction.

July: Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning visits The Emmanuel Episcopal Center.

Calvary, Emmanuel Center, and St. Mary’s Cathedral are named Jubilee Centers.

1990

1991

1992

1993

September 25 : St. Mary’s Episcopal School in Memphis is honored by President Bush in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., as one of 222 Blue Ribbon Schools nationwide.

November 13 : James Malone Coleman consecrated as Bishop Coadjutor of The Diocese of West Tennessee.

October 1995, “Although the formal companion relationship with the Diocese of Barbados concluded in 1994, the friendship established during that six-year period continues to grow and mature. All in our diocese who shared in this relationship or have been touched by it can attest to the wisdom of the Anglican leaders who established this world wide program.” With The Episcopal Church taking a lead in the witness to Christ’s love for the world through support of the Millennium Development Goals, our past involvement in international partnerships positions West Tennessee for a leadership role in global missions.

Diocesan Outreach Ministries

Diocesan outreach ministries, including St. Columba Episcopal Conference Center, Emmanuel Episcopal Center, Barth House, two Episcopal schools and other programs, have touched the lives of thousands of children, adolescents, college students and adults over the past 25 years.

St. Columba Episcopal Conference Center predates the founding of the Diocese by seven months. The center was dedicated in May 1982 on 145 wooded acres donated to the Diocese by siblings James E. Scheibler and Beatrice Scheibler Gerber. In the past 25 years, more than 3,500 groups, including Episcopal organizations and other non-profit entities, have met and worshipped on the beautiful grounds just outside of the Memphis city limits near Bartlett, Tennessee. Guests may gather at Scheibler and Sanders Lodges and the Vander Horst and Gates Pavilions and enjoy features including a lake and dock area for recreational activities, an outdoor chapel with a view of the lake and a large meadow area surrounded by the Stations of the Cross. St. Columba has hosted government meetings, Cursillo gatherings, church picnics, Happenings, speaker luncheons, vestries, youth groups, Boy Scouts’ projects,

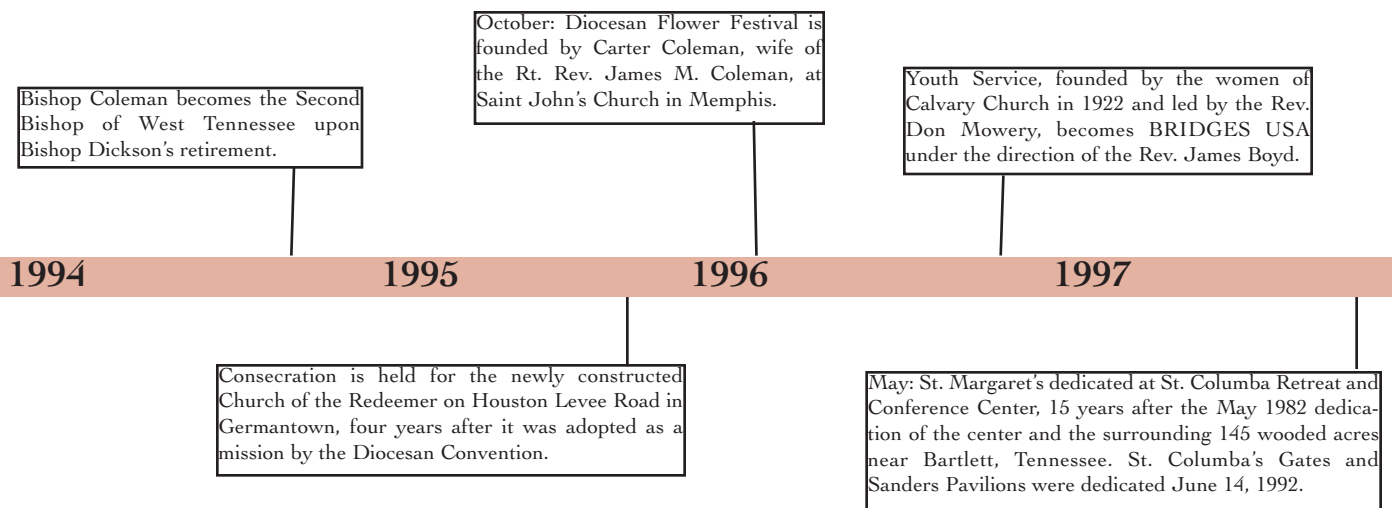


men’s groups, St. Clare Silent Retreats for Women and churches of other denominations.

Each July at St. Columba, Episcopal Day Camp offers three weeks of activities for rising first through sixth graders. More than 10,000 campers and counselors have participated in day camp in the last 25 years. The camp's nurturing, peaceful environment for both campers and youth counselors makes a memorable experience for all attending. Campers and counselors are encouraged to form friendships, build leadership skills and have fun in God's world, while experiencing their faith in a safe environment. Activities include worship, music, swimming, boating, canoeing, arts and crafts and adventures in the woods.

In 1989, the **Emmanuel Episcopal Center** was founded to offer hope and the love of Jesus Christ in word and deed to the community, especially the residents of two public housing developments near downtown Memphis. For 18 years, the Center has served as a beacon of hope in one of the poorest neighborhoods in the country.

By providing spiritual direction, social service pro-





grams, educational enrichment and organized sports, Emmanuel Center empowers individuals so they may be elevated out of poverty as full participants in mainstream society. The Center's wide range of services include after-school activities, tutoring, summer camp, recreational and sports programs and opportunities for students who excel academically to participate in an annual summer trip to a U.S. city. The center also offers referrals to other community agencies for families who need assistance with food and utilities. In 2006, a dedication was held for The Debra Hubbard Community Life Center, which includes classrooms and a state-of-the-art gymnasium. The new Life

Center provides health and fitness initiatives for the entire surrounding community.

The origins of the Emmanuel Center began with the work of another organization, Youth Service, which worked in the neighborhood with youth beginning in the 1920s. Youth Service, which became BRIDGES in 1996, was founded by women from St. Mary's Cathedral and Calvary Church more than 85 years ago. Today, BRIDGES programs serve 10,000 adults and youth in the Memphis area annually, providing experiential, hands-on learning for youth and adults to be leaders in fighting racism, poverty and educational challenges.

75th Anniversary of the Calvary Lenten Preaching series that brings local and worldwide religious leaders from diverse faith backgrounds to the pulpit in Downtown Memphis

August: Fire causes great damage to interior of the Diocesan House. Diocesan staff is relocated to trailers in the parking lot for more than a year. Dedication of restored Diocesan House is held the following year.

August: Bishop James M. Coleman officially retires.

March: In a resolution presented by the Cluster Conveners Council, the Diocesan Convention declares the years 1999-2000 to be The Years of Evangelism.

March 30: Election of Don E. Johnson, Third Bishop of The Diocese of West Tennessee. Johnson ordained a Bishop June 30th.

1998 1999 2000 2001 2002

Ministry to college students in West Tennessee has been part of outreach efforts since before the Diocese was formed. Ministries on the campuses of the University of Memphis, Rhodes College, and The University of Tennessee at Martin give students opportunities for spiritual support, worship, social activities and mission work. Barth House, located for almost 80 years at 409 Patterson Street on the University of Memphis campus, holds weekly worship services at St. Theodore's Chapel.

Two excellent Episcopal schools are located in the Diocese. Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School is a coeducational parish day school located at the corner of Belvedere and Peabody in Central Gardens of midtown Memphis. The school enrolls 500 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. St. Mary's Episcopal School for girls is located at the corner of Walnut Grove and Perkins Roads in Memphis. The school enrolls 850 students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. St. Mary's and Grace-St. Luke's were founded 100 years apart: 1847 and 1947, respectively.

Building for the Future

While honoring our past, this anniversary celebration also focuses on the future of The Episcopal Church in West Tennessee.

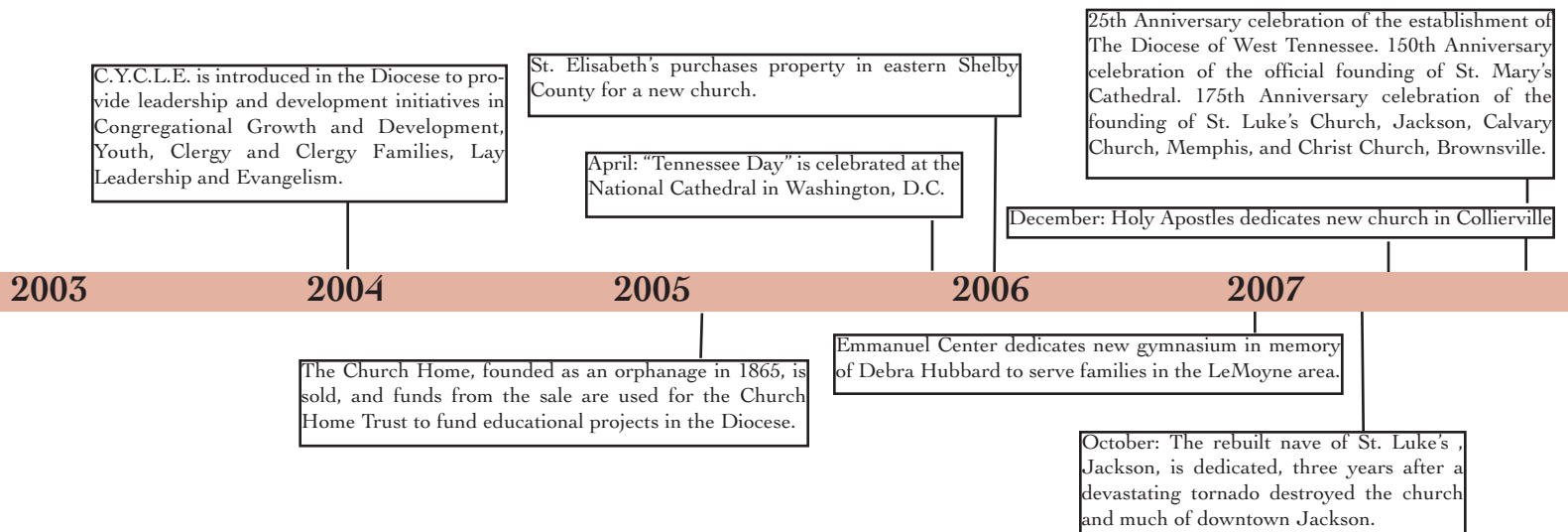
Two new churches have been established in the past 25 years: Church of the Annunciation in Cordova, admitted as a mission in 1988, and Church of the Redeemer in Germantown, admitted as a mission in 1991. St. George's Church in Germantown recently built a new church complex, and St. Elisabeth's Church in Bartlett is working on plans to complete a new building in the next few years. In what has been called one of the great congregation success stories, Church of the Holy Apostles consecrated a new

church facility in Collierville in late 2006. After selling the original church in the Hickory Hill area of Memphis in 2000, the congregation began a three-year "trek through the wilderness," dwindling in size and worshipping in borrowed space. In 2003, the congregation moved just outside the city limits of Memphis to the campus of St. George's Independent School in Collierville. In the last four years, Holy Apostles' average Sunday attendance has grown from 35 to 175. The church is truly an example of the difference a core group of people can make when committed to their faith. The congregation's success is also a positive sign for the future of The Episcopal Church in West Tennessee.

Shortly before his consecration in 2001 as the third Bishop of West Tennessee, The Rt. Rev. Don E. Johnson told The Commercial Appeal, "I think we will need to spend a lot of our time finding the places that we do agree about the mission of the church and recognize that we are not always going to agree on all of the issues – but try to be faithful in serving the overall mission of the church."

In 2007, 25 years after the founding of The Diocese of West Tennessee, 34 congregations with more than 11,000 members worship on the land between the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers. Like the rivers that essentially define the diocesan boundaries, the faith journey for Episcopalians in West Tennessee continues to flow, staying on course through highs and lows, as part of the broader body of Christ's family. The churches and missions represent a wide variety of congregation sizes, worship spaces, urban and rural locales, and diversity of worship styles. Binding them together is the commitment to God's promise in Christ and faithfulness to The Episcopal Church and our connections in mission with the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Thanks be to God!



The Formation of The Episcopal Church in Tennessee

“Like a Mighty River,” provided a powerful theme as The Diocese of West Tennessee celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Two great rivers, the Tennessee and the Mississippi, define the eastern and western boundaries of this diocese. From towering mountains in the east to alluvial flood plains in the west, Tennessee’s unique geography has been a major force in shaping its politics and economy, as well as in the formation of The Episcopal Church in this state.

Following the Revolutionary War, great numbers of people began to move into Tennessee, many of them with land grants from North Carolina for military service during the war. These sturdy pioneers continued to push toward the fertile land in West Tennessee, taxing the slim resources available to bring established religion into the new settlements. The earliest church bodies in this new territory were those of the Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists; however, many communities were without either a church building or minister of the gospel, save for the occasional visit of a circuit-riding preacher.

Of great significance in the history of The Episcopal Church in Tennessee was the arrival of James Hervey Otey. A native of North Carolina, Otey organized a school for boys near Franklin, Tennessee, in 1821. Two years later, he returned to his home in North Carolina to teach and to begin his study for Holy Orders. Otey traveled between Tennessee and North Carolina, returning to North Carolina in 1827 to be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John Ravenscroft.

By 1832, five small Episcopal congregations were organ-



ized in West Tennessee through the work of the Rev. Thomas Wright, who organized Calvary in Memphis and was its first rector, and fellow-missionary the Rev. John Chilton. With the four congregations in Middle Tennessee, this fledgling diocese needed a bishop to lead, ordain, and consecrate, and in 1833, at the second convention of The Episcopal Church in Tennessee, James Hervey Otey was elected. Also at this convention, the following congregations were admitted to the diocese: Calvary, Memphis; Immanuel, LaGrange; St. Luke’s, Jackson; St. Matthew (Grace), Paris; St. Paul, Randolph, and Zion (Christ), Brownsville.

After many years in Franklin, Bishop Otey and his family moved to Memphis in 1852. In 1861, the dark clouds of the Civil War enveloped the nation, placing additional burdens on the Bishop. Worn out by more than forty years of hard work and the vicissitudes of the Civil War, Otey died in Memphis on April 23, 1863. Because there could be no convention during the war to elect his successor, it was not until September 1865 that Dr. Charles Todd Quintard, priest and former physician, was elected second Bishop of Tennessee. His consecration took place in St. Luke’s Church, Philadelphia, on October 11, 1865.

A man of great intellectual gifts, Quintard’s episcopacy was notable for reestablishing the University of the South, Sewanee, and directing its growth as a leading seat of education. He also secured assistance of the Sisters of St. Mary, Peekskill, New York, to operate the Church Home Orphanage and establish St. Mary’s School for Girls. Quintard attended the first Lambeth Conference in England





and several subsequent conferences. In 1871, he designated St. Mary's, Memphis, as the Cathedral Church for The Diocese of Tennessee. During the thirty-three years of Quintard's episcopacy, The Episcopal Church in Tennessee grew to more than 5,000 members served by some 230 ordained clergy.

Bishop Quintard passed away in February 1898 and was succeeded by Thomas Frank Gailor, who became the third bishop of Tennessee. Gailor had been consecrated as Bishop Coadjutor at Sewanee on July 25, 1893. Few men in the American Church have had so distinguished a career in ministry or have been the recipient of so many honors as Bishop Gailor. Among these honors was his election as the first president of the National Council of The Episcopal Church in America (1919-1925), making him the first Presiding Bishop of the American Church. His national and local recognition was extraordinary, and he was lauded as

the first citizen of Memphis. At his death in October 1935, Thomas Frank Gailor had served 42 years as Bishop of Tennessee. It is an extraordinary fact that the first three bishops of Tennessee served a one hundred year span, from 1833 to 1935, except for the two-year period when there was no bishop.

During Gailor's episcopacy, Troy Beatty was consecrated Bishop Coadjutor on May 7, 1919. A faithful minister and capable administrator, Beatty's service was cut short by his untimely death in April of 1922. James Matthew Maxon was selected to serve as Bishop Coadjutor and was consecrated on October 18, 1922, in Nashville. He served Bishop Gailor from 1922 until 1935 when, upon Gailor's death, Maxon became the fourth Bishop of The Diocese of Tennessee.

Bishop Maxon turned Gailor's residence next to the Cathedral into the Diocesan Office and directed his energy toward making St. Mary's the center of missionary work, religious education and social service. Clergy in the diocese were often invited to preach in the Cathedral. Bishop Maxon retired December 31, 1946, and was succeeded by Edmund Pendleton Dandridge, the fifth Bishop of Tennessee.

Consecrated as Bishop Coadjutor on September 20, 1938, Dandridge's broad experience in ministry and scholarly achievements made him one of the most influential bishops in the National Church. He served on the Episcopal National Council from 1940 to 1946. Throughout Tennessee, Bishop Dandridge sought to establish a closer working relationship between the parishes in the diocese and organize planning commissions in urban areas. In 1951, he initiated the Summer Music Conference at Sewanee, a program that continues to attract musicians from throughout the South.



Bishop Dandridge retired in 1953 and was followed in office by his Bishop Coadjutor, Theodore Nott Barth, who became Tennessee's sixth bishop in 1953. Barth served as rector of Calvary Church in Memphis from 1940 until his selection as Bishop Coadjutor on April 21, 1948. Accomplishments of Barth's episcopate included renovation of the Diocesan House, acquisition of the DuBose Conference Center property in Monteagle, the establishment of Episcopal student centers on eight college campuses, the organization of All Saints' mission and the rebuilding of Emmanuel Church. Barth died August 22, 1961.

Following Bishop Barth in the Episcopal office was John Vander Horst, who had been elected Suffragan bishop in 1954. Because of Barth's long illness, Vander Horst was chosen Bishop Coadjutor April 19, 1961. He was installed as the seventh Bishop of Tennessee October 12, 1961, at St. Mary's Cathedral. His first official act was to secure approval for the election of a bishop coadjutor. William Evan Sanders, Dean of St. Mary's Cathedral, was elected to the position under Vander Horst.

Vander Horst was the first Ordinary to have been both Suffragan and Coadjutor before becoming Bishop. Church expansion was a major emphasis during his episcopate, and



to that end he sought to acquire land in both metropolitan areas and smaller communities. He strengthened ministries on college campuses and continued the good work of his predecessors. Vander Horst retired on January 10, 1977.

William Evan Sanders assumed leadership of The Diocese of Tennessee as its eighth bishop, having served as Bishop Coadjutor since 1962. Sanders had been named Acting Dean of St. Mary's in December 1946 by Bishop Maxon, and his appointment as Dean was confirmed the following year by Bishop Dandridge. Assuming the position of Cathedral Dean at only 28 years of age, this gifted priest led St. Mary's during its greatest growth period in the post-World War II years.

Having served as Bishop of The Diocese of Tennessee since January 1977, Sanders elected to remain with The Diocese of Tennessee following the creation of The Diocese of West Tennessee in 1982. Two years later, when The Diocese of East Tennessee was established as a separate unit of the Church, Sanders chose to serve as the bishop of that diocese. After 15 years of distinguished and faithful service leading the Church in Tennessee, Sanders retired on December 31, 1991. His wise counsel and gifted leadership have continued to be a blessing throughout the Church.

From the creation of the infant Diocese of Tennessee in July 1833, through its division into West Tennessee and East Tennessee in 1982 and 1985, bishops have been outstanding leaders, gifted ministers, faithful preachers and teachers of the Word of God, and deeply committed to the service of the Church.



The Martyrs of Memphis

The Sisters of St. Mary

Every age has its saints and martyrs who have witnessed to God's redeeming love and grace through heroic service and sacrifice. The Episcopal Church has recognized some who have served with steadfast courage under the most difficult of circumstances. In 1985, at the 68th General Convention, such recognition was accorded Constance and Her Companions, the Martyrs of Memphis, when their commemoration was added to the Calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts. The inauguration of the Martyrs of Memphis was first celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral on September 9, 1986.

In August 1878, Memphis was struck with the most devastating of its three yellow fever epidemics. Historians have described this terrifying plague, which claimed more than 5,500 lives, as the worst epidemic in the nation's history. Located in the heart of the most seriously afflicted area, St. Mary's Cathedral quickly became the center from which desperately needed aid and ministry went forth. Dean George C. Harris, the Sisters of St. Mary and volunteer priests and nurses provided spiritual support, food, nursing care and burial of the dead and gathered orphans at the Canfield Orphanage.

By early September, as the death toll reached several hundred each day, there was no end to the pleas for help and requests for ministry to the dying. In serving the stricken city, these courageous men and women willingly laid down their own lives in witness to the Lord's, affirming "greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

There were many who gave their lives serving the people of Memphis. Those from St. Mary's included Sister Constance, superior of the work at Memphis, Sisters Ruth, Thecla and Frances and Dr. William J. Armstrong, physician, who provided medical care both to the Cathedral staff and those living in the Sixth Ward. Two priests who were unstinting in their service were the Rev. Charles Carroll Parsons, rector of Grace-St. Lazarus, and the Rev. Louis Sanford Schuyler, a young volunteer priest from Holy Innocents, Hoboken, New Jersey. Volunteer nurses working with the Sisters of St. Mary included Mrs. Bullock, Mrs. Sherrie and Miss Waring.

Other Episcopal laymen whose unselfish service cost them their lives included Dr. Paul H. Otey, oldest son of Bishop Otey; Alfred Denning Langstaff, Calvary vestryman



and president of the Howard Association; General Luke Wright, fellow vestryman and treasurer of the Citizens Relief Committee; John G. Lonsdale, Sr., treasurer of the Howard Association; his son John G. Lonsdale, Jr., treasurer of the Citizens Relief Committee; and George A. Holst, all of Calvary. Charles G. Fisher, St. Matthew, Covington, president of the Citizens Relief Committee, was a tireless worker until his death on September 26th.

Among those who served with selfless courage and survived the dreadful plague were the Rev. George C. Harris, Dean of St. Mary's Cathedral, Sister Hughetta, CSM; Sister Helen, CSM; Sister Clare, volunteer nurse, St. Margaret's House in Boston; Flora Gray, later Sister Flora, CSM; Major Belton Mickle; the Rev. Dr. W.T. Dickenson Dalzell, priest and physician, St. Mark's Church, Shreveport, Louisiana; Dr. Willard Birney Huson, priest and physician, Marianna, Florida; and Miss Margaret (Daisy) Murdock, nurse and daughter of an Episcopal priest.

The names of the Sisters who died in the epidemic are carved into the high altar at St. Mary's. When Sister Hughetta, a member of the Snowden family, died in 1926, her name was added to those of Constance, Ruth, Thecla, and Frances. A memorial plaque on the west wall of the Cathedral honors the martyred priests Charles Parsons and Louis Schuyler. John McLeon Keating, editor of the Memphis Appeal, wrote at the end of the terrifying epidemic: "We ask that the names of the women and men who have laid down their lives for us shall be handed down forever as among the brightest and best of the earth."

The Bishops of West Tennessee

1982 - 2007

Since its formation on December 31, 1982, The Diocese of West Tennessee has been led by a series of four bishops, including an interim bishop who served the Diocese from its birth until its first bishop was consecrated in April 1983. These men of sound mind, strong will and devotion to Christ have all made an impact on the Diocese through their leadership, teaching and ministry. Through them, The Diocese of West Tennessee has become a place where God's promise truly is good news for all people.

William Frederick Gates, Jr., D.D. Interim Bishop January 1982 - April 1983

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant," is surely a summary of the service that the Rt. Reverend Fred Gates rendered to The Episcopal Church in Tennessee. William Frederick Gates was elected Suffragan Bishop of The Diocese of Tennessee on May 18, 1966, and was consecrated on September 9, 1966, in Christ Church, Nashville, 615th in the Anglican Succession. The chief consecrator was the Most Reverend John Elbridge Hines, Presiding Bishop.

Fred Gates was born March 29, 1912, in Lexington, Virginia. He received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1937. The same year, he was ordained a deacon by the Rt. Reverend James Maxon, Bishop of Tennessee, and was ordained to the priesthood the following year. Gates served first at Calvary Church in Memphis, then was the long-time rector of St. Peter's Church in Columbia until he was elected Suffragan Bishop of Tennessee. Gates also ably held the position of Diocesan Finance Officer at that time.

As Suffragan, Bishop Gates' responsibilities included the Department of Higher Education and the newly created Department of Youth Work. He served on numerous boards in Memphis, including The Episcopal Church Home, Trezevant Manor, Metropolitan Interfaith Association, and the Shelby County Episcopal Planning Commission. Gates was vitally interested in education and served on the



Episcopal Schools Commission and on the Board of Trustees at the University of the South, Sewanee.

Bishop Gates retired on December 31, 1982; however, his retirement was brief, as the next day he was called to serve as Interim Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of West Tennessee. He served as Interim until Alex Dickson was consecrated Bishop in April of 1983. Gates' last service to the church was rendered with the same dedication and ability given to a lifetime of ministry. This much-beloved servant of the church passed away December 29, 1987.

Alex Dockery Dickson, JR., D.D.
First Bishop
April 1983 - November 1993

“I bind unto myself to-day the power of God to hold and lead, His eyes to watch, His might to stay, His ear to hearken to my need; the wisdom of my God to teach, His hand to guide, His shield to ward; the Word of God to give me speech, His heavenly host to be my guard.” St. Patrick, 372-466 A.D.

On January 22, 1983, with great joy, Alex Dickson was elected first Bishop of the newly organized Diocese of West Tennessee. Organizational structure had been put in place, and a constitution and canons had been adopted at the Primary Convention on October 22-24, 1982, at St. Mary’s Cathedral. The Rt. Rev. W. Fred Gates was serving as Interim Bishop of the new diocese.

The service of consecration for Dickson, a ceremony of great color and pageantry, was held on Easter Saturday, April 9, 1983, at Cook Convention Center. The Most Reverend John Maury Allin, Presiding Bishop, was the chief consecrator. In the examination charge, Bishop Allin affirmed, “With your fellow bishops, you will share in the leadership of the Church throughout the world. Your heritage is the faith of patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and those of every generation who have looked to serve God in hope. Your joy will be to follow him who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Therefore, Father, make Alex a bishop in your Church. Pour out upon him the power of your princely Spirit, whom you bestowed upon your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, with whom he endowed the apostles, and by whom your Church is built up in every place, to the glory and unceasing praise of your name.” Dickson was consecrated 773rd bishop in the American Succession.

Alex Dockery Dickson, Jr. was born September 9, 1926, in Alligator, Mississippi. In 1958, he was ordained a deacon by Bishop Duncan Gray of Mississippi and was ordained to the priesthood later that year. At the time of his election to the episcopate of The Diocese of West Tennessee, Dickson was headmaster and Rector of All Saints Episcopal School in Vicksburg. When notified of his election, he immediately came to Memphis to announce his acceptance.

Bishop Dickson’s episcopate undertook many new ministries. He utilized St. Columba Conference Center for meetings and retreats and encouraged the development of a summer camp program there. The establishment of the companion diocese program linked The Diocese of West Tennessee



with the Diocese of Barbados, providing a fruitful exchange between the two areas.

Dickson actively supported programs that served both the young people in the diocese and inner city children. He worked closely with the Rev. Don Mowery, Director of Youth Service, and was a member of the Youth Service, U.S.A. national board. Beginning in the early 1960s, Youth Service developed programs based at Emmanuel Church and Center for the children in the Foote and Cleaborn Homes projects. Federal funds paid students at LeMoyen-Owen and other colleges to work with the children. The decision was made to expand this program and hire a full-time director, and in 1989, the Rev. Colenzo Hubbard and his wife, Debra, were selected to lead it.

The Church Home, another long-established service to aid children, continued its work of providing a residential training facility for the education of children with autism and other communications disorders.

Two new missions were established in eastern Shelby County: Church of the Redeemer in Collierville and Church of the Annunciation in Cordova. Both churches soon attained parish status, reflecting the growth in this area.

All of these accomplishments make up the legacy of Bishop Dickson’s episcopate.

James Malone Coleman, D. Min., D.D. Second Bishop November 1993 - June 2001

“Almighty God, grant all go well with thee. Be an honour to the church, follow Christ’s word, clear in thy task and careful in they speech. Be thine an open hand, a merry heart, Christ in thy mouth, life that all men may know a lover of righteousness and compassion. Let none come to thee and go sad away. Hope of poor men, and solace to the sad, go thou before God’s people to God’s realm...” Alcuin’s charge to Adelhard on the occasion of his enthronement as Archbishop of Canterbury, 793-805 A.D. Prayer from the consecration service for Bishop Coleman

On Saturday, June 19, 1993, James Malone Coleman was elected the eighth Bishop Coadjutor of The Diocese of West Tennessee. His consecration by the Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Edmond Lee Browning, took place November 13, 1993, at the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church. He was the 888th bishop in the American succession.

In the prayer of consecration, Bishop Browning said, “God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of mercies and God of all comfort, dwelling on high but having regard for the lowly, knowing all things before they come to pass: We give you thanks that from the beginning, you have gathered and prepared a people to be heirs of the covenant of Abraham and have raised up prophets, kings, and priests, never leaving your temple unattended. We praise you also that from the creation you have graciously accepted the ministry of those whom you have chosen.”

Born in Memphis on August 26, 1929, and educated at Christian Brothers High School, Coleman graduated from St. Luke’s Seminary, the University of the South, with a Master of Divinity. Ordained a deacon by Bishop Theodore N. Barth in 1956, Coleman was ordained a priest by Bishop John Vander Horst the following year. He served churches in Tennessee, Georgia and Virginia and spent 14 years at St. James Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Coleman was rector of Saint John’s Church, Memphis, at the time of his election as Bishop Coadjutor. He is the first native Tennessean elected bishop in the state.

Bishop Coleman’s leadership included a vision for the planting of new churches and a strategic plan to foster growth in the diocese. Using small group meetings and open forums, his episcopate brought about healing and reconciliation on diverse issues resulting from major controversies afflicting the church at large.

Under Coleman’s energetic leadership, several impor-



tant initiatives for young people began, including the Diocesan Youth Council, and college ministry was reinstated. The establishment of the Center for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd brought an internationally recognized Christian formation program to the diocese. First located at St. Mary’s Cathedral, the Center fosters cooperation between several denominations.

During Coleman’s episcopate, his wife and partner in ministry, Carter Coleman, organized the diocesan-wide Annual Flower Festival, which was held at Saint John’s, Memphis. The two-day celebration of God’s created beauty brought participation on the part of flower lovers throughout the diocese and the city. A gifted writer, Carter profiled clergy and their spouses in her “Who We Are” articles in Church News. Her joyful nature and generous hospitality were well known across the diocese.

At the 20th Annual Convention in March 2001, a resolution was adopted which recognized and honored the ministry and service of both the Bishop and his devoted wife, Carter. It read, “Resolved that the 10th Annual Convention of The Diocese of West Tennessee express our sincere love and deepest appreciation to our beloved Bishop, The Rt. Rev. James M. Coleman, and Carter Coleman, his wife and partner in ministry, for their service in Christ to this diocese.”

Don Edward Johnson, D. Min., D.D.

Third Bishop

June 2001 - Present

“Is not this the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? It is not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house...the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.” Isaiah 58:6-7, 11a, from the liturgy of The Ordination of a Bishop

On June 10, 2001, the Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold, Presiding Bishop and Chief Consecrator, consecrated Don Edward Johnson the third Bishop of The Diocese of West Tennessee and the 967th in the American Succession of The Episcopal Church.

A true son of Tennessee, Johnson was born in Nashville on January 23, 1949. His ministry, like that of his early predecessors, has taken him from one end of the state to the other – from Memphis to Johnson City and from Nashville to Chattanooga. His present ministry continues in widespread fields of service, both in this diocese and in the national Church. At the invitation of national and international church leaders, he works collaboratively and often behind the scenes to advise, negotiate and assess situations on behalf of the larger Church. He also serves on the College for Bishops’ board of the House of Bishops as a professional coach for new bishops.

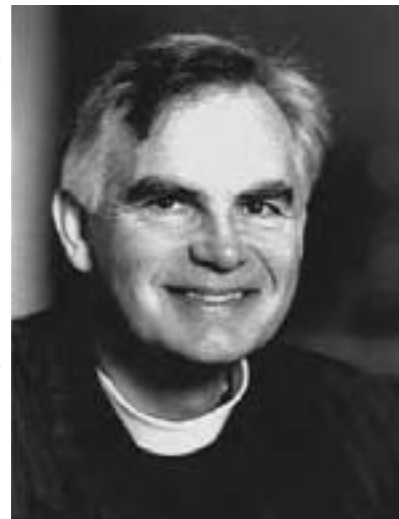
At a time when the Church faces many internal and external challenges, Johnson has sought to maintain the unity of the diocese and strengthen its witness and ministries. Committed to the creation of West Tennessee as the diocese “where God’s promise in Christ is good news for all people,” Johnson continues to target his efforts to this faith-driven goal.

Johnson’s time as bishop is marked with an emphasis on youth ministries that form, strengthen and invite young people into a lively relationship with Christ. Committed to such ministries as Emmanuel Center outreach efforts and college ministry redevelopment and participating in such youth gatherings as the Bishop’s Bash and Camp Gailor-Maxon, he continues to lift up the importance of youth as a focus for the Church’s missionary efforts. Beyond the diocese, Johnson is known for his commitment to improving public education through such partnerships as the one developed

between St. Paul’s, Frazier, and Promise Academy, a local Charter School that used the mission’s facilities. He has challenged The Episcopal Church Women to take on ministry programs in support of public education, and they have responded generously. Johnson is currently involved with redevelopment efforts in and around St. Mary’s Cathedral, which is located in the heart of the urban and medical communities of Memphis. He serves on the Memphis Medical Center Advisory Board and a number of other community boards.

With the larger churches in the diocese located in Memphis, Johnson travels often to keep smaller and more distant churches in close touch with diocesan activities. He has been quick to respond to the emergencies and natural disasters that have struck the diocese and other locations in the South. He was eager to be present and give aid when a tornado destroyed much of downtown Jackson and severely damaged St. Luke’s Church, and when a similar event destroyed much of the community in and around Dyersburg. With the whole diocese, Johnson has extended assistance and encouraged support of those states damaged by the devastating effects of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He has also worked in partnership with parishes such as St. Luke’s, Holy Apostles’ and St. Elisabeth’s in their respective rebuilding, relocating, and major renovation efforts.

Working side-by-side with Bishop Johnson is his wife, Jeannie, who has traveled with her husband in his visits to the churches and missions in the diocese. When not traveling with him, she enjoys singing in the Calvary Church choir. She is currently the Diocesan Coordinator for the Education for Ministry Program, for which she also continues to serve as a mentor. Her unwavering support of the ministry that she and Bishop Johnson share blesses our Diocese, to which they are both so committed.



Congregations of The Diocese of West Tennessee

The Diocese spans 19 counties and about 10,000 square miles between the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers. Within this space are 33 parishes and missions, serving more than 11,000 baptized members. What follows is a history of each of these congregations: when and where they arose, who played a part and how they have grown. We salute the generations of men and women who have devoted their lives to the ministry of these churches.

All Saints' Church Memphis

On August 13, 2006, All Saints' Church in Memphis celebrated the congregation's 50th Anniversary with a Festal Eucharist. Among those celebrating the anniversary were longtime members of the East Memphis congregation and the Rev. Robertson Eppes, Jr., the first rector of the church, which was started as a diocesan mission in 1956. The Rt. Rev. Don Johnson was celebrant and preacher. Children at the service joined the Bishop at the closing and tried on his miter and vestments. Following worship, parishioners and other attendees enjoyed a reception in the parish hall, toured the parish buildings, and viewed displays of historical documents and memorabilia from the past 50 years. Several of those attending had been members of the congregations for more than 40 years. A time capsule, laid in the cornerstone of the original structure on June 23, 1957 by Bishop Barth, was opened by Father Eppes during the reception. It contained a 1928 Book of Common Prayer and a Bible, both inscribed with the date and occasion and signed by Bishop Barth.

On the evening prior to the Festal Eucharist, the Germantown Symphony performed a free concert on the church grounds at Quince and White Station Roads. The concert, worship service and reception culminated a series of monthly events to celebrate the anniversary. These events were open to the community and included a blue grass festival, New Orleans Jazz Night, Mockingbird Ensemble, Celtic Celebration with sheepherding and Haggis, crafts fair and events for children. A cookbook commemorating the anniversary and featuring recipes from All Saints' parishioners was also published.



Serving the congregation since the diocese was founded in 1982 were The Rev. Robertson Eppes, Jr., the first rector of the congregation who retired in September 1983; The Rev. Richard C. Maddock, Jr., May 1985 – December 1985; the Rev. Carl T. Cannon, November 1987 – April 1996; and the Rev. Stuart B. Smith, May 1997 – May 2006. The Rev. Joe Gohn served the congregation as interim rector from November 2006 until June 2007. In June 2007, Bishop Johnson appointed the Rev. Don Smith, a recent graduate of Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas, as Vicar of All Saints'.

Church of the Annunciation Cordova

Thirteen people attended a meeting called by Bishop Alex Dickson on October 13, 1987. After holding its first service on January 10, 1988 with about 42 people (about 12 families) present, the group was named the Church of the Annunciation and admitted as a mission in The Diocese of West Tennessee on October 14, 1988.

The first services were held in the auditorium of the Cordova Community Center, where there was no heat. In the winter, the mission borrowed a kerosene heater from a ballet class that met in the adjacent space. Subsequently, the mission agreed to a three-year lease of a larger space at the center. In exchange for using the space, the church renovated it, ultimately benefiting the entire community of Cordova.

With tremendous growth, the church acquired its present site at 8282 Macon Road and constructed the present church. Designed to eventually become the parish hall, the current facility has a vibrant worship space, a nursery, a youth room, Christian education rooms, a meeting/conference room and a kitchen, complete with patio and deck.

In 2003, the church experienced conflict, disappointment and sadness when it was divided by the defection of some members and its priest. It proved to be a year of profound faith and transformation for the parish. Today, these parishioners realize the depth of their faith and celebrate their new leadership and a shared vision for the future of their church family. Losing parishioners was a difficult experience, yet church members discovered that when they each contributed their gifts and talents to support their church, the collective result was powerful and served as a catalyst of inspiration and hope for the future. They developed deeper relationships that nourish their faith, which they realized more clearly under the leadership of the Rev. Bill Kelly, interim rector in the first half of 2004.

In July of 2004, Bishop Don E. Johnson, appointed the Rev. John P. Leach as Bishop's Vicar, responsible for the care and guidance of the parish. The Vestry called The Rev. Leach as Rector in December 2005. The church has seen growth in terms of programs and opportunities for spiritual formation, outreach and pastoral care, and new families joining the congregation. Dot Alexander, a church member for 10 years, says, "I feel the people of our church truly try to serve God and genuinely care for each other."

With that spirit of faithfulness always in mind, the



Church of the Annunciation seeks to be a faithful witness to God's love in this community and in the world. The term "annunciation" recalls the angel Gabriel's announcement that Mary was to give birth to Jesus (Luke 1: 26-35). Thus, proclaiming the good news of God in Christ in this often chaotic world is fundamental to the life of this church.

Since 2004, Annunciation has welcomed nearly 50 families and individuals as members of the parish. As a result, new programs and ministries have grown while welcoming hospitality has remained a real tradition. Today, Annunciation has Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children, an active youth program, a reestablished ECW, an enthusiastic Men's Group, ongoing outreach with Emmanuel Center, and an adopted school in Kate Bond Elementary.

Calvary Church Memphis

Calvary Episcopal Church, founded in 1832, celebrated its 150th Anniversary in 1982 under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Douglass M. Bailey. Calvary's outreach was through the Street Ministry, the Samaritan Counseling Centers, the Calvary & the Arts concert series and the well-known Lenten Noonday Preaching Series.

In 1992, a two-story Education Wing was added to Calvary's Parish House. This addition provided much needed space for children's classes, a beautiful two-story atrium with a sky light, a new rehearsal space for the choirs and new adult classroom and meeting areas. The renovation also created the space to open Calvary Place Childcare Center. In 1998, Calvary launched the first version of its website and its partner ministry, explorefaith.org. Calvary's website, www.calvarymemphis.org, got a facelift and new domain name in 2007.

In January 2002, the Rev. Robert R. Hansel was called as Interim Rector. During his tenure, the congregation began a Cycle of Prayer that celebrates the lives and ministries of all of its members. They implemented a Commission System, organizing the parish's ministries into groups and empowering lay leaders, and developed a network of teams offering parishioners opportunities to both give and receive pastoral care. Welcome Classes and Zip Code Parties provided people more opportunities to get to know Calvary and one another. Phase I of Calvary's historic Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ renovation was completed in 2002.

In preparation for the rector search that brought the Rev. Dr. Andrew MacBeth, Calvary's 20th Rector, to Memphis in 2003, the people of Calvary identified five core values that reflect Calvary's mission and ministries. These core values of Forgiveness, Action, Inquiry, Togetherness, and Hallelujah, form the acrostic FAITH.

After hosting the Magnetic Church conference in 2004, parishioners were inspired to reinvigorate their evangelism efforts. Recognizing that it is often hard for young adults without children to find a place in the Church, Calvary established a vibrant ministry. Working towards a goal set by the Vestry, over 50 adults are now serving as mentors, teachers or EYC leaders, making Calvary a parish of youth ministers.

In the summer of 2007, Calvary worked with other Downtown Churches to open the Hospitality HUB, a ministry to the homeless. In an effort to feed the hungry both spiritually and physically throughout the year, Calvary vol-



unteers cook and serve breakfast to more than 100 homeless each week, and a member of the clergy leads them in prayer. Once a month, on Soup Sunday, a dedicated group of parishioners cooks and sells soup, proceeds of which support the Community Breakfast and other hunger ministries. Now nearing its 83rd year, the Lenten Noonday Preaching Series continues to bring a broad range of preachers from varying denominations to Memphis. The Waffle Shop's service of hospitality and dedication to outreach also remain a mainstay at Calvary.

For over 20 years, Calvary has celebrated Palm Sunday by processing to City Hall and offering prayers for the City, and in recent years, many other downtown churches have joined. An annual tradition since 1989, the ecumenical HIV/AIDS Healing Service brings together clergy and parishioners from numerous denominations in support of those affected by HIV/AIDS. Calvary also hosts Integrity Memphis, the diocesan chapter of Integrity USA.

The lay leadership, clergy and staff serving in Calvary's Ministry Groups continue to support and develop ministries that fulfill Calvary's calling of "Making God's Love Visible in Downtown Memphis."

Christ Church Brownsville

Christ Church, on North Washington Avenue in Brownsville, is a beautiful and historic church. The people who worship at Christ Church were proud to celebrate the church's 175th Anniversary on August 25, 2007. A Celebration Eucharist, with Bishop Johnson as Celebrant, was held with a reception afterwards.

Zion Church, the first name of The Episcopal Church in Brownsville, was organized in West Tennessee on August 25, 1832. There were five communicants who worshipped in an upper room of the Courthouse, which had been "comfortably fitted for the purpose." The first rector of Zion Church was the Rev. John Chilton. Chilton lived several miles outside of the city, where he also helped establish a small chapel, cemetery and St. Gregory's School. Other Episcopal Churches established in West Tennessee in 1832 include Calvary Church in Memphis, Immanuel Church in LaGrange and St. Luke's in Jackson.

The present structure, located at 140 North Washington Avenue, was designed and built around 1846. The church building itself has been described as Gothic Revival. On the interior there is a chased tin ceiling. The St. Augustine Window was added sometime during 1892 – 1893. The altar was built of native black walnut with a design representing the Burning Bush. The angels serving as false supports were added in the late 1800s and soon after were gilded, giving the impression of being surrounded "by so great a cloud of witnesses." The Parish Hall was added in 1969.

In 1898, it was decided, after a growing number of churches in Brownsville took the name "Zion," to change the name of the Episcopal parish to Christ Church. Many devout clergy have served Christ Episcopal over the last 175 years. The parishioners wish to extend their sincere and heartfelt "God's Blessings" to all the clergy who have served and who continue to serve us with God's presence – "Peace and blessings from our Lord, Jesus Christ."

Christ Episcopal Church has offered, and will continue to offer as we are able: Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Holy Eucharist, Christian Education opportunities, Holy Matrimony, Baptism, Confirmation, Services of Healing, Stations of the Cross and Midnight Mass of Christmas (which was begun by Fr. Charles Woodward in 1941), just to name a few.

According to Katherine Horn, the Mission Council Clerk, "I started attending Christ Episcopal during the summer of 1995 after my husband and I moved next door. One of the



first extraordinary services that I attended was the Christmas Eve Mass that year. The church was packed; standing room only. The service was inspiring and moving. The Rev. Don Brooks' sermon was a part of his 'Manger' series (from the point of view of one of the people or animals present during the most holy of nights). The music was heavenly, and the light from all of the candles lit during 'Silent Night' was just ethereal. I realized that night that Christ Episcopal Church had become my home, and that I wanted to become more involved in the life of this congregation."

The Church of The Good Shepherd Memphis

Good Shepherd was founded in 1865 in The Diocese of Tennessee as a mission church in the Chelsea Community of Memphis. The congregation celebrated its 100th year of Christian service on April 10, 1965.

The church was instrumental in funding the Refuge of the Good Shepherd near Gayoso Bayou in downtown Memphis. The refuge was established to serve immigrants coming to Memphis. Good Shepherd also founded Canfield Orphan Asylum for young abandoned children, which later became Boys Home. In 1869, Good Shepherd started a day school with 32 students. The church also began a project to establish an associate mission eight miles east of Memphis.

Good Shepherd continued as a Parish in The Diocese of Tennessee until the new Diocese of West Tennessee was established. The church was very active in securing the first Bishop of West Tennessee, the Rt. Rev. Alex Dickson. The Second Bishop of West Tennessee, The Rt. Rev. James Coleman, grew up in the Parish. Good Shepherd continued these 25 years as a worshipping congregation maintaining the faith in the one Holy Catholic Church.

A parish of the Anglican Tradition for many years and loyal church of The Diocese of West Tennessee, the congregation continues with all the signs and symbols – both physical and spiritual in nature – available from tradition.



Grace Church Paris

Grace Church in Paris was founded in 1894 by three women, Mrs. F. A. Upchurch, Mrs. J. N. Thomason and Mrs. Tomas P. White. According to church records they felt “deprived and at a loss without their church, [and] decided that, if humanly possible and with God’s help, the Cross of Christ would be lifted over an Episcopal Church in Paris.” Tennessee Bishop Charles Todd Quintard appointed the women Trustees in 1895. They “wrote hundreds of letters, asking for subscriptions, held suppers, bazaars, benefits, etc., being very grateful to the ladies of other denominations for their assistance” in an effort to raise money for the building.

The Historic Grace Church building was completed in 1904 with funds from financier J. P. Morgan for the roof, thanks to the founding mothers’ fundraising efforts. Grace Episcopal Church was consecrated on November 12, 1904, by Bishop Thomas Gailor. In 1980, the former Capital Theater, next to the church, was purchased, renovated, named Ketchum Hall for Nelle Ketchum and made the parish hall for Grace Church.

The stained-glass windows in the church are Tiffany-designed. The large window over the Altar depicts the



second coming of Jesus Christ. It was built at the Tiffany plant in Versailles, France. Each piece was separately wrapped in straw and placed in wooden kegs for shipment to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. From there it was taken by horse-drawn wagon to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where it was constructed in its present form.

There are two Rose windows at the West End of the vestibule. The individual glass pieces for these windows were gathered from the great cathedrals of Europe that were destroyed during the first and second World Wars. Some of the glass dates from the 15th century. The windows were installed in 1966.

In 1999, a restoration of the facilities was completed, restoring the historic church to its original beauty. Ketchum Hall now includes administrative offices, nursery facilities and classrooms. Founder’s Hall, the original parish hall, became a large meeting room with a kitchen. An enclosed memorial garden with a Columbarium separates the church from Ketchum Hall. Located only half of a block from the town square, Historic Grace Church is the oldest church building in Henry County, Tennessee. Grace Episcopal Church achieved parish status in 1973.



Grace-St. Luke's Church Memphis

Grace-St. Luke's celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1990. Located in the heart of Midtown Memphis, GSL began its second 50 years with significant energy.

The Rev. Charles M. Riddle, Rector from 1986 to 1991, directed the parish through "A Quest for Excellence" capital campaign for Grace-St. Luke's Church and Grace-St. Luke's School. The successful campaign resulted in the construction of a three-story building for joint church and school use and renovations and improvements to the church nave and chancel.

The parish's growth continued under the leadership of the Rev. G. David Fikes, who served as Rector from 1992 to 2000. The Canterbury Festival, a major event involving the entire parish and school community, came into being. Combining hard work and lots of fun, the event served to educate parishioners and the wider community about Anglican history, liturgy and customs. The corner of Peabody and Belvedere was transformed into an English village, complete with costumed villagers and entertainers. Outreach to the community was another component as the festival raised significant funds which were given to a different Memphis charity each year.

Grace-St. Luke's is known for its beautiful stained glass windows, including seven Louis Comfort Tiffany windows. The largest, the Gage Ascension Window, became the parish calling card and was incorporated into the parish logo. In the fall of 1999, the parish undertook the restoration of its entire stained glass window collection. In addition to the Tiffany collection, work on 34 other windows began. Plans were made for a new organ from the Schantz Organ Company, which was installed in 2001.

The Rev. John H. Moloney became Rector in June 2001. The parish profile used by the search committee seeking GSL's eighth rector stated, "We are seeking a rector who 'tends the flock' in an energetic and diverse parish."

"To know Christ and to make Christ known" was adopted as the mission statement in 2003 to serve as the parish's compass. A focus on spirituality shows through Matins and Mass and Evening Prayer five days a week, annual Men's and Women's Retreats each spring, and the observation of season Quiet Days. The Insights Committee brings in nationally-known speakers annually. Outreach remains a priority for this congregation. A MIFA Food Pantry, More Than a Meal and Haiti Connection head the long list of outreach projects. Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School, with



Tom Beazley as Headmaster, continues to be the parish's largest outreach ministry. The church-school relationship has been positive, creative, and mutually enriching. A recent 99-year agreement clearly defines the church/school relationship for the years to come. Fellowship events that draw the community of faith closer together include Fifth Sunday Celebrations, Gumbo Cookoffs, outdoor concerts and, new in 2006, Art and Soul Festival. The parish family has warmly embraced a Sudanese refugee family and, in partnership with Saint John's Episcopal Church, a Kenyan priest enrolled in Memphis Theological Seminary and his family. The future is bright as property has been purchased on Peabody Avenue and LeMaster Street in anticipation of growth. The church has resolved to be a community embracing anyone whom God sends.

Church of the Holy Apostles Collierville

Biblical accounts of exile, wilderness wanderings and restoration resonate powerfully with members of the Church of the Holy Apostles. Twenty-five years ago, when The Diocese of West Tennessee was created, Holy Apostles was one of its newest congregations. Having begun in 1967 as a mission of the Church of the Holy Communion, it reached parish status in 1981.

Located at the corner of Knight-Arnold and Hickory Hill Roads throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, Holy Apostles was a rapidly growing congregation with a full program of worship, education and outreach ministries. In 1986, continued growth led to construction of a new nave and additional classroom space. In September 1986, Holy Apostles Day School opened, offering pre-school and kindergarten classes. Chapters of Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Boy Scouts met in the building, and the church developed a ministry to firemen, providing Sunday morning study and worship at the local fire station.

In the mid 1990s, the parish began a steady decline as the demographics of the neighborhood changed, and internal disputes arose within the congregation. In spite of efforts to attract and minister to the changing community, membership continued to shrink.

By 1998, Holy Apostles reverted to mission status and needed financial assistance from the Diocese. In 2001, a decision was made to sell the church property and temporarily meet in the fellowship hall of a nearby Presbyterian church. During this time, attendance fell to only 25 to 35 per Sunday, but this small remnant of a congregation was not ready to consider disbanding. With the help of Bishop Johnson and other Diocesan personnel, they explored options for relocation or merging with another congregation.

2003 was a year of great new beginnings for Holy Apostles. With the guidance of the bishop, a young, enthusiastic new vicar, the Rev. Barkley Thompson, came to lead the parish, and arrangements were finalized to meet in the chapel of St. George's High School in north Collierville. Services at the new location began in June, and almost immediately there was steady, rapid growth. New members caught the spirit of faith, commitment, and community that has always been a part of Holy Apostles, and within three years the church returned to parish status.

The Rev. Jennie Cooper came to the church as Associate to the Rector in mid-2006. In December 2006, the parish moved to its new campus on Wolf River Parkway,



into a facility with a parish hall, educational and office space and a worship space that will seat approximately 300. Plans are already under way for expansion of that building to meet the increasing needs of the congregation.

Holy Apostles has many opportunities for worship, education and ministry. In addition to two Sunday morning worship services, the parish offers a Bluegrass Mass on Sunday evenings. Sunday School, EYC, weekday Bible Study, Book Club, EfM and the men's and women's groups are occasions for study and fellowship. Outreach activities include participation in More Than a Meal, Operation Backpack, mission trips to the Gulf Coast and Mexico, twice monthly services at the Page-Robinson Adult Day Care Center and an annual charity auction, which this year raised more than \$25,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Lord has led Holy Apostles out of its wilderness and into an exciting ministry in a new location. Thanks be to God!

Emmanuel Church Memphis

Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Memphis was organized in the home of Thomas Williamson in 1873. Six other men were organizers of the church: The Rt. Rev. Charles T. Quintard (then Bishop of Tennessee), Vernon Chalmers, W.B. Miller, Isaiah Pickett, John Pollard and Robert R. Church, Sr. Calvary Church in downtown Memphis supported the church in its early years and was the location for the first confirmation class in 1875.

In the early 1900s, the congregation was worshipping in its new building on St. Paul Avenue under the leadership of the Rev. Thomas Demby. During this period, Emmanuel grew to become one of the largest African-American missions in the Diocese. Demby left the church in 1914 to become the first African-American Bishop of The Episcopal Church.

The church continued to grow in the coming years, eventually adding a community kindergarten program and becoming a diocesan-selected demonstration site for a religious education program. In 1954, the Memphis Housing Authority purchased land surrounding Emmanuel Church for the construction of new, low-income homes. As the neighborhood went through transition, Emmanuel considered the idea of relocating the church, since the existing structure was outdated. After much deliberation, plans were made for a new church building on the site of the existing structure on St. Paul. The congregation believed that remaining in the neighborhood would offer a great opportunity to spread the word of Christ among the new residents and greatly grow the church's membership.

In 1975, seven years before The Diocese of West Tennessee was founded, Emmanuel achieved Parish status. The Rev. Emery Washington was called as its rector in 1976 and served until 1985. Washington placed much emphasis on youth activities and provided the young people of Emmanuel with outstanding leadership opportunities as they became more involved in church-related programs on the local, state and national levels.

The Rev. Thomas E. Shepherd succeeded Washington in 1986. Shepherd instituted many changes in the church, including the re-positioning of the altar to become a free-standing structure, allowing for the priest to face the congregation. He also increased the number of people who served as lay readers.

In 1990, under Shepherd's leadership, Emmanuel Church moved from its home on St. Paul Avenue to its current location at 4150 Boeingshire Drive in the Whitehaven commu-



nity of Memphis. The St. Paul building has since been renovated and converted into the Emmanuel Episcopal Center, an outreach ministry that serves the low-income housing development that still surrounds the building.

Shepherd served Emmanuel until 1992, and the Rev. Carver Israel followed him in 1993. Israel served Emmanuel with honor until 1998, and was succeeded by the Rev. Ira J. Johnson in 1999.

Johnson left Emmanuel in 2004, the same year Emmanuel returned to Mission status in the face of declining membership. Bishop Don E. Johnson assigned the Rev. William H. Kelly to serve as Emmanuel's vicar in the summer of 2004. Since that time, members of Emmanuel have worked diligently to refocus the church's goals and mission so it will remain a viable member of Memphis' Episcopal – and Christian – community.

Church of the Holy Communion Memphis

Church of the Holy Communion celebrated its 50th anniversary of attaining parish status in 2001. Located in east Memphis, the church was originally an outreach mission of Calvary Church. The church's mission is to "strive to be disciples of Christ; who love God with heart, soul, mind and strength; and who love our neighbors as ourselves."

In the late 1930s, the city of Memphis was expanding to the east, and the Rev. Charles Blaisdell, rector of Calvary, noticed that it was getting difficult for families to bring their children downtown for Sunday School. On January 1, 1939, Charles Crump became Superintendent of Sunday School at the first service of Calvary's mission chapel at Poplar and Perkins. Eleven years later, the first service was held in the newly-built Church of the Holy Communion at its Perkins and Walnut Grove location, and the congregation has continued to flourish.

The Rev. Reynolds S. Cheney II became the church's third rector in 1981, the year before the founding of The Diocese of West Tennessee. He served the church for 20 years. The Rev. Gary Jones served as rector beginning in 2001. In 2006, the Rev. Mark Rutenbar became the parish's fifth rector.

In addition to ecumenical partnerships, Holy Communion has generously supported many community outreach initiatives through the Hunger Committee and the Schadt Fund grants. Programs receiving support include Emmanuel Episcopal Center, MIFA, Pennies for Hunger, Episcopal Counseling Center and the YWCA Wife Abuse Services. The church has supported Habitat for Humanity for many years by donating funds, building houses and designating profits from the first parish cookbook published in 2000 to benefit Habitat.

In 1989, ground was broken for a \$2.8 million building expansion that would include the Cheney Parish Hall, Quilling Chapel, an expanded nave and renovation of Greenwood Building.

Noted theologians, authors, scholars and musicians have come to Holy Communion through the church's Community Speakers Series and the Coffee House Concert performances. Speakers have included Harvard physician Michael Rich; authors Ann Lamott and Karen Armstrong; religious scholars Diana Eck, Barbara Rossing, Brian McLaren and Diana Butler Bass. The Coffee House Concert series has welcomed performers including Bruce Cockburn, Chris Smither, The Tennessee Boltsmokers and Diana Jones, and



Lucy Kaplansky.

Through the years, Holy Communion has furnished leadership for the diocese, the Fourth Province and the National Church. Lay and clergy have served the diocese as members of the Bishop and Council, Standing Committee and other commissions and ministries, as Chancellor of the Diocese, as examining Chaplains, and as presidents and other officers of The Episcopal Church Women and The Episcopal Churchmen.

Holy Trinity Church Memphis



With the advent of the newly formed Diocese of West Tennessee came many opportunities for Holy Trinity Church to continue “to share the faith, talent and resources given to us by God,” as expressed in its mission statement.

Over the past 25 years, this parish has had the satisfaction of improving the already beautiful setting in God’s house with the symbolic grapevine altar, the glorious new Noack organ, the lovingly crafted needlepoint altar kneelers and the votive candle prayer rack.

The congregation has been blessed by the diversified talents of the ministers who have led and inspired them through these 25 years. Each impacted the lives of the congregation, and their messages remain relevant. Many dedicated and hard-working lay people rose to assume their responsibilities of God’s calling to be His hands, feet and voice in a world rife with need. Holy Trinity’s outreach and community programs have attracted new members and included Ladies Luncheons, First Sunday Feasts, a new web site and almost \$9,000 in Pennies For Hunger collections since 1987.

The congregation was devastated after its historic rectory was consumed by fire on November 5, 2000, and with it, many memories. Followed by the experience, new hope arose, like a phoenix out of the ashes, in a new and beautiful

building re-named The Columns and dedicated to new purposes in the work for God’s Kingdom.

The 2001 Centennial Celebration, held August 11th and 12th, was perfect in every way. Former priests, members, and friends came in large numbers to remember, congratulate and wish for Holy Trinity Parish another 100 years of success doing God’s work.

Perhaps the church may proclaim as its apex its contribution to the formation of the St. George’s-Memphis School campus, made official on January 1, 2001. An anonymous donor gave \$6 million to establish an inner-city school. After scouting the city for eight months for a possible location, the final conclusion was that the Holy Trinity location was best for the school’s needs. After months of negotiations between church and school officials – and by a majority vote of the congregation with the consent of the Bishop and Council of The Diocese of West Tennessee – all rights, title and interest in the physical plant were transferred to the ownership and stewardship of St. George’s School-Memphis. As a portion of the agreement, the School will fully maintain the property and Holy Trinity’s congregation will continue in perpetuity to operate and hold services at this location. Indeed, God is good and God provides!

Immanuel Church LaGrange



Organized in 1832 by Mrs. Mary Hayes Willis Gloster, Immanuel Episcopal Church in LaGrange was the first Episcopal Church west of the Tennessee River and is considered the “Mother Church” of The Diocese of West Tennessee. Thanks to supply priests and lay leaders, especially from St. George’s Church in Germantown, Immanuel has continued to provide an Episcopal presence in the Fayette County area over the years.

In 2002, the congregation invited the Rev. Samson N. Gitau to serve as supply priest and vicar. Under the leadership of Gitau, Immanuel experienced remarkable growth. Membership, attendance and giving tripled. The church now celebrates the Holy Eucharist, complete with organ music, on the second and fourth Sundays each month and have two licensed worship leaders who conduct Morning Prayer on the remaining Sundays. Immanuel has a dedicated altar guild, an active Sunday School for children, an active elected Mission Council led by very able Senior and Junior Wardens, and devoted members of the congregation who

tend to grounds maintenance. Immanuel’s beautiful and unique church building was included in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and attracts young couples seeking a venue for weddings and baptisms. The parish offers classes for baptism and confirmation candidates as the congregation strives to fulfill its calling.

Every October, Immanuel hosts the Annual Harvest Eucharist, a festive day-long celebration that attracts more than 200 people from throughout the Diocese and traditionally is conducted by the Bishop. Other annual outreach activities include a “Lessons and Carols” Christmas service, a sunrise Easter service and a liturgy for the blessing of the animals. Immanuel’s future plans include the addition of a cemetery and columbarium on the church grounds.

The congregation is small but growing, and every member is an active participant. Mrs. Miriam Horne Northrop said, “Immanuel Church remembers the past, witnesses and ministers to the present and entrusts the future to God.”

Immanuel Church Ripley

Immanuel Episcopal Church in Ripley is a family, and every Sunday is a homecoming. As with all church congregations, Immanuel holds baptisms, confirmations and funerals. They also host engagement parties, ECW luncheons, and celebratory receptions. Every Sunday after services, the congregation shares a meal, which makes them feel very much like a church family. Guests are welcome at the weekly meal, where they are greeted verbally and visually with seasonal table decorations in the parish hall.

The annual Mardi Gras Pancake Supper is a festive, fun ECW fundraiser that attracts many non-Episcopalians from the community. The reception following the Christmas Eve service does not just take the place of a family celebration for those with no family members living close by; it is exactly a family event with food, gifts and cheer for all who attend. A professional musician from Nashville “comes home” every year to play for Immanuel’s Christmas services.

Special Sundays are certainly the day of the Bishop’s visit and Holy Days in the church calendar, but also days when former members return “home” for a visit. An East Tennessee mother chose Immanuel for the baptism of her family because, “it felt like home.”

Immanuel continues to face financial hardships similar to those of other small churches, but the congregation is spirited and perseveres. The oldest member, 94-year-old Lesta Scott, proposed the idea of a church cookbook in 1996. Since there were only eleven other members of the ECW at the time, the proposal was met with hesitation at first, but under the direction and leadership of Miss Lesta, “The Joy of Sharing” was published. All copies have been sold, and because of the cookbook’s success, the church is contemplating writing a second.

In the spring of 2007, Bishop Johnson confirmed three new members, including an African-American couple who chose Immanuel because of the love, warmth, and acceptance they had not experienced elsewhere. They say they feel “at home.” Another member reported, “Immanuel is the only church I would have attended ‘as is’ after being in the hospital for a week with my husband.”

The word “Immanuel” means “God is with us.” When we extend The Peace of the Lord, we feel like a close-knit family. For the past 25 years, the congregation at Immanuel has celebrated, learned and grown together.



Ravenscroft Chapel Brighton

Ravenscroft Chapel in Brighton began in 1827 in the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Alston, when her family came from North Carolina with a land grant to establish the western part of Tennessee. They built their “palatial home” and set aside a room therein as Ravenscroft Chapel, named for the Bishop of North Carolina. According to family records, the home was completed in 1829, and the family worshipped in Ravenscroft Chapel along with their slaves. Later, a small chapel was erected, and a cemetery was laid out for community use. The chapel was consecrated on October 23, 1836.

During the Civil War, all the furnishings were hidden and the Alstons burned the chapel to keep it from being desecrated by the Yankee Troops. After the war, they decided to move the church nearer to more people in the community and rebuilt it at its present location. That building burned in December of 1939. The current building was built in 1936 as a community house for the young people of the area.

In 1953, it was decided that the community house would be renovated and made into the church. Ravenscroft was a

mission of Calvary Church, Memphis, for some years in the early 1900s, but became Quintard Parish along with St. Matthews’ in Covington, Trinity in Mason and Immanuel in Ripley in the 1940s. In the 1950s, that Parish was dissolved, and Ravenscroft became a very small mission of the Diocese.

The congregation was very proud to have the Rev. Turner E. Williams as their very own priest from his consecration in September 1984 until his death on July 12, 2003. There was growth during his ministry, but there has been some membership decline since 2003.

The Rev. Sydney Carsten was then placed as the priest-in-charge. Ravenscroft has the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on the first and third Sundays each month. On the other Sundays, Ms. Brenda Scott is the pastoral leader for Morning Prayer Service.

The congregation believes their greatest accomplishment is that they are still worshipping and holding their own in a place where God wants them to be.



Church of the Redeemer Germantown

Located in the fastest growing part of Memphis and Shelby County, Church of the Redeemer was born from the need for a bible, prayer and worship-centered church. A Renewal Episcopal Church, Redeemer's emphasis is on spirit-filled worship, music, healing and prayer.

Late one night in 1990, a young man wrote a letter to the Bishop of West Tennessee, the Rt. Rev. Alex Dickson, telling of his desire for a new type of Episcopal Church in this area – one devoted to the Scriptures and open to the will of the Holy Spirit's use of gifts. On December 6, 1990, the Bishop invited all interested people to meet with him and discuss their desires. After the initial meeting, a group of seven families met with the Bishop on January 23, 1991, at Barth House on the campus of the University of Memphis, to pursue starting a renewal church. They decided that the group would begin worshiping regularly on Tuesday nights with the Bishop. After a few weeks, Bishop Dickson asked the Rev. Colenzo Hubbard, director and founder of Emmanuel Episcopal Center, to lead the worship and process of discerning the Lord's will. St. Theodore's Chapel at Barth House became the congregation's home.

At the Diocesan Convention of 1991, Redeemer was accepted as a mission. The Bishop appointed Hunt Campbell, Cooper Stanford, Charles Glover, and Anne Holmes as mission council. The council also functioned as the search committee. In December 1991, the Rev. Neal Michell accepted the call to become the church's first rector, and Redeemer was accepted as a self-supporting parish. Michell held the first service on January 12, 1992, at St. Theodore's Chapel. The church continued to grow rapidly and began seeking property on which to build. In 1993, The Diocese of West Tennessee gave Redeemer property at 3100 Houston Levee Road and broke ground for a building. The church was consecrated in March 1995.

Michell and his family returned to Texas in 1999 to pastor St. John's Episcopal in New Braunfels, Texas, and a search process started for a new rector. The Rev. Reid Hensarling became the second rector of Redeemer until 2002. In April 2004, Hubbard returned to Redeemer to serve as rector, while continuing his work at the Emmanuel Center.

Redeemer has always put a high value on Christian Education for all ages. In past years, the congregation has employed a full-time Christian Education director to oversee Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Junior and Senior High EYC. The Youth serve on the Junior Vestry,



participate in youth band and chorus and help with a puppet ministry for younger children.

Evangelism efforts have included the Alpha series of classes and special outside speakers such as John Stone Jenkins, John Guest and Mark Peterson. Redeemer continues to support the ministry at Emmanuel Episcopal Center. The congregation also contributed to the support of a missionary in South Africa, whose work includes ministry to the poor and homeless in urban areas and outreach to the poor African homelands in rural areas.

Because Redeemer is a Renewal Episcopal Church with an emphasis on Spirit-filled life and worship, special emphasis is placed on prayer. The Daughters of the King chapter and the Order of St. Luke play a vital role in the prayer life of the church. Especially powerful is prayer offered during Communion time by the Order of St. Luke. These prayer counselors are often joined by members of the congregation, coming forward to pray for needs of every kind. The Prayers of the People also often become a time of corporate prayer as the Spirit moves.

At Church of the Redeemer, the congregation's purpose is to love God, make disciples and equip the saints for the work of ministry.

St. Andrew's Church Collierville



Saint Andrew's Church, Collierville, celebrated its Centennial in 1990. The highlight was the removal of a time capsule that had been placed in the cornerstone on April 22, 1890. The capsule revealed few secrets. A chemical reaction between acidic ink, the lead box and moisture trapped in the sealed container had deteriorated all of the papers found inside. They were able to recover an 1890 Indian Head penny and a medallion from the confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. The penny and medallion were placed in a new box along with a recent history and genealogy of church families for future generations to find. The year also provided many opportunities to share stories from the past.

In 1987, a parish hall and classroom building was added to the south side of the church, creating a lovely courtyard between the sanctuary and new building. The new parish hall included a stained glass window designed by fellow Episcopalian and Collierville artist, Pamela Hassler.

Growth in ministry during the past 25 years is the church's proudest achievement. New ministries include a chapter of the Daughters of the King and a Junior Daughters of the King, Stephen Ministers, the Order of St. Luke Healing Ministry and three separate ongoing Bible Studies. Parishioners and guests participate in annual events that raise money to support local and international missionary and outreach efforts. The Men's Club's Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouser, the ECW's Valentine Luncheon and Fair on the Square Snack Stand, and the annual Garden Party and Fish Fry raise thousands of dollars every year.

As more and more school children tour the historic building each year, they discover, along with the rest of Collierville, that Saint Andrew's is more than a beautiful church. Saint Andrew's is a fellowship of Christians, ready to serve God in our community.

St. Anne's Church Millington

St. Anne's Church in Millington was admitted to The Diocese of Tennessee as a mission in 1897, the same year the original church was constructed. While membership dwindled during the early years of the 20th Century, the church began to grow during the 1950s, and a ministry was established at the Naval Air Station at Millington. With more than 14,000 military personnel and family members in the Millington area, the need for a church in North Shelby County was clear. Over the years, both the Millington and Memphis city limits have expanded toward the church so that St. Anne's current location is about one-half mile outside of Millington and eight miles from Memphis.

In 1981, The Rev. H. King Oehming, who guided St. Anne's to full parish status in 1979, left to join the Cathedral Staff in The Diocese of Mississippi. The Rev. Ralph Smith was called to be priest. During Smith's four-year tenure, stained glass windows were installed and plans for expansion were started.

St. Anne's was without a rector during most of 1985, until the Rev. Clifford McWhorter arrived that November. Under McWhorter's leadership, St. Anne's became involved in service to the community, including the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA), Meals on Wheels, Scout Troops, Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Alateen. McWhorter retired on October 1, 1991.

The Rev. Stennis Watson served as interim rector from October 1991 until the Rev. Cope Mitchell was installed as rector in October 1992. During this period, St. Anne's proceeded with plans for a building addition and renovation in the summer of 1992.

The Lillie wing was dedicated on August 22, 1993, to the Glory of God and in loving memory of benefactor Jan Lillie. The new wing, which includes several classrooms, was put to use immediately and has been a real boon to the Christian Education program and choir. There were no longer sufficient funds for a full-time priest by 1996, and Mitchell shifted to part-time. He left St. Anne's for another church in October of that year.

The Rev. Martin Field served as interim rector from October 1996 through December 1997. Field and St. Anne's were well-suited: he was a Navy chaplain who had just been released from active duty and accepted a part-time position at the parish. His readjustment to a civilian congregation was rapid. St. Anne's centennial year, 1997, was memorable and bolstered by Field's leadership. The centennial year



featured three major events: a Spring Tea at Rembert Place with period costumes, a Summer Homecoming weekend at St. Anne's and a Fall brush arbor Holy Eucharist celebration with Bishop Coleman as celebrant on the approximate site of the first meeting 100 years before. Field left St. Anne's at the end of 1997 for a full-time position as associate rector at St. Luke's in Jackson, Tennessee.

The Rev. John Sterling, a retired priest, served as interim rector from January 1998 through September 1999. Sterling, an optimistic and cheerful person, served the congregation well. With his leadership and reassurance, they remained committed to continuing St. Anne's ministry.

The Rev Syd Carsten served admirably as part-time interim from September 1999 to July 2001. In July, Chas Williams joined St. Anne's as full-time Deacon-in-Training under Carsten's supervision. Bishop Don E. Johnson ordained Williams to the priesthood on June 15, 2002. On June 30, the Bishop installed Williams as the first full-time rector of St. Anne's since 1996. His tenure at St. Anne's saw growth in the church and vitality in youth ministry.

Membership declined and Williams left St. Anne's after the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in 2003. The Rev. Jamie Cubine became Interim Rector under special circumstances on December 1, 2004. On January 24, 2006, Bishop Johnson installed Cubine as permanent rector. Since that time, he and the congregation have focused on reversing the decline in membership, restoring vitality and serving the Diocese and those in need.

St. Elisabeth's Church Bartlett

In 1983, St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church, Raleigh's "church on the hill," was one of the youngest in the Diocese. St. Elisabeth's was formed as a mission on July 3, 1960, by Bishop Barth, and Bishop Vander Horst dedicated the church as a parish on October 4, 1962. By 1983, the parish was flourishing in suburban Raleigh.

The Rev. Orion Davis became the rector of St. Elisabeth's in 1982 and membership continued to grow. Davis was renowned for his "storytelling" style of preaching, and churchgoers of all ages enjoyed his sermons. Several additions to the parish campus marked his tenure, including a new chapel attached to the nave and a significant expansion of the education building.

With many tears, Davis left St. Elisabeth's in 1989, and in 1991, the Rev. Sherod Mallow arrived from Alabama to tend the St. Elisabeth's flock. In addition to a significantly different preaching style, one of Mallow's many gifts was a strong commitment to growing the size of the parish. During his time at St. Elisabeth's, the parish dedicated a new bell tower in memory of longtime parishioner Olive Black. This unique steel structure would become one of the hallmarks of the parish. A refurbishing of St. Elisabeth's parish house also took place during this time.

By the time Mallow announced his decision to leave St. Elisabeth's in 1996, the character of the neighborhood around the church had begun to change. These changes would later prompt one of the most heart wrenching and difficult decisions in the life of the parish.

The Rev. René Somodevilla accepted St. Elisabeth's call to become their rector in 1997 and quickly won the hearts of the congregation. However, it was now painfully apparent that parishioners had to decide whether their church should stay in Raleigh or move to a new location. A detailed survey showed that more than 80 percent of parish members lived east of Raleigh in Bartlett, or well beyond, and although a vast majority of parishioners had lived nearly within walking distance of the church when it was built, almost no one did by the late 1990s. Further, most families in the neighborhoods around the church came from worship traditions significantly different from The Episcopal Church and were not likely to feel comfortable with the Episcopal style of worship.

After much discussion and agonizing soul-searching, the parish voted to sell their beloved church on the hill and relocate to the Bartlett area. This did not mean that the parish ceased being a vibrant part of the Raleigh community while



they were there. During the time before the building sold, St. Elisabeth's allowed Living Word Lutheran Church and Jesus the Soon Coming King Outreach Ministries to share their campus and facilities. Additionally, St. Elisabeth's became debt free in 2000, following a capital funds drive to retire their debt on previous construction projects.

With both joy and sadness, the parish bid Somodevilla farewell in 2004 when Bishop Johnson selected him to serve the Diocese as Canon to the Ordinary. Then, after several years on the market, the Raleigh building finally sold that May.

St. Elisabeth's moved into a small storefront on Elmore Park Road in Bartlett, with interim rectors the Rev. Karen Barfield and the Rev. Kathryn Ryan helping them along the way. Just after Easter 2007, the parish called The Rev. Bill Murray to serve as their rector.

The parish has purchased a large parcel of land adjacent to St. Columba Conference Center and looks forward to beginning construction on a new church building. The membership remains strong during this challenging time of growth and outreach to the families in their new hometown, as they strive to live out their vision, "A Community Of Faith Seeking To Serve As Christ In Word And Action."

St. George's Church Germantown

In April 1981, almost 50 years after St. George's began as a mission, the original church building was moved from its former location to "St. George's Hill," where the new church was located on Poplar Avenue. The cornerstone for its use as a chapel was laid April 1982, and in June 1983, it was the first parish consecrated by Bishop Alex Dickson in the newly formed Diocese of West Tennessee. In the ensuing years, numerous structures were added to the grounds of St. George's Church and St. George's Independent School, including the bell tower, labyrinth and columbarium and gardens for the church. Classrooms and a library were added to the school.

Clergy who served the parish over the last 25 years include the Reverends C. Allen Cooke (1971-1986), Peter Hawes (1986- 2001), Susan Crawford (1993-2005) and Don White, (2002-2004). During the transition year of 2004, Diocesan priests the Reverends Bob Hansel, Lewis McKee, George Klee and Canon Reynolds Cheney provided services until Bishop Johnson installed the Rev. Gary Sturni as transitional rector in late 2004 and as permanent rector in 2006.

On June 16, 2004, occasioned by a painful decision for the school and the church to go their separate ways, the land and buildings owned by the church were sold to St. George's Independent Schools. In his "State of the Parish Report" in January 2005, Sturni acknowledged that during the past year the Parish had experienced the loss of the church, loss of parishioners, loss of priests, loss of money, and loss of a school. He outlined a five-part commitment with the congregation for coming to terms with their history, discovering a

new identity, managing leadership shifts, renewing denomination linkages and making a commitment to a new future.

In May 2005, the church bought property at the corner of McVay and Germantown Road South in the center of historic "Old Germantown." Groundbreaking for the new church was in April 2006, and construction began in October. Close to 100 parishioners were involved in some way in this building process through one of many committees. The new facility is designed to host all of the congregational and community outreach services for which St. George's has traditionally been known. The new building was consecrated on December 1, 2007.

This is a time of growth and renewal for St. George's parish. The church welcomed over 50 new members in 2007 year and at least 30 of those were new families. St. George's is growing, and its demographics as a parish are moving toward increasing numbers of young to middle-age families lost during the transition. Parishioner involvement in the work of the parish is at an all-time high. More than half of the adult membership is involved in day-to-day work involving Fellowship, Christian Education, Ministry, Construction, Stewardship, Building Completion Fund, Antiques Arcade and more.

The future looks bright for St. George's as the parish returns to its roots in Old Germantown. The steering committee has helped plan a facility which is architecturally awesome, functionally sound and responsive to the needs of the congregation. As the structure rises, so does the enthusiasm of the members and the community for this new start for an old parish.



St. James' Church Bolivar

The past 25 years have brought about many changes for the mission of St. James' Church, Bolivar. Over the years, the congregation has lost many valuable and supportive members, but also has gained many new members who are deeply involved in the mission's activities and work.

The late Miss Elizabeth Ingram purchased the lots next to the church and generously donated them to St. James'. Part of the property has become a memorial garden. There was also a successful capital fund drive to purchase the McAnulty home next to the church. The home is now used for church offices and as a residence for the vicar. The old vicarage was sold and the proceeds were invested. The Rev. Edgar E. Ince, who was ordained to the priesthood at St. James', serves as Vicar.

St. James' is proud to participate in many community activities. For many years, the Carl Perkins Center for Child Abuse was housed in the church's educational building, until they outgrew it and obtained a building of their own. Al-Anon and Weight Watchers meet weekly in the Parish

Building as well.

During Holy Week, the church participates in the noon-day community service at First Methodist Church. On the first Sunday of Advent, parishioners join with the First Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches for a service that begins at St. James' and ends at First Methodist.

Each month, parishioners collect food, staple items and funds for Loaves and Fishes, which serves the needy in the area. Several times a year, the ECW holds events for the Foster Children and their parents, including an Easter Egg Hunt and a cookout. In the Spring APTA Tour of Homes, St. James' is usually included as a tour site.

St. James' still maintains a close link with its members through the newsletter. Each month, a potluck supper is held at a member's home. It is always a time of wonderful food and warm fellowship. The church's numbers are small, but they still look forward to many productive years of service and worship at St. James'.



St. James' Church Union City

St. James Church, Union City, was built in 1905 on land that was donated by Dr. and Mrs. W.M. Turner. Since the establishment of The Diocese of West Tennessee, the church has had three rectors and one interim rector. The church family is small, but the congregation has managed to keep doing God's work in their little vineyard.

During the past 25 years, the church purchased a house next door to use for outreach, mainly to 12-step programs. A member willed his home to the church, and it became the rectory. In 2005, on the church's patronal feast day, the congregation celebrated their centennial with a lovely service and reception. Bishop Don Johnson was celebrant and also blessed the newly completed Memory Garden. During the centennial year, the church offered gifts to the community in the form of musical events that were well-attended and appreciated. Services are Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings under the leadership of the Rev. Don Brooks, and special services as the Church calendar suggests. The church also offers workshops periodically.



Saint John's Church Memphis

Saint John's started as a mission church in the Buntyn area of Memphis in the 1870s. The congregation petitioned for parish status in 1928 and called the Rev. Alfred Loaring-Clark as Saint John's first rector. The little church building at Semmes Street and Spottswood Avenue accommodated the small congregation, but the new parish grew rapidly, and soon the church was "straining at the seams" with increasing attendance.

Plans for a new church building were announced at the parish meeting in January of 1942. Historic Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, Virginia, served as an inspiration for the Georgian architecture of the building's design. The cornerstone of the new sanctuary was consecrated on January 30, 1949, and the new building was completed in time for Palm Sunday services on April 10. When Saint John's Church was consecrated that May 22, the senior warden presented the church building to The Diocese of Tennessee in the name of the congregation – a debt-free building worthy to be consecrated. It would be another two years before the interior of the church building was completed. John DeRosen painted the beautiful and distinctive murals.

By 1997, plans for the Parish Life Center began to coalesce. Saint John's mission for the Parish Life Center called for the facility not only to serve the parish, but also to be an outreach ministry in the Memphis community. Consecrated in late 1999, this beautiful and functional building enhances and complements the handsome complex and grounds of Saint John's.

In the Saint John's congregation, there are the very old and the very young; second, third and fourth generation Episcopalians; newcomers to the Episcopal tradition; lifelong Saint John's members and relative newcomers; affluent and average; city dwellers and suburbanites; two career families and stay-at-home moms; and to a much lesser extent, diverse racial and ethnic heritage. Traditionally, there has been accommodation for different theological perspectives – caring for and respecting the person despite disagreeing with their views.

The Rev. Alfred Loaring-Clark was rector of Saint John's for 24 years, until his sudden death in March of 1952, at the age of 51. Associate rector, the Rev. Wallace M. Pennepacker, was appointed by the vestry to serve as acting rector and later called to succeed Loaring-Clark as rector. "Penny," as he was affectionately known, was rector for 31



years, until his retirement in 1983. The Rev. Pennepacker died in late 2001.

In 1984 the Rev. Stewart Wood was called as the third rector of Saint John's and served until 1988 when he was elected Bishop Coadjutor of Michigan. The Rev. James M. Coleman succeeded Fr. Wood as the fourth rector of Saint John's. His tenure as rector from 1989-1993 was cut short by his election as Bishop Coadjutor of The Diocese of West Tennessee. In 1994, the Rev. L. Noland Pipes, Jr. was called to serve as fifth rector until his retirement on June 30, 2002. In July 2003, the Rev. John W. Sewell was called as the sixth rector of Saint John's.

Since 1953, 11 men have been ordained as deacons at Saint John's Church, later to be ordained as priests. Seven of these men "grew up" at St. John's, and four were active parishioners when they entered the discernment process. Another six men were ordained to the priesthood while serving at Saint John's, and three Saint John's laymen have been ordained to serve as vocational deacons.

St. Joseph's Chapel Memphis



St. Joseph's Chapel was rededicated on April 22, 2007, beginning a new chapter in the life of a church with more than 100 years of ministry at its southwest Memphis location. The Rev. Colenzo Hubbard, director of the Emmanuel Episcopal Center at the St. Joseph's site, was homilist at the rededication service.

The chapel has a long history in the community as an Episcopal Church serving the needs of the people. The original Emmanuel Church was consecrated in 1910 at the site at St. Paul Avenue and Cynthia Place. Serving the congregation as priest from 1907 until 1914 was the Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Demby, who became the first African-American Bishop of The Episcopal Church when he was appointed Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Arkansas. After many years of worship at the location, Emmanuel Church relocated to the Whitehaven neighborhood in Memphis, where they remain an active congregation.

The Episcopal Church Home trust bought the property for Emmanuel Center to develop its ministry in the neighborhood that was, by then, in the center of two large public housing complexes, Cleaborn and Foote Homes. The church was renamed St. Joseph's by the first Bishop of West Tennessee, the Rt. Rev. Alex Dickson, in 1992. The name was chosen because of the role the church played in caring

for the neighborhood's children who were without one or both of their parents. As Joseph cared for Jesus as his own son, St. Joseph's Church would care for the children as part of the Church's family. Hubbard and his wife, Debra, founded Emmanuel Center at the site in 1989, following many years of ministry in the neighborhood conducted by Youth Services under the direction of the Rev. Don Mowery. Following a brief partnership in recent years with St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Frayser, where Father Hubbard served as rector, the original worship space was restored and rededicated to the ministry of St. Joseph. The rededicated church will continue to be a part of the ministry of Emmanuel Center.

Four baptisms took place during the rededication service. Tiqua Steverson and her three children, Lillian, Woodrow and Eugene, were baptized. The family lives in Foote Homes. A single mother, Steverson told Hubbard that she wanted to turn her life over to God and set a good example for her children. "Although there are many Churches in the immediate community, we wanted to create a place of worship that welcomes and accepts all the individuals that God has called us to serve," Hubbard said. "We wanted to create a place where homeless people, community residents, youth, young adults and single mothers can come as they are to worship and come to know Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord."

St. Luke's Church Jackson

In 1832, Mrs. Mary Hayes Willis Gloster made an appeal to Bishop Otey for The Episcopal Church to be present in West Tennessee, and on July 23, 1832, a small group of persons "friendly" to the Episcopal faith met at the Masonic Hall to establish The Episcopal Church in Jackson. After worshipping in the Masonic Hall for 13 years, St. Luke's was erected in 1845. The building was enlarged and remodeled in 1883, with the addition of a vestibule and bell tower.

St. Luke's has persevered through times of strength and of difficulty – through the Civil War and reconstruction, the Great Depression, World War II and most recently, through a violent tornado, a congregational split and the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the parish. Through it all, St. Luke's has sought to bring the good news of God in Christ to the people of Jackson continuing to experience resurrection even in the face of difficulty.

When The Diocese of West Tennessee was founded in 1982, St. Luke's was in a time of transition. The long rectorate of the Rev. Paul Shields Walker began in 1969 had just ended. A new rector, the Rev. Alex Comfort, was called in 1983, and the congregation experienced growth. Comfort served only until 1986. From late 1986 to early 1988, the Rev. Peter McGill was rector. His time at St. Luke's was marked most especially by the major role he played in starting up the Community Soup Kitchen, which continues to this day as a ministry of the Regional Interfaith Association.

The Rev. Charles Filiatreau came to St. Luke's in 1990. During Filiatreau's tenure, the Parish Hall was greatly enlarged, the columbarium was built, the parking lot across from the church was added, and the United Way Building next door was purchased. Diocesan Convention was held at St. Luke's in both 1997 and 2003.

On May 4, 2003, St. Luke's Church was hit by a devastating tornado that tore the roof off the building and scattered bricks from the front. The St. Luke's community worked countless hours to salvage materials from the nave and clean up the parish hall to prepare it for ongoing church services until the nave was rebuilt.

In 2004, disgruntled with decisions made at General Convention in July of 2003, several parishioners left St. Luke's to create All Saints' Anglican Church in Jackson, under the supervision of the Anglican Church of Kenya. Roughly a third of the congregation left, an experience that many parishioners found horribly difficult. In May of 2004,

Filiatreau retired as rector of St. Luke's and from ministry in The Episcopal Church. Shortly thereafter, he became rector of All Saints' Anglican Church in Jackson.

In August of 2004, the Rev. Susan K. Crawford began her tenure as interim rector. Crawford was instrumental in the rebuilding of St. Luke's, both spiritually and physically. Under her direction and through hard work from many parishioners, St. Luke's began the work of recovery.

In the capable hands of Carter Hord of Hord Architects of Memphis, the historic St. Luke's church building was both re-envisioned and restored. The church was reconstructed from the foundation using materials from the original building, including much of the original brick. "[Hord] lived up to expectations, because it was generally agreed that he did an exquisite job of restoring the church, especially the interior," said Jude LeBlanc, an assistant professor of architecture at Georgia Tech University and principal with LeBlanc Crooks Architects. "The overall quality and authenticity of the reconstruction was such that it was a unique contribution to the state, in the sense that it was a pre-Civil War church that was brought back."

In September, of 2006, St. Luke's brand new nave was dedicated. Shortly thereafter, in November of 2006, the Rev. Sean Ferrell was called to be the 30th rector of St. Luke's.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Diocese of West Tennessee, St. Luke's enjoys great congregational health marked by excitement, enthusiasm and resurrection. St. Luke's is a historic parish that is proud of its roots and heritage and is excited about the community they are and are becoming.



St. Mary's Cathedral Memphis

As The Diocese of West Tennessee celebrates its 25th Anniversary Year, the Cathedral Church of St. Mary marks the 150th year since its founding as a mission in 1857. St. Mary's was officially consecrated by Bishop James Hervey Otey on Ascension Day, May 13, 1858, as a "house of prayer for all people." In 1871 Bishop Charles Todd Quintard designated St. Mary's as the Cathedral Church of The Diocese of Tennessee. Since the establishment of The Diocese of West Tennessee in 1982, St. Mary's has continued to serve as its Cathedral Church.

During its first decades, St. Mary's suffered from the disruption of the Civil War and the devastation of three yellow fever epidemics in 1867, 1873 and 1878. Through these calamities, the record of the ministry and courageous service of St. Mary's priests, sisters and lay members is an outstanding page in the history of the diocese.

In spite of the loss of four of their members, the Sisters of St. Mary continued their work at the Church Home Orphanage and also organized St. Mary's School for Girls adjacent to the Cathedral. Neither Memphis nor its churches recovered fully from the combined effects of the Civil War and the disastrous yellow fever epidemics until the 1890s.

Bishop Thomas Frank Gailor undertook the building of a new cathedral, and the cornerstone of the present gothic structure was laid in 1898. World War I and financial difficulties delayed completion of this magnificent structure until 1926.

As Memphis grew in the years following World War II, and the population moved father eastward, St. Mary's continued to minister to those in its community, which had become an increasingly poor neighborhood. This service has included programs such as SMART (St. Mary's Manassas Alabama Redevelopment Team) for neighborhood children, assistance to the public schools and after-school programs in the area and Habitat for Humanity homes in the Winchester Park Area. In recognition of this ministry, St. Mary's was designated a Jubilee Center.

In the racial tension following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Dean William Dimmick and other leaders of St. Mary's took a strong stand to bring healing and reconciliation to a badly divided city. The ecumenical efforts of St. Mary's and other churches led to the organization of MIFA (Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association) and the Hooks-Dimmick Day Care Center.

One of the oldest Episcopal cathedrals in the South,



St. Mary's is a repository of the trials and triumphs of each generation that has sought to serve God in this place. Today, the Cathedral finds itself with the challenges and opportunities of an urban church in an area on the brink of major redevelopment. Through the cooperative planning efforts of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Methodist LeBonheur Hospital Systems and The Regional Medical Center, a major redevelopment initiative has been undertaken to transform the decayed Winchester Park-Medical Area into a new and vibrant community.

St. Mary's, with a long history of service to its parishioners, its community and the city, has the opportunity to take an important part in the rebirth of its surrounding area. God willing, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the support of Bishop Don Johnson, the Cathedral will continue into the 21st century as a house of prayer and service for all people.

St. Mary's Church Dyersburg

Over the past 25 years, members of St. Mary's Church in Dyersburg have been involved in community leadership positions, the Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce, civic groups and have offered support for ecumenical services to the community, including the Dyersburg/Dyer County ministerial alliance.

Members of St. Mary's were instrumental in the founding of many community service agencies including: the United Way of Dyer County; the YMCA of Dyer County; Northwest Safe-line, an agency that helps people deal with the issues and realities of spousal abuse; Matthew 25:40, an agency that coordinates short-term relief for people in economic crisis; and Habitat for Humanity in Northwest Tennessee, which constructs homes for low-income families living in sub-standard housing. St. Mary's has also provided significant support for the Dyer County Literacy Program, the Dyer County Chapter of the American Red Cross, and Transitions, a ministry focused on assisting women attempting to make the transition from prison to civilian life. St. Mary's also took a leadership role in coordinating and providing disaster relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Several members of the church provided leadership in the construction of a 2.1-mile trail in a wilderness area in the county. Members of the church are also involved in the Mississippi River Corridor Project, a region-wide effort to improve awareness and access to the natural and historic resources in West Tennessee. The congregation annually contributes scholarship funds to Dyersburg State Community College and to any parishioner who is pursuing post-secondary education.

Members of St. Mary's volunteer in H.O.S.T.S., a mentoring program for children at Dyersburg Intermediate School and Dyersburg Primary School, and an annual portion of the parish budget is devoted to purchasing clothing and school supplies for needy children in Dyersburg and Dyer County schools. Through the rector's discretionary fund and contributions by individual members of the church, St. Mary's has regularly supported Hope House, a local center for mentally ill persons. The church collaborated with First United Methodist Church of Dyersburg to fund and found Canterbury Place, an assisted-living facility, and parishioners currently play active roles in managing the facility through board membership.

In 1994, St. Mary's purchased and renovated a retail building adjacent to the church's building to create the



Wheeler Outreach Center, which it provides rent-free as offices for the Northwest Safe-line, Matthew 25:40, Disaster Relief for Dyer Co. and, until recently, the Dyer County chapter of the Red Cross. Members of St. Mary's have historically been active in The Diocese of West Tennessee, serving on numerous boards and committees. Currently, St. Mary's has a lay member on the Bishop and Council and the Diocesan Finance Committee. The church loans the use of its buildings, without charge, to a variety of scouting activities, Alcoholics Anonymous and civic groups for meetings. Habitat for Humanity is housed rent free in St. Mary's old Rectory House.

In the 1980s, St. Mary's was the recipient of a generous endowment gift. The Vestry decided that the corpus of the money should not be invaded, and that the interest should be used for outreach and extraordinary operating expenses. Half of the gift (\$610,000) was made available through The Diocese of West Tennessee as a revolving loan fund for churches and diocesan agencies that either cannot mortgage property or cannot readily afford commercial loan rates.

In December 2007, St. Mary's called the Rev. Gary Meade to be its new rector.

St. Matthew's Church Covington

St. Matthew's Church in Covington was established as a mission in 1846, and the present church building was built in 1858. The congregation was part of Quintard Memorial Parish from 1945 until it became an independent parish in 1959. The parish house was built in 1948, and the Schantz organ was installed in 1949. The house adjacent to the parish house was purchased in 1961 and named All Saints' Hall in 1979. The parish hall and church were refurbished in 1990. Recent additions include a new rectory in 1981 and the lot west of All Saints' Hall in 1995.

Rectors of St. Matthew's since the formation of The Diocese of West Tennessee included the Rev. Mark Wilson; the Rev. Richard Wilson, 9 years; the Rev. Neal Platt, 5 years; and the Rev. Joseph Alford, 1 year. The Rev. Martin Field and the Rev. Joseph Gohn served as Interims.

Over the years, many memorials have been given to St. Matthew's, including memorial windows, Eucharistic vestments, sanctuary bells, palls, a gospel book, a remembrance book and stand, light fixtures, a music cabinet, music and history funds and an electric piano. Peter Fyfe, Richard Wilson, Linda Augustine, William Whitley McCall, Tim Sloan, and Ferd Fisher are some of the church's generous benefactors.

St. Matthew's parishioners have been active in many ministries over the past 25 years, including Episcopal Church Women, Men's Club, Daughters of the King, Baseball and basketball teams, Alcoholics Anonymous, Girl Scouts, church school and Altar Guild.

In service beyond the parish, Tim Sloan served two terms on Bishop and Council. The Rev. Mark Wilson, the Rev. Richard Wilson, the Rev. Neal Platt and the Rev. Joseph Alford each served one term on Bishop and Council. Representatives of the congregation have attended all Diocesan Conventions with four delegates and have served on many committees. Sloan also served as a deputy to three General Conventions and Province IV Synods.

In 2007, the congregation was paired with Immanuel Church in Ripley, with the Rev. Joseph Alford serving both churches. The Rev. James C. Newsom was then appointed Bishop's Vicar.



St. Paul's Church Mason



After the ordination of the Rt. Rev. Alex Dockery Dickson as the first Bishop of The Diocese of West Tennessee in 1983, there was a gradual change at St. Paul's Church in Mason. On a scheduled visit to the church, Bishop Dickson and other guests were served dinner in the church, since there was no other place to serve. Later, St. Paul's got a Parish Hall, a carpet and material to cover the Bishop's chair. Mrs. Dickson provided the material for the chair. The Very Rev. Frank Cooper, Jr. and other clergy provided services at St. Paul's for 12 years. For several years, Dean Cooper contributed monthly into the collection plate, even after he left West Tennessee.

The new parish gave members opportunities to have a variety of programs. In 1979, the Community Boys and the Girls Clubs were organized. Meetings had been held in a member's home until 1983, when the meetings and some activities were held at the church. The young people learned hold meetings, keep correct records and carry out activities like devotions, plays, cooking contests and outreach to children's hospitals.

During the next 12 years, the Rev. Joe Moore served St. Paul's as priest-in-charge, with other clergy and lay persons assisting. Priests included the Rev. George Klee, 1987-2002; the Rev. Thomas Shepherd, 1987; the Rev. Gary Noteboom, 1998; the Rev. W.E. Knickerbocker, 1989; the Rev. W.M. Pennepacker, 1999; and Deacon Okwald Robinson, 1992. Other clergy and lay leaders who have served St. Paul's include Esther Cochran, Lay Reader, 1989 - present; The Rev. Cham Cannon, 1993-1995; The Rev. Sydney Carsten,

1993 - 2007; The Rev. C.E. McWhorter, 1994; The Rev. Edgar Ince, 1997; The Rev. Samson Gitau, 1999-2002; Fragies Vaughn, Lay Reader; Tom Langston, Lay Reader; and the Rev. Peter Kuria.

Under these leaders, St. Paul's members have participated in The Feast of Lights, the procession for Bishop Coleman, Youth Leadership Conference, The Annual Diocesan Convention, Flower Festival, The Lenten Preaching Series at Calvary, St. Mary's Episcopal School Commencement at Church of the Holy Communion, Prison Ministry, a joint Christmas Service with Trinity Episcopal Church in Mason and Sunday School Fellowship Day in Ripley. In 1997, the boost to collection by Dean Frank Cooper, Jr. each month paved the way for the members of St. Paul's to participate more fully in the programs of the Diocese, including financial support of the Diocese and the University of the South.

St. Paul's has gratefully received needed gifts from many well-wishers. These gifts include tables, chairs, computers, dishes, cutlery, cooking utensils, a refrigerator, a stove, bookcases and a water fountain. A beautiful and impressive cross was a gift for the front of the building. The congregation also received an organ, light fixtures, banners, a tall candlestick and 14 Stations of the Cross, given in memory of John Wesley Cochran.

These 25 years have given St. Paul's the opportunity to know some very fine leaders, to grow under their leadership, and to look forward to many more successful years.

St. Paul's Church Memphis

The Rev. William "Bill" Sharkey came to St. Paul's Church in Frayser in late 1980. During his tenure, the congregation was very active, with Sunday School, worship, Wednesday night potluck dinners with bible study, and several teaching ministries featuring outstanding speakers. The Rev. Waldo E. "Knick" Knickerbocker, the Rev. Joe Porter, and the Rev. Raymond Blakely served as non-stipendiary priests. Succeeding Sharkey in 1984 was Knickerbocker, who served until June 1986.

In July 1986, Bishop Dickson sent the Rev. Battle Beasley to St. Paul's to oversee operations, occasionally celebrate the Eucharist and sit in on vestry meetings. Blakely remained with the congregation until 1988, and Beasley took over the helm after he was consecrated in June 1987. Many changes came about during his tenure, and the church was converted to mission status as of July 1, 1988. Beasley left St. Paul's in August 1989 to join the staff of Grace-St. Luke's.

In 1989, when the congregation could no longer afford to pay a full-time priest, Bishop Dickson sent Canon Frank Cooper, Canon Gary Noteboom and the Rev. Carolyn Howard to lead St. Paul's on alternating Sundays. Deacon Edgar Ince also served. During this time, with the help of the Rev. Bindy Snyder, Lucille Ewing of The Children's Theatre, Nancy King and a Jubilee Grant, the summer ministry, "Artworks at St. Paul's," was started to expose the children in the community to various forms of art. Adult oil painting and needlework classes were also offered. The following year, there was a very successful summer music program taught by Skip Quinn, band director at White Station High School, for the children in the community.

The Rev. Carolyn Howard came to the church as priest in charge in August of 1991. During her tenure, the Artworks music program continued for about a year, and the Frayser Business Forum met at St. Paul's for several years. By the time Howard left at the end of November 1998, the area had changed so drastically that the congregation had dwindled to only a handful of regular members.

The Rev. Colenzo Hubbard came in December of 1998 as part-time priest. In the spring of 1999, the congregation started a children's program called "Kids for Christ," lead by Annette Berry. The program's goal was to attract kids from the neighborhood to the church. Father Hubbard recruited volunteers and secured a grant to repair the playground at



Northside Manor, a nearby housing project. Every Saturday morning, Hubbard and Roslyn Crayton held the program under the trees in the playground. By the fall, the program's leaders were picking up the children and bringing them to St. Paul's. The program grew and flourished over the years with various grants and transportation provided by vans from the Emmanuel Center. Many of the children and some of their families joined St. Paul's. In 2005, St. Paul's began an after-school program. When Father Hubbard left in April 2005, the congregation lost the use of Emmanuel Center's vans. At that same time, new diocesan guidelines were put in place for working with children. The Kids for Christ program was closed down in June 2006. Church membership again decreased to a handful.

In the fall of 2005, Promise Academy, a charter school, began holding classes for about 60 kindergarten children at St. Paul's. In 2006, portable classrooms were added at the end of the building to house a new first grade. A very good relationship existed between Promise Academy and St. Paul's. However, at the beginning of August 2007, the school moved because there was nowhere to expand the second grade.

After Father Hubbard left in the spring of 2005, the church existed with supply priests, including Rev. George Klee and Rev. Renee Miller. At the end of July 2007, Bishop Johnson sent Rev. Noble Walker to lead the congregation.

St. Philip Church Memphis

The Rt. Rev. W. Fred Gates, Jr., Suffragan Bishop of Tennessee, presided at the first service of St. Philip Church on December 8, 1974, at the J.B. Griffin Memorial Chapel in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Brunswick, Tennessee. Three weeks later on December 29, 1974, Mrs. Ellen Davies Rodgers donated ten acres for a church to be built on Davies Plantation. On January 24, 1976, St. Philip Episcopal Church was accepted as an Organized Mission at the 144th Convention of The Diocese of Tennessee. "Miss Ellen," as she was affectionately known, would later give more land and most of the means for the construction of the St. Philip Church building.

The Rev. Gordon Bernard became Vicar of St. Philip in July 1980. The ground-breaking for the new church took place on September 14, 1980, With more than 300 people in attendance and temperatures reaching 103 degrees. Both Bishop William E. Sanders and Suffragan Bishop Gates took part in the consecration service for the new church on All Saints' Day, November 1, 1981. St. Philip became the first congregation admitted to parish status in the newly created Diocese of West Tennessee on January 20, 1984, under the Rt. Rev. Alex D. Dickson.

Bernard served as rector until his retirement in July 1988. The Rev. John Sterling came to St. Philip in the fall of that same year and served until his retirement in April 1994.

On April 25, 1994, the Rev. Joseph N. Davis began his duties as the third Rector of St. Philip. After thirteen years, Davis left in June 2007 to accept a call to the Church of the Resurrection in Franklin, Tennessee.

In just 26 years, St. Philip has grown from "six warm souls" in a cemetery chapel to a busy parish with many lay ministries, including a Men's Club, an Episcopal Church Women's Organization and an active youth program. In 2006, St. Philip became the new home of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, which serves the entire Diocese. The church has a Christian education program for children and adults and an overflowing nursery, as well as a new "state-of-the-art" playground. While intentionally remaining a traditional parish, St. Philip seeks to proclaim the Good News of Christ to all people in its community.

At the ground-breaking ceremony in 1980, "Miss Ellen" said of the land that she had given for the church, "Many types of rewarding crops have been planted on this good land for more than a century by my family. Today we plant the Cross and by the grace of faith, pray for an abundant harvest." As we attempt to build upon the faithful deeds of those who have gone before us, may we serve our Lord so that His harvest may always increase.



St. Thomas the Apostle Church Humboldt

St. Thomas the Apostle Church was founded August 30, 1959, by five families and was accepted by the 1960 convention. The church is still considered a mission, and membership has fluctuated over the past 25 years as industry moves in and out of the surrounding area. Membership draws on the whole of Gibson County, with most communicants living outside of the Humboldt area.

The church has stayed a visible part of the community over the years by sharing its facilities with various groups, including the Cub Scouts, the Civil Air Patrol, Alcoholics Anonymous, and a Bible study group. The outreach program has included adopting a family of four, which church members have been helping for the past five years. This ministry includes meeting the school needs of the two children, buying them a computer, and providing food and clothing for them throughout the year. Another outreach consists of annual contributions to Youth Town, Salvation Army and the local Helping Hand.

The arrival of the Rev. Joe Porter in 1986 invigorated the small church, and membership grew during his tenure. He was a strong member of the ministerial alliance in Humboldt and gave the church a voice in the community. The Rev. Jim Nixon succeeded Porter, and during his ministry, the congregation held many outdoor worship services and summer picnics. One of the positive aspects of having a smaller congregation is the family atmosphere, which provides an opportunity to experience each others' lives not only at the church building, but in members' homes as well.

The church has weathered some difficult times, but due to the commitment of the St. Thomas family, the congregation has persevered. Since Nixon's call to another church, St. Thomas has not had a full-time priest. The Rev. Charles Galbraith, a retired priest, joined the congregation and served the church well for ten years. After Galbraith's retirement, another retired priest, the Rev. Bill Burks, a communicant at St. Thomas, became priest. Since his arrival, membership has steadily grown. In 2005, three Katrina evacuees attended the church for several months and became very much a part of the congregation. After returning to Louisiana, they presented the church with an altar cloth that was saved from their flooded church. They have visited St. Thomas on several occasions since then. They say that they feel a part of St. Thomas because of the warm welcome and inclusion, which are the church's greatest assets.

The largest current project in which the church is



involved is the Freewill Shelter and Outreach Program, which was conceived by a local minister. Dorothy Farner, St. Thomas' ministerial alliance representative, has been very instrumental in the expansion of this program, being involved in all aspects since its inception. This program ministers to the homeless and drug and alcohol addicted individuals who wish to improve their quality of life. During Lenten suppers at St. Thomas in 2007, all the members of the Freewill Shelter program attended and joined in discussions. They have also attended church services, as spirituality is an integral part of the program.

St Thomas, although a fairly small mission, continues to impact the community. Extending their hands in friendship, the congregation of St. Thomas keeps the true spirit of "church as a family."

St. Thomas' Church Somerville

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church sits at the southwest corner of West and Market Streets, just off the Somerville Town Square. The church has been in existence since 1834, and its building has been in continuous use since its construction in 1858. Early services took place outdoors or in Somerville's Masonic Hall or Courthouse. The earliest surviving account of a service was written by Bishop Otey, who endured the then two-day trip to Somerville to conduct a service in the Court House "due to the inclemency of the weather" on December 23, 1834. St. Thomas' first rector was the Rev. Samuel George Litton. 1839 records indicate "only one male and four female communicants."

In 1850, John Cooper, a town leader and merchant, had his home on the lot where St. Thomas' now stands. It is unknown how this land came to be available to the church. Although exact records have not been found, it is believed that the church was constructed in 1858 at a reported cost of \$7,500. There is a small marble cornerstone bearing the symbol of the cross and the year "1858." In the spring of 1861, The Diocese of Tennessee held its Convention at St. Thomas. It was the last convention attended by Bishop Otey and the last one held until after the War Between the States.

Through the decades, the church and its congregation have experienced both prosperity and near extinction. Through wars, epidemics, population migrations and economic transitions, The Episcopal Church in Somerville has persevered. Today, St. Thomas' is a vital, active mission serving the growing area of Fayette County.

When The Diocese of West Tennessee was established in 1982, St. Thomas' reported a mere five communicants. The church was at that time served by the Rev. James P. McKnight. Following his tenure, St. Thomas' was served by a variety of clergy, including the Rev. Robertson Eppes, the Rev. Joe Porter, and the Rev. Edgar E. Ince. By the end of the 1980s, membership had grown enough so that a renovation of the church's aging structure was possible. In 1989, renovations included re-plastering the interior, leveling sagging floors and repairing the mortar in the building's brick exterior. It was during this renovation that heating, air conditioning, running water and indoor plumbing were installed. At that time, the church was being served by the Rev. Donald Brooks and Deacon Bill Fry. On September 17, 1989, during Bishop Dickson's annual visit, he gave thanks for the restoration of the building and the growth of the congregation.



Through the 1990s, St. Thomas', although still enduring fluctuating membership, continued an overall upward growth pattern. Clergy serving St. Thomas' included the Rev. George Klee, the Rev. C.E. McWhorter, the Rev. Raymond L. Blakley, and the Rev. Stephen Carpenter. Again, at the end of the decade, major renovations of the church were undertaken, including the installation of new hardwood flooring in the sanctuary, a new roof, painting of the structure's exterior and a rebuilding of the bell tower. The most long-awaited addition to the church was the construction of a parish house. Parish records begin mentioning the possibility of building a parish house as far back as the late 1800s — a need that was finally met just in time to take the church into the 21st Century. Coleman Hall was named in honor of Bishop James Coleman and his wife, Carter.

St. Thomas' Church was founded during Fayette County's "Golden Age" nearly two centuries ago. In the early years of the 21st Century, the county is again undergoing an era of rapid growth. With the arrival of new residents to the county, St. Thomas' is experiencing a stage of growth and revitalization. Currently, the mission is blessed to be served by the Rev. James Boyd, yet it remains a truly lay-lead ministry. Its members see to the church's daily operations, grounds and building maintenance, musical offerings and conduction of services. St. Thomas' is an active congregation, acknowledging the importance of its history as well as looking to its future to ensure that it continues to exist as a fixture at the corner of West and Market Streets for generations to come.

Trinity Church Mason

Trinity Church in Mason, built in 1870, has undergone major renovation over the past 25 years. From a new roof to a new hardwood floor, the entire structure has been rejuvenated, re-plastered, re-carpeted, repainted and restored to its original glory. A professional in old church restoration consulted and supervised the work. It was a soul-satisfying undertaking that energized the entire congregation. Even the exquisite stained glass windows were removed, repaired, and reinstated with an acrylic shield to prevent future breakage.

Weekly services are held at Trinity with communion once a month. Other services are led by Tom Langston and Margie Clark, a lay reader from the congregation. Easter and Christmas are usually celebrated jointly with St. Paul's Church, also in Mason. The churches alternate hosting the service and dinner. All the churches of Mason have a long tradition of rotating the hosting of Fifth Sunday observances, which helps keep the religious community of Mason



in close touch. The collection is used for the upkeep of the town cemetery.

The annual pilgrimage to Old Trinity in the Field in Mason is the high point of the year for many attendees. Old Trinity was built in 1847, and is the mother church of the current congregation. The celebration, usually observed on Trinity Sunday, brings descendants of early communicants and priests from all over the country. The communion service is followed by a picnic on the grounds. The turnout for this event, which has grown to more than 120 people, more than fills the tiny structure that is used only once annually. The moral and monetary support shown by those who hold Old Trinity dear has made it possible to erect an iron fence across the front, paint both inside and out and repair tombstones damaged by vandals.

Moving into the next 25 years...

Many changes have taken place in The Diocese of West Tennessee since December 31, 2007. Clergy have been called to new positions, including: the Very Rev. William E. “Andy” Andrews – Dean, St. Mary’s Cathedral; the Rev. Kevin Brown – Rector, Grace Church, Paris; the Rev. John Leach – Rector, Church of the Holy Apostles; the Rev. Deacon Patti Ortiz – providing pastoral leadership at Christ Church, Brownsville; the Rev. Rafael Ortiz – Vicar, Ravenscroft Chapel and Trinity, Mason; the Rev. Deacon Nancy O’Shea – providing pastoral leadership at Immanuel, Ripley; the Rev. Belinda “Bindy” Snyder – Rector, All Saints Church; the Rev. Terry Street – Rector, St. Philip. We have mourned the loss of the Rev. Sydney Carsten and the Rev. John Moloney, in addition to a number of diocesan lay leaders. *May their souls and all the souls of the departed rest in peace. Amen.* As of this printing, Church of the Annunciation, St. James in Bolivar, Holy Trinity and Grace-St. Luke’s are searching for new clergy leadership.

St. Paul’s, Memphis was closed and the property sold. The proceeds from the sale were combined with proceeds from the sale of Christ Church, Whitehaven and designated to a Congregational Growth & Development Fund to benefit other parishes and missions through program grants. The details of the fund are still being solidified, but it promises to help revitalize ministries across the Diocese. St. Theodore’s Chapel at Barth House on the University of Memphis campus has been temporarily suspended. Diocesan leadership continues to examine how we can best use our resources to minister to the students on this and other college campuses in West Tennessee.

The first 25 years of The Diocese of West Tennessee were marked by new beginnings, growth, heartache, rebuilding, celebration and fellowship. Over the next 25 years, we will continue to live out our mission to be a place where God’s promise in Christ is good news for all people. Bishop Johnson’s address at Diocesan Convention 2008 challenged us to reflect on how we carry out this mission, and the Listening Campaign that summer collected initial feedback on how we see ourselves as a diocese accomplishing this call to mission. The subsequent Feasibility Study, conducted in the spring of 2009 under the leadership of The Episcopal Church Foundation, resulted in the establishment of a Diocesan Visioning Team. This team hopes to launch us into the next 25 years by examining just where we feel called to go from here...

Jesus spoke of himself as the vine and of each of us, His followers, as the branches. Knowing that through a process of planting, pruning, watering, fertilizing and growth, the vine that we are in The Diocese of West Tennessee is a plant that will yield much fruit for God’s divine purposes. May our planting be blessed, and may the fruit we yield be always to God’s greater glory.



