

**St. Mary's-in-the-Hills
Episcopal Church
Lake Orion, Michigan**

GEOGRAPHY

Driving north from Pontiac, Michigan, on Joslyn Road, one comes upon a scattering of buildings where the road takes a bend to the east. A long, low building, the Orion Township Hall is on the right. There is a timber and plaster barn with silos. A few hundred yards south of the barn is a steeply slanting brown roof seen above a colorful row of stained glass windows. A fieldstone building fronts this with a stately stone bell tower rising above its north end. The structure upon closer inspection is St. Mary's-in-the-Hills Episcopal Church.

The church faces the former Joslyn Road, now referred to as Joslyn Court. The barns and houses have been converted into an interesting group of shops known as Canterbury Village.

The history of the cluster of buildings is interesting, especially the church. The old stone part of the church building has survived man and the elements since 1924 and has become a handsome house of God.

THE EARLY YEARS

Wildwood Farms

William E. Scripps, president of the Detroit News and founder of Detroit radio and television station WWJ, in the early 1920's acquired 3,000 acres of land to create Wildwood Farms. The estate included two good-sized lakes and one smaller lake plus acres and acres of cultivated fields, woods, and hills. The land supported a prize herd of deep-chested Aberdeen Angus beef cattle, a herd of registered Holstein milk cows, draught horses, riding horses, sheep, chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese. Proud peacocks wandered the manor grounds, and Italian donkeys were pastured near one of the lakes.

Tucked on one corner of the property was an airfield and hangar, once a center of experimental aviation. Aviation figures such as Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart visited.

Mr. Scripps imported English craftsmen to work on the buildings. He hired a native of Hereford, England, Mr. Sydney Smith, to manage the vast estate.

Mr. Smith built a wonderful colonial home for his family near the side entrance to the manor grounds. He superintended the arrangement of fields, the location and construction of farm buildings and fences, and laid out twenty miles of bridal paths. His Angus cattle were countrywide ribbon winners, and Mr. Smith was president of the Aberdeen Angus Association.

Nina D. Scripps School

The vast farm required many workers. Mr. Scripps built a row of houses across the road from the barns for the employees. He also built a schoolhouse for their children. It was a stately timber and plaster building of fieldstone with a red tile roof. A stone bell tower rose above the northeast corner and a stone wall surrounded three sides of the property. A wrought iron fence with varying sized gates protected the front. There were slate walks, casement windows, and heavy oak doors with wrought iron hardware decorating the facades.

Inside was one large schoolroom, lit by a row of windows overlooking the lawn in the direction of Voorheis Lake. Exposed oak beams decorated the ceiling, matching the oak woodwork. There was a well-lit room in the tower from which a small corridor ran along the eastside of the building, serving as a vestibule and cloakroom for the deeply recessed front entrance. The south end had an office and side entrance with a vestibule. A small room at the north end of the school served as a washroom. The basement had another washroom, kitchen, and furnace room.

The school was built with the same excellent materials and skilled craftsmanship utilized in the manor house. Water was piped to the building from the nearby farm. A carved oak lintel over the entrance proclaimed the building "The Nina D. Scripps School 1924". Many of these wonderful features exist today.

The building functioned as a school for a year and then closed. Mr. Scripps insisted manual training be taught, but the township could not afford the money for a manual training teacher. The Clark School (gone since the early 1940's) was located at the southeast corner of Scripps and Lapeer roads on the Clark farm (later called the Davidson farm). It became the country school for this part of the township. Scripps' school stood empty and unused behind its rusting iron fence and vine-covered stone wall until 1952.

The Episcopalians

There were a number of Episcopalians in the Lake Orion/Oxford area in the late 1940's. Many were newcomers attracted by nearby war plants. The nearest Episcopal churches were All Saints/Pontiac, St. Phillip's Mission/Rochester, and Grace Church/Lapeer. The Orion Episcopalians discussed the possibility of having their own church.

Mathild Byerlay wrote Richard S. Emrich, Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan, and asked how to accomplish this task. Russell Hubbard, Suffragan Bishop, answered the letter for Bishop Emrich on January 4, 1949. He expressed Diocesan interest, asking for names and addresses of people willing to participate, and asked for information about Miss Hall who had offered her home for meetings.

Unbeknownst to the Lake Orion group, Miss Laura Fox, Christ Church/Detroit also had family in the Lake Orion area (Joseph and Dorothy Watts and family). She was diligent about contacting the Diocesan offices to secure a place of Episcopal worship in Orion Township.

A letter from Bishop Emrich to Mrs. E.D. Miller, a niece of Miss Byerlay, dated March 31, 1949, suggested that Reverend Ivol Curtis, rector of All Saints/Pontiac, and his assistant, Reverend Kenneth Morris, might be willing to perform services in the Lake Orion area in the future. The people of All Saints were restoring their own church having been burned out a few weeks earlier. The vicar of St. Phillip's/Rochester also contacted Mrs. Miller offering the Lake Orion group any assistance he could give.

Ralph C. Jackson owned a home and some acreage just north of Lake Orion on the west side of Lapeer Road and had been attending Grace Church/Lapeer. Mr. Jackson spoke to Bishop Emrich during a Corporate Communion in January, 1952, and asked when the Diocese intended to establish a church in the Lake Orion area. Mr. Jackson offered to supply whatever land was necessary to build a church from his own acreage north of town.

A Lake Orion church was becoming a reality! Bishop Emrich enlisted the aid of churches in Pontiac, Rochester, and Lapeer. Former parishioners of St. Columba/Detroit compiled a list of thirty-five Episcopalians in the Orion area.

St. Mary's Guild was formed February 18, 1952, and Alice Miller was the first president. Within a few weeks a second guild, St. Gertrude's was formed. The guilds and the women who supported them kept projects moving and raised money, helping turn the dream of a church into reality.

The Establishment of St. Mary's Chapel – 1952

The first meeting of St. Mary's Chapel Committee took place April 6, 1952, and the Reverend Ivor Curtis presided. He appointed a Building Committee with Ralph Jackson, Jack Newton, Olie Olsen, Gilbert Runkle, Michael Shagena, R.O. Shoup, Sydney Smith, and Francis Wilson. Edmund Miller was elected chairman, Jerry Scott, secretary. A closer look of the Scripps' property was proposed.

The first meeting of the mission was held in June, 1952, with Reverend Ivor Curtis presiding. There were twenty-four people in attendance, including members of All Saints/Pontiac. Edmund Miller reported on the Building Committee's progress. A decision had been made to go forward with the Scripps' property. Work began on the kitchen walls, trimming trees and lawn. It was reported that the building had been used to house newborn calves and sheep. Mr. Sydney Smith and his crew and others who would become parishioners, including Mrs. Dorothy Watts and her son Robert, cleaned and painted the building. Funds to help with the project were donated by the Diocese, All Saints/Pontiac, Bishop Emrich, Sydney Smith, Dr. John Tulloch, and St. Mary's and St. Gertrude's guilds.

Many donations were received: the altar was donated by Mrs. John Tulloch, the communion rail by Harold Furlong, the electric organ by Miss Hall and Mrs. Ralph Jackson, the processional cross by Alma Broderick, hymnals were given by Winnie Byerlay, brass candlesticks by Grace Church/Lapeer, Otto Sacher donated an oil burner for the furnace, Elmer Quine donated a sign, Pontiac Varnish donated the paint, Mrs. Broderick, the Reverend and Mrs. Curtis, Francis Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Olie Olsen, Gil Runkle, Sydney Smith, Eva Stafford, and Cramer Wilson all donated pews.

St. Mary's Chapel Mission was ready to begin services!

First Service in St. Mary's Chapel

St. Mary's Chapel held its first service June 19, 1952. The Reverend Ivol Curtis presided. Bishop Emrich confirmed a class of seven: Robert Watts (St. Mary's first official confirmand), Pat and Wally Ewald, Michael Shagena, and a family of three brought by Father Curtis to participate in the class. All Saints/Pontiac's choir marched in with the procession and then back out the front door to the lawn where they sat for the service. There was no room for them in the crowded, converted schoolroom (what we now call the Hamm room). The church only held approximately seventy-five people. The altar at the time was on the south wall of this room.

Ralph Strang and Henry Houston, lay readers from All Saints, handled services beginning in June. Reverend Curtis arranged for July and August to be handled by Edward J. Morgan, a theology student attending Berkeley Seminary at Yale. He was furnished a room, a car provided by Jerome Motor of Pontiac, and was given a \$2.00/day allowance for gas and board.

All Saints and members of what was called St. Mary's Chapel formed a committee to manage the new mission. Ralph Jackson was elected warden, Edmund Miller secretary, Sydney Smith treasurer. Gerald Guinan and Henry Houston represented All Saints. The Reverend Ivol Curtis acted as rector.

The chapel group installed the pews and kneelers. Most of the pledge cards distributed were signed. Sunday offerings averaged \$30.00. Money was authorized to repair the balky furnace. The guilds alternated the handling of the altar and continued adding to the building fund. Reverend Curtis wrote that he felt the chapel was in a position to ask Bishop Emrich for a vicar.

This news reached the Bishop at a time when one of the presiding priests in a Detroit parish had suffered two heart attacks. Reverend William C. Hamm of St. Joseph's/Detroit was looking for a smaller parish. Reverend Hamm was a graduate of Yale's Berkeley Seminary and at one time an assistant at Christ Church/Cranbrook.

**THE REVEREND WILLIAM C. HAMM
VICAR OF ST. MARY'S CHAPEL
1952-1959**

William Conrad Hamm was invited to become a vicar at St. Mary's Chapel on October 30, 1952. His salary was to be \$3000/year, an auto allowance of \$300, and house rental of \$85. The Diocese, All Saints, and St. Mary's joined in underwriting his pension. Vicar Hamm presided over the November 19th Vestry meeting, and suggested the name of the parish be changed to St. Mary's-in-the-Hills. He believed the name had more charm and distinction. The Vestry agreed, and the parish endorsed the change at the Annual Meeting in January.

Reverend Hamm's family included his wife Martha, two boys and two girls. They were all a bit crowded in the small, but charming gatehouse rented on the Lake Angelus estate of Robert Critchfield, then president of Pontiac Motors. The area was beautiful and the Hamms made good friends with the neighbors around the lake. Many of Reverend Hamm's friends helped to support the church though they never attended services.

When the chapel committee met, it was agreed to follow up on pledges and to renovate the basement room (present day nursery) of the church for the Sunday school. Walls were paneled with cedar, the floor tiled, and the ceiling painted. Bill Hamm, Jr. was hired as sexton.

The first Annual Meeting was January 9, 1953. The chapel committee was reelected with one change. George Titus would replace the treasurer, Sydney Smith, who had recently died. (Mrs. Smith continued at St. Mary's for many years.) More donations were acknowledged: Cranbrook gave Bibles, and Mr. Ellis Kimball the new custodian donated the wiring for the downstairs. The tower roof was being repaired to make the kitchen and sacristy usable. Mr. William Downey, nephew of William Scripps, had much to do with the renovation of the bell tower and hung the original cross on the tower.

It was reported that Mr. Scripps had recently passed away.

In June 1953, Reverend Hamm reported the organization of the Angelus Guild. He had visited most of his neighbors in Lake Angelus and found a few Episcopalians, mostly members of All Saints/Pontiac. His

persuasiveness and personal charm created interest in forming a group to help the St. Mary's mission. The group included women of other faiths who worked together creatively to be one of St. Mary's most important financial and moral supports. Mrs. Merle Yockey was the first president of the group.

The budget of 1954 began with \$14,375 with \$2000 in the bank to be used for contingencies, or to be the foundation for a building fund. St. Mary's was congratulated at convention for reducing the amount of Diocesan support.

Scripps Estate Sold

In March of 1954, the Scripps' Estate was sold to Howard Webster, a Toronto, Canada, financier with interests in the Detroit area. Village Acres was formed to plan the future of the property. St. Mary's was guaranteed the use of the school building for at least a year.

Bishop Emrich, in the meantime, promised Ralph Jackson that a church would be built on the Jackson property contingent to the settlement of the Scripps' estate and Mr. Jackson deeding his land to the Diocese. At a chapel committee meeting April 15, 1954, it seemed to be the committee's opinion that the Scripps' school building would be bought and that the church would remain on the Scripps' property. Mr. Jackson and a few others disagreed. A special meeting was held on May 2, 1954, with the committee, Bishop Emrich, and the Reverend George Widdifield, successor to Reverend Curtis of All Saints/Pontiac, attending.

Mrs. Scripps' hands were tied in legal matters and the status of the Scripps' school property was in limbo. It was indicated that the property could be purchased for \$35,000, a price subject to negotiation. All Saints could not be a party to the purchase. St. Mary's would have to be a mission.

Mr. Jackson's group and the "North Church" (known later as St. Alfred's) was firmly supported by the Diocese and was ready to begin services in a temporary building on the Jackson property located just north of Lake Orion Village on Lapeer Road.

Adjustments were made regarding the departure of some of the St. Mary's parishioners and furnishings to the "North Church". St. Mary's sent greetings to this new church. There were disputes about boundaries between the two churches that were never settled. Approximately fifteen families

moved to the new location. It did not seem to affect St. Mary's attendance or support. Some parishioners moved back and forth between the two churches. A new altar, made by George Hodges and Reverend Hamm, was installed in the north end of the chancel. The kitchen area, which was used for church school, would now be used for the choir. Reverend Hamm also sketched the outside of the church building. This sketch is still used on bulletins and stationary. The Diocese built, and continued to subsidize, an attractive building on the Jackson property. (Note: St Alfred's disbanded around 1997-1998.)

Negotiations continued on the Scripps' property. The offer of \$25,000 was accepted and application was made for the loan from the Diocesan Mott Fund. In June of 1954, Reverend Hamm applied for Diocesan mission status.

The purchase of the Scripps' property was completed in January of 1955, with a \$1000 down payment. We had the deed!

St. Mary's Applies for Parish Status

In February 1955, plans were under way to apply to the 1956 Diocesan convention for admission as a parish. The church applied for incorporation papers ninety days before the convention. Reverend Hamm and Dr. Daniel McGeen were the signatories. Meeting as a parish, a revolving Vestry was set up, and by-laws were adopted. More importantly, it meant St. Mary's would become self-supporting and would abandon aid from All Saints/Pontiac and the Diocese. The vote to incorporate and apply for parish status at the 1956 convention, less than five years after the establishment of St. Mary's as a mission, was considered an all-time record and one of the "Miracles of St. Mary's"! In December, Bishop Emrich asked for formal approval of St. Mary's admission to parish status.

Growth of the church continued. In May, Cranbrook's Men's Guild helped pay the interest on St. Mary's loan and for several years the group attended St. Mary's annual Men's Corporate Communion and Breakfast.

The church needed a surfaced parking lot, but struggled along for years in snow, ice, mud, and weeds. Help from Wildwood Farms with mowing and plowing snow stopped and parishioners (notably Art Dodge, Marty Parker, Arthur Heckman, and Payne Downey) took over these tasks. They made

their way over snow-clogged roads early on cold mornings and cleared the parking area for parishioners.

The Guilds continued to contribute with the donation of money to the building fund, a refrigerator, and new sign. Ed Beatty and George Hodges built and donated a large cross for the bell tower. Mr. Jackson's offer of six pews for \$210 was accepted and an organ fund began to grow.

George Kimber, a member of St. Mary's who worked for a Detroit area construction firm, presented plans for the possibility of an addition to the church and a plan by which to raise the necessary funds (\$75,000). This would provide an affordable foundation for the eventual church. Several locations, attached and detached from the existing building, were discussed before the present, most logical one was adopted. Members of this committee were George Hodges, Arthur Dodge, George Kimber, Ed Beatty, and Vicar Hamm.

First Meeting as a Parish

St. Mary's Incorporation – January 6, 1956, St. Mary's held its first meeting as a parish. The following were present to sign:

Hamline Robinson	Mrs. George Ward	Gordon McAllister
Aurora Robinson	George Ward	Florence McAllister
Beatrice Titus	Mrs. R. Evans	Edgar Beatty
George Titus	Russell Evans	Leona Beatty
Elizabeth Hodges	Elsie Martin	Sarah Kimball
George Hodges	Al Martin	Ellis Kimball
William C. Hamm	Joseph Brandenburg	Arthur VanPelt
Martha Hamm	Kathryn Brandenburg	Thomas Culbert
Daniel McGeen	Richard Gould	Margaret Brenner
Jean McGeen	Esther Gould	Mary Berridge
Arthur Dodge	Victor Kramer	William Berridge
Ethel Dodge	William Haight	Mary Quinn
Reta Rose	Cathryn King	Margaret Crawford
A.H. Rose	George King	Carroll Crawford
Hazel Elliot	Marguerite Grinnell	Urseil Meeker
Dean Spittler	Harriet Davidson	Edna Meeker
Alice Spittler	Halsey Davidson	Jacquelin Barclay
Kelsoe Taeger	Rheta Kimber	Mavis Dillenbeck
Alan Malsomson	George Kimber	Janet VanWagoner
Mrs. Bernard Zinn	Dianna Clay	Galan Leipprandt
Thomas Lombardo	Cecelia Palmer	William Leipprandt
Evelyn Lombardo	Hayden Palmer	Russell Lepp
Ira Odle	Olga Odle	

Some active members of the parish were not present for the signing and without the help and support of all parishioners, St. Mary's would not be what it is today.

Members who have sustained their memberships at St. Mary's throughout the last forty to fifty years are: Dr. and Mrs. Dan (Jean) McGeen, Dorothy Watts, Edwina Arthaud, Mr. and Mrs. Richard (Jean) Beer, Mrs. Kit Broome, Marjorie Watts Johnstone, Peggy Petz Wenk, Mr. and Mrs. James (Sandy) Downey, Marie Newcomb, Kay Stirch, Hodson Swink, Barbara Thomson, Ruth Wade, Leonard Willis, Linda Newcomb Wiscombe, Fran Hancock Durham, Becky Hancock Kelly.

George Hodges was elected as Senior Warden, Arthur Dodge as Junior Warden, Dr. Daniel McGeen secretary, and George Titus treasurer. The Vestry was composed of: Carroll Crawford, Hamline Robinson, Hayden Palmer, Merle Yockey, Edgar Beatty, Tom Culvert, George Kimber, Ellis Kimball, Russell Lepp, William Leipprandt, and Alan Malcomson. They were elected for terms ranging from one to three-year terms, replacing those who were due to be retired. The first Vestry officially called Reverend Hamm to be rector and applied for union with the Diocesan Convention.

Committees appointed in February, 1956, revealed how Reverend Hamm organized parish affairs: Religious Education, Growth of Church, Finance, House, Every Member Canvas, New Building, Laymen, Ushers.

In the beginning, less than a third of the members of St. Mary's were raised Episcopalians. The actual parish membership was a miscellaneous aggregation. Vestry was reasonably representative of the parish.

(Editor's Note: Notice that all Vestry members were men.)

Heartening Progress

While there were some minor and recurrent problems at St. Mary's, progress was made. The leaky roof, drainage problems at the fire door of the new undercroft, and occasional flair ups regarding the boundary between St. Alfred's and St. Mary's were not insurmountable. The church school was growing, the guilds were bustling, and the members were pulling together and moving forward.

Death of Reverend William C. Hamm

The Annual Meeting in January, 1959, was held at Indianwood Country Club near Lake Orion. The Reublemans, owners of the club, never attended services at St. Mary's, but their son Carl "Spike", seldom missed a Sunday. The Reubleman family often underwrote St. Mary's Annual Meetings and kept the charges minimal. The meeting in 1959 was notable in that there was a very heavy snow and attendance was low. To the dismay of the congregation, Reverend Hamm had a heart attack a few days after the meeting and subsequently died on February 17, 1959. Mrs. Martha "Marty" Hamm continued at St. Mary's for many years. Mrs. Hamm was believed to be the first woman Vestry member.

Organizing the Interim

Halsey Davidson, Senior Warden, held an emergency Vestry meeting. The parish had no idea how to find a new priest. Mr. Davidson contacted Bishop Crowley, and it was determined that the Vestry would run operations for the parish.

Letters and phone calls went out to a list of potential rectors. St. Mary's-in-the-Hills was a rural community. One poor candidate wandered the country roads looking for the tiny church for over an hour one rainy night.

The process of eliminating candidates was lengthy. Supply clergy was provided by the Diocese for services needed. Two Vestry persons were responsible for seeing to it that there was clergy for Sunday services. They did an excellent job until.....one fateful Sunday when each thought the other was responsible for the task. No one showed. St. Mary's had no lay readers, and it was determined that one of the parishioners would step up to serve. George Kimber, who it was later disclosed by his wife, had always wanted to preside in the pulpit, volunteered. Now, Mr. Kimber was a salty veteran Episcopalian who knew the Morning Prayer service by heart. He rummaged around the office, found books of sermons, and selected one. He found a cassock and surplice that fit and sailed down the aisle to the altar singing in a hearty, cracked baritone. Amused at first, the congregation was soon impressed, and Mr. Kimber enjoyed the triumph of a lifetime.

Selecting a New Rector

Vestry voted on many candidates in late June and still had not chosen a rector. Hard work and luck allowed St. Mary's to struggle through nine months with no permanent clergy.

One candidate for rector stood out as an obvious choice, the Reverend Wilbur R. Schutze, an assistant at St. Andrew's/Ann Arbor. A Vestry meeting was called one Sunday early in July. It was determined that George Kimber and Halsey Davidson would meet with Reverend Schutze to discuss his possible appointment as rector. Within days, the Vestry unanimously voted Wilbur Schutze the second rector of St. Mary's-in-the-Hills. He was to begin September 1st.

THE REVEREND WILBUR R. SCHUTZE

1959-1964

September 1, 1959, brought St. Mary's a new rector. Reverend Schutze and his family – his wife, Peggy, and their four children, three boys and a girl – moved into the small gatehouse in Lake Angelus for a short time. Property owners could no longer rent to outsiders and politely asked St. Mary's to find a new rectory. The Vestry found a house in the village of Lake Orion that could be rented at a modest price if the church would provide some of the maintenance. The parishioners rallied to paint and paper the walls and then evict the squirrels that were living in the chimney.

Dr. Daniel McGeen and then later Robert Dick headed the church school. Teachers were rounded up, provided with lessons, and as the saying goes, the children came. The church was, if anything, too successful. Classes were crowded in the undercroft and interfered with each other. They needed room dividers that could be moved in and out of position during class. There were long discussions with impractical suggestions at Vestry. The group that staged Chevrolet dealer meetings was approached. They found enough used brown canvas draping to curtain the room into eight sections. A carpenter was hired to install slides in the ceiling to hang the drapes. It took a few minutes to pull the curtains into position, and the curtains were gathered out of the way against the ceiling supports when not in use.

Reverend Schutze was pleasant, well- educated, well- spoken and authored many stirring, thought provoking sermons. He emphasized his points in an impressive, low key manner. It was clear that he wanted the Vestry to take full charge of the business of the parish while he assumed spiritual leadership.

St. Mary's continued to grow and prosper. The church fairs continued to be a big social and fund raising activity bringing the people of St. Mary's together in fellowship and need. A children's choir began. Reverend Schutze also encouraged and helped with a young people's group for high school and junior high school aged parishioners. The young people attended other diocesan churches, Biblical movies, special outings, and just plain fun nights. This was a great opportunity to keep an active interest in the parish by a group of young people so often lost to other interests.

After five years at St. Mary's, Reverend Schutze accepted a call to become rector for a neighboring parish, St. Phillip's/Rochester. Once again, Halsey Davidson was asked to help find some candidates to replace the outgoing rector.

THE REVEREND JOHN E. LEE 1964-1973

Interested in the newly opened position was the Reverend John (Jack) Lee from St. Mark's/Detroit. Reverend Lee was invited to meet with the Vestry, and he surprised them with a clear statement of the status of St. Mary's, its possible future, and how best he might serve the church.

Jack Lee, a dedicated lifelong Episcopalian, had been a successful salesman before he decided to take holy orders. His business acumen showed in his handling of church affairs and tended to make him a person to whom the parishioners could relate.

Reverend Lee worked hard on his sermons. There was no doubt about his earnestness and enthusiasm. His wife, Leah, served as faithfully as he did, often to the point where there was a concern that her health suffered.

Reverend Lee encouraged the resurrection of the parish paper, "The Bells". It contained local advertising, solicited by the print assets from the parishioners' purchases. This would pay for printing. Halsey Davidson agreed to be the editor, and Reverend Lee provided the printed information.

Mr. Davidson did his best to make "The Bells of St. Mary's" as interesting as possible. He included unique twists to stories, humor, and even a deliberate mistake now and then to test the readership.

Barb and Gil Petz reorganized a youth group. There were special trips to the Cathedral, movie dates, theater performances, Christmas pageants, advent wreathes, and even a small "scandal" regarding the purchase of a pool table and shuffleboard court by the youth group. The Petz family gave of their time and talents for the young people of St. Mary's for many years.

The church did well under Reverend Lee. He worked tirelessly for our parish, working to build a Christian community; often sitting for hours at the hospital with the sick, or making home visits "just to touch base" or to chat about an idea he had that he felt could be helped by a parishioner's personal contribution. Reverend Lee was a friend to all. He would sit with a sick child or tend to the family of a dying parishioner. He shared in times of celebration and thoughtfully counseled troubled souls.

It wasn't long before the modest mortgage that financed the undercroft was ceremoniously burned at the Annual Meeting. This being accomplished, Reverend Lee was able to revive plans for building a new church over the undercroft. This was done sooner than anyone dreamed. Ground was broken for the new church April of 1970, and the first service was held on Christmas Eve of the same year. The original cost of the building was \$116,000 and St. Mary's financed a mortgage for \$65,000. The mortgage was held by Oxford Savings Bank in Oxford, Michigan. On March 10, 1971, the new church, offices, and addition to the kitchen were dedicated. Two hundred sixteen could be seated in the nave and forty more persons could be seated in the loft. The design was traditional, functional and simple. Rough-cut Philippine mahogany paneling was placed on the walls and a wall of colored glass was placed in the south side. The chancel had a freestanding altar reminiscent of earlier days in historic Christian churches.

Mr. Keating, a real estate developer in the Detroit area, had just purchased Village Acres and donated three and one half acres of land to St. Mary's.

Reverend Lee's health was deteriorating, and early in 1973, he indicated to Vestry his wish to retire. He urged that a search for a successor begin immediately. The search committee, headed by Martin Parker, was appointed and on April 17, 1973, John Albrecht was called for the position. Reverend Lee retired to Venice, Florida. He continued to be active as a supply priest as long as his health permitted. Reverend John Lee died in April of 1980.

THE REVEREND JOHN ALBRECHT 1973-1981

Reverend Albrecht had served as rector of St. John's/Royal Oak. The search committee knew St. Mary's-in-the-Hills could not match the salary he had been paid, but Reverend Albrecht offered to serve at the same salary as Reverend Lee had received. Reverend Albrecht wanted to work in a smaller parish and was strongly attracted by the possibilities for service at St. Mary's. His background was impressive. On September 30, 1973, Reverend John Albrecht was installed as the fourth rector of St. Mary's.

The finances at St. Mary's were suffering just as the local communities were. There was an economic slowdown everywhere. However, the church seemed to stay afloat. The annual fair, a longstanding revenue raiser, was a huge success thanks to many household articles donated by Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Leach.

The guilds were still working hard and contributing much to the development of the church. They sponsored suppers, rummage sales, worked for FISH (a local community group for the underprivileged and emergencies), donated money for the mortgage, tiled the nursery room, and fed workers on clean-up day.

The Annual Meeting in January 1975, however, projected a deficit budget. A crisis was looming. By the summer, Senior Warden Leonard Willis summoned the parish to a special meeting regarding St. Mary's crucial financial situation. The Rector's salary couldn't be paid. Inflation continued and many churches were in the same financial difficulty.

Reverend Albrecht offered to become a part-time priest and take a brokerage job for which he had been granted study time at Oakland University. This meant he would not be available for as many Sunday services, meetings, Bible classes, counseling sessions, weddings, burials, baptisms, hospital calls, and emergencies. Those present didn't agree with his plan and suggested other ways to service the parish including: enlisting new families, collecting unpaid pledges, putting on dinners, having a welcoming committee, and making get-acquainted efforts at coffee hour. Seventeen families pledged additional money.

It was agreed to accept the offer of the Oxford State Bank to assess only mortgage interest for one year from September (thank you to Robert Dick for this), and it was agreed to hold off on the Diocesan assessment temporarily. Reverend Albrecht would be kept on full time.

In 1976, St. Mary's scraped through due to valiant efforts to control expenses. A series of mini-fairs were planned throughout the summer to coincide with activities at what was now being called Antique Village, a small tourist spot with little shops and food places.

St. Mary's granted Fellowship of Worship, led by Reverend Geoffrey Day, permission to use our facilities on Sunday nights. This group added a Thursday meeting before the year was over and paid \$300 a month to our treasury. Reverend Day's group also installed a Baldwin organ and allowed St. Mary's to use it. Roger Ashley, our organist, was very appreciative.

Parishioners were doing much of the care taking work around the church now; painting, cleaning, kitchen work, maintenance, etc.

In 1977, there were many creative fundraisers. The Antique Village sponsored many festivals throughout the year, and St. Mary's let the parking lot be used for overflow parking, a fee to go to the church. The guilds also ran smorgasbord dinners during these events and donated the money to the Vestry. Reverend Albrecht sold his sermons through "The Living Church" as a means to raise funds. Sadly, the Vestry in order to meet expenses sold General Motors stock and Ford stock that had been donated.

On a more celebratory note, Mr. Holby and Mr. Payne Downey were appointed to a 25th anniversary program committee.

Shortest Sermon Planned

Reverend Albrecht presented an idea for a "Shortest Sermon" at the July Vestry meeting. He believed this would bring widespread attention to the St. Mary's anniversary. Albrecht offered to get national publicity, soliciting ideas for the sermon, and it became a fundraiser. Each idea submitted was to be accompanied by a \$1.00 donation. A clergyman and three members of St. Mary's Vestry would be the judges. The idea received publicity, drew numerous entries and was delivered in November to the congregation, which included reporters and a television crew.

The sermon was one word: “Love”. Many had suggested it. A Detroit paper reported the event and quoted Rheta Kimber who laughingly called it “Albrecht’s best”. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds went to St. Mary’s, and twenty-five percent was divided among the winners.

Light At The End...?

St. Mary’s made it through 1977. At the annual meeting in 1978, Reverend Albrecht was granted part-time status. He was offered another part-time opportunity in a stock brokerage firm. This move helped the beleaguered treasury.

The church seemed to be in a downward spiral. Too many members had left St. Mary’s. Many attempts to raise funds and keep going were investigated. The guilds continued to make donations to the general fund, but were tiring. Local organizations were notified of the availability of St. Mary’s facilities for rental. Smorgasbord dinners were reestablished with the leadership of Jennifer Stark

Fred and Jennifer Stark were also working closely with the church school and the youth group. They provided opportunities for fellowship with the young people of St. Mary’s through canoe trips, ski outings, etc. These were of tremendous value at a time when positive events were few.

Between this time and 1980, there was more of the same: a deficit budget and mounting expenses. Continued inflation promised no better future. However, the members of St. Mary’s stuck together, continued to raise funds and tried to keep expenses down. The

Rector made many concessions. In fact, in June of 1979, he paid the pension fund payment. Additional revenue was coming in from community groups wanting to use the church building. The annual fair made over \$5000. Pledges were up! Could there be a.....

Ray of Financial Sunshine – 1980

In January of 1980, the treasurer Jim Glaspie reported a \$400 balance in the black! We were not out of the woods yet, but we were definitely more financially sound. Analysis of the budget was ordered and decisions made whether or not St. Mary’s should continue to function with a part-time rector, and whether to reevaluate the rector’s salary based on the previous decision.

Christ the Redeemer Roman Catholic Church was interested in using St. Mary’s church building until they obtained their own facility.

Word was received of Reverend John Lee's death in Venice, Florida. At the request of Leah Lee, a pew was dedicated in his memory and the Vestry named the undercroft "Lee Memorial Hall" and adorned it with an appropriate plaque.

During the financial struggles at St. Mary's it was decided to hold off on the Diocesan assessment. St. Mary's had once again begun meeting with Archdeacon Bill Logan to determine a plan to pay what was owed to the Diocese. Everyone had hopes of being in a position to become a participating parish with the Diocese soon.

Albrecht Resigns – 1981

On January 20, 1981, Reverend John Albrecht submitted his resignation as of May 1, 1981. His resignation was accepted.

On February 3, 1981, Archdeacon Logan, District Head, and Reverend Henry Mitchell of the Diocesan Deployment Office, met with the Vestry and reviewed the steps to be followed in the search for a new priest. Jim Downey was appointed chairperson of the search committee. A profile would be drawn up and financial commitments reviewed. Deacon Bill Banks helped with services in the interim.

The business of the church continued while searching for a new priest. A committee was formed to review St. Mary's by-laws. Fred Stark, Dan McGeen, and Robert Dick would bring any necessary changes to the parish members. Yosh Nose and Wayne Sevon performed the annual audit. A finance committee was brought together and a worship committee formed

The people of the church were once again optimistic.

Search Committee Reports

The search committee reported that of the three candidates for rector proposed by the Diocese, the Reverend Edward Johnstone was interested in the position. He required a salary of \$24,000 rather than the \$17,000 offered. Vestry decided calling Reverend Johnstone to the position rested on pledges meeting the budget for 1982. By December there were fifty-four pledge responses received. Through negotiations with the Diocese and predicted pledge receipts, the Vestry requested permission from the Bishop to call the Reverend Edward A. Johnstone from St. George's/Warren to St. Mary's as its fifth rector.

THE REVEREND EDWARD A. JOHNSTONE 1982-1984

January 25, 1982, was Reverend Johnstone's first day at St. Mary's-in-the-Hills. Negotiations had been completed regarding salary requests and salary realities. St. Mary's was looking toward the future.

At the January Annual Meeting, Senior Warden Fred Hancock was recognized for his skillful maneuvering of the parish through a most difficult year, and in so doing, set in place valuable operating methods and procedures.

"Father Ed", as Reverend Johnstone preferred, was given some very hefty goals; one being to rebuild the church school, and another to help rebuild the confidence of the people in the parish. Whew!

Father Ed quickly assembled a list of possible church schoolteachers and a director. In the fall of 1982, a full church school was in place thanks to the help of director, Marj Moehlman, and teachers; Marj Mihalyfi, Linda Southby, Irene Garvale, Sandy Downey, Peggy Wenk, Fred Stark, Terry Karp, and Lynn Galloway. With very few materials available, the teachers researched, created, sang, and prayed...a lot! The children's classes grew and prospered.

While the church school grew, Father Ed was busy getting out in the St. Mary's community, inviting people to return and worship; and out in the Lake Orion community letting people know that St. Mary's was still alive and doing God's work. The people that persevered through the lean years were once again optimistic.

Father Ed had a personal setback early in his tenure at St. Mary's. He and his wife, Sheila, were divorced. The people of St. Mary's supported Father Ed in this time of anguish. They embraced him and took him under their wings.

St. Mary's was privileged to have many dedicated parishioners. Harry Bell, a fine craftsman, made and installed a new communion rail and a new church history sign. Char and "Pat" Patterson were tireless in their work in and around the church – coffee hour, kitchen work, yard work, altar work, etc., etc. There were once again two ladies' guilds – Angelus Guild and a

new St. Elizabeth's Guild. Angelus Guild, organized in 1953, was a dedicated group of women who provided much to St. Mary's including carpeting, flooring, choir robes, money for church school, etc. St. Elizabeth's Guild was formed for the sole purpose of supporting the church school.

Father Ed guided the congregation through a difficult change in worship. For many years the *1928 Book of Common Prayer* had been used, and we at St. Mary's had gone "kicking and screaming" into the new prayer book. Father Ed introduced Rite 1 from the new book, and it became the standard form of service. This was a huge step for the people of St. Mary's.

Father Ed's quick and easy personality helped with the growth of St. Mary's. Financially, the church was healthy. Exciting programs were in place – the Men's Club, guilds, the Pony Express (every member canvas), Diocesan participation, and the Country Fair was back. There were community programs in which the parish was involved; sponsoring a scout troop for example. (The Daisley family has been an integral part of this program.)

The year of growth for St. Mary's inspired many to get involved and to promote forward momentum in this little parish.

In 1983, St. Mary's celebrated its 31st anniversary. On March 13, 1983, Don Schults was proclaimed "Secretary Emeritus" of St. Mary's-in-the-Hills, acknowledging his many, many years of service as a Vestry person and long standing secretary.

Then on June 19, 1983, the mortgage was officially burned! It was this joyous occasion that prompted members to begin searching for information and memorabilia with which to write this account of the parish beginnings.

In 1984, the people of St. Mary's joined in celebration of the engagement and impending marriage of Father Ed and Marjorie (Watts) Moehlman. The people embraced this union and created many celebrations to honor the couple. Ed and Marj included the people in all of the festivities up to and including the wedding ceremony on September 29, 1984.

One of the saddest periods in St. Mary's history happened just thirty days later. On October 29, 1984, a tragedy occurred when Father Ed was returning from the Diocesan offices in Detroit. His life was taken in a fatal

auto accident just a few miles from the parish that he had come to love and from his new home with Marj. During the week following his death, the people came together to mourn and support each other. There would be very little consoling. Ed left behind his wife Marj, his father and stepmother Mr. and Mrs. Arthur (Helen) Johnstone, and his children; Jenny, Susan, Kathleen, and stepdaughter, Jennifer.

On the anniversary of what would have been Father Ed's birthday, April 28, 1985, a library was dedicated in his memory at the church. Ed always hoped to have a library in our building, and this was a fitting memorial to him. The room was completed with the assistance of St. Elizabeth's Guild, Angelus Guild, memorial funds, parishioner Bob Karp, and Marj Johnstone.

In The Interim

Once again, St. Mary's-in-the-Hills was searching for a new priest. Until one was found, the Reverend James Graham, a supply clergy from the Flint area, filled in. It was through Father Graham's love of Christ and patience and counseling that the people of St. Mary's began the healing process.

One of the last acts that Father Ed did before his death was to interview and hire a part-time organist at St. Mary's. Ivan Rouse, the director of the Clarkston Conservatory of Music began playing organ for us in the fall of 1984. He was a wonderfully gifted musician, a bit eccentric, but very talented. Ivan was able to bring a varied group of artists to perform in our little church. At special services (Easter, Christmas, etc.) we could always count on a brass accompaniment and additional voices in the choir loft. He also encouraged our own parishioners to use their musical talents at services. It was not unusual to have one of our teens playing their instruments along with the organ.

THE REVEREND MARK NEUMEIER
1985-1986

The Reverend Mark Neumeier was called to become St. Mary's next priest in the fall of 1985. Father Mark and his wife, Ann, continued to live in the Saginaw area, and he commuted to St. Mary's.

Reverend Neumeier was at St. Mary's for a short time, however, he did some very nice things for us. Father Mark initiated adult Bible classes. He was active on the Diocesan committee for Camps and Conferences. It was during his time at St. Mary's that Bishop Desmond Tutu, a South African Bishop, visited the Detroit Cathedral. Father Neumeier was able to take a small delegation to worship with Bishop Tutu and hear him speak.

Father Mark was a kind, compassionate priest. He was an able counselor and cared deeply for the word of Christ. His stay at St. Mary's was brief. Father Neumeier had family commitments and held his residence in the Saginaw area. Not being readily available to the church community became difficult for him and the parish. Father Mark Neumeier resigned effective the beginning of 1986.

THE REVEREND RANDALL MENDELSON
1987-1993

Randall Mendelson was the priest of St. Mary's from 1987 until 1993. He came to us with his wife Dorothy, and their dog, Caleb. Father Mendelson came here knowing that this would be his last church before he retired.

Randall had become a priest in the New England area, and his first assignment was in Alaska. He traveled to many little towns on Sunday mornings. Father Mendelson married and for some time raised his children in Alaska. He later moved the family to Negaunee, Michigan.

Father Mendelson felt it was important to get the Vestry and parishioners active in the church life. He worked hard to get commissions going and trained lay Eucharistic ministers. The church increased outreach activities through work at the Baldwin Shelter and by adopting a needy family. The Allen organ was purchased to improve the music, and bulletin inserts were purchased for Sunday services. Randall held Wednesday night Eucharist

services. The baptismal and wedding policies, as well as the by-laws were revised. A white funeral pall was purchased, which meant we no longer had to borrow one.

Barbara Fry and Robert Watts were accepted into the diaconate program. Barbara was ordained in our own Diocese and has worked at various churches in the area. Robert moved to Texas near the completion of his program and was ordained through a diocese near Dallas in the state of Texas.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew, a men's group, began and the St. Elizabeth's Guild became active again. A quarterly newsletter was begun, and there was increased interest in Holy Week services. The worship times were changed and a written history of St. Mary's was once again begun.

The St. Mary's family was once again experiencing the heartbreak of losing one of our dear members. Meagan Ann Flanders, one of our young church school children, died as a result of a winter accident. Meagan, daughter of Bill and Cathy Flanders, is not only remembered in the hearts of all that knew her, but also each spring with floral tributes for each member of our parish. Our gardens are made more beautiful as a result of this memorial, as our lives are for having known and loved Meagan. Also, the baby/toddler nursery in the undercroft was cleaned, renovated, and decorated in Meagan's memory. Meagan Ann Flanders will remain in our prayers.

The physical building changed. The bell tower and roof were repaired. Renovation was done to repair the water problem in the basement. The church obtained the west end of the adjoining property for \$1.00 from Joe Guinn and Max Maxim. A cleaning service was hired. Greenshield Road to Joslyn Court was closed with the formation of Canterbury Village.

Randall approached things with a no nonsense college professor's point of view, so the church learned much from his presence. His Sunday morning sermons were always filled with lessons from his two favorite sources – Mark Twain and Calvin and Hobbes. He left us knowing that from his past in the remote areas that at any given worship time, the church is at least inhabited by the “angels and archangels”.

Randall and Dorothy retired and are living in the Cincinnati, Ohio area.

THE REVEREND CHRISTINE HUMPHREY 1995-PRESENT

Pastor Chris arrived at St. Mary's with the new year in 1995. The first thing she said she learned was to never begin work at a new parish at the beginning of the year. Due at her arrival were the Annual Report, the 1994 Parochial Report, and the Annual Meeting to be prepared for and conducted. Proving to be equal to the task, the Annual Meeting was conducted by Pastor Chris on January 22, 1995. By February 19th, she had installed the Vestry, commissioned acolytes, and reinstated the 8:30a.m. Sunday worship service.

On February 28, 1995, volunteers served a pancake supper for Shrove Tuesday followed by an Ash Wednesday service. We began the journey through our first Lenten season with Pastor Chris as our spiritual guide. Pastor Chris baked bread with the children to serve at the Maundy Thursday Eucharist. We witnessed her talent as a teacher and her love of children as she began preaching a children's sermon each Sunday at the 10:00a.m. service.

As Easter arrived, Pastor Chris was already planning next year's Easter Vigil. She shared with us her vision of the readings which came to life through the use of music, dance, costumes, and of course, the participation of St. Mary's youth. And so it was. The St. Mary's family has witnessed the impact of the spiritual journey through Lent and Holy Week. Parishioners have kept vigil through the night Maundy Thursday. Youth and adult leaders have stayed and meditated in the undercroft so that those who come to pray for an hour would not enter an empty church. It has been a long journey, and we have been encouraged to walk and be present for every step. When the "Great Noise" sounded at the Easter Vigil, we experienced together the joy that came from knowing that He, who died to save us, had risen.

St. Mary's moved from a family size to a pastoral size congregation during the end of the nineties. A part-time secretarial position was added in 1997. Janis Solack was hired and has been described as "a blessing to St. Mary's". Due to budget constraints, Pastor Chris was hired in 1995 as a part-time priest. The budget for 2000 increased her to full time status. When the season of Advent began in 2001, our average Sunday attendance was one hundred ten people. As the population in the area continued to grow, we

were preparing to become a program size church, one whose average Sunday attendance is one hundred fifty or more.

The building use at St. Mary's has increased dramatically. The scout troop, chartered by St. Mary's families (Daisley and Gorris), grew to include a Cub Pack and a Venture Troop. Two of our own parishioners, J.R. Daisley and Michael Daisley, have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. A charter was also established for a Girl Scout troop that met at St. Mary's. The building has been used regularly by Oakland Family Services, and most recently a MOM'S group. Additionally, St. Joseph's Catholic Church used the building for weddings during their renovations. Lake Orion Township voters cast their ballots at St. Mary's when the township building was under construction. The Oakland Land Conservancy has hosted and conducted workshops here.

This use of the buildings was in addition to the meetings of St. Mary's Commissions, Vestry, and other group meetings. Adult Bible studies and other educational opportunities, including the Alpha and Serendipity series are scheduled regularly throughout the church year. High school youth have their own weekly Bible study at St. Mary's and once a month they meet at their choice of favorite spots in the community. A women's group, a quilting group, choir rehearsals and other activities keep St. Mary's an active place. Our doors are open to the community.

Pastor Chris reestablished the commission system of organization with Vestry members serving as liaisons on the commission of their choice. This ensured that all commissions are represented with informational reports, voice, and vote at Vestry meetings and retreats.

The Outreach Commission has raised awareness and organized opportunities to do God's work in the world. Some of the donations of time, talent and treasure include Crossroads, CROP Walk, United Thank Offering, Empty Bowls, Third Sunday and Thanksgiving Good Offering for the Hungry, the sock and underwear Christmas tree for Crossroads and PATH, World Mission Sunday, and the Gordonwood Bowl-a-thon. St. Mary's took first place in 1999 and 2000, for raising money to support youth ministry. Parishioners have also actively supported "Race for the Cure", tutoring for the "Bound Together" program, PATH Christmas Party, and South Oakland Shelter, the National Kidney Foundation, and Michigan Organ Donation Agencies.

St. Mary's continued to support Diocesan outreach efforts including C.E.S.A. and Episcopal Relief and Development with special offerings and individual participation. In February of 2000, seven people were sent from St. Mary's to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, to help Episcopal Relief and Development in the rebuilding efforts following the devastation of Hurricane Mitch. One member of the relief team, Katie Reinhardt, returned to Honduras in August of 2000, and served as a volunteer science teacher at the cathedral school for the entire school year. St. Mary's youth and adults have worked with regular volunteers, George Feeman and Ruby Rhodes, to serve lunch at Crossroads one Sunday each year.

The Stewardship Commission has participated annually in the Diocesan Education Program, "Becoming the Household of Jesus Christ" and the Episcopal Network for Stewardship conference and workshops in Michigan, Toronto, Canada, and New York. One of the ways we become better stewards is by participating in diocesan and national educational opportunities. Pastor Chris and the Vestry have encouraged and supported these efforts for training and growth in parish leaders and educators. Marlyn Stroud moved on in her work with the Stewardship Commission as she finished a Year of Discernment at the Whitaker School of Theology. We pray for Marlyn as she has answered a call and continued her journey to the diaconate.

An association with the Oakland Land Conservancy has helped us become better educated about the wetlands that adjoin St. Mary's property. Pastor Chris conducted a Rogation Sunday service in May and will continue to do so each year. We processed outdoors, stopped at various places around the grounds, prayerfully reflected, and gave thanks for that which God has entrusted to the care of the St. Mary's family. We continued to give thanks for the beautification of the grounds at St. Mary's which include: the Downey Memorial Garden along the front of the church, The Memorial Garden where ashes of loved ones are interred, and the Outdoor Chapel built by J.R. Daisley for his Eagle Scout project.

In addition to conducting the annual financial commitment campaign, the Stewardship Commission has worked on a recycling program to eliminate the use of Styrofoam at St. Mary's and to recycle returnable beverage containers brought to church on Sundays by parishioners. Proceeds from the returnables are given to help fund various outreach projects.

A Capital Projects group was formed to help prioritize the future needs for the building and grounds of St. Mary's. A successful financial campaign raising \$25,000 enabled completion of the first phase of the project, the new carpet on the main level, an outdoor sprinkling system, and a new sign at the entry on Joslyn Road.

St. Mary's, with Pastor Chris' guidance, has actively worked to include, educate, and encourage service among youth in both worship services and activities at local and Diocesan levels. In addition to the high school Bible study, the Maundy Thursday Lock-In, Crossroads, and the Children's sermon, St. Mary's youth participate in the Acolyte Festival at the Cathedral, the 30-Hour Famine Palm Saturday, and weeklong camps at Gordonwood. High school youth also serve on Sundays as lectors and run "Synthia", our computerized organist. Marne Smith, with the help of other adult and high school leaders, organized St. Mary's first Vacation Bible School in the summer of 2000. The experience was exceeded only by the second VBS in 2001.

The Pastoral Care Commission formed and held their first meeting in the summer of 2001. The Commission organized into five committees: Communication, Visitation, Intercessory Prayer, Special Meals, and Fellowship.

On April 22, 2001, St. Mary's held a surprise celebration for Pastor Chris in honor of the tenth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. The congregation presented her with a new alb and tippet.

Pastor Chris has continued to introduce and lead us through new ways of worship and fellowship. We have experienced house blessings at Epiphany parties, instructional Eucharists, and in October of 2001, St. Mary's hosted the Blessing of the Animals at the outdoor chapel.

The Right Reverend Wendell Gibbs and his wife Karlah, made their first visit to St. Mary's on November 11, 2001. Bishop Gibbs confirmed twelve people, two people were received, and one reaffirmed.

As we enter the 2002 Church Year, we are planning a June celebration for the St. Mary's-in-the-Hills Fiftieth Year Anniversary.

by Marjorie Watts Johnstone-Sullivan
March 2002