

HISTORY OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, OXNARD, CA

The Rev. Herbert Spincer, Minister in charge of Trinity Mission in Hueneme, first held services of our Protestant Episcopal Church in Oxnard in 1900. The first services were



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1904-1908

held in a lodge hall on "B" Street. The following year services were moved to the Murphy & Will building on 5th Street. In 1904 a church building was erected on our present site and it was known as the "Little Green Church." In 1907 the chancel and sacristy were added, and the vicarage was built in 1908.

The ladies formed the All Saints' Altar Guild in 1908 to prepare for the first Easter service in the church. Two years later they decided to become All Saints' Guild, and it wasn't until 1931 that our present St. Anne's Altar Guild was formed.

In 1909 we became a mission in union with the Diocese of Los Angeles. Seven ministers served the mission from 1900 to 1921. The Parish Hall and Sunday School rooms were built in 1938. The Rev. David Scovil served from 1942-46. With the growth of Oxnard during these war years the church also grew, and in 1944 we became a self-supporting parish, thus making Rev. Scovil our first Rector.

In 1945 the Parish Endowment Fund was established under the leadership of Harry Milton Holt, a founding father. This remained a fairly modest fund until the death of Mr. Holt in 1970. He left eighty percent of his estate to the fund, and its value jumped from about \$3,000 to \$76,231 overnight.

In 1946 the Rev. William Patrick, past National Chaplain of the American Legion was called as the rector. At this time the parish had a membership of 180 communicants. St. Margaret's Guild, a women's evening group was formed during Rev. Patrick's tenure.

The Rev. Dan Bacot arrived in 1950, and in May of that year, our 50th anniversary was celebrated. The next year the rectory was moved to Magnolia Avenue and the vicarage was used for Sunday School rooms. In 1958 a larger house was purchased for the vicarage on South "N" Street. The Rev. Bacot was responsible for starting a mission in Camarillo in 1952, which later became St. Columba's. Many of our Camarillo communicants transferred there.

As our need for expansion grew, a building fund drive was started in 1958 to replace the 1904 vintage "little green church" with a modern 250-seat building, and to build a parish hall and two-story office and classroom building. A decision was made to remain at Second and "C" Streets and the property to the north was purchased, which provided



classrooms and office space. The church building was built in 1960-61. The design is in the shape of an upside-down ship, the hull forming the roof. The mortgage was burned in 1972. A fund drive was held

to complete the plan and the two-story office and classroom structure was completed in 1975. In May of that year the bishop dedicated the building. At the annual meeting in January 1980 a decision was made to start collecting pledges for a new parish hall. By June enough funds were on hand to go to bid, and by January 1981 a paid-for-in-cash parish hall was completed. The cost was about \$120,000. The mortgage on the two-story building was burned on November 1, 1989.

The church is sited in downtown Oxnard at the corner of Second and "C" Streets. The south side borders the Oxnard Civic Center, and is a block from the Public Safety Building. Two blocks south are the Carnegie Art Museum, Plaza Park, and Centennial Cinema Plaza. On our northern side Hispanic families mainly occupy older residential homes. Two blocks west, situated in a residential area, is the very large Santa Clara Roman Catholic Church.

The Rev. Linn Cashman came to the parish in 1962. With the new church building the parish experienced steady growth. Because of illness Father Cashman resigned in 1971 and the Rev. John Fuller became the rector.

In the mid-1980's Helen Gibbons died and left her estate to her church. This enhanced the Endowment Fund by another \$177,483, raising the fund to over \$440,000. Esmond Arthur left half of his estate to the parish in 1986 and nearly \$450,000 was placed in a new fund (Esmond Arthur Trust Fund). Ten percent of the first year's production of the Arthur Fund was donated to the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief. In 1989 Esther Harrison left thirty percent of her estate. \$156,000, to her church. Ten percent was donated to the capital fund drive for the new Diocesan Center to be built in Echo Park. The remainder of her bequest was transferred to the Endowment Fund with the intention of using the income from it for youth work.

The Parish Hispanic Outreach Ministry began in 1982. Outgrowth of this endeavor was the Los Vecinos (The Neighbors) program. It became the core of our ongoing attempt to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ who speak Spanish and live nearby. In 2005 eighty families had their weekly food supplemented by this program.

After almost 20 years of service, the Rev. John Fuller resigned on September 1, 1991. In September 1991 the Rev. Robert Voyle was assigned to the parish by the Bishop to serve as an interim priest, a position he held until January 1993. In January 1993 the Rev. Anthony Guillén was called as the new rector.



During the tenure of Reverend Guillén the 100th anniversary was celebrated. Also, during this time, the Hispanic congregation grew to 150 active participating members. The facilities were remodeled to include the new Chapel, which is used for small gatherings. Rev. Guillén also was instrumental in developing a Memorial Garden, which has been very well used by the parishioners. Additionally, a Columbarium was constructed in the chapel.

Since 2001 All Saints' has housed the feeding of the homeless program "Bread of Life". All Saints' sponsors one Sunday each month and three other churches do the other Sundays, but it is held every Sunday at All Saints'.



The Vestry consented to Rev. Guillén's resignation effective November 8, 2005. Father Guillén had accepted the position of Missioner for Latino/Hispanic Ministries with the National Church. An interim priest, Father Doug McKinney, was assigned by the diocese to the parish on a part-time basis and served until October 2006.



In October 2006 Rev. Mario Milián was assigned by Bishop J. Jon Bruno as Priest-in-Charge under Special Circumstances. In October 2007 He was called as the Rector of All Saints'. During his tenure as priest he was responsible for upgrading the church facilities, including lowering the altar area to eliminate steps and moving the Altar forward. He resigned in December 2007 to take the position of Associate Rector at Saint Thomas, Coral Gables, Florida.

In January 2008 The Rev. Jack Phillips was assigned to All Saints' as the interim priest on a part-time basis.



On August 1, 2009 the Rev. Keshia Brennom was assigned to the parish as Priest-in-Charge Under Special Circumstances. Rev. Keshia was ordained on June 21st, 2009 at All Saints'.