

# An Appendix

## A Sketch of St. Andrew's Church: 1995 to 2003

*A Personal Note. I have been asked to write the history of St. Andrew's Church covering the few years before the 150th anniversary of it's founding. This is not something I would have chosen to do. To borrow the words of a former Archbishop of Canterbury, "It has been thrust upon me." Adding to the detailed account that has been written is much like licking the stamp for a letter that someone else has written. And so it is with a humble spirit, and with a different style, that I undertake what follows.*

*- The Rev'd Richard A. Norris*

In this appendix we pick up the story of St. Andrew's by first expressing our deep appreciation to Father Chapin for the extensive work he has done in preparing and producing the foregoing history. The members of our church, past, present and future, are indebted to him for preserving the history of St. Andrew's Church.

With the retirement of Father Chapin, the Bishop's Committee, with the approval of the Bishop of Long Island, the Rt. Rev'd Orris G. Walker, and the Archdeacon of Suffolk, the Ven. John Madden, elected the Rev'd Richard A. Norris, to be the Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew's. Father Norris accepted the appointment with the understanding that his tenure would be for one year - "give or take a few months." At the time of the publication of this history, he is in the ninth year as interim! Father Norris had retired as the rector of Trinity Church, Geneva, New York, and in 1993 moved, with his wife Patricia, to Cutchogue, Long Island. On Sunday, January 22, 1995 Father Norris began his duties at St. Andrew's with a warm welcome.

As the saga of the first 150 years of St. Andrew's Church draws to a close, these last eight years must be understood as both a period of continuance and of transition. Through 1995 and into 1996, many parishioners held on to their hopes and visions of becoming a parish with a full time priest. This was a time of expectation and frustration. Then, not unexpectedly, new guidelines were established by the Department of Mission of the Diocese of Long Island which would exclude us from parish status without dynamic growth in membership from Yaphank and greater financial support.

The disappointment of this action was followed by notice from the archdeacon's office that the bishop's committee study the possibility of "yoking" St. Andrew's with St. Mark's Church, Medford. St. Mark's was without a priest due to the death of it's rector, the Rev'd William R. Delamain. Yoking would have meant sharing a priest, having one service at each church on Sundays, and each contributing to the financial cost of supporting the priest. At the direction of Archdeacon Madden, the bishop's committee first met with the Rev'd David B. Plank, priest-in-charge of St. James', Brookhaven and St. Andrew's, Mastic Beach, along with lay members of these churches to learn of their experiences in a yoked situation. During the spring and summer, three members of the bishop's committee, Jeffrey Weeks, Robert Williams, Jr. and John Rate, Jr. met with members of the vestry of St. Mark's on three occasions to share information on the

operation of each church unit and, and to discuss what arrangement could be made in sharing one priest.

In August, Father Norris was told that the target date for the yoking was November 1, 1996. Since it was the practice of St. Andrew's to have only one service at 9:00 a.m. during the summer months, it was decided to continue that schedule rather than return to two services (8:30 and 10:00) for two months, and then in November return to one service again at 9:00. While this made sense, it proved to be a disaster, especially for the church school. For a variety of reasons, parents did not want to have to get their children to church at the early hour of 9:00. This was an unacceptable change and meant the loss of a number of families. The greatest shock came in the last week of October when Father Norris was told that the yoking with St. Mark's would not take place!

We immediately returned to services at 8:30 and 10:00, with the hope that this would attract those who had left to return, but it was not to happen. It should also be noted that about this time, and the year or two following, we had families with children move to Nebraska, Florida, and other states, while some went looking for "greener pastures."

Following this setback, and a church school reduced to a dozen children, we entered a rather quiet period for a few years. It was not a period of saying "let's wait and see what happens", but a time to reflect on our mission as a church in Yaphank and the surrounding communities. At the suggestion of Father Norris, a one week Vacation Bible School was held in August, 1997, with Olive Archer at the helm. This venture was continued for four years.

In 1998 Richard A. Smid, who began his musical career at St. Andrew's as a teenager, was organist for Father Norris at St. Paul's, Great Neck in the late 1960's, and is now organist at St. John's, Southampton, donated a Rodger's organ to St. Andrew's in memory of his parents, Arthur L. and Aimee L. Smid. At a service of dedication and organ recital on November 15, 1998, the organ and a bell tower sound system, given in memory of Florence Taylor (a former organist) by her family and friends, were dedicated. Present for this occasion was the Rt. Rev'd Rodney R. Michel, Bishop Suffragan.

Among the many clergy, seminarians, and lay readers who have conducted services at St. Andrew's, was the Rev'd Joachim H. Rau, who was priest-in-charge here and at St. Andrew's, Mastic Beach from 1969 to 1971. For many years Father Rau assisted and supplied at for Father Chapin and then for Father Norris. On December 19, 1999 Father Rau observed the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. On that Sunday he was celebrant and preacher at the Holy Eucharist and was honored by the church members at a luncheon following the service. Unfortunately, Father Rau died in January, 2000. A memorial service was held here on January 29, 2001.

Our reflection "on our mission" resulted in what could only be called a bold adventure. In the fall of 1998 the bishop's committee hired Peter C. Saros, a parish development and stewardship consultant, to lead us over a year's period in the areas of mission, program and stewardship. Beginning in December, monthly meetings were held to help the members understand the potential for our church and how to accomplish the goals we set. Over the year of meetings, 35 adults and children took part in discussions and planning. Judy Seif served as chairperson. The motto "St. Andrew's - A Growing Family" was accepted.

After much discussion and soul-searching, it was decided to engage in three areas of concern: youth ministry, community outreach, and the redecoration of the interior of the church. Chairpersons for each committee were Susan Fisher, Michael Seif and Jeffrey Weeks. In order to finance these endeavors a capital fund was established. A gala kickoff dinner was held with pledges received totaling \$36,480. to be paid over a three year period. This money was divided equally among the three mission areas and it wasn't long before plans were made for the implementation of programs.

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** Funds were allocated to send Thomas Fischer and Paul Martucci, high school students, to the General Convention Youth Conference in Denver, Colorado, July 7-12, 2000, as part of the diocesan youth delegation. On Sunday, December 25, 2000, the first annual Children's Fair was held. About thirty children attended - many not members of St. Andrew's. Twenty five adults and older children helped with setting up, games, cooking, and cleanup. Similar fairs were held in 2001 and 2002.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** In 2002 Judy Seif organized the "60 plus" group. This group, which meets on Saturday once a month for lunch and a program, has attracted as many as twenty three people, most of whom are not members of St. Andrew's. At the invitation of the Yaphank Historical Society, we took part in the annual house tour. With Karen DeVries as chairperson, this practice has continued. Advertising was a major concern in outreach. In this area, trees in front of the church were trimmed and a 400 watt halogen light was placed on the pole across the street to shine on the church and parish house. In December 2002, under the direction of Olive Archer, over 700 invitations to worship at St. Andrew's were sent to families living in Yaphank.

**REDECORATION:** After an extensive search for a contractor to undertake the redecoration of the interior of the church, the bishop's committee awarded the contract to D' Ambrosia Ecclesiastical Art Studios, Inc., Mt. Kisco, NY. Specifications included plastering, painting, cushions, bookracks for the pews, and carpeting in the aisles and altar area. The work began in the first week of August, 2002 and was completed in the middle of September. The cost was \$27,890. — \$12,000. from the capital fund, \$12,000. plus from the Frankie Block trust fund, and the remainder from parish funds. During the six weeks of redecoration, services were held in the parish house. In addition to the above scheduled work, the clergy and acolyte chairs were recovered to match the pew cushions. This was made possible with a thank offering from Eve Carstairs. Two processional torches were given by Olive Lobban in memory of her son Richard.

While our goal to redecorate the church by 2003 was met in time for our 150th anniversary celebration, the Youth Ministry and Outreach areas are ongoing and will support programs as they develop. In addition to the ministries and work undertaken as a result of the parish development and stewardship meetings, the fellowship of the church family has been strengthened by activities such as the annual Theme Basket Auction, annual Texas BBQ, covered dish dinner, Secret Sisters group, dutch treat dinner, Shopping in Connecticut trips, and the Christmas Cookie Exchange, all sponsored by the Episcopal Churchwomen under the leadership of Judy Seif. Of great value to St. Andrew's have been the many hours of work given each week by Jack Rate and Robert Williams, Jr. in groundskeeping and other tasks. We are grateful to them and to others who

occasionally help them.

Over the past eight years St. Andrew's has been fortunate to have the talents of three accomplished organists, James Gleason, Armand Bergeron, and our current organist Thomas Wilkinson, as well as our faithful substitute, Olive Archer. In preparation for worship services, we are blessed with eight dedicated members of the Altar Guild. Assisting at our services are a faithful group of ten crucifers, acolytes and torch bearers, five lay readers and three chalice administrators. Also important to our fellowship is the weekly Fellowship Hour following the 10:00 service. We are indebted to Janet Rate for coordinating the loyal hostesses and hosts for this 'getting to know you time.'

One of the highlights of 2002 was the baptism of ten children. This led to the introduction of the Guild of the Christ Child program, an Adult Class for newcomers, and the forming of a nursery class in the church school. Along with the 9:15 a.m. Bible Study group, started in 1999, we have a strong program of Christian Education.

Unfortunately, as the year 2002 ended, we were informed that the front porch required extensive repairs due to the rotted joists and poor drainage. This is another opportunity for the people of St. Andrew's to come together to meet a need so that our church will go forward in the years ahead.

Yet there is good news. We have just concluded the best Every member Cansass in the history of St. Andrew's with pledges totaling \$35,383. for 2003. We thank God for this blessing. We have much to be thankful for. In the 150 years of being, we are most thankful for the men, women, and children who have worshipped here, been part of our fellowship, and have worked, some quietly and behind the scenes, to make St. Andrew's a church of which we can be proud. They may not be named, but they and God know who they are.

Three events have been planned for the 150th anniversary. On Home Coming Sunday, June 8th, Father Chapin will be the guest preacher at the 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist. A luncheon will follow the service, with Olive Archer and Eve Carstairs as chairpersons. On Sunday, September 21st, the Rt. Rev'd Orris G. Walker will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and preach at 10:00 a.m. A luncheon will follow the service. Jeffrey Weeks will be the chairman. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday, November 23rd at 4:00 p.m., with a reception following. The Rt. Rev'd Rodney Michel will be the preacher, deanery clergy and community representatives will be invited to attend.

The Bishop's Committee members at the time of the anniversary are: Churchwardens Michael Seif and Olive Archer; members Jeffrey Weeks, Treasurer; Jack Rate, Sr; Karen DeVries; Eve Carstairs, Clerk; Carl Bruno; Charles Hatzmann, Jr.; Paul Fischer; Kenneth Sinkler; and Robert Williams, Jr.

As we give thanks for St. Andrew's Church, let us move into the future with the words of St. Paul always before us - "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."