



1874

1974

***St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Enterprise, Mississippi***

1874

These are the names of the first Vestrymen

S. W. Lee. Senior Warden
S. A. Deas Junior Warden

Vestrymen:
John Kamper
P. H. Lee
J. W. O'Ferrall
J. S. Vandiver
J. T. O'Ferrall

Dated April 14th, 1884

1974

The Mission Committee

L. B. Buckley I Warden
Robert J. Priester * Treasurer
Mrs. L. B. Buckley Clerk
(First time women have been allowed to serve)
John L. Blanks Lay Reader
James R. Pettey Lay Reader
Ed. Phillips Member of the Mission Committee
Mrs. W. A. Bonney President of the Episcopal Church Women
Mrs. John L. Blanks First woman delegate to be chosen
James R. Pettey Alternate

*Robert J. Priester is the great-great grandson of Thos. A. Deas

Dated Jan. 13th, 1974

Vicar Patton L. Boyle

History
Of
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Enterprise,
Clarke County,
Mississippi

These facts were gathered and compiled by Mrs. L. B. Buckley and Mrs. W. A. Bonney. Mrs. Mildred Deas Buckley wrote, at the request of Bishop Theodore DuBose Bratton, a history up to the years of 1933. The facts given in that history were given by Gen. John O'Ferrall and Miss Mamie O'Ferrall. These facts have been closely followed as well as those which are kept in our current church records.

Dated February 11, 1974

" Upon this rock I will build my church . . . "

This is the faith upon which St. Mary's
Corner Stone was laid, March 17th, 1874.

Our historic little church is located on St. John's Street, Enterprise, Clarke County, Mississippi. The simplicity of the structure together with the cross raising her arms heavenward lends an air of dignity that is not easily captured in words. The stark whiteness of the exterior is in contrast with the beauty of natural wood in the interior. It has weathered the years well. The pews are the original ones, matching the wainscoting. The beautiful blue used in the ceiling brings out the brilliance of the other colors throughout the church. Her beauty lies in the stained glass windows, imported from England, and the priceless chandeliers of tin, modernized by electricity. These lamps burned oil were lowered with chains, lighted, raised into place, and anchored with an iron ball.

In the year of 1858, St. Mary's was established by the first families of Episcopalians living in Enterprise. The families of: Thomas Deas, Dr. Paul Lee, Nat Moore, Stephen Lee, Dr. Truehart, Mr. Reynolds, and Mrs. Byrd and daughters.

From 1860-62, Mr. Thomas Deas acted as lay reader. The Rev. Beekman Lee, brother of Dr. Paul Lee, of Carlowville, Ala., visited Enterprise and held a service in the school house known as the Enterprise Academy in East Enterprise. This service was attended by a goodly number of people of other denominations. Here in this same academy the church school was held.

Bishop Leonidas Polk, General Polk, came with his staff to recruit an army in 1864. Enterprise area had answered the call to arms for the Confederacy with five hundred of her finest young men. Bishop Polk held daily prayers and services at his headquarters. He was here only two or three months. There is no record of services from this time until 1870, when Bishop William Mercer Green visited Enterprise.

Bishop Quintard of Tennessee, held services in the court house in 1872 and confirmed Mrs. S. D. Lee. Chancellor W. Drone and family, staunch church people, moved to Enterprise from Canton, Mississippi. In this same year (1872) The Rev. R. C. Harris, of Meridian, held services one Sunday each month using the court house as the place of worship. A church school was organized and flourished. Mr. Thomas Deas, Superintendent, Mrs. Carolyn Lee Deas (his wife) teacher of the Bible Class, Miss Jennie Drone, teacher of the Infant Class, and Mrs. Annie Deas, teacher of the Junior Class. Mr. and Mrs. Will Rumph of Alabama, Captain Alfred Gusman, Governor Wm. Hamilton and family

of Mobile became a part of St. Mary's. The O'Ferrall family came back to Enterprise and played a very important role in the history of this church. The Rev. Mr. Harris died suddenly while visiting in New Orleans in the fall of 1872. This left St. Mary's without services until the spring of 1873, when Bishop Green came bringing with him the Rev. Richard Hines. Dr. Hines served this mission for seven years. He was a fine scholar, forceful speaker, and a very proficient reader. He brought many into the fold of the church and was beloved by his parishioners. Under his leadership St. Mary's Church was built on a site donated by General John W. O'Ferrall. The church building committee: Dr. Richard Hines, John Kamper, S. W. Lee, Charles A. Lyerly. Finance Committee: Mrs. John W. O'Ferrall, Mrs. Charles A. Lyerly, Mrs. P. H. Lee, Mrs. W. G. Edwards. Secretary: Mr. D. T. Gaston. Treasurer: Mr. Chas. A. Lyerly. Dr. Hines' health failed causing him to return to his native state, North Carolina, where he died. The beautiful Altar window is a memorial to this man of God.

Although the church was not completed, the chancel furnishings were given by Mr. and Mrs. John Kamper, and the communion rail by Mrs. Frank O'Ferrall of Chatons, Minn.

The first wedding believed to have been held in the church was that of Miss Mamie Kamper to Mr. Charles Blanks.

F. H. Deas Jr., and Isabella Hines Smith were the first children who received Holy Baptism. The congregation working together purchased the stained glass windows installed them and hung the doors.

Succeeding Dr. Richard Hines the Rev. Wm. Cross gave one Sunday each month for about two years. On May 6th, 1884, a Charter of Incorporation of the Parish of St. Mary's was granted by the Executive Office, Jackson, Mississippi. The names of Incorporators subscribed with their own hands: J. W. O'Ferrall, Zoe Cluis O'Ferrall, F. H. Deas, Thos. A. Deas, Elina Deas, S. W. Lee, John Braswitz, John Kamper, P. H. Lee, Fannie Moore, S. I. Smith, Helen G. O'Ferrall. (The Rev. S. S. Monk, vicar for St. Mary's, (1964) had copies of this document made. A copy was given to each family.)

In 1885 the Rev. Mr. Starkweather, Meridian, gave a week day service, monthly. The interior of the church was finished during his ministry. Following him, Mr. Sleight served the missions of Enterprise, Macon, Giles, and probably West Point. He was an excellent clergyman, gentle of character and polished of manner. We regretted his return to his northern home. Mr. Stokes came for a few months. Then came Mr. Skinner who instructed the church women in the making of the communion linens. To complete the Communion service, the congregation brought offerings of silver and gold, (coins, rings, watches, bracelets) from which the Chalice and Paten were made. They bear the inscrip-

tion "Memorial Silver, St. Mary's Church, Enterprise, Miss. A.D. 1888". These same vessels are in use in the celebration of Holy Communion.

Deacon Winecoff served next. Rev. Mr. Herbert C. Brayton New York, took up his residence among us. He was a loyal churchman, but not robust of health. He soon returned to his home state.

Bishop Thompson sent Dr. Williams who resided at Macon. He served for two years until he was sent to Jackson. There followed a period of occasional services by the Rev. W. P. Brown.

The year of 1892 began a new era. Fortunately we came under the care of that grand old "Roman of the Cross", the Rev. Dr. B. Waddell (later became Arch Deacon).

He is still beloved by those who knew him. His grandson, Chancellor William (Billy) Neville, serves us as a lay reader.

Miss Mamie O'Ferrall was one of St. Mary's outstanding church women. She served as organist for many years and was faithful and untiring in all church work.

Mr. Ernest Deas served as church school superintendent.

The iron lamp post in front of the church was given by Miss Julia Deas.

Another stalwart Episcopalian was Mayor Robt. H. Horr. He, together with his family were untiring in their devotion. He held services, taught lenten studies to the women in the church, and served as Church school superintendent.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Curling from Kent, England, affiliated with the church in 1894. Percy Curling, a brother, came a short time afterwards.

The 1900's brought Mr. and Mrs. H. A. McGusty. Mr. McGusty was a native of Dublin, Ireland, communicant of the Church of England and for years served as Warden of St. Mary's. He was a gifted artist. Mrs. McGusty was a capable, enthusiastic worker and great fund raiser. She was a sculptress. Upon her death in 1952 she left the Diocese of Mississippi Penleigh Hall, a beautiful home built in the style of an English country manor, a show place in this area, together with a number of Mr. McGusty's paintings. The property was sold and later destroyed by fire. On Easter Sunday in April of 1943, a Hymn Board and Alms Basin were dedicated in loving memory of Mr. McGusty. The dedication was written by the beloved Bishop Theo. DuBose Bratton.

Capt. C. W. Ward (D.S.O.) another loyal churchman from England, found his way to Enterprise. Mrs. Sophie Wahrendorff, daughter, Meta, Mrs. Hanna Madsen, Mr. and Mrs. John Meyer although Lutheran by faith, were loyal worshipers at St. Mary's.

During this period, Wilhemnia Kamper, Robin Kamper, Willie Alla and Jack Del Bueno were confirmed the same day, around 1921-23.

During the latter part of Dr. Waddell's ministry many of our church people moved away leaving a mere handful. The church school disbanded and there was no Woman's Auxiliary.

Mr. John Boosey, Rector of St. Paul's Meridian, 1923, spent part of his time holding services and performing Holy Sacraments. He performed the marriages of Miss Rosa Del Bueno and Walter Allen Bonney and that of Miss Mildred Deas and Samuel Olliphant Buckley. Mr. Penniman of Virginia came in 1926. On March 29, 1927, St. Mary's Auxiliary was organized with Mrs. W. A. Bonney, President, Mrs. H. A. McGusty, Secretary, and Mrs. F. H. Deas, Treasurer. This Auxiliary is known as the Episcopal Church Women. Mrs. W. A. Bonney is the President (1974) but each woman has served as president at one time during the intervening years since it was organized. This band of loyal women have worked diligently, prayed fervently, and given liberally for the church. Mrs. Patten, Chattanooga, Tennessee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Lyerly left us a legacy of five hundred dollars. This generosity of hers allowed us to cover the church with asbestos roofing or slate, add concrete steps, and have the sum of thirty-five dollars left to apply on the electrical wiring of the church.

Mrs. Self and Mrs. Nelson, of Meridian, came on June 16, 1929, and reorganized the Church School. Mr. Horr was the Superintendent. In 1930 Mr. Penniman left us. Bishop Green gave us services until Mr. C. A. Ross, temporary rector took over at St. Paul's.

The Rev. William Gerrow Christian became Rector of St. Paul's in June 1932 and gave us one Sunday afternoon service a month. Under Mr. Christian we added the names of Mary Louise Kamper (Mary Louise Kamper Burr), Mrs. J. R. Brown, daughters Lula Pearl, Johnny Duff, James H. Haddock II, Laurence B. Buckley, (wife) Christine J. and Carol McAlpin (Granddaughter of Mr. Horr). Mr. Christian resigned to go to All Saints School in Vicksburg. Although he was greatly missed, we were happy for All Saints to have this great christian clergyman.

One of the "Jones Boys" from Woodville, Miss., Cecil Baron Jones, whose father was an Episcopal Priest, came to St. Paul's as Rector and took St. Mary's under his wing. We were given one Sunday afternoon a month. He was a young unmarried priest and while here he married Miss Margaret (Peggy Bordueax) of Meridian. This young couple made many friends and were sorely missed when he transferred to Columbus, Miss. Some of St. Mary's daughters found staunch friends in the "Joneses" when they attended MSCW. They have returned to this area for retirement and are lovingly received. (1974)

Following Mr. Jones the Rev. Duncan M. Hobart, spent a number of years giving St. Mary's special attention. He always had time for his tiny flock and tended us well. His influence is still felt in this Parish. He took over the vital records of St. Mary's and through his

efforts in bringing this book up to date we're able to write this history. St. Mary's Communicants were increased by Olga Blanchard Buckley, Robert Jackson Priester, Richard Wallace Priester, James Thompson Moore, Rosa Bonney. He performed the marriages of Miss Rosa Bonney to Clyde K. Brooke, Miss Mary Frances Buckley to Thaddeus A. George.

October 16, 1949, Mr. Hobart dedicated the Brass Cross on the Altar in memory of Mary Elina Deas and Francis H. Deas, given by Francis H. Deas, Jr., Gladys Deas Barbour, and Mildred Barbour Boone. Dedicated at the same time were the candelabra given by Mildred Deas Buckley and Elina Deas Moore in memory of Mary Elina Deas and Francis H. Deas. Also the brass vases were given in memory of Sara Isabella Smith, by Dewey, Walton, John Cary, Matthews, Elizabeth Montalvo, Annie Massey, Lucille Domerque, Erma McCarty Lee, Minor Bridges, Louie McKinley, Marie, Lowry, Willie Belle Perry, Harry, Leeward, Brice Sumrall, Irma Moses, Wilson and Ben Smith, Silvia Ollis. The children of Sara Isabella Smith had the Bible which bears the date 1830 rebound in her memory.

Laurence B. Buckley I, was made Warden and James T. Moore served as Treasurer and Clerk. Mr. Buckley is still serving as Warden and Mr. Moore served as clerk until his death in September of 1973.

Mr. Wm. J. Gould, Rector of The Mediator, Meridian, like all the clergy we have had, was untiring in his efforts to make our Lord's way known. He brought to Bishop Gray for confirmation Linda Ryan Buckley and Laurence B. Buckley, II. The marriage of Miss Mary Ann Bonney to Dr. Richard Riley was performed by Mr. Gould.

In 1959 a young priest, The Rev. J. R. Crowder came as Curate under the Rev. Duncan M. Gray, Rector at St. Pauls. He had time for St. Mary's. Under his instruction the men of the church became lay readers. L. B. Buckley I, James T. Moore, Robert J. Priester, and L. B. Buckley II. Once again St. Mary's doors were opened each Sunday morning. James T. Moore was the first lay reader of this group to conduct services. W. K. James, a resident of Enterprise, communicant of St. Paul's, sincere churchman, acted as a lay reader. Another active young church leader, W. W. (Woody) Cameron of Stonewall, served.

The beautiful Missal stand, as well as the Missal, were dedicated to the loving memory of Mrs. Elma Edwards Willis and given by her daughter, Mrs. Eleanor Willis Johnston and granddaughter, Mary Michael Johnston.

Mr. Crowder resigned in November, 1961 to go to St. John's in Baltimore, Md. We were supplied by the following lay readers: Jack Pigford, D. A. Elliott, Tom Bordeaux, Tom Ward, David Elliott, Lee Moss, Dabney MacMurry, Zed Hawkins, Robert Covington, Lee M. Adams, Bob Covert, Orville Clark, Bill Moss, Judge Billy Neville,

Paul Neville, Eddie Holloday. These loyal churchmen helped St. Mary's keep alive. Bishop John M. Allin sent the Rev. Paul Dodd Burns to live in Newton and to give a Sunday Service each month to St. Mary's. (1963) Mr. Burns endeared himself to the women of the church by his appreciation of our culinary arts.

On March 29, 1964, The Rev. S. S. Monk held Holy Communion for us. Mr. Monk walked into our hearts. His family became our family. He liked dogs, fishing, hunting, horses but most of all he loved his folk at St. Mary's. The light he brought to shine will remain with us for a life time. Robin Kamper Burr, son of Lt. Colonel Frank R. and Mary Louise Kamper Burr was confirmed by Bishop John M. Allin. Mr. Monk resides in Kosciusko and serves there.

A legacy left St. Mary's by Mr. George Robert Olliphant was used to enhance the beauty and comfort of the church.

Like all missions, St. Mary's is a special child of the Bishop. He is aware of our problems, our needs. He helps solve and he supplies our needs. Bishop Allin sent the Rev. Don Greenwood to serve as our Vicar. Mr. Greenwood celebrated Holy Communion on Sunday, July 6, 1968. He was a young, energetic, and a very conscientious christian clergyman. We had him for our Vicar for four years or until August of 1972. Mr. John L. Blanks and wife, Mary Lillian transferred and became communicants of St. Mary's; Miss Nancy Joel Burt was confirmed. Nancy is a gifted artist and serves as organist. We have welcomed into our midst a very devout Episcopal family, The Pettey Family- Jim, Martha, Ruth, Ann and Reeder. They have brought with them an exuberance we needed, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Phillips of Quitman, worship with us too. Many improvements were made during the four years of Mr. Greenwood's leadership. Dedicated to the Glory of God and to the loving memory of Mrs. Irene Lyerly Laurence were the refinishing of the two Bishop's chairs, and the recovering of them, a new Lectern, given by her son, John Lyerly Blanks. Also dedicated to the loving memory of Mrs. Laurence was a silver chalice, paten and wine cruets, given by her son, Conway Laurence. Mrs. Irene Lyerly Laurence was a beloved worshiper at St. Mary's. She was a native of Enterprise, her father, William Alonzo Lyerly and her mother, Ida Griffin Lyerly were also faithful worshipers and supporters of this church. Her son, John Lyerly Blanks means much to this church. He is a licensed lay reader serving here and throughout the diocese. It has been through his and his wife, Mary Lillian's devotion, zeal, and generosity St. Mary's has maintained her beauty and shared in the programs of the diocese. The carpet you walk upon, the organ whose notes sound praise, the cool breeze and the warm air are noticeable evidence of this generosity. Under Mr. Blanks leadership we have continued to have weekly services. The following lay readers come from St. Paul's, and The Mediator to

serve us: R. Harrison, F. A. Taylor, Judge Billy Neville, Tom Ward.

The Rev. Duncan M. Gray Jr. served St. Mary's after Mr. Greenwood left. Then on July 8, 1973, our new Vicar, Patton Lindsey Boyle, came. We celebrate Holy Communion on two Sundays a month now, holding our services in the morning at eleven thirty. There is a service held at that time each Sunday Morning in this the year 1974....

Here she is . . . Our St. Mary's Episcopal Church . . . as she has been for a century . . . emanating faith, hope and love to those who come to worship . . . They have come - those to be joined in holy matrimony to live together to love, comfort, honor and keep each other in sickness and in health, forsaking all others so long as they both shall live. They bring their children to be baptized that our Lord Jesus Christ might receive them, sanctify them with the Holy Ghost, give them the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life. Then when their children have reached the years of discretion they bring them for confirmation to be increased in the gift of grace, the spirit of wisdom, understanding, knowledge and true goodness. Then when life on earth is ended, they know that their Redeemer lives, that He shall grant them entrance into the land of light and joyous everlasting glory. For one hundred years these have been the gifts to mankind from . . .

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Enterprise

Clarke County

Mississippi