



St. Mary's Episcopal Church Historical Data  
Transcribed from the Memorial Gift Book by Sandra Thurlow  
November 30, 1998

St. Mary's has a unique history. The building has journeyed from the crossroads, Stuart, where it served many and varied purposes. Originally built for a community church, it became a Methodist Church, dressmaking establishment, printing press, Elks one day stand, quasi-restaurant and Martin County Chamber of Commerce. From its last condition — after the collapse of the boom — it was rescued by the ladies of the Episcopal Guild of Stuart then serving All Saints Church Jensen — Waveland. These ladies by diligence and loyalty raised \$200, which was applied to the purchase price of \$300 (reduced by kindness of Mayor Dyer from \$500 to \$300). The Diocese of South Florida having acquired 2 lots on West 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Stuart, which were taxed, it was thought wisest to put the building on these 2 lots, thus removing taxation if religious services were held therein. Bishop Wing sent over \$200 to apply for taxes but it was used to pay for moving the building from the crossroads to W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The Episcopal Guild plus vestry did this in the late fall of 1930. The Guild met there repeatedly. Dr. E. H. Merriman of Monteagle, Tennessee came down as rector of All Saints, Jensen from January 15-March 15-1931. He started 7:30 a.m. Sunday Communion in the "Parish House" as the new building was called. He also addressed the Episcopal guild at their bi-month meetings. Rev. G. L. G. Thomas was rector of All Saints from March 22-May 10-1931. During his term of office, he followed Dr. Merriman's example — plus a Good Friday service.

Upon being again called to Stuart as rector of All Saints, Jensen, in Nov 1, 1931, the possibilities of a Stuart Church were seriously considered. Slight opposition. By degrees 40 chairs were bought. The library table was removed and an altar donated by Mr. Sam Matthews. Sunday School was organized Advent Sunday. Evening services were started Sunday Evening on November 8,

1931. An Estey organ replaced the piano on Xmas Eve 1931. Mrs. St. Johns of Port Sewall gave \$30 toward improvements in Sanctuary. Regular 7:30 Wednesday evening services commenced on January 27<sup>th</sup>. St. Mary's became St. Mary's on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1932 dedicated by Bishop Wing. Mrs. St. Johns of Port Sewall, gave 14 pews February 24<sup>th</sup> 1932. Carpet bought by the Guild March 2, 1932. Mrs. W. S. Barstow of Hobe Sound gave \$500 to pay for enlarging chancel and sanctuary etc. etc. plus the building of rector's study, lavatory, Sunday School room and choir vesting room, finished Easter Sunday 1932. Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Cartwright gave the Eucharistic lights, vesper lights loaned by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Arbogast, lectern donated by Mr. Robb.

The total donated by the Barstows, to include the entire painting of church and addition inside and out, plus stucco work on addition and coloring of same, arches put to windows etc., etc., about \$1000 which includes \$100 given to Mrs. Aaron Cleveland for carpet in sanctuary and all necessary things for altar, etc., Altar cross, vesper lights, Eucharistic candlesticks, communion set in valise, missal stand, bowl for baptism font, (?) for lectern, brass flower vases — all these the gift of Mrs. W. S. Barstow, in memory of Frederick her son. Kneeling pews for sanctuary rail too. The 2 alms basins and 1 receiving plate given by Harriet F. Winter, Great Neck, L. I., N. Y in memory of daughter Adelaide.

*The above must have been written by G. L. G. Thomas, first rector of St. Mary's Church*

By appointment of the Rt. Reverend John D. Wing the Reverend William B. Hays became priest in charge of All Saints Jensen and St. Mary's Stuart, January 15, 1933. Instead of having two vestries one vestry for the two churches was appointed. Separate "Service Record Books" in which services are recorded are kept. Any records of services not found in this book or the "service record books" will be found in the Parish Record (Register — (Large)) of All Saints Jensen-Waveland. The use of the small

Parish Register for All Saints Jensen-Waveland was discontinued upon the appointment of the Reverend William B. Hays. A special memorial service was held at St. Mary's\ signed, William B. Hays Stuart May 21, 1933 in commemoration of the anniversary of the death of Frederick Duclos Barstow, a processional Cross (the gift of Mrs. W. S. Barstow) and a silver bread-box (the gift of the children of the church school) were blessed at this service of Holy communion. W. B. H.

*Written by William B. Hays, second rector of St. Mary's Church*