



Deaconess Adeline Blanchard Tyler and her Companions

Feast Day - November 4

Adeline Blanchard Tyler, above left, (1805-1875) was the first Episcopal deaconess. Along with Caroline Elizabeth Guild (1827-1880), Eveline Black (1825-1875), and Catherine Minard (1837-1917), she was admitted to the office of deaconess on November 4, 1856. Accepting the threefold charge to be “servants of the Lord Jesus; servants to the sick and poor and needy, of every class, for Jesus’ sake; and servants to one another,” they provided nursing care, religious and practical education, material support, and advocacy at the newly established St. Andrew’s Infirmary in Baltimore. They cared for men, women, and children, Black and white, and would become known as the United Deaconesses of Maryland.

After joining the Church of the Advent in 1846, Adeline became Matron of the Parish School, which the rector described as “a place of instruction for children of the Parish especially those who are poor and uncared for.” In 1856, the Rev. Horace Stringfellow, rector of St. Andrew’s Church in Baltimore, invited Adeline to head his new infirmary. Soon the four original Deaconesses were joined by two associates. During and after the Civil War, Adeline and her companions provided nursing care to the wounded on both sides of the conflict. At the Camden Street Hospital in Baltimore and the military hospital in Chester, Pennsylvania, and, somewhat later at the Naval Hospital at Annapolis, Maryland, often as many as one thousand wounded soldiers were under her care. She died on January 9, 1875. [Read more.](#)

Meet all the deaconesses, download liturgical readings for deaconesses and learn more at www.fundfordiaconate.org/deaconesses.



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THE WORK OF **The Fund**

The Fund for the Diaconate of The Episcopal Church assists deacons - working, retired, in formation or disabled - who have insufficient funds for their needs. We offer Regular, Emergency and Diaconal Formation grants. Deacons can also apply for a Hallenbeck Fellowship, to enable them to attend conferences or educational events.

Our History

The Fund was established in 1927 as a “Retiring Fund” by the deaconesses themselves. This was because women were not accepted into the Church Pension Fund at that time. It was created to help those of their order who could no longer work and had no financial resources.

Through bequests from individuals and donations from parishes and women’s groups, the Retiring Fund was able to support any deaconess who was in need well into the 1980’s. Today, deacons of either gender are served by the renamed Fund. In the past ten years, just over \$1,000,000 has been given to deacons who can’t make ends meet.

The need continues. The Fund still accepts donations, so we can serve those ordained to this servant ministry.

You can Leave a Legacy for Deacons

Planned Giving with The Fund means that your gift can help deacons, and those in formation, now and in the future. Visit our website for details.



Deacon Phoebe

A contemporary of St. Paul and a resident of Cenchreae near Corinth, Phoebe is recognized as the first female deacon. Her feast day in The Episcopal Church is January 27.

Suzanne Jones Schleck, iconographer



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