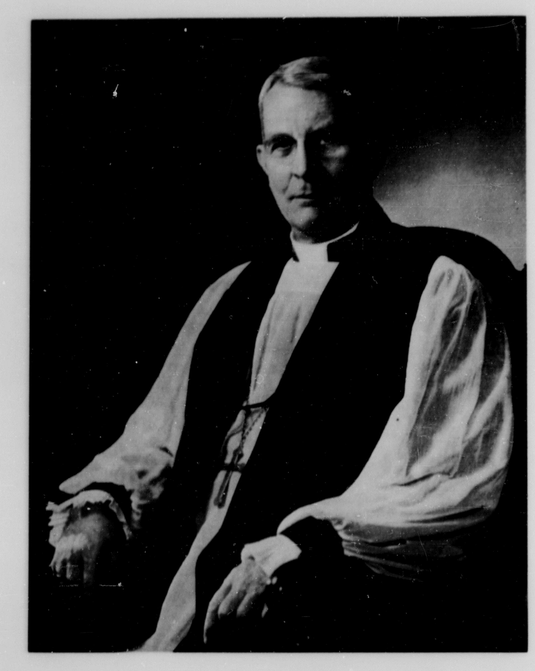

GREETINGS *from* BISHOP POWELL

MY DEAR FRIENDS:

As you, with love in your heart for our Lord, address yourselves to the task of strengthening and enriching His work by embarking on a campaign for funds, I send greetings and congratulations. Because of your devotion to Jesus Christ you are providing, within St. John's Parish and in the Diocese of which you are so vital and important a part, the facilities with which to do what the whole Church is trying to do the world over: carrying on today what our Lord began in His earthly Ministry.

Your exceptionally fine and adequate physical equipment is ready to serve the entire community. Naturally you want that service, in the realm of fellowship, community participation and training of the children of St. John's to be as adequate as is possible.

I also rejoice that you are seeking to wipe out your indebtedness and while you are keeping the home fires burning, I further rejoice that you are conscious of the fact that you are a part of the world-wide Church from which St. John's springs. I know you are also mindful of the fact that in so doing you are participating, with your brethren throughout the Diocese, in meeting the great and pressing needs facing us; to construct Parish Houses and Churches within the Diocese where, but for Diocesan assistance, such Churches and Parish Houses, could not be built.

May your canvass bring you the blessing of joy, peace and happiness which, without fail, go to those who love our Lord. I truly rejoice that you are aware of our rich inheritance and that you wish to share with all of our congregations the opportunities which have come to us.

Faithfully Yours,

Noble C. Powell

Noble C. Powell,
Bishop of Maryland

I AM THE VINE . . .
YOU ARE THE BRANCHES

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers: and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned.

This is perhaps not the place for a detailed history of the parish. But for those who are not familiar with the background of St. John's Episcopal Church, a brief resume may be interesting.

St. John's Parish, according to records began in 1770. The Episcopal Church got an early foothold in the county and was perhaps the first which organized a congregation. It was and still is the established church in Maryland. Many of the landowners were of the Faith and places of worship were financed by the Legislature.

The whole of the county was originally a portion of All Saints Parish, Frederick County. It is believed that the first Episcopal Church in the county was a log chapel on the lane which leads from the College of St. James to the Sharpsburg Pike and from which "Chapel Woods" takes its name. This was built about the year 1760 and in it the Rev. Bartholemew Booth, a clergyman of the Church of England, and a celebrated teacher, officiated.

St. John's Church has occupied three locations in Hagerstown—the first in the second block of South Mulberry Street, then on Jonathan Street (now Summit Avenue) and later at the present location on South Prospect Street. Likewise, the Parish has suffered damaging fires, one in 1886, a devastating one in 1871 and the 1954 conflagration which wrecked the Parish House.

In 1881 Christopher Columbus Baldwin, a wealthy citizen of New York, born in Maryland, erected in memory of his wife, Sallie Roman, daughter of J. Dixon Roman, the beautiful stone tower and spire on the present church. Mr. Baldwin placed a peal of bells in the tower. Some years later, the church was further improved and beautified by Mrs. Henry Rosenburg, and a reredos and chancel window were erected as a memorial to her father, Dr. Charles Macgill. The handsome altar which came from the Black Forest, Germany, is of oak carved by Swiss woodcarvers and was bought by Mrs. Rosenburg from the World's Fair in 1893.

St. John's truly has a rich heritage; otherwise, how could Bishop Powell have said that the 150th anniversary of St. John's Church "is not merely an episode, but a recognition of those who have gone before us, a recognition of the richness of their experience and brilliance of their hope"?

May We Be The Branches To Bring Forth Fruit.

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