

STANTON PATRICK ARCHIBAL MURPHY



THE RT. REV'D STANTON PATRICK ARCHIBAL MURPHY, SSC

11/08/1917 - 09/ 24/ 2009 (Father Pat, Bishop Pat) Stanton Patrick Murphy did not start life in Texas; he was born in Norfolk, Virginia-third son of a Southern belle, Sudie (Sarah) Stanton, and a Northern doctor, Elmer Ellsworth Murphy. Right there you see the pending conflict. Upon the death of his wife, Dr. Murphy and son Patrick moved to Pennsylvania to relatives -- aunts and cousins who would help rear the young Irish lad for his dad. That was the plan-which came to a sudden halt when Patrick was left an orphan, at about age 8. The trust fund, which his father left to support his care during the years to come, was taken and milked dry by the time he graduated from high school. The solution: find a job. Relatives were upon hard times themselves and could not help. Thus began his trek to the South. With help from Southern relatives and hard work, he received a scholarship to Randolph Macon College for Men. Then a transfer to Southern Methodist University brought about several near miracles: a scholarship, opportunity to work for board in a girls' dorm, a job with the Police in Preston Hollow, and a short and eventful time with the Fire Department. He loved the atmosphere of this university and his insatiable appetite for knowledge found nurture especially in the fields of literature, history and science. Prior to graduation with multiple majors, his life took another abrupt turn-caused by the death of a college friend. His attendance at a Lenten series at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Dallas brought conversion and a desire to become a missionary. The Rt. Rev'd C. Avery Mason had faith in his zeal and commitment; the bishop paid for his years at Seabury Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill. Summer work as a seminarian in Chicago, Iowa City, Iowa as well as Cisco, Eastland, and Ranger, Texas did not dampen his enthusiasm nor trust. Patrick left the seminary with a degree, a bride-to-be and confidence in the future. He began his ministry in Hamilton, Texas as a deacon in St. Mary's Church. Ordained as priest in December of 1948, he also took the Good News of Salvation to Comanche, Meridian, Dublin, Stephenville, and Clifton and places in-between. Two daughters Kathleen Ann (Layman) and Mary Marcia (Loots) were born in Clifton's hospital. A parish hall, Sunday school rooms and an office were added to the Church-and, for a short time, St. Mary's was a parish (self-supporting). In 1952, the Murphys moved to Ripon, Wisconsin, to St. Peter's Church and college chaplaincy at Ripon College. Sunday school and College meeting areas were added. But-Bishop Mason hollered, "Come on back-we need ya!" So he did-with first son Patrick Stephen in tow as well. St. David's, Garland, Texas brought him in contact with old friends and new opportunities. Building a new church, starting a day school were completed when, six years later, Bishop Hines of Houston, (Diocese of Texas) offered him the opportunity to come to St. Barnabas, a mission for 9 years. So he went-bringing 2nd son, Michael David, along with the rest. St. Barnabas became a parish. A Day school was begun in 1961; Father Pat served as Headmaster-without pay-and in 1989, at 72 years of age, retired from the Episcopal Church-as required. However, he remained as Headmaster-without pay-for the Day school until 1991. Then, a new call for ministry to and with Episcopalians "left out", orphaned, came through loud and clear. He helped form the congregation of St. Peter's which met faithfully in the Post Oak YMCA-saving money, searching for land. During that time, he was elected Suffragan Bishop of the diocese of the Holy Cross, EMC with Bishop A. Donald Davies as Presiding Bishop. The congregation met faithfully at the Post Oak YMCA until Dec. 2003. Then, on Dec. 24th, the congregation celebrated the Birth of Christ in the newly-built and paid-for church. Such a glorious feeling! Bishop Murphy died at 91 years 10+ months- reluctantly. Left behind were his wife, Betty, (author of this and former Registrar at UT Medical School, Houston) their four children, seven grandchildren Eli and Jarrett, (children of Rick and Mary Loots) Sarah, David, and Amy, (children of Patrick and Jan Murphy), Matthew and Kevin (children of Michael and Sue Murphy), and two great

grandchildren, Kara and Aidan Loots (children of Eli and Gaby). What else did he do? He helped start the Pasadena Police Chaplaincy program with Rotarians of Pasadena, received the Paul Harris Award one year, served as chaplain to TSU students during the hectic years of the 60's, raised funds through the help of the Petroleum Club of Houston members to send Episcopal students abroad to build a Christian Church, belonged to the Petroleum Club of Houston, the Men's Reading for Pleasure Club, and got the opportunity to play the guitar and sing great songs with Burl Ives in his hotel room when the famous fellow came to Houston. Probably one of his happiest moments. Probably searching for him right now! Requiem Mass St. Peter's Anglican Church Beltway 8 and 290 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 4th 2009.