

CHAPTER IV

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

FROM the standpoint of St. George's clerical leadership, the present century began as the previous one had ended, with the Reverend Mr. Smith as rector. In 1902 a vestry committee was amazed to discover that St. George's had been without legal trustees since February 17, 1876. Apparently the trustees that had been recommended by the vestry then had never been appointed by either the Circuit or Corporation Court of Fredericksburg. Six vestrymen, however, had acted as trustees, only two of whom were living in 1902. Whereupon Robert T. Knox, A. Wellington Wallace, J. B. Ficklin, Charles E. Tackett, C. Wistar Wallace and Marshall C. Hall were chosen as trustees by the vestry and appointed by the Corporation Court.¹

In the summer of 1902 the vestry agreed to the removal of the cross from the top of the church steeple because of the decayed condition of its supports. A three-man committee headed by Judge A. Wellington Wallace supervised the removal and favored topping the steeple with a spire. Later that year Alvin T. Embrey gave the Church a "handsome ewer" and in 1904 Mrs. Charles Steele donated a "beautiful cloth" for the communion table.²

Marshall C. Hall, who was superintendent of the Sunday school for thirty-eight years, died on March 17, 1903. The following January, Mrs. Smith, the wife of the rector, died.³

According to the annual parochial report made in May, 1904, the Reverend Mr. Smith celebrated fifteen public and five private communions. From the same source we learn that four hundred and fifty of the eight hundred sittings were free, and that the church building was valued at \$25,000; the rectory at \$6,000; the parish house at \$600 and other real estate at \$13,000.⁴

Smith resigned as rector of St. George's in the late spring of 1905. After leaving Fredericksburg he was the rector of Christ Church, Winchester, July, 1905-October 31, 1919; of St. Mark's, Richmond, November 1, 1919-October 31, 1929; and of Christ Church Parish, Middlesex County, November 1, 1929-1942. During World War I he served overseas as a chaplain with the rank of major. While he was at St. Mark's his congregation built a new church building. Retiring from active work in 1942, Smith died in Winchester on February 6, 1945.⁵

¹ Vestry Minutes, [III], 197 recto; [Fredericksburg] Law-Corporation Court, 1900-1905, [Book] E, pp. 203-204.

² Vestry Minutes, [III], 195 verso, 197 verso, 203 recto.

³ *Ibid.*, [III], 198 recto, 201 recto.

⁴ *Journal*, 1904, p. 257.

⁵ Vestry Minutes, [III], 209 verso; *Journal*, 1906, p. 9; 1920, pp. 95, 204; *ibid.*, 1930, p. 321; *ibid.*, 1945, pp. 34, 86.

The vestry selected as Smith's successor, the Reverend Robert J. McBryde, D.D., who had, as we have previously noted, been rector of St. George's in the late 1870's and early 1880's. Incidentally, to date McBryde holds the distinction of being the only man to be twice rector of St. George's. The Reverend S. K. Bailey was the supply minister during the interregnum between Smith's departure and McBryde's assumption of his duties on November 1, 1905.⁶

Later that month John Waterhouse Herndon of Alexandria presented St. George's with a complete communion service for the sick. In the autumn of 1906 Mr. Herndon announced his desire to give a gilded copper cross for the church spire as a memorial to his grandfather, the late John Waterhouse. This cross, however, was not reported as being in place until June 25, 1909. McBryde announced in November, 1906, that from \$1,000 sent him by an anonymous friend of St. George's, he had spent \$100 painting woodwork in the church and \$300 in graining the pews. On January 18, 1908, the vestry accepted Mrs. Victoria Wallace's offer to donate nine stained glass windows.⁷

At a meeting in January, 1906, Mr. A. R. Howard moved that the vestry should employ Mr. Houston K. "Sweetzer" [sic] to sing in the St. George's Church choir for six dollars a month.⁸ This action is of special interest because Mr. Sweetzer is still a faithful member of the choir and was frequently chairman of the music committee during his long period of service on the vestry.

In the spring of 1909 the rector's guild petitioned the vestry for permission to use regularly a brass cross and vases on the Holy Table in the church. A prominent vestryman moved that the request be granted upon the condition that flowers should be placed in the vases only on the feast days of the Church. By a vote of six to three, however, the guild's petition was finally granted without reservations.⁹

Apparently some friction existed in the choir in 1910 as the vestry formally spread upon its minutes an order stating that "no complaints shall be made by a member of the choir about a fellow member except to the rector or to the organist," and "when members cannot agree as to the merits of each other they should be locally separated while singing." The vestry especially commended to all "the members of the Choir the observance of that Christian Charity to each other which alone can make the Choir a blessing to the congregation."¹⁰

⁶ Letter from Robert J. McBryde to A. Wellington Wallace and A. B. Botts, Sept. 9, 1905; Vestry Minutes, [III], 210 verso, 212 recto and verso.

⁷ *Ibid.*, [III], 212 verso; *ibid.*, [IV], 31, 33, 41, 53.

⁸ *Ibid.*, [III], 213 verso.

⁹ *Ibid.*, [IV], 52.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, [IV], 58.

Failing health caused McBryde to employ the Reverend R. S. Litsinger as his assistant in March, 1912. In April the vestry recognized Mr. Litsinger as assistant rector. Later Litsinger was successively rector of Lunenburg and North Farnham Parishes; of Christ Church Parish and St. Luke's, Montague, Urbanna; of St. Thomas' Church, Orange; and of St. John's Church, Mt. Washington, Baltimore, Maryland. Despite this pastoral help McBryde's disabilities persisted; so he resigned on October 1, 1912, because of "his inability to meet the needs of the congregation for parochial visitation, teacher training in the Sunday School, the adoption of pedagogical methods suitable to the various grades of the Sunday School and the complexities of our changing civilization."¹¹

Reluctantly accepting McBryde's resignation, the vestry wrote him that the ability, culture and sincerity of his preaching had been

A benediction not only to your congregation, but to the community, and your kind and sympathetic nature at their firesides has rooted a reciprocal attachment in the hearts of the members of St. George's Church which can never be eradicated.¹²

The vestry told Dr. McBryde that he was leaving behind not only the record of spiritual good work, but also beautified and otherwise improved church buildings.

After his retirement McBryde lived for awhile in Kentucky, but he died on September 6, 1916, at Raphine, Rockbridge County, Virginia, in the seventy-third year of his age. Funeral services were held in Grace Episcopal Church, Richmond, and he was buried in Hollywood Cemetery.¹³

McBryde's successor, the Reverend John Jabez Lanier, was born in Edgefield County, South Carolina, on November 12, 1862. After studying at Currytown Baptist High School in his native county, he did so well on a competitive examination that he won a scholarship to the Peabody Normal College in Nashville, Tennessee. Following two years at Peabody, he taught school in South Carolina, Alabama and Texas for five years.

In 1888 Lanier left the Baptist Church to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church at Augusta, Georgia. Shortly after that he matriculated at the Berkeley Divinity School in Middletown, Connecticut. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Williams of Connecticut in 1891 and priest by Bishop Nelson of Georgia in 1892.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, IV, 64, 67, 69-70; *Journal*, 1913, p. 10; *Journal*, 1917, p. 269; *Journal*, 1923, p. 11.

¹² Vestry Minutes, [IV], 71.

¹³ *Journal*, 1913, p. 10; Fredericksburg *The Daily Star*, September 7, 8, 1916.

His first charge was St. Paul's Church, Savannah, and in addition to Fredericksburg, he subsequently served as rector of churches in Milledgeville and Washington, Georgia; Philadelphia and Kulpmont, Pennsylvania; Norton, Kansas; and Greensboro, Warrenton and New Bern, North Carolina.¹⁴

Lanier took charge of St. George's on January 1, 1913. That May the vestry recorded its opposition to any action of the General Convention that would delete the word "Protestant" from the name of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States or recognize officially sacerdotalism as practiced by the ritualists within the Church. The vestry also recorded its conviction that the diocese of Virginia has never forfeited its autonomy or "right to control its name."¹⁵

In August, 1913, the Misses Kate Doggett, Lucy B. Knox and Mary C. Moncure, and other members of the choir, petitioned the vestry for permission to wear chorister vestments. This petition was granted on condition that it would necessitate no change in the present galleries. On February 24, 1916, Judge A. Wellington Wallace called the vestry's attention to the "disorganized condition" of the church choir resulting from the lack of a leader. To remedy this situation a committee consisting of Magnus M. Lewis, Houston K. Sweetser and Captain R. Conroy Vance was appointed to canvass the field of available leaders and authorized to appoint one, even if this necessitated exceeding the \$240 appropriated for this purpose.¹⁶

Faced by the persistent need of welcoming newcomers, a committee of vestrymen was appointed in February, 1921, "to visit all strangers coming to the city to sojourn for either a short or long period and to cordially invite them to attend St. George's and to become members of the congregation."¹⁷

At a meeting on October 3, 1921, the vestry received from the Reverend Samuel A. Wallis, D.D., and his brother, Dr. A. N. Wallis, a "handsome" alms basin for the church, as a memorial to their father, mother and sister. At the same meeting the vestry voted to paint the exterior of the church, including roof and steeple, and the interior excepting the pews that were in "good condition." The total cost of labor and materials was not to exceed \$1,500.¹⁸

Apparently for several years the vestry sponsored the giving of "substantial Christmas presents of cash" to the members of

¹⁴ *The International Who's Who . . .* 1912 (New York, The International Who's Who Publishing Co., 1911), p. 683; *Religious Leaders of America*, 1941-42 (New York, J. C. Schwarz, 1941), II, 661; Vestry Minutes, [IV], 72; Fredericksburg *The Free-Lance Star*, Sept. 17, 1942.

¹⁵ Vestry Minutes, [IV], 73, 76.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, [IV], 77, 87.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, [IV], 105.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, [IV], 111.

the choir, inasmuch as the vestry on November 24, 1921, left this "matter" in the hands of the music committee "with power to act." This practice was discontinued in 1923. Instead it was proposed that a "nice supper" and program be given the choir as a testimonial of appreciation of its work.¹⁹

Mr. Lanier was the most prolific author in the long list of St. George's rectors. From his pen came *The Kinship of God and Man*, *The Church Universal* and eight other works on religion; *Washington, the Great American Mason*; *The Master Mason* and four other treatises on Masonry; and two books of a literary nature.²⁰ In 1910 Lanier had been the Reinicker Lecturer at the Virginia Theological Seminary. He taught Bible and philosophy in Fredericksburg College, and earlier he had been a member of the faculties of Georgia Military College and of the Georgia Normal and Industrial Institute.

On February 27, 1922, the Reverend Mr. Lanier resigned, and shortly thereafter the bishop of the diocese granted him a leave of absence to become the first and only National Masonic Lecturer of the United States.²¹ In 1925 he resumed his ministerial career. From 1931 until his death on September 16, 1942, he lived with his son, Dr. Richard Nunn Lanier, who is a member of the vestry of St. George's Church.²²

In commenting on the Reverend Mr. Lanier's death Bishop Frederick D. Goodwin stated that Lanier brought loyalty and learning to the ministry and that "the Diocese is richer for having claimed a share of his long years as priest and teacher."²³

A three-man vestry committee estimated in March, 1922, that it would cost \$3,550 to put the rectory in "good condition" and recommended that any interested party be given an option on the rectory for \$8,000. If the property was sold for \$8,000, the committee recommended the building of a modern rectory. In 1942 the vestry sold the rectory to C. D. Binns for \$7,750.²⁴

The seating of "young lady students from the State Normal School" at church services was one of the chief topics on the agenda of the vestry meeting on October 2, 1922. In the discussion the point was made that they preferred to be seated near

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, [IV], 113, [V], 32, 36.

²⁰ The Association of Research Libraries, *op. cit.*, LXXXIV, 284-285. The titles of other books written by Lanier are: *Birth of Man, An Epic, Apologia pro Religione* (1938); *The Christian Religion* (1940); *The Daughter of Hiram Abif* (1922); *The Game of Life as We are Playing it in our Archaic Industrial System* (1934); *Harmony of Some Revelations in Nature and in Grace* (1908); *The Larger Church* (1916); *Masonry and Citizenship* (1921); *Masonry and Protestantism* (1923); *The Message of the Poets* (1927); *Prayer* (1914); *Religion of the Thinking Man* (1915); *The Song of Life* (1919); and *Why I am a Christian* (1914).

²¹ Vestry Minutes, [IV], 113-115, 118.

²² *Journal*, 1943, p. 85; *The Free-Lance Star*, Sept. 17, 1942.

²³ *Journal*, 1943, p. 34.

²⁴ Vestry Minutes, [IV], 120; *ibid.*, VII, 48.

each other. The vestry finally decided to offer these students three pews.²⁵ At the vestry meeting two months later Judge A. Wellington Wallace reported that as it had long been the custom for the senior warden to be the custodian of the church silver and "liquors" they had been kept at his home for many years. Whereupon the vestry unanimously adopted a motion continuing this practice.²⁶

After being without a regular minister for eleven months the vestry unanimously agreed on January 15, 1923, to offer the Reverend Dudley Boogher the rectorship of St. George's. To induce Mr. Boogher to come the vestry subsequently advised him that a scholarship at the Seminary would be arranged for his son, that hard wood floors would be laid in the rectory and that it would cooperate with him in furnishing the rectory. Boogher finally accepted the vestry's call. At the annual congregational meeting on April 2, 1923, twenty-one of the approximately one hundred and sixty members entitled to vote unanimously re-elected the vestry.²⁷

The clergyman who preached his first sermons as rector of St. George's on April 15, 1923, was the son of Davis R. Boogher, a St. Louis business man, and Emma Timanus Boogher, who had migrated from Maryland. After finishing grade school Dudley worked as a clerk in the auditor's office of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Later he was employed in a similar capacity by the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad. It is believed that he decided to enter the ministry partly because of his association with the chief clerk of the Missouri Pacific, an ordained Episcopal minister.

After attending the St. Louis Manual Training School he entered Roanoke College in 1893. During his preparatory and college career Boogher achieved fame as an athlete. An outstanding dash man, he captained the Roanoke College track team, made the football squad as a halfback and played baseball. Graduating from Roanoke College in 1897 and from the Virginia Theological Seminary in 1901, Boogher was ordained deacon the year he received his divinity degree. In 1902 he was advanced to the priesthood, and married to Miss Mary Wiley of Salem, whom he had met as a Roanoke College student.²⁸

Before coming to Fredericksburg he had been the assistant minister of Elizabeth City Parish, 1901-1902, rector Roanoke Parish, 1902-1906; rector Jackson River and Botetourt Parishes, 1906-1908; rector Wilmer Parish, Farmville, 1908-1914; rector Church of the Good Shepherd, Parkersburg, West Virginia,

²⁵ *Ibid.*, [V, 7].

²⁶ *Ibid.*, [V, 18].

²⁷ *Ibid.*, [V, 21, 23].

²⁸ *The Free-Lance Star*, April 9, 1941.

1914-1919; and rector Trinity Church, Martinsburg, West Virginia, 1919-1923.²⁹

Shortly after Boogher's arrival, Mr. Houston K. Sweetser agreed to add choir membership to his duties as a vestryman provided he could surrender the superintendency of the Sunday School to the assistant superintendent, Miss Elsie Lewis. Before becoming superintendent Mr. Sweetser had been the assistant superintendent under Mr. Alvin Hundley.³⁰

Miss Lewis had climbed steadily in the Sunday School from pupil to teacher to assistant superintendent and to superintendent, a position she held from the mid-twenties to 1950. In that capacity she master-minded the annual Christmas entertainment for more than a quarter century. Miss Lewis' infectious laugh, almost inexhaustible good nature and unmistakable goodness endeared her to the Sunday School pupils and teachers. Messrs. Rowell and Hubbard, the present superintendents, use her in the role of elder statesman.

Although her contribution to the Sunday School was admittedly large, it was just one of several channels of church service to Miss Elsie. For many, many years she has been an unusually faithful member of the choir. Every rector seeks her advice and from her vestrymen frequently receive the solution to some of their problems. As a life-long member of St. George's has aptly said, "not a day passes that she does not perform some service for her Church."

The Lewises have been conspicuous in the life of St. George's for generations, and Miss Elsie is upholding the family tradition. Her father, the late Magnus M. Lewis, Sr., was a vestryman and for many years senior warden, and her brothers, Magnus M. Lewis, Jr., and Charles H. Lewis, are both former vestrymen. Charles H. Lewis gave unstintedly of his time in supervising the recent comprehensive improvements on the church building. To quote again the long-time treasurer, Miss Elsie is "the" pillar of St. George's.³¹

It having been the yearly custom for St. George's and Trinity Churches to unite in a Thanksgiving service, the respective vestries agreed to continue the arrangement in 1923.³² This practice persisted until 1946 when St. George's joined most of the other Protestant churches of the city in a union Thanksgiving service.

²⁹ *Journal*, 1941, p. 84.

³⁰ Statement of Mr. Houston K. Sweetser, July 27, 1950.

³¹ *Ibid.*; Statement of Miss Elsie W. Lewis, July 29, 1950; [George L. Hunter], "St. George's 'Pillar,'" *The Virginia Churchman*, LXIII (May, 1949), p. 7; *Journal*, 1927, p. 297; *ibid.*, 1936, p. 218. During much of her superintendency Miss Lewis insisted that the rector would have the title of superintendent and she that of assistant superintendent.

³² Vestry Minutes, [V, 30].

A five-man vestry committee was appointed on April 7, 1924, to weigh the advantages of moving the organ and choir from the upper rear gallery to the chancel, to estimate the cost of the change, and to suggest how it should be financed. In July, 1924, this committee reported that the cost would probably be between \$3,500 and \$5,000 and recommended that this work be done after the completion of plans for both building and financing. The vestry accepted this recommendation and instructed the committee to have blueprints and specifications made by a competent architect.

At a special meeting on January 7, 1925, the vestry accepted the committee's plans which included finishing the church pews, reflooring, and some plumbing and wiring as well as moving the organ and choir. The committee was directed to proceed at "the earliest possible moment" with the project which involved the elimination of the vesting room, the enlargement of the chancel, and the erection of choir stalls. As is usually true, the amount spent on the improvements exceeded the estimates, \$12,727.31 having been disbursed by November 2, 1925, and the total expenditure was \$13,557.72.³³

In February, 1925, the music committee announced its plan for a completely voluntary chorus choir. Two months later the St. George's Parish guild volunteered to pay for the chancel floor covering, the cost not to exceed \$540. Early in May, 1925, the parish guild voted to pay for caps for the choir, and the vestry agreed to purchase choir vestments out of the current funds of the church. Later that month the diocesan Council met in Fredericksburg and St. George's borrowed an organ from Shiloh Church (Old Site).³⁴

Mrs. Daniel B. De Vore donated \$650 for choir stalls in June, 1926, and the following year, she gave St. George's \$1,000. One-half of this amount or as "much as might be necessary" was designated as a supplement to the appropriation for music. In 1926 Miss Kate Newell Doggett gave a pew for the use of the rector's family and, as a memorial to her father, the late Dr. A. C. Doggett, a credence table. In 1943 she presented St. George's with \$600, \$417.87 of which was spent for the purchase of a new organ.³⁵

St. George's and Trinity Churches wrote a joint letter in 1926 inviting the Right Reverend Henry St. George Tucker, the bishop co-adjutor, to establish his residence in Fredericksburg.³⁶

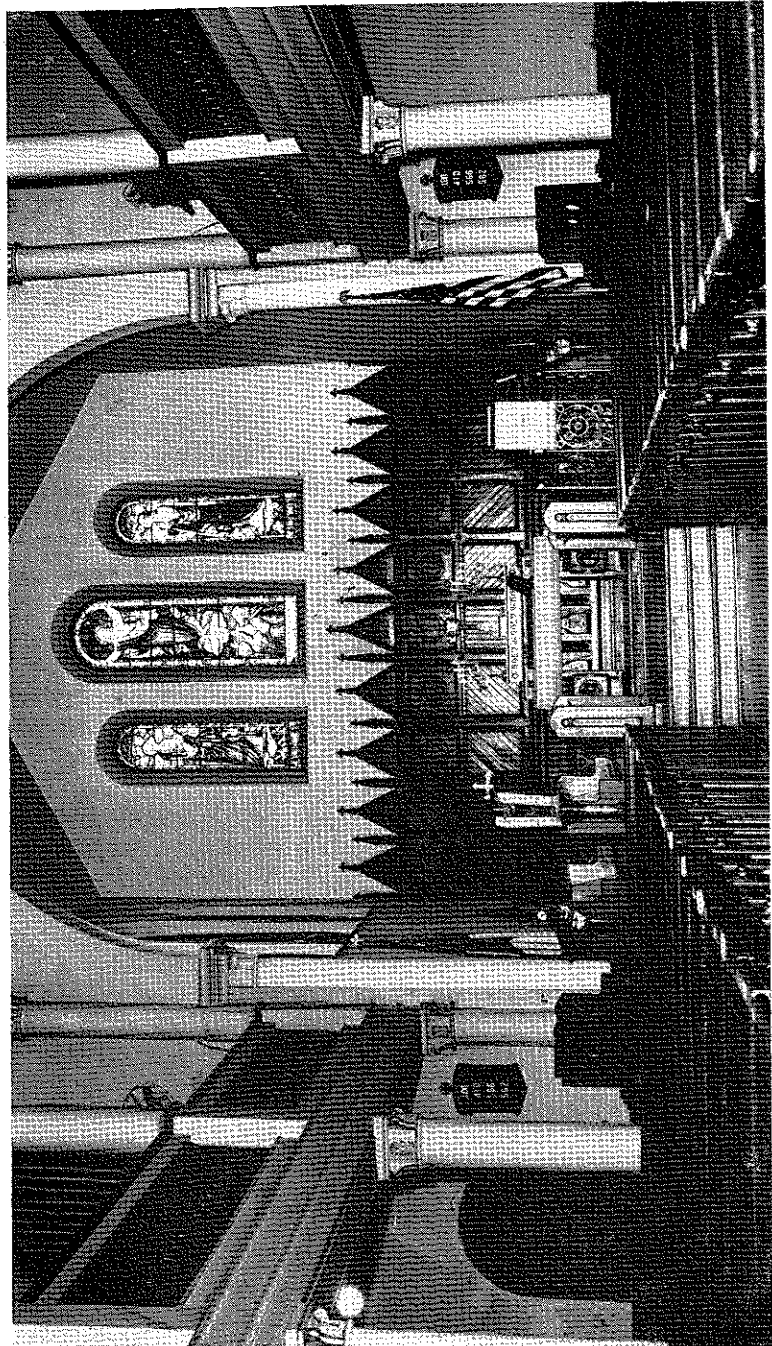
Less than a year before his death Judge A. Wellington Wallace contributed \$500 to the church debt retirement fund and the members of the vestry gave an equal amount. In October,

³³ *Ibid.*, [V, 41, 46, 57, 74-75].

³⁴ *Ibid.*, [V, 59, 63, 65, 69].

³⁵ *Ibid.*, [V, 89-90, 106; VII, 70].

³⁶ *Ibid.*, [V, 89].



INTERIOR OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

1931, the nieces and nephews of Judge and Mrs. Wallace gave the Church a Holy Table as a memorial to their uncle and aunt. As a memorial to her mother, Sue Young Lallande, her brother, John James Lallande, her first husband, Lindley Murray Ferris and herself, Mrs. Louise Lallande Hoyt, the granddaughter of John J. Young, left a bequest for a window in St. George's Church, the cost of which was not to exceed \$5,000. The vestry gratefully accepted this gift at its meeting on March 6, 1939.³⁷

The Reverend Mr. Pembroke W. Reed of Richmond conducted a mission at St. George's during the first week in April, 1927. The following year Mrs. D. D. Wheeler raised the funds to pay for moving the console to the opposite side of the chancel.³⁸

To replace C. Archer Smith who resigned as treasurer of the church because of the pressure of business, the vestry unanimously elected George L. Hunter, Jr., and made his term retroactive to January 1, 1929. Mr. Hunter faithfully and efficiently discharged the duties of this important office for twenty years, finally resigning, to the regret of the congregation, as of December 12, 1948.³⁹

At the annual parish meeting on January 6, 1930, two methods of rotating the membership of the vestry were proposed, and that body was asked to make a report on the subject, if it deemed it advisable, at the next annual meeting. In December the vestry adopted the recommendation of Frank M. Chichester, who had been appointed to study the problem, that rotation in the vestry was "inadvisable at this time." The number of vestrymen was increased from twelve to fourteen in January, 1932, and to the present number of fifteen in January, 1943. A vestry rotation plan was finally adopted in March, 1946.⁴⁰

In September, 1930, the vestry selected from the persons replying to its advertisement for an organist-choir master, Mr. Ralph W. Russell of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Mr. Russell resigned after serving in the dual capacity for nine months. The vestry was advised on September 5, 1932, that Miss Mary Heflin had tentatively agreed to become church organist. The choir had no director during part of the 1930's because of the financial stringency.⁴¹

A proposed evangelical campaign was outlined by the Reverend Mr. Boogher in November, 1931, but the vestry voted that St. George's Church would not participate.⁴²

Early in 1932, a request that Mr. Reuben Thom be buried in the Churchyard prompted the vestry to ban all further in-

³⁷ *Ibid.*, [V, 100; VI, 51, 152].

³⁸ *Ibid.*, [V, 100].

³⁹ *Ibid.*, [VI, 12, 15; VII, 153].

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, [VI, 26-27, 37, 40, 55; VII, 58, 104].

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, [VI, 36, 47, 63, 105].

⁴² *Ibid.*, [VI, 52].

terments in that burial ground. The vestry made an exception to this rule in 1935 when it agreed to permit the remains of "Colonel Spotswood" to be re-interred there.⁴³ The Spotswood referred to was probably John Spotswood but his remains were not moved from the property of the Massaponax Sand and Gravel Company.

The music committee reported in November, 1937, that new locks had been placed on the church organ because outsiders had been using the organ without the consent of the vestry. At the same time the vestry granted permission to George L. Hunter, Jr., to use the organ for practice and instruction.⁴⁴

After a full discussion, the annual parish meeting in January, 1939, passed a motion discontinuing Sunday night services and replacing them until Lent with services on Sunday afternoon at five o'clock. In September, the vestry left the holding of Church services on either Sunday afternoon or night to the discretion of the rector.⁴⁵

The administration of communion by intinction was another question on which there was a diversity of opinion. In June, 1939, the vestry requested Mr. Boogher to ask various members of the congregation for their views on the subject. The following October the vestry authorized the acceptance of an intinction communion set and the administration of communion by intinction to the communicants who preferred the use of that method.⁴⁶

The carrying of a cross in the children's service in the church on April 7, 1940, was discussed by the vestry and the necessary permission was unanimously granted. Two and a half years later the vestry, in explaining its failure to accept the gift of a processional cross in memory of Dr. William J. Chewning, announced its policy of refusing all memorials to persons not members or communicants of the Episcopal Church. The processional cross now in use was presented to the congregation by Mary Heflin Mount (Mrs. R. I. Mount) in honor of her mother, Mrs. Mary Hill Heflin.⁴⁷

In recognition of his work as sexton of St. George's for more than fifty-three years, the vestry designated Joseph Walker sexton emeritus as of February 5, 1940, and pensioned him for life. In retiring Joseph, the vestrymen agreed with the journalist who described him in 1938 as "probably the foremost member of the Negro race in Fredericksburg, respected and admired by persons of all colors, creeds, and classes." They undoubtedly commented on his "unfailing politeness, the doffed

⁴³ *Ibid.*, [VI, 58, 106.]

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, [VI, 135].

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, [VI, 128, 132, 132A, 132B].

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, [VII, 1-2].

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, [VII, 13, 53, 73-74].

hat and the low bow," as well as the Reverend John Jabez Lanier's characterization of Walker as one of the most courteous gentlemen he had ever known. Alvin M. Coleman, who succeeded Walker, is the present incumbent.⁴⁸

At the vestry meeting on May 6, 1940, the rector read a letter from the Reverend Robert B. Nelson of Christ Church, Winchester, advocating the expansion of the Federal Social Security system to include church workers. After considerable discussion, a motion was duly made, seconded and passed that the church reject the proposal.⁴⁹

Mr. George W. Shepherd, the senior warden, called a special meeting of the vestry at eleven o'clock, Wednesday morning, April 9, 1941, and announced that Mr. Boogher had died earlier that day in the Mary Washington Hospital. Later that year the committee appointed to secure a memorial to Mr. Boogher selected a large Bible to be used in the church services.⁵⁰

In April, 1941, Mr. George L. Hunter, Jr., advised the vestry that the Reverend J. J. Ambler, rector of Trinity Church, had conferred with him regarding the probability of re-uniting the congregations of Trinity and St. George's Churches. However, a committee, consisting of Hunter, Shepherd, William K. Goodrick and E. M. Young, decided after a conference with Ambler that the re-union of the two churches "was not feasible at this time." In January, 1943, the oil shortage caused the St. George's vestry to discuss the possibility of holding morning services on alternate Sundays in St. George's and Trinity Churches. This proposal, however, was never adopted.⁵¹

The vestry voted in June, 1941, to use the Sunday School Room in the Church as a recreation center for service men. Like the churches in the other historic Virginia cities, St. George's has always had numerous visitors at its services, and during World War II this number increased greatly. Mrs. A. B. Chandler, Jr., and the late Miss Sally M. Braxton were especially zealous in making the stranger feel at home. Mrs. Chandler continues to do so, and she is also untiring in visiting the sick and newcomers to the community. During the thirteen months that elapsed between Mr. Boogher's death and the arrival of his successor, students from the Theological Seminary at Alexandria supplied St. George's pulpit.⁵²

The Reverend J. Sullivan Bond assumed his duties as rector of St. George's Church in May, 1942. Mr. Bond was a native of Savannah, Georgia; and a graduate of Woodberry Forest School,

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, [VII, 11]; [Farmer], *loc. cit.*

⁴⁹ Vestry Minutes, [VII, 14].

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, [VII, 28, 37].

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, [VII, 30-31, 57].

⁵² *Ibid.*, [VII, 33, 46].

Princeton University, and the Virginia Theological Seminary. He was the rector at St. Simon Island, Georgia, at the time of his call to St. George's.⁵³

The vestry abolished the system of rented pews on April 5, 1943, this action being retroactive to January 1, 1943. No pew tax or rent has been charged or collected since that date.⁵⁴

The previous May the vestry accepted the offer of Charles H. Lewis to place in the chancel two seven-branch candelabra, as a memorial to his father, Dr. Magnus M. Lewis, Sr. In July, 1942, Edgar M. Young, Sr., purchased church and service flags for St. George's in memory of his son, the late Captain Edgar M. Young, Jr. After serving on the vestry for more than forty years, the elder Mr. Young died in 1944. Bookracks and kneeling benches were given to the church in his memory in 1947.⁵⁵

The rectorship of the Episcopal Church at Port Royal was vacant in 1943; so the vestry granted Mr. Bond permission to hold services two Sunday afternoons in each month in that church.⁵⁶

Mr. Bond resigned as rector of St. George's Church as of July 15, 1945, to accept a call from Christ Church, the oldest Protestant congregation in Mobile, Alabama. His resignation was accepted with regret, as his sermons were unusually able.⁵⁷

While a rector was being selected the pulpit of St. George's Church was filled by supply ministers. From September 1 to December 1, 1945, the vestry secured the services of Major J. Kenneth Morris, a chaplain in the United States Army. Many members of the congregation had a high opinion of Major Morris, but he desired to return to his old charge, Trinity Church in Columbia, South Carolina.

After a thorough canvass the vestry called the Reverend Thomas G. Faulkner, Jr., of Trinity Church, Manassas, Virginia, and he took charge of St. George's Church on February 1, 1946. Although the present rector was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, he is the son of the Reverend Thomas G. Faulkner, Sr., one-time rector of St. Luke's Church, Blackstone, and the former Elizabeth Walker Terrill, both of whom are native Virginians. He was graduated from the University of Virginia, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, in 1930.

Mr. Faulkner taught German and mathematics at Woodberry Forest School for three years before entering the Virginia Theological Seminary in the fall of 1933. In 1935 he did social work

⁵³ *Ibid.*, [VII, 43, 46]; *The Free-Lance Star*, June 16, 1945; *Journal*, 1942, p. 216.

⁵⁴ Vestry Minutes, [VII, 64].

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, [VII, 46, 47, 49, 87, 134].

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, [VII, 62].

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, [VII, 98].

in Pittsylvania County for the Federal Emergency Relief and the Works Progress Administrations. He was ordained a deacon in 1937 and assigned to Slaughter Parish, Culpeper County. The next year he was ordained to the priesthood and appointed rector of Slaughter and Ridley Parishes, where he served until he was called to Manassas in 1947.⁵⁸

Under Mr. Faulkner's leadership much has been accomplished during the past five years. The entire exterior of the church building has been repaired and repainted, the tin roof replaced by a slate roof and the entire steeple rebuilt. In the course of rebuilding and re-roofing workmen found Civil War cannon embedded in some of the timbers. Other timbers were charred, presumably by the fire in 1854. These improvements cost \$40,949.69, approximately half of which had been raised by August 1, 1950, by special gifts and offerings and by church organizations.

As a memorial to the men and women of the parish who served in World War II, the Church bought and completely paid for an organ valued at approximately \$15,000.⁵⁹ The chimes for the organ were given by Miss Ida Wooding as a memorial to her brothers Lewis Augustus, Aubin Corbin, Charles Clifton and Lewis Emmett Wooding. The organ and the chimes were dedicated at the service on Sunday morning, November 5, 1950.

The Sunday School floor of the church building has been completely renovated, modern equipment installed in the church office and a parish secretary employed. In December, 1946, the nephews and niece of the Misses Annie M. Braxton, Sally M. Braxton and Mary A. Braxton gave \$700 to the church as a memorial to Miss Sally M. Braxton. Of this bequest \$50 was spent for a plaque in the Sunday School in honor of "Miss Sally." The remaining \$650 was invested and the income used annually to buy Bibles for the outstanding students of the Sunday School. The Sunday School has been divided into four separate departments with a director for each department, and in 1950 Mr. J. E. Rowell was named superintendent and Mr. Dexter Hubbard assistant superintendent. In June, 1947, a two-weeks vacation Bible school was inaugurated, and in 1950 St. George's joined with the Presbyterians and the Methodists in conducting a vacation Bible school.⁶⁰

In February, 1947, the vestry went on record as being opposed to holding horse shows, dog shows and other public amusements in or near Fredericksburg on the Sabbath and par-

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, [VII, 101-102]; *The Free-Lance Star*, Feb. 2, 1946; *Journal*, 1937, p. 9; *ibid.*, 1938, p. 9; *ibid.*, 1940, p. 9; *ibid.*, 1942, p. 213.

⁵⁹ George L. Hunter, Jr., Improvement Fund, St. George's Episcopal Church; Vestry Minutes, [VII, 112, 114-115].

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, [VII, 119, 148]; Thomas G. Faulkner, Jr., Memorandum on Recent Achievements of the Parish.

ticularly when these events interfered with Church attendance. Copies of this resolution were sent to the Fredericksburg Kennel Club and to the other Protestant churches.⁶¹

The will of the late Mrs. John Lee Pratt contained a bequest of \$1,000.00 for lights behind the chancel windows and for a spotlight for illuminating the altar. Mrs. Lucy Knox Marie installed hearing aids in pews in various parts of the church as a memorial to her mother, Mrs. Loula Brockenbrough Knox, and a sound-enlargement system in memory of her father, Douglas Hamilton Knox.⁶²

In recent years St. George's Church has received a new set of white hangings for the altar as a memorial to Gunyon Harrison, the gift of Mrs. Gunyon Harrison; an inner-liner for the communion service in memory of Wistar W. Braxton, the gift of Mrs. Wistar W. Braxton; and hymn boards as a memorial to the Reverend and Mrs. John Jabez Lanier, the gift of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Nunn Lanier.

A five-day fall preaching mission was held in November, 1946, with the Reverend Doctor Vincent Franks of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Richmond, as the preacher. The mission was so successful that it has become an annual event, the Reverend Doctor Albert T. Mollegen of the Seminary being the preacher in 1947; the Reverend Doctor Clifford L. Stanley of the Seminary in 1948; and the Reverend Doctor Robert Brown of St. Paul's Church, Richmond in 1949.⁶³

The Church year at St. George's has been enriched by the Thursday Lenten noon-day services with speakers from outside the community, by the union three-hour service on Good Friday, by the "Feast of Lights" service on Epiphany, by the men's corporate communion on the third Sunday in each month, and by the Christmas Eve communion service. The nursery which is conducted during the Sunday morning service enables more mothers with small children to attend Church.

A men's club has been organized for all the men of the Church. This group holds fellowship breakfasts after the men's corporate communion, and quarterly men's fellowship dinners. A system has been evolved whereby every man in the parish is given an opportunity during the year to usher at Sunday morning services.

To provide for the teen-agers "The Episcopal Young People of Fredericksburg" was organized in 1947, with Mrs. Thomas G. Faulkner, Jr., and Mrs. John Embrey as advisers. In 1948 Mrs. Embrey was succeeded by Mrs. Richard Hull and Mrs. Robert Moore. During 1949-1950 Mrs. Faulkner and Mrs. Hull were

⁶¹ Vestry Minutes, [VII, 126].

⁶² *Ibid.*, [VII, 139; VIII, 19].

⁶³ *Ibid.*, [VII, 118, 133; VIII, 27].

the adult leaders of this "going" organization. The women's auxiliary sponsors a Girl Scout troop, of which Miss Elizabeth Carmichael is the troop leader and Miss Diana Tansill, the assistant leader.

In September, 1947, the diocese of Virginia established the post of student worker for the Episcopal students of Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia, and appointed Miss Theodosia Parke to this position. In September, 1949, Mrs. Benjamin C. Early succeeded Miss Parke and the name of the position was changed to that of counselor of Episcopal students. Mrs. Early has been untiring in her efforts to serve the Episcopal students in Mary Washington and her advice is much sought after by them.

On Sunday April 24, 1949, St. George's Church celebrated the centennial of the consecration of the present building by Bishop Meade on April 22, 1849. The church historiographer, Dr. Carrol H. Quenzel, sketched the long history of the parish. In recognition of this centennial, the diocesan Council met in Fredericksburg in May, 1949.

Mr. (now Dr.) Stanley Frederick Down Bulley, assistant professor of music in Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia, was appointed choir director in September, 1949. Later when Mrs. Mary H. Mount, the organist for seventeen years, asked for a leave of absence, he was also appointed to that post. Professor Bulley was re-appointed to both positions in 1950 and served until January 5, 1951.⁶⁴

As of January 1, 1951, St. George's Church had 479 communicants, the largest number in its history.

During August, 1950, when Mr. Faulkner and the Reverend Philip A. Roberts, minister of the Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church, were both on vacation, the members of St. George's and of the Presbyterian Church worshipped together. During the first two Sundays the joint services were held in St. George's Church with visiting Episcopal clergymen officiating. During the last two Sundays the services were in the Presbyterian Church with Presbyterian ministers in charge.⁶⁵ The experiment was so successful that it may very well become an annual custom.

Since this report on inter-denominational harmony brings the record of St. George's to the present, we will conclude with the observation that it has had a long and honorable history, and that it has a bright future.

⁶⁴ Faulkner, *op. cit.*; Vestry Minutes, [VIII, 23, 39].

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, [VIII, 40].