

## **BRIEF History of the Episcopal Church in Georgia (and Atlanta)**

- The Rev. Dr. Henry Herbert sails from England on the Anne with James Oglethorpe. On board he holds services. They arrive in Charleston on January 2, 1733, and they travel to Savannah. He holds services of prayer and thanksgiving along the way. (*Upon This Rock*)
- Dr. Herbert founds Christ Church Savannah. First child baptized in the colony.
- Dr. Herbert died at sea on a return visit, June 15, 1733.
- The Rev. John Wesley became rector of Christ Church, Savannah in 1736.
- Christ Church, St. Simon's (136) and St. Paul's, Augusta (1750) received the second and third parishes, respectively.
- 1823—The first Diocesan Convention in Georgia.
- Macon, Columbus, Clarkesville (1838) were the next three parishes.
- 1840—at the 18<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Georgia, the Rev. Stephen C. Elliott, Jr. of SC was elected the first Bishop of Georgia. There were 362 communicants in the Diocese.
- Other new parishes popped up: St. James', Marietta (1842); Emmanuel, Athens (1843), and St. Peter's, Rome (1844), St. Philip's, Atlanta (1846)
- 1892—Bishop Cleland K. Nelson elected bishop of Georgia. He chooses Atlanta as the cathedral city. First Cathedral—St. Luke's. Two years later, St. Philip's. Mission churches and communicants double under his efforts.
- In 1850, 21 churches and 870 communicants.
- In 1880, 36 parishes, 11 missions—10,155 members.
- In 1905, talks of dividing the diocese of Georgia occur, and in 1907 Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta founded, with 28 churches and missions, and about 4,000 communicants. The Diocese of Georgia had 24. Bishop Nelson remains with Atlanta, and Fredrick Reese is elected Bishop of Georgia in 1908.
- In his first address, Bishop Nelson spoke frankly of the need for more congregational singing—not wanting just the performance of the choir. He told parishes to make determined efforts to improve their Sunday school, and put more attention to the foreign and domestic mission (growth) of the church.
- In one of last addresses, he spoke of “eradicating crime and vice out of the hearts,” especially when it came to lynchings (History of Church in GA, 222)
- Bishop Henry Judah Mikell elected in 1917; he died in 1942 while still bishop.
  - WWI and II, flu epidemic, and Depression took their toll on the church during Mikell's episcopate.
  - Diocese continues to reach out to African-Americans—with five ministers, eighteen lay ministers, and 820 children in parochial schools. (Still segregated, however.)
  - 1933—a summer camp for young people was formed in Toccoa. \$5,000 was given in 1939 for that ministry—including 487 acres
  - By 1940, Diocesan budget was \$9,915 for a diocese that numbered 8,195.
- Bishop John Walker, 1942-1951.
- Bishop John Walthour (1952)
- Bishop Randolph Claiborne, Jr (1953-
- Bishop Bennett Sims (d.2006)
- Bishop Judson Child (1983-1989)
- Bishop Frank Allan (1989-2001)
- Bishop Neil Alexander (2001-)
  - 2005—93 Parishes and over 50,000 members