



The 132nd Annual Council

February 10, 2024

Report of the Historiographer

This past year has been active for both historical inquiry, genealogical research, and trying to find some order for the archives. The archives (historical diocesan papers, minutes of meetings, closed parish vestry minutes, Registers, and items of historical value) are housed in a climate-controlled storage locker near the Diocesan Center. While the facility is climate controlled, it is not fire resistant. However, the building is of steel and cinderblock construction. The boxed materials are on rolling shelves for better access; however, we will need to find more suitable space in the future to house the archival materials. The various papers and materials still need to be sorted in an appropriate manner.

I have responded to twenty-four genealogical inquiries and researched several historical questions presented by Bishop Haynes, Diocesan staff, parish clergy and administrators, as well as other researchers. Due to personal and parish obligations, and limited time constraints, I have not been able to work on getting the material sorted in any logical way.

It will be important in the future for the Diocese to look toward digitizing the materials for future reference and research. This will be a considerable project, with significant cost. While financial priority for the Diocese should emphasize active mission and ministry, the history of the church in our area should not be neglected, especially in our historically rich geography.

With that said, it has been a pleasure to serve the Diocese of Southern Virginia in the capacity of Historiographer for the last six or seven years. Due to the reasons listed above, I have concluded that I must resign my office with this 2024 Council of the Diocese. I will stick around to help your next Historiographer become acclimated to the position. With all best wishes and blessings,

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. William B. Taylor, Jr. +