

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

CHESTER PARISH



1772-1972

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Ron Abler

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This brief survey of the History of Emmanuel Church would not have been possible had it not been for the preliminary work prepared by Mr. Ralph Townshend, Sr. As Registrar of the Vestry he had access to the Vestry Register, and as a person vitally interested in Kent County and its many institutions, he searched through the early records of Chester Parish. These were made available to the writer to be assembled into this presentation. Mr. Townshend was ever ready to advise, and his encouragement was the stimulant that was necessary for the completion of the project.

Fred W. Dumschott

February 14, 1972

The Provincial Council of Maryland, in 1706, planning to develop the commercial activity of the colony, proposed the erection of towns and ports for this purpose. Among the towns created to aid in this design, a site on the Chester River was proposed. Later in that year Chestertown was laid out, being designated as the port of entry for all towns, rivers, creeks and coves in Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties.¹ The anticipated increase in commercial activity gave hope for the development of an active and growing population in Chestertown.

As a house of worship was an important part of every colonial town, it is assumed that a facility for religious services was provided in Chestertown sometime prior to 1709. However, at the present time, there is no record that such did in fact exist. We do know that a chapel was erected to replace an existing church in 1720.² This newly erected building was a Chapel of Ease in St. Paul's Parish in Kent County.

The Provincial Council created Chester Parish in 1766 when it assigned certain areas of St. Paul's Parish and Shrewsbury Parish to the newly created parish. The area consisted of approximately 85 square miles containing a strip of land 7 miles wide between the Chester River extending north to the Bay and the Sassafras River. For 1766 an assessment of 100,000 pounds of tobacco was levied upon all taxables in Kent County, to be paid to the Vestry of Chester Parish, with 80,000 pounds to be added later. Of this total sum 130,000 pounds were to be expended for the purchase of twenty acres of land near or at the Cross Roads called I. U. and in erecting a church thereon. The remaining 50,000 pounds were to be used for an addition to the church in Chestertown.³

The "freeholders" of the new Parish were directed to meet at the "aforesaid Cross Roads, called I. U., on the first Tuesday in January next ensuing, and then and there elect and make choice of six vestrymen and two wardens, to serve as a Vestry of the said Parish for the ensuing year, and until Easter Monday next ensuing."⁴ The vestrymen elected January 3, 1766, were: Aaron Alford, Macall Medford, Joseph Rasin, Thomas Perkins, St. Leger Everett, and William Ringgold. The wardens chosen were Robert Peacock and William Cowerden.⁵

The newly elected Vestry contracted to build the church at I. U. at a cost of 758 pounds in Spanish dollars at 7s8d each, or Pennsylvania currency, or such other currency as was commonly passing at the time of payment. The church building was complete in 1768, but we have no indication of the form of currency used in payment of the costs.⁶

At a meeting of the Vestry in 1767, following an extended discussion, it was decided not to enlarge the existing church in Chestertown, but rather to build a new church which should be sixty feet long and forty feet wide, having two stories. It was further agreed to enter on the register of the Parish the strong feeling of the people of the congregation in Chestertown that with the 50,000 pounds of tobacco allocated for the church plus the volume already subscribed to date and the sale of pews on the second floor, a good and handsome chapel sixty-six feet long and forty feet wide, two stories high, with stone foundation, could be built and completed in Chestertown.⁷

The Provincial Council, in 1768, approved the proposal to construct a new church and granted a portion of the Court House grounds as the site upon which the church was to be constructed. The site consisted of an area ninety feet on High Street and one hundred and twenty feet on Cross Street. James Anderson, William Bordley, Emory Sudler and James McLean were authorized to act as trustees to carry out the project. Two years later an additional three hundred and sixty pounds were made available to complete the church and to erect a fence around the burial grounds.⁸

The building erected at this time had two floors, a balcony comprising the second floor. The entrance to the church was from High Street. The pulpit faced the entrance to the Church and a communion table was situated directly in front of the pulpit. A belfrey was erected at the west end of the building. The church bell was used for the public convenience as well as to call the parishioners to church service. Each person holding one or more acres of land was entitled to purchase a pew. There were sixty-eight pews in the church, thirty-six on the first floor and thirty-two in the balcony. The balcony encircled three sides of the church. The records show that the rental of pews in the new Chapel began August 14, 1772, which is taken as the official date of the completion of the building. The Vestry agreed that Mr. Thomas Marsh have first choice in the selection of a pew, he having subscribed the sum of seventy pounds.⁹

During the years 1766 to 1775 three Rectors ministered to the needs of the congregation in Chester Parish. They were The Rev. Matthias Harris, The Rev. Phillip Hughes and The Rev. John Patterson.

As long as the Church of England was the established church of the colony, the fiscal support of that church was by means of taxes levied on the respective parishes, which taxes when collected by the sheriff were turned over to the respective vestries. Under date of November 10, 1772, the Chester Parish Vestry issued a "Petition to the Worshipful Justices of Kent County for assessment of 5 pounds of tobacco to be laid on all taxable inhabitants of the Parish to defray charges to the Parish Church and Chapel." Similar petitions had been made in previous years and were made in succeeding years as well.¹⁰

With the establishment of the State Government in 1776, the Bill of Rights to the constitution of Maryland deprived the clergy of their legal support. Shortly thereafter the clergy were required to take an oath which, if followed, would have been in violation of their ordination vows. Discouraged, some of the rectors in Maryland returned to England, others left for other States, while some retired from the ministry and pursued other vocations. By 1780 there were about six of the clergy remaining in Maryland.¹¹

In 1779 the General Assembly of Maryland enacted legislation providing for the election of Vestries in the existing Parishes granting such Vestries when duly elected in fee simple, the glebes, places of worship and other church property as well as the appointment of ministers for their respective Parishes, but making no provision for their financial support other than what might be obtained through voluntary contributions.

The difficulties involved under these conditions are somewhat illustrated by the experience of the Rev. Samuel Keene. The Rev. Samuel Keene assumed his duties in Chester Parish in 1779 and served one year at a stipulated salary of 800 pounds of wheat for a year. Unfortunately, he did not receive his complete compensation at the termination of his year. This is testified in the Vestry register, where we read for January 1, 1782, a "Balance (is) still due to the Reverend Keene from subscribers for officiating as clergyman."¹ This entry records a delinquency of two years in meeting the Rector's salary. The Vestry warned the subscribers that, if payments were not made, warrants would be issued compelling them. For many years the Vestry contracted to pay "only what could be collected" as a salary.^{1"} The subscriptions were paid in pounds, shillings and pence as late as 1802, and in 1805 they apparently were paid in dollars for the first time.¹⁴

The Rev. Keene was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. William Smith.¹⁵ Dr. Smith had served the College of Philadelphia as its first provost in 1751 and continued in that office until its charter was revoked by the Pennsylvania Legislature. In 1780, finding himself with no position, Dr. Smith decided to move his family to Chestertown and there to establish and set in operation a village school or academy. Here he was offered the ministry of Chester Parish at a compensation of 600 bushels of wheat per annum, which the Vestry agreed it would try to collect by the end of the year and pay to him provided he officiate for one year at the Parish Church at I. U. every other Sunday and at the Chapel every other Sunday in the afternoon. The Vestry further agreed that they would keep the subscription open and if they were able to do so add more to the agreement. It is noted in one source that it took one hundred and twenty-two persons to agree to contribute before this amount of wheat could be promised. Dr. Smith's first sermon was a Thanksgiving Sermon for the Establishment of Peace and Independence in America, delivered in Chestertown on July 4, 1780.

Dr. Smith entered into his task with such vigor that before the end of the year he was also placed in charge of the Kent County School which, combined with his own private class, formed the nucleus from which Washington College emerged two years later. His success with the Kent County School was such that by 1782 there were one hundred and forty students enrolled. The Visitors and Governors of the Kent County School, under the leadership of Dr. Smith, petitioned the Maryland Legislature that the school be incorporated as a college. The charter was granted by the Legislature at its session in April 1782 "in honorable and perpetual memory of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the United States."^{1"}⁵ Dr. Smith, by letter, had previously requested of General Washington that the College be permitted to use his name for the new College. In response, George Washington wrote, in part, "I am indebted for the honor conferred on me, by giving my name to the College at Chester."

The act incorporating the College stipulated

that an estate, or sum of money not less than 5000 pounds current money, or the just value thereof (including the estate of the said Kent County School) is in their hands, or so secured to be paid to them that they will answer for the value thereof, and the application of the same toward founding, endowing and supporting said intended College, according to their best judgment, and the tenor of this Act; Provided always, That such instrument in writing be lodged with the General Assembly as aforesaid, within five years after the passing of this Act.

To comply with the stipulation of the Act, the Visitors and Governors assigned to Dr. Smith the task of securing the necessary subscriptions. Dr. Smith accepted the assignment with his customary vigor and visited every county on the Eastern Shore, making the journey by horseback. Within a period of six months he succeeded in raising the funds required by the Legislature, with the result that on November 26, 1782, the Visitors and Governors were pleased to address the Honorable the General Assembly declaring "that a sum of money exceeding 5000 pounds (exclusive of the estate of Kent County School) and amounting to 5992 pounds 14 shillings and 6 pence is subscribed toward the said College."¹⁷

During his stay in Chestertown, Dr. Smith did not direct his entire attention to the affairs of Washington College. He worked vigorously and diligently on behalf of the Church and was considered one of the great leaders of the Episcopal Church in his day. Arriving in Kent County at a time when the Parish was experiencing difficulties in meeting its financial responsibilities, and with the Church somewhat disorganized, Dr. Smith responded to the urgency. He summoned a meeting of the clergymen and laymen to consider the position of the Church of England in the county.

The meeting was held in the Chapel at Chestertown, Kent County on November 9, 1780. Those in attendance were:¹⁸

Rev. Samuel Keene, Rector	St. Luke's	Queen Anne's County
Rev. William Smith, D. D.	Chester Parish	Kent County
Rev. James J. Winner, Rector	Shrewsbury	Kent County
Col. Richard Lloyd, Vestryman	St. Paul's	Kent County
Mr. James Dunn, Vestryman	St. Paul's	Kent County
Mr. John Page, Vestryman	St. Paul's	Kent County
Mr. Richard Miller, Vestryman	St. Paul's	Kent County
Mr. Samuel Wickes, Vestryman	St. Paul's	Kent County
Mr. John Scott, Vestryman	Chester Parish	Kent County
Mr. J. W. Tilden, Vestryman	Chester Parish	Kent County
Mr. St. Leger Everett, Vestryman	Chester Parish	Kent County
Mr. James Wroth, Vestryman	Chester Parish	Kent County
Mr. John Kennard, Church Warden	Chester Parish	Kent County
Mr. Sturgess, Church Warden	Chester Parish	Kent County
Mr. Christopher Hall, Vestryman	Shrewsbury	Kent County
Mr. George Moffett, Vestryman	Shrewsbury	Kent County
Mr. William Keating, Vestryman	Shrewsbury	Kent County
Mr. John Brown, Vestryman	St. Luke's	Queen Anne's County
Mr. Downs, Vestryman	St. Luke's	Queen Anne's County
Mr. William Bordley	Certain Respectable Gentlemen	
Dr. Van Dyke		
Col. Isaac Perkins		
Mr. Charles Groom		
Mr. William Keen		
Mr. James Hackett		

This convention prepared a petition to the General Assembly requesting that financial support be provided for public religion. The petition was read at the convention and approved, and it was ordered that it be sent to each Vestry in the State. After obtaining signatures in their respective Parishes, it was to be submitted to the Legislature. The petition read:

That delegates of this State at the great era of our independence in free and full convention assembled for the purpose of establishing a new constitution and form of government upon the authority of the people, appearing in their wisdom to have considered some parts of the said laws as inconsistent with that religious liberty of assessment, which they intended of their future government, did by the 33rd section of the Bill of Rights abrogate all such laws theretofore passed as enabled the Courts on application of Vestrymen and Church Wardens to make assessments or levies for the support of religious establishments, but not with the view of being less attentive than their pious ancestors had been to the interests of religion, learning and morals. On the contrary, by the very same section, an express command and authority are given to future legislatures at their discretion to lay a general and equal tax for the support of the Christian religion agreeably to the said Declaration.

Deeply impressed with these momentous considerations, and conceiving ourselves fully warranted by our constituents in this application to your honorable body, having advertised our design without any objection to us, your petitioners therefore most earnestly and humbly pray

That an act may be passed agreeably to the aforesaid section of the Declaration of Rights, for the support of public religion by an equal assessment and laws, and also enable the vestry and church wardens of this Parish, by rates on pews from time to time, or otherwise, as your wisdom shall think fit, to repair and uphold the Church and Chapel and the Church yard and burying ground of the same. All which your petitioners conceive may be done not only for this Parish, but at the same time, if thought best, for any other Parish within this State (which it is believed earnestly desires the same) by a single law in a manner perfectly agreeable to the liberty and wishes of every denomination of men, which would be esteemed good Christians and faithful citizens of the State.¹⁹

At this convention the Rev. James Jones Wilmer, Rector of Shrewsbury Parish, introduced a motion that "the Church of England as heretofore so known in the province, be now called the Protestant Episcopal Church." The motion was adopted by the convention, thus introducing for the first time the name which subsequently replaced that of the Church of England in the American States. Dr. Smith presided at the convention proceedings, and it is presumed by some that he had suggested the new name for the Church and requested Rev. Wilmer to introduce the motion. However, it is also recorded that Rev. Wilmer and Dr. Smith discussed the proposal and that both men mutually arrived at the same decision. Be that as it may, we are assured that the term Protestant Episcopal Church, which replaced the Church of England in the States, was first suggested at this convention held in Chestertown in 1780.²ⁿ

The Rev. Charles C. Tiffany, D.D., in his History of the Episcopal Church states, "The name Protestant Episcopal, as adopted, made its way everywhere throughout the Episcopal Church as indicative and expressive of its leading peculiarities, Episcopal as distinguishing it from the Presbyterian organization which wholly characterized all other Protestant Ecclesiastical bodies, and Protestant as distinguished from the Church of Rome whose regimen was also Episcopal."²¹

At the conclusion of the war, Governor Paca, in May 1783, addressed the Maryland Legislature on the subject of religion, recommending that one of the first matters to be considered on the return of peace was the manner in which adequate support may be provided to sustain the Christian religion. Approximately one week following the Governor's address, Washington College held its first commencement exercises on May 13, 1783. Present on this occasion were a number of the clergy. Naturally the Governor's address was still fresh in their minds, and it was logical that the address would stimulate discussion on the subject. Governor Paca was also present on this occasion. Out of the discussions emerged an agreement that a petition be drawn requesting of the Legislature permission to prepare a bill which would allow the Episcopal clergy, without losing their identity, to make the necessary alterations in the liturgy and arrange a plan for the perpetuation of the ministry according to the episcopal regimen. This petition was signed by William Smith and Thomas Gates.²²

The Legislature granted the request and the clergy met in Annapolis on August 13, 1783, and prepared a charter of incorporation which they presented to the Legislature, concluding their meeting by issuing a Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Liberties. The Declaration identified the Protestant Episcopal Church in Maryland with the Church of England established under the Provincial Government. It asserted its title to the property secured to the Church of England and by the Bill of Rights. It also affirmed the right of the Church to alter the liturgy in order to adapt it to the circumstances of its becoming an independent church.

The convention also addressed a letter to the Bishop of London, date August 16, 1783, which reads in part:

My Lord, Whereas the good people of this State, and in connection with the Church of England, have long labored, and still do labor, under great difficulties, through want of a regular clergy to supply many poor parishes that have for a considerable time been vacant.

To prevent, therefore, and guard against such an unhappy situation for the future, we, the Convention, in meeting of the Clergy of the Church of England, have made choice of, and do recommend, our brother, the Rev. Dr. William Smith, as a fit and proper person, and every way qualified to be invested with the sacred office of a Bishop, in order to perpetuate a regular succession of clergy among us.²³

This recommendation, endorsed by the Convention, testifies to the respect held for Dr. Smith by his fellow clergymen. Dr. Smith was never consecrated Bishop, but that in no way diminishes his value to the Episcopal Church or to Chester Parish. To relate his many activities in the remaining years of his residence in Maryland would take us far afield. Needless to say, he continued to remain active. When the charter to the College of Philadelphia was restored in 1789, Dr. Smith returned to Philadelphia and lived there until his death in 1803.

Dr. Smith was followed by the Rev. John Robinson and the Rev. Samuel Armor, of whom we know very little, as the former served only one year while the latter served two years as Rector for Chester Parish. They were succeeded by the Rev. Archibald D. Walker, D.D. who, in addition to his duties as Rector, also acted as Assistant Principal of Washington College from 1792 to 1800. The Rev. Dr. Walker was succeeded by the Rev. George Dashiell, who served from 1800 to 1803. The Vestry register for July 14, 1800, states that an agreement was made between "Rev.

George Dashiell and the Vestry of Chester Parish to employ him for one year from today and permitting him to preach at St. Paul's Church as per terms agreed upon." The register also states that the Vestry was to meet on the "28th inst. at 10 o'clock and the Vestry of St. Paul's agreed to be present."²¹

No rector of record appears for the years 1803 and 1804 in the list of Rectors for Chester Parish. In 1805 the Rev. John Kewley occupied the pulpits of Chester Parish. It was during his ministry in 1805 that several pews were removed from under the belfrey of the Chapel in order to install an organ, which had been purchased by the inhabitants of Chestertown for the Chapel. Later in the same year, 1805, the register records that the physical condition of the Church at I, U. was such that services in that Church had to be suspended until proper repairs could be undertaken. The Rev. Mr. Kewley was informed that in lieu of the services normally held at I. U. alternately with the Chapel in Chestertown, he was to conduct all services at the Chapel until such time as the necessary repairs could be completed.

The Rev. Mr. Kewley resigned his ministry in Chester Parish in 1808. There is the following account of him:

After leaving Chestertown he took a church in Connecticut, from there he went to St. George's in New York City. After leaving that Parish he sailed for France where he entered his old monastery at St. Omer's where he died as he had lived, a Jesuit Priest. It was known by those who lived in that day that he once travelled as an itinerant Methodist before taking the orders in the Episcopal Church.²⁵

About 1809, during the rectorship of the Rev. William H. Wilmer, the Chapel at Chestertown became the Church of Chester Parish, while the Church at I. U. was permitted to fall in ruins. By 1825 a special meeting of the Vestry was held to consider the state of deterioration into which the building at I, U. had fallen and to discuss the possibility of liabilities that might arise as a consequence of that condition. A Mrs. Trulock was requested to assume the management of the same, and she was authorized to rent the Vestry House for a sum not exceeding \$20 per annum, which she was to receive and pay over to the Vestry.²⁶ The register also records that in 1830 money was received from the sale of bricks and old iron from the remains of I. U. building, which money was to be deposited in the Bank of Maryland at 5% interest. A resolution in 1855 authorized the construction of a new Church on the old site of I. U., and under date of November 10, 1860, there is recorded a statement that the new Church was consecrated by Bishop Whittington with the name of Christ Church at I. U. Three years later the northern half of Chester Parish became the independent Parish of I. U.

The Rev. William H. Wilmer, a native of Kent County, became Rector of Chester Parish in 1809, serving until 1811. After leaving Chestertown, the Rev. Mr. Wilmer was called to St. Paul's Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Here he organized a theological class which eventually developed into the Theological Seminary of Virginia.²⁷

The successors to the Rev. Mr. Wilmer were Samuel H. Turner, D.D., Joseph R. Walker, William Jackson, and Timothy Clowes, D.D., LL.D., covering the years from 1812 to 1829. During his rectorship the Rev. Clowes also served as Principal of Washington College.²⁸ It was during his term as Principal that the original building of Washington College was destroyed by fire.

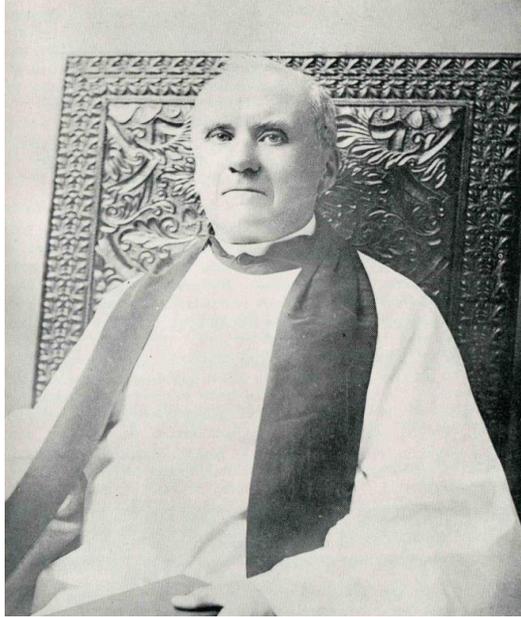
Dr. Clowes was succeeded by the Rev. William Stone. He was graduated from Washington College, and after pursuing further education he entered the ministry. Later he accepted the call to Chester Parish, where he served from 1829 to 1831. Within a year after he settled in Chestertown he was elected Bishop of Maryland.

The Rev. Clement F. Jones, D.D. became Rector in 1832, beginning a career extending through the next twenty-two years of the life of the church in Chestertown. In 1841 Mrs. Jones, wife of the Rector, passed away. The following account was found in one of the numerous papers of Mr. Peregrine Wroth, relating to this incident. He writes:

Margaretta Jones, wife of Rev. Clement F. Jones, soon after giving birth to a son passed away. The Vestry moved that the body of Mrs. Jones be interred in one of the aisles of the Church. The members of the congregation, men and women, [were] requested to wear a badge of mourning on the left arm for one month. Dr. Joseph N. Gordon and Richard Ringgold Esq. [were to] superintend funeral arrangements. Vestry, as a mark of respect was to assume all funeral expenses. Accordingly on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 14, 1841 the body was interred by the Rev. F. Boyd of St. Paul's Parish, Kent County, who delivered the sermon and conducted the service. The body was placed in a special vault for the purpose in the aisle on the north side of the Church.²⁹

During the fifteen years following Dr. Jones five Rectors occupied the pulpit. The Rev. George Clement Stokes held his post for a period of seven years, 1854 to 1861, representing the longest period in Chestertown for this group of Rectors. The affairs of the Parish went along normally except for items referring to needed repairs of the Church building.³⁰

Following the tenure of the Rev. Mr. Stokes, the activity at the Chestertown Church increased its tempo. In 1871 the Rev. Stephen C. Roberts, D.D., accepted the call to Chester Parish, and during his long tenure the Vestry of the Church was very active.



Rev. Stephen C. Roberts

Approximately 100 years had elapsed with no alterations made to the Church. As early as 1860 the Vestry appointed a committee to examine the roof of the building, which appeared to be in need of repair. Sixteen years later another committee was appointed and directed to have repairs made to the roof and the vestibule. Two years later a report to the Vestry again warned that the roof of the Church was in extremely poor condition and that repairs were urgent. On May 4, 1880, the Vestry passed a resolution authorizing a subscription to raise funds for the reconstruction of the building in accordance with plans presented to the Vestry by the architect, J. C. Nielsen. The estimated cost of the project was \$3600. By March 18 the Building Committee reported that \$4600 had been subscribed for the renovation. Bids for the work were called, three being submitted, and the contract was awarded to Horace M. Stewart, a local builder.³¹

The plans called for the retention of the old walls, but they were to be lowered to the base of the upper tier of windows. The balcony was to be removed and the lower tier of windows was to be

increased in height to the base of the upper tier of windows, with an arch at the top of each window. The roof of the building was to be lowered by 12 feet. When it is realized that the roof was lowered intact, one must admire the skill of the workmen in accomplishing this task. A new floor, much more substantial, replaced the old floor. One stove was placed in each corner, these to take the place of the two stoves which previously were situated in the rear of the Church. Stained glass windows were installed in the nave of the Church, and a recessed chancel with triplet chancel window was erected at the east end of the building. The chancel window was a gift of the Eccleston family in memory of their father, Judge Eccleston, who had served on the Vestry of Chester Parish. Also, largely through the efforts of Stephen C. Roberts, a recessed choir room was added which was connected with the church by an archway. The plan provided for a new entrance to the Church located at the west end of the building. The pulpit and the pews were rearranged as a part of the renovation.³²

Thus altered and improved, the Church was available for service on Christmas Day 1881. The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. S. C. Roberts. The Kent News for December 24, 1881, reports that:

The P. E. Church will be opened for service tomorrow - Christmas Day. There are only a few finishing touches before the inside will be complete. The interior of the Church is very handsome. The stained glass windows shed a pleasant light within, and the carpet, the pews and chandelliers are all evidences of good taste. The pews in the new room will not present the crowded appearance of the old pews, but are well-placed and comfortable.³³

The Church was consecrated February 8, 1882. The following is an account of the proceedings as recorded in the Kent News:

Last Wednesday the Rt. Rev. Henry C. Lay 1st Bishop of the Diocese of Easton, consecrated to the worship of God the building of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Chestertown, which has been rebuilt almost from the foundation. The Bishop was assisted in the solemn and impressive ceremony by many of the clergy of the Diocese and by two former Rectors of the Church, the Rev. George C. Stokes and the Rev. James R. Hubbard.

The Rev. J. H. Eccleston of New Jersey was also present and preached a remarkably forcible and eloquent sermon. The ceremony of consecration began at 11 o'clock A.M. with the Bishop, clergy, vestry, and church wardens entering the main door of the church and proceeding with slow measured pace up the center aisle, pronouncing alternately the sentences and responses appointed by the liturgy of the Church; the Bishop and clergy entering the chancel, the vestry and wardens taking seats immediately in front. Then on the call of the Bishop, James A. Pearce, Esq., by authority of the Vestry, read aloud the deed of donation with the request that the Bishop take the Church under his spiritual care and charge, and though the building is one of the most ancient in Maryland, yet diligent search failed to show that the Church had ever received a special name - though it has been known as St. Paul's Church of Chester Parish - and the Vestry thereupon called it 'Emmanuel.'

After this the Bishop enunciated the formal words of consecration followed by prayer. Then the Rector of the Church, the Rev. S. C. Roberts, read aloud the articles of consecration and acceptance which had been duly subscribed by the hand and seal of the Bishop. After this the usual morning service of the Church was read.³⁴

It is interesting to note that the formal document of consecration, properly framed, now hangs on the wall in the sacristy.

It will be recalled that in the original act authorizing the construction of the Chapel in Chestertown an area was included which was to be used as a burying ground. From the records of the Vestry we know that burials occurred in the Church yard. In early 1884 the Vestry instructed the Register to file the draft of a bill, in accordance with a law enacted by the Maryland General Assembly, requesting the necessary authority to remove all remains capable of identification from the graveyard and to seek a purchaser for the grounds. And in April of that year the Register was directed to give public notice preliminary to the removal of the remains interred in the graveyard. The notice having been given, the Vestry, in May, established a price to be asked for the property.³ There evidently had been some rumors to the effect that the County Commissioners might be interested in purchasing a strip of the lot on the west side for the purpose of erecting a new jail. There were also rumors that the school commissioners were interested in securing a portion of the ground for a site for a future schoolhouse.³⁰

At the same time the Vestry appointed a committee to purchase two lots in the cemetery and to contract with Frederick Humbert for the removal of old remains and tombstones. Messrs. Walker and Pearce constituted this committee.

Later Mr. Walker reported that the County Commissioners had expressed their interest in purchasing enough ground for a jail site, but refused to consider purchasing the remainder of the ground for a school site. Accordingly Mr. Walker entered into an agreement with the Commissioners to sell them a strip of land consisting of 104 feet on the west side and running through from Cross Street to the north side of Court Street. Later the Commissioners indicated that they were interested in securing additional footage, and the Vestry agreed to sell the amount of footage specified at the same price per foot.³⁷

In order to facilitate the orderly conduct of the business meetings of the Vestry, Dr. Roberts, in 1884, suggested the following rules of order under which such business might be conducted: (1) Prayer by the Rector, (2) Reading and approval or correction of the proceedings of the previous meeting, (3) Unfinished business, (4) Report of Committees, (5) Report of the Collector, (6) Regular meeting - report of the Treasurer, (7) the several interests of the Church, (8) New Business. A chairman pro-tem was to be selected to preside in the absence of the Rector and the same rules were to apply for special meetings. Special meetings of the Vestry may be called by the Rector, chairman pro-tem, or Register upon their own motion or at the request of one member.³⁸

From time to time Rev. Roberts was pleased to announce gifts and memorials presented to the Church. In 1885, Miss Caroline Thompson bequeathed to the Vestry 47 shares of the Chester River Bridges Company stock, par value being \$15, for the erection of a tower to the Church.³⁹

Mrs. Harriett Hill contributed a window to Emmanuel Church as a memorial to her father and mother, George Bergen Westcott and Mary Ann Hynson Westcott. The window is presently located on the south side of the Church in the approximate location of the entrance to the Church as it was originally constructed.⁴⁰

In January 1888 Mrs. Westcott petitioned for permission to have brass rails erected on the porch steps to the Church, which request was approved. The Register reported that the rails "had been neatly and thoroughly placed in position and added much to the appearance of the Church."¹¹

In June 1889 Dr. Roberts read a letter to the Vestry from Mr. Charles T. Westcott requesting the Vestry to accept a brass eagle lectern as a memorial to his father, the late George B. Westcott. The request was gratefully received.¹²

Dr. Roberts submitted his resignation as Rector of Emmanuel Church on April 22, 1899, but before his resignation could become fully effective he became critically ill. He passed away in November 1899. The Vestry expressed their sentiment in the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That with the death of the Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Roberts, Chester Parish has sustained the greatest loss which could befall it - the Diocese is deprived of one of its most useful and respected clergy.

Resolved, that he was simple in character and tastes - wise in counsel - strong in purpose - rich in faith and pure in heart. For thirty years he broke the bread of life to his flock with fidelity which never faltered - and which won the respect and affection of all who came under his influence.



Resolved, that his life has left upon the mind and heart of the Parish an indelible impression and to his successor a bright and shining light.

Resolved, that these three resolutions be entered upon the records of the Parish and that a copy be sent to the family of the deceased and to the county papers for publication.⁴³

As further evidence of the love and respect with which he was held by the parishioners, a memorial plaque to Dr. Roberts was placed on the south wall of the Chancel.

Fred G. Usilton, in his *History of Chestertown*, wrote of Dr. Roberts, "No minister of any denomination has held as high a place in the general public esteem that Dr. Roberts has."⁴⁴

On November 29, 1899, the Vestry through the Register extended a call to the Rev. Dr. Henry B. Martin at a stipulated salary of \$700 per annum. On December 18, 1899, the Vestry received an acceptance from Dr. Martin.⁴⁵

For many years the Sunday School was conducted in a separate frame building just north of the Church on Cross Street. There were numerous entries in the Vestry records depicting the poor condition of this building, and repairs were made to it many times. Apparently the state of the building in 1904 was such as to encourage the

suggestion to replace it with a more substantial structure. In March of that year the Vestry appointed a committee consisting of Dr. Martin, James A. Pearce, William W. Beck, and Lewin W. Wickes with instructions to have the Sunday School building demolished." Evidently the instructions were carried out immediately, for in June the Vestry found it necessary to order the removal of a "shed or booth" which had been erected by some unknown squatters on the site previously occupied by the Sunday School building.⁴⁷

In September Dr. Martin made a verbal report to the Vestry on several proposed plans for a new Sunday School room. The plans were prepared by Mr. Brinckle of Wilmington, Delaware. The committee was thereupon instructed to secure estimates from the architect as to costs, plans and specifications for the new addition. Later the Rector was instructed to consult with the architect and to further review the plans and specifications and to inform the architect that the proposals must be received by December 18, 1904, and that the committee reserved the right to reject any and all bids.⁴⁸

As a result of this planning, the present tower and a new Sunday School room or Parish House, as it was to be called, were added to the Church. Dr. Martin was also instrumental in raising funds and designing the handsome marble altar dedicated to the memory of Bishop Henry C. Lay.⁴⁹

The work was completed on September 30, 1905, at a cost of \$6,148.00. Mr. A. M. Culp, a Chestertown contractor had been selected to carry out the work. This addition was a considerable improvement over the small frame building which had served as a Sunday School room for so many years.⁵⁰

On March 10, 1909, Dr. Martin requested of the Vestry that he be permitted to place a memorial bell in the belfrey and a tablet in the vestibule as a memorial to his deceased wife. The request was favorably received by the Vestry.⁵¹

Additional improvements were made to the church building in 1914. In July the Vestry appointed a committee to consider the installation of a kitchen and lavatory in the Parish House, in addition to the installation of a heating plant for the church. A representative of the Monitor Heating Company of Baltimore explained the proper location of the boiler, pipes and heaters. By the end of July the Vestry authorized the Rector and the Register to sign a contract with the Monitor Heating Company. To carry out this work the Vestry pledged to borrow the necessary funds. However, in December of the same year, a resolution was adopted by the Vestry to withhold payment of the balance due to the Monitor Heating

Company.¹² There seems to be no indication of the reasons for this action, and one can only assume that the Vestry was not pleased with the operation of the heating plant as installed.

Simultaneously the committee was proceeding with plans for the additions to the Parish House, with which they were charged. Mr. Frank E. Dwyer, a local contractor, was requested to furnish estimates for the said additions, which request he fulfilled. His estimate of \$815 was acceptable to the Vestry, and they authorized him to proceed with the work as well as to perform some minor repairs to the Parish House.⁵³

In this age of sophistication we are prone to accept change as the normal course of events. So many of the improvements which have added comfort to our lives today have almost become necessities that we fail to realize that these same comforts were not available to previous generations. Any one reading intimate detail such as we have in this work is forcibly struck with this fact. As an example, the introduction of electric lights in the church in 1898, and the installation of a central heating system in 1914, indicate the relative recency of these innovations.

While the Rector is acknowledged to have lived in Chestertown during his ministry in Chester Parish, we have no definite information as to the location of the Rectory in the very early years of its existence. The first suggestion of accommodations for the Rector is the reference in the register dated May 28, 1822, stating that the Vestry purchased a lot from Mr. E. F. Chambers, who had purchased said lot from Mr. Thomas P. Fistington on March 13, 1817, for the accommodation of the Rector.⁵¹

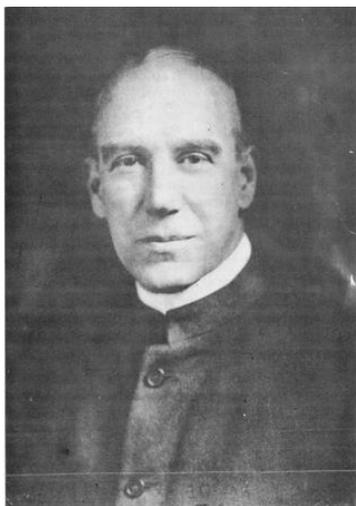
In 1827 the Rector of the Church was Dr. Timothy Clowes, who, like Dr. Smith, was also Principal of Washington College. The minutes of the Visitors and Governors of Washington College show that on January 11, 1827, the College building was completely destroyed. A meeting of the Visitors and Governors held the next day selected a committee of the Board consisting of Richard Ringgold, Joseph Wickes IV, and John B. Eccleston and charged with the duty of finding suitable accommodation for Dr. Clowes' family and the two schools. On the following day the Board met again and entered into an agreement with Dr. George W. Thomas, agent for George Wright, to rent the house recently occupied by Mr. John B. Hackett for the accommodation of Dr. Clowes' family and the two schools for the year 1827.⁵⁵

Evidently as Principal of Washington College, Dr. Clowes had been domiciled in the College Building. The destruction of that building compelled the Visitors and Governors to seek a suitable home for Dr. Clowes and for conducting the affairs of the College. An entry in the Board Minutes for January 14, 1828, seems to imply that on that date Dr. Clowes was occupying the Parsonage House. We quote:

Joseph N. Gordon, Richard Ringgold and John B. Eccleston, the committee who were appointed to rent a house for the use of the college for the year 1828 report to the Board that they called on Dr. George Thomas and stated the terms upon which they were authorized to rent Mr. Wright's House from him. Dr. Thomas refused to accept the terms. After consulting with Dr. Clowes and his wife, and with their approbation the committee rented from the Vestry of Chester Parish the Parsonage House upon the following terms, to wit - The rent to be paid, \$130 for the year 1828. The Vestry to furnish a school room independent of the Parsonage House should Dr. Clowes require one.TM

At the present time, the location of this Parsonage House referred to above, has not been identified. Since there are no references which would indicate a change of houses, it may be safe to assume that the Rectory remained at this unknown location until 1866. There were numerous references as to the need for repairs to the Rectory and even suggestions that a committee had been appointed to find a site or a new house for that purpose. Finally, in 1866, the Vestry agreed to purchase the house of John Greenwood, which was located on Queen Street.⁵⁷ This house continued as the Rectory for some years, although many repairs were required from time to time as noted in the Vestry register. As early as March 31, 1888, the Vestry agreed to sell the Rectory on Queen Street and look for a new parsonage or a site on which to build one. This action may have been induced by the Rector, who had offered to pay for the necessary work, to which the Vestry would not agree. It was at this point that the Vestry rented a house belonging to Dr. Beck for a period of four months, to house the Rector, while the repairs were under way, for which they paid \$44 rental fee. The repairs were finally completed at a cost of \$762.69.⁵⁸

The Greenwood House continued to be occupied by the Rector until 1909, when it was rented to Dr. H. C. Hughes, a local dentist. Dr. Martin, then Rector, had occupied the house until this time. His wife having died in 1907, we are told that he lived with his sisters on Water Street, in the house presently occupied by



the President of Washington College. The last year of his life Dr. Martin lived in an apartment in the Old Customs House at the foot of High Street.⁵⁰

In 1920 a committee of the Vestry was instructed to offer the Rectory to Dr. Hughes for \$5000, which offer he refused to accept. The Vestry thereupon decided to offer the Rectory for Public Sale, which resulted in the sale of the house to Dr. Hughes for \$5450. The committee continued to search for another house and at one point offered to purchase the home of Miss Minnie Massey, which is located next to the present Rectory, but she was unwilling to part with her home. Finally, on March 15, 1921, the Vestry agreed to purchase the Judge Pearce home at the corner of Front and Maple Streets. This house has continued to serve as the Rectory of Chester Parish since that time."⁰

Having disposed of the Rectory on Queen Street, and as the Pearce home was not yet available for occupancy, the Vestry sought to find accommodations necessary to house the new Rector until such time as the Pearce home should be made available. Dr. Clarence Gould, President of Washington College, offered to share his residence on the College campus, reserving a bed room, with sitting room shared in common. The Vestry accepted this offer, and for one year, the Rev. Mr. Atwater and his family lived on the campus.⁰¹ During his residency on the campus, the Rev. Mr. Atwater earned his Masters Degree, granted by Washington College.

On January 15, 1920, Simon Wickes Westcott presented a Minute Book to the Vestry as a memorial to his father, Nicholas Godfrey Westcott, who, in 1890, was elected a member of the Chester Parish Vestry, and served in that body until his death on November 12, 1917. This Minute Book was used until 1959, when it was finally retired for a new book.⁰²

Shortly after assuming his duties as Rector of Emmanuel the Rev. Mr. Atwater became interested in the development of the choir. As one of his first actions he recommended that the platform in the front of the church be extended and enlarged in order to enable the seating of a vested choir. His recommendation was accepted, and thus the Rev. Mr. Atwater introduced for the first time in Emmanuel Church the vested choir as an integral part of the morning service. Mrs. Mary Etta Fountain, as choir mother, made the first vestments for the choir,⁰³ and she continued to act as choir mother for the next thirty years. Throughout his ministry at Emmanuel Church the Rev. Mr. Atwater exhibited a great love for church music and for many years acted as choir master.

A very active Men's Club was formed at Emmanuel in the early 1920's, and one of the projects in which they were particularly interested was the placing of a marker somewhere conspicuously on the church building commemorating the occasion of the first convention held in this building in November 1780. Their efforts were rewarded in June, 1932, when the Vestry granted the necessary permission to attach the memorial plaque to the church.⁰⁴

The exact reading of the plaque as follows: "In This Church was held the first convention which proposed and adopted the name Protestant Episcopal Church November 9, 1780 Erected by the Men's Club of Chester Parish." The plaque was placed on the south wall outside of the Church building at the approximate location of the door to the Church as it was originally built.

The following interesting entry is found in the Vestry register for November 6, 1934:

This tablet is presented to Emmanuel Protestant Episcopal Church by Cornelia Ricaud Walker devoted daughter and William Stevenson Walker, Jr., his son.

Mr. Walker was born in Chestertown, Kent County Maryland, January 6, 1832, and lived all of his life in the Community. He received his early education at the Public Schools in Kent County, Washington College, and received the degree A.B. at Princeton University He lived on his beautiful estate just south of the Pennsylvania Railroad Depot known as 'Stephney' a grant of land to the Wilmer family. Mr. Walker's wife Miss Mary Rebecca Ricaud inherited the property from her father Judge James B. Ricaud, and which was then known as the 'White House.'

Mr. William Stevenson Walker was a man of outstanding qualities; he took a great interest in both Church and State. He was a Vestryman of Emmanuel Protestant Episcopal Church from early manhood until his death.⁰³

The building committee of the Vestry has as its function the constant surveillance of the physical condition of the Church and the Rectory. It is not unusual to find references in the Vestry register to the need for repairs. But in 1941 it

was brought to the attention of the Vestry that the exterior walls of the chancel were in danger of pulling away from the main church building. It was decided to seek advice concerning the proper action to be taken in this matter. Under the leadership of Rolph Townshend, a method of underpinning the chancel wall was proposed. The advice of Henry Powell Hopkins, architect, was sought, and he agreed that Mr. Townshend's suggestion was the proper action to be taken in this case. In addition to underpinning the chancel walls it was decided that tie-rods should be installed, thus rendering the chancel walls more secure. Mr. Cronshaw, of Church Hill, was engaged to do the necessary work.⁶⁶

Due to difficulties with the heating system, the Vestry in 1948 authorized the installation of a new heating system for the Church and Parish Hall. The new installation was an oil burning furnace replacing the coal furnace that had been in use heretofore. As is true of all maintenance the installation of new equipment does not necessarily eliminate problems relating to that installation. We find many instances in which complaints are forthcoming about improper heat.⁶⁷

In response to a request from the Women's Guild for authority to build a room in the Parish House for the purpose of providing storage space for tables and chairs, the Vestry on March 7, 1954, stated "This is in line with the thinking of the Committee about the future expansion of the Parish House." The committee felt, at that time, that any future expansion of the Parish House should take into consideration the possibility of extending the Present Primary School Room, at its present width, a distance of 34 feet.⁶⁸

The Rev. Mr. Atwater, at the morning service on Sunday, May 8, 1955, announced his intention to retire, effective in August, 1955, thus completing a period of thirty-five years of devoted service to the parishioners of Chester Parish. This marked the longest period of service rendered by any one Rector in Chester Parish. His activity was not entirely confined to his Church, as he was active in many phases of community life during his long residence in Chestertown. In appreciation for his long and devoted service, a testimonial dinner was given in his honor by his parishioners and friends on June 22, 1955, at which time he was presented with gifts and testimonials, as well as a purse from the congregation upwards of \$1000.⁶⁹

At the time of Mr. Atwater's death, the Kent News, in an editorial dated October 7, 1960, entitled "Rich in Good Works," stated,

Another of the community's venerable citizens has passed. Although the activities of the Reverend Charles L. Atwater had been greatly curtailed in recent years, he was for a span of 35 years a deeply interested participant not only in religious but civic affairs of the county.

He contributed much of a constructive nature in those long years of service and the results of some of his activities will be felt for years to come.

Like the good old country doctor, he was content to serve a small parish in a comparatively small community but in so doing he spread his service far and wide. His life was truly 'rich in good works.'⁷⁰

In April 1963, a memorial service, honoring Mr. Atwater was held, at which time Judge Stephen Roberts Collins contributed the following:

In 1920 he became Rector of the Parish and from that time until his retirement in 1955 was active in Diocesan affairs. At the reorganization of the Diocese in May 1921, he was elected a member of the Executive Council and served thereon for many years. He was chairman of the Board of Examining Chaplains of the Diocese, Chairman of the Diocesan Committee on Canons, and a member of the Executive Council.

As evidence of the high regard in which he was held in the Diocese, on April 9, 1956, the following testimonial was presented to him, I quote "The clericus of the Diocese of Easton Presents This Testimonial to the Reverend Charles Ledyard Atwater, Priest, Doctor of Divinity, as a token of love and esteem for one who has devotedly served this Diocese over a period of thirty-five years, and who served as Deputy to the Synod, Dean of the Northern Convocation, Chairman of the Committee on Canons, Chairman of the Board of Examining Chaplains, Member of the Standing Committee and member of the Diocesan Department of Christian Education."⁷¹

Over a period of 206 years (1766 - 1972) a total of twenty-nine Rectors occupied the pulpit of Chester Parish. During this period four Rectors served a total of 104 years, thus ministering to the needs of the Parish approximately 50% of the lifespan of the Parish. From 1809, when the Chapel in Chestertown became the Church of Chester Parish, we find that 163 years have elapsed. During this period four Rectors served the Parish approximately 64% of the life of the Church. The four Rectors were:

Rev. Clement F. Jones	1832-1854	22 years
Rev. Stephen C. Roberts	1871-1899	28 years

Rev. Henry B. Martin	1900-1919	19 years
Rev. Charles L. Atwater	1920-1955	35 years

The Rev. Newton C. Wilbur accepted a call to become Rector of Chester Parish, December 4, 1955.

The question of redecorating the Church was raised at the Vestry meeting of May 7, 1959. It aroused considerable discussion, resulting in the selection of a committee with the title of Church Improvement Committee. This Committee was composed of representatives from the Women's Auxiliary, Women of Emmanuel, Altar Guild, Emmanuel Club, Breakfast Club, and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. The Committee was charged with the duty of making a thorough study of the present needs of the Church.⁷²

At this same meeting the Rev. Mr. Wilbur announced his resignation effective June 30, 1959. In August of that year the call committee recommended that a call be extended to the Rev. Charles Canady and the Vestry approved the recommendation on September 3. On the 17th of September the Senior Warden announced that the Rev. Mr. Canady had accepted the call and would assume his duties as of November 1, 1959.⁷³

On November 19th Mr. Charles LaMotte, reporting for the Church Improvement Committee, submitted the following report:

Emmanuel Church, Chestertown.

Emmanuel Church has grown tremendously since 1950. It is now in need of more adequate facilities to meet the demands of a growing congregation and Church School.

It is, therefore, recommended that the Rector, Wardens and Vestry appoint a Parish Study Group to consider these needs.

The following seem to be among the major building needs:

1. The Church proper is in general need of redecoration
2. The Parish House facilities should be expanded to include proper facilities for classrooms, kitchen, lavatories, and offices. There is adequate room on the property to make this expansion.

The Church is well-located in this city. As a downtown Church in a small community, it can take the lead in community programs for young people and in college work. It is therefore recommended that the Parish Study Group also consider the following suggestions concerning the Church program;

- A. The congregation is to be commended upon its Men's Breakfast Club and its Couples Club. However, college work should be strengthened and students brought into closer Parish relationship.
- B. A program of Evangelism and visitation is needed. The Census of this congregation points to the need for more young adults in their 20's. A packet of suggested evangelism programs is now available through the National Council's Layman's Work Division.
- C. Programs of teacher-training and lay leadership training would be helpful in the strengthening of this Parish's general program. Perhaps this program could be carried out cooperatively through the County Planning Council as recommended in the chapter of General Recommendations of this Study.⁷⁴

The Rector re-emphasized the need for adequate facilities, especially with reference to the Church School. He then announced the appointment of a Plans and Building Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Thomas Kibler. By March 6, 1960, the Vestry authorized the appointment of Mr. William Elliott to act as architect for the proposed Church addition. By September Mr. Kibler announced that bids for the work on the improvements had been opened on August 22, the low bid for construction work having been submitted by Harry Tucker and the low bid for electrical and plumbing work being submitted by Herbert F. Ward. The total bid of the two contracts amounted to \$86,906.

The following April Mr. Kibler presented to the Vestry an action taken by the Building Committee of an added expense of \$6,000 to complete the facilities of the kitchen, as well as to make the building more attractive on the exterior.⁷⁵ And on September 3, 1961, Mr. Kibler announced that the school rooms on the second floor would be available for use on Sunday, September 10. The final report as of December 31, 1962, indicated that the total cost of the new additions to the Church was \$113,981.⁷⁶

Under the program as completed the Church building was extended, providing for the Great Hall, classrooms on the second floor, offices, robing rooms, modernization of the kitchen, and lavatories. The heating system was extended and improved.

On June 3, 1963, the Rev. Mr. Canady submitted his resignation, effective July 15, 1963. On September 24, Mr. Charles LaMotte, as Chairman of the Call Committee, recommended to the Vestry that a call be tendered to the Rev. Robert T. Hollett of Wilmington, Delaware, which recommendation the Vestry approved. The Rev. Mr. Hollett conducted his

first service at Emmanuel on November 15, 1963. He occupied the pulpit at Emmanuel Church for the next five years, resigning in 1968 to accept a charge on Long Island. He was succeeded by the Rev. C. Allen Spicer, who served with distinction until appointed Dean of Trinity Cathedral, Easton, Maryland, as of May 1, 1972. On July 15, 1972, the Reverend Robert G. Kurtz assumed the duties of the Rector of Emmanuel Church.

In tracing the history of Emmanuel Church over the years we are struck with the intense faith and devotion that have been exhibited by so many people during the course of its existence. ^ The ability and willingness of varying individuals to make sacrifices and to cooperate in times of difficulty restores in one the confidence that men and women are capable of achieving goals that warrant their efforts. And in this particular enterprise they were working for the glorification of God and justifying their faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

FOOTNOTES

1. Swain—Chestertown as a Colonial Port
2. Atwater—Emmanuel Church Chester Parish
3. Chester Parish Vestry Register
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Atwater
7. Register
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. Smith, Life and Correspondence of the Rev. William Smith. This book has been used extensively as a source for the present account relating to Dr. Smith's activity in Maryland, especially pp. 34-39; pp. 65-103.
12. Register
13. Atwater
14. Ibid.15.
15. Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland Chapter VIII, 1782, an Act for Pounding a College at Chestertown
16. Smith
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Tiffany—pp. 303-312
20. Ibid.
21. Smith²³.
22. Register
23. Peregrine Wroth
24. Register
25. Peregrine Wroth
26. Visitors and Governors of Washington College, Minute Book
27. Wroth
28. Register
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid.
31. Kent News, December 24, 1881
32. Kent News, February 10, 1882
33. Register
34. Ibid.
35. Ibid.
36. Ibid.
37. Ibid.
38. Ibid.
39. Ibid.
40. Ibid.
41. Ibid.
42. Usilton—History of Chestertown
43. Register
44. Ibid.
45. Ibid.
46. Ibid.
47. Atwater
48. Ibid.
49. Ibid.
50. Ibid.
51. Ibid.
52. Ibid.
53. Visitors and Governors Minute Book
54. Ibid.
55. Ibid.
56. Ibid.
57. Conversation with Miss Harriette Welch
58. Register
59. Ibid.
60. Ibid.
61. Conversation with Miss Harriette Welch
62. Register
63. Ibid.
64. Ibid.
65. Ibid.
66. Ibid.
67. Ibid.
68. Kent County News
69. Address of Judge Stephen R. Collins
70. Register
71. Ibid.
72. Ibid.
73. Ibid.
74. Ibid.

MEMORIALS

- 1811—Thomas Bedingfield Hands authorized by Vestry to place grave stone of his wife in nave of Church.
- 1844—C. J. Pearce - Baptismal Font.
- 1880—Eccleston Family contributed chancel window as a memorial to their father, Judge John B. Eccleston.
- 1885—Miss Caroline Thompson contributed funds necessary for the erection of the tower.
- Mrs. Harriett L. Hill contributed window as a memorial to her father and mother, George Bergen Westcott and Mary Ann Hynson Westcott.
- 1888—Mrs. Westcott contributed brass rails for porch steps.
- 1889—Mr. Charles T. Westcott contributed brass eagle lecturn as a memorial to his father, George Bergen Westcott.
- 1900 -- Parishioners presented plaque as a memorial to the Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Roberts.
- 1900 -- The Rev. Mr. Martin contributed the bell to be placed in the tower and a tablet in the vestibule in memory of his wife.
- 1905 -- Marble Altar as a memorial to Bishop Henry C. Lay.
- 1909 -- Mrs. Gladys Wicks contributed the Processional Cross. Simon Wickes Westcott contributed Minute Book in memory of his father.
- 1920 -- Brass shelf at Baptismal Font in loving memory of Carolene Louisa Hynson.
- 1921—Mrs. Henrietta Wickes contributed alms basin.
- 1922—Memorial windows for Judge and Mrs. Alfred Pearce. Design of windows approved by Mr. Pearce Crisfield and his sister, Miss Esther Crisfield.
- 1923—Chalice and patens contributed by the King sisters.
- 1932—Emmanuel Men's Club contributed plaque commemorating Convention held in Chestertown November 9, 1780.
- 1934—Tablet as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. William Stevenson Walker donated by their daughter, Cornelia Ricaud Walker.
- 1935—Mrs. Anna T. Hayes Harper contributed a window as a memorial to her daughter, Mrs. Thomas Wickes Perkins.
- 1949—Mr. Henry Constable Beck contributed window in loving memory to his mother and father, Ellen Constable Beck and Dr. Samuel Beck.
- Mrs. Harriett Skipp and Mr. and Mrs. Hynson Rogers contributed a small Processional Cross in memory of Mary Godfrey Rogers.
- 1953—Mrs. S. Scott Beck contributed candelabras in memory of S. Scott Beck and her son, S. Scott Beck, Jr.
- 1955—Mrs. Roger Wilson contributed an electric organ.
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schreiber contributed a large Bible.
- 1956—Judge and Mrs. Stephen Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Collins, and Mr. and Mrs. William Collins contributed lava bowls and patens.
- 1961—Miss Elizabeth Brown contributed Credence Table in memory of her brother, H. Gilpin Brown. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schreiber contributed church, national and state flags in memory of their son Burgess.
- 1963—Dorsal in chancel and plaque in communion rail contributed by parishioners as a memorial to the Rev. Charles L. Atwater.
- 1967—Dr. and Mrs. Norman James contributed a creche and figures in memory of Mrs. Dixon.
- 1969—Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Myers contributed window in nave of Church.

In addition, numerous gifts in currency were donated, either for specific purposes or as legacies.

COMPLETE LIST OF RECTORS

1. Rev. Matthias Harris	1766-1769
2. Rev. Phillip Hughes	1769-1772
3. Rev. John Patterson	1773-1775
4. Rev. Samuel Keene, D.D	1779-1780
5. Rev. William Smith, D.D	1780-1788
6. Rev. John Robinson	1789-1790
7. Rev. Samuel Armor	1790-1792
8. Rev. Archibald D. Walker, D.D	1792-1800
9. Rev. George Dashiell	1800-1803
10. Rev. John Kewley	1805-1808
11. Rev. William H. Wilmer, D.D	1809-1811
12. Rev. Samuel H. Turner, D.D	1812-1818
13. Rev. Joseph R. Walker	1818-1822
14. Rev. William Jackson	1823-1826
15. Rev. Timothy Clowes, D.D., LL.D	1827-1829
16. Rev. William Stone, D.D	1829-1831
Elected Bishop of Maryland	
17. Rev. Clement P. Jones	1832-1854
18. Rev. George Clement Stokes	1854-1861
19. Rev. Alfred A. Curtis	1862-1863
20. Rev. Gordon M. Bradley	1863-1864
21. Rev. James R. Hubbard	1864-1866
22. Rev. Edward H. C. Goodwin	1866-1870
23. Rev. Stephen C. Roberts, D.D	1871-1899
24. Rev. Henry B. Martin, D.D	1900-1919
25. Rev. Charles L. Atwater, D.D	1920-1955
26. Rev. Newton C. Wilbur	1955-1958
27. Rev. Charles E. Canady, S.T.D	1959-1963
28. Rev. Robert T. Hollett	1963-1968
29. Rev. C. Allen Spicer	1968-1972
30. Rev. Robert G. Kurtz	1972

IN MEMORY

Stephen Chester Roberts, D.D.

Priest

28 years The Faithful and Beloved

Rector of Chester Parish

Entered into the joy of his Lord

November 15, 1899

Enshrined in the Affection of

The Whole Community

He was a Good Man Full of the Holy Ghost and of Faith

CONSECRATE

To the Memory of a good Woman

SARAH

The truly beloved Wife and highly deemed Friend
of Thomas Bedingfield Hands

She was

Pious without hypocrisy

Virtuous without affectation

The dutiful Daughter, the indearing Wife

The Tender Parent

And the kind innocent Neighbor

She lived thirty-three years, seventeen whereof
in the Marriage State, and died October 5th, 1754

GENTLE PASSENGER

Let the example of her Virtues

The purity of her morals,

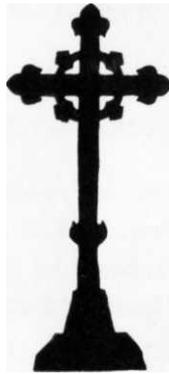
And the simplicity of her manners,

Stir thee up to practice of the same.

That the Memory like hers may diffuse

around a sweet smelling savour.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
CHESTER PARISH



TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
of the Church Building

November 5, 1972

FOUR O'CLOCK

Chestertown, Maryland

PRAYER OF REDEDICATION

O Everlasting God, with whom a thousand years are as but one day, and in whose Name are treasured here the memorials of many generations of men, Grant to those who labor in this place such measures of thy grace and wisdom, that they may neglect no portion of their manifold inheritance, but so guard and use it to thy glory and the enlargement of thy Church, that the consecration of all human powers set forward thy purpose of gathering up into one all things in Christ; through whom to Thee be glory now and evermore. Amen.

PARTICIPATING CLERGY

The Right Reverend George A. Taylor, S.T.D., Bishop of Easton

The Reverend Albert T. Mollegen, D.D., S.T.D., Professor Virginia Theological Seminary

The Reverend Barclay R. Stanton

The Very Reverend C. Allen Spicer, Dean of Trinity Cathedral, Easton, Md.

The Reverend Robert T. Hollett, Rector of Christ Church, Oyster Bay, N.Y.

The Reverend Robert G. Kurtz, Rector of Emmanuel Church, Chestertown, Md.

THE VESTRY OF EMMANUEL CHURCH

Dr. John Conkling

Mrs. Harry H. Deringer

Mrs. Alexander C. Dick

Mr. Frederick W. Dumschott

Mr. M. Douglass Gates

Mr. Paul Gildersleeve

Dr. Norman James

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