

St. Paul's Parish Established In 1701

This parish organized under the first Vestry Act, in 1701, has one of the oldest charters in the state and is the second oldest church building. A plaque on the side of the building reads "This building begun 1736 and first used in 1760, is the third church of St. Paul's Parish - Chowan Precinct, Edenton. The first, A. D. 1701-2, stood a mile hence on the sound side. It was the first church building in North Carolina. The second was built in A. D. 1708 D. R. 1910." In 1949, fire destroyed the steeple, roof gables, and the old organ. A restoration has brought back all the old charm of the interior and we again have an ideal village church.

church in Bath, it remained unfinished for quite a while after its construction was commenced. Among the contributors towards its erection were the Lords Proprietors of Carolina, who gave two hundred pounds sterling. This parish has had a longer unbroken existence than any other in the state, its history long antedating the erection of the present building. Its first vestrymen—who were also the first ever appointed in the colony—were His Excellency Henderson Walker, Governor; the Honorable Thomas Pollock, President of the Provincial Council, and later Governor pro tempore; William Dunkinfield, a Justice of the General Court and a brother of Sir Robert Dunkinfield,

Baronet; Nicholas Crisp; Edward Smithwick, a member of the Assembly of the Province; John Blount, a Justice of the General Court; James Long; Nathaniel Chevin, member of the Provincial Council; William Benbury; Colonel William Wilkinson, an eminent attorney; Captain Thomas Leuten and Captain Thomas Blount. These vestrymen (who were all colonists of the first generation) effected an organization on December 15, 1701, by electing Colonel Wilkinson and Captain Leuten church wardens, and Mr. Chevin clerk of the vestry. Measurements of the present building are as follows: nave length, 60 feet; nave width, 40 feet and 3

inches; nave height, sides 20 feet; dimensions of bricks, 2 1/2 by 4 by 8 1/2 inches. Saint Paul's floor was tiled and "intra-mural" burials were allowed. The oldest possessions of St. Paul's Church are its book of vestry minutes going back to 1701, and a silver chalice and paten. Ten Lira of the cost of this silver was given by Governor Francis Nicholson of Virginia; yet they are inscribed "The Gift of Colonel Edward Mosely for ye of ye Church in Edenton in the year 1725." There is a silver tankard (made before the Revolution) presented by Mrs. Mary Harvey Granberry in 1833. A slightly later piece was given for an alms basin, it is inscribed "Presented with the Cushions & Hangings by the Ladies of the Prot. Epis. Church in Edenton, 1812." A pewter chalice, probably about a hundred years old, is machine-made, an older pewter paten, hand-made, probably came from England. A pair of silver-plated vases, mentioned above, commemorate the Rev. Charles Parkman's ordination to the priesthood in 1852. A pair of silver-plated alms basins were presented by Mr. C. F. Greenwood in 1898.

North Carolina and one of the earliest Governors of the new state; and many more. The rector, "Parson" Earl, presided at the meeting which elected delegates to the Provincial Congress in 1774 and urged that people defeat England's economic warfare by improving the quality and quantity of their own manufactures. His vestry, on June 19, 1776, signed what they called the Test, professing their allegiance to the King and constitutional government, and for that reason protesting against unfair taxes, unjust meddling in the colonial government, and any other infringement of the rights of free people. They even engaged to support all the actions of the provincial and Continental Congresses. That was fifteen days before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The graves of Colonial Governors; Henderson Walker, Thomas Pollock, and Charles Eden, for whom the town is named, are in the Churchyard; together with many prominent in Colonial days and later. Saint Paul's Church and Churchyard are open daily from eight to five with regular services conducted as scheduled. The parish is active and flourishing. The Rector's study hours are nine to twelve, Monday through Friday and visitors are cordially invited to the Parish House on Gale Street to see exhibited items. The parish history, churchyard chart, burial records and photographs re available for a nominal fee.



Zeal, Energy Of 3 Young Girls Founded Church

St. Anne's owes its beginning to the zeal and energy of three young girls, converts to the faith and graduates of St. Joseph's Academy, Emmitsburg, Md. In the spring of 1857 these three girls, Mary Elizabeth Jones, her sister, Louisa Matilda Jones, and Elizabeth Moore, began to dream of a Catholic Church in their home town of Edenton, North Carolina. There were no more than a dozen Catholics counting children at the time, and a priest came once a year to offer Mass and administer the Sacraments. With no money but much faith the girls set out to remove the mountains of discouragement, resistance and lack of funds for such a project. When the idea of a Church of their own was presented to the visiting missionary priest, Father Grogan, he dismissed it as being not only fantastic but impossible. From her father, John M. Jones, Sr., the youngest of the three, Mary Elizabeth, obtained the first donation of 100 dollars along with the title to beautiful piece of property in the best section of town for the new church. This young apostle, Mary Elizabeth, set out for Baltimore to enlist the aid of Archbishop Kenrick, who had been her spiritual director since her conversion. The words of the good Archbishop deserve to be recorded, for they strengthened the heart of the little apostle that was all but bursting with zeal. As he handed her a 20 dollar gold piece, the archbishop said, "Go with my bundant blessing my child; you will succeed with the help of God." He then gave her a personal letter granting her permission to beg and asking the Catholics of Baltimore to be generous to the little North Carolina beggar. Away she went from door to door until in the course of several weeks she had covered the entire city receiving more insults than money. Mary Elizabeth returned home to Edenton with over five hundred dollars. Father Grogan, amazed and pleased with the progress, helped to get the building under way, but fearful of debt, he insisted on a pay-as-you-go policy—when the money ran out, the work was to stop. The girls then set out in earnest to keep the money coming in as fast as the building progressed. Appeals were mailed to every Bishop and Priest listed in the Catholic Directory, including a few in other countries, such as Father Faber in England and even the great Cardinal Antonelli. Besides writing begging letters, one of the girls helped increase the treasury by teaching music, while another did her part by translating French works into English and thus made a valuable contribution to the literary world.

bricks, imploring help from God. Help came and the building continued. Finally the missionary pastor, Father Rogan, seeing that the faith of the young girls had literally moved mountains, decided to give them his full support. Going north among his friends, he was able to collect \$1,500 dollars to complete the building. The total cost was \$5,654.00. The Bishop of Charleston came to preach at the dedication and offer the first Mass in the church on the Feast of St. Anne, July 26th, 1858. The tiny mission began to flourish from the start. Twenty-seven converts were received into the church before the Civil War came on and forced the members to flee. The building became the barracks of soldiers. The furnishings were stolen or auctioned among them. The church fell into disrepair from lack of use in several years. Later, through the efforts of Father John Rilly, pastor of St. Paul's Church in New Bern, N.C., the mission of St. Anne's was revived and restored. Through the generosity of the Wozelka family, who had moved to Edenton around 1878, the building was

repaired and the present windows were installed. In 1937 Bishop McGuinness appointed Father Edward Gross first resident Pastor of St. Anne's. The parish had grown through the arrival of several new families. The McGuires, a most devout family, helped much to maintain the faith during the lean years before a priest could be spared for Edenton. The family having died out, they rest in peace in the churchyard cemetery. The Habit families also helped to swell the numbers and held on to their faith during those difficult years. The descendants of the Habit brothers are well known and respected in the town and still make up a large part of the resident congregation. When Father Gross came the rectory addition was added to the church. He was succeeded in turn by Father Arthur Racette, ather f. J. McCourt, Father John Beshel, Father F. Smith, Father C. Hill, Father M. Mulkern and Father J. Klaus, and Joseph Lash. Under the pastorate of Father Smith considerable improvements and repairs were made to the church. Present pastor is Robert L. Willsen.

The cornerstone of St. Anne's was laid on the Feast of St. Anne, July 26, 1857. Bishop Lynch of Charleston preached an eloquent sermon on the occasion to an audience composed mostly of Protestant friends and relatives of the few Catholics in the community. The girls continued their efforts and their prayers that God would Bless them with success. When the treasury ran low, they would kneel among the shavings and hand-made

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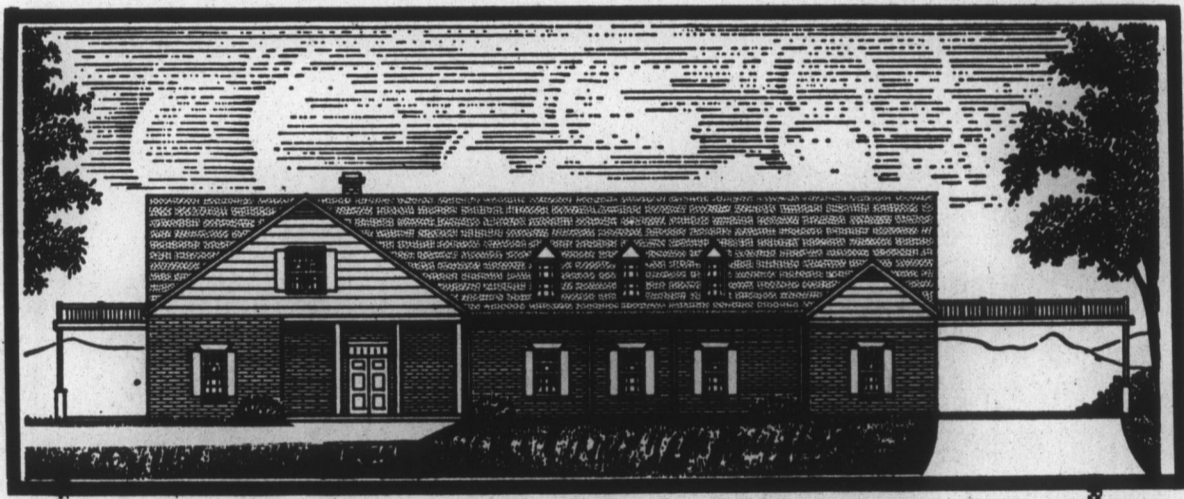
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