

CHAPTERS IN TRINITY'S HISTORY

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CHAPTER XIII - REACHING OUT: 1879-1887

In 1879, with the Rev. Peter Shand clearly in poor health, the vestry hired the Rev. Harvey Orin Judd as assistant rector. Given the temper of the times, it was a bit unusual as the thirty-five year old Judd was a native of Michigan. However, he had had a successful ministry as an assistant at Grace Church, Charleston, and a strong recommendation from Bishop W. B. W. Howe. The bishop was impressed with the young priest's abilities as a preacher, pastor, and "sympathetic temperament which especially draws the young to him."

Although Judd served in the shadow of a venerated rector, he more than fulfilled the bishop's expectations. His relationship with Mr. Shand was smooth and Judd also undertook a ministry of his own. He energized a group of parishioners to work with the poor of the Columbia area and to assist him in establishing the Episcopal Church in communities where its presence was not known.

When Judd arrived in 1879, the congregation's principal missionary endeavor - the parochial school - was in decline. Eight years later it was flourishing and was just one of a number of outreach efforts. Within Trinity a lay ministry was formed that concerned itself with the living conditions of the poor of Columbia and also collected and distributed aid for the needy. Eventually this lay outreach ministry evolved into three organizations: the Church Aid Society, the Trinity Branch of the Women's Auxiliary, and the Shand Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

By 1880 Trinity was operating two industrial schools "for the instruction of the poor of all ages." The purpose of the industrial schools was to teach marketable skills, primarily sewing, to women in the community. The schools were divided according to age. The adult branch taught "sewing for poor women," provided them "a weekly service," and assisted them "in other Christian ways." The second school supported a sizeable number of children who met on Saturday mornings and were "taught to sew and instructed in the Christian faith." The Victorian and maternalistic terminology didn't mean that Trinity kept the mission scholars at arms' length. On Easter Sunday, the church, elaborately decorated in exuberant Victorian fashion, was the site of special services for all outreach programs.

Within a few years, the mission schools, flourishing under the "supervision of Dr. Judd and his corps of zealous and efficient collaborators", had outgrown the church school buildings. Classes were conducted in the Columbia Male Academy, located in the northwestern section of town and in Steward's Hall on the campus of the South Carolina College.

Mill families were one of the groups to which Judd directed his energies. In 1882 forty of the one hundred mission school scholars were associated with the nearby Saluda factory in Lexington County. So, in addition to the special Easter services at Trinity, he held afternoon services at the factory. This effort became a mission which, for several years, was in an "encouraging condition." More permanent were the results of the mission school and "cottage services" among the railway workers who lived in the northwestern section of Columbia. These services evolved into an active Episcopal mission and a Sunday school with its own identity, although the women of Trinity continued to operate it. In 1886 the mission became the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Judd also traveled regularly to Grace Church, Ridge Spring, to hold services. In 1882 he was elected to the Diocesan Board of Missions.

Throughout his ministry at Trinity, Judd had been plagued by poor health. In 1884 the vestry had granted him a paid leave of absence to travel to Florida, and the women of the church had raised funds to help defray his travel expenses. Two years later, in June 1886, he took another three months leave.

Upon the death of Peter Shand on All Saints' Day, 1886, the vestry waited only two weeks before electing Harvey Orrin Judd as Trinity's new rector. In accepting the vestry's call, he noted that his health had improved since the summer. His optimism, alas, was short-lived. In August 1887, the young Michigander who had revived the congregation's tradition of service and outreach to the greater Columbia community tendered his resignation and moved to California.