

# *St. Matthew's Parish*

Prince George's County, Maryland

1811-1961

By Betty and Neil Hotchkiss



“Years are only useful as we find them useful for God.”

—*The Reverend David Gleason,*

*Rector St. Matthew's Church, Seat Pleasant*

From sermon at Pinkney Memorial Church, February 26, 1961.

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## Introduction

“This service begins the year of St. Matthew’s one hundred fiftieth anniversary. It begins a time of remembering for you. By the year’s end you should be on familiar terms with your roots, your great men—their words, their acts. This past will, in some measure, give meaning to your present and your future in this growing city. To know the past—good or ill—is to hold a key to the present . . .

“I want you to know that your past is wedded to ours. In 1811 your parish bounds were defined, carved from ours marked off a century before in 1692 . . .

“We sprang from a common root—formed by the energy of 17th century English-speaking Christians who, a century before this nation was born, established, in God’s name, Christian communities in the New World. Through them we are linked backward century upon century in time to obscure men in Rome’s legions and on Rome’s ships who first brought the Cross to Britain in the second century.

“Now let me ask you a question. Why do you take time to celebrate St. Matthew’s one hundred and fifty years? For what purpose do you read and ponder your special history? What is there about this that is significant? Why have men in every time honored and revered that which is old, which bears upon it the mark of the ages? Is it not because of one thing: The old has endured?”

—*The Reverend John Harris, Rector of St. John’s Church, Broad Creek. From sermon at Pinkney Memorial Church, January 29, 1961.*

## *Historical Background*

St. Matthew's Parish, Hyattsville, in Prince George's County, Maryland was created in 1811, cut out of Piscataway or St. John's (now King George's) Parish, which was organized in 1692 as one of the original thirty parishes established in Maryland under an Act of the General Assembly. This old parish, with its charming church, St. John's, Broad Creek, is of more than passing interest to members of St. Matthew's. The original Piscataway Parish was in Charles County which at that time reached from the Potomac River to the Pennsylvania line. Then the Parish covered the western part of Prince George's County, which was created in 1695, and extended northward through all of the present District of Columbia and Montgomery County. St. John's is sometimes called the "Mother Church" of all the churches in the District of Columbia. And all these parishes were in the Diocese of Maryland until 1895 when the Diocese of Washington was established.

Addison Chapel, which became the first parish church for St. Matthew's, had been in almost continuous use for one hundred and fifteen years. It was built about 1696, within the area of Piscataway Parish, by private subscription of the local residents for their own convenience. The land for it was given by the Addison family, many of whose members have been prominent in church organization and church work in this area since 1667 when Colonel John Addison, an uncle of Joseph Addison of "Spectator" fame, first came to this country from England and settled at Oxon Hill. Colonel John Addison was one of the organizers of Piscataway Parish.

The original Addison Chapel was built of logs on or near the present site of St. Matthew's Church, Seat Pleasant. A later Addison, the Reverend Henry Addison who was rector of St. John's, Broad Creek for many years—it was said that his parish would have no other rector while he lived—had the logs pulled down and a neat frame church built in 1760. Both log chapel and frame church were served by the rectors of King George's Parish until 1811.

These were the years when the United States of America was being formed, created by people from a dozen different national backgrounds—people who were searching for a new opportunity, a new way of life, for freedom from religious intolerance, from poverty, from debt, from oppressive government. For a hundred years these people had been coming to this new and incredibly rich and spacious land. For a hundred years they had been growing toward a feeling of unity, learning to cope with the Indians, with the wilderness, growing farther away from the lands of their origins.

Young George Washington was a surveyor and an officer in the army, gaining experience as a soldier in the French and Indian Wars. William Paca, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Thomas Stone, Samuel Chase, men who would sign the Declaration of Independence, were gaining experience and know-how in the affairs of government in the Royal Province of Maryland.

Bladensburg was a seaport where ships from England landed their cargoes. The Peace Cross now stands on the site of the old docks. Christopher Lowndes built a home, Bostock or Bostwick, in Bladensburg in 1746. Addison Chapel was a few miles southeast of the town and had been there nearly fifty years before Bladensburg was named. Hyattsville was not yet thought of.

The Church of England was the Established Church in Maryland by Act of the General Assembly, and all people paid taxes for its support. It was under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London. The clergy were educated in England or were English churchmen who came to the Province of Maryland to serve the Church here. One of the greatest difficulties was to keep ministers in the parish churches. Some were on the side of the colonists, but many, naturally, were loyal to England and to the mother church. At the time of the Revolution out of forty-five parishes twenty-eight became vacant.

"We get some glimpse," says Dr. Gambrall in *Church Life in Colonial Maryland*, "of the condition of things in the experience of Rev. Mr. Boucher [Jonathan Boucher]. His parish was in Prince George's County at that time [Queen Anne Parish] and here he remained till the bitterness of the time brought things to a climax. This was reached in 1775, when he tells us, 'For more than six months I preached (when I did preach) with a pair of loaded pistols lying on the cushion, having given notice that if any man or men were so lost to all sense of decency as to drag me out my own pulpit, I should think myself justified before God and man in repelling violence.'"

The Declaration of Independence and the Revolution made reorganization of the Church necessary. The Declaration of Rights of the Maryland Convention of 1776 ruled that no County Court could levy an ecclesiastical tax upon application of a vestry or of church-wardens. The Legislature might impose a general tax to support the Christian religion, each person indicating for what denomination his quota should be spent. The property of the Church of England remained in the possession of the parishes. A form of prayer was prescribed for the new government to take the place of the prayers for the rulers of England. Many of the clergy, who would not use this form or take the new oath of allegiance in violation of their ordination vows gave up their parishes and some returned to England. The remaining clergy endured lean years and the Church in Maryland was hard put to keep going.

But gradually new life began to stir in the church body. Before the close of the Revolution in 1783 the legal basis of the Church in Maryland and its organization were taking form. The Maryland Vestry Act of 1779 provided for the selection of seven-member vestries by the legal voters of a parish. It made these vestries trustees of all property which had belonged to the parishes while they were a part of the Established Church. In 1780, a convention of the clergy and representatives of the laity met at Chestertown on the Eastern Shore and set up the church organization. In August, 1783 the clergy met at Annapolis to perfect this organization. They provided for an Act or Charter of Incorporation, the increase of the ministry, the adaptation of the liturgy to the new conditions. They adopted as the legal name of the church "Protestant Episcopal", a term first officially used for

the American Church at the Maryland Convention of 1780. Gradually a system of ecclesiastical government was devised. Spiritual duties of the clergy were defined, as were the duties of the clergy and laity in convention.

Maryland churchmen were anxious to have a bishop. In 1783 they elected one whom the General Convention did not confirm. Once before, in 1727, at the request of the Bishop of London, they had elected a Suffragan Bishop, but the Maryland courts refused to allow him to leave the colony for the voyage to England to be consecrated. Finally, in 1792, the Reverend Doctor Thomas John Claggett was unanimously elected. He was consecrated September 17, 1792 in Trinity Church, New York City, the first Bishop of Maryland and the first American bishop to be consecrated on American soil. His four consecrators—the entire Episcopate of the American church at the time—had each been consecrated abroad: Bishop Samuel Seabury, first Bishop of Connecticut, at Aberdeen, Scotland; and Bishops Samuel Provoost of New York, William White of Pennsylvania and James Madison of Virginia at Lambeth Place, London.

Bishop Claggett was born October 2, 1743 in Prince George's County near Upper Marlboro, at "Croom", the family estate. He received his preparatory schooling under the direction of his uncle, the Rev. John Eversfield, rector of St. Paul's Parish, Prince George's County. At seventeen he entered the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, where he received his formal education. His studies and training for Holy Orders were under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Eversfield. He was ordained deacon and priest in London in 1767 by the Lord Bishop of London. Upon his return to America he was rector at St. Anne's, Annapolis, St. Paul's Parish, Prince George's County and several other parishes. He was rector of St. James' Parish, Anne Arundel County and of All Saints Parish, Calvert County when he was elected bishop.

After his consecration he returned to his home at Croom and in 1793, in addition to his episcopal duties, again became rector of St. Paul's Parish, Baden, Prince George's County. In 1808 failing health compelled him to resign this parish. However in 1810 he organized Trinity Church at Upper Marlboro.

He was Bishop of Maryland in 1811, when St. Matthew's Parish was established.

### **Early Years of St. Matthew's Parish**

The little information available concerning the establishment of St. Matthew's Parish is somewhat confused. It was as frequently called Addison's Chapel Parish as it was St. Matthew's. The "upper chapel" in the following excerpt from Bishop Claggett's *Notitiae* from the 24th May 1809 to 13th June 1810, found in the Appendix of the *Maryland Diocesan Journal, 1783-1874*, is Addison Chapel.

"... On the 13th of August [1809] the Bishop visited the upper chapel of St. John's Parish, Prince George's County, vacant. He found the chapel in a ruinous condition, preached to a large congregation, and exhorted the people to carry into effect the good design which they had long contemplated of building a new church; this design hath

since been put into operation, and is progressing; the walls of a neat brick building have been erected, and a roof has been placed over them. The next day the Bishop preached to a still larger congregation in that old chapel, and administered the Holy Supper to about twenty communicants and confirmed eighteen persons. A list of their names was ordered to be put upon the parish-register, and is deposited with the Secretary of the Convention."

Reference to a petition to the Convention to organize a separate parish appears to be in the Convention minutes for June 20, 1811, though specific mention of Addison Chapel is not made. Paint Chapel, which became the parish church of Zion Parish, also created in 1811, is named.

"A petition from the congregation of Rock-creek-church was referred to Rev. Messrs. Dasseill, Addison, and McCormick; a petition from the Paint-Chapel in Montgomery County, to Rev. Dr. Contee and Messrs. Beasley and Wilmer and Mr. Thomas Addison; and a petition from the vestry of St. John's, Prince George's, to the committee on the Rock-creek-petition. . . .

*"Two resolutions concerning the division of parishes, were referred to the Committee on the State of the Church.*

"The committee on the petition of the congregation of the Paint-Chapel made a report, which was postponed till to-morrow.

*"The committee on the other two petitions likewise made a report, in which the Convention concurred.*

*"Resolved that the committee report two acts, agreeable to the prayers of the petitioners."*

It seems possible that the underlined statements include the resolution for St. Matthew's as well as for Zion Parish since these are the only ones recorded as being erected in 1811, in this area.

From the notes made about 1855 by a committee on Parish Organization appointed by the Diocese of Maryland:

"St. Matthew's Church, Prince George's County. This was originally the upper Chapel of Ease of the above named parish [St. John's] & known till recently as Addison Chapel—taking its name probably from the Rev. Henry Addison who for twenty-five years previous to the Revolution was the rector of that parish. It is not known by what name it was admitted into union with this convention in 1811 or whether with metes and bounds or as an independent congregation as the printed Journal of that year states nothing on the subject & the Convention records & papers previous to 1840 are burnt. The presumption however is that it was admitted as an independent congregation in that old parish without metes and bounds—as all the other applications of churches at that period were admitted only as such."

In a manuscript volume on "Metes and Bounds" occurs the following note:

#### ADDISON CHAPEL PARISH

'1811. was made of St. John's Parish. North of the road leading from the bridge of the Eastern Branch to Battalion old fields. No Act of Incorporation recorded—or known—but included all of St. John's Parish north of the said line to the Patuxent River.'

And again in the *Maryland Diocesan Journal, 1783-1814*, for May 21st 1812, is the following entry: "Mr. John C. Herbert of Sion Prince George's . . . took his seat" in Convention and "Evidence of the regular organization of Sion-Church, Prince George's, was laid before the Convention and deemed sufficient." But no mention is made of Addison's Chapel or St. Matthew's Parish having a delegate at that Convention or laying "evidence of regular organization" before the Convention.

Perhaps this was because there was not a rector of St. Matthew's Parish until 1814. In Dr. Ethan Allen's *Clergy in Maryland of the Protestant Episcopal Church Since the Independence of 1783* is the following: "Thomas Horrel was ordained in 1814 by Bishop Claggett and became the Minister of Addison's Chapel Parish, Prince George's." He was in this church until 1817 then in another parish until "receiving a Missionary appointment in 1824 to Missouri, he removed there and built the first Protestant Episcopal Church in St. Louis." Later records give his name as Thomas Howell. Whatever his name, one pictures him travelling by stagecoach over the "National Road", recently opened beyond Cumberland, to carry the services of the church to families pioneering the new country beyond the mountains.

1814 was the year during which the Battle of Bladensburg was fought and lost by the Americans.

"Washington 1/2 past 3

"The British have driven us from Bladensburg. Some killed and wounded on both sides. We have retreated to Washington". This is from the reports of one of the officers for August 24, 1814. Another report of the same days says ". . . upon descending the Hill to Bladensburg I distinctly saw the British advancing up the Valley, the Americans being posted on the right of Bladensburg about half a mile distant. . . . I left an officer and three Men and immediately retired, but had scarcely crossed the Bridge before the British were descending Lowndes Hill and I was within 300 yards of their advanced Party who never Halted but continued over the Bridge, up the Washington road. . . ."

Bladensburg must have grown during these years, sufficiently at least for the Bladensburg Academy to be incorporated in 1815. Since in those days the ministers sometimes were tutors or opened schools for the benefit of the children, it is easy to think that the Reverend Thomas Horrel took part in the development of the Bladensburg Academy.

The second rector was Enoch Magruder Lowe. He was a native of Prince George's County and, according to Dr. Allen in *Clergy in Maryland . . .* was "brought up in the Church, and ordained by Bishop Kemp in 1818." He was rector for a while in St. John's Parish, and in 1819 "in Addison Chapel Parish, in Prince George's County."

The Rev. Mr. Lowe was rector a very short time, for he was succeeded in 1820 by the Rev. Charles C. Austin. Mr. Austin was a native of Connecticut, brought up in the Congregational Church. He was ordained in 1819 by Bishop Kemp, second Bishop of Maryland. When and why he came to Maryland was not learned. An undated note among papers and manuscripts of the time reads: "The under-



signed certifies that he has understood from a respectable member of the Congregation at Addison's Chapel, Prince George's, that the Rev'd Mr. Austin had received a call to that Chapel and was regularly engaged and he has been credibly informed that Mr. Austin has also been regularly engaged at Rock Creek Church, Montgomery." [Rock Creek Church, D. C.]. Not only did rectors serve the parish church and chapels within a parish but they were frequently rectors of two separate parishes at the same time.

And the churches were far apart, often miles away from some of the people. Frequently travel was on horseback or on foot. There were very few roads good enough for coaches. Sometimes travel could be by boat. It is said that General Washington, with his family, rowed across from Mt. Vernon occasionally to worship at St. John's, Broad Creek. Going to church could be an all-day affair, but it was a social occasion, too. Then one could visit with friends seldom seen except at church. The Episcopal churches were truly rural until about 1830. Some of the other Protestant churches would seek out the small settlements and villages and build in them. But the Episcopal churches in Maryland were most often located in a spot accessible to plantation owners and farmers.

Another famous Addison, Walter Dulany, great-great-grandson of Colonel John Addison, was rector of St. Matthew's Parish from 1821 until (probably) 1823. He was born in Annapolis, January 1, 1769, the eldest son of Thomas Addison and Rebecca Dulany Addison. As one church historian and rector of his time wrote [the Rev. Mr. Boucher in *Historia Cumbriensis*] "That branch [of the family] which went to Maryland, became of note and still are so. They possess a noble estate on the banks of the Potomack, opposite Alexandria and contiguous to the new Federal City, now building on a large scale." Walter Dulany Addison, whom the Rev. Mr. Boucher knew, certainly carried on the family reputation in his work in the church.

His immediate family was prominent in the life of Annapolis, which was a social as well as a political center. He grew up surrounded by wealth and the pleasures of the times with no apparent thought of the Church as a vocation, though he was always a serious person.

In August 1784 he with his two brothers and a cousin, John Carr, went to London. They were placed in a classical school at Greenwich where they studied until 1787. It was here while recovering from an injury due to a fall that he seriously began to consider what his future would be. He completed his education in England and returned to this country. He was ordained to the ministry in 1793, said to be the first candidate for Holy Orders in the first service of ordination which Bishop Claggett held at Easton after his consecration as the first Bishop of Maryland.

"Know all men by these presents that I, Thomas Jno. Claggett holding a general Ordination by the assistance of Almighty God on Sunday, the 26th day of May, 1793, in the Parish Church of St. Peter's, Talbot, did admit our beloved in Christ, Walter Dulany Addison, into the Holy Order of Deacons. In testimony whereof, I have affixed my Episcopal Seal, this 22nd day of November, in the year of our Lord above written, and in the second of my Consecration."

Immediately following his ordination, Dr. Addison took charge of Queen Anne Parish, Prince George's County. In 1794 he heard there were some Episcopal families in Georgetown, but there was no Episcopal Church. At the invitation of the Rev. Mr. Balch of the Presbyterian Church, Dr. Addison held services in his church. This mission work ended in the building of St. John's Church, which was completed in 1804, and the establishment of Georgetown Parish in 1809.

Dr. Addison was rector of St. John's, Broad Creek from 1801 to 1809. The church was in a ruinous condition and he applied to the vestry to repair it. They said they had tried but had not been able to raise funds. He at once took the matter in hand and succeeded in having the repairs made. One or two other incidents show that Dr. Addison must have been very capable at "taking the matter in hand".

He was rector of St. John's, Georgetown from 1809 to 1821. Elizabeth Hesselius Murray in her *Life and Times of Walter Dulany Addison* says that "soon after he settled at St. John's, Georgetown, he had occasion to preach a funeral sermon at Rock Creek Church. The church was in so dilapidated a state that he was compelled to hold the services under the trees in the yard. There had never been a floor to the building. Mr. Addison immediately set about repairing the edifice; he managed to raise by subscription some hundreds of dollars and to inspire the congregation with a zeal in behalf of their venerable but most neglected place of worship. The church in a short time became decent and comfortable. 'Addison's Chapel' situated near Bladensburg, an antiquated and superannuated building, next engaged his attention. From three persons he succeeded in obtaining \$550 and smaller sums from many. He also managed to interest the congregation in the project of building on the site of the frame edifice, a brick church, which was accomplished between the years 1812 and 1816." This is "the good design" referred to by Bishop Claggett in his *Notitiae*.

So the fourth rector of St. Matthew's was instrumental in having the first parish church built ten years before he became its rector. No church records or minutes were found of the years 1821-1823, during which he was rector, but if his zeal in previous parishes is any indication these must have been good years for St. Matthew's.

He had charge of Rock Creek Church at the same time. He was recalled to St. John's, Georgetown in 1823 and remained there until his failing eyesight compelled him to give up his ministry. It is interesting to note that, during his last rectorship at St. John's and because of his failing health, he and the vestry requested the Bishop "to appoint Francis S. Key as Lay Reader, whose Talents and Piety, and soundness in the Faith render him apt and meet to exercise the office thus reposed in him."

He retired to a small house on Capitol Hill, occasionally taking a service in his old church, St. John's. Friends came often to visit him. Dr. Addison is said to be one of the clergy who officiated at the burial of George Washington in 1799.

From 1823, when Dr. Addison went back to Georgetown, until 1828 St. Matthew's Parish seems to have been without a rector, according to a brief history written by the Rev. John B. Williams in 1881. A note in the Journal of the Convention of The Diocese of Maryland for

1826 says "Addison Chapel reported vacant." What happened in the Parish during those years? Did rectors from neighboring parishes hold services? Was Zion Parish without a rector also? The two parishes shared a rector several times. It would be interesting to know, but there are apparently no records to give even partial answers. Perhaps no records were kept, if there was no clergyman to keep them. Perhaps they were burned. Perhaps diaries and papers of a family like the Lowndes could give some inkling of how the Parish fared. Members of the Lowndes family were very active in the church.

In 1828 the Reverend Robert Kent Drane, D. D. "became rector of Addison Chapel and Zion Parishes in Prince George's", according to Dr. Allen. He was here a very short time before he accepted a position as president of a college in Kentucky.

One list of communicants, dated June 1828, possibly compiled by Dr. Drane, includes such names as Mrs. Ann Lowndes, Matilda Magruder, Miss Elizabeth Lloyd Lowndes, Ronald Tasker Lowndes and "Joshua—a colored man".

Or perhaps Dr. Smallwood was responsible for this list. The Reverend William Augustine Smallwood, D. D., a native of Washington, brought up in the church, became rector in 1829, having been ordained the same year by Bishop Moore of Virginia. Records and some reports are more plentiful from this time on. In the Journal of the Convention of Maryland for 1830 is the following entry:

"Zion Church and Addison's Chapel, Prince George's County.

"A very encouraging increase of the congregation attending these churches has occurred during the last year, and there is reason to believe that the preaching of the word is not in vain. Although no addition to the number of the communicants can be reported, the undersigned cherishes the hope that a work of grace is going on in the hearts of several of his hearers. Our vestries are now engaged in erecting a parsonage-house for the use of their Rector. . . ."

Bladensburg, June 8, 1830

William A. Smallwood, Rector"

Bladensburg, at the time Dr. Smallwood became rector, had been a prosperous little town since the middle of the eighteenth century. As a seaport and because of its location on the main coach road between the northern and southern colonies, it had good revenue. Its taverns became popular and famous and its citizens became well-to-do. In addition to Bostwick, Christopher Lowndes had built Parthenon Heights about 1769 as a wedding gift for one of his daughters. Blenheim was built by him in the late 1700's and was to be the home for many years of Bishop William Pinkney.

Late in the eighteenth and early in the nineteenth centuries the Anacostia River began to fill with silt so that ocean-going ships could no longer come as far as Bladensburg. From 1825 when the Baltimore and Ohio, the first passenger railroad in the United States, was built, until 1835, Bladensburg was the station for all Washington passengers, for Congress would not at first allow the railroad to come into the Federal City.

Dr. Smallwood was the first rector of St. Matthew's Parish to hold services in Bladensburg. Sometime between 1829 and 1836 he had

built a small, plain, frame church within the town limits near the site of the Peace Cross. This served as a chapel for several years.

### **The Years of William Pinkney**

The Reverend William Pinkney became the seventh rector of St. Matthew's Parish in 1836. He was born in Annapolis, April 17, 1810. When he was two years old the family moved into a small frame cottage which stood on the site of the present Chapel of the Naval Academy.

His early education was at home under the careful instruction of his parents. He learned quickly and showed an early interest in religious worship and oratory. He entered St. John's College and was a student there during 1822-1827, graduating when he was seventeen. He studied law in the office of his cousin, Mr. Somerville Pinkney. He was admitted to the bar but never practiced, having become more deeply interested in religion.

At this time his mother, a very able and religious woman, was an active member of the Methodist Church. His decision for the ministry was the result of attending meetings with her and he became a Methodist. He refused, however, to become a minister without further study, for he felt very strongly that no one should enter the ministry without special preparation in Biblical and ecclesiastical learning.

He entered Princeton Theological Seminary in 1831. At the end of two years he left the Seminary because of his health and family circumstances. He accepted a position as tutor in the family of Mr. John Nevitt Steele in Dorchester County on the Eastern Shore. The Steele's were devout Episcopalians, and it was during his stay with them that William Pinkney decided to leave the Methodist Church and enter the ministry of the Episcopal Church to which his family had belonged until his mother turned to the Methodists.

He applied to the Bishop of the Diocese and was accepted as a candidate for Holy Orders. After six months study and upon passing his examinations he was ordained to the Diaconate on Sunday, April 12, 1835. In June he went to Somerset and Coventry Parishes, but his health forced him to give up his charge until November, 1835. And again he had to leave during the winter.

In the spring of 1836 he was well enough to resume work, and there came to him a call to take charge of St. Matthew's and Zion Parishes, Prince George's County. He had also been offered a post as chaplain in the Navy. He chose Prince George's County. He assumed his duties on the first Sunday in May, 1836, not long after he had been ordained to the priesthood by the Rt. Rev. William Murray Stone, Bishop of Maryland.

It was a large field. These parishes covered much of northern Prince George's County and southern Montgomery County. A fair description of the area is found in Hutton's Life of Bishop Pinkney, published in 1890.

"It extended from Bladensburg northwestwardly towards Rockville in the latterly county some sixteen miles, northerly towards Mechanicsville [now Olney] about the same distance, and about the same distance also towards Laurel, and thence southwards through Prince

George's for some six or eight miles, or more, below Bladensburg."

There were the two parish churches, St. Matthew's, four miles below Bladensburg, and St. Mark's, successor to the old Paint Chapel, eight miles above the town in the opposite direction. Population was sparse, and the people in rather moderate circumstances, friendly and devout.

The churches were too far apart for the Rev. Mr. Pinkney to have services in both on the same Sunday. On the Sunday when it was St. Matthew's turn a second service was held in the afternoon in Bladensburg in the small, plain chapel which had been built and given to the parish by the Rev. Dr. Smallwood. On the next Sunday a second service was held at Vansville in a small building given Zion Parish by the Herbert family.

The parish churches were badly in need of repair and Mr. Pinkney immediately set about raising money for this purpose. "Money was not plentiful in those days," says the Rev. Dr. Hutton, "and it was not easy to raise sums sufficient for church improvement and accommodations on the most moderate scale. The views of both rector and people were very moderate touching church architecture and ecclesiastical arrangements in matters of taste and adornment. Many of the rural churches had no robing or vestry-rooms or vestibules, were without baptismal fonts, were not supplied with organs, and had only common plain-glass windows. Very often there would be found a large pulpit, spacious enough for several clergymen, with the reading-desk and the communion table attached, placed below and in front of the pulpit. The chancel, in many churches, was scarcely large enough for a single officiating priest. In nearly all the country churches the surplice was unknown, the black gown with the clerical bands being the only vestment used. There was no chanting of anthems or canticles, and the singing was of the plainest sort, but heartily joined in by minister and people. Fifty years have wrought great changes in all these respects." St. Matthew's, still commonly called "Addison's Chapel," was a sturdy brick building and was soon put into good condition.

As Mr. Pinkney assumed responsibility of the Parish, the rectory in Bladensburg, a roomy, two-story frame dwelling, became his home. It was on land donated to the two parishes by the Lowndes family, and near "Blenheim", the family residence. Furniture which he needed for sleeping quarters and an office was provided by the ladies of the parish. He took his meals with the Lowndes family. It was a happy arrangement, especially as the Lowndes had long been close friends of his mother.

On October 2, 1838 the Rev. Mr. Pinkney married Miss Elizabeth Lloyd Lowndes and the rectory was completely furnished as their home. Bladensburg was to remain their home for the rest of their lives.

In 1844 he received a call to St. Anne's, Annapolis. It would have been near his mother who was in failing health, and he must have given it much prayer and thought before refusing. His humility concerning his own ability and his discouragement over his rectorship in St. Matthew's are apparent in a letter he wrote his great friend, Dr. John H. Alexander. "I refused the call to Annapolis, as you have heard ere this. . . . I deemed it my duty to decline the honor. My reasons were few and simple, and my action in direct collision with my interest. To you I will state my reasons. . . . I was afraid that I might

not do justly by those who were matured in intellect and formed in habit when *I was a boy*. I would not that their blood should be on me in the last great day. And the *young*, who knew me when a boy, I was fearful would merge the priest in the recollection of the boy. I could not endanger their welfare and my peace. Besides there were some who thought I was anxious for the situation, and in all probability did injustice to me and themselves by the unkind suspicion. I wished to undeceive them. How long I shall remain where I am is very doubtful. I am not supported and have very laborious outdoor work."

Fortunately for St. Matthew's and Zion Parishes he did remain for some years.

The Rev. Mr. Pinkney joined with other rectors in Prince George's and nearby counties in holding "Association" services in their various churches. These joint meetings were forerunners of the Convocations and the Parish Missions of later years. These worship services would last several days and were always during the week so there was no interruption to the Sunday services in each parish. Dr. Hutton relates that in 1849, while one of these Associations was meeting in his own church, St. Bartholomew's, Montgomery County, the Reverend Doctor Meyer Lewin, who later became Dean of the Washington Convocation, was passing through the neighborhood with a friend. He saw the hill on which the church stood crowded with all sorts of vehicles. Curiosity led him to stop and see what was going on. He looked in the church door and saw Mr. Pinkney "preaching away with all his force." The friend went on his way and Dr. Lewin stayed to join in the service. A very great and lasting friendship between the two men grew from this meeting.

In addition to repairing and improving the parish churches, Mr. Pinkney turned his attention to the building of two new churches, one at Bladensburg and one at Beltsville. The people of Bladensburg, with a few exceptions, were unable to attend the parish church. The small chapel which Dr. Smallwood had built at Bladensburg was inadequate. A Gothic style, frame church was erected in 1844 near the present corner of Edmonston and Annapolis Roads. It was consecrated in 1856.

"We, the Rector, Church-Wardens, and Vestrymen of St. Matthew's Parish, Prince George's County in the State and Diocese of Maryland, being, by the good Providence of Almighty God, in possession of a house of worship, erected in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty-four . . . do also hereby request the Right Reverend William Rollinson Whittingham, the Bishop of said Diocese . . . to consecrate the same by the name of St. Luke. . . .

"In testimony whereof, We, the said Rector, Church-Wardens, and Vestrymen . . . have thereunto subscribed our several names, and

affixed our seals, this twenty-sixth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

William Pinkney, Rector	} church wardens
Rob't N. Williams	
C. C. Hyatt	} Vestrymen"
James F. Brown	
Warren Waugh	
Alonzo Berry	
Benj'n O. Lowndes	
Henry Phillips	
Andw A. Harewood	
E. B. Stephen	

Mrs. Pinkney, in a letter to Mr. Pinkney's mother, gives some account of the services:

"Last Tuesday the church in Bladensburg was consecrated. You know the Bishop will not consecrate while there is shadow of a debt on the church. Well! it was a proud day for Bladensburg. I went early, but found it difficult to get a seat, though I learned afterwards that one had been reserved for me. Long before the time for the Bishop and the Rev. clergy to enter every avenue seemed filled up—pews, aisles, vestry room—and still they came. Then entered the Bishop and nine clergymen. William presented twenty candidates for confirmation, and there were more than a hundred communicants."

Of the Reverend Mr. Pinkney's work in Prince George's County, Dr. Hutton says, "The improvement of his health and the felicity of his domestic relations enabled him to engage in a series of ministerial labors, within and beyond the bounds of his parishes, that for twenty-five years were marked with great efficiency and with unusual evidences of good and blessing to his people."

There are many testimonials to his widespread influence and to the love and esteem people had for him. Distances were great for the available means of travel, but where he was needed, there he went. The record of baptisms during these years list a number of small parishioners who were named "William Pinkney", including one William Pinkney Magruder, born November 20, 1856 and baptized February 9, 1857.

In 1855 there was a movement in Prince George's County to provide a missionary for the Negroes. Many people had felt for some time that religious instruction and the services of the Church had been neglected for the large number of slaves who worked on the plantations. Household servants, as a rule, did receive some religious instruction. They were kindly treated and well-trained, and were welcomed in the churches in which certain portions were set apart for their use. Church records list some colored people as having been confirmed, or baptized, or married, or buried. But they are few compared to the number of slaves who were field hands on the large plantations.

Mr. Pinkney was asked by the committee working on this problem to take charge of the program. He considered it very seriously for he felt very keenly the need, and he was greatly disturbed over the tensions building up between the North and the South over the ques-

tion of slavery. However, he declined the responsibility, and the missionary program never became a reality.

On the 16th of October, 1856 he was called to the rectorship of Epiphany Parish, Washington, D.C. It was a prominent parish and perhaps the foremost in the diocese. "The position to which you are invited offers, it is believed, a wide and inviting field of usefulness as well as an agreeable association with a harmonious and united congregation. The rector's salary is two thousand dollars a year, payable in advance."

Mr. Pinkney decided to accept the call and was on the point of writing his letter of acceptance when he changed his mind in favor of remaining in St. Matthew's Parish. Of this decision he wrote to his good friend, Dr. Alexander, ". . . When I parted from you I considered the matter fixed, and so it was. I had taken leave of my congregation nearest home, and was on the eve of writing my letter of acceptance, but when the earnest request of the younger portion of my little fold, that I would not desert them, was made, and the request was pressed home by the elder and more experienced, my heart was touched and my resolution shaken. I saw the sacrifice I must make as clearly as any one could do; but I thought that perhaps in this age of changes, when the pastoral tie is not so duly considered as it should be, I could do as much, if not more, good by deciding against my interest, than in any other way. . . ."

And to his mother he wrote, "One thing I was well aware of, and that is, that my decision was against the interests that for the most part sway us in such decisions. I was in the midst of a community whose love and confidence I possess. The expressions of concern from all classes and shades of opinion, as well as from my own peculiar flock, were such as to gratify me exceedingly. Twenty years had not exhausted my hold on this people. They are kind and considerate, and in the past year we have been more than usually blessed. They are poor, weak in numbers, and cannot offer any inducements to strangers to come among them. The field offers labor, hard labor, and but little else. . . . Two thousand dollars a year declined! I hope I am fully equal to my present field. Whether I should be for one all unlike it, is not so evident. Where I am I have concord and peace."

Unquestioned devotion to the field in which he felt most useful always guided the Rev. Mr. Pinkney in his decisions. In 1857 he did accept a call to Ascension Church in Washington. At that time Ascension was in a rather disrupted state. At first he refused. But all concerned, including Bishop Whittingham, were united in considering his special talents just what were needed. He was persuaded to accept the call.

The effects of the War between the States upon Ascension Parish and Mr. Pinkney are most interesting reading. His thirteen years there were as good for Ascension as had been his twenty years in Prince George's County for St. Matthew's Parish. In 1870 he was elected Assistant Bishop to the Rt. Reverend Whittingham who was in poor health. He served in this capacity until Dr. Whittingham's death in 1879, when he became the fifth Bishop of Maryland.



He never lost his closeness to his people, rather he made it a point to keep in touch through Bishop's Missions to the outlying parishes. He is said never to have forgotten a promise—such as when he told a small parishioner that the next time he came he would bring him a penknife. A year or more later he did just that, though everyone else had forgotten about it. A member of Pinkney Memorial Church, Mr. Harry Dorsey, used to enjoy relating how his mother told him that, as a very small boy, he was “dandled on Bishop Pinkney's knee.”

Among the lists of parishioners confirmed while the Rev. Mr. Pinkney was rector of St. Matthew's Parish is one dated December 1, 1855, which includes the name “Christopher C. Hyatt”, Bishop Whittingham officiating. Thereafter Christopher Clark Hyatt, the founder of Hyattsville, is included in the list of communicants for a number of years. In 1856 he was one of the two church wardens who signed the petition for the consecration of St. Luke's Church, Bladensburg. Mr. Hyatt was appointed the first postmaster of Hyattsville in 1859. He served in this position until 1865. The name Hyattsville as a locality appears on an old map of the Bladensburg area of Prince George's County made in 1861.

### 1858-1888

On this same map, which shows the names of families and the locations of their homes, is found the name of the Rev. Mr. Chew in Bladensburg. The Reverend John Hamilton Chew became the rector of St. Matthew's Parish in 1859. He was a native of Calvert County, brought up in the Church, and was ordained by Bishop Whittingham in 1843. He served in St. Matthew's until 1865. Church records seem to have been fairly well kept during these years, but no vestry minutes or records of organization activities were found. Zion Parish also acquired a new rector, when a Mr. Colburn succeeded Mr. Pinkney there. There is no record of the two parishes sharing a rector since then.

These years of the War between the States were troubled times in Maryland as elsewhere. The people of Maryland were divided in their loyalties. Baltimore was a growing industrial city, its economy and manner of living more comparable, in many ways, to the northern industrial areas than to the South. Much of rural Maryland, on the other hand, had an economy and a culture similar to those of the South. And though Maryland did not secede from the Union, there were many Maryland men in the Confederate Army. There was, according to one narrative of the Virginia campaign, a battle between the First Maryland Regiment, U. S. A. and the First Maryland C. S. A. The lists of soldiers from the state include such familiar names as Beall, Bowie, Magruder, Claggett, and Stephens.

Marriages, baptisms, confirmations and burials went on as usual and are carefully recorded by Mr. Chew. The winter of 1863 must have been a severe one—certainly for the family of Mr. Fielder Hayes. Five of his children died of diphtheria between January 28 and February 10.

May 12, 1863 is the date of the entry for the marriage of Dr. Charles A. Wells to Miss Mary L. Hyatt. The wedding took place at the home of the bride's uncle, Mr. C. C. Hyatt. Two years later, on

April 28, 1865, Dr. and Mrs. Charles A. Wells were confirmed by the Right Reverend Horatio Southgate who visited St. Matthew's Parish and officiated in place of Bishop Whittingham.

In lists of collections and disbursements for 1865 are such items as "collected gifts for feeble parishioners, D. C.", "contribution to Southern sufferers", "cash to poor travellers", "poor man, \$.25."

An entry made by Mr. Chew called "Contributions to the church, 1865" reads "May 1865. Received from N. C. Stephens, Esq., Exec'r. of Dr. Hanson Penn, deceased in 1859, a legacy of one hundred dollars to St. Luke's Ch. for the purchase of a communion service, and bought . . . of Sam'l Kirke & Sons, Balto, a Paton & Chalice, and had them inscribed

*St. Luke's Church, Bladensburg*  
*The gift of Dr. Hanson Penn*

N. B. They were first used on Ascension Day, May 25 and again on Sunday, May 28, when I held my last service as Rector of this parish.

"On Monday in Whitsun week, June 5th, I again officiated and administered the Holy Communion.

"On Whitsunday, June the 4th, I officiated the first time as Rector of St. Alban's Parish, D. C., to which I am about to remove."

Another legacy of one hundred dollars was received at the same time from the estate of a brother of N. C. Stephens. This was used for improvement to St. Luke's Church. The improvements included the purchase and hanging of a bell.

The Rev. John Collins McCabe became rector of St. Matthew's Parish in 1866, though the first entry of a baptism, signed by him, is for November 1865, with the baptism taking place in Georgetown, D. C. The first marriage entry is for May 22, 1866 "Catherine Hyatt Middleton to Lemuel Clarke of Baltimore at the Hyattsville residence of Mr. C. C. Hyatt." Mr. Hyatt was her grandfather. On April 9, 1867 an entry for a marriage reads "W. Gordon McCabe, to Jennie C. H. Osborne in Petersburg, Virginia. The bridegroom, son of the officiating clergyman,—the bride, daughter of E. H. Osborne, esqr. of Petersburg, Virginia."

The Rev. Mr. McCabe records only the names and dates of persons baptized, married or buried during his two years in the parish. No minutes of the vestry or other activities were found.

St. Matthew's was again without a rector from the spring of 1868 until April 8, 1870 when the Rev. John B. Williams took charge. He was quite disturbed by the lack of written information. "Finding in this Parish no records that could offer even an approximation to the history of the Parish, and having resolved to supply to some extent this lack on my application, the Rev. Dr. Meyer Lewin kindly gathered from the Journals and other sources these facts following." The "facts following" are in one of the record books which Mr. Williams kept and are the bare bones of the Parish history.

The Register for these ten years was well-kept by Mr. Williams and gives a picture of the growingness of the Parish in the increasing number of baptisms, marriages and confirmations. Bishop Pinkney is noted as having officiated at the baptism on November 12, 1870 of month-

old Charlotte Augusta Calvert, daughter of Charles and Eleanor Calvert. The lists of baptisms contain names of the children of Dr. Chas. A. and Mary L. Wells, more Calvert children, and William Horace Soper, son of Major Francis S. Soper and Clara E. Soper at the Agricultural College, now the University of Maryland. Three children of Edward and Margaret Suit were baptized together at St. Luke's on August 13, 1876. Five children of Henry Clay Browning and Eliza Virginia Browning were baptized at St. Luke's on March 27, 1878. There are many more family names familiar down to the present. Some of these baptisms took place at Addison Chapel, but more were at St. Luke's and in the homes. Later on the baptism lists include such familiar names as Thomas Hammond Welsh, Ruth Burnside, John Gardner Lepper, Adelaide Rebecca Lepper, Benjamin Ogle Lowndes Wells.

Bishop Pinkney officiated at all the confirmation services as long as he lived. It must have given him a deep satisfaction to continue to have an active part in the growth of this Parish to which he had given so much as rector. The last confirmation class listed as having been presented to him by Mr. Williams was on June 10, 1883, just about a month before the Bishop's death.

In 1880 All Saints Chapel was organized at Benning, D. C. as a parochial chapel of St. Matthew's Parish. Mrs. Susan Beall G. Sheriff gave land at Minnesota Avenue and Benning Road for this church.

“Benning, D. C., June 13, 1881

To the Vestry of St. Matthew's Parish  
Gentlemen:

We have the pleasure to submit our report for the erection of “All Saints Chapel” at this place—and have to request that you will accept the building and discharge your committee.

Very respectfully,  
Signed: Jno. B. Williams, Rector  
O. H. Brightwell  
B. F. Packard  
Building Committee”

All Saints was consecrated July 21, 1881 by Bishop Pinkney. The rector of St. Matthew's Parish continued to serve the Chapel for some years.

It was about this time that Dr. Charles A. Wells and his family—seven children are named in the list of families of St. Matthew's Parish compiled by the Rev. Mr. Williams in 1880—moved from Bladensburg to Hyattsville. He had been active in church and civic affairs in Bladensburg and he transferred that interest to Hyattsville. He was president of the first board of commissioners for Hyattsville when the town was incorporated in 1886.

The death of Bishop Pinkney on July 10, 1883 brought a deep sense of loss to many parishioners of St. Matthew's—“our Beloved Bishop and neighbor, Rt. Rev. William Pinkney who so long and ably served this Parish as Rector, and whose affectionate counsels as Parish priest, still live in the hearts of this community. . . .”

The idea of a church at Hyattsville as a memorial to Bishop Pinkney must have taken root soon after his death. The Evening Star for September 15, 1884 carried the following notice:

“A memorial to the late Bishop Pinkney.

“The congregation of St. Matthew’s Parish, the cure of the late Bishop Pinkney are about to erect a memorial church at Hyattsville, Maryland, to cost about \$12,000. They request the co-operation and aid of all who may be interested in the success of this tribute to the memory of that eminent churchman. President B. P. Snyder, of the National Savings Bank, of this city, is treasurer of the building committee. . . .”

A Pinkney Memorial building fund was started and in October 1886 the Vestry voted to call a meeting of the congregation “to determine on the selection of a site for the church at Hyattsville,” to be called the Pinkney Memorial Church.

Addison Chapel was still the parish church, since it was the oldest church building. Fielder Magruder and Thomas R. Brooke were appointed keepers of the cemetery there and it was voted “that they may charge and collect a sum not exceeding two dollars for each site therein, Resolved further that it is stipulated by this vestry that the poor shall have free burial therein.”

Each Easter Monday the annual congregational meeting was held there to elect the vestry for the ensuing year. “Know all men by these presents:

“That in the 26th day of April, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, the members of *St. Matthew’s Parish* of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Md. qualified to vote at election of Vestrymen thereof, have met at the Parish Church (Addison Chapel) two persons so qualified to vote being present for the purpose of electing Vestrymen of said Parish, to serve until the ensuing Easter Monday, in manner prescribed by the Act of Assembly of Maryland of 1798, Ch. 24, at which meeting the following persons were elected as such Vestrymen, to wit—

Dr. Julian Dean  
John W. Brightwell  
George Evans  
Wm. H. Fuller  
James Burnside  
Thomas Brooke  
Chas. A. Wells  
Benj. O. Lowndes

“And we the undersigned qualified as aforesaid and present at such meeting, do declare and certify that the foregoing record of proceeding is correct.

“May the 3rd, 1886

Benj. O. Lowndes  
Thos. Brooke”

Members of the Vestry and Parish may not have traveled to Addison Chapel in great numbers for the Parish meeting—traveling was not very easy, even for that short distance—but they were nonetheless active. A circular was prepared and sent out calling attention to the meeting in October to decide upon a church site in Hyattsville. In November

the vestry "determined to purchase the three lots belonging to Wine and Johnson, adjoining the Avenue running West—these lots cornering on Md. Avenue and Spencer St." Mr. James Burnside and Mr. Wm. H. Fuller were authorized to complete the purchase. The first payment of \$350 was made with money raised by the "Young Ladies of the Parish" for that purpose.

Thus St. Matthew's Parish moved along with the newly incorporated town of Hyattsville. The Volunteer Fire Department, very new, was already in existence. The equipment consisted of a 50-gallon chemical hand pump and a reel carrying 300 feet of one and one-half inch hose. Water had to be pumped out of wells and cisterns of the homes and from nearby streams. The streets were often knee-deep in mud.

There was a Roman Catholic church in Hyattsville, and the cornerstone for a new building on Spencer Street—old St. Jerome's—was laid on October 31, 1886. The first church was located on the Washington-Baltimore Boulevard, the "Pike", just east of the Baltimore and Ohio Station.

The Presbyterian Church moved here from Bladensburg in 1874. It was located near Baltimore Avenue and Crittenden Street, south of the present overpass.

Mt. Hermon Lodge, No. 179, of the Masons, was organized in 1882. The meetings were at the Bladensburg school until 1885, when the members changed their meeting place to Hyattsville. The Rev. J. B. Williams was the second candidate to be initiated after the Lodge was organized.

The first formal organization of the laity for church work, of which a record has been found, was the St. Luke's Church Guild, March 23, 1886. "A meeting was held at the house of Mr. C. H. Welsh for the purpose of organizing a Guild to be composed of the congregation of St. Luke's Church; at which meeting were present Rev. J. B. Williams, Rector; Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Welsh, Mr. W. H. Fuller, Miss Nellie S. Fuller, Mr. G. H. Evans, Mr. Chas. Hyatt, Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Burnside, Miss Nellie Middleton, Miss Minnie M. Moran, Miss O. L. Wells."

After some explanations and discussions of the purpose, the organization was set up. The members were divided into groups called Wards. The Rector was the Warden for the whole Guild and a layman was elected Deputy Warden. Mr. G. H. Evans was chosen to be the first Deputy Warden. Each Ward had its own name, leader, and responsibilities in assisting the Rector to carry on the work of the Parish. St. Luke's Ward was to visit and care for the sick. St. Timothy's Ward "requested each lady of the congregation to furnish and dress a doll for the Sunday school festival at Christmas." St. Cecilia's Ward was responsible for the music. St. Agnes' Ward apparently assumed the care of vestments.

When it was reported to the St. Luke Guild that the vestry had purchased three lots in Hyattsville, they pledged themselves as a group and individually to raise the rest of the money needed for payment—\$450.00—by Easter, 1887. In May 1887 the building committee for Pinkney Memorial Church was appointed. The members were Dr. Chas. A. Wells, Mr. J. B. Burnside, Mr. George Evans, Mr. Thomas Brooke and Mr. W. H. Fuller.

Mr. Williams' resignation was presented to the Vestry by Dr. Wells on December 8, 1887 and accepted. Once more St. Matthew's Parish was without a rector for a short time, but the Vestry was busy making provision for the increasing needs in the churches of the Parish.

More businesslike methods of handling the finances and accounts were agreed upon. A methodical canvassing of parishioners for financial support was started. All accounts were to be handled through the Treasurer. A committee to audit the accounts was to be appointed each year.

Clergymen were found to serve until such time as a rector could be obtained. Church was apparently held in Hyattsville, for there is a note to pay the "janitor of Mechanics Hall for his service at Sunday afternoon services."

The Vestry of Epiphany Parish, Maryland wrote asking if it would be possible for them to procure Addison Chapel in which to hold services. A committee was appointed to confer with them, but was "instructed that no steps looking to a permanent transfer of Addison Chapel to Epiphany would be considered" but they could have the use of it temporarily.

### **Episcopal Work in Hyattsville**

The Reverend Theodore Reed, of King and Queen Parish, St. Mary's County, accepted a call as the next Rector of St. Matthew's Parish. Three of the Vestry, Drs. Wells and Brightwell and Mr. Lowndes offered to have "wagons at the 7th Street wharf to haul to the Rectory the effects of the Rev. Theo. Reed if they should come by boat." The Secretary was directed to write Mr. Reed and ask if he "would prefer a buggy to a Rockaway." Repairs were made and a garden planted at the rectory in anticipation of his coming.

Mr. Reed attended his first vestry meeting on May 1, 1888 and heard Mr. J. B. Burnside report "that the lots purchased in Hyattsville whereon to erect the Pinkney Memorial Church were paid for and that he had in hand the sum of \$150 to the credit of the Pinkney Memorial Building Fund."

There are interesting notes written by Mr. Reed in his records of services held. "May 20, 1888, Bladensburg (Holy Communion) & Hyattsville, 2 sermons, 78 communed, 116 present." On June 17, 1888 he writes "services at Hyattsville are held in a Hall." June 24th the "first morning service was held in Hyattsville" and on July 8 "Hyattsville Hall was crowded." Previous services in Hyattsville, by both Mr. Williams and Mr. Reed, had been held on Sunday afternoons.

He moved into the Rectory in Bladensburg on June 9. The first meeting of the Guild under his rectorship was held June 14. After reports from the various Wards, according to the minutes "the Rector announced his intention of opening a Sunday School in Hyattsville, and asked that those interested meet him for consultation. . . . Tuesday evening, June 19 was fixed for the meeting." It was also decided at this meeting to purchase a small organ for use at the services in Hyattsville.

The Sunday School was organized on June 19, 1888 as planned and the "first Sunday School was held in Hyattsville on June 24th."

On July 22, 1888 Mr. Reed writes "First communion held in Hyattsville—the Hall crowded—eighty-five communed." This was an 11 a. m. service. The first 7 a. m. Holy Communion in Hyattsville was on November 1, 1888. Friday evening prayer was begun on June 15 and seems to have been a fairly regular weekly service.

Mr. James B. Burnside was asked to serve as Warden at Hyattsville. He was authorized to pay the rent and current expenses, to keep an account of money handled and to pay any surplus to the Treasurer of the Parish once in three months. The wardens and acting wardens for each church in the Parish were instructed to keep accounts and turn in reports to the secretary of the Vestry.

The first baptism recorded for the Hyattsville chapel was that of Margaret Etchison Welsh, who later became Mrs. Paul Herring.

On November 19, 1888 Mr. Reed organized a Guild at Benning, D. C., the "first meeting of this kind in this Congregation—twenty-five members." He also appointed a superintendent and teachers for a Sunday School, and on December 2 it got under way with fifty scholars and six teachers.

Several of Mr. Reed's comments are good reminders of the days before the flood control project at the Peace Cross was completed: "June 2, 1889, Bladensburg & no service at Bennings, flood." "June 12, no service at Bennings—Hard rains & High water", "June 14, no service at Hyattsville, Hard rain & High water."

The building of the memorial church to the beloved Bishop Pinkney and to fill the needs of a growing population brought about active participation from many people. A spirit of unity and common purpose seems to have been strong among the parishioners. Lawn parties were held. Dinners and entertainments were given. A "Cantata of the Palms" was sung by the choir from another parish. Help was requested from the Diocese.

In September 1889 the Vestry authorized Dr. Wells, Mr. J. B. Burnside and Mr. Wm. H. Fuller "to sign for said Vestry all legal papers necessary to execute a loan of Twenty-five hundred dollars to be used in the erection of the Pinkney Memorial Church, in Hyattsville, Prince George's Co., Md." They were also authorized to sign the contract for construction of the building.

No one worked harder to make the building of a church in Hyattsville a reality than the Rector, Mr. Reed. And his sudden death was a great shock to his parishioners, though he had had some periods of ill health during the year. "On Sunday, October 20, 1889", reads the entry in the Vestry minutes, "he held morning services at Bladensburg at eleven o'clock, and preached a sermon which had particularly touched the hearts of all who heard him, and though visibly suffering he had started to All Saints Chapel for the afternoon service there, but was compelled to turn back to his home and there shortly after, while talking pleasantly, he suddenly passed away."

The building of the Memorial Chapel in Hyattsville went ahead. The Vestry of Ascension Church, Washington, D. C., offered St. Matthew's Parish the "communion table, for many years used by

them, for the new church in Hyattsville." It was an appropriate memorial to Bishop Pinkney for he had officiated at that communion table as Rector of Ascension Church after his rectorship here. The Vestry of St. Matthew's accepted the gift. A beautiful paten was presented to the new church by some of Bishop Pinkney's friends. The Sunday School presented the new church with "a pair of solid silver chalices costing seventy dollars."

The Reverend Edward Wall was called to be the next rector. He assumed his duties on Sunday, March 2, 1890, the day of the first service in Pinkney Memorial Church.

Another change took place when Addison Chapel was given, about 1890, to Epiphany Parish, Forestville. St. Luke's, Bladensburg, now became the Parish Church for St. Matthew's.

These were busy and growing years for the Parish and for the Diocese. The Right Reverend William Paret had been elected Bishop of Maryland in November 1884, to succeed Bishop Pinkney. *The Montgomery Sentinel* for November 7, 1884 wrote that "The election to fill the vacancy was delayed because of the difficulty to unite two thirds of the diocesan convention upon anyone of decided church views as the majority demanded. The selection of Dr. Paret is a triumph of what is known as the High Churchman, though he is by no means 'extreme'. The election took place on the thirty-sixth ballot."

Dr. Paret re-opened, in 1891, the question of the creation of a Diocese of Washington. The convention voted against it, but did agree to divide the Diocese of Maryland into four "Missionary Conventions." One of these was called the Convocation of Washington and included the area of the present Diocese of Washington. It was not until 1895 that the Convention voted overwhelmingly in favor of a new Diocese. Dr. Henry Yates Satterlee was elected the first Bishop of Washington, thereby becoming the seventh Bishop for St. Matthew's Parish.

Dr. Paret was Bishop of Maryland until 1911. He is reported to have had a steamer fitted up as a church to carry himself and his associates to the oyster dredging grounds. In this way services could be held for the oystermen.

In St. Matthew's Parish the Hyattsville congregation was growing. At the April meeting in 1891 the Vestry voted "that the Sunday services now held at St. Luke's Church, Bladensburg be discontinued and held at the Pinkney Memorial Church, Hyattsville." The Rector's salary was increased from eight hundred to nine hundred dollars a year.

"Pinkney Memorial Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew was organized at the residence of Mr. Clarence Wilson in Hyattsville, Maryland, Monday evening, November 2, 1891." So begin the minutes of the first meeting of Chapter 675 of the Brotherhood. It was active until 1898, then lapsed until 1905, when it was re-activated.

The early membership includes such familiar names as Frederic A. Holden, James B. Burnside, Clarence Wilson, Hugh F. Latimer. The Reverend Edward Wall was Rector then. As the years passed, the list of members adds Mr. E. A. Fuller, C. Frank Carr, C. A. M. Wells, G. Hodges Carr and many others. In 1898 Mr. H. W. Dorsey, Jr. was secretary. Mr. R. B. Latimer served as secretary from 1905 until



November 1910 when Mr. Waldo Burnside was elected. Several of these men also served their turns as Directors of the Chapter.

The minutes bear testimony to the sincerity and earnest work of the members. Parish calls, service as ushers, raising funds for various projects, greeting strangers after services were all a part of their accepted role. Several times Pinkney Memorial Chapter was host to the Local Assembly of the Brotherhood for their summer meeting, usually in July.

Two candidates for the priesthood from St. Matthew's Parish were recommended by the Vestry in the next two years. Both were named Johnson, Mr. George H. Johnson in 1893, and Mr. Edward A. Johnson in 1894.

The envelope system of collecting the pledges of members of the Parish was begun in 1894. The treasurer was "authorized to purchase 200 pledge cards and 100 envelopes."

This same year the Reverend Edward Wall resigned as Rector. His resignation was accepted with considerable regret and the Vestry once again set about the task of finding a new rector.

About this time the Washington, Berwyn and Laurel Electric Railroad was built, "a ribbon of steel," says a *Hyattsville Independent* for 1893, "winding twenty miles through thick woods, farms and embryo villages, roughly paralleling the narrow, dirt Baltimore Pike." The trolley was directly responsible for the growth of Hyattsville, for it made commuting to Washington easier.

There were four churches in Hyattsville in the early 1890's: Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist. The business section, as described in the *Independent* had "three grocery stores, three butcher shops, one dry goods and notions store, a barber shop, a drug store, post office, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, two wood and coal dealers, livery stable, two halls and a land office." There was a school, the Melrose Institute, conducted by the Misses Lewin. It was located where Marchés now live. The population of Hyattsville was about two thousand persons.

Such was the town to which the Reverend Charles J. S. Mayo came when he accepted the call as Rector. He came in February, 1895 from Newport News, Virginia. He found much to occupy him.

There was considerable discussion about whether Episcopal work in College Park was the responsibility of St. Matthew's Parish or of Zion Parish. A request from Zion Parish that the boundary lines be changed so as to put College Park within Zion Parish met with a firm "No" from the Vestry of St. Matthew's.

The first services in College Park were held in August 1890 in a room over a store. In 1894 services began in a remodeled brick barn which was again extensively repaired in 1909. It was consecrated as St. Andrew's Chapel in 1912. The question of jurisdiction was not really settled until 1923 when the Diocesan Convention separated St. Andrew's Chapel from both Zion and St. Matthew's Parishes and established it as a Diocesan responsibility under the Bishop of Washington. It was created a parish in 1953.

The rectory at Bladensburg was sold in November, 1895 and the following spring a house was purchased in Hyattsville. The new rectory was on Spencer Street, near Pinkney Memorial Church.

At its March meeting in 1897 the Vestry discussed "the advisability of giving up the chapel at Bennings, within the District of Columbia to the charge of Archdeacon Childs." Later in the spring All Saints Chapel, Benning, was given over to the care of the Reverend Richard P. Williams, Rector of Trinity Parish, Washington. It became a diocesan mission and remained as such for several years.

Services were again held at St. Luke's, Bladensburg three Sunday afternoons a month, with Holy Communion once a month. Envelopes were printed for the Bladensburg subscriptions to the support of the Parish. Mr. John Lepper was appointed to act as Treasurer "to receive and account for all money paid at St. Luke's Church, Bladensburg, making return to the Treasurer of the Vestry." Miss Adelaide Lepper was organist and took care of the altar. There was no water in the sacristy, so she carried the chalice, paten and altar linens back and forth from her house to the Church in a little covered basket.

St. Matthew's Parish lost a beloved and loyal parishioner with the death of Benjamin Ogle Lowndes in 1897. ". . . the community has lost a shining example of Christian humility, simplicity, gentleness and genuine piety, the church a loyal and devoted son. . . . For over fifty years he was a member of the Vestry of St. Matthew's Parish and a great portion of that time Senior Warden and Treasurer . . . he lived to see the church and rectory removed from his old home in Bladensburg, to the newer and more important town of Hyattsville."

Dr. Wells was elected Warden to finish Mr. Lowndes' unexpired term. Additions and repairs to the Rectory were paid for with money which Mr. Lowndes left to the Vestry. Mr. H. W. Dorsey, Jr. was elected to the Vestry in 1898.

A note in a *Hyattsville Independent* for 1898 tells of the Reverend Mr. Mayo distributing "medals to the fortunate ones at the Melrose Institute." The list of the "fortunate ones" includes the names of Ruth and Waldo Burnside, Thomas Brooks and Lucy Mayo.

Boundary lines between parishes were up for discussion and decision during the next few years. Messrs. Dent, Dorsey and J. B. Burnside were appointed to work on the clarification of these lines wherever any question arose. Boundaries were defined between St. Matthew's and Holy Trinity Parish, with its parish church in Collington, Maryland. A petition was sent to the Convention from Rock Creek Parish changing the boundary between it and St. Matthew's.

Organizations were increasingly active in the growing Parish. The Pinkney Memorial Guild, a sequel to the Guild of St. Luke's Church, Bladensburg, was organized in much the same way as had been St. Luke's. Some of the same names were on the membership list: Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Burnside, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Welsh, Dr. and Mrs. C. A. Wells, and many others. All members of the Parish were welcomed as members of the Guild. Standing committees were appointed to take responsibility for the various kinds of parish activities.

Entertainments, social gatherings, dinners are mentioned as ways of getting together as well as means of raising money for the Parish needs. The Ladies Aid Society is frequently praised for its good work with bazaars and dinners. The Young Ladies Society—or the St. Cecilians, as they were called—were in demand for entertainments, musical programs, recitations, occasionally a play or a skit. The

Brotherhood of St. Andrew was particularly active from about 1905 for a number of years. Each society reported its activities at a Guild meeting, in addition to reports from the Standing Committees of the Guild.

Already the need for more room to take care of church activities was apparent. The Sunday School had grown so much that the Vestry decided to have a new basement room built by excavating under the entire church, instead of a small furnace room, as first planned. This was accomplished in 1902.

So the growth of Hyattsville was reflected in the growth of Pinkney Memorial Church. In 1900 the city voted to replace the commissioner form of government with a Mayor and City Council. Mr. Michael V. Tierney was elected the first mayor. Dr. Charles A. Wells was the second. He held this office from 1902 to 1905. The city installed its first water system during his administration.

In 1904 the newly organized First National Bank of Hyattsville bought from the Vestry the corner land which extended forty-two feet on Spencer Street (Gallatin Street) and one hundred feet on Maryland Avenue (Baltimore Boulevard). The first bank in Hyattsville was built there. The Professional Building is now on that corner.

A candidate for Deacon's Orders, Robert Evans Browning, was certified by the Vestry in April 1907, as he was completing three years at Virginia Theological Seminary. He had served the Parish very ably a number of times during Mr. Mayo's absences because of illness or vacations.

The summer of 1907 brought the resignation of Mr. Mayo as Rector, and the death of Mr. James B. Burnside. The Reverend Mr. Mayo's resignation because of ill health was accepted with great regret and numerous expressions of love and gratitude for his years of service. The loss of Mr. Burnside was very deeply felt, for he was a most devoted and active member of the Parish. He served as Vestryman, Sunday School Superintendent, Register—in short, wherever and whenever he was needed.

### **The Second Pinkney Memorial Church**

The Reverend Henry Thomas took charge of St. Matthew's Parish on Sunday, January 19, 1908. Services at St. Luke's had been allowed to lapse and within a few weeks Mr. Thomas, with the approval of the Vestry, was holding them again every other Sunday night.

It was voted to have electric lights installed in Pinkney Memorial Church. Other improvements were made to the Church and to the Rectory. But there was growing awareness of the need for larger quarters, especially a parish hall. There was also some question about the continuing desirability of the location. Toward the end of 1909 it was decided to look for possible sites for a new church. Several years went by before the members of the Parish decided that a new location was preferable to remodelling the little church near the Baltimore Boulevard. Several sites were investigated and the Dent property on the corner of Gallatin Street and 42nd Avenue was purchased. In July 1913 Mr. O. B. Zantzinger, who was on the Vestry, reported that negotiations were completed.

Meanwhile the Mission which was organized in Mt. Rainier in 1909 under the auspices of the Rev. Mr. Thomas and St. Matthew's Vestry was growing. Meetings were held in a hall until a chapel was built and opened for service on April 7, 1912. At that time the Rector and the Vestry of St. Matthew's decided to give to the new Chapel the service held every other Sunday evening at Pinkney Memorial Church, alternating with services at St. Luke's, Bladensburg. During August 1912 the choir of the Mt. Rainier Chapel—St. John's—under the direction of Mr. Findlay Hays furnished the music for services at Pinkney Memorial Church.

The Sunday School at Pinkney Memorial, under the guidance of Dr. Paul Herring as superintendent, was flourishing to such a point that a Parish Hall was as essential as a new church building. There was discussion about which should be built first. It was unanimously voted in April, 1915 to build both at the same time. The old rectory was sold first. Then the church, without ever having been consecrated or ever becoming the Parish Church, was sold to J. Frank Rushe. The Hyattsville business office of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Maryland now occupies the site.

Dr. Charles A. Wells, Mr. Harry W. Dorsey, Mr. G. H. Lanhardt, Mr. F. G. Tingley, Mr. Arthur W. Tupper, Mrs. James B. Burnside, Mrs. Henry Thomas, and Mrs. O. B. Zantzingler were appointed as the Building Committee. The cost was not to exceed \$15,000 for the Church and the Parish Hall. Burgess and Parsons were awarded the contract for their bid of \$13,050. The architects were Hunter and Bell of Washington.

Ground was broken on September 12, 1915. The corner stone was laid on November 21, 1915 by the Right Reverend Alfred Harding, Bishop of the Diocese of Washington. The Reverend Ernest C. Smith, Rector of St. Thomas Church, Washington gave the address. The Vestrymen were Dr. Charles A. Wells, Mr. C. Frank Carr, Mr. Harry W. Dorsey, Mr. T. Howard Duckett, Mr. George H. Lanhardt, Mr. G. Shearman James, Mr. Charles H. Welsh, and Mr. Otway B. Zantzingler. The Wardens were Mr. G. Hodges Carr and Mr. Harry J. Robertson.

Once more, for the fourth time in a hundred years, the Vestry and people of St. Matthew's Parish worked together to build a new and more adequate church. It would seat a hundred and fifty people. Dr. Paul S. Herring, as superintendent, was in charge of making the arrangements for the Sunday School. From the time the Chapel on Gallatin Street and Baltimore Avenue was sold until the new church was completed, services and Sunday School were held in the Masonic Hall on Gallatin Street. The exception was Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. This service was in St. Luke's Church, Bladensburg, still the parish church for St. Matthew's.

The first service in the new church was held June 11, 1916. The Reverend Edward Wall, Rector of Grace Church, Berryville, Virginia preached the sermon. He was the first Rector of the first Pinkney Memorial Church. He must have felt at home, for many of the furnishings were brought from the old church and installed in the new. The reredos, the lectern and the altar cross, all memorials to the Reverend Theodore Reed, were there and are still there. The

communion table, given by Ascension Church, Washington, D. C. to the first Pinkney Memorial Chapel was also placed in the new church and is still in use. They are enduring reminders that the present is rooted in the past.

In October, 1916 the Vestry met in special meeting to certify a young man for ordination to the priesthood. He was the Reverend William Bell Dent.

The following spring the Vestry voted "in obedience to the Canons of the General Assembly and the Diocese of Washington this Parish accepts the assessment to assure support to the aged and disabled clergy and to the families of deceased clergymen, payable to the Church Pension Fund. . . ."

The Reverend Henry Thomas, after twelve years, sent his resignation to the Vestry on June 5, 1917, to take effect on October 1. They were twelve busy and good years and his resignation was accepted with a great deal of regret. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas continued to live in Hyattsville until his death, February 27, 1921. Mrs. Thomas remained a member of the parish until she died in 1945 at the age of 76.

It was six months before the Reverend Charles E. McAllister took charge on April 1, 1918. His first meeting was the annual congregational one held on that date at St. Luke's, Bladensburg. After some discussion a tentative program of services each Sunday was adopted for the three churches in the Parish: Pinkney Memorial Church, Hyattsville, 11:00 a. m. and 8:00 p. m.; St. John's, Mt. Rainier, 9:30 a. m.; St. Luke's, Bladensburg, 4:00 p. m. It was a strenuous program. Student assistants, when available, were sent out by the Diocese. In early summer, 1919, an assistant was engaged to take charge of St. John's, Mt. Rainier, and to assist in other parish work. The Rev. Mr. McAllister and Mr. T. H. Duckett were authorized by the Vestry to "arrange services and perfect a local organization" to carry on the work of the Bladensburg church.

Then came the years of picking up the pieces after the first World War. Woman Suffrage was the battle cry. At the congregational meeting of April 21, 1919, held in St. Luke's Church, it was "moved and carried that delegate to Convention introduce support of amendment enfranchising women to vote in Parish elections." This question came up every year until the late 1920's when the privilege was granted to the ladies to vote and to be elected to the Vestry. It was a well-earned privilege.

A Parish Council was organized in May, 1922. The membership was composed of representatives from each organization in the Parish. Its purpose was to work with the Vestry in whatever ways seemed most needed. The Vestry would keep the Council fully informed concerning the needs of the Parish, financial and otherwise.

In September 1922 Mr. McAllister resigned. The Reverend Charles L. Monroe took over on February 1, 1923.

The Vestry signed the certificate for the ordination of the Reverend Clyde Brown to the priesthood in May, 1923. Mr. Brown was a graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary.

The death of Dr. Charles A. Wells on March 4, 1924, while he was in Florida, brought a great sense of personal loss to members of

the Parish. He served as a vestryman for nearly half a century. He was one of the most active members of the Parish in building up the work of the church when Hyattsville was little more than a station on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

During these years St. Luke's Church, Bladensburg and St. John's, Mt. Rainier were increasing in membership and activity. In the fall of 1923 the Board of Trustees of St. Luke's was authorized to "make contract to build a Parish Hall at Bladensburg not to exceed \$4500." And by the fall of 1924 it was evident that a change was in order at St. John's, Mt. Rainier. The Vestry "Resolved: That it is the fixed policy . . . to make Mt. Rainier a separate parish as soon as it is able financially and otherwise. . . ."

Work with both churches was carried on with this end in view. In 1927 both became Bishop's Chapels under the direction of the Diocese of Washington. St. Luke's Parish was established in 1929. St. John's, Mt. Rainier remained a Bishop's Chapel until 1944, when it also became a separate parish.

In Hyattsville it was becoming quite evident that Pinkney Memorial Church buildings were shrinking in size. On June 2, 1924 "Messrs. Graham, Lanhardt and Tingley were appointed to examine the Parish Hall and Church and to report to the Vestry on the best means of meeting the present crowded conditions with a view to the future."

That fall it was also decided that Miss Adelaide Lepper should begin work as parish secretary at \$25.00 a month.

Mr. Monroe resigned June 15, 1925 to accept a call to Marshall, Texas. Again St. Matthew's was without a rector until May 1, 1926 when the Reverend Henry L. Durrant took charge. He was rector only a little over a year—until October 1, 1927.

The communion vessels were stolen from the church in the spring of 1927. The thoughtfulness of the congregation of St. Luke's was appreciated when they offered to loan theirs. And even more spontaneous was the action of the Reverend George P. Dudley, Rector of St. Stephen's and Incarnation Parish. As soon as he heard of the loss he at once brought to Hyattsville a paten and flagon for Pinkney Memorial Church to use as long as they were needed. Mr. Dudley later said that "the glass flagon need never be returned and the silver paten could remain indefinitely—until he called for it."

The Reverend Clyde Brown became the next Rector of St. Matthew's Parish, assuming charge October 15, 1927. The necessary procedures for transferring the responsibility for St. Luke's, Bladensburg and St. John's, Mt. Rainier to the Bishop were completed under his leadership. Boundaries between the three parishes were discussed and settled. Ownership of property involved was transferred to the respective churches and vestries.

An interesting bequest came to St. Matthew's Parish in December, 1929 "by the last Will and Testament of Elizabeth A. Deakins, late of the city of Alexandria, Virginia . . . the sum of eight hundred dollars to the Vestry of the William Pinkney Memorial Chapel of Hyattsville, Maryland, or their successors, for the use of said Chapel, with the understanding and on the condition that the said Vestry would for itself and its successors accept the further sum of three hundred dollars

to be held in trust by it and by them to be kept safely invested, the income on said three hundred dollars to be applied by the said Vestry, or its authorized agent or representative, in keeping in order the Deakins Family burial lot located on the farm known as "Bloomfield" in Prince George's County, Maryland, about two miles from Hyattsville."

This bequest, and another one for \$500.00 made in 1930 by another member of the Deakins family, was accepted by the Vestry. Thereafter frequent record is to be found in the minutes about the care of this family burial lot. "Bloomfield Farm" has long since been changed into a well-lived-in bit of suburbia, but the Deakins family lot, with its iron fence, is still there in the middle of a city block in University Park, "almost in Huddleston's back yard," as someone described the location.

Easter Monday, April 21, 1930 was a milestone for Pinkney Memorial Church. The annual congregational meeting was "in the Parish Hall . . . said church being the oldest church edifice in the Parish since the cession of that part of the Parish containing St. Luke's Church." The following year it was suggested that since it was now the only church in the parish its name be changed to St. Matthew's. The decision to change was never made.

Mr. Brown continued as Rector until January 1934. He resigned to accept election by the Bishop and the Executive Council to be the Diocesan Missioner of the Washington area.

The Reverend Lawton Riley came from Gainesville, Georgia to become the next Rector on September 15, 1934.

A definite start toward increasing the interest and activity of the men of the Parish, as a group, and toward the organization of a Men's Club, occurred in November of that year. An oyster supper was served free to the men of the Church and their friends. The Rector's Aid prepared it and the young men of the Fellowship served it, "and it was a grand success—130 men sat there to-gether socially and enjoyed every minute."

There was discussion about remodeling the Parish Hall to make more room for the ever-growing Sunday School. Nothing was done about it, though the need for more space was always uppermost in the minds of those active in the Parish.

The major accomplishment during the three years Mr. Riley was Rector, and the four years of his successor, the Reverend Arthur Le Baron Ribble, was paying off the mortgage on the church. Mr. William Pinkney Magruder, a civic leader in Hyattsville and Prince George's County for many years, gave \$1000. A plan for liquidating the mortgage by Easter of 1940 was agreed upon and adopted by the Executive Council. The final \$75.00 was raised on Saturday, March 23, 1940, the day before Easter. The following Monday, at the congregational meeting, Mr. Ribble announced that the mortgage had been paid in full. He read accounts of the laying of the corner stone and the building of the church. A token burning of the mortgage was celebrated. The church was consecrated May 3, 1940 by the Right Reverend James E. Freeman, third Bishop of Washington.

Other things were happening in the Parish, too. An Adult Bible Class was organized in 1937 with Mr. Ribble as the teacher. The first meeting was at 9:30 a. m. on November 28. A parish secretary was again hired. This time it was Miss Hilda Lanhardt. This position continued to be an intermittent one for some years because of the restrictions of the budget, which was not always adequate.

Noble L. Owings, Jr. was certified as a postulant for Holy Orders in 1937. He is now a Canon of the Los Angeles Cathedral, and assistant to the Bishop of the Diocese of Southern California.

The business affairs of the Church and Parish were also undergoing change and improvement. An assistant treasurer and a financial secretary were appointed to help handle accounts of pledges. The method of electing the Senior and Junior Wardens was changed. Formerly chosen only by the Vestry, it was decided that they should be nominated by the congregation at the annual meeting and elected by the Vestry.

Mr. Ribble resigned on May 1, 1941, and on July 15, 1941 the Reverend J. Jacquelin Ambler assumed the rectorship.

The future expansion of the church facilities was a major concern during his ten years in the Parish. An expansion fund, as such, was started in 1942 with the gift of a thousand dollars from the children of Mary E. Lanhardt. It was to be used to increase the space for the Sunday School. The Vestry decided that all gifts and bequests should go into this fund unless some special use was designated by the donor. It could be used only for extraordinary expenses such as major items of equipment, repair, additions, and improvements that could not be paid from the regular budget.

And again there were years of war to claim attention. Eighty-eight young men and women of the Parish served their country in one or another branch of the Armed Forces during the second World War. Problems of fuel oil for heat were taken up with the Rationing Board. Use of the Church and Parish Hall was restricted for a time to Sunday Services only. Meetings of organizations were held in the homes.

The Parish was honored in 1943 by the appointment of Mr. Harry W. Dorsey to the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

1943 also brought the death of Bishop James E. Freeman. A Special Convention of the Diocese of Washington was held on November 23, in the Church of St. Stephen and the Incarnation. Messrs Eben Jenkins and Noble Owings were delegates from St. Matthew's Parish. They brought back interesting reports of the preparations for the election which resulted in the Right Reverend Angus Dun becoming Bishop of Washington.

The next year St. Matthew's Parish voted to join the Washington Federation of Churches. That year twelve members of Pinkney Memorial Church were enrolled in the Federation of Churches training classes for Sunday School teachers. It was the only Episcopal Church on the honor roll, with more than ten enrollees.

The status of the Church and Parish after the first few years of Mr. Ambler's rectorship are best described by Mr. Eben Jenkins in his 1944 yearly report as Treasurer. "Over the past several years, Pinkney Memorial Church has come a long way in improving its financial well-



being. We own our own home . . . and we are living within our means thanks to the conservative attitude and 'shirt sleeve' activity of our Rector . . . we have a fair size Reserve Fund . . . we have contributed more to missions than pledged . . . we have paid obligations promptly and we have contributed to the War effort by investing in Bonds. . . .

"However, it is one thing to be financially solvent on paper and another thing to be spiritually alive. Our good standing is only a start toward greater service to God . . . our hardest and biggest job is ahead of us . . . we are still in debt . . . we will stay in debt until we move Mr. Glaze's class out of Mrs. Ambler's dining room . . . because the church building is too small for the continuing number of people it serves . . . because too many people are delinquent in their pledges . . . because we haven't provided means of recreation for our young people (and this may grow to be our most serious debt and the hardest to liquidate).

"Let us start thinking, planning, working toward these ends for greater service to God."

Such thinking, planning and working did get going in earnest. A committee on Expansion of Church Facilities was appointed. In October the Committee recommended that the Vestry:

1. Obtain a new site of adequate size to accommodate future expansion of the church facilities.
2. Obtain, if possible, another rectory, preferably but not necessarily on this site and to use the present rectory for Sunday School and other parish purposes.

The need of the Sunday School for more space was so great that when, in June 1945, a house on Gallatin Street across from the church was available, the Vestry purchased it as a Parish House Annex. It was used as such until April 1951 when it was sold and the money from it put into the building fund for a new church. The Sunday School overflow then took over the unoccupied Rectory.

In December 1947 a site for the new church was decided upon—the highest hill in Hyattsville. Years ago there was a mansion there called "Longview." A gift of \$5,000 from Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Duckett made purchase of the beautiful hilltop a reality.

There was growth in Parish life, too. More was done to interest young people. A Unified Women's organization was set up in September, 1946 and proved to be very successful. The ushers for the eleven o'clock service were better organized. And, in accordance with permission granted by the Diocesan Convention back in 1927, Mrs. N. L. Owings was the first woman elected to the Vestry.

The Lenten Services for several years were held jointly with other Protestant denominations in Hyattsville. It was an interesting experiment and afforded an opportunity for a greater sense of Christian unity.

Meanwhile the development of the new church site remained at a standstill. The surrounding area was still largely undeveloped and this was given as part of the reason. Then in 1949 things began to happen. A firm of architects was agreed upon and discussion began about what should be built first. There was general feeling that the Parish Hall was most needed.

On August 6, 1950 Mr. Ambler submitted his resignation to take effect on September 15. He had been called to Emmanuel Church in Alexandria and felt that he should accept. His resignation was accepted with great regret.

That year was a busy one for the Vestry of St. Matthew's Parish, for it was a year before the right man was found to take the helm. He was—and is—the Reverend Alfred Warren Burns, who came out from the College of Preachers to take the service one Sunday in May, 1951. The result of this visit was a unanimous vote to call him to be Rector. He resigned his rectorship in Bridgeport, Connecticut and assumed charge at St. Matthew's on September 2, 1951.

The Vestry had decided that a Rectory was the first thing to be built on the new site. It was under construction but was not completed until November. Meanwhile Mr. and Mrs. Burns and their two daughters lived in an apartment.

One of the first things Mr. Burns advocated was leaving the church open during each day of the week for meditation and prayer, as is the custom of Episcopal churches. This was done. Also directional signs for the Church were ordered and placed at appropriate street corners.

On February 3, 1953, final plans for a Parish Hall were presented and accepted. A goal of \$125,000 was announced. The common purpose of raising money for the much-needed building brought increased activity. Musical revues, bazaars, concerts, chicken barbecues all helped to bring in money and, even more important, deepened and strengthened the feeling a congregation working together.

Ground was broken for the Parish Hall Sunday, March 15, 1953. Johannes and Murray were the architects and E. A. Pessagno Company were the contractors. The cornerstone was laid July 12, 1953, with Bishop Dun officiating.

This was a year of progress in other ways. At the annual meeting in April the procedure for electing wardens and vestrymen was again changed. Wardens were to be elected by the congregation for one year. Nine vestrymen were to be elected for three-year terms on a rotating system that each year dropped three members from the Vestry. They could not be re-elected for a year.

An even more important development occurred in September when it was decided that the Rector should obtain assistants from Virginia Theological Seminary. It was also recommended that he look for a curate to be added to the staff the following June. This was indeed evidence of the growth of the Parish and recognition that it was no longer possible for one man to do the work of two or three, as both Mr. Ambler and Mr. Burns had done for some years. St. Matthew's had become one of the Diocese's larger suburban parishes.

Two Virginia Seminarians, Mr. Loren Mead and Mr. William Moll, gave very able assistance to the Rector that year of 1953. Two others served the following year.

Parish committees on Finance, Property and Parish Relations were set up. An Usher's Guild was organized and has functioned well ever since.

The Reverend and Mrs. Robert W. Carlson were introduced at the annual meeting on April 15, 1955. Mr. Carlson came to the Parish as assistant in June. Until then a Methodist minister, he began preparing for the Episcopal priesthood and was ordained in December 1956.

Mr. William F. Myers became a postulant for Holy Orders in 1955. He also served as an assistant while he was a student in Virginia Theological Seminary. It was familiar ground to him, for he had grown up in Pinkney Memorial Church and had been an "assistant" of one kind or another since high school days—acolyte, crucifer, leader of the Fellowship. He was ordained a priest in 1960 and is now Vicar of St. James' Chapel at Bowie and of St. George's Chapel at Glenn Dale.

With the new Parish Hall completed and in use, a Parish School for four, five and six year olds was suggested. A board was appointed to investigate the possibility, and the school opened in September 1955 with an enrollment of twenty-five. It has remained at the kindergarten level and has become self-supporting.

The Parish Hall was soon in great demand for use by community organizations. It became quite normal for several meetings to be going on at the same time. An old, familiar problem popped up again, too—an overcrowded Sunday School. This was a satisfying and exciting problem which gave impetus to the building of the new Church. By 1958 plans for this were being made and a committee was appointed to carry these plans forward.

Meanwhile some place was needed to accommodate Sunday School overflow until the new church became a reality. It was decided that the "some place" should be a recreation room built in the rectory basement. The Property Committee planned this construction and the room was in use in the fall of 1958. Shades of Mr. Glaze's class in Mrs. Ambler's dining room! And the Parish Hall scarcely five years old!

Later that fall a house at 5905 37th Avenue, across the street from the Rectory, was purchased. This was looking toward future needs.

A triangular portion from the west end of St. Matthew's Parish was transferred to St. Michael and All Angels, Adelphi, when it became a parish in 1958. It had been a Diocesan Mission Chapel for several years.

Mr. Carlson was Associate Rector until the summer of 1959 when he accepted a call to be Rector of the Church of the Nativity at Camp Springs. He and his family, including the cat, Henry, were a loved and essential part of the life of the Parish. Henry had even been known to attend service now and then on warm summer Sundays. They were greatly missed.

The Reverend William Hanckel was the next Associate Rector. He was here from October 1959 until March 1960.

The Reverend Ned Heeter and his wife, Barbara, came to St. Matthew's in June 1960. Father Heeter was confirmed in Pinkney Memorial Church in 1949, so this was like welcoming him home. He was ordained priest in December 1960 in the same service as was the

Rev. William Myers. In a short time the Heeters were as much a part of parish life as if they had been here for years.

Then came 1961, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary year of St. Matthew's Parish. A number of special activities were planned by way of celebration, including a visiting clergyman on Sunday each month. The visitor was always one who had had a close connection with St. Matthew's some time in the past.

And the church was becoming a reality. Walton and Madden were the architects and Martin Brothers, Inc. were the builders. The groundbreaking ceremony was on Sunday, March 5. The Right Reverend Angus Dun, Bishop of Washington, turned the first spadeful of dirt. He was assisted by the Rev. Mr. Burns and the Rev. Mr. Ambler. "A feature of the groundbreaking", wrote the *Prince George's Post* for March 9, "was a large procession of choristers, acolytes, crucifers and torchbearers, which lent an almost medieval touch to the scene as it wended its way up the slope to the site of the new church."

By fall Martin Brothers, with the aid of numerous sidewalk superintendents, were ready for the laying of the cornerstone. This beautiful service took place on Sunday, October 1. Again the procession came up the hill, singing "The Church's One Foundation." After the Litany the Right Reverend William Creighton, Bishop Coadjutor of Washington, preached. Then various articles, including a Cross, a Bible, A Book of Common Prayer, and a Record of Founders were placed in the cornerstone. The last thing to be put in was a picture of the Service itself, taken with a Polaroid camera and developed on the spot. Then Bishop Creighton officially placed the cornerstone. An exhibit portraying some of the past of the Parish and a reception in the Parish Hall completed the ceremony.

So one hundred and fifty years from the time St. Matthew's was cut from old Piscataway Parish another new and larger church is almost ready for use.

## RECTORS OF ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

1811-1814—Vacant  
1814-1817—Thomas Horrel  
1818 —Vacant  
1819-1820—Enoch Magruder Lowe  
1820-1821—Charles C. Austin  
1821-1823 (probably)—Walter Dulany Addison  
1823-1828—Vacant  
1828 —Robert Kent Drane  
1829-1835—William Augustine Smallwood  
1836-1857—William Pinkney  
1858-1865—John Hamilton Chew  
1866-1868—John Collins McCabe  
1868-1870—Vacant  
1870-1887—John B. Williams  
1888-1889—Theodore Reed  
1890-1894—Edward Wall  
1895-1907—Charles J. S. Mayo  
1908-1917—Henry Thomas  
1918-1922—Charles E. McAllister  
1923-1925—Charles L. Monroe  
1926-1927—Henry L. Durrant  
1927-1933—Clyde Brown  
1934-1937—Lawton W. Riley  
1937-1941—Arthur Le Baron Ribble  
1941-1950—J. Jacquelin Ambler  
1951 —Alfred Warren Burns

## ASSISTANT MINISTERS

1955-1959—Robert Warren Carlson  
1959-1960—William H. Hanckel  
1960 —Ned Heeter