



*The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee*

Welcome Home!

**Connections:** *home... parish... diocese*



The Right  
Reverend Dr.  
Bertram Nelson Herlong

Tenth Bishop  
of the  
Diocese of Tennessee

*October 16, 1934 -  
October 21, 2011*



## The Episcopal Church

In the Anglican Communion  
A global communion of  
77 million Anglicans in  
25 member provinces

Archbishop of Canterbury  
The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon.  
Rowan Williams  
Anglican Consultative Council  
Partnership House  
157 Waterloo Road  
London, England

Episcopal Seat:  
Canterbury Cathedral

In the United States  
A communion of 2.5 million  
members in 112 dioceses  
in the Americas and abroad  
Established 1789

Presiding Bishop  
The Most Rev.  
Katharine Jefferts Schori  
Episcopal Church Center  
815 Second Avenue  
New York NY 10017  
800-334-7626

Episcopal Seat:  
Washington National Cathedral  
Mount St. Albans  
Washington DC 20016

In the Diocese of Tennessee  
A communion of 16,000  
Episcopalians in  
47 congregations  
in Middle Tennessee  
Established 1828

Bishop  
The Rt. Rev. John C. Bauerschmidt  
Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee  
50 Vantage Way, Suite 107  
Nashville TN 37228  
615-251-3322

Episcopal Seat:  
Christ Church Cathedral

The Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee  
is to encourage and equip one another  
as baptized people of God, to witness  
to the transforming and reconciling power of Jesus Christ.

This issue of *Connections: home... parish... diocese* is dedicated to the memory of the Right Reverend Dr. Bertram Herlong, 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee who passed away in late October. We appreciate the contributions of reminiscences and photographs shared by clergy and lay leaders in the diocese.



### Protecting children from sexual abuse. Preventing adult sexual misconduct.

A diocesan workshop for vestries, \* nursery workers,  
Sunday school teachers, volunteer youth leaders and  
employees, part-time and full-time,  
anywhere in the diocese.



There are no workshops scheduled at this time.  
Watch this space for more workshops in the new year.

Please call the diocesan office at 615-251-3322 to sign up.  
\*Newly elected vestry members should attend.

Safeguarding God's People is a curriculum provided by the Church Pension Group.

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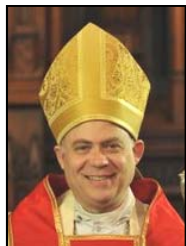
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### ***Connections: home... parish... diocese***

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## Farewell To A Bishop



Bertram Herlong was a bishop with strategic vision and enormous energy, called to serve God as the tenth bishop of Tennessee at a time of challenge for the Diocese and for the Episcopal Church.

Vision and energy are powerful gifts. It's true that we are both shaped by our times and that we in turn shape them. Bishop Herlong helped to shape his times, bringing to his new ministry a wealth of experience as a priest and as a Christian, and he utilized all his gifts without stinting in the service of Christ and his Church. God however seeks nothing else than love and faithfulness from his children, and he received both from his servant Bertram Herlong.

I am enormously grateful for his ministry to me. Bishop Herlong ministered to my grandparents when he served St. John's Cathedral in Jacksonville, and my mother's family remembers him with affection. I myself had never met him before arriving in Tennessee as a part of the "get acquainted" period with the Diocese that was a part of the election process.

My enduring memory of him is of my service of consecration, where he served as co-consecrator and handed me the diocesan crozier. "Be a shepherd, not a wolf" were the words, spoken with conviction and from the heart.

Bertram Herlong is remembered with love and appreciation by his family and friends and by the people of the Diocese of Tennessee. We are

grateful for mercies given and for challenges met.

God has been good and continues to be so. Please continue to pray for our tenth bishop, for his wife Vickie and for their family in their grief,

and for the Diocese of Tennessee as we continue to serve in the ministry and mission to which Bishop Herlong dedicated his life. —  
*Bishop John*



## “Well done, good and faithful servant...”

Bertram Nelson Herlong was born in Lake City, Florida on October 16, 1934 to Ava and Benjamin Herlong. After graduating from Lake City High School in 1952, he received a B.A. in Literature and English from the University of Florida.



Upon the loss of his only brother, George, a hurricane hunter with the US Navy, he experienced a call to the ministry. The Very Rev. Robert Dedmon, former Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Tennessee, said in his homily during the funeral service, “Bert lived his life for both of them. Today, those brothers are reunited in the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of his Resurrection.”

He attended the University of the South and earned a Bachelors of Divinity from the School of Theology. On March 13, 2011, he celebrated 50 years of ordained ministry.

Bishop Herlong began his ministry in the Diocese of Florida as founding vicar of St. Jude’s Church Valparaiso, and Church of the Epiphany Crestview. He later served as canon pastor of St. John’s Cathedral Jacksonville, and as founding chaplain and assis-

tant headmaster of Jacksonville Episcopal High School, which is now the Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

During his service to the Diocese of Florida, he continued his education over seven summers to earn his Masters of Sacred Theology in 1970 from St. Luke’s Seminary, University of the South.

Bishop Herlong served Trinity Parish New York City as associate rector and vicar of Trinity Church and St. Paul’s Chapel from 1972-1979. He



was a founding member of a hospice at the Beekman Downtown Hospital in Manhattan and founded St. Margaret’s Housing Center for senior citizens. He further served as a member of the Board of Directors of the New York Board of Trade. Continuing his education, he was awarded the Doctorate of Ministry degree from New York Theological Seminary in 1980.

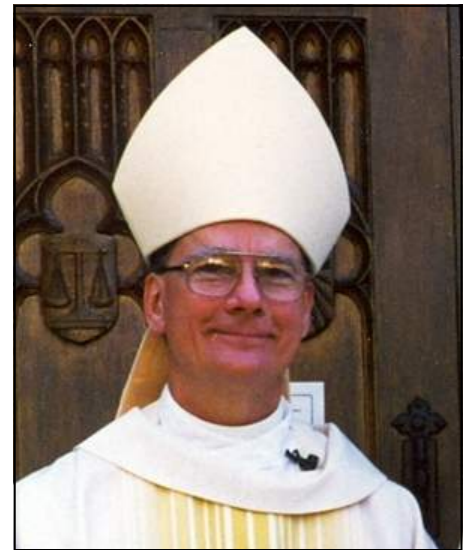
In 1979, he became eighth dean and fifteenth rector of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit, Michigan. He successfully galvanized the community to revitalize downtown Detroit. Among his many efforts, he founded the Cathedral School, which provided early childhood through 8th grade education and established two senior citizen housing communities. He served as President of the Crossroads Board of Directors, a community service social welfare agency, as well as President of Community Case Management Services, Inc., a placement agency for released patients from Northville Hospital.

He also served on the Advisory Committee of the Family Assistance Service Trust, the Orchestra Place Development

Corporation Board of Directors, the University Cultural Center Association Board of Directors, and as a member of the Planning Committee of the Detroit Festival of the Arts.

He received the Michigan Religious Leader Award from the Religious Heritage of America Foundation. He is the recipient of the Booker T. Washington Brotherhood Award, the Horace L. Sheffield Award for Community Service, the Spirit of the City of Detroit Award, and a Resolution of Gratitude from Wayne County and the Legislature of Michigan for outstanding service. He was also honored when the Board of Directors for the Cathedral School renamed it the Herlong Cathedral School.

On January 10, 1993, Dean Herlong was elected tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee and was ordained and consecrated on June 26, 1993, in the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville.



Bishop Herlong instituted a plan of starting new congregations and supporting them through a generous group of Episcopalians called the Bishop’s Volunteers, later Volunteers for Mission. He and his administrative support team developed what he called “BHAGS” – Big Holy Audacious Goals, some of which were to become one church in a missionary diocese with 50+ missionary outposts; to grow from 12,000 to 40,000 communicants by

2006; to have a trained, funded youth worker connected to every congregation by 2006; to start one new congregation every year through 2006; to provide additional services for existing congregations; to adopt a “universal tithing” - individuals to congregations, congregations to the diocese, the diocese to the national church; and to develop a catalogue of mission opportunities, in the diocese and worldwide.

As a result of his leadership, Tennessee became the fastest growing diocese in the Episcopal Church. He named Christ Church in downtown Nashville as the Cathedral Church of the Diocese, providing the diocese a home and boosting the Episcopal presence in the community.

Though not every mission planted took root and not every goal was reached, great strides were made to move the diocese in a forward direction. Dean Dedmon continued, “Faithful Christian ministry is not marked by tangible monuments, buildings, or institutions but by the countless lives that have been enriched and empowered by the ministry of this particular bishop. I am one of them. And so are you.”

Continuing his focus on community service and outreach, Bishop Herlong established a relationship with the Diocese of Ecuador enabling frequent medical and dental missions. That partnership has run its course but many congregations to this day remain attached to sister churches in Ecuador.

He served on the boards of The Living Church and of St. Luke’s Community House. He was also active in Leadership Nashville and the Nashville Rotary Club, among many other religious and community organizations.

He was honored with Doctor of Divinity degrees from Nashota House Seminary and the University of the South. He was recognized as one who guided others to successfully use their gifts in ministry to the community.

“Bert defined Christian stewardship as ‘what you do with all you have and all you are all the time,’” said Dean Dedmon. “That is how he lived his life and what he did with his time and life, all the time, for all his life.”

In March, 2004, The Herlong Bell was dedicated in a service at Chapel of the Apostles, University of the South Sewanee. The bell was donated by the Rev. Canon Robert Brodie and his wife Linda, in honor of Bishop Herlong and his wife.



Married for 54 years to the former Barbara Ann (Vickie) Vickers, the Herlongs made their homes in Nashville and St. Augustine, Florida. Shortly after turning 72 years old, Bishop Herlong retired, as is mandatory in the Episcopal Church. He was able to enjoy pursuing his hobbies: golf, woodworking and watercolor painting.

Although he was hospitalized, he insisted he be “sprung” to perform the wedding of the Rev. Peter Whalen’s daughter as he had long promised to. Just after the ceremony, he returned to the hospital.

On Friday, October 21, 2011, he passed away surrounded by the love of family and friends. Dr. Paul Teschan, a longtime lay leader in the diocese and close friend of the bishop, shared that in his final hours, Bishop Herlong was intermittently aware and in such a moment he said, “I want to pray.” Dr. Teschan continues, “We gathered. He said, ‘Let us pray. Lord, I pray for guidance and direction. Amen.’ We said, ‘Amen.’”

Bertram Nelson Herlong is entrusted to God’s loving care by Vickie, his two daughters, Angela and Michele; six grandchildren Adam, Joshua, Rachael, Gray, Parker, and Hunter, and four great grandchildren Cindel, Monet, Benjamin, and Shikamaru. He also leaves behind his faithful Schnauzer companion, Barnabas.



Funeral Services were held Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at St. George’s Church Nashville. Bishop Herlong was buried at St. John’s Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant TN, the resting place of at least five other bishops.

Memorial gifts may be made to St. Luke’s Community House, St. George’s Church Nashville or a charity of one’s choice.

Dean Dedmon said, “The bright new sun forever rising over the sea at St. Augustine on a winter morning; the eternal, always comforting tides of life. Duty, honor, country, compassion, purpose, fullness of grace, all perfected.



## The Diocese Remembers Bishop Bertram Herlong

Bishop Herlong was one of the most extraordinary Christian leaders I have known. His life seemed marked by a singular commitment to bringing people to the good news of Christ's mission on earth. Soon after he became our Bishop, it became clear that he was planning to plant new churches and for more than a decade, he did just that. His leadership helped the Diocese of Tennessee to grow at a time when many dioceses were losing members. To have done that in a small diocese with relatively limited resources is all the more testament to his commitment in bringing people to Christ.

As I came to know Bishop Herlong personally, his humor and thoughtfulness became very evident. I recall very early one morning just before surgery at St. Thomas Hospital, he suddenly appeared in my hospital room with communion for me... you can only imagine my amazement at his taking the time to do this for me. It made an indelible impression that has instructed and inspired me ever since. Bishop Herlong was fiercely loyal to The Episcopal Church even when he did not agree with its actions and I believe his example of Christian loyalty deeply assisted us in maintaining communion in turbulent times. His leadership and friendship was a great gift.

Gareth Aden

Chancellor, Diocese of Tennessee

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The Right Reverend Bertram Nelson Herlong was a true friend to St. Anselm. He supported our church and its ministries. He always told the congregation that God was in charge and that everything would work out according to God's plan. We will miss him and our thoughts and prayers go out to Vickie and the family.

Brenda Nevels

St. Anselm's Church Nashville

When the Very Reverend Bertram Nelson Herlong was elected the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee from his position as Dean of the Cathedral in the Diocese of Michigan, I was favored to be the Chancellor of this Diocese.

When Bert took office, I met with him and offered him the opportunity to select his own chancellor. After a brief meeting, I was to continue Chancellor for the future of his episcopate. I was to be his lawyer in all things ecclesiastical and canonical. He stated that he would not sign anything without first having me review it with him. This procedure was followed throughout his service to the Church.

Bert always let me know how he felt about an issue before the Church. There was never any confusion about that.

He enjoyed attending the annual Bishops' and Chancellors' conferences in Province IV, stating that it was the best meeting in the Church that he would attend. It was probably more fun, too! These conferences were enjoyed all over the Southeast and the Virgin Islands. He became familiar with the Presiding Bishop's Chancellor, David Beers, a lawyer from Washington, through these meetings. David was always respectful of Bert's differences of opinions he expressed concerning the positions of the National Church.

Serving with Bert was one of watching and assisting a dynamic Christian's duty to his church and the people of this Diocese. His plan for increasing the churches and people of the diocese was brilliant and well implemented as we grew to 10 new congregations. He also developed financial support to assist the continuing life of each. During this period, the Diocese of Tennessee was known to be the fastest growing diocese in The Episcopal Church.

I will always miss his thoughtful and gracious friendship. I pray that his

treasures have deposited some richness in me.

David B. Herbert

Chancellor Emeritus, Diocese of Tennessee

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Bertram Herlong was a devoted man. Devoted to his family, devoted to The Church, devoted to his ministry and devoted to those who ministered with him and under his leadership. For me, Bert Herlong was a leader who expected no more of others than he did of himself.

I met Bert in 1955 when I began my freshman year at the University of Florida. I pledged the fraternity where Bert was a member and a leader. He was devoted to the fraternity as he was to all things. As I recall his presence at the fraternity, I saw him walk proudly through the house in his ROTC uniform. As I recall, he played the piano and the guitar and smoked a "Sherlock Holmes" type pipe. He was a leader who was liked and respected by all.

In order to test his call to Holy Orders, the Bishop of Florida assigned him to a small parish North of Gainesville. Bert read morning prayer each Sunday morning – for that parish, he was a leader.

I encountered Bert again was when he came for interviews to become our Bishop. My encounter with Bert showed me again the leadership qualities I remembered from college days. I knew that Bert had a plan to follow the great commission given to the Church in the Gospel of Matthew. He was excited and I found that excitement contagious.

Over the years in Tennessee, I knew Bert as a man of principle – he was honest – he was clear – he was pastoral but not patronizing. He, of course, was a leader for me and he represented Christ with all his ability. With all the nice things I could say about Bert, I think the description he would like best is that he was Christian through and through, and I

thank God for that reality.  
The Rev. Gene Wise  
Rector Emeritus, St. Paul's Church  
Murfreesboro

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The Diocese of Tennessee Episcopal Church Women extends our deepest sympathy to the family of Bishop Bertram Nelson Herlong. He will be sadly missed by all of the members of ECW as he was a strong supporter of the ECW for many years.  
Marqueta Dunnivant  
ECW President, Diocese of Tennessee

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Bishop Herlong was the kindest and most giving person I ever knew, and I enjoyed his sense of humor with his limericks and poems. He was very well educated, with advanced degrees, and he accomplished so much, not only in the church but also in mission, in community service, and in care of individuals. He was a wonderful Christian.  
Nancy Tanner, former ECW President,  
Diocese of East Tennessee

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Remembering Bishop Herlong with love and admiration is a part of my life. A couple of things come to mind when thinking about him, those being that he gave me permission to offer the final blessing at my ordination to the priesthood by allowing me to say it in Polish for my mother's sake who was in attendance, thus demonstrating just how kind and considerate he was.

Another was when he assigned me to my first cure at St. Andrew's, he commenced the meeting in introducing me to the congregation with saying that he and I had one major thing in common, that being we both married above ourselves. There are several others I would like to mention, however, far too personal, one which included the comment that "God always wins in the end." I would not be a priest today if it were not for Bishop Bertram Nelson Herlong, a great and holy man.  
The Rev. Joe Marek

St. Andrew's-Sewanee School is grateful for Bishop Herlong's faithful service as an *ex-officio* member of the Board of Trustees, a position that he took with utmost seriousness and dedication. His experience in school ministry as Chaplain at Jacksonville's Episcopal High School and as founder of what is now called the Herlong School in Detroit also greatly benefited St. Andrew's-Sewanee.

At a time when St. Andrew's-Sewanee's Board structure underwent significant change, his voice that the School needed to be rooted in the institutional Church was a long-term contribution that will continue to shape the school in the future.  
The Rev. William S. Wade  
Retired Head of School  
The Rev. John Taliaferro Thomas  
Head of School

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Bishop Herlong will be remembered for his leadership – a vision with goals, being clear spoken, and energetically pursuing his vision for the diocese. He proclaimed the Gospel at every opportunity.  
Seawell Brandau  
Diocesan lay leader

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After Bert's consecration as the 10th Bishop of Tennessee on June 26, 1993, Dr. Philip Davidson and I, as members of the Bishop's Administrative Support Team (AST), duly submitted our resignations to him.

Bishop Herlong did not accept them. Adding Bob Dedmon as Canon to the Ordinary, Bob Brodie as Canon for Ministry and David Herbert, Chancellor, the AST met almost monthly over the next 13 years until Bert's retirement in 2006, serving as an informal "think tank" for solving current problems and getting involved in new ventures. There followed some rich and often exciting experiences!

The Bishop's "flying squadrons" engaged vestries in long-range planning; teams engaged congregations in "comprehensive stewardship" and evangelism; and this Diocese grew while virtually every other Diocese shrank. To provide continued funding for our new congregations Bishop Herlong assembled the "Bishop's Volunteers for the Development of New Parishes" or "BVDNP," later just the "Bishop's Volunteers for Mission": to develop each new "plant" to parish status in 5 years.

To help connect congregations more effectively Bishop Herlong first established "Missionary Convocations," geographical groupings of congregations in the Diocese. Later, for the same purposes, he convened eight "Diocesan All Congregations' Leadership Conferences" between 2002 and 2006 to inform and share best practices to enhance congregational life. The theme continued to be "gathering for mission."

Present with him during his last hours, his focus on a future with Jesus Christ is what I will mainly remember him by.  
Dr. Paul Teschan  
Diocesan lay leader

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My first recollection of Bishop Herlong was when my bride, Julie, and I met with him to discuss my entering the process of exploration leading to ordination within the Diocese and Episcopal Church. The Bishop was kind and caring, noting that Julie and I were relatively newly married and he wanted to hear from her mouth her feelings about this journey and its possible destination. Once he was convinced of our preparation, it was full speed ahead.

When he called me into his office to tell me he was sending us to Church of the Apostles he had the same posture — caring yet focused. He played a big place in our lives. He is missed.  
The Rev. William "Doc" Martin  
Grace Church Spring Hill



*The Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee*



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# *Around the diocese*

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