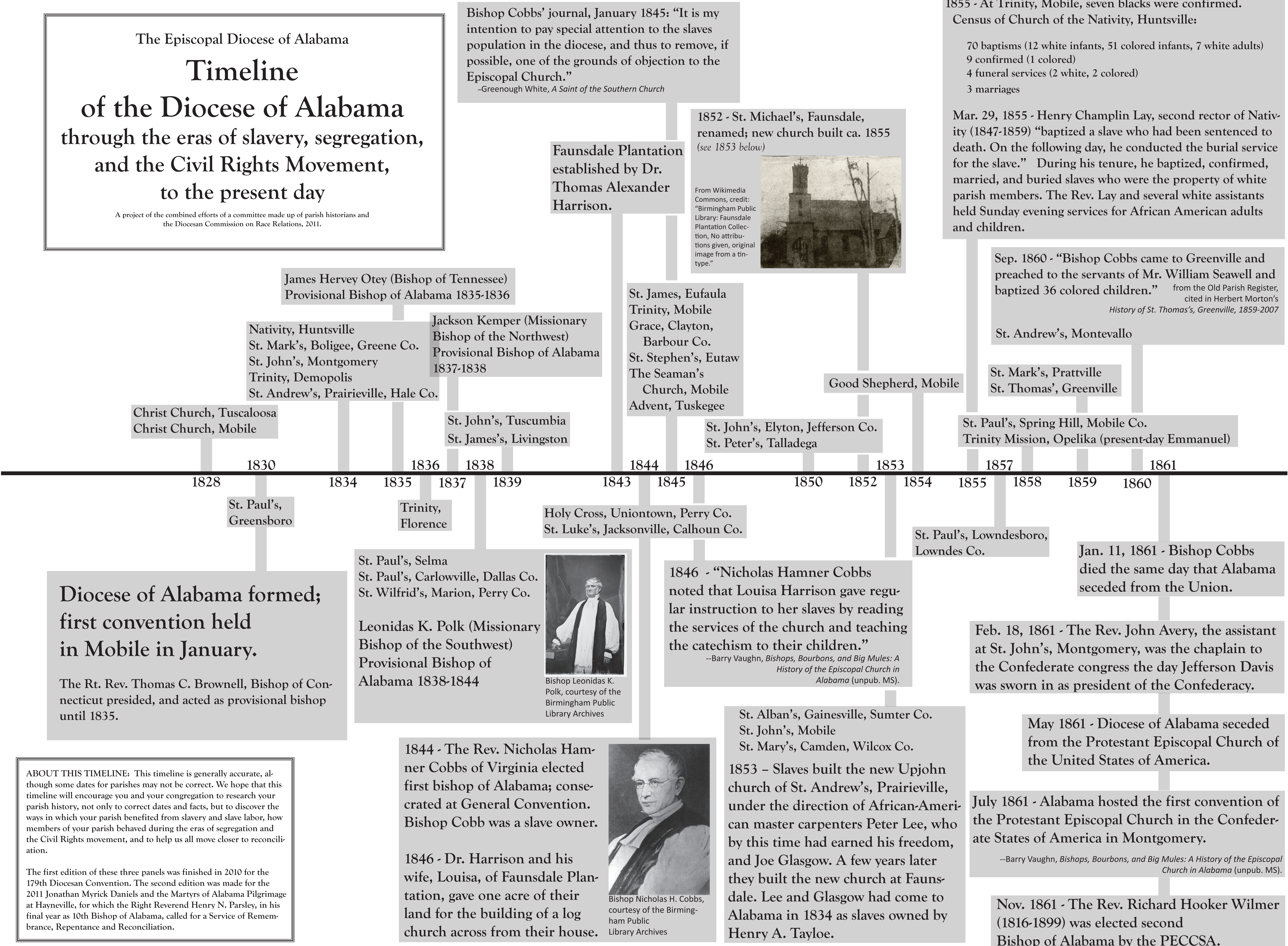


The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama
Timeline
of the Diocese of Alabama
through the eras of slavery, segregation,
and the Civil Rights Movement,
to the present day

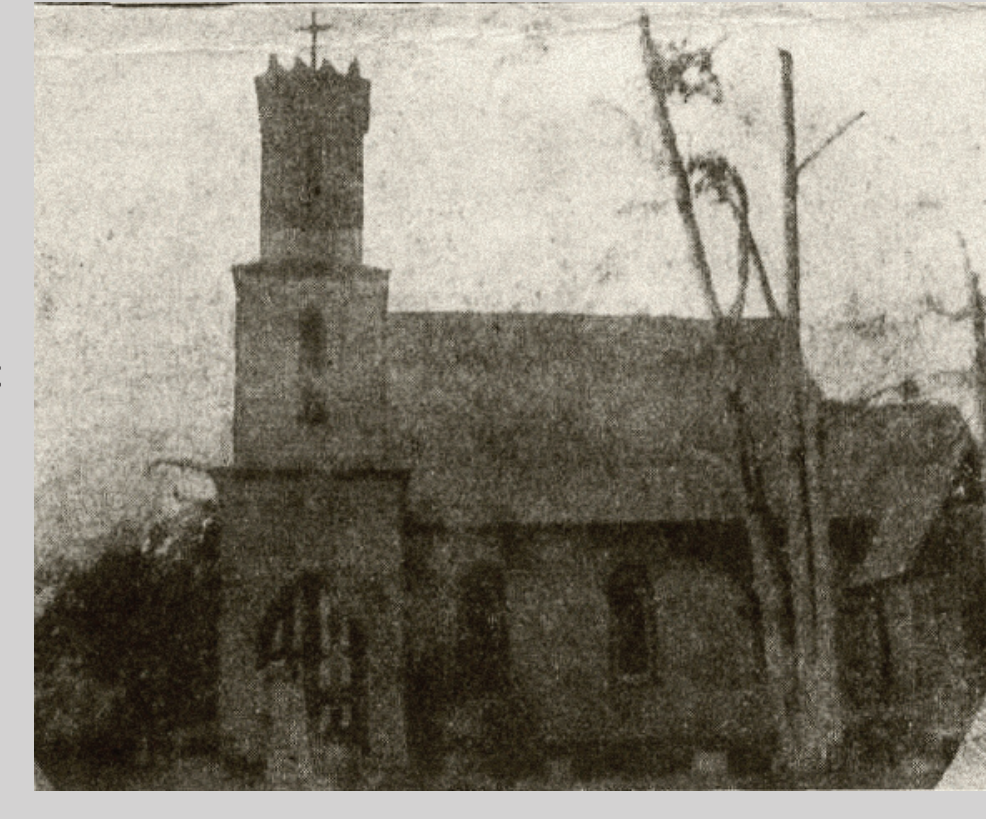
A project of the combined efforts of a committee made up of parish historians and the Diocesan Commission on Race Relations, 2011.



Bishop Cobbs' journal, January 1845: "It is my intention to pay special attention to the slaves population in the diocese, and thus to remove, if possible, one of the grounds of objection to the Episcopal Church."
 -Greenough White, *A Saint of the Southern Church*

1852 - St. Michael's, Faunsdale, renamed; new church built ca. 1855 (see 1853 below)

From Wikimedia Commons, credit: "Birmingham Public Library: Faunsdale Plantation Collection, No attributions given, original image from a tin-type."



Faunsdale Plantation established by Dr. Thomas Alexander Harrison.

St. James, Eufaula; Trinity, Mobile; Grace, Clayton, Barbour Co.; St. Stephen's, Eutaw; The Seaman's Church, Mobile; Advent, Tuskegee

Good Shepherd, Mobile

Sep. 1860 - "Bishop Cobbs came to Greenville and preached to the servants of Mr. William Seawell and baptized 36 colored children." from the Old Parish Register, cited in Herbert Morton's *History of St. Thomas's, Greenville, 1859-2007*

St. Mark's, Prattville; St. Thomas', Greenville

St. Paul's, Spring Hill, Mobile Co.; Trinity Mission, Opelika (present-day Emmanuel)

Christ Church, Tuscaloosa; Christ Church, Mobile

1830

1828

St. Paul's, Greensboro

1834

Trinity, Florence

1835

Trinity, Florence

1836

1837

1838

St. John's, Tuscumbia; St. James's, Livingston

1839

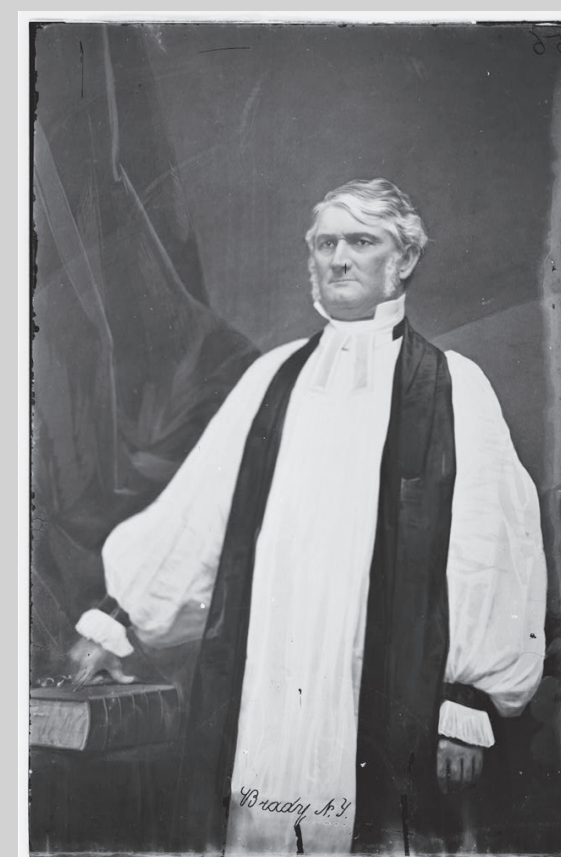
1843

Holy Cross, Uniontown, Perry Co.; St. Luke's, Jacksonville, Calhoun Co.

1845

1846 - "Nicholas Hamner Cobbs noted that Louisa Harrison gave regular instruction to her slaves by reading the services of the church and teaching the catechism to their children." --Barry Vaughn, *Bishops, Bourbons, and Big Mules: A History of the Episcopal Church in Alabama* (unpub. MS).

St. Paul's, Selma; St. Paul's, Carlowville, Dallas Co.; St. Wilfrid's, Marion, Perry Co.; Leonidas K. Polk (Missionary Bishop of the Southwest) Provisional Bishop of Alabama 1838-1844



Bishop Leonidas K. Polk, courtesy of the Birmingham Public Library Archives

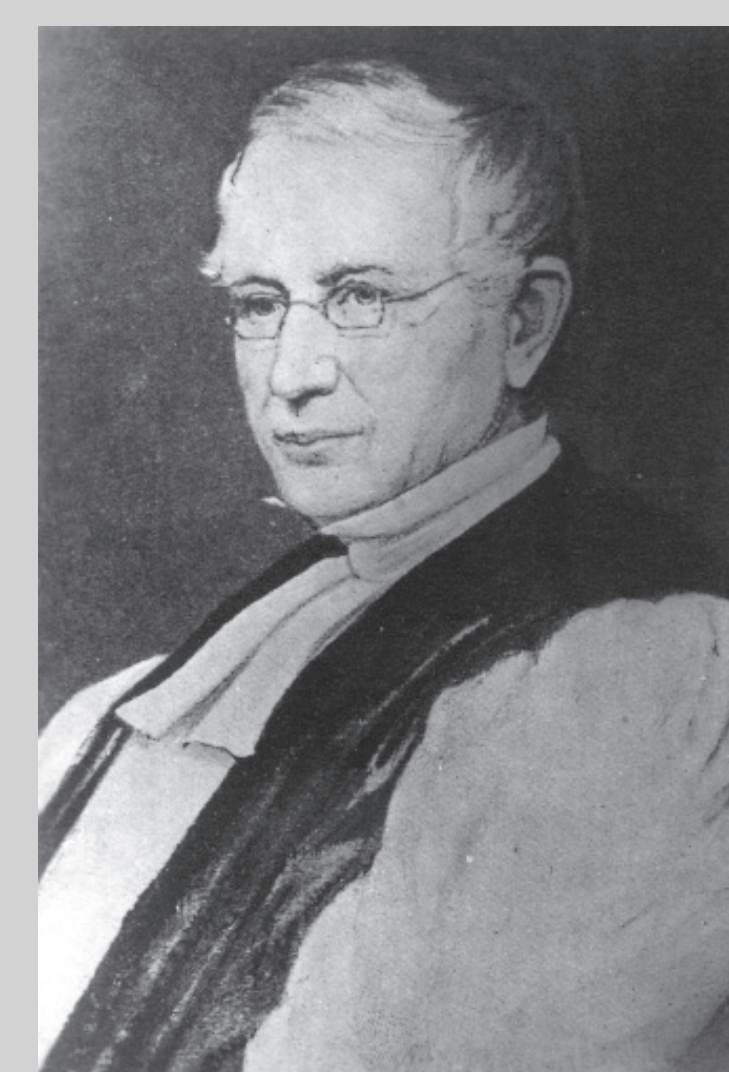
Diocese of Alabama formed; first convention held in Mobile in January.

The Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Brownell, Bishop of Connecticut presided, and acted as provisional bishop until 1835.

Leonidas K. Polk (Missionary Bishop of the Southwest) Provisional Bishop of Alabama 1838-1844

1844 - The Rev. Nicholas Hamner Cobbs of Virginia elected first bishop of Alabama; consecrated at General Convention. Bishop Cobb was a slave owner.

1846 - Dr. Harrison and his wife, Louisa, of Faunsdale Plantation, gave one acre of their land for the building of a log church across from their house.



Bishop Nicholas H. Cobbs, courtesy of the Birmingham Public Library Archives

St. Alban's, Gainesville, Sumter Co.; St. John's, Mobile; St. Mary's, Camden, Wilcox Co.

1853 - Slaves built the new Upjohn church of St. Andrew's, Prairieville, under the direction of African-American master carpenters Peter Lee, who by this time had earned his freedom, and Joe Glasgow. A few years later they built the new church at Faunsdale. Lee and Glasgow had come to Alabama in 1834 as slaves owned by Henry A. Tayloe.

St. Paul's, Lowndesboro, Lowndes Co.

Jan. 11, 1861 - Bishop Cobbs died the same day that Alabama seceded from the Union.

Feb. 18, 1861 - The Rev. John Avery, the assistant at St. John's, Montgomery, was the chaplain to the Confederate congress the day Jefferson Davis was sworn in as president of the Confederacy.

May 1861 - Diocese of Alabama seceded from the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America.

July 1861 - Alabama hosted the first convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Confederate States of America in Montgomery.

--Barry Vaughn, *Bishops, Bourbons, and Big Mules: A History of the Episcopal Church in Alabama* (unpub. MS).

Nov. 1861 - The Rev. Richard Hooker Wilmer (1816-1899) was elected second Bishop of Alabama by the PECCSA.

ABOUT THIS TIMELINE: This timeline is generally accurate, although some dates for parishes may not be correct. We hope that this timeline will encourage you and your congregation to research your parish history, not only to correct dates and facts, but to discover the ways in which your parish benefited from slavery and slave labor, how members of your parish behaved during the eras of segregation and the Civil Rights movement, and to help us all move closer to reconciliation.

The first edition of these three panels was finished in 2010 for the 179th Diocesan Convention. The second edition was made for the 2011 Jonathan Myrick Daniels and the Martyrs of Alabama Pilgrimage at Hayneville, for which the Right Reverend Henry N. Parsley, in his final year as 10th Bishop of Alabama, called for a Service of Remembrance, Repentance and Reconciliation.

1961 - The General Convention adopted a resolution expressing regret for past and present discrimination within the Church and encouraged all levels of the Church to reconcile itself to the "comprehensiveness of the body of Christ" and to establish worship and study programs in this area.

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama
From the 20th Century into the 21st Century
Moving Toward Reconciliation with God and Each Other

St. Alban's, Birmingham
 St. Matthias', Tuscaloosa

St. Stephen's, Huntsville
 Jan. 1963 - A group of Birmingham's leading white religious leaders, including Charles C. J. Carpenter, Bishop of Alabama, and George M. Murray, Bishop Coadjutor, spoke boldly in response to Gov. George Wallace's "Segregation Forever" speech - their first public statement to acknowledge racial equality and condemn the violent words and deeds of radical segregationists. They proclaimed that all people, regardless of race, were created in God's image and deserved respect and all "basic rights, privileges, and responsibilities."

Good Friday, Apr. 1963 - During the mass Civil Rights protests in Birmingham, Carpenter and Murray with six other white religious leaders issued a statement to urge members of the Birmingham black community to "withdraw support" from demonstrations, and to "unite locally in working peacefully for a better Birmingham." Martin Luther King's written response was later published as the "Letter from Birmingham Jail."
 Photo courtesy of Canterbury Chapel Archives



1993 - Sawyerville Work Project founded, an outreach project sponsored by the Youth Department of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, and the Episcopal Black Belt Ministries.

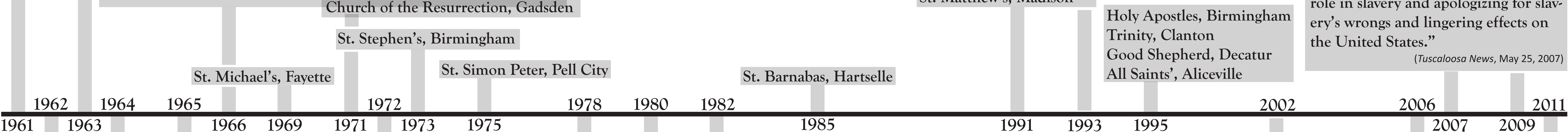


1991 - Jonathan Daniels named a lay saint to be celebrated annually on August 14 in the Episcopal Church's Calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts.



Photos courtesy of the Reverend David Drachlis

1966 - The Rev. Francis Walter and his wife, Betty Walter, an artist, helped the women of Gee's Bend in Wilcox County to organize the Freedom Quilting Bee.



1962
 St. Bartholomew's, Florence

July 2 - Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed racial segregation in schools, public places, and employment, and ended Jim Crow laws in the South. (Civil Rights Act of 1968 outlawed housing discrimination).

1964 - After the first racially integrated services at Canterbury Chapel, the Ku Klux Klan burned two crosses on the Chapel's lawn.

1965 - Mar. 7, 9, 21 - the three "Selma to Montgomery" marches

Easter Sunday (April 18) - Judith Upham and Jonathan Myrick Daniels, students from the Episcopal Theological School, who were present for the Selma marches, decided to return to Selma as ESCRU's representatives in the summer. They worked closely with civil rights leaders and also attempted to open communication and desegregate St. Paul's Episcopal.

June - Bishop Carpenter, acting on advice of clergy conference and Diocesan Executive Council, decided there would be no restrictions as to race at several of the camps at Camp McDowell.

Aug. 6 - the Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed discriminatory voting practices that had kept African Americans from voting.



Aug. 20 - Seminary student and civil rights crusader Jonathan Daniels was shot at close range by a former deputy sheriff in Hayneville. Daniels was the 26th civil rights worker killed in the South. ESCRU launched "Operation Southern Justice," a campaign undertaken in conjunction with the NCC and other groups to force the integration of southern juries, which have not yet convicted anyone accused of these murders.

Church of the Resurrection, Gadsden

St. Stephen's, Birmingham

St. Michael's, Fayette

St. Simon Peter, Pell City

St. Barnabas, Hartselle

St. Thomas', Birmingham
 St. Matthew's, Madison

Holy Apostles, Birmingham
 Trinity, Clanton
 Good Shepherd, Decatur
 All Saints', Aliceville

May - 2007 "The Alabama Legislature passed a resolution Thursday expressing 'profound regret' for the state's role in slavery and apologizing for slavery's wrongs and lingering effects on the United States."
 (Tuscaloosa News, May 25, 2007)

Church of the Advent designated Cathedral of the Diocese of Alabama

St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain, Mentone

Christ, Albertville
 (from Christ Church, Piedmont, 1822-1922)

1980 - Jonathan Daniels is one of only two 20th C. American martyrs included in the Anglican Book of Martyrs in Canterbury Cathedral, UK. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is the other recognized American martyr.
 Church of the Messiah, Heflin
 Epiphany, Leeds
 Christ the Redeemer, Montgomery
 St. Francis of Assisi, Pelham

2006 - In response to Resolution A123, adopted by the 75th General Convention, the 177th Diocesan Convention adopted Resolution #5 which directs the Commission on Race Relations to develop resources for both parish and diocesan use, to document the role the Diocese played in condoning and supporting slavery, segregation, and discrimination and the efforts undertaken to repair and rectify the same. The Resolution also calls for prayer for the Holy Spirit's guidance toward the responses that will lead us to peace, harmony and reconciliation.

2002 - The Commission on Race Relations in the Church was established in the Diocese at the 171st Diocesan Convention at the persistence of Harold Clayton, member of Holy Spirit Holy Cross, Huntsville.

2009 - Photos of the Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage in Hayneville

Photos courtesy of the Reverend Bill King



2011 - Episcopal Diocese of Alabama holds Service of Remembrance, Repentance and Reconciliation in Hayneville, AL ... What Next?