

# THE KEYS



Church of St. Peter the Apostle  
Anglican Catholic Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic States  
[www.dmas-acc.org](http://www.dmas-acc.org)

The Rev. Peter Geromel OHI, Th.M, Vicar  
June 2021  
<https://stpetersacc.org>

## The Vicar's Volleyed Verbiage

## *Outreach in Town & Gown, Part Three - Milnor Jones*

I served for some time down the mountains from Asheville, NC. First, I served in St. Luke's, Landrum, SC (presently closed) while living in Tryon, NC. \*I say "presently closed" because there have been three different Anglican missions in that area since the early 70s. I suppose one could restart anytime! Hint. Hint!\* (This was before I accepted a call as Rector further down the foothills in Spartanburg, SC.) For a year, the year Kari and I met, I house-sat for a retired Colonel who was suffering from cancer. He and his wife had downsized to a condo down the street and the church paid the utilities and I lived rent free in a beautiful home that an architect had built for himself. I slept upstairs but turned the master bedroom on the first floor into a chapel for weekday services; the walk-in-closet serving as a sacristy where I hung my vestments. The modest congregation of 18 (including six young people) met at 8 a.m. at the Presbyterian church in Landrum. I offered two nursing home services weekly - one in Columbus, NC and another in Saluda, NC (up the hill). People told me Tryon was, and it was truly "Mitford." That was a wonderful year.

Recently, I had a chance to look at a biography of a predecessor of the area. Milnor Jones: Deacon and Missionary by Bishop Cheshire (1920), outlines some of the missionary efforts of a remarkable man who died in 1916. The son of a priest, he went to Texas and was converted, and then studied under William Porcher Dubose at the theological school of Sewanee. He went the opposite direction from me. He served first as a Rector in Spartanburg and then headed up the hills, staying with a doctor in Tryon and reaching out to the mountain folk as a missionary minister. He proved that they *could* be reached out to.

Bishop Cheshire relates, ". . . [H]e liked to choose his own points of attack. He had his own methods, and he chose unlikely places. One of his first appointments in the country near Tryon was at a country liquor shop and distillery, the most depraved locality in all the section around." The Bishop continues later, "On the first Fourth of July, after he began work in North Carolina, he made an appointment for service on the top of Tryon Mountain, and preached there to a great gathering of mountain people." Furthermore, "His kindness and sympathy shown to the prisoners of Polk County jail, in Columbus, opened many a cabin door to him, and many a friendly heart. He soon made himself known and his influence felt throughout the county and in the adjoining counties of Henderson on one side and Rutherford on the other. He was constantly in the saddle, traversing the country and visiting the people in their homes in the valleys and the mountainsides." It is amazing to think that I too ministered to "mountain" folk in the jail (the newer building) in Columbus and it was there that I was inspired to write an article on the "Form of Prayer for the Visitation of Prisoners" from the 1789 and 1896 American prayer books.

His first report of his missionary effort to the Diocese of North Carolina in 1883 enumerates, "Baptisms - infant 112, adult 41, of whom several were over seventy years of age, and one more than a hundred. There had been 16 confirmations, 4 Sunday schools, with 12 teachers and 100 children . . ." The following year he reports, "Baptisms - infant 148, adult 52; confirmations 33." His time around Tryon was only the first of his stints in North Carolina. His "numbers" continue strong. A simple story elucidates how influential this man was. Bishop Cheshire tells this story,

In 1898, walking in the neighborhood of Flat Rock, in Henderson County, with the Rev. M. W. Black, and speaking of the work of Milnor Jones in that section, we saw a country woman washing at a spring. I said to Mr. Black: "You may think I overestimate the impression made by Mr. Jones on the plain people of the country. I will mention his name to that woman, and let her reply, approve or discredit my account." Approaching the woman, we entered into conversation with her. Presently, I said to her: "Did you ever hear of an Episcopal minister in this country by the name of Milnor Jones?" She looked up from her work with a bright expression of interest, and replied: "Oh, yes, sir; I knew him well. He baptized all my brothers. Can you tell me where he is?"

In Henderson County, Mr. Jones met a Mr. Philip Seagle, who was supposed to be a man of irreligion, a Confederate veteran who had lost his leg. Engaging the fellow, Seagle was far from it. Mr. Jones found out that the man was not an "in-fiddle" as the locals claimed, but a man of German Lutheran background, "with a good Lutheran's reverence for the sacraments, and dislike of revival methods and emotional extravagance." The Seagles became loyal Anglicans. Mr. Jones boldly told Mr. Seagle that, with six fine boys, Mr. Seagle should decide which one of the boys should be dedicated to the Ministry. Mr. Seagle chose the oldest, Nathan, who later attended General Theological Seminary, after training under the Rev. Dr. Buel near Asheville, and Nathan Seagle became Rector of an important parish in New York City.

What did it look like when Milnor Jones preached? A report follows of a service in a country schoolhouse: "Soon after dusk, the house had pretty well filled up with people from the neighborhood, and Mr. Jones came in. He wore a long sack coat. From one pocket he took a candle, which he lighted and fixed upon the end of a projecting log in the wall; from another pocket he took out his Bible and began his simple service of reading and prayer before he preached. No man set a higher value upon the Prayer Book than Milnor Jones, and in all my experience I have known no man who had more widely distributed Prayer Books among the people than he had. . . . But there was a reality about his purpose of getting at hearts and consciences of his hearers which saved him from the folly of making the Prayer Book a hindrance where he knew it could not be a help." The man would actually roll his surplice so that it fit in a saddle bag!

After heading off to Oregon for a time, Jones was requested to return to North Carolina to evangelize around the Valle Crucis area. Bishop Cheshire, newly consecrated, asked him to return, having gotten a diocesan fund to pay for Jones' missionary work. That's just up to Chapter III. And the book is eight chapters long!

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#### *News and Information*

**Corpus Christi** will be celebrated at Noon on Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**A Potluck** will be enjoyed on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, and a new Sunday school course will begin on Colonial Virginia churches.

**Diocesan Synod** will be held Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Peter will attend.

**Vestry** is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm. There will be a Mass prior to this at 7 pm.

**The Nativity of John Baptist** will be observed Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at Noon.

**Bishop Lerow's annual visit** is June 27<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Peter Geromel will, God willing, be installed Rector that day. St. Peter's Day will be transferred back to that Sunday.

NOVEMBER, 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
[1] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS  TRINITY XXI	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]  12 noon H.C.	[6]	[7]
[8] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS  TRINITY XXII	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]  12 noon H.C.	[13]	[14]
[15] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS  TRINITY XXIII	[16]	[17]	[18]  7:00 p.m. HC 7:30 p.m. Vestry	[19]  12 noon H.C.	[20]	[21]
[22] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS  SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT	[23]	[24]	[25]	[26]  12 noon H.C.  THANKSGIVING DAY	[27]	[28]
[29] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS  ADVENT I	[30]	<b>LEGEND: HC - Holy Communion; FHE – Festal Holy Eucharist; HE - Holy Eucharist; SS – Sunday School; PG - Prayer Group; EP – Evening Prayer; MP – Morning Prayer; P&amp;HU – Prayers and Holy Unction</b>				

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Please — If you cannot fulfill your assigned duty because of an urgent reason, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SECURE YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT!

Week beginning Sunday →	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
<b>Altar Guild</b>	M. Slayton	B. Higginbotham	B. Higginbotham	M. Slayton	B. Higginbotham
	C. deRosset	J. Butterfield	V. Williams	C. deRosset	J. Butterfield
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Ushers</b>	--	--	--	--	--
	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Epistoler</b>	T. Paisley	P. Williams	G. Terrell	C. von Claparede	A. Butterfield
<b>Server</b>	P. Williams	P. Williams	T. Paisley	P. Williams	C. von Claparede
<b>Crucifer</b>	W. Paisley	W. Paisley	C. von Claparede	W. Paisley	W. Paisley

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2020 Vestry: Allen Butterfield, Ted Paisley, Phil Pappas, Marnie Slayton, George Terrell, Clemens von Claparede