

Hunt Comer Memorial Center Groundbreaking

Trinity Sunday June 10, 2001

Procession from the Nave

Opening Prayers ~ The Rev. William T. Deneke

Introduction of the Capital Improvements Committee: Chairman Enio Guerra,
Bill Clark, DeDe Clark, Alex Erwin, Bob Howell, Rich Lascek,
Rette Ledbetter, Scott Miller, and Sam Wohar

A brief history of the building ~ David Warfield, Senior Warden

Construction overview ~ Bill Clark

Ms. Judy Turner, President, Decatur First Bank

Mr. Bill Floyd, Mayor, City of Decatur

Reflections from the youth of Holy Trinity Parish

A tribute to the Rev. H. Hunt Comer ~ Alex Erwin

Esther Ann Comer

A Blessing ~ The Rev. Neil Alexander, Bishop Elect, Diocese of Atlanta

Dismissal ~ The Rev. Dr. Dwight Ogier, Jr.

The annual Trinity Sunday Barbecue follows immediately in the Parish Hall

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross at 2005 South Columbia Place, at the corner of McAfee Road, in South Dekalb County, was founded in 1954 as a mission in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, under the auspices and supervision of Holy Trinity Parish in Decatur and its then rector, the Reverend Harry Tisdale.

Long time and well known Dekalb resident, John M. Royall, Sr., as the driving force, and fifteen other South Dekalb families made the mission a reality with the first worship service on June 20, 1954 in the cafeteria of the old Southwest Dekalb High School on Candler Road.

Kneelers for the new mission were constructed by the men of the congregation from timbers of a century old barn on a farm of one of the members on Snapfinger Road. Today, timber from one of those kneelers serves Holy Cross as the material for the cross that hangs over its altar.

Subsequently land was acquired on South Columbia Place, and a World War II Army surplus barracks building was purchased and moved to the site to serve as church and Sunday school space. The first service in the "new" building was the Christmas Eve Midnight service in 1954. A wing was added to this building in 1956 that made possible the operation of a daily kindergarten school which successfully met the needs of the surrounding community for eleven years until kindergartens were introduced into the public school system.

In 1961, a combined parish house/church house was constructed and named Royall Hall in honor of Mr. John M. Royall, Sr. Holy Cross prospered and grew from the original 15 families to 197 households in 1970.

But winds of change were blowing; transition and white flight had begun when the Vestry of Holy Cross made a critical decision that an Episcopal ministry would still be needed in this community in spite of the uncertainty of the future; and the current church house was completed in 1971.

The architecture was untraditional for Episcopal churches and was cruciform in shape, with the altar in the center of the building, allowing the Eucharistically-oriented congregation/family to worship gathered around the Lord's Table. This building remains unique in the Diocese of Atlanta and came about under the vision and leadership of the Reverend Charles M. Roper. Also under his leadership, the church had acquired full parish status and was self-sustaining in 1967. He served as rector until 1978.

Primarily because of the changing community, membership slowly declined to 89 households by 1979.

In 1981, the Reverend E. Don Taylor, a Jamaican freezing in Buffalo, New York, accepted the call to become rector. He served until he was elected Bishop of the Virgin Islands in 1986.

Subsequently, in 1988, the Reverend Kent Belmore, Jr., from the Diocese of South Carolina, was called and continues in 1997 as Rector.

Under the leadership of Fr. Taylor and Fr. Belmore, Holy Cross has become a viable, healthy and diversified congregation of 513 Baptised members, representing about 165 households, and reflecting many nations of the world. Holy Cross enjoys a reputation that is known in many corners of the earth. It has been blessed with the visitation and association of many priests from afar. Among the most notable, the Right Reverend Desmond Tutu, of South Africa, has worshiped and preached on several occasions. Several Prime Ministers of Jamaica have spoken.

In 1997, Royall Hall was completely renovated and new kitchen, bathroom and meeting facilities added.

Compiled by Glenn & Atha Rhodes 770-482-4619
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The DeKalb News/Star 9/9/92

Holy Cross Walking Again For Hungry

Last year, the Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross, numbering under 200 members, raised more money for the Metro Atlanta Hunger Walk than any other religious group in the entire Walk.

This year, the parish will be walking again to create awareness about the problem of hunger and to raise much needed funds to address this growing need.

"We are one of the only places in South DeKalb where a working family in need of a little help can find food other than on a week day," remarked the vicar, the Rev. Kent Belmore, Jr. "Our parishioners are very aware of how much more could be done."

Though many people will walk on their own or with friends and family, the Hunger Walk has traditionally attracted groups from a variety of metro schools, churches, synagogues and civic organizations. Holy Cross parish, on McAfee at South Columbia Place, has been involved in the walk almost since its beginning in 1984. The walk is a project of the Atlanta Community Food Bank, and is expected to draw 9,000 participants.

The ninth annual Metro Atlanta Hunger Walk will step off at Georgia Power Park in downtown Atlanta at 2:30 in the afternoon on Sunday, Sept. 20. Parking is free at the Civic Center. There will be two different walk routes, a 1.5 mile and a 3.5 mile. Participants collect funds from individuals or companies who will sponsor them. For envelopes or more information about the walk, call the Food Bank at 800 555-5555.



Their Church Small, But First

Members of Holy Cross Episcopal Church are preparing again for the Metro Atlanta Hunger Walk. They are credited with raising more money in the 1991 walk than any other religious group. Shown seated are Frances Tuboku-Metzger, Jennifer Tuboku-Metzger, Lauren Duncan, Marcus Tush, Amy Towns, Amber Marshall, Audrey Tush, Kane Cordellino, Nellie Otu, Thomas Belmore, Buck Belmore and Monica Grimmatt; standing: Sylvia Ashley, Willie Walton, Lillian Walton, Jeffrey Callender, Vilma Weekes, Daphne Mair; Gloria Fredericks, Soyini Coke, Ralph Mair, Susan Tush, Edna Coke, Fred Pollard, Michelle Banfield, Tim Tush, Connie Dee Belmore.

DeKalb County Churches

ced researcher

Decatur Heights Baptist
 Rev. L. Eunte Fuller, pastor; 9:45 a.m. Sunday school; 11 a.m. sermon, "The Love of God"; 7 p.m. Teaching Union; 8 p.m. sermon, "The Plan of Salvation".

First Methodist
 Rev. R. Frank Crawley, pastor; 8:30 and 11 a.m. sermon by the Rev. Harry L. Wood, pastor First Methodist Church, Monroe; 9:30 a.m. church school; 7:30 p.m. sermon, "Time to do That Far, Far, Better Thing", Rev. George O. Greene.

Pattillo Memorial Methodist
 Rev. Cullen B. Jones, pastor; 11 a.m. sermon, Rev. Reynolds Green, Jr.; 7:30 p.m. sermon by pastor.

Decatur Presbyterian
 Dr. T. Davidson Phillips, minister; Rev. John C. Laughlin, assistant; 8:45 and 11 a.m. sermon, "A Low Sunday"; Dr. Phillips; 7:30 p.m. sermon, "A Guide for Prayer", Dr. Phillips.

Decatur First Baptist
 Dr. Dick H. Hall, Jr., pastor; 8:30 and 11 a.m. sermon by Dr. E. M. Durrell of the Baptist Union of South Africa; 8 p.m. sermon, "The Abiding Nearness of His Steps"; Job 23:11, Rev. Paul J. Craven, assistant pastor.

Avondale Methodist
 Rev. W. Jack Lamb, pastor; 9:45 a.m. church school; 11 a.m. sermon by Rev. Jackson Braddy; 7:30 p.m. sermon, "Easter After Glow", Rev. W. Jack Lamb.

Oakhurst Presbyterian
 Rev. Reuben T. Allen, Jr., 11 a.m. sermon, "A Believer's Delight in God's House"; 7:30 p.m. "The Two Builders".

Episcopal Church of Holy Cross
 The Ven. John Lee Womack, Vicar; 9:15 a.m. Holy communion and church school.

North Decatur Methodist
 Rev. Reynolds W. Greene, Jr., pastor; 8:30 and 11 a.m. Rev. Cullen B. Jones, pastor; Pattillo Methodist church; 7:30 p.m. Community service at North Decatur Presbyterian Rev. Greene preaching.

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Apr 1 26, 1962
 The DeKalb News

DeKalb Record/ Sun 6/29/83

South DeKalb Priest Nominated For Bishop

By **SHERRON MARTINEZ**

The Rector of a mid-size South DeKalb Episcopal Church has been nominated for bishop of the large Atlanta Diocese.

The Rev. E. Don Taylor of Holy Cross Episcopal Church was among the three names on the ballot for bishop and came in second after Sufriagan (assistant) Bishop C. Justin Child, who was elected Saturday.

Father Taylor said that his nomination had not been a surprise, that he had known about it for the past three months as the Diocese narrowed the list of possible candidates from 19 to three.

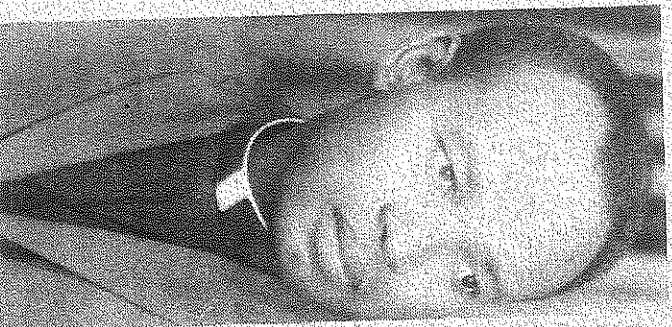
Father Taylor and the others were selected after a nominating body determined that they best fit the profile of the type of bishop desired by the Diocese. The profile was developed after questionnaires were filled out in each parish.

Father Taylor said he had mixed feelings about his nomination. "There was a strong urge to remain at Holy Cross because this is an exciting parish. I love the people here."

On the other hand, he continued, "The exposure was good; it was nice to know that people recognize that you have leadership qualities outside of your own parish."

He added, "I suspected that it was virtually impossible to be elected because Bishop Child was an excellent choice. The Diocese will prosper under him."

"Of course, when you're a bishop and in the limelight and if you're good, it's almost guaranteed you'll be



The Rev. Don Taylor

elected," he continued.

After the balloting was complete and Bishop Child was elected, Father Taylor made a resolution that the election be declared unanimous. "That was my way of stating my complete support for the process and his election and since I was the candidate who polled next in number of votes, I thought it was important to confirm my support."

Had Bishop Child not been elected on the first ballot, Father Taylor said that he would have withdrawn his own name from consideration because his "own level of commitment to him is so great."

FATHER TAYLOR, originally from Kingston, Jamaica, said that his color was neither the reason for his nomination, nor the

reason for his defeat in the election.

"I think that the people who nominated me were looking beyond color. I think the Diocese has grown beyond that. I believe that I can honestly say that around the Diocese people have seen me and treated me as an individual, rather than seeing my color."

His nomination, however, had a great significance for the black community. "I believe that the black community gloried in the fact that a black person was seen as having leadership qualities. They didn't have to say, 'they're putting him up as a candidate because he's black.'"

"The fact that I happened to be black was for many blacks a happy circumstance; my color was pure coincidence in the Diocese."

Father Taylor says that he doesn't know if he will have another opportunity to become Bishop. "It is always possible for any Diocese to put you up as a candidate; the fact is, I'm best known in this Diocese," he said.

Although some Episcopal priests after being nominated for Bishop seek transfers to larger parishes, according to Father Taylor, he plans to exercise the rest of his ministry in the Holy Cross Parish, which he described as a "very happy blend of races."

He continued to say that "his parish speaks to the dream of many people of a society in which all people can live and work together in harmony and mutual respect."

South African Archbishop to Visit South DeKalb Church

The Right Reverend Winston Njongonkulu Ndungane, who was elected archbishop of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa a year ago succeeding Desmond Tutu, will preach and celebrate at a solemn pontifical mass at Holy Cross Episcopal Church next week.

Ndungane will also be in Atlanta to record a sermon for the Protestant Hour at the Episcopal Radio and TV Foundation; to visit with Jimmy Carter, Andrew Young and the King family and to visit his son at Morehouse College. He will visit Holy Cross Episcopal Church on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Holy Cross was also a favorite stomping ground for former Archbishop Tutu.

Formerly head of the Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman and a former provincial Executive Officer of the church (the second most powerful position in the Church of the Province of South Africa), Ndungane is

considered to be the best man to lead the Anglican Church into the post-apartheid era, as political struggles are replaced by social and doctrinal issues.

At the time of his election, Ndungane said, "We have emerged from a crucible of fire where many people have been wounded and scarred. An urgent task for the church is the transformation of agents of brokenness into angels of healing."

He was acquainted with this

crucible of fire, having been imprisoned on Robben Island for three years in the 1960s for his activities in the Pan Africanist Congress.

Holy Cross Episcopal Church is located in South DeKalb County, two blocks west of Columbia Drive at the corner of McAfee Road and South Columbia Place. Call 404-284-1211 for additional directions. Maps are available on the church's Web page at www.holy-cross.org.