

## **Holy Faith Episcopal Church**

*Serving God and Port St. Lucie since 1964*

Holy Faith Episcopal Church is located on the East side of US1, just north of the River Park, Port. St. Lucie residential area. The seeds were sown for the creation of this congregation in early 1964, when Mr. & Mrs. David Schenandoah wrote to the Episcopal Bishop of South Florida asking that a Mission be established in Port St. Lucie. In August, the Suffragan Bishop of South Florida the Rt. Rev. James L. Duncan, D.D., of Miami, held a meeting at the Port St. Lucie Marina at which 17 people attended. Although, the names of 35 interested persons were presented, Mr. & Mrs. John Herrman agreed to contact all known Episcopalians in the area and consent was given by the Bishop for the Mission to be formed.

On September 13, 1964 the first service was held at the Port St. Lucie Marina under the newly appointed Vicar, the Reverend Marland W. Zimmermann. A portable altar and lectern were constructed by Mr. Gilbert C. Heine and these were set up in the Marina every Sunday for the next three years; following the custom established by the Methodist, Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches, all of which had received the hospitality of General Development Corporations Recreation Center.

By October 25th a Women's Auxiliary was established and has filled a vital place in the life of the parish since that time, not to mention the remarkable fund-raising abilities of the lovely ladies. Mr. Walter V. Harrison was the first Senior Warden appointed for the congregation, a position he held until his term expired after the church was built. During his term of office many sites for a future church were inspected, but it was determined that the value of land in the General Development exceeded the financial ability of Holy Faith congregation.

Finally, at the end of 1966 the former Hamby Nursery property became available, and since that property was large enough to build a church and had a substantial residence towards the rear of the property the congregation purchased the property and sold the vicarage which was in the residential area. Father Zimmermann resigned in January 1967 to join his son in California. The congregation was served on a temporary basis by Father Duane Fifer of Indialantic, still meeting in the Marina for worship every Sunday. Father Martin J. Campbell was appointed Vicar on June 15th, 1967.

Shortly after, the congregation began active steps to build a church. The Vicar and Mr. David Schenandoah designed a building which would fill the needs of the congregation and yet not be financially extravagant. The aim was to combine tradition and dignity with a utilitarian structure with no wasteful frills. The resultant structure is one of which the entire congregation is proud.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held October 7th, 1967, and the church was opened for worship Christmas Eve, 1967, although the pews did not arrive until mid-January. The Ladies of the Church provided all the kitchen fixtures, appliances and furnishings. All furniture in the church were given as memorials by the members and friends. On the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, 1968, the Church was duly dedicated by the Right Reverend Wallace E. Conkling, S.T.D., retired Bishop of Chicago, who lived in Vero Beach. Mr. Robert A. Allan, Sr. was appointed Senior Warden for 1968. In addition to his administrative responsibilities the congregation will be forever grateful for the many, many hours of demanding work he devoted to install a sprinkler system for the landscaping of the church.

It was with great sadness that in the week after Christmas, the Holy Faith Congregation lost both, Walter V. Harrison, their first Senior Warden, and Robert A. Allan, Sr. Both men had devoted all their time and efforts to the work of Holy Faith Church. A memorial fund was set up to establish some suitable memorabilia for them. Like much of Port St. Lucie, the Holy Faith Episcopal Church had progressed steadily rather than by leaps and bounds. Whereas only 17 people turned out for the first visit of the Bishop, there were 114 in Church on Sunday morning and 71 in the evening. The usual Sunday Service was at 10:00 am, with weekday Holy Communion Services on Fridays at 9:30 am and on Holy Days. Meanwhile the Congregation looked forward to a new era, as Father Campbell left in May, 1969 to accept the position of Vicar of St. Mary's Church in Palmetto, Florida. The Congregation looked forward to further progress under a new priest with the assistance of the present Vestry, Mr. James W. Piowaty, Senior Warden; Mr. David Schenandoah, Junior Warden; Mr. Gilbert C. Heine, Parish Secretary; Mr. John Herrmann; Mr. Frank Cappy and Mr. Daniel Lepore completing the committee. Mrs. Daniel Lepore was the Treasurer.

- July 1969 the Rev. Samuel Thomas was appointed Vicar of Holy Faith.
- January 1970 the Diocese of Florida was re-districted, forming the new Diocese of Central Florida, to which Holy Faith was assigned. The Rev. Folwell was appointed Bishop.
- November 1970 – March 1972 Deacon Daniel A. Lepore acted as assistant minister
- September 1972 Father Thomas resigned as Vicar of Holy Faith. Fr. William Henson acted as supply Priest in the interim.
- June 1973 Deacon William Craig Pooser was appointed Vicar of Holy Faith by Bishop Folwell. He was ordained as a Priest in December 1973. Alcoholics Anonymous was given permission to use the church hall as a meeting place. Al-Anon was given permission to use the church hall on Monday nights from 8pm – 9pm.
- August 1976 Fr. Pooser resigned. Fr. Charles Wiant was called and served until December 1997.
- September 1976 Deacon Paul Hall (Perpetual Deacon) was called to Holy Faith and installed on October 3, 1976.
- 1978 Shenandoah Hall was added as an activity center, dedicated in honor of David Schenandoah for his faithful service to Holy Faith.
- January 1981 Holy Faith Episcopal Church was declared a Parish.
- March 1982, Fr. Woodward Allen was approved as Priest Associate by Bishop Folwell.
- March 1984 Holy Faith Memorial Garden was completed, ready to receive memorials.
- 1986 Addition of the North and South Transepts were added, and the bell tower was redesigned.
- 1996 The Parish Hall at the rear of the property was completed and is a venue for the churches' pot-luck dinners, and a place for social events both Church related and for lease to the Community.
- July 1, 1998, Fr. Dan Moore was called to be priest at Holy Faith. He served until May 31, 2002.

- In 1998, a Hispanic Ministry was started. Fr. Jose Fernandez was their Spiritual Leader.
- In 2001 three acres of land were added to the existing church property and although that property has yet to be developed, we anticipate future growth.
- June 1, 2002 to February 1, 2004 Fr. William Smith served as Priest in Residence.
- February 1, 2004 Fr. Hernan A. Fiador was called to be Priest at Holy Faith. He served until September 2004.
- October 2004 Bishop John Said served as Interim Rector but had to resign, due to ill health.
- 2004 Fr. Johnson Hagood was called to be Priest-in-Charge. He left in 2008.
- December 2008 Fr. William Smith acted as the Priest- in- Charge.
- October 2012 Fr. Smith resigned, after which, Fr. Burnet Cherisol, Fr. Robert G. Brandt, and Fr. Ken Lewis, among others, acted as a supply priests.
- In 2012, Holy Faith once again became a Mission and Bishop Greg Brewer sent Fr. Orlando J Addison to be our Vicar. Fr. Addison is bilingual, was born in Honduras and has been our Spiritual leader since February 03, 2013. July 2012 a new roof was installed on the church building. 2012 we celebrated Holy Faith's 50th Anniversary of Ministry. Following are highlights of the various activities during the celebration:
  - Saturday, July 19, 2012 Garden Fair/Health & Business Expo
  - Saturday, August 16, 2014 - Ultreya Service. All four Episcopal Parishes in St. Lucie County participated in an uplifting, evangelistic, spiritual ministry. There was Fellowship and Music.
  - Saturday, October 4, 2014 - Gala Dance.
  - Sunday, October 12, 2014 - Eucharist Celebration. The Honorable JoAnn Faiella, Mayor of Port Saint Lucie was in attendance. Invitations were sent to Priests who served Holy Faith in the past. The Right Reverend Lloyd E. Allen, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras delivered the sermon.

• Saturday, June 10, 2017 we celebrated 53 years of service to God and the community in conjunction with the 16th Anniversary of Fr. Orlando Addison's Ordination to the Priesthood. As we began our celebration, we gave thanks to God, all the glory, honor and praise for 54 years of ministry!

Over these 54 years, Holy Faith has ministered to thousands of people, baptized and shared the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We are very grateful for the vision and work of the first families who started Holy Faith.

### **Past and Present Priests**

The Reverend Robert J. Goodridge, Priest-in-Charge

The Very Reverend Orlando J. Addison, Vicar

The Reverend Marland W. Zimmermann, Vicar

The Reverend Dan Moore

The Reverend Martin J. Campbell, Vicar;

The Reverend Woodward Allen

The Reverend Samuel Thomas, Vicar

The Right Reverend John Said

The Reverend William Craig Pooser, Vicar

The Reverend Johnson Hagood

The Reverend Charles Wiant,

The Reverend William Smith -Retired Asst.

*Source: Historical Documents. EAM*