

## *History of the Parish*

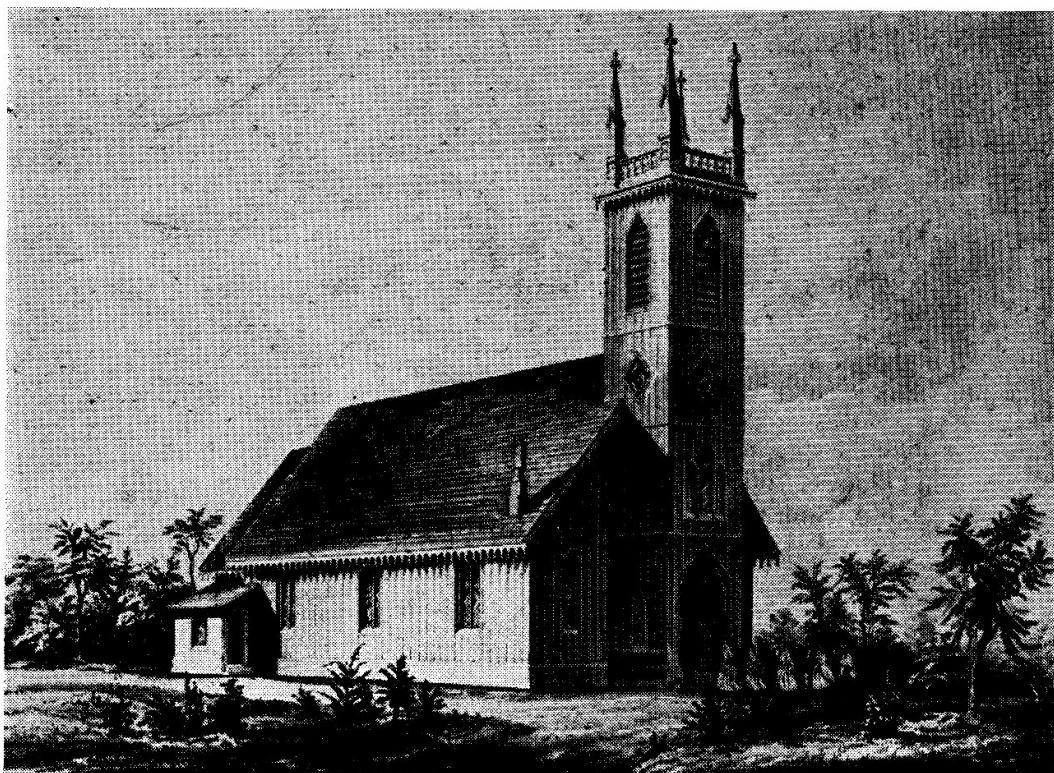
The following brief history of St. Paul's Church is a compilation of facts taken from the Vestry Minutes and other records of the Parish which have been carefully compared with other sources of information and checked wherever possible. The author owes a great debt of gratitude to the Rev'd Homer Francis Taylor for his history of the Parish which he compiled in 1925. Much dependence has been placed on this work and many quotations made from it. It is, of course, impossible in so short a history as this will be to mention more than a few of those hundreds who have worked and prayed and sacrificed for the benefit of the Parish during the ninety-five years of its existence. The author has had to depend on what their contemporaries have said of the outstanding members of their times and if any have been neglected herein, we can be sure that their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life; a far more enduring record than this.

Let us then take a brief and necessarily superficial glance at the history of this dear old parish which has now come through nearly a century of its career. Its spiritual history is not written in books—it is written in the souls of many thousands—not a few of whom have already gone to their reward. But we may observe how that through nearly four generations men and women have labored for its life, have given of their time and means to keep it in their midst; how they have rejoiced over its slightest increased efficiency and worried and fretted and worked—but best of all prayed—for it in its darker hours. And just because we who to-day are met together believe in its worth, its value, its indwelling power making for righteousness and truth among men, and believe in it as a channel of Divine Grace affording spiritual and moral uplift of human souls to God—because of this, while we glory in its history, we gladly, heartily, enthusiastically declare anew our allegiance to it and earnestly commend it to the rising generation! Now, as for nearly a century, it is set for the providing of the "things pertaining to the Kingdom of God".

If one were to descend from the elevated railroad station at 166th Street and Third Avenue and proceed northward about 60 feet on the west side of the Avenue you would be upon the site of the original meeting place of St. Paul's people, who established themselves in a house owned by one Thomas Jacques, Esq., at Fordham Road (now Third Avenue) and Spring Place, on July 8, 1847. To-day it would be somewhat difficult to successfully picture the waving grain fields and the small garden truck farms surrounding the trim little houses that comprised the new village of Morrisania—that delightful rural community from whence has vanished the quaint, conductor-less, one-horse car that toiled almost aimlessly and at long intervals along Fordham Road and tinkled its merry bell through an avenue of blueberry bushes, the fruit of which might readily have been picked from the car windows. Instead we have the mighty, swiftly moving, electrically driven machines that hurtle overhead and along the surface of a densely crowded

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thoroughfare lined with giant structures of brick and stone. You have learned that it was entirely due to the missionary zeal and the consecrated labors of the Rev. Abraham Beach Carter, Rector of St. Ann's Parish, that religious provision was made for the new community of thrifty mechanics that sprang up in this vicinity. He served them loyally and their immediate appreciation of the blessings and privileges of the church was evident from the beginning. The parlors in which the services were held were soon crowded to the extent of their capacity. The vestry of St. Ann's at once agreed to provide for the new congregation, a suitable building and accordingly purchased from Charles Bathgate, M.D., an acre of ground further north on Fordham Road (now called Third Avenue) between what is to-day known as 170th and 171st Street, running through to Washington Avenue. I say "purchased," but in reality it was a gift, for Dr. Bathgate returned the purchase price—Three Hundred Dollars—in the form of a contribution to St. Ann's vestry.



*The First Church*

On the 15th of September of the same year the cornerstone of the new chapel was laid and the building, facing on Fordham Road, erected. It was opened for the first service and for the administration of the Holy Com-

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munion on Easter Day, March 31, 1850, and it was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. William R. Whittingham, D.D., Bishop of Maryland, acting for the Bishop of New York "according to the usages of the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church and the provisions of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America," on June 22, 1850. It was a frame building, 30 feet front and 80 feet deep including the porch and the recessed chancel. In its north transept stood the organ and also the font, and three blocks of pews, one at either wall and the other in the middle, occupied the nave. Under the Rev. Mr. Carter's devoted ministry, within three years the congregation had so grown numerically and in financial ability that at its own request the connection with the mother church was dissolved and on May 31, 1853, they organized themselves into an independent parish under the style of "St. Paul's Church in the Village of Morrisania, New York." On the Sunday following, the first Sunday in June, there was held the first service under the legal corporate title.

The Rev. Benjamin Ackerly was called on September 1, 1853, to be the first Rector and in the following November at the time of the admission of the parish into union with the Diocesan convention, the Rector presented a parochial report which showed that there were 46 families within the parish boundaries comprising 220 individuals (about the population of two of our neighboring apartment houses to-day), 55 communicants of the Church and 41 Sunday School scholars. With splendid vision and a fine spirit of co-operation the parish without hesitation undertook the erection of a permanent residence for its Rector and at the vestry meeting held on February 1, 1854, the plans of the adjoining rectory which the congregation to-day, after ninety years still enjoys, were adopted. The rectory was completed within the following year and is one of the few remaining distinguished and well preserved landmarks of old Morrisania. A letter addressed to the vestry at this time is of interest and reads as follows. It is dated December 1, 1855.

"The Treasurer of the parish will please consider my salary as Rector of St. Paul's Church, Morrisania Village, as \$400 per annum instead of \$600. I have heretofore paid \$200 per annum for a residence out of my salary and the parish having during the year provided a rectory in which I shall reside, I agree to the aforementioned reduction of stipend."

The vestry was magnanimous and fixed the salary at \$500. Another year passed and we find the Rector requesting a six months' leave of absence in order to visit Europe—which request was cordially granted—but whatever happened during this period the record of the next meeting of the vestry after his return (meeting dated March 1, 1858) shows that the Rector's resignation was presented and accepted.

On April 15, 1858, a call was extended to the Rev. Samuel G. Appleton at a salary of \$600 per annum and the use of the rectory. The cost of

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living in war times may be reflected in the fact that the salary was increased in 1861 to \$700 and soon thereafter to \$800 and finally to \$1,000. A matter of sufficient moment to convene a special meeting of the vestry to consider was the matter of "repairing the horse shed at the side of the church and the building of a bridge over the deep gutter on Fordham Road so as to afford a proper driveway into the Church grounds." The meeting of June, 1865, was called in order to discuss the matter of introducing illuminating gas into the church and the Repairs and Supplies Committee was instructed to ascertain the comparative costs of gas and kerosene oil for lighting. Two years later gas was introduced, although in the following year bills still appear for the rent of lamps and also for kerosene. It was about this time that the mortgaging of the property for \$7,500 was planned but before this was effected an unhappy misunderstanding resulted in the resignation of the Rector. Among the baptismal and confirmation records of this period are found names, some of which are still frequently heard, in the Bronx, such as Jarvis, Wilkens, Chisholm, DeGroot, Morris, Stebbins, Scardefield, Wilsey, DeVoe, Hunt, Jennings, Lorillard, Bedell, White, Cunningham, Alexander—several of them perpetuated in the names given to streets in our neighborhood such as, e. g., Chisholm Street, Jennings Street, Lorillard Place, Hunts Point, Alexander Avenue, DeVoe Park, Morris Avenue, Stebbins Avenue, Jarvis Avenue and Wilkens Place.

Before the new Rector, the Reverend Frederick B. Van Kleeck, assumed the duties of his office on November 1, '68, three names of men appear in the lists of vestrymen, Mr. Charles B. Bradbury, Mr. James C. Hull, and Dr. J. E. Comfort who continued to serve the parish for many years with exceptional fidelity. Dr. Comfort's memorial adorns yonder wall, placed there "by his fellow vestrymen in recognition of his thirty years of service" to the corporation. In 1869 the graveyard which lay about the church was abandoned and the bodies interred therein were removed. Mr. Van Kleeck officiated for about two years when he resigned to accept the rectorship at White Plains during which time he became an Archdeacon. He died in 1917.

His successor in office was the Reverend Thomas R. Harris, who came to St. Paul's in April, 1870, and who witnessed during his long incumbency the beginnings of the remarkable development of the district north of the Harlem River, for on January 1st, 1874, Morrisania was annexed to the City of New York. The smaller dwellings gave way to more pretentious villas with splendid lawns and lovely gardens. Washington Avenue, lined with great oaks and towering elms, was a veritable "lovers lane," and many well-to-do New Yorkers had their summer homes here. Nevertheless parish finances were not so flourishing as might have been expected as would appear from the fact that in 1875 it was persistently urged that a part of the Church property be disposed of in order to clear up a very serious deficit which remained even after \$6,000 had been secured on mortgage

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and the organist's salary reduced from \$250 to \$150 a year and the Rector's salary (at his own request) from \$1,500 to \$1,200. Fortunately (from our point of view) the sale was not completed, but for seven years the parish groaned beneath a "burden grievous to be borne." In 1882 Mr. J. C. Cunningham, a devoted parishioner, came to the rescue and agreed to give \$3,000 toward liquidating the mortgage provided that the congregation raised the balance. Under the inspiration of his splendid act the sum was subscribed within six months. In 1879 a new baptismal font (which is still in use in our present church) was presented to the parish as a memorial of two deceased children of the Rector. And as has been frequently remarked, how infinitely more sane is such a memorial than a useless though ornate block of stone erected in some desolate cemetery! The Ladies Aid Society of that day seems to have been a most enthusiastic body and foremost in their desire to further the pastor's hopes and plans. His suggestion that a real need of the church would be supplied by an organ met with instant response upon their part and the instrument was installed in the old building in March, 1886. The opening of the organ was a proud occasion for the parish and the care entertained for it is manifest in the references to it in the vestry minutes—especially in the resolution which forbade "anyone to play upon it without the express permission of the vestry."

It is rather difficult to see just why, after only four years, and with such an interested congregation, the thick clouds should have again begun to pile up on the financial horizon, but surely the appeals to the worshippers must have been both urgent and incessant if all the requests of the vestry to the Rector that he "present this matter on the following Sunday" were observed. Happily an award from the City of New York for the widening of Third Avenue came at this time and tided the corporation over what must have been a rather serious difficulty. Meanwhile the neighborhood grew apace and, largely due to the extension of the elevated railroad, the village of earlier days was swallowed up in the greater city. Now the names of Brinckerhoff, Emery, Frisbie, Smythe, Saward, Sawin, Coffey, Child, Briggs, Kuhner, appear in the various lists with greater frequency. And some of these family names are still upon our parish register as supporting the dear old parish of so many happy memories, and representatives of some of them are with us to this day.

With the advancing tide of population a proposal was considered by the vestry (1891) to remove the church to 177th Street and Washington Avenue as being a more advantageous and strategic position. Wisdom prevailed, however, and the proposition was finally lost—a substitute being offered to sell the lots fronting on Third Avenue and move the rectory (which stood a few feet toward the south of its present location) and erect a new stone church structure on the Washington Avenue front. In '92 and '93 the project assumed definite proportions and plans for the new Church and Parish House were presented and adopted.

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### 1895—THE PRESENT CHURCH

In 1895 the cornerstone of this present building was laid—the Rt. Rev. Henry Codman Potter, D. D., Bishop of New York, officiating—and soon the Church was built. Under the date of March 12, '93, a letter, still, of course, preserved, was addressed to the Rector, wardens and vestrymen of St. Paul's and signed by the Rev. William Jones Seabury, D.D., Rector of the Church of Annunciation in Manhattan, offering to completely furnish the new Church throughout with the splendid furnishings of the Church of which he was the Rector and which had lately been sold. The tablet at the entrance to the Church was placed in position in 1898 and lastingly commemorates this generous deed. The reredos, altar and furnishings of the Church were the gift of the Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of the Church of the Annunciation, formerly located on Fourteenth Street, near Fifth Avenue. It is said that the altar is the first stone altar to be built in this country.

In April, 1895, Dr. Harris resigned after a notable period of service covering 25 years—handing over to his successor the fruits of a most devoted pastorate.

In January, 1896, the Rev. Romilly F. Humphries became Rector and in February of that year the vested male choir was organized and took part in the formal opening service of the new Church. The old wooden building was abandoned and was afterward sold to a Swedish Lutheran congregation in Mt. Vernon for \$100 (and I am told it is still standing). For a considerable time after the removal of the old frame structure the corner stone was apparently forgotten and was not found until after a diligent search had been instituted among the wrecked foundations. When finally discovered it was seen to contain a sealed leaden box which had within it a small copy of the Bible (which was much disfigured as if by dampness), a copy of the "Hymns and Psalms," printed in 1846, and also a copy of the Prayer Book of 1841. It is from that old Prayer Book used by the founder of the Chapel before St. Paul's became a Parish and which had been unused for 88 years and for 46 years had been buried from the light of day in a sealed tomb in the earth while a great city grew up about it that we read the order for the administration of the Holy Communion this morning. As we turn its yellowed pages it almost seems as though the freshness of the Westchester County air of years ago swept once again into the dust laden atmosphere of our life today! The box and its contents were laid again in the massive corner stone, and placed in the right hand corner of the front of the new church, where "1849" will contrast strongly with "1895" and serve to show that our St. Paul's of to-day not only lives in the present but has a long and honorable past.

Some of the furniture of old St. Paul's was given to the Church of the Holy Faith (an offshoot of St. Paul's parish), some to St. Simeon's and some

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to St. David's, and two of the pews were retained in our choir stalls for sentiment's sake. The circular, colored glass window over the altar was the only feature of the old church which was incorporated in the new.

The erection of this building required a real venture of faith. It necessitated the raising of \$30,000 on mortgages and the interest rate was high and an additional \$5,000 had to be secured on mortgage before it was finished. So on the October following the Third Avenue lots were sold, and part of the proceeds of the sale applied on the mortgage. The Rector having expressed a desire for a morning chapel and the vestry having agreed thereto, in 1898 the family of Mr. A. R. Searles, who had for 20 years served as Senior Warden, presented the chapel altar, the family of Miss Georgia Smith (deceased) the Altar Cross, and Mrs. Stroud, Mrs. Comfort and others the remaining necessaries. In November of that year the city decided to open a street through the property south of the Church and to name it St. Paul's Place which, however desirable that proved to be, occasioned deep regret because of the sacrifice of a splendid, wide-spreading elm tree, still remembered by many persons, and thought to have been about 100 years old, which stood nearly in the middle of the proposed highway. The Rev. Mr. Humphries resigned in November, 1900, to assume the rectorship of St. Peter's, Baltimore. He afterwards became the Archdeacon of Baltimore.

Archdeacon Humphries died on February 12, 1932 and in his passing the Bishop of Maryland wrote, "Romilly F. Humphries was a member of my Clerical Staff for the past five years, I know whereof I speak when I say 'he walked with God', and that though God has now taken him, his influence will last for many years in this Diocese. His faith was strong and if any of the doubts of modern life troubled him, he never told it to others. He preached Truth, Faith, and Service, and perplexed not his hearers with the passing fancies of the day."

In January, 1901, the Rev. Franklin Nelson Strader took over the rectorship and it was during his administration that another, and as it proved, a tremendous change took place, which has so completely altered the physical and social environment of the parish Church. The beautiful houses and well-kept lawns and gardens gave place to the great apartment houses and tenanted largely by a population religiously disinterested in the Church. Names which for many years had appeared in the parish records were no longer to be found and the flock was woefully scattered. Still, the work was bravely maintained and it was during his term of service that the funds were provided for the handsome litany desk which stands at the foot of the chancel steps and which was installed as a memorial to Mrs. B. Rhinelander Guion, long identified with the Ladies Aid Society and for some time its President. The Rev. Mr. Strader resigned in April, 1905, and on the following first Sunday in June the Rev. Homer Francis Taylor assumed the rectorship.

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The first vestry meeting that Dr. Taylor presided at revealed the somewhat disquieting fact that we had a treasury balance of \$149.51 and liabilities of \$11,880.80. The parish also found itself burdened with a note of \$1,500 which was promptly attacked and discharged within two years. Later the City presented a bill for \$2,000 (approximately) for taxes on the rectory which had been laid 14 years before and of the existence of which none of the vestrymen had any knowledge. It, too, was paid, together with bills, some of them of so long standing that they had ceased to be regarded as collectible by the creditors. In view of all this it required leadership and courage and great faith to meet the situation and to build up St. Paul's. This faithful, courageous leadership was given by Dr. Taylor and with the help of a devoted Vestry St. Paul's Church during the next twenty-five years became an outstanding Parish—so much so that every bill was paid, a comfortable bank balance assured, and a Sinking Fund of fifteen thousand dollars had been established, and five thousand dollars contributed to the Cathedral Building Fund.

The administration of the temporalities of the parish by our vestry from that time to the present has been altogether admirable, and in this connection I want to call attention to the length of service rendered by our splendid group of officers:

Mr. Isaac H. B. Keating .....	43 years	Senior Warden
Mr. Albert S. Taylor .....	43 years	
Mr. John J. Farbridge.....	36 years	
Mr. William H. Bruder .....	28 years	
Mr. Edmund J. Longstaff .....	28 years	
Mr. Elmer E. Stewart .....	23 years	
Mr. H. Riessick		
Mr. Gilbert Brinckerhoff		
Mr. Harry Nelson		
Mr. Clarence Holt		
Mr. Roland N. Lane		

Among those who served faithfully on the Vestry for many years during Dr. Taylor's Rectorship, must be remembered:

Mr. William B. Williamson
Mr. Charles Fox Bradbury
Mr. Frederick P. Slingo
Mr. Frank Kubischta

With such a body of devoted men at its head one should not have great difficulty in discovering the occasion of the success which has crowned the efforts of St. Paul's during the last forty-five years.

Here let us quote the late Dr. Taylor, "There is another and all important element in the parish, however, of which we must speak. Of the group of women who in 1905 assembled in the Rector's study to declare

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their readiness to undertake the actual parish work, fourteen have continued during all these 20 years to bear the burden and heat of the day, providing by their gifts and labors more than \$1,000 a year for parish support, caring for the clergy and choir vestments and doing other and similar work. In 1919 there was devised what we called the Unit System and the results of the labors of the several units have been simply amazing. The number of workers has increased ten fold so that instead of 14, as formerly, we now have 140 enrolled workers, divided into seven groups or units. It was in large measure due to the combined efforts of these women that the final \$8,000 payment was made that enabled us to burn the \$30,000 mortgage on May 26, 1922, Right Reverend Herbert Shipman, D.D., officiating, and St. Paul's parish declared to be free of debt. And as if that were not sufficient, by their further effort they provided most of the \$2,100 required to relieve the parish permanently of the annual diocesan assessment for the Endowment of the Episcopate. On January 29, 1922, the bronze Honor Roll at the door of the Church, bearing the names of 103 men of St. Paul's who entered the service of the Nation in the great war, was erected. It bears four gold stars. At the service of unveiling Bishop Shipman and Major General John F. O'Ryan made addresses. Fifty-five of the men were in uniform, two of the many wearing medals, having won the Distinguished Service Medals. On November 26, 1922, at a great service, St. Paul's Church was consecrated, the Right Reverend William T. Manning, D.D., LL.D., Bishop of New York, officiating."

To quote Dr. Taylor again, "St. Paul's has lived and thrived without 'clubs' or 'guilds' or 'smokers' or 'dances' or 'dramatics'. It offers nothing to the congregation but the ministrations of the gospel. We have a Communicant List which numbers 626. The reredos, about 100 years old, an unusually fine piece of Gothic decorative art, has been restored to its original colorings, the chancel has been newly carpeted and the sanctuary furniture reupholstered, the seat cushions throughout the Church have been renewed, and a modern electric light system installed in Church, parish house and rectory."

"The whole parish in its every department is steadily and harmoniously working together in the bonds of Christian love, knowing nothing of cliques or factions. And the thought comes to us again, isn't it true that this institution is one of the really valuable assets in the religious life of the community? Isn't it worthy of your support? Isn't its past and present honorable and noble? The spiritual life of dear old St. Paul's is rich and full and deep and strong and as we review hurriedly its 75 years of history in humble and sincere thankfulness we look forward in firm assurance toward a future full of promise, full of usefulness and blessing." Thus spoke Dr. Taylor 20 years ago.

The Rev. Homer Francis Taylor and Mrs. Taylor, affectionately spoken of as "Pa" and "Ma" were loved by everyone in the community. Although

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both are now in the Paradise of God, they are thought of and spoken of as though they were still in our midst.

At the great Testimonial Dinner tendered to Dr. Taylor on June 9th, 1930, Dr. Taylor spoke as follows:

I really do not deserve this testimonial of your esteem and, if I may take you into my confidence, the glory of St. Paul's Parish belongs to Mrs. Taylor. Never was there a man in the ministry so blessed as I have been with a secretary who knew more than the Rector and better how to do things."

At the same dinner, Dr. William Raberont, District Superintendent, Board of Education said, "For ten years being located across the street from St. Paul's, I was a neighbor of yours and know that the entire community loves Doctor Taylor; many of them reverence him. They appeal to Dr. Taylor when they are in need. He never asks what a person's faith is—all he wants to know is that there is a need and he never fails."

In a word the concensus of opinion of the people of St. Paul's regarding Dr. Taylor was; he was whole-hearted and simple, sympathetic and lovable. He is still near and dear to St. Paul's.

In the words of Shakespeare it may be truly said of him—"his life was gentle and the elements so mix in him that nature might look up and say to all the world, this was a man."

In 1934 Dr. Taylor died. His death was a great shock to St. Paul's Parish, but his works followed him and the inspiration of his life remained. The same committee that had chosen Dr. Taylor for Rector, became active again. It was no easy task to pick a new Rector at this time, but St. Paul's must go ahead and must have a leader. After much thought and consideration the choice of the committee fell upon a young Priest who was in charge of All Saints' Church, Mariners Harbor, Staten Island, the Rev. Gerald Francis Burrill. He was only twenty-seven years of age, but already had begun to make a name for himself. He was offered the Rectorship of the Parish and accepted. On May 5, 1935, he assumed the Rectorship. Mr. Burrill continued as Rector until February 5, 1944, when he resigned to become Secretary to Forward-in-Service a National Movement to revitalize the Episcopal Church in the United States. During Mr. Burrill's nine years of a very active ministry, he did much to keep alive St. Paul's and the spirit of St. Paul's.

His first work was to restore the Rectory which was in a process of deterioration. During his Rectorship oil-heating plants were installed in both the Rectory and Church, the Chapel was restored and a new organ was installed. Mr. Burrill was very much alive to the demands of the youth of the Parish and it was during his time that the Order of Saint Stephen and the Young People's Fellowship were organized.

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Prior to his time the Church House had been used as a day school by the City of New York, now it became a hive of activity for all Parish organizations. In addition to his work at St. Paul's, Mr. Burrill did much work in the Bronx Convocation and in the Diocese as a whole, becoming President of the Board of Religious Education of the Diocese of New York. When he resigned there was general regret in the Parish, but all agreed that he had steered and shepherded the Parish during nine of the most critical years of its life. His faithful work remains and is bearing fruit.

The same Selection Committee was empowered again by the Parish to choose a new Rector. This time they became international in their scope and again after much thought and consideration, decided to ask a clergyman of the Canadian Church to become their Rector.

The Rev. Frederick Joseph Vincent, who was Rector of All Saints' Church, East Saint John, N. B., assumed the Rectorship of St. Paul's on Sunday, May 14, 1944.

The description of Mr. Vincent's induction, by the Rt. Rev. William T. Manning, Bishop of New York, is worthy of note as it appeared in the September 29th issue of the Order of Saint Stephen's Paper:

"The decorated Gothic reredos with its bas-relief of the Annunciation has long been a landmark at St. Paul's. In its time, this venerable altar screen has looked down on many a festival but never on quite the splendor that marked the service of September 21st. To the large congregation in the pews, the palms in the sanctuary and at the chancel steps were highly significant of a special event but the white flowers banking the ten gleaming candles on the altar were a part and parcel of the familiar setting. So too, the sound of the organ pealing forth in the familiar strains of *The Church's One Foundation*, the beloved old hymn that took the procession up the side and down the center aisle.

"The side door opened and into the Church came the procession headed by Charles Genet bearing the Cross and following the crucifer was the choir. Then came the Church Wardens, Mr. Isaac H. B. Keating and Mr. Albert S. Taylor, and following the Wardens were fourteen Episcopal clergymen of the Bronx.

"As the procession lengthened, it steadily grew in dignity and grandeur and following the fourteen clerical guests was the host of the evening, the Reverend Frederick Joseph Vincent. Walking behind Mr. Vincent was the Ukrainian Orthodox Bishop of North America, a personal friend of Mr. Vincent, robed in a scarlet cassock and accompanying Bishop Bohdan was his chaplain, the rector of the Pro-Cathedral of the Redeemer. Completing the procession was Bishop Manning clad in Cope and Miter. In all respects it was the most impressive display of episcopal authority ever witnessed in St. Paul's. Acting as chaplain to the Bishop was the Reverend Gerald

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Francis Burrill bearing the Bishop's Pastoral Staff. Thus did the Tenth Bishop of New York and the Eighth Rector of St. Paul's pay honor to the Ninth Rector of St. Paul's on the twenty-first day of September A.D. 1944.

"Honored by the presence of the two Bishops and the fourteen visiting clergymen, gladdened by the return of the former rector, impressed by the stirring message of our beloved Bishop Manning, St. Paul's found the Institution of the Ninth Rector a gala occasion rich in the tradition of the past and bright with the hope of a vital future in the course of the FAITH!"

"At his departure Bishop Manning remarked, 'I am going home feeling very happy about St. Paul's.' The Bishop spoke for all of us; it was indeed a happy evening.

"With renewed confidence the Parish moves forward under the leadership of the Reverend Frederick Joseph Vincent."

During Mr. Vincent's tenure of office the Church and Parish House have been re-decorated and certain modern improvements have been made. The Church has been completely re-pointed. In all about \$1,500 was spent on the restoring of the Church within and without. We celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of our present Church in the knowledge that it is well protected against the elements for many years to come.

Thus we see, from being a little frame country church, with a shed in the rear for the protection of the horses of those who drove to the Services, St. Paul's has grown to be a flourishing city parish, with a fine stone church, with the various organizations for mutual help and encouragement.

So, we close the record of nearly a century, among them were dark years and bright, prosperous and poor, but each of them bringing some blessing. In our history we see the history of the whole Church Catholic in miniature. In spite of our dullness, and slowness, God's Church goes on and will go on until the end of time, because it has the assurance of the Master that against it even the "gates of hell shall not prevail".

O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

OUR HOPE FOR YEARS TO COME