

Priests, Organists, Wardens, Vestry, and Lay Readers at St. James Episcopal Church, Shelbyville, Kentucky

Priests Serving the Shelbyville Episcopal Congregation at Shelby College

Date	Clergy	Affiliation/Biography	Notes
c 1800 to 1810	The Reverend Mr. Crawford	According to The Rt. Reverend Benjamin B. Smith six men from Kentucky traveled to England to become ordained, including Mr. Crawford of Shelby County. In Shelby County in 1810 there lived John, Nathan, Samuel and William Crawford but which was the man who went to England is not known.	The others were: Judge Sebastian, Dr. Chambers of Bardstown, Dr. Gantt of Louisville, Mr. Elliott of Franklin, Mr. Crawford of Shelby, and Mr. Johnson of Nelson. None of these ordained men started a church to the knowledge of Bishop Smith or The Rt. Rev. T. U. Dudley who wrote the information down in 1896. Rev. Mr. Edward Crawford and his son Rev. Mr. George Crawford lived in Virginia (WVA) migrating to Missouri, but no records of them living in Shelby County Kentucky.
June 1830- Jun 11-12 1832	The Reverend Mr. Robert Ash	From the Diocese of Maryland; young deacon assigned by Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church to Shelbyville and Middletown; at the same time George F. Giddings was sent to Hopkinsville and Russellville as part of Bishop Benjamin B. Smith's emphasis on evangelizing Kentucky. Eventually there were five missionaries setting up Sunday Schools and missions. In 1831 Ash and two others were ordained priests by Bishop Meade of Virginia who had been invited to Kentucky by Bishop Smith.	At the 1830 convention, Mr. Ash reported finding 30 scattered families in Middletown and Shelbyville that had formed themselves into Zion Church as an Episcopal congregation. Was this an unorganized mission formed earlier by Mr. Crawford of Shelby or Mr. Elliot of Franklin Counties? Robert Ash's report to the convention of 1830 and 1832 indicates that he was thereupon serving as priest-in-charge of Zion Church on behalf of the Diocese of Kentucky. Years later, Zion Church, is referred to as the Episcopal mission at LaGrange in Oldham County.
1838	The Reverend Mr. N. N. Cowgill	Deacon Missionary of General Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of Protestant Episcopal Church providing divine services at Shelby College; Cowgill, a Transylvania graduate originally from Pennsylvania, was ordained by Bishop Benjamin B. Smith. Cowgill's mission was to evangelize and develop congregations in small towns.	Reported to Diocesan Convention; this may have been a continuation of Robert Ash's ministry to Zion Church.
1840	The Rt. Rev. Benjamin Bosworth Smith, first bishop of the Diocese of Kentucky The Reverend Mr. W. T. Elmer	The bishop dissolved the controversial Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Kentucky at Lexington where Professor Caswell and Dr. Cooke had agitated Smith's 1836 church trial. Bishop Smith then opened the Department of Religion at Shelby College for candidates for Holy Orders. Shelby College now became affiliated with the Episcopal Church. The Reverend Mr. Elmer became one of the principal Episcopal educators of Kentucky; Bishop Dudley in 1885 assigned him tutor for postulants for Holy Orders in the diocese.	Professor Henry Caswell, professor of Sacred Literature (1834-1840) came to Shelbyville, primarily shepherding the priceless seminary library. The Reverend Mr. W. T. Elmer of Louisville, the endowed teacher (1844-1896) at Shelby College and a strong supporter of Bishop Smith.

1845	The Rev. Mr. J. D. Berry	<p>The Theological Seminary directed to sell its land and the Griswold Press, proceeds to pay debts and support the Professor of Theology and Chaplain of Shelby College.</p> <p><u>Parochial Report from Shelby College:</u> Rev. J. D. Berry accepted position as President and agreed to teach candidates for ordination. Since September I have been arduously engaged in the duties of my station, as President of Shelby College, whose prospects are becoming more encouraging every day. The number of students has more than doubled since the commencement of the Collegiate year. The college has undergone some repairs: Library cases have been made and all the Books of the Theological Library, systematically arranged. The only clerical duty I have performed, has been preaching once every Sunday in the College Chapel, not only to the Students, but to others sufficient to make a goodly congregation. J.D. Berry,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Shelbyville, May 1945</p>	<p>Journal of the Convention, 1845</p> <p>See Journal of the Special Convention, Diocese of Kentucky 1847, on the future of Shelby College</p>
1846	The Rev. Mr. J. D. Berry	<p><u>Parochial Report from Shelby College:</u> Shelbyville, May 13, 1845 Rev. J. D. Berry would respectfully inform his Bishop, that there has been regular preaching in the Chapel of Shelby College once on Sunday for the present year, to a small but attentive Congregation. That owing to the fact that several students having completed their education, the number has been somewhat smaller than during the past year; yet the moral and intellectual condition of the College has been greatly improved, and, with the patronage of the Diocese alone, it might be made a name and a praise in the earth. The two additional buildings for Dormitories, and the commodious Dining Room attached to the President's House, render it a very agreeable residence for Students.</p>	Diocesan Journal
1851	The Reverend Mr. Frederick Elwell	Missionary/Evangelist; born in London, England, he evangelized congregations throughout northern Kentucky. In 1864 he came back from Tennessee and became rector at St. John's, Newport, where he died in 1880.	Reported Shelby College chapel not yet finished, 12 communicants, 3 colored children baptized, 2 young people prepared for confirmation.
1852	The Reverend Mr. R. C. Shindler	Missionary, Professor of Greek and Latin in Shelby College	Baptised 10 adults, 6 infants, 2 white persons confirmed, 12 communicants in the chapel
1853	The Reverend Mr. John White Stevenson, Professor	Shelby College Professor, most often associated as rector of Trinity, Covington and a strong ally of Dr. James Craik. In	Assisted by Mr. John Wesley Venable, candidate for Holy Orders

		the 1865 national convention, he was one of six Kentucky clerics who urged seating of the Confederate delegation to reconcile the national church.	John White Stevenson later a U.S. Congressman, Kentucky Governor, and U.S. Senator. Historians of Diocese of Lexington believe this is the same person.
1854	The Reverend Mr. John Nicolas Norton	Shelby College Professor. Norton was most closely associated with the growth of St. John's, Versailles, and Ascension, Frankfort. In 1870s Norton took the position as assistant rector to Dr. James Craik at Christ Church, Louisville where he died 8 years later. While on the staff of Christ Church Cathedral, Rev. Norton founded the Church of Our Merciful Saviour and served as its first rector. Norton Memorial Infirmary, now Norton Hospital, Louisville, is named for John N. Norton.	J. W. Venable reported to Diocesan Convention that disturbances at Shelby College had disbursed much of the faculty and communicants at the chapel. In the mid 19 th century, John Norton was an ally of Dr. Craik in developing high standards for academies and colleges and was one of the Kentucky clerics reconciling the Northern and Southern wings of the national church.
1857	The Reverend Dr. James Craik	Shelby College President William J. Waller, M.D., dedicated but dictatorial tended to admix the college and his own personal assets. , Dr. James Craik of Shelby College provided the academic hest. Craik became Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Louisville as did his son The Rev. Mr. C. E. Craik in the late 19 th century.	Waller reported that he and Dr. Craik started with 8 students and built up to 56 students in 1859, half from the faculty families; divine services regularly attended by townspeople, girls from female academies, and faculty

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Late 1857 early 1858	The Reverend Mr. John Trimble	Chaplain and Professor of Ancient Languages, Shelby College; John Trimble had been confirmed in April 1847 at Cynthiana which hosted a church-affiliated academy.	Trimble and seven other communicants formed the St. James Parish and its first vestry. By 1858 they had raised \$1,100 to purchase a lot on Main Street to build a church building
1860	Robert McMurdy, President of Shelby College	President Robert McMurdy of Shelby College brought in from Washington, D.C. and then Frankfort, Kentucky, to head Shelby College. He recruited very high powered academics and rebuilt the quality and quantity of the school but left to become chaplain in the Union Army and Dr. Waller returned as president of Shelby College then sold the school to Shelbyville to run as a public school in 1870.	Reported to Diocesan Convention that divine services continued to be held at the school with 146 in attendance and 11 candidates sent to the bishop for confirmation
1862	The Reverend Mr. Norman Badger	Professor of Languages at Shelby College; during the Civil War served as chaplain at military hospitals in and around Louisville.	Urged completion of the building to "conduct services elsewhere – out of reach of college influences." Badger provided significant missionary activity in west end of Louisville during 1870s.
1866	The Reverend Mr. Andrew F. Freeman	St. James Parish	Reported to Diocesan Convention he was holding services at the Masonic Building in Shelbyville, St. James church constructed in 1865 had no windows, no vestry room, and

			congregation needed money to finish the building
May 1868	The Rev. Mr. Carter Page, chairman, nominating committee 40 th Convention, Christ Church, Louisville.	Chairman, Committee Appointed to nominate Trustees for St. James' College, Shelbyville; elected were Rev. Drs. Craik and Norton, Rev. Messrs, J. S. Shipman, O.B. Thayer, Carter Page, E. T. Perkins, and N. N. Cowgill, Messrs. J.M. Robinson, Lewis Tripp, Wm. Cornwall, J. P. Morton, T. S. Kennedy, Dr. J. Baker, Col. S. B. Churchill, and John T. Moore.	General E. Kirby Smith, President, converts Shelby College into a Church School for Boys.
1868	The Reverend Mr. L. W. Davis	One year at St. James, Shelbyville. He later became bishop co-adjudicator of Diocese of Texas.	Baptisms – infants 10, Confirmed 2, Communicants, Removed 2, added 5, present number 23, Marriage 1, Burial 1 Offerings – for church expenses \$155.70, Diocesan assessment current year \$20, average \$10, payment on church debt \$642.75, Rector's salary, pledge \$800, paid to date \$117.50, total paid \$1,145.45. The present Rector has been in charge four months. The church is still in debt about \$300 and some further outlay is also required for seats and furnishing. An Easter offertory of nearly \$400 enabled the church to see its way through the debt, and we now hope to have the church ready for consecration before the end of another year. Grateful acknowledgements are due to Christ Church, Louisville, for \$200 and to Christ Church, Lexington for \$200, material help in time of need.
1872	The Reverend Dr. R. M. Chapman	At St. James, Shelbyville three years.	Reported 32 communicants giving a total of \$652.52.
1877	The Reverend Mr. G. W. Flowers	Missionary in charge	Reported 35 communicants, 9 families, 62 individuals, 1 infant baptism, 1 marriage, 2 services each 2 nd Sunday, plus Ash Wednesday, one Holy Communion, 1 Sunday School teacher, 4 officers and 18 scholars. Giving \$80 to Missionary Fund, \$15 to Bishop's Fund, \$28.35 for parish expenses, total of \$153.35, total of 120 people sitting in church services.
1882	The Reverend William G. McCready	Missionary, assigned St. Matthews, St. James, Pewee Valley, and St. James, Shelbyville. On site only one year. became Rector of St. Paul's, Newport by 1894 and took part in the Convocation of Lexington	Reported 24 families and 3 individuals, total of 101 souls; 11 infant baptisms and 3 adult baptisms, conducted total of 53 Sunday services, 7 Public Holy Communion and 1 private Holy Communion; total of 29 communicants in 200 sittings in church. Four Sunday School teachers, 1 male, 3 female, 11 male scholars, 5 females total of 16 in Sunday School. \$100 contribution to missions, \$100.20 to parish expenses, \$1.50 to foreign missions, \$20 to diocesan assessment. Received \$100 from Diocesan mission board.
1895	The Reverend Mr. Mortimer Murray Benton	M.M. Benton, Archdeacon, later a prime mover in creating the Diocese of Lexington, separate from Diocese	Reported value of church property \$2,500; spent \$45 for an organ. Benton was assisted by Rev. Walker.

	The Reverend Mr. Granville C. Walker	of Kentucky.	Rev. M. M. Benton was first rector of Church of the Advent, Baxter Avenue, Louisville, in 1871. This congregation started as a mission of Christ Church Cathedral on Broadway near Underhill Street.
1902		Bishop Charles E. Woodcock assigned licensed lay readers from Louisville to read Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer at Mission churches in order to supplement his number of priests. As a result communion was given only once a month with Morning Prayer on three or four Sundays.	Weekly services begun by Lay Readers: Robert Steele, John Howe Payton, Theodore C. Snively, Judge George Brent all from Christ Church, Louisville
1903 to 1910	The Reverend Mr. Milton R. Worsham The Reverend Mr. Stephen Barnwell	Stephen Elliott Barnwell was rector of St. John's, Louisville. He and his son were killed March 27, 1890, when a whirlwind (tornado) leveled the church building on top of them.	The Reverend Mr. R. W. Barnwell, his cousin, came from St. Paul's Henderson to rebuild St. John's to honor Stephen Barnwell, then went to Paducah Ky, He was replaced by William H. Barnwell who came up from Columbus, MS, to become rector at St. John's. This Stephen Barnwell may be the cousin.
1911	The Reverend Mr. Clinton S. Quin	Came to St. James March 1, 1911. Became Bishop Co-adjudicator in the Diocese of Texas in 1918	
1911 to 1915	The Reverend Mr. Edward C. McAllister	Priest-in-charge from May 1, 1911 to May 9, 1915	McAllister's main posting was to St. James, Pewee Valley. He worked with three licensed lay readers from Christ Church Cathedral, Louisville, who apparently were assigned to aid the mission churches.
May 14, 1915 to Dec. 1916	The Reverend Mr. Francis M. Adams	Stayed until December 1, 1916 when Reverend McAllister returned as priest in charge at St. James	Adams was assigned from May 1915 and worked chiefly with Hart Wallace as Lay Reader and Treasurer. Hart Wallace was the first licensed lay reader from St. James. Adams penned a detailed diary of services, baptisms, confirmations, and burials during his tenure. He encouraged an active Sunday School and St. James' Guild that provided a new reed organ in September 1916.
1916 to 1921	The Reverend Mr. Edward C. McAllister	McAllister's second tour at St. James lasted until March 13, 1921	McAllister's second tour at St. James, Shelbyville, established a yoke relationship between St. James, Shelbyville and St. James, Pewee Valley that lasted through the 1920s.
1922 – 1923	The Reverend Mr. George W. Dow		Dow served both St. James Pewee Valley and St. James, Shelbyville. There were no bishop's visits to Shelbyville during Dow's tenure.
1924-1926	The Reverend Mr. Otway Colvin	Came into the diocese from Monroe, Michigan	The third of the priests in charge at St. James, Pewee Valley and St. James, Shelbyville
1926 to 1937	The Reverend Mr. John Milliard Nelson	Reverend Nelson was Canon Missioner at Christ Church Cathedral. Bishop Woodcock assigned him to St. James in September 1926 and he continued the relationship until June 30, 1937	Seven families kept the church going during the Depression Judge and Mrs. Charles Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Hart Wallace, Miss Bessie Todd, Mrs. Richard Randolph, Mrs. Clarence Barrickman, Mrs. Hugh Collins and Mrs. Jesse Owen.
1930	The Rt. Reverend Charles C. Woodcock	Made his annual visit to St. James, Shelbyville, January 12, 1930; at that time he dedicated the altar that had been given by the Marshall family.	Although Bishop Woodcock assigned clergy and clergy support to the organized missions in the diocese, the 1910-1937 period was marked by growth of the social service institutions – Norton Infirmary, Protestant Episcopal Orphan

			Asylum, Orphanage of Good Shepherd, Home of the Innocents, Church Home, and The Girls' Friendly Inn – which drained time and attention from the Bishop who served on most of these boards. Rather than having an assistant bishop, Woodcock relied on senior ministers at established large parishes to administer the small mission churches.
1938 to 1944	The Reverend Mr. Robert Corcoran Board	The senior clergy and mentor to Shep Musson, Reverend Board oversaw the services at St. James from September 25, 1938 to 1944	Robert Board was Rector at St. Luke's Anchorage and he served as senior minister over St. James, Pewee Valley, St. James, Shelbyville, and St. John's Mission in LaGrange.
1938	Deacon Harry Sheppard Musson	Musson first came to St. James as deacon working under Robert Board. He was ordained priest in 1939. He reported that his first services were held in the little court room at Shelbyville Courthouse with 13 present, 9 from the girls' school	Musson's father was rector emeritus of the Church of the Advent, Louisville. Musson Jr. left St. James in 1941 to become curate at the Church of the Advent, Louisville. In 1944 and 1945 he was chaplain in the U.S. Army. In 1946 Rev. Musson was called to St. Thomas, Louisville, to help the struggling mission church and he was there until 1962 when he then returned to St. James, Shelbyville.
1941-1942	The Reverend Mr. James W. Conner, The Reverend Mr. Raymond Carter Sutherland	Assigned as young deacons and priests at St. James during early war years. Conner's ordination was pushed ahead by the bishop because they were so short of priests. R.C. Sutherland left for War Service as chaplain with the U.S. Army. Mr. Robert C. Board at St. James, Pewee Valley was the senior priest.	Conner performed at least three baptisms at St. James in 1941, and Sutherland one baptism in 1942.
1944 to 1946	Reverend J. T. Schieffling	Apparently was on-call at St. James during the War years but served other parishes as well. J. T. Schieffling was canonically from the Missionary District of New Mexico and worked chiefly with St. George's and other small mission churches in Louisville.	He conducted at least two burials at Grove Hill, Shelbyville.
1947 to 1955	The Reverend Mr. Robert Board, The Reverend Mr. Eddy Thomas Rodda	Robert Board returned from WWII Service to St. Luke's Anchorage and was assigned to supervise the clergy and lay readers at St. James, Pewee Valley and St. James Shelbyville	Rev. Board made several trips to Shelbyville each year and his signature is on many baptisms and confirmations during this period. Rodda had been assigned to St. Stephen's Louisville; during 1947 and 1949, E. T. Rodda performed three baptisms at St. James, Shelbyville.
1955 to 1957	The Reverend Mr. Robert W. Smith	Assigned to St. James from September 1, 1955 to June 1957	Robert Smith performed four baptisms at St. James in 1956.
1960s	The Reverend Mr. Embry C. Rucker	Apparently these were short-term interims supplied by the diocese	
1960 to 1962	The Reverend Mr. Frank Elliott-Baker	Served as senior minister for a short term at St. James but his main assignment was as Rector at Calvary, Louisville. March 9, 1962 Bishop Marmion accompanied by Rev. Elliott-Baker, met with congregation at Shelbyville for covered dish dinner and meeting. Later that year Marmion recalled Rev. Musson from St. Thomas and assigned	Elliott-Baker had a distinctive English accent. The next week after the bishop had challenged the people of the diocese to get more zeal; Elliott-Baker told the people at St. James that they need some "Swiggert" and "no small amount of obedience." The 1960s and 1970s were periods of high activity for the Episcopal Church Women, the St. James Guild was quite active within the

		him to St. James, Shelbyville.	church and the diocese.
1962 to 1976	The Reverend Mr. Sheppherd H. Musson	Returned to St. James providing services twice a month with Lay Reader Florian E. Woods conducting Morning Prayer services. Musson dedicated Bessie Todd Hall during the 100 th anniversary celebration.	Combining his two pastorates, Shep Musson served at St. James the longest of any clergy. Musson increased membership at St. James from 29 to 51 during his second tenure. The first woman delegates to convention, Mrs. Clarence Miller, Mrs. Charles Moody, and Mrs. Hunter Baker, came under Musson's watch.
1976 to 1979	The Reverend Mr. Kendig Brubaker Cully	First full-time rector for St. James; Cully served from January 1, 1977 to December 10, 1979. He was a published author and academic.	Kendig B. Cully was at St. James when the stained glass windows were erected and dedicated. Cully, Kendig B. (Ed.). (1966). <u>The Episcopal Church and Education</u> . New York: Morehouse-Barlow.
1970s and 1980s	The Reverend Mr. Christopher D. F. Bryce, The Rev. Mr. W. B. Gentleman, The Rev. Mr. George T. Mackey	Served in 1977, 1978, and 1982 respectively as temporary priests, providing occasional communion. Bryce, Gentleman, and Mackey conducted one baptism each during their services.	Important to keep the church functioning were the Lay Readers during this period: Florian E. Wood, Dan Ross, William T. Giltner, Gilbert Ellis.
1981-82	The Reverend Mr. Gary E. Ramsay	Held a two-year position at St. James.	Considered very innovative; attempted a high church service. Personal problems led to his resigning from the priesthood and returning home.
1982	The Reverend Mr. John Hines	Served an interim position following the abrupt departure of Mr. Ramsay.	John Hines, the son of the Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church during the Civil Rights activities in the 1960s. Hines has served a number of trouble-shooting and interim positions within the Diocese of Kentucky.
Jul 1984 Jan 31, 1987	The Reverend Mr. Henry Mizheal Pinkerton	He was called Hank. Pinkerton served at St. James from July 1984 to January 31, 1987 on a part-time basis. His other ministry was on the campus of the University of Louisville.	Pinkerton served during the furnace fire, rehabilitation of the sanctuary, and temporary services in Bessie Todd Hall. Hank's wife and children very active in the parish. There was a large youth group through the 1980s and 1990s.
1987	The Reverend Mr. E. Moray Peoples Jr.	Moray Peoples served on a temporary basis and provided one baptism in 1987.	There may have been more than one priest on-call during this period, but they did not sign the registers.
Jan 17, 1988 to Jan 1999	The Reverend Mr. John Duffy Trager	Part-time services as vicar until 1993 when Diocese recognized St. James as a parish, Trager then offered position as rector part-time and served until February 1998 when he retired.	His wife Libby Trager taught Sunday School. For some time in retirement Trager was organist at Bardstown, Kentucky.
Feb 1999 to Jun 15, 2002	The Reverend Mr. Ken D. Thompson	Served as interim priest until 2002 then retired. Ken and Phyllis chose to keep St. James as their home church, commuting from their lovely farm in Spencer County.	Thompson was at St. James when the vestry agreed to purchase the old Kroger Building in order to solve the problem of space and parking. He promoted Cursillo, regular choir anthems and active outreach ministries. Phyllis Thompson sang in the choir.
Sep 2003 to Aug 14, 2005	The Reverend Mr. Polk Culpepper	Came from Cavalry in Louisville. Served at St. James from September 2003 to August 2005	Rector
2005 to Jun 10, 2006	The Reverend Ms. Marian Whit Soards (Mrs. Stodghill)	First woman priest at St. James.	Interim Vicar. Performed a marriage and baptisms while at St. James.
June 1, 2006 to Jan 18, 2009	The Reverend Ms. Amy Carol Real Coultas	Recent graduate of New York Theological Seminary. Split her pastorate, half at St. James and half as chaplain at University of Louisville.	Attempted two services on Sundays but small church felt it lost its fellowship value. Instituted Blessing of the Animals and summer Vacation Bible School program.

		Left to take position at Christ Church Cathedral, Louisville.	Vicar. Performed Marriage, baptisms and burial while at St. James.
2009 2013	The Reverend Mr. Peter H. Whelan	Retired priest with permission by the bishop assumed a six-month renewable contract with St. James; a one-year contract offered and accepted in January 2010 and renewed through 2013.	Father Whelan re-instituted communion taken to the shut-ins. Sunday School started and Youth Group formed; mid-week Eucharist on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. Gradually attendance built up to a high of 94 at Easter 2010. His wife is Jan Whelan.