Louis M. Bradford, 89, an Episcopal minister who was the first full-time rector at All Saints Episcopal Church-Sharon Chapel in Alexandria, died of liver failure March 7 at a retirement community in Charlottesville. Mr. Bradford had lived in Charlottesville since January and before that in the District for 30 years.

He was born in Long Beach, Calif. As a young man, he studied electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He spent a year's leave from college working at a shipyard in Goteborg, Sweden. He graduated from MIT, then worked for George G. Sharpe Inc. in New York before joining the Navy during World War II.

Serving as a lieutenant commander, he oversaw the refitting of civilian ships into troop transports.

In the mid-1950s, he graduated from the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria and was ordained as an Episcopal minister. After several years as assistant pastor at the Falls Church in Falls Church, he was selected in 1959 to become the first, full-time minister at All Saints-Sharon Chapel.

Over the next seven years, the church grew from a small wooden chapel with no plumbing to a new church building with space for administrative offices and Sunday school. A used organ was installed in the sanctuary.

Mr. Bradford left the ministry in the late 1960s. He received a master's degree in sacred divinity and sociology from American University in the early 1970s.

He worked for a few years as a parole officer in Washington.

He enjoyed reading and traveling, especially to Scandinavia and Europe, where he practiced his skills in foreign languages. He attended weekly French classes at Alliance Francais, a French cultural organization in Washington.

His marriage to Eugenie Rowe ended in divorce.

Survivors include five children, Frances Earman of Pittsburgh, Elizabeth Bradford of Alexandria, Julia Bradford of New York, Louisa Bradford of Barboursville, Va., and Hudson, Quebec, and Robert Bradford of Barboursville; and six grandchildren.

*Taken from the Washington Post, March 31, 2006 Obituaries.*