

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Port Royal, South Carolina - Milestones

Please note that this covers only the struggle to become a recognized Episcopal entity. It does not include the extensive outreach, mission and social work the Chapel/Mission/Parish has accomplished which began with its conception.

- 26 Oct 2003 First meeting at home of The Rev. Roger & Headley Smith. 12 folk: Erringtons, Hodsdons, Nieterts, Seims, Shaffers, and Smiths. Meeting called because local parish church St. Helena's decided to stop supporting TEC as a result of Gene Robinson becoming Bishop. of NH.
- 08 Feb 2004 The SC Episcopal Forum second meeting is at the Shaffers' home.
- 07 Mar 2004 Pinkertons' first meeting – first newcomers to this Episcopal community. (at Purdens' on Fripp)
- 20 Feb 2005 Granted Federal Employer Identification Number. (Getting legal.)
- 24 Feb 2005 St. Mark's Episcopal Chapel, Inc. a non-profit South Carolina religious corporation established. Wow, word got out and letters from the Bishop, the National Chancellor, etc. came in threatening amongst other things to cancel Roger's pension. Roger Smith responded to the Bishop as did Bob Pinkerton to the Chancellor apologizing for the use of the word "Episcopal."
- 23 May 2005 Meeting between St. Mark's (Smith, Shaffer & Pinkerton) and St. Helena Leadership (Batts, Gray, Limehouse, Miller, & Pringle). Best we could do was get agreement that there would be conflict but not hatred.
- 12 Jun 2005 Rev. Jack Nietert's "Do we just want to be a cozy club?" statement identified a growing sentiment by many that St. Mark's mission was much more than just a Sunday evening service.
- 16 Jun 2005 "Episcopal" removed from corporate name (ceding to demands of the Diocese and also TEC).
- 02 Jul 2006 Strongly worded and long detailed editorial in Beaufort Gazette by Editor Jim Cato criticizes changes in TEC with him supporting very conservative view of St. Helena. (Jim in 2012 became a Deacon of the breakaway "Anglican" Diocese of which St. Helena is a leader.)
- 15 Jul 2006 St. Mark's Statement of Faith "Episcopalians caught in a vortex of crises" by ten St. Markers published in the Beaufort Gazette and also an article by Scott Shaffer, "A view from the other side of the Episcopal Church". This triggers many letters of opposition to St. Mark's and support of St. Helena in ensuing weeks.
- 11 Aug 2006 Scott Shaffer sends letters to Presiding Bishops. Schori and Griswold regarding the letters to the Editor in the Beaufort Gazette.
- 12 Sep 2006 St. Mark's publishes "An Open Letter to Episcopalians in the Diocese of South Carolina" in Beaufort Gazette. This was a reprint of the Episcopal Forum's piece published a week earlier in the Charleston Post & Courier.
- 16 Sep 2006 Mark Lawrence elected Bishop, but this declared null & void 15 Mar 2007 for insufficient consent responses from the TEC Standing Committee.
- 28 Sept 2006 Presiding Bishop Schori replies to Scott's letter with encouragement and understanding.
- 08 Aug 2007 Mark Lawrence re-elected Bishop and subsequently consecrated on 26 Jan 2008.
- 14 Oct 2007 First meeting at Sea Island Inn. (The house church ends.)
- 02 Dec 2007 Began weekly meetings. Prior to this we met every other week (still Sunday evenings).
- 18 Jan 2008 Meeting at St. Helena with Bishops. Salmon, Lawrence, Hathaway, and Rector, Jr. & Sr. Warden of St. Helena and our Scott & Bob.
- 13 Aug 2008 St. Mark's Council Committee approves Parochial Mission Articles of Association.
- 24 Aug 2008 Membership supports Committee's efforts to become a mission of All Saints and the Parochial Mission Articles of Association.
- 24 Sep 2008 Bp. Lawrence, Rev. Hansel, Shaffer & Pinkerton meet at Diocese. Bishop denies Mission status sponsored by All Saints or as a stand alone mission.
- 14 Dec 2008 Bob Hansel officially named Chaplin, Roger becomes Emeritus.

- 29 Mar 2009 Final service at Sea Island Inn. Following the announcements, the congregation adjourned and celebrated the peace and communion in our new home, the Masonic lodge in Port Royal.
- 05 Apr 2009 First full service now in the morning (first time in the a.m.) at the Masonic Lodge in Port Royal.
- 01 Nov 2009 Last service at the Masonic Lodge in Port Royal.
- 08 Nov 2009 First service at Union Church, Port Royal.
- 31 Oct 2010 St. Mark's held the first *Trunk or Treat*, a "great success" with 100+ kids & 15 decorated cars.
- 09 Jan 2011 First Baptism, JAC Cadien by Bob Hansel.
- 24 Apr 2011 Last service by Dr. Hansel. (The Revs. Daniels-Turk, Nietert and Smith become the Madre-Padre-Cadre performing all clergy services until Aug. 1, 2014 with the Vestry providing day-to-day management.)
- 06 Nov 2011 Bishop Lawrence performs Eucharist but reneges (with 2 day's notice) on commitment to perform Confirmation. (Confirmation class not happy after 6 months of classwork.)
- 17 Oct 2012 Bp. Lawrence disaffiliates the Diocese of SC from The Episcopal Church.
- 03 Nov 2012 St. Mark's & All Saints HHI ad in paper that: "Episcopal Diocese of SC will continue under new leadership and a new Bishop."
- 05 Dec 2012 Bp. Lawrence officially relieved as an Episcopal Bishop taking with him about 2/3 of the churches in the Diocese, all Diocesan assets (\$500 million) and, he says, the rights to the Diocesan name, seal, and Episcopal Shield. Legal activity begins shortly afterward when the breakaways file a lawsuit in State court.
- 03 Feb 2013 New Bishop vonRosenberg performs first Confirmation service at St. Mark's.
- 09 Mar 2013 St. Mark's welcomed into union with The Episcopal Church in SC (TECSC) as a Mission at first Convention of reformed Diocese. Jack Nietert & Bob Pinkerton elected Trustees of the Diocese.
- 09 Feb 2014 Second Confirmation service by Bishop vonRosenberg at St. Mark's
- 22 Feb 2014 Scott Shaffer elected to the Standing Committee of the Diocese.
- 01 Aug 2014 The Rev. Jim Dannals joins as Vicar (3/4 time).
- 09 Nov 2014 St. Mark's goes to two services (8:30 and 10:30). This eventually becomes 9:00 and 11:00.
- 15 Nov 2014 Jim Dannals elected to the Standing Committee of the Diocese.
- 02 Apr 2014 St. Mark's acquires vacant lot at 1100 Paris Ave. for \$100,000.
- 05 Apr 2015 First service (Easter) held at Port Royal Elementary.
- 19 Apr 2015 Bishop vonRosenberg Confirmation service held at Port Royal Elementary.
- 09 Sep 2015 South Carolina accepts legal name change to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Inc.
- 14 Nov 2015 St. Mark's is welcomed as a Parish Church at the Diocesan Convention in Pawley's Island.
- 31 Dec 2015 Jim Dannals' last day (now as Rector.)
- 01 Jan 2016 The Rev. Jon Coffey becomes Interim Rector (1/2 time).
- 12 Nov 2016 Woody Rutter elected to the Diocesan Council.
- 01 Mar 2017 The Rev. Roy Tripp joins as Rector (full time).
- 02 Aug 2017 SC Supreme Ct. decision orders return of Diocesan assets and churches to TECSC.
- 11 Jun 2018 US Supreme Ct. refuses to hear appeal by the breakaways so decision is final.
- 24 Aug 2018 St. Mark's purchases the Union Church for \$160,000.
- 17 Nov 2018 Sally Mayse and The Rev. Roy Tripp elected to the Diocesan Council.
- 19 Sep 2019 Federal District Ct. rules Diocesan seal, Episcopal shield, and name "Diocese of South Carolina" belong to our Diocese, The Episcopal Church in South Carolina.
- 30 Sep 2019 Successfully completed two months \$750,000 *A Home of Our Own* capital campaign.
- 10 Nov 2019 Celebration with Bishop Skip of St. Mark's 10th anniversary of mission and ministry at Union Church.