



**The Reverend Mr. Paul H. Kratzig: Ministering to
St. Andrew's and Hilton Village**

By

Melissa Sale



"Not one of us can say, 'we do not believe in missions.' This church was a mission for many years. In 1943, it became a parish with full responsibilities. The Church is not a monument to an individual, nor is it the product of one man. St. Andrew's has the very spirit of a mission. It has grown because of the commission to preach the Gospel to all people. It has been filled with the zeal and enthusiasm to reach out to include all people within its folds. Young and old find a youthful spirit in St. Andrew's."

The Reverend Mr. Paul H. Kratzig (1917-2003), writing in 1952

The incomparable neighborhood that is Hilton Village and St. Andrew's Church (as well as the other three Hilton churches) are inextricably linked. Before the land was cleared in 1918, the planners included churches in the community's design as part of their vision for a healthy, happy place for Newport News Shipbuilding employees to live and therefore be more productive workers. While the architects and builders created a beautiful, timeless community, it was the churches who nurtured that community. From 1942 to 1953, The Reverend Mr. Paul Kratzig, ministered not only to his parishioners at St. Andrew's, but to all of the neighbors in Hilton Village.

According to Anne Daniel Fowler, a lifelong St. Andrew's member for whom Mr. Kratzig was her minister from first grade until she went away to college, "He was all about Hilton. We all were. If anything was going to happen, the whole neighborhood had to get together." Anne's younger brother Jim Daniel, trained by Mr. Kratzig to serve as an acolyte, agreed, "He was very community minded."

During this period, St. Andrew's began its community outreach through education. Anne noted, "He and [his wife] Lucy were very, very interested in education." Anne recalled that in the early 1940s St. Andrew's hosted Mrs. Apperson's School, which accepted first graders younger than the school system's age requirement, in a part of the old Parish House for a few years. Mrs. Apperson's School later moved to a house on Hurley Avenue. In the late 1940s, Mr. Kratzig's wife Lucy, with the support of parishioners including Hack and Gennie Wilson, started St. Andrew's Day School which became an outreach ministry of the church for over 71 years. During Lucy Kratzig's tenure, the school grew from Kindergarten only to first through third grades.



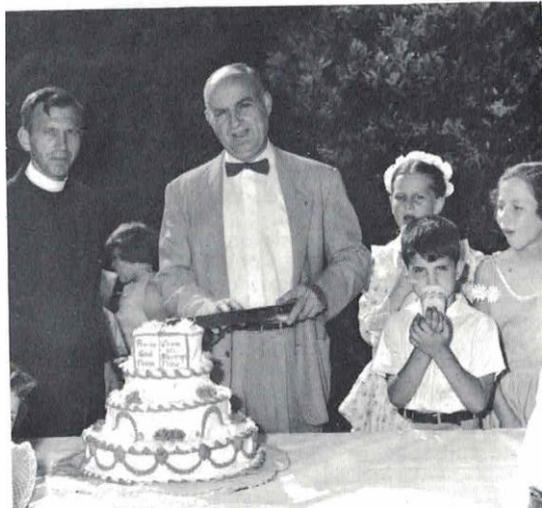
Basement recreation room for Teen Age Club (1952)

Mr. Kratzig formed a Teen Age Club for all Hilton teenagers to attend. In the 1940s, there was no Episcopal Youth Community at St. Andrew's. Anne and her friend Gladys Baptist [Lash] went to the EYC at St. Paul's in Newport News on Sunday nights. The Teen Age Club was for everybody in the neighborhood every Friday. They had fellowship, games, and conversation. It was, Anne said, "a nice place to come. There wasn't anything for kids to do then." She enjoyed the chance to see all of her friends from other churches. Mr. Kratzig sometime gave mini-

sermons. Sometimes they had a dance. When the new Parish Hall building was completed in 1952, Mr. Kratzig designed a large recreation room in the basement for the teenagers to meet. There was a Coca-Cola machine and soda fountain for ice cream available for all of the Hilton children to patronize. Lifelong parishioner Corky Brooks remembers buying ice cream from St. Andrew's when he was a student at Hilton Elementary. In those days, a door from the basement opened onto the Dell, the play area beside the church that featured swing sets and slides. The church-hosted Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts also had meeting space in the basement.

Mr. Kratzig was Corky Brooks's minister from birth to elementary school. He played with the Kratzigs' son Garrett. In those days, the Rectory was at the corner of Main and Ferguson (today's Youth House and financial offices). He remembers Mr. Kratzig. "He was a nice man. Very active. It was an active, growing parish. He was young. Lots of young families at that time."

The parishioners didn't stay in their shingled church building every Sunday. Mr. Kratzig initiated the Whitsunday (Pentecost) Parade from St. Andrew's along River Road to the Buchanan's home on Park Place where the service was held by the James River under a large tree in their backyard. Afterward, there was a birthday cake for the church. Whitsunday was a long-standing tradition that grew into costumes and decorated floats on flatbed trucks.



L-R: Paul Kratzig, Judge Conway Sheild, Children at Whitsunday Party

In 1947, Mr. Kratzig heard about a Hilton family with three young boys whose father had been killed. The mother struggled to take care of the boys and get by. The family were members of Hilton Methodist Church. Mr. Kratzig had connections with the Boy's Home of Virginia in Covington, a mission of the Episcopal Church. He contacted the mother of these boys and offered to have them accepted to the home. The boys spent a year and a half there. When they came home for Christmas the second year, the mother felt she could manage to take care of her sons. She was forever grateful to Mr. Kratzig and the church that helped her when she most

needed it. Five years old at the time, Butch Woodall was the youngest of those three boys. He continues to be a long-time member of St. Andrew's.

"He liked to build things," Jim Daniel said about Mr. Kratzig. As a student at Mrs. Apperson's school in the Hilton duplex Parish House, Jim watched the 1942-43 construction of a wooden addition onto the back of the duplex. In 1948, the church built a shingled addition onto the original sanctuary to house the choir and organ. When the church outgrew its parish house addition, Mr. Kratzig supervised building a three-story masonry Parish House for kitchen, meeting, recreation, and community space; as well as the Day School and Sunday School classrooms in 1952 that still stands in 2019. He was also responsible for digging out the land beside the church to create the playground known as the Dell.

In 1953, Mr. Kratzig and his family left St. Andrew's for his assignment as Rector of Trinity Church in Victoria, Texas. They left a legacy of service and outreach that remains a part of the fabric of St. Andrew's well into the 21st Century.

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HONOR ROLL

Each month, this section presents a listing of past and present members.

Mrs. Constance P. Daniel	Judge Conway H. Sheild, Jr.	Mrs. Lisa Wolak
Mr. James N. Daniel	Mrs. Elizabeth Sheild	Mrs. Beth Wolak Pegram
Mrs. Anne Daniel Fowler	Mr. Paul Orrison	Mr. Lewis Stone
Mr. Bruce Fowler	Mr. David Franzman	Mr. David B. Seward, Jr.
Mr. James N. Daniel, Jr.	Mrs. Martha Brooks	Mrs. June M. Seward
Mr. Sam Robertson	Mr. Charles T. Brooks	Mrs. Nancy Seward Whitley
Mrs. Margaret Kelly Robertson	Mr. Charles (Corky) Brooks	Mr. John Whitley
Mrs. Peggy Robertson Woodall	Mrs. Gloria Brooks	Mrs. Tonia Graves
Mr. Lawrence (Butch) Woodall	Ms. Hayes Brooks	Mr. Ron Graves
Mrs. Nancy Robertson Orrison	Dr. Tom Wash	Ms. Kathryn Graves
Mr. Paul Orrison	Mrs. Jackie Legg Wash	Mr. Eric Graves
Mr. Connor Orrison	Mrs. Betsy Wolak	Ms. Margaret Bivins
Mr. Brice Woodall	Mr. Terry Wolak	Mr. Bob Kelly
Ms. Ashley Woodall	Mr. Mike Wolak	Mr. Bill Henry