ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

Nomination Form

Added 10/1/97

1. Name				
historic St. I	Luke's Church			
and/or commo	on St. Francis at the Poir	nt Church Traditional Prote	estant Episcopal Chu	rch
2. Location street & numb city, town Postate Alabar	er Alabama Scenic Rou oint Clear	Clear Post Office, which is the 98 at Confederate Rest vicinity of county Baldwin	Drive	zip 36564-0916
3. Classific	eation			
Categorydistrict _x_building(s)structuresiteobject	Ownershippublic _x_privateboth Public Acquisitionin processbeing considered	Status _x_occupiedunoccupiedwork in progress Accessibleyes: restrictedyes: unrestrictedno	Present Useagriculturecommercialeducationalentertainmentgovernmentindustrialmilitary	museumparkprivate residence _x_religiousscientifictransportationother:
name St.Franc	of Property sis at the Point Traditional per P.O. Box 916	Protestant Episcopal Chur	rch Phone nur	mber 334-928-1255
city, town P	oint Clear	vicinity of		zip 36564-0916

5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

Attached

6. Description	(See attached instruction	s for specific guidelines	.)	
Condition _x_excellentgoodfair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered _x_altered	Check one _x_original sitemoved date	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

St. Luke's/St. Francis at the Point Church is a one-story, frame with clapboard, gable-front building dating from 1898 and depicting a late vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style. Elements of the style appear in the steeply pitched-front facing gables, the wood shingles in the gable ends, and the pointed-arched windows of the nave. The building faces west on Alabama Scenic Highway 98, at the northeast corner of its intersection with Confederate Rest Drive, Point Clear, Baldwin County. The nominated property includes the original 0.7 acres on which the church is located. Adjacent to the church on the north and located on 2 acres of property acquired in 1987 from the Mariott Grand Hotel is a Parish House, a frame structure dating from 1994. The two buildings are joined by concrete walkways and accessible by a curved drive off of Highway 98. Parking is located along the drive, at the north end of the Parish House, and on the south side of the church at Confederate Rest Drive. Live oak trees and azalea bushes provide a tranquil setting for randomly placed garden statuary, while foundation and border plantings ornament the buildings and walkways.

Constructed in 1898, the church originally consisted of a simple L plan, with a large rectangular space containing the nave/chancel and a rear L forming the sacristy. Entrance was through double doors that were minimally protected by a small gabled stoop. Buttresses were located at each corner (except the NW which was supported by the sacristy) and at the midpoint of each side of the building. In 1927, the porch was extended across the full width, and a single leaf door, featuring two pointed-arch upper panels over two rectangular lower panels, replaced the original double doors. (It possibly was one of the original doors). Two square posts supported the porch, while simple side rails and wood shingles provided ornament. Later, in 1957, when Mrs. Ben F. Hamel converted the building to a gift shop, an office and rest room were added onto the sacristy area at the rear of the building. An original window, formerly located on the north side of the sacristy, was utilized on the north wall of the addition. Other doors and windows used in the addition are modern. Finally, the most recent alteration was made in 1984, when the Traditional Episcopal Church enclosed the front porch to form an anterior area containing a narthex, an organ, and a storage closet. The original buttresses at the front corners determined the plane of the side exterior walls of the addition, resulting in the unusual sloped effect. Later, in 1995, a smaller front gabled porch, reminiscent of the original, was added to protect the entrance. The 1927 door was utilized in the renovation, and the decorative wood shingles, porch rail, and spindle frieze recalled the ornamentation of the original facade.

The building rests on a concrete block foundation extending 24" off the ground. Operable foundation grates provide ventilation. Exterior walls appear to be original clapboard but likely consist of some replacement boards used to repair damage incurred from a 1917 hurricane. Nave windows (four on the south and three on the north) are clear glass and consist of double hung sashes, with a 3-lite Gothic-arched upper sash over two vertical rectangular lower lites. Other windows are located in the rear L and include an original 1/1 sash relocated on the north wall of the addition, a modern 16-lite casement window on the west side of the addition, and a small modern window on the east. Exterior doors include the 4-panel Gothic style front entrance and a modern six-panel door on the north wall of the sacristy. Roofing is steeply pitched multi-gabled and is covered with asphalt shingles. A Celtic cross which originally adorned the structure again ornaments the peak of the front gable of the nave roof. There are no chimneys visible on the exterior.

The interior of the wood frame structure is painted white and contains the original 1x6 wood floors and beaded tongue and groove walls and ceiling. Floors are carpeted in the heavy traffic areas of the narthex/nave/chancel and covered with vinyl in the sacristy/office. Molded trim is used at the ceiling and base of the walls, a wainscoting and chair rail on the lower wall, and simple casings around the doors and windows. The ceiling is vaulted and features a slender rectangular tongue and groove panel stretching the length of the nave and enhancing its linearity. Two brass chandeliers and a modern spotlight are located along the center ceiling panel. Entrance to the building leads to the small narthex containing a louvered closet across the north wall and an organ at the south end. The original baptismal and an original electrified gas chandelier are relocated in the narthex. Three symmetrically placed cased openings lead into the nave. In the nave, a center aisle separates two rows of box-like stained wood pews and kneelers, with seven pews per row providing seating for 56 worshipers. Five of the pews are original and are made of cypress, while the remainder were taken from the Admiral Semmes Hotel in Mobile during the 1984 renovation project. The chancel area is raised one step above the nave and separated from it by a painted spindle-post communion rail, with a small gate leading from the center aisle to the altar. The altar dates from the 1984 renovation, though it was constructed in a style similar to the original. A small podium and communion stand are located on either side of the altar. A large wooden cross hangs above the altar on the east wall and provides the interior focal point. A modern door leads from the chancel into the sacristy and thence to a small office and rest room facility which were added in 1954. Heating and cooling are provided by a central unit which was added in 1991. The system was installed in the foundation crawl space, with air vents located along the baseboards of the building and in the upper portion of the east wall of the nave. Original heating was provided by a wood-burning stove.

Plans for future alteration include construction of a covered walkway between the Sacristy and Parish House and possibly the relocation of the original window from the north to the west wall of the sacristy, as well as the possible replacement of the modern interior door between the chancel and sacristy with a Gothic style paneled door. Interested church members are seeking advice regarding their renovation plans.

7. Significance (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

Period prehistoric	Areas of Significance-Ch archeology-prehistoric	neck and justify below community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1799	x_architecture	education	military	social/
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
x_1800-1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater
1900-	communications	industry	politics/government	other (specify)

Specific dates 1898 Builder/Architect John de Silvey

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph).

The St. Luke's/St. Frances at the Point Church is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage under Criterion C, in the area of architecture. The building depicts a fine example of a late-period vernacular Gothic Revival style church. Its nineteenth century styling and construction are treasured by the community, and it is additionally important in being the first Episcopal church (as well as one of the first churches of any denomination) constructed on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay.

Historical Summary:

The congregation of the original occupant and owner of the building (St. Luke's Church) was formed in 1896. The land was donated and the church building erected in 1898, remaining active as such until 1947. During World War II, the congregation diminished and the building was vacant from 1947-1956. In 1956, it was deconsecrated and its interior disassembled. The following year the building was sold by the Diocese to Mrs. Ben F. Hamel, who utilized it as a gift and antique shop. Mrs. Hamel enlarged the sacristy area to provide an office and rest room facility. Finally, the Traditional Protestant Episcopal Church acquired the property and consecrated it for religious services beginning on November 29, 1984. During this period, the porch assumed its current appearance, and interior was restored or reconstructed as close to the original as possible. The current congregation is increasingly active as a parish.

See attached article on St. Luke's Church (Florence Dolive Scott, 1971) for additional details.

8. Major Bibliographical References
"Baldwin Edition", Mobile Press Register: March 12, 1978.
Baldwin Press Register: March 19, 1990.
Easter Shore Courier: October 31, 1984.
Ledgers of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Now located in St. James Episcopal Church, Fairhope, Alabama.
Morley, Dr. Charles. Minister, St. Francis at the Point Church. 334-928-1255.
Rowe, Ann. Member, St. Francis at the Point Church. 334-344-3735.
Scott, Florence Dolive. <u>Battles Wharf and Point Clear</u> . Mobile, Alabama: Gulf States Engraving Company, 1971.
Slater, Sarah. Member, St. Francis at the Point Church. 334-928-7413
9. Geographical Data
1
Acreage of nominated property0.7 acres Quadrangle name
Quadrangle name
Attached.
10. Form Prepared By Sally Moore (AHC) and
name/title Sara Slater
organization St. Francis at the Point Traditional Protestant Episcopal Church date October 1, 1997
street & number 204 South Mobile Street, Apt. 102 telephone 334-928-7413
city or town Fairhope state AL zip 36532
11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.
Color slides are essential to the review process.

Alabama Register Coordinator Alabama Historical Commission 468 South Perry Street Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form and documentation to:

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

Nomination Form

1. Name				
historic	ST. LUKE'S CHUR	CH		
and/or commo	n ST. FRANCIS AT	THE POINT TRADIT	IONAL PROTESTAN	T EPISCOPAL CHURC
or	ST. FRANCIS AT TH	E POINT CHURCH		
2. Location	1			
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state WHICH	The state of the s	county INTERSI	ECTION OF STATE	zipROADS 32 AND
3. Classific	ation			
Category district	Ownership public	Status x_occupied	Present Use agriculture	museum
X_building(s)structure	X privateboth	unoccupied work in progress	commercialeducational	park private residence _x_religious scientific
site object	Public Acquisitionin process	Accessible x yes: restricted	entertainment government	
	being considered	yes: unrestricted no	industrial military	transportation other:
4. Owner o	of Property ST. FRA	NCIS AT THE POIN		ROTESTANT
	COPAL CHURCH		Phone num	ber344-928-1255
street & numb city, town	And the second s	abamavicinity of		zip 36564

5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

SEE ATTACHED SKETCH OF FLOOR PLAN, EXHIBIT 1, and of SITE PLAN, EXHIBIT 2.

6. Description	(See attached instruction	s for specific guidelines.)	
Condition X excellent good fair	deterioratedruinsunexposed	Check oneunaltered _x_altered	Check one original site moved date	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

SEE ATTACHED SHEET BEGINNING "CARPENTAR GOTHIC"

	Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1799 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-	Areas of Significance-Clarcheology-prehistoricarcheology-historicagriculturexarchitectureartcommercecommunications		landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	x religionsciencesculpturesocial/ humanitariantheaterother (specify)
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Although Baldwin County is currently experiencing a period of rapid growth, it was for many years sparsely populated farm-country. Buildings erected prior to 1900, composing a very small percentage of new existing structures. The Carpenter Gothic architectural style of St. Francis Church is especially treasured in this area. The building was the first Episcopal church, as well as one of the first churches of any denomination, built on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay.

The congregation of the original occupant and owner of the building (St. Luke's Church) was formed in 1896. The land was donated and the church building erected in 1898, remaining active as such until 1947.

During WWII the congregation diminished and the building was vacant from 1947-1956. In 1956 the building was deconsecrated and its interior disassembled.

In 1957 the Diocese sold the building and the Sacristy area was enlarged to provide an office and restroom for a gift shop occupancy.

The Traditional Protestant Episcopal Church acquired the property and consecrated it for religious purposes again on November 29, 1984. It has been increasingly active as a parish since that date.

8. Maj	or Bib	liograp	hical Ro	eferences	S			-	
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aldwin	Editi	on, Moi	bile Pr	ess Regi	ster:	March 12	1978		
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Alabama Register Coordinator
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form and documentation to:

Carpenter Gothic (also known as Country Gothic) best describes the appearance and feeling of the Church Building. It has a steeply pitched roof and pointed arch windows of the period. A Celtic cross adorns the peak of the roof. Country touches include fish scale shingles on the gables and some gingerbread has lapboard siding painted white and contains the Narthex, Nave, Chancel, Sacristy, and office. Scissor trusses elevate the center portion of the ceiling. A center aisle leads to the altar built in the style of the period, though recently hand made for the building. Original to the building are an oil chandelier (now electrified), a baptismal font, and five pews made of cypress. Other pews were originally in the old Admiral Semmes Hotel in Mobile. The building seats 56 in the pews with space for a few more in the Narthex.

The building rests on a concrete block foundation wall with ventilation provided by operable air grates with the floor being 24" above grade.

It is all of wood framing with wood floors, white beaded interior walls and ceilings, simple trim and wainscot rail, elementary wooden communion rail with gate, wooden pews and kneelers. Exterior walls seem to be original (with allowance for repairs made after the 1917 hurricane) with simple door and window casings. Buttresses are located at three corners (none at NW corner) one centered on the South wall and not along the North wall. It is assumed that the Sacristy provided the needed structure along the North wall.

There are no chimneys now visible on the shingle roof. In 1991 a central heating and cooling system was installed. In the original building heat was provided by a wood burning stove. The new system is in the crawl space with outlets at baseboard level.

Windows are wood, double hung pointed arch--sash with 2 panes in each lower sash and 3 panes in each upper sash. There are seven such windows, three on the North side and four on the South. None occur in the front or rear walls.

There are no fire places or stairs in the building and only one visible interior door. This door will be replaced with a 7'-0" four panel door with the upper panels being pointed arch to match the entrance door.

The flooring throughout is 1"x6" pine T&G flooring stained dark brown with carpet in the traffic areas, vinyl in the Sacristy. Of course, the building is fully electrified and does have a toilet and lavatory in the Sacristy area.

Reference to the enclosed photo A reveals an original building with only minimum protection over wide front doors. These doors with the stoop protection over them and the pointed arch windows seem to be the extent of efforts to beautify. (see copy of original note

dated 1899 with which John De Silvey received payment for it's construction. \$165.00 didn't allow much for frills!)

Then, in 1927, and certainly needed in this climate, a full width porch with a single four panel (upper panels pointed arch) entrance door was provided. Very simple construction with two square wood columns and minimum rail. The porch gable did repeat the building gable fish scale shingles feature along with a matching shingle roof. (see photo B)

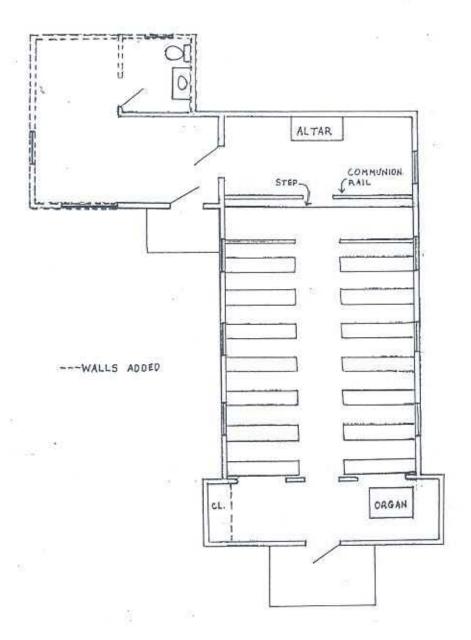
The period after St. Francis acquired the building produced need for additional facilities and space so in 1984 the front porch was extended to include the buttresses on the front building wall. The space then was enclosed to make room for a Narthex, an organ, and a storage closet Photo C attached, portrays this addition. The attached photo B portrays iron fences, front porch and "picture windows" on the porch which was the appearance from 1927 to 1984.

Finally, in the latest act of evolution, a new front porch using the original stoop design motif was added as protection for the entrance as well as for the congregation. This was completed in 1995 and is a most welcome embellishment. (see xeroxed photo of 1995 porch edition)

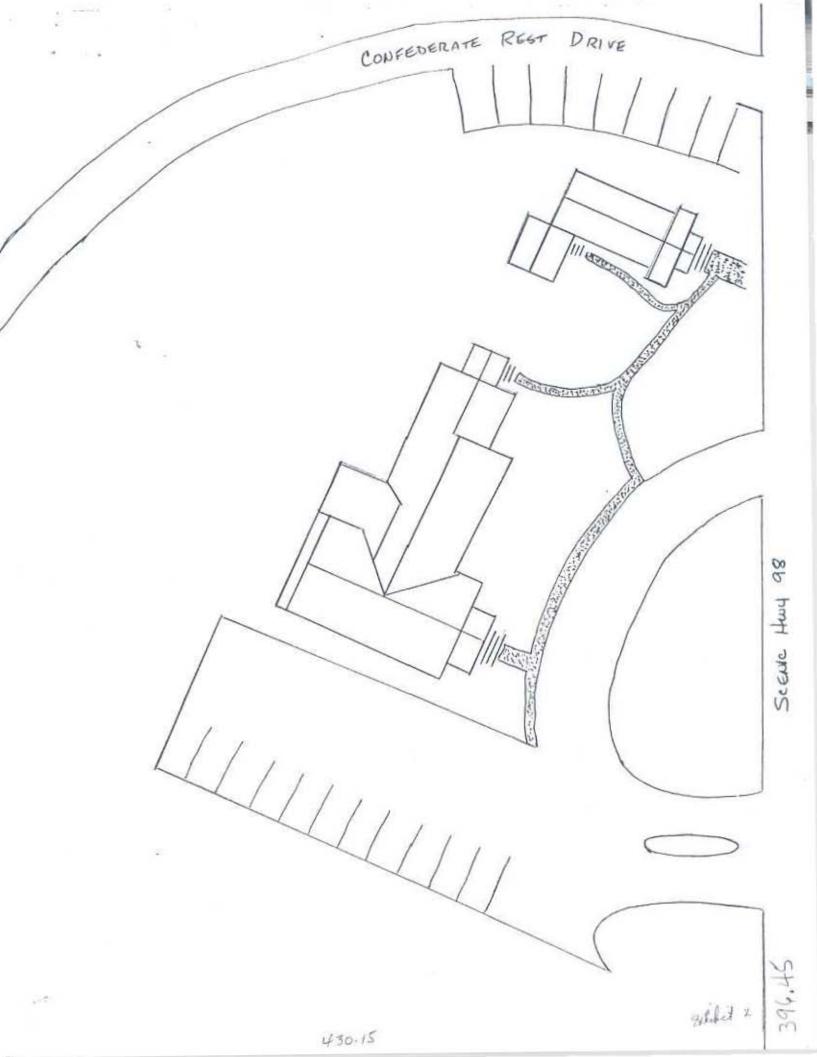
The building and grounds are kept in excellent condition at all times by a conscientious rector vestry and membership.

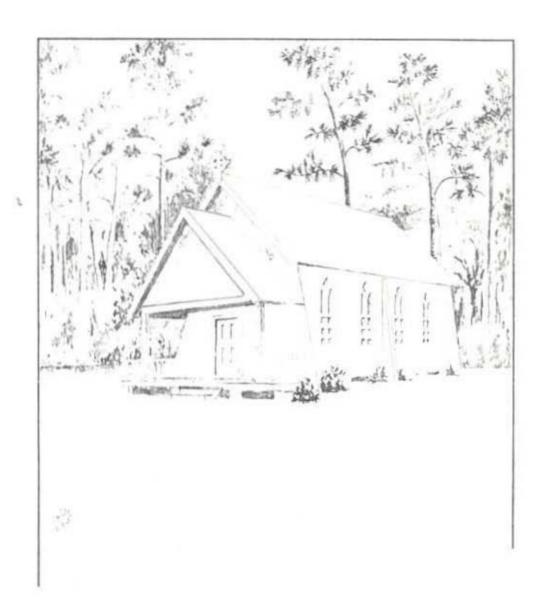
The planting is a combination of old (live oaks) and relatively new (azaleas,etc) tastefully done with occasionally and at random, small statuary. Additional gardens are planned and awaiting construction.

A covered walkway, properly done, would serve to connect the Sacristy with the Parish House and could provide a single, convenient, common entry to the two structures as well as all weather communication. Such would permit the removal of an exterior door and the wood deck, both of which are now deluged in a heavy rain. An original building window would replace the steel casement on the front wall and provide the opening for access to the new walkway.



4/2/1





St. Lukés Episcopal Church

ST. LUKES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

POINT CLEAR

hen St. Lukes at Point Clear was closed, all ledgers concerning it were turned over to the Reverend William Hill, Rector of St. James at Fairhope, for safe keeping. It was through his kindness that I was able to refer to these ledgers and learn the beginning of what became an established church at Point Clear for a number of years.

On the first Sunday in May, 1896 the Reverend Louis Tucker of Mobile started, in the community of Cavanac (now called Barnwell), the Point Clear Mission. For the next year, he was responsible for whatever services were held there; the records do not say how frequently. He left in June of 1897 and the Reverend John Coleman Horton conducted services in the summer of 1897.

The Reverend Gardiner L. Tucker began services the first Sunday in February, 1898 and continued on the first Sunday of every month until May, 1899. After that date, on fifth Sundays. He continued these fifth Sunday services from 1899 to September 30th, 1901. Also in the summer of 1899, Ernest E. Tucker, Lay Reader, held services on the first Sunday in every month.

The first recorded baptisms by the Reverend Louis Tucker took place at Kaphan's Old Store on June 7, 1896 and were as follows: Sallie and Georgiana, daughters of George and Eva Mahler Dana, and Willie and Graham Stone, their sons. The Reverend Louis Tucker also performed the next three baptisms, Olive Tweed Gabel, daughter of Joseph and Susan Dennings Gabel at Meadow Springs School on January 3, 1897; Mary Frances Slocum, daughter of Elias and Charlotte Ann Fulford Gabel and Carl Wilmer Baldwin, son of John Buck and Bettie Gooding Baldwin at

Battles Wharf on March 7, 1897. During the next few years, until September, 1901, the Reverend Gardiner L. Tucker performed many baptisms; some at private homes, some at Meadow Springs School and Harford School in Cavanac. The first baptism giving the place as St. Lukes Church was on April 29, 1900 for Estelle Elvera Larsen, born in Sweden, to Andrew and Charlotte Bray Larsen.

A meeting of the congregation of St. Lukes Mission, Point Clear, was held on the first day of May, 1900 pursuant to notice given at the evening service on Sunday, April 21, and in conformity with Article 9 of the Constitution and Title 3, Canon 11 of the Canons, Diocese of Alabama. The Reverend Gardiner L. Tucker presided and A. duMont acted as secretary. The chairman having stated the object of the meeting was to take the necessary steps to become an organized mission, the following action was taken: (1) Decided to adopt the name of St. Lukes of Point Clear; (2) Dr. V. McR. Schowalter, A. E. Stiles and A. duMont were elected trustees. (3) A. duMont was elected warden, Dr. V. McR. Schowalter, treasurer, and A. E. Stiles, clerk. (4) A. duMont elected a lay delegate to the 68th Council of the Diocese to be held at Mobile, May 16, 1900. (5) Adopted Articles of Incorporation. (6) Resolved that a stipend of at least \$25.00 a year be collected and paid to the Missionary in charge at Point Clear, Alabama.

On November 22, 1910 the Ladies of St. Lukes Mission went on record as follows: "We, the subscribers hereto, have met to organize ourselves into a society to be known as St. Lukes Ladies Missionary Guild. We do, each and all, pledge our most earnest efforts for the Master's cause and particularly to work for the benefit of St. Lukes Mission in every way open to us and by every means in our power."

Their officers were to be a president, a secretary and a treasurer and they were to meet at 3:30 P.M. on the first Thursday of each month. Although the records do not state who had these first offices, there is a roll call as of January 1, 1913 which

included those friends of other faiths as well as members of St. Lukes who all worked together: Mrs. A. F. Hutchings and Miss Grace Hutchings, Mrs. Ada Moulton, Mrs. Estelle Dade, Miss Georgia Dana and Miss Sallie Dana, Miss Lillie Smith, Mrs. Eloise Lowell, Mrs. Alice Klumpp, Miss Laura Manning; the Misses Elcie and Ethel Fry, their sisters Mrs. George Vaughan and Mrs. Mary Rubira. Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. W. W. Blackmon, Miss Kate Dade, Mrs. L. Zundel, Miss Colleen Brodbeck, Mrs. Fannie Nelson and Mrs. George In 1913 and 1914 Mrs. A. F. Hutchings served as president, Mrs. Ada Moulton as secretary, and Miss Sallie Dana as treasurer. These ladies and many others such as Miss Lena duMont and Miss Virginia Thomas, whose names are not on this roll, worked diligently through the years to raise money for the obligations they had assumed. There were entertainments given in various places; one was a concert held at the Beach Hotel with Miss Ella Bachman and the Misses Litchbach rendering vocal and instrumental music. Other means of bringing in money, such as lawn parties at Point Clear Hotel and elsewhere, chicken dinners, etc., were constantly employed and it is always wonderful to see what dedicated ladies can do when there is an incentive.

From 1900 on there seemed to be much activity at the church and things were going well until the hurricane of July 5, 1916 did considerable damage. That was overcome and then the building was completely wrecked by another hurricane at a later date. For a while it was uncertain whether it would be rebuilt again but how that came about was told me by Miss Colleen Brodbeck. It seems that her father, Edward Brodbeck, although a member of the Lutheran faith, could not bear to think of St. Lukes not being rebuilt. So he personally helped solicit money for that purpose and once again St. Lukes was ready for services. Dr. Schowalter's grandmother, Mrs. S. Cole, who made beautiful Battenberg lace, sold some of this lace and gave the money to provide an altar for St. Lukes. The reredos was given early in 1933 by Miss Grace Hutchings and Mrs. Hutchings in memory of Mr. A. F. Hutchings.

The Reverend Howard Walker was Minister-in-

charge for several years to the time of his death in September, 1917, then the Reverend James F. Plummer became Minister-in-charge September, 1918. The Reverend Joseph Fulford came in March of 1929 and was succeeded by the Reverend Richard I. Brown who resigned June 1st, 1931. The Reverend William A. Thompson came on July 1st, 1931, and served until July 1st, 1934 when he resigned because of ill health.

The first confirmation class recorded consisted of Nellie Dana, Estelle Nelson, Volney McReynolds Schowalter, James Polk Slocomb and Mary Frances Slocomb. This class was confirmed on June 11, 1897 by H. M. Jackson, Bishop Coadjutor of Alabama. The next class, also confirmed by Bishop H. M. Jackson, was on February 7, 1899, but the records do not show in what building either one was held. However, it is recorded that on November 11, 1900 a class was confirmed by Bishop R. W. Barnwell at St. Lukes Church. The last confirmation class recorded as held in St. Lukes was in June of 1929. It was presented by the Reverend J. W. Fulford and confirmed by Bishop W. G. McDowell. From that time on, the confirmation classes were held at various churches wherever the Bishop would be.

There were no marriages recorded as having taken place in St. Lukes and it is presumed that is due to the fact that ministers only came to this small Mission Church one Sunday each month. Therefore most weddings were held at the home of the bride, or some private residence, and the minister was brought over by special boat.

By the time World War II came along and there was such a scarcity of ministers, the small Episcopal Missions on the Eastern Shore were closed and their members were obliged to attend elsewhere. Thus it was that St. Lukes, whose year-round attendance was so small, remained closed and its members naturally attended the nearest one, St. James at Fairhope. Even though Point Clear was beginning as a settlement in the early part of the 1800's and its Episcopal Mission Church was begun about the

time that Fairhope was beginning as a settlement, time and circumstances have a way of changing things. So it is that those Episcopalians living in Point Clear think nothing of driving to Fairhope's St. James and the bell that belonged to St. Lukes was given to St. James.

At one time, St. Lukes Church was used as a place of worship by the Lutheran members. They had first worshipped in private homes but their group had grown and they had also worked with the Episcopalians for their church, so it was a natural thing for them to do. Now, a church of their faith has been built in Fairhope and they attend there.

For a number of years the little Episcopal church remained silent with closed doors, but in 1957 it was bought by Mrs. Ben F. Hamel who now conducts her attractive shop of gifts within its walls.

























