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**EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

BRISTOL, VIRGINIA

## *Foreword*

In undertaking the assignment of trying to record the history of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, I approached the subject with the greatest reluctance and feeling of inadequacy.

For facts anteceding the first preserved minutes of the Vestries beginning with year 1889, I am indebted to a Historical Sketch by Major William G. Sheen.

This history could easily be a saga of individuals for it would seem that Emmanuel Episcopal Church is through hardships and vicissitudes the final victory of man.

But let us bear in mind that the very beginnings of the church was an act of God who ordained that His church is the body of Christ whose many members have different roles in perpetuating the living Christ who represents God on earth and among men.

Therefore, in so far as possible, this record does not deal in personalities even though down through the years there were and are dauntless men and women but for whom Emmanuel Episcopal Church would not and could not be.

JOSEPH DOWNMAN MITCHELL, JR.

Bristol, Virginia

August 1, 1962

67874

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*“The past is only the present become invisible and mute; and because it is invisible and mute, its memoried glances and its murmurs are infinitely precious. We are tomorrow’s past.”*

## BISHOPS

THE RT. REV. JOHN JOHNS .....	1867-1894
THE RT. REV. A. M. RANDOLPH .....	1894-1905
THE RT. REV. BEVERLY D. TUCKER, Coadjutor .....	-1906
THE RT. REV. ROBERT C. JETT .....	1920-1938
THE RT. REV. HENRY D. PHILLIPS .....	1938-1954
THE RT. REV. WILLIAM H. MARMION .....	1954-

(Note: Diocese of Southwestern Virginia organized in 1919)

## LAY READERS

(oldest of record)

JEREMIAH BUNTING	WILLIAM SHIFLETT
J. B. PETERS	JOHN FLEMING
J. D. MITCHELL, SR.	GEORGE MCINTYRE
WILLIAM G. SHEEN	JOE MITCHELL
R. I. C. HAWLEY	J. MACK THOMAS, JR.
H. W. RIORDON	JAMES H. STAMPER
JOHN BOYD	BILL KING
T. F. CLARY, JR.	CHARLES C. MCNEER
A. C. ADAMS, JR.	JOHN P. BOOTH
GUS HALL	FRED VAN HORN
N. B. PFEIFFER	

## RECTORS

1. THE REV. MR. MOWBRAY .....	1862
2. THE REV. CHARLES P. RODIFER .....	1862
3. THE REV. E. H. INGLE .....	1864-1866
4. THE REV. L. B. WHARTON	
5. THE REV. C. C. PENICK	
6. THE REV. PENDLETON BROOKS .....	1871-1877
7. THE REV. JOHN McNABB .....	1877-1879
8. THE REV. JAMES FUNSTON .....	1884
9. THE REV. MR. SIKES	
10. THE REV. MR. CHALKLEY .....	1889
11. THE REV. JOHN LLOYD .....	1890
12. THE REV. BERRYMAN GREEN .....	1890-1891
13. THE REV. JOHN LLOYD .....	1893
14. THE REV. ROBERT CARTER	
15. THE REV. JOHN SCOTT MEREDITH .....	1894-1897
16. THE REV. E. S. TOWSON .....	1897-1899

17. THE REV. THOMAS S. RUSSELL .....1899-1909
18. THE REV. DALLAS TUCKER .....1909-1912
19. THE REV. HUNTER DAVIDSON .....1914-1918
20. THE REV. L. D. BENEDICT .....1918-3 months
21. THE REV. CHARLES S. HALE .....1919-1923
22. THE REV. WILLIAM T. SNEAD .....2 months
23. THE REV. A. C. TEBEAU .....Sept. 1924-Dec. 1926
24. THE REV. F. E. WARREN .....Jan. 1, 1927-1930
25. THE REV. J. N. GRIFFITH .....3 months
26. THE REV. RICHARD R. BEASLEY .....Aug. 1933-Aug. 1937
27. THE REV. ALBERT E. SANDERSON .....May 1938-Dec. 1941
28. THE REV. MAURICE D. ASHBURY .....May 1942-July 1945
29. THE REV. MAURICE HOPSON .....Dec. 1945-July 1950
30. THE REV. RODDEY REID, JR. ....Feb. 1951-May 1957
31. THE REV. PERRY C. BURTON .....Aug. 1957-

#### ORIGINAL SIXTEEN ORGANIZERS

MR. AND MRS. ALBION K. MOORE	MR. R. A. WILLIAMS
MR. AND MRS. C. W. YATES	MR. W. L. MARTIN
MR. AND MRS. W. B. WILLIAMS	MR. M. W. HUTCHINSON
DR. AND MRS. L. M. HALL	MISS SALLIE LANCASTER
MR. AND MRS. R. W. BROADNAX	MISS MATTIE LANCASTER
MR. T. C. LANCASTER	

#### BUILDING COMMITTEES

FIRST CHURCH	PARISH HOUSE
MR. I. C. FOWLER	MR. RALPH ROGERS, <i>Chairman</i>
COL. ABRAM FULKERSON	MR. H. AULICK BURKE
MR. R. A. WILLIAMS	REV. PERRY C. BURTON
	MR. FRANK GOODPASTURE, JR.
PRESENT CHURCH	MR. ROBERT B. HORNER
THE REV. CHARLES S. HALE	MR. DOUGLAS JOHNSON
MR. H. F. LEWIS	MR. CARL R. MOORE
MR. J. D. MITCHELL, SR.	MR. ARTHUR MORRISON

### Pioneer Episcopalians

To fully appreciate Emmanuel Episcopal Church of today demands a look at the past. Therefore, let us go back a hundred years when it was only a vision in the minds and hearts of a handful of determined men and women. We will see how the dedication of these few laid the foundation of our vital and thriving church which is still growing and proving itself as a spiritual body sent forth to win the world for Christ.

With this thought in mind let us endeavor to relate a brief history of the meager beginnings and the almost unbelievable struggles of sixteen men and women, only nine of whom were communicants, and their successors to establish an Episcopal Church in this frontier section of our country where the name Episcopal with its form of worship and government were almost completely foreign.

In 1862 the hamlet of Goodson (now Bristol) Virginia with a population of only three hundred was feeling the ravages of the Civil War. And so it was far from a propitious time for any new endeavor. But despite the unfavorable time and place it was on January 26, 1862 that Emmanuel Episcopal Church came into existence.

Of the persons comprising the organizers, the C. W. Yates family came as refugees from Baltimore, and W. B. and R. A. Williams, brothers, came from Richmond on a government assignment. It was the latter who with Dr. L. M. Hall secured use of the Academy Building, situated east of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, as a meeting place for services. These three men assumed responsibility for the building and provided necessary church fittings. A committee headed by Mr. M. R. Hutchinson solicited funds for procuring seats more to the liking of the group and arranged for obtaining lights, firewood and the services of a sexton. Mr. Hutchinson resigned from the Vestry after this arduous task.

The first services were held by the Reverend Mr. Mowbray, an English clergyman, in charge of a parish in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

In June 1862 the Academy Building was impressed for use as a government hospital. The Rev. Charles P. Rodifer of Abingdon took charge of the parish in the same month and resigned the following November. After the loss of the Academy Building the church arranged to hold services in the Baptist meeting house rent free. Two services, however, were held in the Christian Church. One in 1864, and one in 1867, on occasion of Bishop Johns' visitation for the purpose of administering the rites of Confirmation. The Reverend E. H. Ingle was in charge at this time and remained until 1866.

## Our First Building

Between the years 1866 and 1869 the Vestry of nine men was actively at work planning, procuring materials and building their own church on a lot which had been procured in the following manner. The Reverend James King had in 1863 donated a lot to the church. This lot was sold for four hundred dollars and a lot on the corner of Moore and Cumberland Streets, suitable for a building site, was purchased for five hundred dollars from Joseph Johnson who contributed one hundred dollars.

The frame building, with a seating capacity of one hundred and fifty, was completed in February 1869 at a cost of one thousand and five dollars and thirty-eight cents. This building was consecrated Emmanuel Episcopal Church by Bishop Johns in October 1872.

## Early Clergy

In 1871 Reverend Pendleton Brooks, who had been called to give one-fourth of his time to Goodson Parish and three-fourths to Abingdon Parish, now became full time rector of Emmanuel. Accomplishments in ten years were a church building and a full time rector. Mr. Brooks remained until 1877.

Between this year and 1899 there was a rapid succession of rectors—some of whom were part time only. In 1890 the Reverend John Lloyd of Abingdon gave two services a month and in 1893 every Sunday evening to Emmanuel.

After the resignation of Mr. Lloyd, Bishop Johns appointed the Reverend John Scott Meredith to take charge of the parish in October 1894. Mr. Meredith remained until April 1897. The bishop sent Reverend E. S. Towson in July 1897 and he remained until May 1899.

## The Reverend Thomas S. Russell

At last in 1899 Bishop Johns found the right man for Emmanuel. That man was the Reverend Thomas S. Russell who served us for nearly ten years. Those were the times when the rector's remuneration was fifty dollars a month—raised to seventy-five dollars when he married. The organist received one dollar a week. The activities of the parish increased greatly under Reverend Russell's leadership and he was beloved by all the members for his sympathetic understanding and his labors far beyond the call of duty. One of his projects was the mission chapel of the Good Shepherd which the Diocese of Southern Virginia, by permission from the Diocese of Tennessee, maintained in the Fairmount section of Bristol, Tennessee. Mr. Russell termed this chapel "an important missionary work at our very doors."

The church was without a rector for thirteen months until December 1909 when the Reverend Dallas Tucker of Harrisonburg, Virginia took charge. In April of 1912 the church again was without a rector for more than two years.

During this long interval Major William G. Sheen conducted services and also prepared a class of six for Confirmation by Rt. Rev. Beverly Tucker on February 6, 1913.

On November 1, 1914 the Reverend Hunter Davidson assumed the rectorship. During his incumbency, choir rooms were added, altar hangings in colors corresponding to the seasons of the church year were provided by the Chancel Guild and the Choir was vested for the first time on Easter Sunday 1915.

## Toward A New Church

Let us pause here and bring ourselves up-to-date on some real estate transactions and plans for a new church. In 1891 a lot on Highland Avenue and Park Street had been purchased for nine hundred dollars in anticipation of building a rectory which never materialized. This property was sold at a loss of \$200.00 in March 1904. Also in 1904 a house and lot on Moore Street was purchased for \$3,250.00, which was then exchanged for an additional lot on Moore Street adjoining the church property. The church property was again added to in 1905 when Mr. J. B. Newton, vestryman, induced Mr. and Mrs. H. K. McHarg, out-of-town friends, to purchase and give to the church a lot on Cumberland Street, thereby, increasing the size and suitability of the church property. A special meeting of the Vestry was held and resolutions of gratitude for the generous and valuable gift were unanimously adopted by a standing vote.

The church property now consisted of 171.60 ft. on Moore Street and 139 ft. from Cumberland Street.

A Building Fund for a new church edifice had been incepted in 1902 but only amounted to \$471.96. The sum of \$2,000.00 payable monthly for three years was pledged in March 1903. In 1905 Mr. J. B. Newton came to the aid of the Fund by offering to give \$3,000.00 if the Vestry would raise a like amount in addition to what had already been raised by them. The Vestry accepted these terms which were fulfilled by both parties. The Building Fund had now reached \$7,580.66.

It was now deemed possible by the Vestry that plans for a new church could be begun. In anticipation of a new church the old church which was to be converted into a Sunday School was twice moved back on the lot, once in 1904 and again in 1905.

It was then that some astute members of the Vestry realized that property values were increasing on Moore and Cumberland Streets,

and that the church property might bring as much as \$20,000.00 in the not too distant future. Therefore, the project was put off indefinitely.

In 1910 a part of the existing church lot was sold and proceeds were applied to a lot on the corner of Moore and Sycamore Streets for the future church. Apparently, there were no further transactions and the building plans were tabled.

On December 5, 1916 the church property was contracted to the Southern Land and Auction Company. This company sold the land in lots for \$30,515.67 in notes and cash. As per agreement with the Auction Company the trustees of the church were to retain the first \$22,500.00 and the next \$2,500.00 to be paid to the Auction Company. Further, that any surplus over \$25,000.00 be divided one-fourth to the trustees and three-fourths to the Auction Company. Owing to an outstanding note on one lot the trustees received a total of \$23,176.92. From the above amount there must be subtracted the sum of \$3,545.60 on notes and other debts.

There was an agreement with the new owner that the church could continue the use of the church for a consideration of \$30.00 a month until the owner made use of the lot.

After this rather lengthy and complex interlude on real estate let us go back to church. The Rev. Hunter Davidson accepted a call to the historic Church of Christ Parish, Kent Island, Md. in December 1917.

The services of the Rev. D. S. Benedict were secured but only from March 31 to June 30, 1918. It was at this time that the Processional Cross, now in use, was purchased.

In the light of recent events it is interesting to note that on May 18, 1918, the Diocese of Tennessee expressed the wish to cede to the Diocese of Southern Virginia, all that part of the City of Bristol which is in the State and Diocese of Tennessee. The Vestry minutes do not record any response to this offer, except that it be presented to the Council of Southern Virginia at its meeting on May 28, 1918. No further mention was made of this offer.

### **The Rev. Charles Stuart Hale**

On December 10, 1918 a called meeting of the Vestry took place for the purpose of conferring with the Rev. Charles Stuart Hale, who had been alternating services in Kingsport and Bristol for several months. It was agreed that beginning January 1, 1919 he would hold services every Sunday morning for \$75.00 a month and expenses.

There is no evidence in the minutes of the Vestry when Mr. Hale assumed full time rectorship, but it was evidently in the spring of 1919.

### **From Old To New**

It was June 1, 1919 that the congregation bade a fond farewell to the little church which had served them for fifty years. Thereafter, services were held in the Y. M. C. A. building at a small rent.

Apparently, it had been decided to hold the lot on Moore and Sycamore Streets for future increase in value and to select a less expensive location.

On June 8, 1919 the Building Committee and Vestry presented the congregation with the decision to purchase a house and lot on the corner of Cumberland and James Streets from Mr. Carol Kidd. This was unanimously accepted. There is no record of cost in the minutes of the Vestry.

The plans of Mr. D. B. Beeson, Architect of Johnson City, Tennessee, for the present church, were approved and construction begun.

Before the building was completed funds ran out and more money had to be raised. Subscriptions from thirty-seven members amounted to \$8,000.00 In March 1920 the lot on corner of Moore and Sycamore Streets was sold for \$8,500.00 These together with a welcome gift of \$1,000.00 sent by Bishop Jett from the Nationwide Campaign enabled the construction to continue.

On November 2, 1920 the Building Committee presented a report that it would require at least an additional \$8,000.00 to pay present outstanding indebtedness and to procure furnishings for the church. The committee was instructed to arrange for a loan. Again in July and August of 1921 two notes for \$2,500.00 each were made and signed by members of the Vestry. Further indebtedness shown as of December 1921: Church Loan Society \$6,500.00 and Insurance Society \$6,000.00.

It is quite impossible to trace the various borrowings which apparently went on and on. Search of the minutes never revealed the total cost but the foregoing details are given to show what a valiant struggle it was to complete the new church.

### **"Wide Enough To Receive All"**

On June 5, 1921, being sufficiently advanced toward completion, the church was formally opened for divine worship by Bishop Robert Carter Jett and the Rev. Charles Stuart Hale. This beautiful and dignified gray stone building of Gothic architecture stands as a monument to the zeal and faith of its builders.

One of the prayers in the program for this service is well worth our consideration today.

*"God, make the door of this house we have raised to Thee wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship and Thy care, and narrow enough to shut out envy, pride and hate. O God, make the door of this house the gateway to Thy Eternal Kingdom."*

During June a week's mission was held by the Rev. Claudius Smith and Bishop Jett again visited the parish to confirm a class of twelve. This class presented the church with the alms basin now in use.

The year 1922 was significant for three events: In July the Laymen's League was organized and the ladies served the first of many dinners to the league. In August Mr. Hale, having completed his diaconate, was ordained to the priesthood. The ordination was preached by the Rev. Karl Block of St. John's Church, Roanoke. Bishop Jett was assisted in the laying on of hands by the Rev. Devall Gwathmey of Wytheville and the Rev. Mr. Block. The end of this year saw the solemnizing of rites of Holy Matrimony for the first time in the new church. The wedding of Miss Grace Bunting and Mr. F. B. Price, Jr. took place on December 28, 1922.

Mr. Hale remained a little over a year after his ordination or until October 1, 1923.

The church had been without a rector for a year when Rev. A. C. Tebeau took charge in September 1924. During Mr. Tebeau's stay three events of special significance transpired.

The new church building was concentrated by Bishop Robert Carter Jett in January 1926; the Diocesan Council was entertained in May and the first pipe organ given by the women of the church to the memory of Mrs. Mary Fry Bunting and Mrs. Minnie Bunting Jones was dedicated.

Mr. Tebeau gave notice of his intended resignation several months in advance so that the Vestry had opportunity to procure another rector immediately after Mr. Tebeau's departure on January 1, 1927.

The new rector was the Rev. F. E. Warren who came from St. Thomas', Richmond, Virginia. During his incumbency the broadcasting of one sermon a month was inaugurated. He started the first Boy Scout Troop in the church. He was very active in civic affairs as well as in the church. His resignation was accepted in 1930.

There followed a dismal period of three years of a rectorless church except for four months when Bishop Jett sent the retired Rev. J. N. Griffith in January 1933 on a temporary basis. The church was laboring under indebtedness which was relieved to some extent by the absence of a rector's salary and the renting of the old rectory. But this relief was largely offset by the falling off of subscriptions.

## The Rev. Richard R. Beasley

In August 1933 Rev. Richard R. Beasley came to Emmanuel as rector and remained until July 1937.

Mr. Beasley introduced more form and ceremony into the services. These changes were not favored by the older members but were liked by the younger members and attracted outsiders. The Wednesday morning service was started by Mr. Beasley as a meditation service and changed to a celebration of the Holy Communion by subsequent rectors. Some changes were also made in the Sunday School program. He stressed music in the church service and we had the good fortune of having Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Martin, of the voice department of V. I. College, in the choir. Tuesday night social forums were an innovation but not continued after he left. Also, during his incumbency, the printed bulletin called the MESSENGER was started. He inaugurated the beautiful and inspiring Christmas Eve midnight service.

The consensus of opinion was that the Rev. Richard R. Beasley had rendered an invigorating and successful ministry.

Almost a year was to elapse before we obtained another rector. Six calls were extended before one was accepted by the Rev. Albert E. Sanderson in May 1938.

In the interim Rev. Walter Whiteaker of Knoxville held some services and Mr. H. W. Riordon, lay reader, conducted Morning Prayer.

During Mr. Sanderson's rectorship the rotating system of Vestry service was adopted for the purpose of giving more men the honor and opportunity for serving. At first the wardens were exempted from rotating.

The matter of securing a carved wood reredos was discussed and Mr. R. V. Arnold, Architect, made a detailed drawing. However, the cost was too high at this time.

Mr. Sanderson accepted a call to Maryland. And so again, in December 1941, Morning Prayer was conducted by Mr. H. W. Riordon, lay reader.

In May 1942 the Rev. Maurice D. Ashbury began his ministry at Emmanuel which was to continue until July 1945.

It might be of interest to note that the rector's salary was \$1,900.00 plus \$600.00 from St. Thomas', Abingdon. Goodson Parish of Bristol had long since outgrown that of Abingdon and so St. Thomas' was receiving the lesser service and paying the smaller salary—just the reverse situation from the early days.

Also, it is noteworthy how the church was operated for the year 1942. Cash on hand January 1, 1942 minus \$170.85. Total receipts

\$4,833.53 less overdraft \$4,662.68. Total disbursements \$4,674.14 leaving an overdraft of \$11.46. What terrific progress we have made in twenty years.

During Mr. Ashbury's ministry several significant events took place. The ordination of Paul Chaplin to diaconate on November 8, 1944. Mr. Chaplin, I believe, was the first young man from the parish to offer himself for the ministry.

After nearly twenty years of service the pipe organ, so proudly presented to the church by the women, was wearing out. The frequent and costly repairs necessary, led to the establishment of a Fund for a new organ. The Fund grew chiefly from memorial contributions.

The first parish secretary was employed for part time service in January 1945.

The rectory debt incurred by the repairing and redecorating for Mr. Ashbury's occupancy was paid off in April 1945 and a celebration was held in the Parish Hall (Undercroft).

Mr. Ashbury's resignation became effective in July 1945. During his ministry there was a steady progress and Emmanuel was in very good condition.

Bishop Phillips met with the Vestry and two Vestrymen from St. Thomas' to consider calling a new rector to serve both parishes. Bishop Phillips suggested four names.

After a lapse of almost six months the Rev. Maurice Hopson came to Emmanuel in December 1945.

### Chapel, Reredos And Window

The church program went forward progressively under Mr. Hopson's leadership. The Sunday morning service was changed from eleven o'clock to ten o'clock for the summer months. A junior choir was organized. Mr. Fred Taylor, Sewanee Seminary student, was employed for the summer months as the rector's assistant. This was primarily to help with the work at St. Thomas' which shared half of the expense of \$100.00 a month. A young people's group was organized.

In the course of the years 1945-1948 due to the personal work of Mr. John Hopson (father of the rector) and the help of the Woman's Auxiliary and the Laymen's League, the church property was in the best physical condition of its history.

Mr. Hopson converted the room to the right of the Chancel into a prayer room which was dedicated with fitting ceremony "Chapel of Christ the King" in memory of the rector's mother.

The long planned for reredos was made, under the direction of the rector, at the Abingdon Industrial School, and dedicated on St. Mark's Day 1948.

The rector had been stressing the need for a new rectory and the New Rectory Fund was started with the Easter Offering of 1949.

On December 18, 1949 a beautiful stained glass window, given by the Bunting family and installed above the Altar, was dedicated "To the Glory of God, in memory of Jeremiah and Mary Lindsay Bunting." The window situated as it is, calls attention to the fact that after the Cross comes the Crown of Life.

Mr. Hopson accepted a call from St. Clement's, Alexandria, Virginia effective July 1950.

Mr. Hopson was the last of Emmanuel's rectors to give part time to St. Thomas', Abingdon.

### The Rev. Roddey Reid, Jr.

There was an interval of seven months before the Rev. Roddey Reid, Jr. accepted the call to Emmanuel in February 1951. In the interim Mr. William E. Jones and Mr. Roger Herndon held lay services.

Mr. Reid's acceptance was conditioned by the assurance of a new rectory and the use of the old rectory as a Church school.

In December 1950 the decision was reached to purchase the present rectory on Meadow Drive for \$16,800.00. This was quite an undertaking. We were able to procure a mortgage of \$11,500.00 which left us owing in cash \$5,300.00. The Woman's Auxiliary gave \$2,500.00, several Vestrymen contributed \$1,700.00 and the remaining \$1,100.00 was pledged by members.

An Institutional Service was held for the new rector on the evening of February 2, 1951. This service was the first of its kind ever held at Emmanuel. It was attended by rectors from neighboring parishes and by Rev. Richard Beasley. A Blessing Ceremony was also held at the new rectory as soon as the Reids were settled.

Mr. Reid inaugurated the Family Service at nine forty-five to relieve crowding at the eleven o'clock service.

In his first Vestry meeting the new rector suggested establishing a Capital Improvement Fund for the purpose of paying off the mortgage on the new rectory, of installing a new room on the church, of purchasing a new organ, and reconditioning the old rectory for church school and Parish House.

The Capital Improvement Fund of \$20,000.00 was approved at a congregational meeting on February 22, 1951.

Remarkable material accomplishment was made under Mr. Reid's leadership: The Capital Improvement Fund reached a total of \$28,123.38 which took care of the new roof on the church \$2,500.00, new pipe organ \$13,862.00, the new rectory mortgage of \$11,500.00 and rehabilitation of the old rectory for the church school.

On April 3, 1957 Mr. Reid tendered his resignation to become effective May 1957. The Rev. Roddey Reid ended over six years of a most successful ministry of both spiritual and material benefit to Emmanuel Church.

After the consideration of several names, the Rev. Perry C. Burton was called on May 20, 1957 and after thoughtful deliberation he took charge of the parish in August 1957.

Owing to the inability of Bishop Marmion to be present the Institutional Services for Mr. Burton was not held until September 6, 1957. Prior to the Rev. Perry Burton's incumbency an exhaustive diocesan survey had been conducted by the National Council. This survey and its recommendations were considered and a committee formed to study our parish needs. Also, committees were formed to consider adding to the church property, possible enlarging of the church and a new Parish House.

### A New Parish House

Under the inspiring leadership of Mr. Burton the greatest physical undertaking of the church's history has come to fruition. This being the purchase of the lot adjoining the old rectory, the demolishing of the old rectory and the building of a new Parish House with church school classrooms, assembly hall, library and well-equipped kitchen, at a total cost of \$167,255.68.

The opportunity to return the many courtesies of the Diocese of Tennessee to Emmanuel Church and to show our friendly good will toward the newly organized Mission of Saint Columba in Bristol, Tennessee came soon after the completion of the new Parish House. The ordination of its vicar, the Rev. Donald McKenzie Williamson, was solemnized in Emmanuel Church and a reception and luncheon held in the Parish House.

With an adequate physical plant achieved there is indication that Emmanuel Church is going forward to greater achievements in furthering God's Kingdom within the church and in the community. The staff of the church now has a Director of Religious Education. The rector is looking forward, hopefully, to having a College Chaplain. A chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew has been organized, and in its work among neighborhood boys Emmanuel Church again has found "an important field of missionary work at its very doors."

### Over Ten Successive Decades

In conclusion the searching through hundreds of pages, mostly handwritten, of Vestry minutes has been an almost overwhelming task. Perhaps this attempt of reconstructing a history of Emmanuel Episcopal Church will be criticized and rightly so, as a mere recitation of dry facts.

But a hundred years is a long time and to record the names and deeds of people who were responsible for the inception and the realization of our church over ten successive decades would require volumes.

But all honor to all the men and women who in times of uncertainties, both then and now, have achieved the consummation of the hopes and prayers of that little group who began more than a hundred years ago to erect this house in which, through the inspiration of the worship of God, they might develop in themselves and pass on to future generations such a degree of spirituality as might lift mankind everywhere.

And so—"There must be no mistake whereby we shall confuse the things which are of eternity with those which are of time."

And—"We must not let our engrossment with the things of matter and of mind distract us from a proper concern for those things which are of the spirit and the soul."

The printing of this brochure is given as a memorial to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph D. Mitchell, Senior, Vestryman 1891-1943, Senior Warden 1909-1943, Senior Warden emeritus 1943-1953, by his son and daughter, Downman and Margaret Mitchell.

## For Reference

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