

APPENDIX

(Added by Miss Elizabeth S. Gray - begun in 1963)

In the summers of 1935 and 1936 a Seminary student, Hume Cox, lived at the Rectory with the Grays, and conducted services at St. John's, St. David's and Immanuel Churches.

Early in 1937 Mr. Gray retired because of his health, and the Rev. Albert C. Muller came to St. John's. He, too, had the three churches in his charge. The Grays moved from the Rectory to another house in West Point, and Mr. Gray transferred his membership to St. Peter's Church in New Kent. Mr. Gray died in 1938, and Mrs. Gray died in 1940. They were both buried at St. Peter's in New Kent County.

The Mullers had no children and were very active in community affairs. Mrs. Muller played our organ occasionally, and she both directed and sang with the choir. She had a clear, strong soprano voice, and helped greatly with building up the choir and teaching them new chants, special anthems, and new hymns. Mrs. Marian Bagby became our regular organist, and we acquired a new organ in the church. While the Mullers were here, the Woman's Auxiliary adopted the "unified plan." Mr. Muller inspired the younger ladies of the Church with his Lenten Study Classes to take a more active part in the Auxiliary work, and they formed a group which met in the evenings once a month, called the "Elizabeth Derby Group", named for the late Mrs. Arthur Gray, wife of the former rector. The senior ladies of the Auxiliary, who preferred to meet in the daytime, called their group the "Mary Hargrave Group", after a former beloved member of our Parish.

Mr. Muller was called to the Church House in Richmond in 1942 to become Editor of *The Virginia Churchman* and Secretary of the Diocese.

The Rev. E. Guthrie Brown of Richmond, a young seminarian and a bachelor, came to West Point in 1942 after the Mullers left, and was with us for three years during World War II. He had graduated from the Virginia Seminary in June and was ordained a Priest by Bishop Goodwin in St. John's Church that summer. An active, out-going young man, he made many friends in the community with his natural voice and boundless energy. In 1945 he enlisted as a chaplain in the U. S. Navy, and although we knew that this service for his country was necessary, everyone was sorry to see him leave.

With the shortage of ministers due to the war, it was a year before we had a regular priest. Meanwhile, The Rt. Rev. Hugo Blankingship, Bishop of Cuba, came to his native Virginia on sabbatical leave, and occupied the Rectory during the summer of 1945 with his family. He conducted services for us until his return to Cuba.

In 1946 The Rev. Treadwell Davison came to us. A native of Richmond, he had served the parishes in Montross, Virginia, before the War, when he became a chaplain in the Army. St. John's was his first church after his discharge from the Army. Mrs. Davison was the former Bertha Effingham Lawrence Newton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Blake Newton of Hague, Virginia. Her mother had been a Deaconess in the Church in New York. Mr. Davison's mother

was for many years Historian of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Diocese of Virginia. The Davisons were extremely popular and beloved in the Church and the community. Although they had three young children, their home was always a haven for visitors and relatives from far and near, and Mrs. Davison was constantly involved in parish work and in the Auxiliary. She stimulated the interest of the ladies to active participation in all phases of Church work. Christmas bazaars, charitable affairs and group meetings were always enlivened by the Davisons' presence.

During their residence in West Point, the Auxiliary "adopted" a Japanese minister and his family—the Rev. Joseph Yusutatsu Matsuoka—in Nagasaki, whose home and church had been destroyed by the atomic bomb. Boxes of clothing and supplies were sent, money and books and Church literature were shared with the Matsuokas. Photographs were exchanged, and steady correspondence was begun, which led to a visit in 1953 to Osaka (where the Matsuokas had moved) by Miss Elizabeth Gray. She stayed in the home of the Matsuokas and met all of the family. Upon her return to West Point, she traveled around the Diocese showing colored slides and speaking about her visit, to help raise money to send Mr. Matsuoka's oldest son, Samuel Kenichi Matsuoka, to St. Paul's University in Tokyo and later to the Bishop Williams Theological Seminary in Kyoto. Samuel was subsequently ordained a Priest, and succeeded his father in Grace Church, Osaka. (In 1963 the Rev. J. Y. Matsuoka came to West Point to visit his "mother Church" after attending the Anglican Congress in Toronto. In 1965 the Rev. Samuel Matsuoka also visited West Point after attending Wycliff Seminary in Toronto).

In 1948 the Davisons left us to return to Montross, Virginia. After a lapse of several months, the Rev. James P. Lincoln was called. Mr Lincoln had served in Florida since graduating from Virginia Theological Seminary, where he had married the daughter of the Seminary's Superintendent, Miss Anne Cleveland. The Lincolns had one daughter. Mr. Lincoln was with us for two and a half years. He was a forceful preacher and a progressive, modern-minded young man, who appealed strongly to the young people of the community. His informality and sometimes unconventional manner caused occasional clashes with the older and more conservative members of the congregation, but his sincerity was never questioned.

In 1951 Mr. Lincoln went to Richmond to join the Department of Christian Education in the Diocese of Virginia. Laymen and Seminary students then conducted our services, with visiting ministers celebrating Holy Communion once a month. Among the students serving us that summer were Mr. Douglas Pitt and Mr. Philip Gresham. Mr. John Paul Causey, a vestryman in St. John's, West Point, was most helpful in conducting services. A licensed lay preacher, Mr. Causey's sermons were always stimulating and enlightening. He was actively involved in many phases of Diocesan work, and was nationally recognized in our Church as the "father" of the Virginia Plan for Proportionate Giving, which was adopted by the entire Church throughout the United States.

In 1952 the Rev. Jack Napier Eby came to us. He had been employed by the Navy in Washington, D.C., before entering the Seminary in Alexandria, and ours was his first pastorate. He was ordained to the priesthood by the Rt. Rev. Robert F. Gibson, Jr., D.D., Bishop of the Diocese, in St. John's, West Point, June 1952. Mrs. Eby suffered from arthritis and diabetes and

her health limited her participation in Parish affairs, but both of the Ebys were much loved by the congregation. They had an adopted daughter. Mr. Eby was a scholarly and quiet man in his early forties, with a twinkle in his eye, but an intense drive for perfection. His sermons were beautifully constructed and instructive. He was studious and cultured and greatly admired by both his congregation and the whole community.

During Mr. Eby's tenure the parish at St. David's in Aylett was given to another priest. Immanuel Chapel in King & Queen Court House was retained by Mr. Eby. He arranged to conduct services at Immanuel every Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. instead of two Sunday afternoons a month. He would drive to King & Queen Sunday mornings in any kind of weather, then return to West Point to conduct 11:00 o'clock services in St. John's.

The Church building in West Point was greatly improved during Mr. Eby's pastorate. The building was painted inside and out. A new red carpet was laid, new pews and new chancel furniture were installed as memorial gifts. Mrs. Ellis Olsson was most helpful in suggestions for the interior decorating. A beautiful Verona tapestry reredos was hung from the memorial window behind the altar.

Mr. Eby was instrumental in reviving the Restoration Association for Old St. John's Church, a Colonial building in our parish which housed the congregation from 1734 until early in the nineteenth century, located about ten miles from West Point in King William County. The Association was reorganized in 1952 and some work was done on the exterior of the old building, the grounds were cleared and young pines planted.

To the distress of both congregation and community Mr. Eby felt it advisable in 1959 to accept a call to The Church of the Good Shepherd in Burke, Virginia.

(Acquisition of Parish House?)

After six months without a pastor, St. John's called the Rev. William H. Jones, who had been serving as assistant at St. Thomas' Church in Richmond since his ordination to the priesthood. Mr. Jones was of Welsh descent, born in Florida, and had studied to be a Methodist minister before going to the Episcopal Seminary. He had a beautiful high tenor voice and sang frequent solos with the choir. He was in his early thirties, and his psychological and psychiatric interests and training led many to feel that his approach to his congregation was more clinical or humanitarian than religious. His sermons were thought-provoking and controversial, but never dull. He admitted that he was sometimes confused about his role as a parish priest, and his unconventional manner frequently clashed with the members of the congregation and the vestry, causing him great distress. During his ministry the national racial upheaval began to be felt, and his views on the racial issue often collided sharply with those of his congregation. As is often the case, although they did not agree with him, he opened their eyes to many new ideas which later became accepted.

Mrs. Jones was the former Mary Virginia Warren, daughter of Mr. Warren of Madison College in Harrisonburg, Va. They had three sons and a daughter—the three youngest children

were all born while the Jones' were in West Point.

Mr. Jones was very helpful in the Restoration Association of Old St. John's Church in King William County. He took an active part in having the old Church benefit from the annual Virginia Autumn Pilgrimage tours, and instigated the fund-raising campaign which resulted in completion of the restoration of the exterior of the building, beginning the interior work, and clearing the acreage around the church. He inspired the young people in the congregation and community to help. One of the young couples in the congregation, Mr. and Mrs. R. Burke Johnson, Jr., were leaders in the restoration work.

In 1963 a number of residents from the Mattaponi Indian Reservation in King William County began to come to our Sunday School and Church. They were more or less regular in their attendance for a year or so, although they did not participate in any of the parish activities.

During the Fall and Winter of 1963 Mr. Jones received permission from the Vestry to attend school at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, where he worked with the hospital chaplain. In March 1964 he resigned his charge at St. John's, to take charge of the chaplaincy service in Toledo, Ohio, for the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio.

In the ensuing year, the laymen of St. John's, led by John Paul Causey, further developed their experience in carrying on the services and work of the parish between resident clergymen. Mr. Causey's devotion to the church has been noted previously herein. It would be difficult to evaluate his contributions to parish, diocesan and national work of the Episcopal Church. The hours of unselfish concentration in time, travel and talent which he gave were immeasurable in spreading the Christian gospel and way of life.

H. V. "Dal" Perry, son of Mr. F. A. Perry, carried on his father's long tradition of being senior warden of the vestry. Other laymen and vestrymen who kept St. John's and Immanuel alive during the absence of priests were W. Gregory Brookes, William T. Robinson, R. Tyler Bland, Jr., and C. Thomas Redd, Jr.

The wives of each of these men were leaders in the Womens' Auxiliary, altar guild and choir. Mrs. Brookes has been choir director for many years; Mrs. Katherine Buch Wilson and Miss Betty Brookes were and have been faithful organists.

Early in 1965 the Rev. Hendry Thompson (Tom) Rodman, a native of North Carolina, arrived from San Antonio, Texas, to become rector of St. John's and Immanuel Parishes. Mr. and Mrs. Rodman (the former Frances Lewis of Louisville) had three teenage children—Tommy, Betty and George. Mr. Rodman's health had been poor and he was under strong medication, but he was a true "pastor" to his flock and was greatly loved. He was very sociable, a good conversationalist, enjoyed parties and playing bridge, and was always a welcomed guest. The problems of his parish were keenly felt by Mr. Rodman, and what he considered his inability to mend rifts among the parishioners weighed heavily on him. He was no respecter of "social status"—he brought into the congregation and helped us learn to love and respect some of the underprivileged, mentally and socially deprived of the community.

One could truthfully say that Mr. Rodman had inspired many people of all walks of life to dedicate themselves more fully to the life of the Church and to try to lead more Christian lives. While he was not a remarkable preacher, his sermons were always sincere and thought-provoking, and as a pastor he was among the best we have ever had. His three short years with us strengthened our Church greatly. During his ministry here, he trained a number of men—more recent members of St. John's,—to be licensed lay readers. Among them were J. Carter Fox, E. L. Howell, Daniel C. Lewis and Arthur W. Plummer. Each of them, as well as Mr. Causey and Mr. H. V. Perry, would help Mr. Rodman conduct services in both King and Queen and West Point.

In 1967 Frank Adams Perry, for many years senior warden and leading layman of Saint John's, died after a lengthy illness.

On May 1, 1968, Mr. Rodman died at the age of 51. Mrs. Rodman and the children remained in West Point, and she continued to be active on the altar guild and with the churchwomen, while her children were in school and college and then left for work and marriage.

All of the lay readers again kept the two parishes alive for five months until our next rector arrived.

In October, 1968, the Rev. Allen J. Green, a native of South Carolina, arrived from Mexico with his family, to become locum tenens for one year. Mr. Green had been a classmate of our former rector, Mr. Eby, at Virginia Seminary, and had been a missionary in Mexico for thirteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Green (the former Betty Brown MacMillan of North Carolina) have two adopted children, Louise and Walter.

After his first year with us, Mr. Green requested the Vestry to keep him as rector, as he and his family were very happy in West Point. Shortly thereafter, his health began to decline. Mr. Green was an extremely erudite and brilliant man, but due to his poor health he was often unable to conduct the services, and our lay readers would fill in. We were frequently privileged to have the Rev. Samuel Sayre, a retired minister living in Matthews County, to conduct our services.

In 1970 a new organ was installed in St. John's, given to the memory of the late Arthur Powell Gray III, son of a former rector and brother of Miss Elizabeth Gray.

In 1971, members of the late Frank A. Perry's family give a beautiful stained glass window in his memory. The window, which is in the vestibule or narthex of St. John's Church, was made by members of St. John's and of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, under the direction of the Rev. Father Henry van den Boogaard, pastor, who made the design and drew the pattern for the window.

Also in 1971 and 1972 the Parish House was rewired, carpeted and redecorated, and the kitchen renovated.

About the same time, the Diocese was reorganized into "Regions" instead of

“Convocations ,” and parish responsibilities as well as geographic lines were redrawn. In the process, St. Paul’s Mission, a predominantly black Episcopal Church in West Point, with Capt. Vincent Hodge, Church Army, as vicar, was placed in St. John’s cure, adding to the responsibilities of our rector.

St. John’s Churchwomen compiled and published a cookbook during West Point’s Centennial Celebration in 1971, which had been tremendously successful, raising considerable sums to help them to carry on their projects. Among the projects in the community in which the Churchwomen have become closely involved, both as volunteer workers and as financial supporters, is the Parent-Child Development Center.

A major tragedy occurred in April 1974 when John Paul Causey and his wife, Virginia, were killed in a plane crash on Bali in the South Pacific, enroute to visit their daughter, Paula, in Djakarta, Indonesia. The loss to our Church, our community and our country is immeasurable. Both were the backbone of our parish—she in her quiet and efficient work in the Altar Guild and Churchwomen as much as he, as our leading layman, licensed lay preacher, confidante, advisor and friend to everyone in need. His work in the Diocese and National Church Council is history. We are fortunate that their son and his wife are also members of our church and community; he ably serving as vestryman and choir member, she as Churchwoman, Sunday School and choir member.

While Mr. Green was our rector the controversial proposed revisions to the Book of Common Prayer, “the Green Book ,” were tried out in the parish. This was met with sometimes violent opposition from the majority of the congregation. While a few studied the differences and attended the trial services, many members, both young and old, refused to consider them after one or two services. Some of the congregation, who had not been thoroughly trained in the Book of Common Prayer, or who were not life-long Episcopalians, raised only mild objections or expressed no preference. After occasionally stormy sessions, the Vestry instructed the minister to use only the 1928 version of the Book of Common Prayer, and their delegates to Council and General Convention to vote against the proposed revisions.

For nearly twenty years the rector of St. John’s has been conducting services at Immanuel Church in King and Queen at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays, then returning the 18 miles to West Point for the 11:00 a.m. service. This has prevented the rector from participating in Sunday School classes or services, except occasionally. In 1971 some of the laymen began an adult discussion class at Sunday School, and as this grew, they conducted a, “family service” each Sunday during the school year at 9:30, to which most of the young married members came with their children. As a result, very few of these young people attend any regular services in the Church. Even members of the Altar Guild (which was considerably enlarged) do not regularly attend services. It is felt, that this has resulted in a rift in the congregation, and that the young people are not receiving the benefits of priestly leadership.

In January, 1975, after several consultations between the Bishop and the Vestry, Mr. Green tendered his resignation as rector, to be effective July 1st.

Under the direction of Bishop Hall, the vestry is conducting a parish evaluation, to coordinate with a position description in an effort to locate a minister for St. John's and Immanuel and St. Paul's. Whether the same parson will continue to minister to all three remains to be seen.

The foregoing—personal recollections, all—is offered as a partial contribution to this effort.