

The History
of
Holy Spirit Episcopal Mission
In
Graham, Texas

By
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This might have been a story about a building – but it is not. For a building is of no importance in itself – only what happens in and around that building is important.

This is a story about people, their courage, and their service to their Lord.

This history is dedicated to them. May their faith be an example to the rest of us.

John D. Riggs

Chapter I

EARLY DAYS

It was 1839, on St. Patrick's Day, that Bishop Leonidas Polk crossed the Red River from Arkansas. Bishop Polk was the first Episcopal clergyman to come to Texas. He possibly made the first foreign missionary visit made by a Bishop in the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. This was possible because Texas remained an Independent nation until 1845.

Many years were to pass after Bishop Polk's first visit to this vast empire, however, before the Episcopalians of Graham, Texas were to have regular services by an ordained clergyman of the Church. The city of Graham had its beginning in 1872. At the time of this writing, it is quite uncertain just exactly who was the first Episcopalian in Graham or when they came. The only thing definite is that the Faith of the Church is anything but new to Graham. The heritage of many of the city's outstanding citizens goes back to pioneer Episcopalians here.

The First General Convention of the Missionary Jurisdiction in Northern Texas was held in Dallas in 1874. Alexander Charles Garrett was elected Bishop. Dallas was quite a different place in 1874 than it is in 1960. When Bishop Garrett first saw Dallas, animals roamed the streets. A doe skin suit could be purchased for twelve dollars. Dallas' population numbered three thousand. There were only five clergymen and three hundred sixty five communicants of the Episcopal Church in his vast post covering an area of one hundred thousand square miles.

Bishop Garrett, being a dedicated man of the highest degree as well as a forceful speaker, set out immediately to survey his jurisdiction. His first visit to Graham occurred in 1876. After establishing missions in Brownwood and Comanche, he wrote in his journal,

“August 30, 1876 – Set out for Palo Pinto. Forty five miles of the worst road imaginable brought me in after dark. Could not find that there were any members of the Church in Palo Pinto.”

“September 1, 1876 – Proceeded to Graham. Arrived at dusk after a rough days work having to cross the Brazos four or five times. Graham is a new town of about two years growth, contains four or five hundred people, is supplied with a good hotel and a few well stocked stores, and is surrounded by rich and populous country. Source of the water is of a medicinal character and is said to possess valuable curative properties.”

“September 3, 1876 – Remained over Sunday. Held Divine Service in the Court House and preached. Held Morning and Evening Prayer (Matthew XXV. 28, Proverbs XI.19).”

On the morning of September 4th, Bishop Garrett went on to Jacksboro. It is of interest to realize that in 1876 there were no church buildings in Graham of any kind, the first being constructed in 1882. It is also well to note, at this time, what a powerful preacher the Bishop must have been. For many years to come he used the Court House since no church in Graham was large enough to hold the crowds he drew when he spoke.

The Reverend Edwin Wickens was rector of the Incarnation Episcopal Church in Dallas. Bishop Garrett gave Mr. Wickens missionary care of Fort Worth and surrounding vicinity in 1876. Mr. Wickens, like the Bishop, was a remarkable man, but he too could not get around his whole area and do justice to his own congregation in Dallas at the same time. So, he got to Graham only rarely, in fact, not at all in 1876.

It is quite possible that the first Episcopalian in Graham was Mrs. Gertrude Gachter. Mrs. Gachter came to Graham in 1876. She had two daughters who were confirmed in the Church, Annie and Madalena (known lovingly in recent years as "Miss Lena"). Annie Gachter married John Meisterhans, known as the Swiss cowboy boot maker. They had one son, John Jr. Madalena never married. Mrs. Gachter and her daughters were faithful and devout communicants in Holy Spirit Mission for many years. After Mrs. Meisterhans death in 1895, Annie married W.C. Barnum, who became an Episcopalian.

The momentous job of spreading the Faith of the Church that lay before Bishop Garrett is hard to realize now with thirty thousand Episcopalians in the North Texas area and two Bishops and two hundred fifty clergymen to serve them. Bishop Garrett met the task with devotion, anticipation, and determination. In the General Convention of 1877, he gave this address:

"Our requirements may accordingly be summed up in a single sentence: More men, if the Church will give us the means to sustain them in the field; failing in these, intenser zeal, deeper earnestness, greater labor, and more exalted piety in those we have. Since our guns are necessarily few, it is absolutely essential that they be heavy. A battery of popguns is never of much use."

On July 29th and 30th, 1877, he wrote in his journal:

"Set forward for Graham from Breckenridge in good time. The town has improved materially since last year. Visited a few Church people and made arrangements for services. Evening Prayer was said in the Court House and sermon preached."

The Churchmen in Graham, at this time, were pitifully few in number and had no facilities in which to worship, but they were faithful and hopeful. On August 31, 1877, Bishop Garrett came back to Graham and baptized William Henry Stevens, Louise Stevens and Mary Stevens. The whereabouts of these people is unknown to this writer today.

In 1877, having previously spent three years in Calvert, Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Bomford Bladen Garrett moved to Graham. Later Mr. Garrett and part of his family of nine children were confirmed in the Church. The five surviving daughters living in Graham now are: Georgie, Mrs. A. A. Morrison, Maud, Mrs. M. K. Graham (who gave generously in the mission's support even though not being a member. M. K. Graham even donated the land where the present church stands on the edge of the mountain at Fourth and Cherry Streets), Louise, Mrs. R. F. Fowler, Edwina, Mrs. C. P. Hutchinson, and Mrs. Bladen Garrett. They all attended the first Sunday School held in Holy Spirit Mission. None of the Garrett's children are Episcopalians now but are all valuable assets in the Churches they do belong to. It is thought that Bomford Bladen Garrett and Bishop Alexander Garrett were distant relations.

Also in his journal of 1877, Bishop Garrett notes:

“The mission at Graham is to be commended for its music which is rendered under the direction of Mr. H. H. Peters, who lives about fifteen miles in the country, and therefore is unable to serve as a Lay Reader.”

Nothing more is known to this writer about H. H. Peters, except possibly, he may have been Harry Peters, son of Henry J. Peters of the old Peters Colony group.

There is only a small notation in Bishop Garrett's journal concerning Graham in 1878. On February 28th, he came to Graham and held Evening Prayer service. In 1879, Major F. W. Girand and his wife, Anna Barton Crozier Girand, moved to Graham. They had seven children. The only living child today is Ada Lee who became Mrs. T. B. Griffith. She now resides in Dallas. At the same time of the Girand's arrival, Mrs. Girand's father, Colonel Arthur R. Crozier and his son Grandville moved here also. The two families not only increased the fold greatly in numbers, but being independently wealthy, gave great amount of personal service and money to the mission. Major Girand served as Lay Reader in those early days. Bishop Garrett wrote of his trip to Graham the year of 1879:

“August 1st – Proceeded to Graham. Arrived in good time at dusk. Mr. J. H. Hatfield defrayed my expenses at the hotel. The Presbyterian Meeting House having been kindly loaned, I said Evening Prayer and preached. Baptized Nellie Plume Garrett.”

“August 2nd – Visited among the people.”

“August 3rd – The Methodist Meeting House having been loaned, I said Evening Prayer, preached, and administered Holy Communion.”

Two groups of people came to Graham in 1880 that were destined to become “the rock of Gibraltar” of the mission for over fifty years. John T. and Josephene Cunningham moved here sometime that year from Iowa. They had six children: Josephene, John, Ben, Belle, Maude, and Lou. Only the last two are still alive today. Maude married Henry Arnold and Lou became Mrs. Noel Cropp. Belle became another “rock” for the church, serving for many years as organist. She married Edgar Matthews and gave birth to seven children. Her son, John W. Matthews and his family still reside in Graham. John T. Cunningham was well known around town as being a very devout Episcopalian. Early dances in Graham were very popular impromptu affairs. “Most often all that was needed was to get the girls and persuade

the Casburn boys and J. T. Cunningham to rosin up their bows.” (Carrie Crouch’s History of Young County) He served as Lay Reader in the Church until his death. Devotion and Service was the byword of the Cunningham family.

Mary Phillipa Cornish “landed” in Graham from England to make a home for the motherless children of her brother, Jack Cornish, that same important year for the Mission. As you know, the majority of Englishmen and women are Episcopalians. It was only natural for Mary Cornish to seek out her fellow Churchmen. This let her to Mrs. Cunningham, who was to become her closest friend until both their deaths. These two women gave all of themselves to their God and their Church.

In his journal, Bishop Garrett notes:

“August 10, 1880 – Went to Graham. Received hospitably by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hatfield.”

“August 11th – Held Divine Service and administered Holy Communion. Said Evening Prayer and preached. Baptized John Thompson Holman. Confirmed Francis Washington Girand.”

At this point, the writer must apologize that he can’t tell you more about the Hatfields.

On September 6, 1881, Bishop Garrett notes:

“Set out for Graham via Weatherford.”

“September 7th – Arrived in Graham after the most fatiguing drive imaginable. Found Mr. and Mrs. Girand recovering slowly from the great grief caused by the death of their son, Arthur.”

“September 8th – Baptized Andrew McCormick Girand”

Then he went to Weatherford and found that he had just missed connections with the Reverend William D. Sartwelle, who was one of his missionary ministers traveling through the area.

In 1882, Mary Phillipa Cornish was married to Lawrence F. Voules by Mr. Sartwelle. Mr. Voules became an Episcopalian afterwards. Mrs. Mary P. Voules and Mrs. J. T. Cunningham, being devout and eager young ladies, were plugging for the construction of a Church building at this time. By then, there were quite a few Episcopalians, Church supporters, and friends that were realizing the desperate need for facilities of their own. Mrs. Voules gave birth to Lawrence Rolland in 1883. “Rolloe”, as his friends know him, still attends services to this day. In late ’83, Mrs. Voules’ Church work was interrupted when she and her family returned to England. On August 8, 1883, the Bishop noted in the journal:

“Proceeded to Graham where was received hospitably by Mrs. Gachter, said Evening Prayer, preached and confirmed Bomford Bladen Garrett.”

By the time the Voules family returned to Graham in 1884, the first small Episcopal Church in Graham had already been built. From Bishop Garrett's journal:

“May 15, 1884 – Set out immediately for Graham. Arrived at 4 PM, after a very rough drive of thirty miles” (from Mountain Horn) “and found the people gathering to witness the ceremony of Laying the Corner Stone of the Church of the Holy Spirit. This work done, I went to the residence of Mr. Crozier and baptized four infants and one adult, Oliver Cunningham, born May 18, 1878, Arthur Ramsey Crozier, born January 31, 1884, Harry Rubenkoenig, born March 29, 1884, and Ida Josephene Cunningham. This work being done, refreshments over and preparations made for the evening service. Evening Prayer having been said by Mr. Patrick, I preached and confirmed Mrs. Ida Josephine Cunningham and Mrs. Moseley. Thoroughly worn out I lay down for a few hours. At 4 AM I aroused my sleeping Presbyterian who in turn woke the driver, who in turn brought his hack and we started on our return journey in the grey dawn. Furious thunderstorms had spent their violence during the night. Swollen streams and muddy roads were the consequence. Weary and worn, we reached Weatherford at dark.”

Major Girand was serving as Lay Reader at this time in the newly erected Church. The Girands and Croziers had put up nearly all the money for the Church Building.

Realizing that the erection of the building itself was not an end, but a means to achieve that end, Mesdames Voules and Cunningham and their fellow communicants settled down to working in God's service and trying to bring others to His faith. In 1885, Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Rehders moved to Graham from Hamburg, Germany. The Rehders family became active and devoted members of the little Church. They had ten children of whom two still live in Graham. The John Rubenkoenigs were most faithful communicants in those days. Their children, John, Louis, Louise, Elsie, and Minnie still reside in or near Graham.

In the Bishop's journal of 1886-87, we find:

“May 24, 1886 – Held Evening Prayer in the Court House after which I preached, confirmed four persons and addressed them – Grandville Girand, Dunlap Crozier, Philetus Martyse, and John Cunningham.”
“April 4, 1887 – Received in Graham by Major and Mrs. Girand with their usual warm hospitality. W. Turner arrived by the stage in time for Evening Prayer, which was said in the Court House when I preached and confirmed seven persons: Granville Henderson Crozier, Bertha Clara Crozier, Allie Crozier, Robert Hollingsworth, Nellie Hollingsworth, James Bell Girand, and Ada Lee Girand.”
“April 5, 1887 – Set out at five in the morning for Weatherford.”

During the years following, the Episcopal Churches in the larger cities were growing with great rapidity, and were consuming more and more of Bishop Garrett's time. Hence, his visits to Graham grew more and more infrequent. His influence waning by the infrequencies of his visits, the fast growth of Holy Spirit Mission slowed down. Many good clergymen

serviced Holy Spirit Mission the ensuing years, but through no fault of their own, they did not have the magnetism this great man possessed.

The list of communicants of Holy Spirit Mission according to the General Convention of May 10, 1887 included twenty seven persons:

Jack Cornish	Mrs. Nellie Holman
B. B. Garrett	Mrs. Louisa Harding
F. W. Girand	Ann Louisa Harding
Frank Girand	Mary Jane Harding
Mrs. A. B. Girand	Feldy Ellen Harding
Mrs. Ida Benedict	Mrs. E. L. Mosley
L. F. Voules	Mrs. A. Rubenkoenig
Mrs. Mary Voules	Mrs. J. Meisterhans
J. T. Cunningham	Mrs. G. Gachter
Mrs. J. T. Cunningham	Robert Hollingsworth
D. S. Crozier	Mrs. R. Hollingsworth
Mrs. A. R. Crozier	Grandville Crozier
Nellie Crozier	James Bell Girand
Lou Delaney	

There were fourteen services held that year with an average attendance of seventy five persons per service. The church had been growing rapidly in Graham but dark days lay ahead.

Mr. and Mrs. Voules and their young son returned to England, and from there to Canada and Dallas in 1891. After Mr. Volules death in Dallas in 1893, Mrs. Voules and Rollie returned to Graham for good. After teaching music, Mary Voules started the first Sunday School in the little Episcopal Church on the side of the mountain. Her classes grew and she built a home (Rollie still lives there) designed for a private school. She continued being a firm foundation for Holy Spirit Mission until her death. She served as Treasurer for a great many years, keeping such accurate accounting of funds that she could tell anyone exactly what was spent for and what became of each spool of thread purchased.

Mrs. Belle Cunningham (later Mrs. Edgar Matthews) played the organ which the Girand and Crozier families had donated until her death in 1931. Occasionally the Reverend Wickens and Bishop Garrett (even more rarely) were able to hold services in Graham. In 1894-95, the Reverend J. B. C. Beaubien, Rector of the Episcopal Church in Weatherford made it occasionally to Graham. In the year 1895, the Missionary District of Northern Texas was reorganized and renamed The Diocese of Dallas. Holy Spirit Mission's Diocesan assessment was set at \$10 per year. The only minister to service Graham in 1896 was Mr. Wickens. Obviously, he couldn't make it very often. Bishop Garrett came to Graham once that year, held two services, and baptized two children. Major Girand moved away from Graham this year and John T. Cunningham took up the service of Lay Reader. In 1897, Bishop Garrett, being moved by the shrinking communicant strength of Holy Spirit, frequented her five times. With the death of Colonel Crozier in 1898, the little church was left practically destitute. People who had not been members, but had been attending, had been gradually leaving to attend other Protestant Churches that had regular ministers. But the remaining

communicants just “tightened up their belts” and “dug in”. They were determined that an Episcopal Church remain in Graham and that they were going to be a part of it.

In the journal of the General Convention of the Diocese of Dallas of 1898, the following is reported on the state of the Church in Graham:

“The minister in charge of the Mission of the Holy Spirit at Graham is The Rev. Frank Moore, whose post office address is Weatherford. He has had charge since April 23, 1898. He gives one Sunday in each month to the mission. The Lay Reader for this mission is J. T. Cunningham. “

The communicants are:

John T. Cunningham	Mrs. Rubenkoenig
Ida Josephine Cunningham	L. Rolland Voules
John M. Cunningham	Mrs. Lobin
Mrs. Maude Arnold	Mrs. Mosley
G. H. Crozier	Mrs. Mary Voules
Miss Margaret Crozier	

In just eleven short years, the membership has slipped from twenty seven to thirteen. These were dark years. Especially for the Cunninghams as their son John M. died in 1899. By the end of 1899, there were only eight members left.

However, things started changing for the better for Holy Spirit Mission. In 1900, there were six persons confirmed and one moved in by transfer. This brought the total back to fifteen communicants. The 1901 report on Holy Spirit Mission at the General Convention stated:

*“The Holy Spirit, Graham, receives Mr. Moore once a month with cordial good will. Neither the badness of the road or the vicissitudes of the weather deter the faithful missionary. At the end of an appointment he is on the way to arrive when he can. The town has taken on fresh enthusiasm from the renewed hope of an approaching railroad. Coal of superior quality in the neighborhood offers its black diamonds in return for the facilities of transportation. Everyone is hoping and waiting for the bands of steel which have so long delayed their coming.
Signed – Francis Moore”*

Mr. Moore was also serving Weatherford, Jacksboro, Breckenridge, Eastland, and Mineral Wells. By this time, the small number of Churchmen had lost none of their lively attendance. In fact, they were becoming quite optimistic. The new names added to the roles were:

P. A. Martin	Luella Cunningham
John Rubenkoenig	John Miesterhans, Jr.
W. C. Barnum	

By 1903, the strength had grown to twenty. But things were beginning to look cloudy again. Mr. Moore had ceased coming to Graham so regularly. He gave Holy Spirit only every fifth

Sunday. He stated that, since the coming of the Rock Island Railroad, the town has taken on new life and growth, adding several to the list of members. He stated also that this mission should have more frequent services, but he was unable to devote it much time. Three new names appeared on the list in 1903:

Mrs. Thomas O'Reiley
Mrs. Mary Smith

Miss Madalena Gacher

By 1904, the mission had no minister. There were only a total of ten services all year. The Church building was in ruins. Again the faithful congregation "bowed their necks" and worked even harder to keep their Church. They began making plans to either repair the old building or to build a new Church building. Mesdames Voules, Matthews, Cunningham, Rehders, and Mrs. Gachter decided they would raise what money they could by whatever means might be at hand. They started holding fried chicken dinners in their homes for 50 cents a plate. They embroidered dish towels out of flour sacks and walked around the square selling them for whatever people would donate.

In 1905, Mr. Wickens was again coming to Graham – irregularly. He held seventeen services that year. The Lay Reader was still John T. Cunningham. It was noted in the journal that:

"the ladies of the mission are making strong efforts toward building a new Church and hope by mid-1906 to have one built (a small one, but nice). The old Church is in a terrible run-down condition and is almost worthless. Services, when we have any, are very satisfactory to the people of the mission.
Signed: J. T. Cunningham, Warden"

By 1907, the following names had been added to the list:

Mrs. Weidemer
Miss Eddie Garrett (later Mrs. C. P. Hutchinson)

Through the faithful efforts of the ladies, Mrs. B. B. Garrett designed and built the new building in 1907 on the same rock foundation that the original Church was built on twenty three years before. In the Convention of 1908, the notation:

"A new Church has been built and paid for. The people of Graham have liberally helped, our own members have all contributed. The Church Building Fund Commission made a most liberal gift."

Bishop Garrett not only gave money, but also sent the beautiful Altar, formerly in Saint Mary's College, Dallas. This Alter is still in use today. The cost of the Church was \$2,500. By 1909, the Sunday School was in full swing. In fact, there were more Sunday School pupils than Church members. There were thirty pupils and six teachers. The Rehders had been confirmed, also, Robert and Velma Melton and Edward and Lizzie Wallace. By 1910, people were moving away again. The name, Mrs. Ardine Gelfilhais, showed up on the roles.

When Emma Parish (Mrs. F. F.) came to town in 1911, the communicant strength had dropped to nineteen. However, Mrs. Voules Sunday School had five teachers and twenty two pupils. Irregular services caused a continuance of the decline to a total of twelve in 1914. Mrs. Mary Manning, Miss Evans and J. W. and Kate Fulps had moved here by 1915. The death of John T. Cunningham on July 3, 1916 dealt the congregation a severe blow. He had served faithfully as Lay Reader for twenty years! The Church lost another pioneer with the death of Mrs. Gertrude Gacher in 1918. During these years, first one and then another clergyman served Holy Spirit. Mrs. Margaret Harris McFarlane came from Arkansas in 1920, with her husband, Robert William McFarlane, opened a law office with his son, William D. McFarlane. In later years, "Maggie's" (as she was affectionately known) little granddaughter, Mary Ellen (now Mrs. Louis Pitcock, Jr.) came to Church with her.

January of 1923 was destined to become an important date in the history of Holy Spirit Mission. It marked the coming of Graham Preston and Mamie Blount Stewart. This family has been quite generous to their Church throughout the years. They had four children: Graham Jr., Itasca, Edward, and Malcolm. Only Malcolm's family live in Graham now. The ladies auxiliary (later known as Saint Anne's Guild) was organized in April. There were only ten communicants when the Stewart's arrived. They were:

Mrs. Mary Voules	Mr. Lloyd
Mrs. Belle Matthews	Mrs. Lloyd
Rollie Voules	Mrs. Emma Parrish
John Meisterhans, Jr.	Mrs. Josephine Cunningham
Magalena Gachter	James Nash

The Archdeacon of the Dioese, Dr. Verden, gave services once a month that year.

1924 marked the passing of the greatest man the Diocese of Dallas ever claimed: Bishop Alexander Charles Garrett. Forty nine years of building the Episcopal Church in this vast wilderness finally got the best of him. His influential piety left its mark where he happened to be. Ministers of all faiths paid tribute to him at his death.

Chapter II

AFTER BISHOP GARRETT

September of 1924 also marked the coming of another steadfast family to the little mission started by Bishop Garrett some forty eight years before. Charles Harold and Edna Atkinson came that year. Charlie has served on the Vestry almost continuously ever since. He has served both as Senior Warden and Junior Warden, and as Lay Reader occasionally. Edna Atkinson has served continuously ever since her arrival in Graham. The Reverend Frank H. Steadman came from Weatherford once a month to hold services. However, he quit coming in July of 1925. Again, the little Church was on a "catch as catch can" basis as far as a minister was concerned. Bishop Harry T. Moore came to Graham on October 29, 1926, and confirmed Gretchen Morgan, Mrs. Belle Matthews was organist when Dr. Claude A. Beesley first came to hold services on September 1, 1928. This year, 1928, was another milestone in the history of the Church. Mrs. Jessie Smiley and her daughter, Jessie came that year. Jessie married Dr. W. B. Westlake in 1930. Since she first came to Graham, Jessie Westlake has been one of the most faithful servants of God. She never says much, but when there is work to be done, Jessie is there. Mrs. E. R. (Lucie) Riggs moved to Graham from Georgia in 1928. Lucie is another one of those persons who has always been most generous to her Church. She gave much of her person until later years when she became quite involved in high offices in the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mrs. Belle Matthews died on May 13, 1931. She gave herself, her money, and her talents to the Faith she loved so well. No person can give any more worthily. After her death, Dr. Beesley took up the vacant organist bench as well as carrying on services. When Mrs. S. A. (Lois) Penix moved to Graham in 1933, the communicant strength had grown to twenty five. Mrs. Penix then became the organist. Later, after a choir had been formed, Lois served as Choir Directress. During the years 1928-1933, Dr. Beesley came from Mineral Wells for a weekly Sunday night service. His charge included Graham, Mineral Wells, and Breckenridge. Since an eleven o'clock Easter Service and the midnight Christmas Eve Service could not be held in all three towns at the same time, the congregations alternated in traveling to the town that the service was being held. Dr. Beesley was relieved of his charge in these towns on January 31, 1933. He is lovingly remembered in Holy Spirit. He now works for his Lord in Wichita Falls.

As if the departure of Dr. Beesley was not bad enough, an even darker moment in the Church's history occurred on February 23, 1933. That date marks the death of Mary Phillipa Voules. She was a driving influence here for fifty three years. She served in every capacity a woman can in the Episcopal Church. We owe Mrs. Voules and her friends a debt of gratitude for their steadfastness. For, without persons like Mary Voules, we might well not have an Episcopal Church in Graham today.

The Reverend Edward S. Barlow followed Dr. Beesley. By this time, R. F. Windfohr had moved from Graham. He had originally come from Baltimore, Maryland. His grandfather was a Bishop in the Episcopal Church. Mr. Windfohr was always generous in his support, even for a good many years after he moved away. Another faithful Church worker appeared upon the scene in 1934. Mrs. T. J. (Eugenia) Howell has been a faithful worker since her

arrival. Her duties as Sunday School Superintendent date back to her first years in Graham. Harmon Rudolph and Hazel Cloughly came from Wichita Falls with their daughters, Phyllis and Dianna, in 1935. They were very hard workers, and most generous until their deaths. 1936 marked the death of Ben H. Cunningham. In 1937, Mrs. Ada Girand Griffith gave the brass Cross and Holy Communion Candlesticks that we still use in memory of the Girand family.

Another great lady died May 8, 1938: Mrs. John T. Cunningham. Mrs. Cunningham was the last of the original "rocks of Gibraltar" of the Church from those early days. It is well to remember that there are a great many more of our Lord's servants in Heaven than there are on earth today. The Reverend Austin B. Mitchell was given charge of Holy Spirit Mission on June 1, 1938. The congregation really went to work. There were only sixteen of them, but they were hard workers. Mrs. Maggie McFarlane died in 1939. She had rarely missed a service in her years here. Pete and Orva Kininmonth came to Graham that year. The Kininmonth family has been a great asset to the Church in the years that followed. Orva became organist that year, and served as such until 1955. Mrs. N. B. (Frances Miller) Crenshaw served as organist some during the years 1938 and 1939 until the coming of Mrs. Kininmonth. Though she never was a member of Holy Spirit, we are very grateful to Frances Crenshaw for her help. In 1939, the Atkinsons, Barron Colliers, Cloughlys, Stewarts, and Prescotts met in Lucie Riggs' basement and made and covered new kneeling benches. Imitation stained glass decals were placed on the Church windows. A new stove and light fixtures were installed. The stove was purchased at cost from one of the communicants, Richard McCrum, who had a hardware store. Red linoleum was laid on the floor in the Sanctuary and the aisle. Mrs. Parkston was here then. Bishop Harry T. Moore confirmed Malcolm McNair Stewart, Charles Harold Atkinson Jr., and John Donaldson Riggs on April 23, 1939. The Reverend Julian E. Bauknight came in December 1939 and stayed until early fall of 1940. By that time, the list of members had grown to thirty six.

Beginning in October of 1940, the Reverend Charles G. Fox, a retired clergyman, began his weekly trip from Fort Worth to Graham and Breckenridge, which was to last ten years. Usually, he went to Breckenridge for an early service, and then back to Graham for the eleven o'clock service, after which he was invited to dinner at the home of one of the communicants. He was very well known and loved in the community. Itasca Stewart married Wylie Larimore Gibbard on March 2, 1940. Dr. Wittington Berry Westlake was confirmed by Bishop Moore in April of 1940. Dr. Westlake has been an asset to the Church, serving as vestryman from the time of his confirmation until 1955. Also in April of 1941, Mr. Fox baptized John Berry and Ida Jo Westlake. Phyllis Elizabeth Cloughly married Hershell Edward Eichler on June 6th. Noema Watson married John Wall Page, Jr. on November 29th.

In 1942, Mrs. Mamie Stewart gave a service plaque showing the names of the men and women from Holy Spirit serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. It reads:

Roll of Honor
Holy Spirit Mission
Graham, Texas
Pays Tribute To Those Who Have Left Our Midst
To Fight For Peace And Freedom

By the end of World War II, the following names were on the plaque:

Edward Blount Stewart	LeVeaux A. Parrish
Charles H. Atkinson	Curtis W. Kininmonth
John J. Gallaher, Jr.	Graham P. Stewart, Jr.
Jane Perot	Francis Fenet Parrish
Charles H. Atkinson, Jr.	Malcolm McNair Stewart
Barron B. Collier	

The following persons were baptized in 1942:

Graham Stewart Gibbard	Geneva May Barham Richards
Suzanne Stewart	Joseph McClelland Richards

Mrs. Riggs' and Mrs. Howell's mother, Mrs. J. P. (Eugenia) Donaldson came to Graham in 1942, after the death of her husband in Slater, Florida. The year 1943 saw Mrs. J. W. (Ollie) Loving confirmed on July 8th. Harmon Edward Eichler, Mary Carolyn Loving, Jesse Burnette Ritch and John Burnette Ritch were baptized on December 24th. Mary Loving married William T. Blair on August 21st. When Dianna S. Cloughly married L. F. Gresham on July 29, 1944, the list of communicants stood at thirty nine.

The list of baptisms for 1945 is as follows:

Alexander Stewart	January 6 th
Deen Osborne Prescott	October 21 st
Margaret Lacy Stewart	November 24 th

Leah Grace Ward married Charles Oscar Boaz on July 24th. Maxine Louise Huff married Jack D. Jennings on November 28th. Ruth Courtney married Walter Jay Rawls on December 11th. This was a big year for marriages in the Church. The Senior Warden in 1945 was Charles H. Atkinson. Graham P. Stewart was the Treasurer. Mr. Fox baptized Pamela Ann Gresham on March 2, 1946. Patricia Ann Kininmonth married Russell Paulson on April 21st that same year.

Bishop C. Avery Mason confirmed John B. and Ida Jo Westlake that same year.

Mr. Fox had a big year for baptisms in 1947:

Lominta Ann Loving	March 2 nd
Sibyl Jane Gallaher	March 8 th
John James Gallaher	March 8 th
Peter Kininmonth Gallaher	March 8 th
Eva Jo McCauley	August 10 th
Candace Neal McCauley	August 10 th
Sabra Dianna Eichler	December 24 th

Two new couples arrived in 1948. Al and Margaret Comstock and Ben and Liz Kirkpatrick and their families came that year. They were all very good Church workers, but unfortunately, they moved away all too soon. The Comstocks live in Wichita Falls now, and the Kirkpatricks live in Mineral Wells.

James Anthony and Anna Janelle Westlake were baptized March 21, 1948.

The year 1949 brought the death of Maggie Pearl McFarlane on March 25th.

Things had moved along very smoothly for ten years under the charge of Mr. Fox, but he was ten years older, and not able to stand the strain of the long bus trips every Sunday. He baptized Frederick Evans Martin on April 8th, and was relieved of his charge on October 15, 1950. The Senior Warden at the time was Fred J. Finch, who was a most faithful communicant, and most generous. The congregation and the vestry decided this was the time to take a momentous step in the history of the Church. On January 1, 1951, The Reverend Rex C. Simms came to Graham as the first resident minister of Holy Spirit Mission! The coming of Mr. Simms lent new life to the communicants and their families. In 1951, a school house was purchased at Markley, Texas, and moved to just north of the church. This was the first Parish Hall. It is still in use today. The members put a new hardwood floor in it, and painted the inside a dark green. This color was used to hide the cracks between the boards on the walls. Celotex was used to cover the ceiling. A bathroom and kitchenette were installed.

Another of the Church's pillars died on August 17, 1951: Harmon Rudolph Cloughly. Also, John R. Ramsey died on October 8th. Both of these are well remembered and are to be thanked for their service. Mr. Ramsey's wife, Alyne, was most generous until her recent death, though not an Episcopalian. On May 18th, Bishop Mason confirmed Hershell Edward Eichler and Ruth Dougherty Humphries. Mr. Simms baptized the following persons on June 10th:

Tennyson Jane Paulsen	Born October 11, 1949
Hershell Edward Eichler	Born April 30, 1920
Mamie Blount Stewart	Born February 27, 1951

The church officers that year (1951) were:

Senior Warden	H. R. Cloughly (replaced by Ed Stewart)
Junior Warden	Edward Stewart
Treasurer	Graham Stewart
Organist	Mrs. Orva Kininmonth
Sunday School Supt.	Mrs. Kathleen Simms
Vestrymen	Dr. W. B. Westlake
Vestryman	Fred J. Finch
Vestryman	Al C. Comstock

These were good active years for Holy Spirit and her communicants. That is, except for the untimely death of Susan Stinette Stewart. Her husband, Edward, gave a brass Processional Cross to the Church in 1952, in memory of his wife. Bill and Patricia Loving moved away. Mr. Simms baptized John Donaldson Riggs, Jr. and Richard McElroy Riggs on April 13, 1952. Bishop Mason confirmed Bobbie McElroy Riggs on June 8th. Mrs. Stewart donated a red carpet for the floor of the sanctuary and the aisle. The linoleum had long been worn out. Mr. Simms received another call, and left Graham on July 13th.

The next minister was The Reverend Robert D. O'Hara, who assumed charge of the mission November 11, 1952. Bishop Mason confirmed Richard Allen Comstock and Gillian Shirley Teague on November 16th. Mrs. Hazel Cloughly gave the Church a new missal and brass stand in memory of her husband, Harmon, that year.

In early 1953, a California style bungalow at 1210 Third Street was purchased from Mrs. Stewart, to be the first rectory. A small parking lot was constructed on the west side of the Parish Hall. Storage cabinets and cloak space were built in the Parish Hall. An information sign was erected in front of the Church. Bishop Mason confirmed:

Margaret Lacy Stewart	January 4, 1953
Graham Stewart Gibbard	
Ena Goble	March 15, 1953
Hortense Goble	
Ralph Henry Goble	
Philip Armstrong	September 6, 1953
Helen Armstrong	

Richard B. McCrum died on November 18, 1953

The Vestry of the year 1953 included:

Senior Warden	Edward Stewart
Junior Warden	Hershel Eichler
Clerk	Al Comstock
Treasurer	Graham Stewart
Vestryman	Dr. Westlake
Vestryman	Fred Finch
Vestryman	Charlie Atkinson
Vestryman	Marion White
Sunday School Supt.	Mrs. Howell
Organist	Mrs. Kininmonth
Choir Directress	Mrs. O'Hara

By 1954, there were forty communicants when Bishop Mason confirmed John James Gallaher III and Peter Kininmonth Gallaher. Ida Jo Westlake married Eugene Howard Griffin on May 25th. The reception was held in the Parish Hall. They now reside in Dallas. On November 28th, Bishop Mason confirmed Billy Jack Maupin. The names of Ben Kirkpatrick, H. B. Smith, Ralph Goble, John Riggs, and H. Y. Humphries had been added to the vestry by the end of 1954. In 1955, with the departure of Mrs. Kininmonth, Mrs. O'Hara took over the spot of organist. Bishop Mason came out on January 6, 1955 and confirmed Lucile Walker Burkett and Zach Thomason Burkett, Jr. The Burkett family has been a great asset to the Church. April 9, 1955, Hazel Anne Cloughly married James L. Cowan. The next day, April 10th, Mr. O'Hara baptized Carol Dee Burkett, Mildred Sue Burkett, Zack Thomason Burkett III, and Deborah Ann Riggs. The men of the church held a successful pancake supper in February. Jack Chestnut and Al Comstock served as co-chairmen of this event. About forty persons attended.

The vestry for 1955 included:

Senior Warden	A. C. Comstock Jr.
Junior Warden	C. H. Atkinson (replacing Marion White; moved)
Clerk	Edward B. Stewart
Treasurer	Graham P. Stewart
Vestryman	Zack Burkett
Vestryman	Jack Chestnut
Vestryman	Frank Garrett
Vestryman	Mr. Webb
Vestryman	Phil Armstrong
Vestryman	John Riggs

A bell was finally installed in the vacant belfry by John Riggs in October 1955.

James Eugene Garrett was confirmed on January 15, 1956. Mr. O'Hara baptized James L. Cowen on March 31st. Mr. Cowen and John Robert Lowrance were confirmed on April 11th. The Eichlers transferred their membership to Jacksboro, having lived there for some time. Before his departure in July, Mr. O'Hara had trained Edward Stewart, Philip Armstrong, John Riggs, John Westlake, and Frank Garrett as Lay Readers. They carried on the Morning Prayer services every Sunday until The Reverend Joseph T. Boulet arrived December 16, 1956. Earlier in the year, another pancake supper was held in the Parish Hall with Jack

Chestnut in charge, and Frank Garrett and Phil Armstrong assisting. It is not known at this time whether Frank Garrett is any relation to Bishop Garrett or not.

The vestry for 1956 included:

Senior Warden	Edward Stewart
Junior Warden	John Riggs
Clerk	Phil Armstrong
Treasurer	Graham Stewart
Vestryman	Zack Burkett
Vestryman	Frank Garrett
Vestryman	Bill Porter
Vestryman	Calvin Myers
Vestryman	John Westlake
Vestryman	Jack Chestnut
Vestryman	James Cowan
Sunday School Supt.	Mrs. Howell
Choir Directress	Helen Armstrong
Organist	Mrs. O'Hara
Organist	Barbara Boulet

An office building committee was formed with Zack Burkett as Chairman, assisted by John Riggs.

Zack Burkett and John Riggs were elected delegates to the General Convention, with Graham Stewart and John Westlake as alternate delegates.

The Rector's Office was completed early in the year of 1957. This wasn't too good a year for Holy Spirit, as a good many members moved away.

Bishop Harte (Suffragen Bishop of the Diocese of Dallas) confirmed Carol Dee Burkett, Anna Janelle Westlake, and James Anthony Westlake on January 20th.

Then the migration away from Graham began. The Chestnuts moved to Dallas in February. Malcolm and Doris Stewart moved back to Graham in June. Ida Jo Griffin transferred to Dallas in July. Mr. and Mrs. Billy Jack Maupin transferred to Fort Worth in July. Edward B. Stewart and his family moved to Artesia, New Mexico in July. July was a bad month. Frank Garrett and his family moved to Odessa in September. Mrs. Margaret Jerry transferred to San Antonio in October. Mr. Boulet baptized Cathryne Leslie Porter on October 6th. Phil and Helen Armstrong moved to Texas City in August of 1957. Then, Ena Goble married Richard Brown on November 13th, and made their residence away from Graham. John Riggs was elected Senior Warden, with Malcolm Stewart as Jr. Warden. Sam Rives was elected Clerk. Dr. Joe Robertson was added to the vestry.

Even with the loss of so many good people in the previous year, Holy Spirit Mission had gained some, too. Her membership list of communicants had grown to fifty one in 1958. There were three deaths in 1958, however. Hazel Cloughly Cowan died on January 28th. Marie Darling Handy died September 16th. After Fred Finch's death, Alice Finch moved to Rome, Rome, New York. Bishop Mason confirmed Robert Gene Buckles Marietta Buckles,

and Mildred Sue Burkett on January 26th. Marion and Carolyn White transferred to Odessa in February. Mr. Boulet baptized David Lynn Buckles, Gregory Lee Buckles, and Judy Ann Buckles on February 16th. Richard and Connie Hamrick moved to Graham on September 15th, and purchased a photography shop down town.

The vestry that year included:

Senior Warden	John Riggs
Junior Warden	Malcolm M. Stewart
Clerk	Sam C. Rives
Treasurer	Graham Stewart
Vestryman	Bob Buckles
Vestryman	Zack Burkett
Vestryman	Bill Porter
Vestryman	Joe Robertson
Vestryman	John Westlake
Vestryman	James Cowan

The delegates to the convention were Malcolm Stewart and John Riggs. Sam Rives and Zack Burkett were elected alternate delegates.

Another mass migration hit Holy Spirit Mission a severe blow in 1959. James Cowen moved to Ruidoso, New Mexico. John Meisterhans Jr. moved to Breckenridge, although he kept his membership here. Alice Humphries died. Mr. and Mrs. John Hart moved to Houston (Mr. Hart had previously given the stove that is in use in the Church today). Maureen Bland moved to Dallas. Sibyl Jane Gallaher married Max Jones, and moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma. Jean Ann Lewis moved to Rock River, Wyoming. A monthly Church Bulletin called "The Dove" was printed in March by Mr. Boulet. However, it was discontinued in November. Richard Hamrick repaired the sign in front of the Church in March. Stephen A. Penix died March 21st. Although he was not an Episcopalian, he was buried by Mr. Boulet. On March 22nd, Bishop Harte confirmed Charles T. Gann and Mrs. Marietta Long. Suzanne Colette Porter was baptized April 5th. Then Stephen Joseph Buckles was baptized on May 10th. Gordon and Ima Gray were confirmed on September 9th, but moved to Fort Worth the following week. Richard Gann was baptized on September 13th by Mr. Boulet.

The vestry read as follows:

Senior Warden	John Riggs
Junior Warden	Malcolm Stewart
Clerk	Richard Hamrick
Co-Treasurers	Malcolm Stewart/John Riggs
Vestrymen	John Gallaher Jr.
Vestryman	John Westlake
Vestryman	Zack Burkett

The delegates to the convention were John Riggs and Malcolm Stewart. The alternates were Zack Burkett and John Westlake. Lucile Burkett headed Saint Anne's Guild. Mr. Boulet answered a call from Christ's Episcopal Church in Dallas on December 31, 1959.

The dawn of January 1, 1960 brought new life and determination to the members of Holy Spirit Mission. Richard Hamrick, John Gallaher Jr., John Riggs, and John Westlake carried on the services until a new minister was secured. Talk of applying for Parish Status filled the air. It takes fifty communicants to become a Parish, and Holy Spirit had that many since 1958. A record budget was adopted. The men of the Church completely renovated the interior of the Parish Hall in January. The dark green paint had become quite dismal through the years. They covered the walls with celotex and used a four foot plywood wainscoting. With the brightening up of the Parish Hall, a young couple's evening came into being. Holy Spirit Mission became the sponsors of Cub Scout Pack number Ninety Three. The little Pack grew rapidly to two dens headed by Mrs. Bobbie Riggs, Mrs. Frances Karper, Mrs. Lucile Burkett, and Mrs. Jean Bettis. Mr. Francis Abel graciously accepted an invitation to be the Cubmaster. Richard Hamrick is the Assistant Cubmaster. The Pack Committeemen are Glenn Ragle, Ed Karper, Bob Williams, and John Riggs. A coffee period immediately after the Sunday eleven o'clock service has been quite popular. It has given friends a chance to visit and to meet the newcomers. A Sunday program is published weekly.

The Reverend Francis W. Carr, his wife Lee, and two children Leslie and Bruce, arrived the afternoon of February 14th from Richland, Washington. Under his guidance, a youth organization has sprung up. The Sunday services are very well attended. In fact, there has been some talk about building a new Church. The Mission has applied for Parish status to the General Convention of the Diocese of Dallas to be held May 4th and 5th at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, Dallas. New members received recently include: Charles and Jamie Beth Hampton, D. S. Sampson, Mrs. Walter (Connie) Bishop and her mother, Mrs. Arthur Baxter. Two young men are ready for confirmation when Bishop Harte comes in the latter part of May. The Porters will be greatly missed as they moved to Alice, Texas in February. Our prayers are offered for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Gretchen Morgan.

Vestrymen for 1960 are:

Senior Warden	Zack Burkett Jr.
Junior Warden	Malcolm Stewart
Clerk	Richard Hamrick
Treasurer	John Riggs
Vestryman	John Westlake
Vestryman	John Gallaher Jr.

Mrs. Bobbie Riggs and Mrs. Jane Gallaher are co-presidents of Saint Anne's Guild. Mrs. Lucile Burkett heads the Alter Guild. Mrs. Lucie Riggs is Guild Treasurer. Mrs. Eugenia Howell is Sunday School Superintendant, and Mrs. Lois Penix is Choir Directress. Holy Spirit is proud of her Children's Choir: Graeme Stewart, Jannelle Westlake, Carol Burkett, Sue Burkett, James Montgomery, Harold Meredith, Kim Williams, Johnny Riggs, Zack Burkett III, and Ricky Riggs. The Acolytes are John III, Peter, and Curtis Gallaher. The Processional Cross Bearers are James Montgomery, Harold Meredith, and Johnny Riggs. The Sunday School teachers are Mr. Carr, Mrs. Howell, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Burkett, and Mrs. J. Riggs. Doris Padgett and Judy Hamer have taught on occasion.

The present communicant list reads:

Charles H. Atkinson	Mrs. T. J. (Eugenia) Howell
Mrs. C. H. (Edna) Atkinson	Mrs. C. (Dorothy) Killough Jr.
Mrs. A. (Winfred) Baxter	E. Pete Kininmonth
Mrs. W. (Connie) Bishop	Mrs. L. A. (Marietta) Long
Mrs. R. (Ena) Brown	Mrs. J. W. (Ollie) Loving
Zack T. Burkett Jr.	John H. Meisterhans Jr.
Mrs. Z. T. (Lucile) Burkett	John C. Myers
Miss Mildred Sue Burkett	Mrs. J. C. (Ouida) Myers
Miss Carol Dee Burkett	Mrs. R. (Doris) Padgett
The Rev. Francis W. Carr	Mrs. F. F. (Emma) Parrish
Mrs. F. W. (Lee) Carr	Mrs. S. A. (Lois) Penix
Mrs. J. P. (Eugenia) Donaldson	Mrs. E. R. (Lucie) Riggs
Miss Madalena Gachter	John D. Riggs
John James Gallaher Jr.	Mrs. J. D. (Bobbie) Riggs
Mrs. J. J. (Jane) Gallaher Jr.	Doug S. Sampson
John J. Gallaher III	Graham P. Stewart
Peter Gallaher	Mrs. G. P. (Mamie) Stewart
Curtis K. Gallaher	Malcolm M. Stewart
Mrs. W. L. (Itasca) Gibbard	Mrs. M. M. (Doris) Stewart
Graham S. Gibbard	Mrs. Gillian Teague
Ralph H. Goble	L. Rolland Voules
Mrs. R. H. (Hortense) Goble	Dr. W. B. Westlake
Charles E. Hampton	Mrs. W. B. (Jessie) Westlake
Mrs. C. E. (Jamie) Hampton	John B. Westlake
Richard A. Hamrick	Miss Jannelle Westlake
Mrs. R. A. (Connie) Hamrick	Anthony Westlake

MAY 1960 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Harold Meredith

James Montgomery

BAPTIZED MEMBERS

Becky Bishop

Jimmy Montgomery

Zack Burkett III

Heidi Montgomery

Jimmy Burkett

Johnny Riggs

Leslie Carr

Ricky Riggs

Bruce Carr

Debbie Riggs

Cal Myers

Graeme Stewart

Cindy Myers

Sister Stewart

Harold Meredith

Bea Stewart

- There are several other children attending Holy Spirit's Sunday School Classes.

Many have gone before these Church people and many shall follow.

THE BEGINNING

Our thanks to the following persons who are not Episcopalians at this time, but who have helped us this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Williams

Mrs. Bill Montgomery

Mr. L. A. Long

Mr. Francis Abel

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Collins

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Karper

Mrs. Carrie J. Crouch

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bettis

Miss Alyne Crouch

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Ragle

Mr. Robert Padgett

Mr. Walter Bishop

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF SOURCES OF INFORMATION

History of Young County by Carrie J. Crouch

Journal of Bishop Alexander Charles Garrett

Journal of the Missionary Jurisdiction in Northern Texas

Journal of the Diocese of Dallas

The Episcopal Church in North Texas (Until 1895) by Dr. Claude A. Beesley

Vestry Meeting Minutes of Holy Spirit Mission 1952-1960

Mr. Edgar A. Matthews

Mr. Lawrence Rolland Voules

And other good people too numerous to mention.

Thank You

John D. Riggs