

The Spanish River Papers

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OLD CITY HALL, HOME OF BOCA RATON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jeanne Nixon Baur, Artist

A report to the membership of
Boca Raton Historical Society, Inc.

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The Reverend Henry Mizner

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN BOCA RATON

The Episcopal church has a long history in Boca Raton. First Episcopal services were probably held in 1926 when the Rev. Henry Mizner, Addison Mizner's older brother, arrived to take up residence in his Old Floresta house. These services in "St. Mary's Chapel," a temporary building donated by the Mizner Development Corporation, came to an end with the bust of the south Florida land boom. Although Addison dreamed of a great cathedral built in memory of "Mama" Mizner, there were not enough Episcopalians left in Boca Raton to support even a small church. In 1928 the Rev. Henry and his family moved to Paris and with their departure went the hope of establishing a permanent parish in the town.

Not until 1953 did the Episcopalians of Boca Raton feel their numbers once again justified attempting to establish a congregation. The ever increasing population of the city from the fifties has meant constant growth for the church. St. Gregory's first small group of communicants met in several temporary locations, but by 1956 were able to build a church. This first church became the parish hall when the new church, a completely contemporary structure, but with gentle echoes of the Gothic tradition in its arches, was built in 1966. As the city expanded westward St. Gregory's began services in the Chapel of St. Andrew's School. In just four short years the western congregation was large enough to form St. Andrew's parish. Thus today there are two Episcopal congregations in Boca Raton.

It might be mentioned that even though Addison Mizner's great cathedral dedicated to his mother's memory suffered the fate of so many boomtime plans, St. Gregory's Church did at one time have its own bishop. When the Rt. Rev. A. Ervine Swift retired as bishop of Puerto Rico he came to St. Gregory's as rector.

Material for this issue came from the archives of the Society, the scrapbooks of St. Gregory's Church, and the files of Howard McCall. Mrs. P. J. Brannen was particularly helpful in finding sources for this edition of The Spanish River Papers.

Donald W. Curl, Editor

Clipping from St. Louis newspaper, no date. From the archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, Christ Church Cathedral.

. . . After 30 years of church and social service work in St. Louis, the last 25 years in charge of St. Stephen's Episcopal Mission, 520 Rutger street, the Rev. Henry Watson Mizner has resigned and will move to Florida.

The resignation is effective June 1. The Rev. Mr. Mizner and his wife and daughter will take a vacation in Europe and then become residents of Boca Raton, Fla. A brother, Wilson Mizner, former Broadway playwright, is engaged in realty operations in Florida, and another brother, Addison Mizner, an architect, has done much work in that State.

During his rectorship at St. Stephen's, the Rev. Mizner has had the active assistance of his wife, the former Miss Margot Postlewaite, and it was there the romance started that culminated in their marriage in 1912. Their residence, now at 470 Lake avenue, was for years in St. Stephen's Parish house at 602 Rutger street.

. . . Henry Watson Mizner was educated at West Point and the General Theological Seminary. After being ordained, he held a pastorate at Palmyra, Mo., and was an assistant to the dean of Christ Church Cathedral before being assigned to St. Stephen's. At St. Stephen's he became acquainted with Miss Postlewaite, one of several young society women interested in social service.

Miss Postlewaite was the adopted daughter of Mrs. George A. Castleman, wealthy widow, of 3693 Lindell boulevard. The marriage was a social event. When Mrs. Castleman died last Feb. 24 at the age of 70 she willed \$5000 to the Rev. Mr. Mizner, and to Mrs. Mizner, who had theretofore received a gift of stock, a lifetime income from \$5000 worth of bonds and 400 shares of Chicago Railway Equipment Co. stock.

At the Rutger street mission the Rev. Dr. Mizner conducted a free under-age kindergarten for poor children of the neighborhood and trade schools in which boys and girls were trained to earn a living. He also established St. Stephens-in-the-Hills, a summer camp near Allenton, Mo., where children of the poorer districts are taken for summer vacations. Retreats for church women also are conducted there.

St. Stephen's eventually became self-supporting, and in 1921 the Rev. Dr. Mizner was appointed to be its first rector. He also served as chaplain of the Episcopal Orphans' Home and a head of the Diocesan Board of Religious Education. He is 57 years old.

The new rector at St. Stephen's will be the Rev. Roy Rawson now assistant.

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Clipping from St. Louis newspaper, no date. From the archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, Christ Church Cathedral.

. . . The Rev. Henry Watson Mizner, who for 25 years was rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Mission, 520 Rutger street, died today in Paris, according to a cablegram received in St. Louis. He was 61 years old, and suffered a paralytic stroke recently. Burial will be in Paris.

The Rev. Mr. Mizner, up to his departure from the city four years ago, was one of the best-known clergymen of the Missouri

diocese. He was married in 1912 to Miss Margot Postlewaite, foster-daughter of Mrs. George A. Castleman, a leader in St. Louis society, and one of the daughters of the founder of the Rock Island Railroad. Mr. and Mrs. Mizner had one daughter, Alice.

Before their marriage, Miss Postlewaite lived at the Castleman residence, 2622 Lindell boulevard, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. George C. Mackay. She made her home, after marriage, in the surroundings of the mission, and engaged actively in settlement work with her husband.

Mr. Mizner was the son of Lansing Bond Mizner, who was Minister to Guatemala under President Harrison. An uncle was Brigadier-General Henry R. Mizner, U.S.A., and Mr. Mizner entered West Point and took a part of the course there before deciding to go into the ministry.

He was rector of the Episcopal church at Palmyra, Mo., and served on the staff of Christ Church Cathedral before he went to St. Stephen's in 1901. At the time of his departure from St. Stephen's in 1926, it was his plan to go abroad for a time, and then to locate in Florida.

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Letter to The Right Reverend Frederick F. Johnson from H.W. Mizner, May 28, 1926.

I have the honor hereby to signify to you my desire to be transferred from the Diocese of Missouri to the Diocese of South Florida, as my residence will be hereafter in the territory of that Diocese, and my work in Missouri ends June first of this year.

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Letter to The Rt. Rev. Cameron Mann from The Right Reverend Frederick F. Johnson, November 13, 1926.

On June 1, 1926, at his request, I gave the Rev. H.W. Mizner a Letter Dimissory to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of Southern Florida.

Canon 21, V (iii) provides that Letters Dimissory not presented within six months from the date of their transmission become wholly void.

Will you please let me know whether the Letter Dimissory in favor of the Rev. H.W. Mizner has been presented and accepted.

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Letter to Bishop Johnson from Cameron Mann, Bishop of South Florida, November 16, 1926.

I have not accepted the transfer of Rev. Mr. Mizner to the Diocese of South Florida. Our rule is not to accept the transfer of Clergy who do not come to take some definite parochial charge.

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Letter to The Rt. Rev. Cameron Mann from The Right Reverend Frederick F. Johnson, November 20, 1926.

Thank you for your letter of November 16, in which you inform me that you have not accepted the transfer of the Rev. H.W. Mizner. Mr. Mizner asked me for such a Letter when he left Missouri, telling me that he was going to Southern Florida. At his request, I issued the Letter. Of course, I needed to know what had become of it.

With every good wish, and asking you to kindly present my greetings to Mrs. Mann, I am, Yours faithfully.

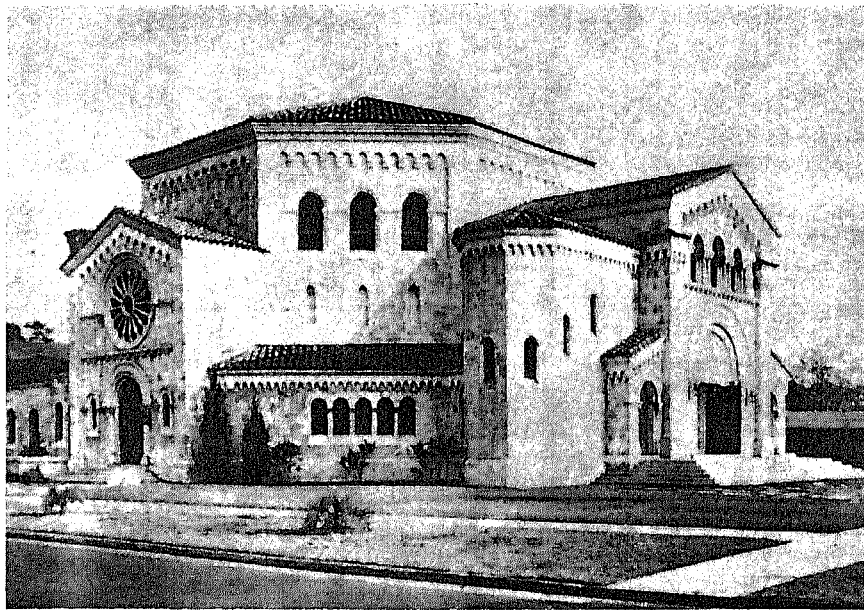
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Letter to The Rev. H.W. Mizner from The Right Reverend Frederick F. Johnson, January 27, 1927.

I have your letter of January 20. Acting under the provisions of Canon 21 of the General Church, Section iii and Section iv, the Bishop of South Florida returned to me your Letters Dimissory and they were filed in my office November 26, 1926.

I have sent to the Secretary of the Diocese of Missouri your record of official acts, June 1 to December 31, 1926, as reported to me in your letter of January 20, 1927.

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Riverside Baptist Church in Jacksonville. The only church which Addison Mizner designed, it perhaps gives some idea of what he planned for Boca Raton.

The following is from an article by Max Putzel, "The St. Stephen's Story," published by the Bulletin of the Missouri Historical Society (October 1953).

. . . The family that produced St. Stephen's best-known leader was so remarkable even in that colorful time that it would hardly be possible to tell about the man without including a few highlights of his background. One of his uncles was Governor of the Northwest Territory. Another, Robert Semple, helped drive the Mexicans out of California, started the first newspaper there, "purchased and paid for the site for a city on the Bay of San Francisco," and invited Henry's father, Major Lansing Bond Mizner, to join him in that land of unlimited improbabilities. Although only seventeen, the latter was already a veteran field officer of the Mexican War and a lawyer. He jumped at the opportunity to go West and didn't do badly there, although one of his sons called him "the best wrong guesser the world had probably ever produced," for he left San Francisco and moved to the state capital, a village known as Benicia, California.

That was where the Mizner boys grew up to be, one a priest, one a doctor, one a lawyer, one a mining engineer. Addison became an architect and built Palm Beach. And Wilson, the youngest, earned his way as a Barbary Coast singer, medicine show lecturer, fight manager for a heavy-weight champion and a trained bear, faro dealer, card sharper, Klondike sourdough, one of Broadway's successful playwrights and confidence men, and, as Damon Runyan once remarked, "the greatest man-about-town any town ever had."

The mother of this turbulent crew was the former Ella Watson of St. Louis. She left here after the fire of 1849 and the gold rush, lost her brother and nearly lost her life in a shipwreck on her way to California, and came to be known across the country as a heroic and altogether charming woman with a fabulous sense of humor. She accompanied Henry's father to Washington when he became a Senator, and to Central America, where she thrived on revolution and barely escaped several bombings while Mr. Mizner served as our Envoy Extraordinary to the five most violent little countries in the world.

"I thought at one time you would be presidents of the United States, bishops, and men of ability and respect," she told her numerous sons, when they grew up; "but, now the only ambition I have for you is to keep you out of State prison."

. . . Henry, who as a boy was regarded as "the neatest and most studious," seemed likely to justify at least one of her high-ambitions.

In his youth he couldn't decide whether or not to go into the church, as his mother, who had helped found St. Paul's Church in Benicia, hoped. He also thought of the Army. His father, who had received the surrender of a Mexican regiment when he was only a boy, got him into West Point. But just as he was about to graduate, Henry decided upon the ministry after all. Mr. Mizner had to see the President to get him released.

It is said that it was the example of the Reverend Louis Schuyler of St. Louis, who lost his life caring for the victims of a yellow

fever epidemic in Memphis, that decided Henry Mizner to become a priest. According to his close friend, Dr. John W. Higson, "He said more courage is displayed by a priest under these circumstances than was displayed by an officer leading soldiers in the field of battle." That was his attitude as he continued his studies at St. Stephen's College and General Theological Seminary. Then he reported to Bishop Tuttle in St. Louis to ask for "the hardest job in the diocese." After a short training period at Palmyra, Missouri, he was sent to St. Stephen's House in 1901.

The Biblical Stephen told his audience in Jerusalem that they were "stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears," and this feverish mixed metaphor caused them to stop their ears and they ran at him with one accord and put an end to his work as a disciple with stones. Father Mizner started his career in St. Louis with a reasonable expectation of serving as a target for less deadly missiles than those that caused the first Christian martyrdom. His predecessor told him that the neighborhood boys had a way of flinging decayed vegetables or "a cat which had departed this life" through the church windows on hot nights. But apparently Father Mizner, who was an imposing and athletic figure of a man, was not destined to dodge foreign objects of this kind. As Bishop William Scarlett said in writing about St. Stephen's to a Baltimore clergyman, Mizner "ruled that area with a rod of iron! He was wonderful."

In another letter to the same rector, "Believe me, he was a martinet," the Bishop wrote, "and the parishioners obeyed him in precise fashion." But if Father Mizner seemed a stern man and a hard disciplinarian to others, he was certainly harder on himself. More prosperous livings were offered to him again and again during the next twenty-nine years. He turned down not one but several bishoprics--which must have exasperated his much tried mother. As a matter of fact, the job he had undertaken, and stuck to until his death, cost him more than these honors or the knowledge of his mother's disappointment.

Father Mizner's worldly brother Addison gives perhaps the best insight into the character of the rector. He tells of meeting him in 1907 and being afraid he would shock him by something he might say. But Henry "was on to me," Addison writes. "He could be very witty and funny without being profane . . . , which more or less awed me, but he never minded what anyone else said, as long as you didn't drag in the Holy Family. He was a peach and I began to realize what a wonderful work he had been doing . . . at last one Mizner had accomplished something."

Father Mizner bought four houses across Sixth Street to accommodate his growing staff, many of whom later went on to become nationally prominent in various fields. A few names stand out: Sister Anne Skinker, who devoted her life to St. Stephen's House; Roger Baldwin, who served for years as executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union--after serving a spell in jail as a result of his pacifist activities in St. Louis; George A. Randolph of the Grove Laboratories, who became a leading conservationist in Virginia; the Rev. Henry Nelson O'Connor, now Rector of St. Luke's in Baltimore; Fritz von Windegger, who became board chairman of the Plaza Bank of St. Louis; Elmer Woeldike, now comptroller of the York Corporation, a pioneer in air conditioning; Charles Steinbauer, a district sales manager of the Ralston Purina Company and a former member of the Missouri Diocesan Council;

the Reverend W.W.S. Hohenschild, St. Louis pastor prominent in various civic undertakings including the People's Art Center, of which he is president. The Reverend Karl E. Tiedemann, now a well-known writer and church leader in Santa Barbara, California, played the organ at St. Stephen's.

. . . . Father Mizner clearly had the ability to make people of the humblest background at home in the atmosphere of special cultural values and social ease with which he surrounded himself. He would leave a dinner party to hurry to the bedside of a parishioner in the slums, and thought of himself as always on call.

A lighter side of his interest was in athletics. In 1907 we find him writing to Mayor Rolla Wells to get permission for his track squad "to train at running on the public streets in running costumes." A police captain was asked to investigate and found that eighteen young men planned to run from Grand Avenue to Sixth and Rutger Streets three times a week. A captain recommended "that no permit be given as in my judgment I believe that the same will cause such attraction as to cause accidents and disturbances" Presumably the sight of a running costume would scare the horses, to say nothing of the pedestrians.

There are many other small traces of Father Mizner's personality both in St. Stephen's House and at St. Stephen's-in-the-Hills, the summer camp he established for his parishioners at Allenton, Missouri, where his mother built a cottage and often spent summers with him and his parish children. Perhaps the most characteristic souvenir is the chapel at this camp, a rustic shrine with one entire wall hung like a barn door on rollers, so that it can be pushed aside to reveal the woods above the Meramec. The river is seen almost directly below the open partition on the opposite side.

There are a number of anecdotes about the effect of this lack of confinement on a youthful congregation. Animals regularly get into the chapel and Father Mizner would not allow even mice or insects to be expelled, preaching that the right of sanctuary was essential to the spirit of his church. Nowadays neighborhood dogs and babies still creep into the chapel during services, and it is considered bad form to reprimand them if they shout or bark during service. If they come to the rail during communion they generally get a blessing, if they will hold still for it.

Some recent visitors to St. Stephen's-in-the-Hills were a little taken aback, however, to discover that the rustic baptismal font concealed under its bark cover a nest of fire extinguishers for use in case of secular emergency, together with remains of what must have been a field mouse's nest.

The camp at Allenton represents one of Father Mizner's big services to St. Stephen's in the day when he was a popular member of St. Louis society. He knew everyone, and he could usually manage to raise money for any cause, like the camp, on which he had set his heart. Other churches saw this as a threat. Ten leading ministers in the neighborhood joined in attacking such works in biting terms in a pamphlet published in 1911. Although St. Stephen's is not mentioned by name, it was clearly the chief target. "With immense sums of money at their command, and large forces of men and women working with a zeal that would be admirable in another cause," they wrote, and bitterly condemned the kind of settlement

work which, a few years later, they found it necessary to take up themselves. Father Mizner put the pamphlet away as a keepsake.

. . . In line with the earliest tradition of the church, Father Mizner believed in marriage for the clergy, and for himself. He fell in love soon after arriving in St. Louis. According to his brother Addison, whose chronological recollection is not to be trusted too far, "He had been engaged to Margaret Postelwaite for fourteen years and because he wouldn't give up his mission and come uptown to be a fashionable clergyman and be elected bishop, her aunt, Mrs. Castelman, opposed the marriage. I met the old girl [Mrs. Castelman] only for a moment, the day before the wedding, and I don't think I ever took such an instantaneous dislike to anyone in my life.

"At the ceremony, which was in the cathedral, I was to give Mrs. 'C.' my arm after the knot was tied and we were to walk down the aisle together. In the chancel, she made some dirty crack about Henry and we started a fight that lasted until I cut it short by slamming the car door on it . . . Mother was devoted to Margot and it didn't take me long to love her also."

That was in 1913. Seven years later Margot Alice Mizner, who had been a pampered debutante, was one of the 107 communicants who signed St. Stephen's petition for incorporation as a parish. Its status as a mission no longer described the kind of fellowship it had become. There were settled families who had lived around the French Market for a long time. Its youngsters were growing up and getting jobs that took them to every corner of the country and the world. There was a more or less stable community, constantly being diminished by this, and constantly being augmented by the dispossessed and the drifters who came to live where it was cheapest.

St. Stephen's Parish was admitted to the Diocese by Bishop Tuttle in January, 1907. Since that time the people of the neighborhood have taken a large share in handling their own affairs and making church decisions. When Father Mizner's health failed and he had to give up the rectory, he started a mission in Florida. He suffered a paralytic stroke in 1928, and his doctor ordered him to go abroad. Living in Paris the last two years of his life, he must have felt satisfied that he had done well by his flock. He died there on July 8, 1930, while preparing to take a trip to the mountains, having survived his delightful mother and most of the "many Mizners" she had sent forth to conquer a startled world.

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A History of St. Gregory's Church, 1960 --

St. Gregory's was incorporated in December 1953. The first services were held in the Lions Club December 13, 1953. The facilities to permit services had to be prepared by the faithful members of the Mission, involving clean-up janitor services after the Saturday night activity of the membership of the Lions Club. Moreover an improvised and hinged construction of an Altar was used in order that the equipment for the proper conduct of worship could be stored away after the services.

St. Gregory's continued these services for three months, when they moved to the Garden Apartments in March 1954. These facilities, including the utilities were offered gratuitously by the benevolent owners. Approximately eighteen months later, in October 1955, the services were transferred to the Air Field and continued there until the present Church Building was made available in the summer of 1956. The first services in these new and present quarters were held on the first Sunday in September 1956.

Much credit must be given to the faithful and devoted persons who worked diligently for the foundation of St. Gregory's. There were no finances available; in fact an expression was made "there was not enough money to provide a candle". For this early development, also, the people of St. Gregory's are deeply indebted for the courageous and self sacrificing effort of Father Closson. He served in those early days without salary, being recompensed only on some occasions with expense for travel from Delray.

Ill health and the advancing age of The Rev. E. R. Closson prompted his resignation as Vicar of St. Gregory's Mission in 1956. The Rt. Rev. Henry I. Loutitt D. D., Bishop of South Florida, appointed The Rev. James C. Stoutsenberger, Vicar of St. Gregory's Mission, and he assumed his charge September 1, 1956.

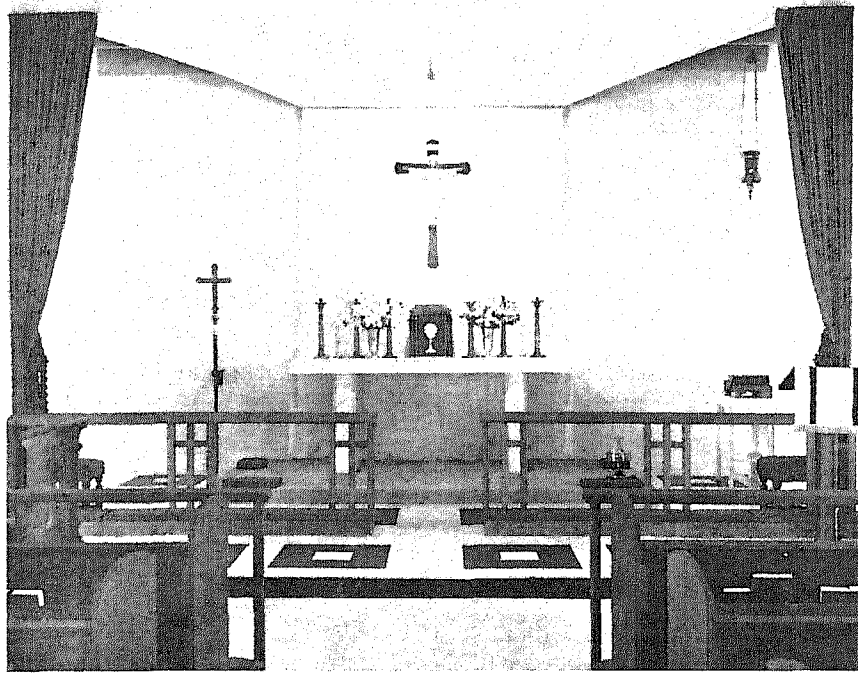
The accelerated progress of the past several years is well known and it was the concensus of the congregation and the appointed Bishop's Committee in January 1960, that we should make application to the Bishop for acceptance to the Diocese of South Florida for self-supporting Parish status.

The 38th annual Convention of the Diocese in session at Miami, Florida, May 17-19, 1960 certified that the requirements for the admission of St. Gregory's had been duly and properly fulfilled. We were by the orderly action of the Convention admitted as a Parish in Union with the Diocese.

On the First Sunday after Trinity, June 19, 1960, the special "Service of Institution" was held in the Church. The Institutor, The Rev. Canon William L. Hargrave, Canon Actuary of the Diocese of South Florida, acting for the Bishop, conducted this service and instituted The Rev. James C. Stoutsenberger as the first Rector of St. Gregory's Church.

Our position today is the direct result of the faithful devotion and the sincere, humble prayers of those to whom we express our most sincere thanks and gracious appreciation.

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The Altar of St. Gregory's Church when services were conducted in what is now the parish hall. Many of the Altar items are now used in St. Mary's Chapel in the main church.

The first meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of St. Gregory's Church was held at the home of Mrs. Charles Fracker, December 14, 1953. An election of officers was held as follows: Mrs. Thomas Jamison, Pres., Mrs. Charles Fracker, Vice-Pres., Mrs. Bernard Turner, Sec. and Treas.

It was decided to meet weekly for awhile so that we could sew on altar linens and vestments, combining the Aux. and Altar Guild. Mrs. Harold Turner was appointed our Directress for Altar Guild. There were six present at this meeting.

As to date, we have completed vestments for three acolytes and the required altar linens. We have had four successful fund raising projects, one card party, two rummage sales and bake sale.

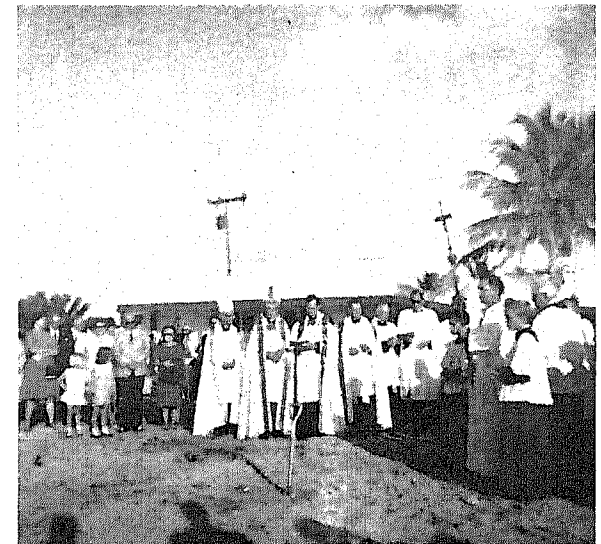
Adequate rooms in a former Gov. bldg. was offered St. Gregory's for use as Chapel, sacristy and Vicar's study, and Guild Room. The Auxiliary and Bishops Com. held a mop up, paint up, party and our first service was held ten days later. The Aux. contributed a substantial sum toward the renovation of the building.

Following the mid-week Communion service, the Aux. meets to sew for Bazaar which is to be held Dec. 5th.

Proceeds from the fund raising projects for four months total \$649.37 to 4/19/54.

Our Auxiliary has increased to membership of fifteen.

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Groundbreaking Ceremonies for the new St. Gregory's Church, January 1966.



Letter to Mrs. P. J. Brannen, Jr. from Mrs. Marcia G. Closson, April 1980.

Enclosed are two pictures which I hope will help the Special Gifts and Memorials Committee. I hope, you all, have a complete list of Gifts from 1953 on. The first gifts were given in memory of loved ones at a great sacrifice to the givers. St. Gregory's started with nothing. The first service and many more had to use borrowed--vinegar cruets--butter dish, a heirloom chalice from the Christian Church, etc. etc., even the linen was borrowed.

. . . The group picture is the ground breaking ceremony for the Parish Hall in the spring of 1956. This was the first St. Gregory's Church building. Father Clossan, Bishop B. F. P. Ivins, deceased (retired Bishop of Milwaukee) and Harold Turner (first warden) are holding the "golden shovel." The rest of the first vestery members are in the picture. Mr. Charles Fracker (treasurer) Bernard Turner (Jr. Warden) I recognize. The other vestery members were Henry Green (secretary), David Oliver (assistant treasurer), J. Stuart Robertson and Arthur Waterfall. The dark haired man, to the right of the picture, I believe gave us the land. He was Jewish and a friend of Harold Turner's. . . .

The other picture of Father Closson is our first confirmation, the little girl is Roberta? . In my album of Earle's career, I have a complete picture of the first confirmation class. Six children and two adults. I thought it might be interesting to look up on the records for their names, maybe Roberta's last name, and find out if some still belong to St. Gregory's.

When I look at these old pictures, I wish we had written names, dates and more information.

Around 1975-76, I gave a talk and two memory albums to the E.C. W. It was a more or less complete history from December 1953 until Father Closson's retirement - - how St. Gregory grew. I do hope these albums are part of your collections.

I have happy memories of these times and the wonderful people who worked so hard to make St. Gregory's Church possible. I do hope these pictures and my memories and remarks are of help. . . .



Boca Raton News, October 4, 1962

'Father Jim' Will Officiate At Last Services in Boca

Rev. James C. Stoutsenberger, rector of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church and priest-in-charge for over five years, will say his last services in the church Sunday.

Father Stoutsenberger will be celebrant at all three Eucharists and will preach at the 11 o'clock service.

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Boca Raton will start on its winter schedule of services Sunday. Registration for Sunday School will take place at the conclusion of the 9 a.m. Family Eucharist.

At the late celebration of the Eucharist, Father Stoutsenberger will bless a set of eucharistic vestments given by friends and members of the family of the late Lewis Simmonds and Charles Allen of Boca Raton.

Also, a new wall type of sanctuary lamp will be dedicated by the rector as a memorial of thanksgiving for his five years as pastor of the Episcopal congregation in the Boca Raton area.

The new sanctuary lamp has been given to the Church by Mrs. William O'Donnell and Mrs. Thomas Jamison.

Weekday services will not be announced till a new rector has been secured and notice of the schedule has been circulated.

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Boca Raton News, December 27, 1962

New Rector to Begin Duties Sunday at St. Gregory's Church

The Rev. R. Bruce Ryan will begin his duties Sunday as the rector of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church here.

Father Ryan, who has been vicar of St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Youngsville, Penn., since February, 1959, was scheduled to arrive today in Boca Raton. He also served during that period as chaplain to Episcopal patients at the Warren State Hospital, diocesan youth advisor of Erie, a member of the Diocesan department of Christian Education, a member of the executive council of the Diocese of Erie and a member of the planning commission of the Diocesan Conference Center.

Prior to assuming his duties in Youngsville, Father Ryan served two and a half years as curate at Trinity Memorial Church in Warren, Penn.

Father Ryan graduated in 1953 from Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Ill., and completed his studies at Seabury Western Seminary in 1956.

Father Ryan is married to the former Constance Peck of New Castle, Penn. They have three children: Michael, 5; Anne, 3, and Joan, age one.

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From the Boca Raton News, September 24, 1968. The Rt. Rev. A. Ervine Swift came to Boca Raton in January 1967 as the third rector and fourth priest-in-charge of St. Gregory's church. The following is taken from an interview with Mrs. Swift.

... "Speaking of China," she went on to say, "Did you know that my husband and I were married in China?" "We were married while he was serving in his first mission and I was teaching math at the International School in Shanghai. This was during the Japanese occupation of China, but because we were in the International City, they didn't bother us. We could see the bombs bursting in the harbor at times though," she added.

"We were there between the years of 1937 and 1940. Then I was sent home. My husband followed me on the last Japanese ship out of China bound for America. He almost wasn't allowed to disembark because an embargo had already been placed on Japanese goods and there was over a million dollars worth of goods on that ship, but the government finally allowed the passengers off," Mrs. Swift remembered.

After the war, the Swifts went to the Philippines. They were there from 1948 thru 1951 and it was there, she said that her husband was elevated to Bishop.

The next fourteen years were spent in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands which her husband served as Bishop

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Clipping, probably from the Boca Raton News, from St. Gregory's scrapbook.

St. Gregory's gets rector

Parishioners of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church welcomed the Reverend Robert William Switz as their new rector at a recent reception held in the Parish Hall. Mr. Switz comes to St. Gregory's from the church of the Holy Sacrament in West Hollywood where he served as Vicar for the past four years.

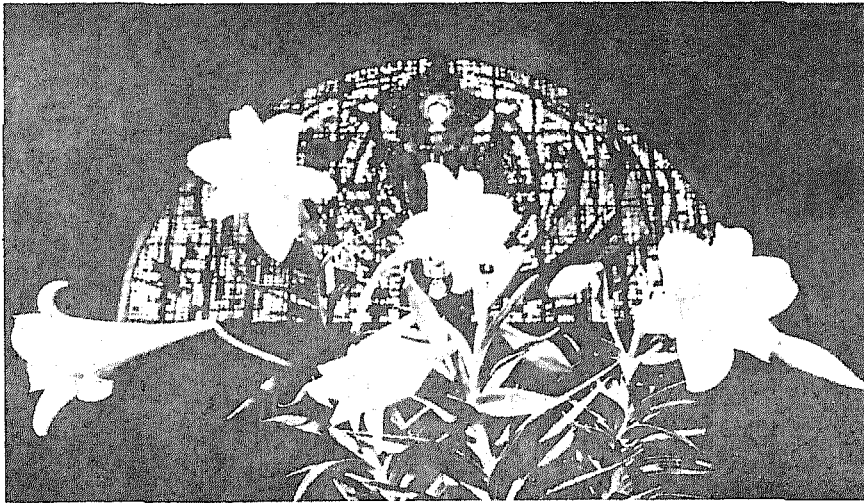
A graduate of Villanova University with a BS in Economics, Fr. Switz did graduate work at St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia and received a Master of Divinity degree in Theology from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va. With additional training at the Avon Park (Fla.) Center for Alcoholics, Fr. Switz was ordained a Deacon and then a Priest in the Episcopal Church.

Beginning his ministry as Canon at Trinity Cathedral, Miami, he served as Institutional Chaplain for the Diocese of South Florida. His other duties included acting as Episcopalian Chaplain to the inmates of Florida State Mental Hospital and he has great concern for the Alcoholic and Suicide. He is, at present, Chaplain to the US Army Reserve 841st Engineer Battalion, Miami.

Fr. Switz with his family: wife, Sue, son Robert, 14, daughters Deborah, 12, and Sarah, 9, has taken up residency in the Rectory on N. E. Second Street adjoining the church.

Fr. Switz hopes to develop a "family style ministry" in the church.

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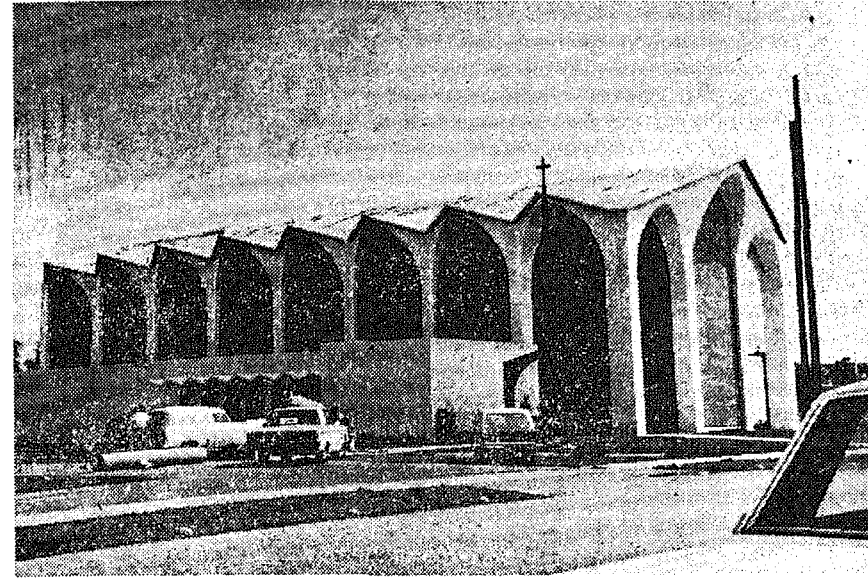


*The Willet Stained Glass Studios, Philadelphia, to Howard McCall, AIA
31 January 1966.*

It was most enjoyable meeting you and Father Ryan last week and I appreciate the opportunity to be able to submit our suggestions for the great East window. If this meets with approval, we can work on the Baptistery window.

The lumiere is developing quite well and I feel it will be ready to send to you by this Friday or next Monday. I will mail it air mail so it should arrive the next day.

The cost of the window as design has developed executed in epoxy resin matrix and one inch dalles will not exceed \$20,000 including complete installation. I am hope it can be brought down to \$19,500 or lower. There is no 30% duty and of course, no agents to pay, so I believe our costs will be lower than imported windows.



The new St. Gregory's Church. The spire was left on the ground in the front of the church until it "weathered." This process turned the special metal a dark brown and left a hard finish which never requires painting.

*Carl Moser Studios, Inc., New York, to Architectural Marble Co,
15 June 1966.*

We have been advised by Mr. Howard E. McCall that you will pick up, deliver and install the marble altar and font, which we are importing for St. Gregory's Church, Boca Raton, Florida, on your own account.

We have advised our broker to forward the clearance papers to you directly, but should we get them, we will forward them to you.

For your information: The altar is one piece, of Botticino marble,
5' 0" x 5' 0" x 3' 3"
The Baptisma font, same marble,
3' 0" x 2' 0" x 2' 0"

The shipping weight of the two cases as declared on the boat bill of lading is 11,000 Lbs.

The approximate due date of the boat at Fort Everglades is June 19, 1966 and will take approximately one week for clearance or less.

Article, probably from the Boca Raton News, c. November 1966

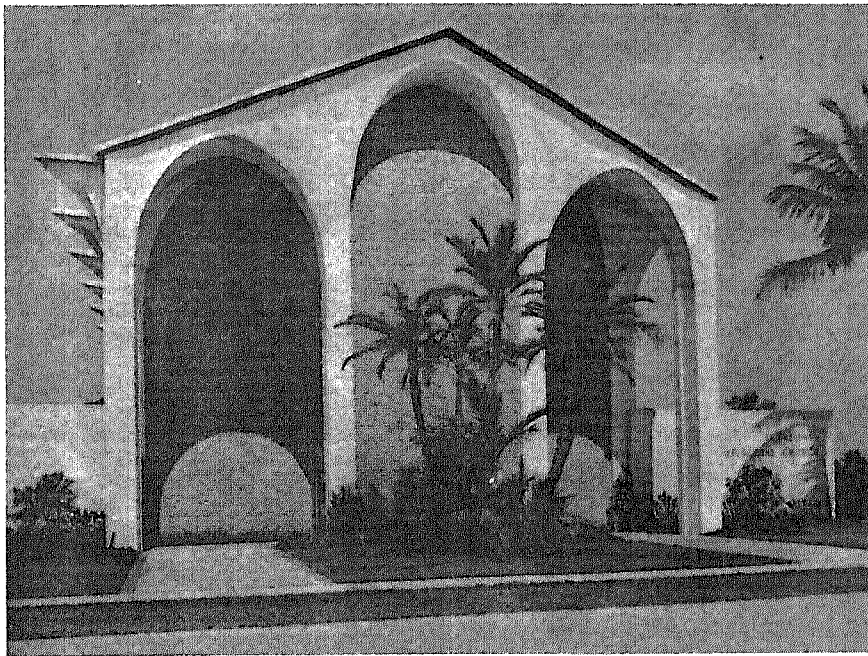
"Rt. Rev. Duncan Will Dedicate St. Gregory's New Church"

Rt. Rev. James L. Duncan, suffragan bishop for the Episcopal diocese of South Florida, will dedicate and bless St. Gregory's new Church Sunday [Advent Sunday, 27 November 1966].

The dedication will be held at 7:30 p.m. First services will be held in the new church Sunday. Episcopal clergy and clergymen from the area protestant churches will attend the ceremony.

The church was established in Boca Raton 12 years ago. Services were first held in the parish hall, then in 1956 a sanctuary was built. During the past four years, the church has acquired additional land, a new rectory, parking lot and finally, a new church.

"The people in the community have responded very well to our building campaign," Rev. R. Bruce Ryan said. The new church features Bottichino marble on the altar and front [sic], and a shrine to St. Gregory the Great, painted by Leonard Lane. "Most of the work in the church was done by local artists," Father Ryan added. Architect for the church, which cost approximately \$250,000, is Howard McCall. Contractor is George Snow.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December, 1953 - St. Gregory's Mission incorporated. The Reverend Earle R. Closson as first vicar.

September, 1956 - First services held in our own building, which now serves as parish hall.

September, 1957 - The Reverend James R. Stoutsenberger assumed duties as our second vicar.

1960 - We gained parish status with Father Stoutsenberger continuing as rector.

December, 1962 - The Reverend R. Bruce Ryan assumed duties as rector.

January, 1966 - Groundbreaking for the present church designed by Howard McCall, AIA.

November 27, 1966 - First service in our new sanctuary.

January, 1967 - The Right Reverend A. Ervine Swift assumed duties as rector.

September, 1974 - The Reverend Robert W. Switz accepted our call to be rector of St. Gregory's.

July, 1974 - Completion of phase one of columbarium, St. Gregory's Memorial Garden.*

September, 1975 - First service of the parish in St. Andrew's Chapel for families living in west Boca Raton.

Ash Wednesday, 1978 - Construction of addition to church was begun, Howard McCall, architect.

Thanksgiving, 1978 - Dedication of completed addition comprised of St. Mary's Chapel, new sacristies, south transept and classrooms and completion of columbarium.

September, 1979 - St. Andrews became an independent congregation.

March, 1981 - The Reverend George Price assumed duties as rector.

*The columbarium is a sepulchral vault with niches in the walls to receive the ashes of the deceased. The walls are constructed of brick and imported Italian marble. Each niche has an inscribed marble plate identifying the deceased. The columbarium is located on the north and south sides of the church with single or double niches available. Marble benches are provided for loved ones to rest and meditate. . . .

Article, probably from the Boca Raton News, c. September 1962.

"New Prep School Opens With Ceremonies Sat."

Chapel services conducted by the Rt. Rev. James Duncan of Miami, suffragan bishop of the Episcopal diocese of South Florida, will climax opening ceremonies of Saint Andrew's School of Boca Raton Saturday.

According to the Rev. Hunter Wyatt-Brown, headmaster of the Episcopal preparatory school for boys, a swimming exhibition at 3 p.m. in the campus pool is the first event on the program. This will be followed by a one-set tennis exhibition. Invited artists will participate in both sports activities.

A meeting of the Committee of Founders will follow the athletic events. Membership in the committee, which is composed of those whose generosity and gifts of time and service have founded the school, will be closed at this meeting.

Bishop Duncan, newly appointed to this area, will begin chapel services at 5:30, for blessing the school and dedicating it to the high ideals of its institution. A light buffet supper for students and their parents, faculty and founders will follow the service.

The students, who will have registered for classes the day before, will attend orientation classes Saturday morning.

The public may attend the ceremonies and tour the campus. One hundred twenty-two boys, some of whom are from such distant places as Rio de Janeiro, Lima and British Honduras, are among Saint Andrew's student body. There are 15 members of the teaching faculty in addition to the administrative personnel.

The prep school's architecture is Bahamian Colonial and its present facilities consist of two dormitories, administration and classroom building, dining hall, chapel (a chickee built by Seminole Indians), 14 faculty houses and apartments, athletics building, a large swimming pool and four tennis courts.

Saint Andrew's is located between Military Trail and the Sunshine State Parkway off University Boulevard (State Road 808) on a 50-acre campus donated by Arvida Corporation and the Butts family of Boca Raton.

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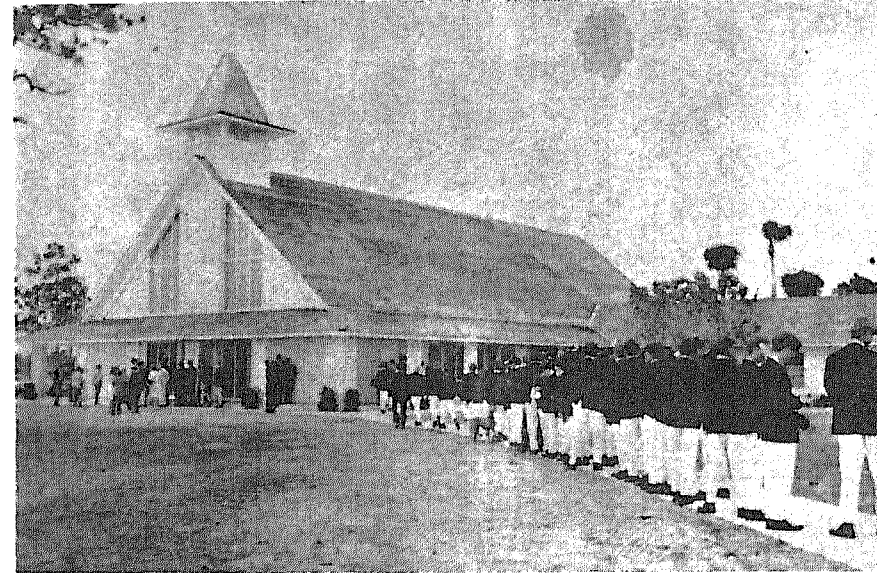
Unidentified clipping from St. Gregory's scrapbook.

"Thatched Chapel Highlights School"

A New York Yankee suggested the native Florida touch for St. Andrew's Episcopal Boy's School. The Rev. Raymond M. O'Brien suggested a thatched roof chickee chapel as a contrast to the handsome new Bermuda-style buildings for the boy's preparatory school scheduled to open in September.

"A chickee is indigenous to Florida--it will look as though it grew right here," Rev. O'Brien told Headmaster Hunter Wyatt-Brown while lunching at a local restaurant which has a thatched palm roof. ... "We have an Episcopal mission in Florida to the Seminoles," added Rev. O'Brien, "they could build it for us."

However, the men found Johnny Tucker at the Dania Indian Reservation was tops in this field. So with Richard Meyer, athletic instructor for the school, directing the operation, Tucker and his men completed the nativestyled chickee chapel....



The dedication of the new Chapel of Saint Andrew the Apostle in April 1967.

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