

History.

A short History of St Luke's Parish
from its beginning until the present time
February 1892. Compiled by the Rector
Rev. Wm B Hamilton.

June 1885.

During the Summer of 1885, about the month of June, a Sunday School was organized by the Rector of Gethsemane Church, the Rev Anson R Graves, now Missionary Bishop of the Platte, in the residence of Mr F. H. Hall, who was then living at No 3103 Pleasant Avenue, the number of the house having since been changed to 3109.

Sept. 1885.

On the 14th Sunday after Trinity, September 6th 1885, the Rev Wm B Hamilton, the Assistant Minister at Gethsemane Church, having been assigned the work by the Rector, inaugurated Mount Calvary Mission by holding the first regular Church service in the same place at 3.30 P.M. The service consisted of full Evening Prayer and a sermon. The Sunday School was held after the service at 4.30 P.M.

This was the beginning of the present St Luke's Parish. Mr Hamilton has remained in charge of the work, with the exception of a month or so hereafter mentioned, from the first until the present writing. From the date of the first service Sept 6th 1885, regular services were held in the mission on Sunday Afternoons until they were replaced by the regular Morning and Evening Services.

The residence of Mr Hall soon proved too small to accommodate the congregations, and the place of service and Sunday School was changed to Avery's Hall on 26th Street between Nicollet and Blaisdell avenues.

In this place the services were held every Sunday afternoon at 3.30 o'clock with Sunday School immediately after the service until the end of the month of

History.

7

June 1886.

June 1886, at which time Mr Hamilton's engagement at Gethsemane Church terminated. From the end of June until Aug 1st the services and Sunday School were carried on by members of Gethsemane Parish.

On June 15th 1886. a meeting was held at Avery's Hall, consisting of most of the members of the mission, Mr. Hamilton, and Mr A.M. Stilliker of Gethsemane Church now Professor at Seabury Divinity School, at Faribault. It was decided at this meeting to organize Mount Calvary mission into an independent mission if possible; and to further this object a committee of nine was appointed to find how much could be raised by definite pledges toward a clergyman's salary.

On June 21st the committee reported that the sum of \$364.⁰⁰ had been pledged. It having been made known to the committee, previously, that the Bishop of the Diocese had promised sufficient assistance to Mr Hamilton to enable him to accept an offer of \$400.⁰⁰ for the first year to become Rector of the independent mission, it was thereupon unanimously decided to send him a call to become Rector of the work pledging him a salary of \$400.⁰⁰ for the first year.

August 1886.

Mr Hamilton accepted the call and took charge of the mission as Rector or priest in charge on August 1st 1886.

Regular Sunday services were held, first in "27th Street Hall" and afterwards in a vacant store on Lindley, since called Pillsbury, Avenue No 2926, and then in a vacant store on Nicollet Avenue No 2828. A building fund was at once started by the Rector.

At this time the Rev E. J. Purdy made formal complaint to the Bishop of the Diocese against Mount Calvary mission as being a work which encroached upon the rights of All Saints parish of which Mr Purdy was then Rector.

At a meeting, called by the Bishop at Gethsemane Church, of the Standing Committee of the Diocese, and the Rectors of the Parishes in Minneapolis it was proved by Mr Hamilton, by reference to the map of Minneapolis and the location of every family belonging to either All Saints Parish

History.

or Mount Calvary mission, that the territory occupied by the two was entirely separate. Upon which by a vote of the city Rectors, given unanimously, the work of Mount Calvary mission was endorsed and Mr Purdie's complaint was overruled by the Bishop.

November 1886.

On Wednesday evening November 3^d 1886. at a "parish meeting" held at No 2828 Nicollet Ave the name of the mission was by vote changed from Mount Calvary mission to St Luke's mission.

In September 1886. the two lots occupied at the present writing by the Church and the Rectory (the front 125 feet of Lots 1+2 Block 1, Pleasant Avenue Addition) were bought by Mrs Susanna Strong, and an agreement for deed given to the Trustees of Mount Calvary mission, or the Wardens and Vestrymen of the Parish when incorporated. Steps were immediately taken by the Rector to raise money to build a Church or Chapel upon the lots, and in January 1887, the chapel as it was then called, consisting of what is the nave of the Church at the present time, was nearly enough completed to be used for the first time. On Wednesday January 26th 1887 the first service was held in St Luke's Chapel.

January 1887.

The first service in the Church.

The service consisted of Evening Prayer, and Confirmation by the Rt. Rev. M. W. Gilbert D.D. Assistant Bishop of the Diocese. Eleven persons were confirmed at this service.

Upon the first Sunday that the Chapel was occupied for services, being the 4th Sunday after the Epiphany January 30th 1887, was begun the custom of the weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist, by a celebration at 9.45 o'clock at which service 22 persons communicated.

Weekly Celebrations Begun.

June 1887.

In June of this year 32 families and 60 communicants were reported to the Diocesan Council from St Luke's Mission.

December 1887.

Christmas Day 1887. is especially marked in the history of the mission by two important events.

Upon that day for the first time the proper

History.

9

Eucharistic Vestments introduced.

Eucharistic vestments were used at the celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. From that day to the present time they have been, and God grant they may never cease to be, used at that service in the parish.

Boy choir first used.

Also upon that day the boy choir of over 30 members first sang at the choral Evensong at 4 o'clock.

Easter 1888.

Processional Cross used.

On Easter Day 1888. the Processional Cross was first used. It was presented to the Church by the boys of the choir themselves.

September 1888

The first Anniversary Service and Harvest Home Festival was held on the 15th Sunday after Trinity Sept 9th 1888. The distinguishing feature of this service, and subsequent ones like it, was that gifts of money and provisions were given and offered in the Church, and after the service were distributed to those in the Parish and the Ward who were in need of them.

On the 3^d Sunday in Advent December 16th 1888. wafers were substituted for the common household bread which had hitherto been used in the Holy Eucharist, and have since continued to be the only kind of bread used in that service.

July 1889.

From the 4th Sunday after Trinity July 1889. until the 9th Sunday after Trinity August 18th 1889. the church was closed. During this time was

New Chancel and Vestry room built.

being built the vestry room and chancel as they now are. At this time also the new furnace was put in and the altar, font and pews were put into the church. The Chancel and Vestry room and pews were obtained for the Parish by two or three ladies without any expense whatever to the Parish. The furnace and new chandelier for the Chancel were paid for by a Guild of young people then existing in the Parish. The Altar was purchased with a fund raised for that purpose by the Rector, and the Font was paid for by the Little Girls' Guild, since become the Kings Daughters.

Admitted into union with the Diocese as a Parish.

It should have been stated above that at the Diocesan Council held at Faribault in June 1889. St Luke's Parish was admitted into union

Incorporated

with the Diocesan Council, it having become incorporated on March 4th 1889.

October 1890

The following is clipped from "The Living Church" of Oct 4th 1890.

MINNEAPOLIS.—On the first Sunday in September, St. Luke's church, the Rev. Wm. B. Hamilton, rector, held its fourth anniversary and Harvest Home Festival. This parish which was started in August, 1886, was only admitted as an organized parish last year. The following are some of the statistics of the growth of St. Luke's in the past four years. Starting with 12 communicants, no church building or building fund, and no lots to build upon, it now has 125 communicants, a church building valued at \$4,000, and other church property valued at \$3,000, (with \$3,000 incumbrance upon the whole). It has a boy choir of 30 members, and an altar guild which has

within the last six months raised for church purposes \$75, besides doing \$125 worth of ecclesiastical embroidery on altar cloths for the church. During the four years there have been 105 persons baptized and 85 confirmed. St. Luke's church has the most advanced ritual of any church in the city. It is the only one in which the full Eucharistic vestments are worn or a processional cross is used. It has also the finest altar of any of the churches in the city. The present rector is the founder of the parish and the only one who has ever had charge of it.

History.

December 1890.

From December 3^d till May 23^d 1891. the Rector was absent from the Parish with the consent of the Bishop pursuing a special course of study. During this interval the services were kept up by the Rev George A. Strong, who was engaged by the Rector for that purpose, until and including the 3^d Sunday after Easter April 19th 1891. From this time until the Rector's return the Services and Sunday School were maintained by Mr F. H. Hall, Senior Warden & Lay Reader, with the assistance of other parishioners.

Church Club organized.

In the winter of 1890-91 and during the Rector's absence, a Gentlemen's Club was organized in the Parish to promote sociability among the gentlemen of the parish and to discuss and advance the interests of the Parish. With some funds previously subscribed for the purpose of reducing the debt on the Church property, but by the consent of the subscribers diverted from their intended use, the club purchased in the summer of 1891 a house on 4th Avenue nearly opposite Gethsemane Church and had it moved and placed upon the lot next the Church and fitted up for a Rectory, and the Rector moved into it at its completion in August of the same year.

Rectory bought.

August 1891.

One other organization must not go unnoticed in this history. In the Summer of 1888. St Mary's Guild, later known as St Luke's Altar Guild, was organized with Miss L. E. Baker afterwards Mrs E. M. Wood (of blessed memory) as President.

During the summer of 1890. this Guild consisting of five active members took, at their own expense, a full course of lessons in Ecclesiastical Embroidery needle work; and embroidered three sets of altar cloths and Antependia, raising and expending for the Church upwards of \$75.00 and doing over \$125.00 worth of embroidery for the Church.

This Guild placed in the Church on Easter Day 1890 the credence shelf in memory of the first President of the Guild.

December 1891.

On Dec 10 1891. a monthly celebration of the Holy Eucharist was begun and continued as a custom of the parish until the departure of the Rev. Wm. B. Hamilton in Jan 1893.

June 1892.

On June 2^d 1892. a weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist was instituted occurring on Thursday in each week. This was in addition to the celebration which occurred regularly on Sundays.

May 1892.

In May 1892. The Rector resigned the rectorship of the parish & accepted that of St. George's Parish Leadville Colo. Finding, however, that the climate & altitude of Leadville was not suited to himself & family he returned to the parish on Sunday May 8th having been absent one Sunday; and upon invitation of the vestry resumed the Rectorship of St. Luke's Parish.

In this month also a new loan was made upon the church property, & the property vested in the officers of the Parish.

Resignation of

Rev Wm B Hamilton Chicago Ill. On Dec 21st 1892. the Rector received a call to become rector of Calvary church Chicago Ill. which having accepted he terminated his rectorship in St. Luke's Parish by resignation taking effect Jan 12th 1893.

January 1893.

Mar 1st

1893

Second Rector

Resumé of the history of St. Luke's parish by the second Rector, Rev: Maurice J. Bywater - formerly Rector of Christ Church, Albert Lea, Diocese of Minnesota. In the month of February 1893 I received a nomination from Bishop Gilbert to become the new Rector of St. Luke's (the first Rector Rev: Wm B Hamilton having received a call to and accepted the Rectorship of Calvary Chicago) and on a day or two later received a letter from the Vestry of St. Luke's Minneapolis asking me to become their Rector which call I responded to on the first of March 1893.

The Organ
bought.

At a special meeting of the Vestry held in the same month at the house of Mr. J. H. Robertson it was unanimously agreed to supply a pipe organ for St. Luke's Church. Negotiations were entered into with the Barchuff Organ Co. of Salem, Ohio, culminating in the placing of a \$1000 pipe organ in the Church on Palm Sunday 1893.

April 27
1893.

On Thursday April 27th Bishop Gilbert held his first Confirmation under my Rectorship when seven persons were confirmed, four being males.

History.

June
1893

In June the young ladies of the parish bought the book rest which now lies on the Altar.

M^r. W. W. Bartlett becomes the organist, kindly giving his efficient services gratuitously. The weekly celebration was commenced and continued. In the fall a bi-weekly celebration was commenced continuing for 10 months.

Oct 18
1894

This being the Feast of the Patron Saint of the Church the day was observed with early celebration at 8, one at 11, and Festival Evensong at 7.30. The Rev^d. J. J. Faudt Rector of Gettysburg preached and admitted into the Brotherhood of St. Andrew four men as a nucleus for a Chapter.

Brotherhood
of St. Andrew.

There begins to be a large arrearage in the Rector's salary. There seems to be no definite plan for raising the stipend beyond the amount of the Sunday offerings.

Daughters
of the King

In December of this year application for a Charter for St. Luke's Chapter of the Daughters of the King by the following ladies, being communicants in good standing of the Church Mrs. P. W. Jackson Mrs. ^{Em} Dywater Mrs. F. H. Hall Mrs. H. Dausmann Miss Jessie Hall, Miss Bernice Williams, Miss Ethel Giggis ~~and~~ Miss Minnie Dornan, and Mrs. L. Gilbert.

Resignation
of Rev M. J.
Bywater.

In order to accept a call to the parish of Christ Church Waterloo, in the Diocese of Iowa, the writer tendered his resignation to the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Senior Warden of the Parish of St. Luke to take effect on the first day of March 1895, after a rectoryship of two years, having been privileged during that time to add

33 added
by Baptism
18 Confirmed

to the Church thirty three persons by Holy Baptism (seven of them being of full age, adults), eighteen by the sacred rite of Confirmation at the hands of the Right Reverend Bishop Gilbert S.D.D. assistant Bishop of the Diocese, and twenty one other persons by reception or by card of transfer. May the Lord of the Harvest abundantly bless this young and growing field. M. J. Bywater. Priest.