

The Rt. Rev'd John C. Bauerschmidt

BISHOP OF TENNESSEE

bishop@edtn.org



September 2026

Dear friends,

We are fortunate to be part of a Diocese that has been serving middle Tennessee for nearly 200 years. It is a good and joyful thing to know that we join with other Episcopalians in our communities to share the gospel, the beauty of our liturgy, and a welcome to all those seeking a greater relationship with Jesus Christ.

For the past 20 years, Bishop John Bauerschmidt has led our Diocese with grace and humility, desiring to follow the vision of our diocese: To be open obedient, responsive and committed to the parishes and people of middle Tennessee.

Today, we invite you to reflect on Bishop Bauerschmidt's devotion to his work alongside all of us, and consider a gift to the Diocese in his honor as he prepares to retire. Following many conversations about the Bishop's legacy and his hopes for the future, we ask that contributions be made to a fund created specifically to assist with clergy housing.

"I am delighted that the Diocese is establishing this Fund, not only to honor our 20 years of ministry together, but also to meet a real need in our Diocese," said Bishop Bauerschmidt. "The cost of residential property in the greater Nashville area is estimated to have increased by 55% in the last five years, while clergy compensation has increased by far less, making it difficult for clergy accepting a new call to purchase homes. Throughout our Diocese, Church owned housing is an alternative, but here too there are challenges in providing and maintaining the property. This is a common problem wherever we are in Middle Tennessee.

"This Fund will give our diocese the ability to support clergy purchasing homes, and also churches as they provide and maintain church-owned residential property for clergy. Distribution and terms will be determined by the Bishop and Council. Creation of this Fund will help attract clergy to our Diocese and also support our churches. Thank you for considering a gift to this worthy cause."

Please consider a gift to the Bauerschmidt Clergy Housing Fund to ensure that clergy will continue to serve more than 16,000 of us who want to preserve and strengthen our Anglican traditions for another 200 years. Thank you for your generosity in honor of our Bishop.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chad+".

The Rev'd Cn. Chad Jones
Co-Chair, Bishop Transition Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Beemer".

Catherine Beemer
Chair, Stewardship Committee

P.S. Gifts may be made by check and mailed to the Diocese, with "Bauerschmidt Clergy Housing Fund" noted on the check; or by scanning the QR code here. Choose "Bauerschmidt Clergy Housing Fund" from the drop down menu.

