

# Legacy of a Layman



By Amy Mangram

Judge Charles Andrews, born in Utica just a year after St. Paul's was founded, became one of the most influential public figures in New York State. Often called "The First Citizen of Syracuse," he rose quickly in public life, serving as Syracuse Mayor, Onondaga County District Attorney and ultimately the Chief Justice on the New York State Court of Appeals.

From his arrival in Syracuse in 1849 until his death in 1918, Andrews was deeply woven into the life of St. Paul's. He joined the congregation during a formative period marked by rapid growth, new church buildings, and the development of the Lockwood Parish House. As Syracuse expanded and weathered national conflicts, he helped guide the parish through its own evolution.

A committed lay leader, Andrews served on the vestry as both junior and senior warden and played a prominent role in diocesan and national church governance. He was widely regarded as one of the leading laymen in the Diocese of Central New York, instrumental in bringing the bishop's residence to Syracuse and shaping major church deliberations.

His impact was felt far beyond administrative roles. Bishop Fiske, in his memorial sermon, described him as a man whose presence brought "a real benediction," admired across the country for his integrity, conviction, and Christian character.

Judge Andrews' legacy at St. Paul's reflects the profound influence a dedicated layperson can have on a church community—a tradition that continues to shape the life of the parish today

