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From The "Church Militant - February 1960 - An Episcopal Magazine

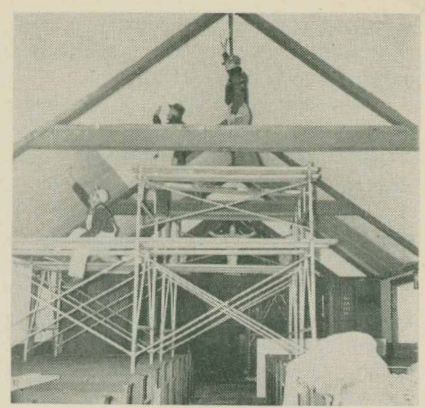
The Sound of Hammers

By The REVEREND JAMES L. BABCOCK, Priest-in-Charge

It was a cold day in Provincetown. The wind was blowing from the Southeast and there was a touch of rain in the air. If the temperature had been a few degrees cooler, the little Church of St. Mary of the Harbor would have had its weathered shingles covered with snow. The twelve o'clock whistle had just blown and as you looked at the harbor, you saw that the tide was nearly high. How many times in the past twenty-five years has this atmospheric scene repeated itself! But there was something different about this day — something which set this day apart from all other days. This happened to be the day which a Mission of some one hundred people and a host of summer visitors from every state in the Union and foreign countries knew would come — a day which was anticipated with a great deal of excitement and satisfaction. This was the day that contractors arrived to completely renovate and restore the Church of St. Mary of the Harbor.

If you have ever seen St. Mary's in Provincetown, the chances are

that you have seen it in the summer when the air is still, the sun comfortably warm and the sea a deep, calm blue. No doubt you have admired the church and its garden and sea setting. We live here and we admire it and thank God for it daily. But living here means that we see St. Mary's in all sorts of weather conditions. We never worry about the weather when our summer friends are with us — and there are many of you. But when fall and winter come and you leave us, you are replaced by a fierce winter. St. Mary's, being less than ten feet away from the Atlantic Ocean, is subjected to high winds — 80 m.p.h. is commonplace. You can imagine what those winds do to the sea and what the combination does to a group of wooden buildings! . . . And this has been going on for twenty-five years. Being a small mission with limited funds, it was never possible to go ahead and take proper care of our physical plant. And so the inevitable happened. We found ourselves at the beginning of the summer with a church, parish house and rectory in dire need of



At work on the interior

restoration. We took what was a formidable step for us. We decided to launch a Restoration Fund Drive in the amount of \$15,000 to reshingle and insulate all buildings, rebuild the foundation of the church, and enlarge the parish house. Now it is five months later, the drive is over. We were not able to raise all of the money, for we are a poor fishing community, but because of parishes and missions meeting their diocesan quotas, a grant and small loan to us was made possible through the Diocesan Council and we are on our way.

The sound of hammers is a noisy sound — but it is a sound which is so reassuring to us on this cold day. It is telling us that God wants us to continue our work here at the end of the Diocese. It is telling us that hundreds have our Church in their hearts. The contractors have been here for less than three hours and already there is a little group of people, bundled up warmly, watching them work. Some are members of our Church, some are not — but all see in this work of Restoration sacrifice, dedication, and love for God Almighty.



The Rev. Mr. Babcock surveys some of the work

St. Mary Of Harbor Marks 25th Year With Week Of Activities At Church

A buffet luncheon will follow the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, August 20, at the Church of St. Mary of the Harbor, opening a week-long series of activities marking the 25th anniversary of the consecration of the Church. The Rev. Ernest D. Vanderburgh will officiate at the service, assisted by the Rev. James L. Babcock, rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Orleans, and Archdeacon Lewis B. Sheen of New Bedford will preach the sermon.

Chairmen of the luncheon are Mrs. Perry Strassburger and Mrs. Daniel Jennings, assisted by Miss Sarah Bailey, Miss Nancy Jackson, Miss Elizabeth Hamar and Miss Sally, Marnie and Debbie Jennings.

Hudson Walker has arranged a "Meet The Artists" tea at 4 p.m. on Monday, August 21, at which Mrs. Harlow Lewis will preside. Invitations have been sent to local artists.

A movie of the Himalayan Mountains, taken by Dr. Gustav Landt, Norristown, Pennsylvania, a brother-in-law of Mrs. Albert Lythgoe, will be shown Tuesday, August 22, at 8 p.m. at the parish house.

Mrs. William Wenneman of Truro will be chairman of a card party to take place, also in the Parish House, the following day, Wednesday, at 2:30 p.m.

On Thursday, August 24, there will be an auction at 2 p.m. with S. Osborn Ball as auctioneer and Burt Kenney as chairman.

Although the church building was consecrated in 1936, the church was actually started in 1904 by a group of people, mostly Summer residents, who met in private homes, with ministers supplied from Boston. As the congregation finally became too large to meet in homes, larger public places were rented for this purpose.

Rector Arrives

It was not until 1933 that a year-round priest arrived. He was the late Rev. Robert Nicholson,

who at the time of his death a few years ago was rector of St. Mary's Church in Barnstable. He designed the church garden and put hours of labor into the interior of the building when it was remodeled.

The untiring efforts of St. Mary's Guild, a group of fund-raising women, was largely responsible for the purchase of the present church property in 1919. They put on a series of teas, suppers, card parties, fairs and food and rummage sales during a period of years.

The church garden is a mecca for tourists who come to view the Memorial Cross, erected in memory of the men who perished in the submarine S-4 tragedy in 1940. Also in the garden is the pool, designed by the late Frederick Waugh, N. A., and pieces of sculpture by Mr. Nicholson and the late William Boogar, Jr.

Art Works

Within the church is a large canvass by the late Richard Miller, N. A., behind the altar. Above this is a painting by Constance Bigelow. A portrait, "The Madonna of the Harbor," is at the rear of the church in back of the baptismal font. The newest acquisition is a mural, "Epiphany," which is above Mr. Waugh's painting. This was executed by Robert D. Hunter of Boston.

Sculptures Given

The three sculptured figures on the rood beam and the statue of St. Francis of Assisi are the work of Arnold Geissbuhler. Other sculpture includes "Mother and Child," by Leo Dick and "Brother Peace," by Margot Allen.

Behind the altar is a crucifix carved by Anton Lang, famous Cristus of the Passion Play at Oberammergau. From the eaves hangs a ship model and in a niche is one of the schooner Henrietta. Another interesting item is a miniature creche at the front of the church.

The many memorial gifts which have been given by church members have made this parish a veritable shrine, which is visited by hundreds of people each year from this country, Canada, and abroad.

St. Mary's Seeks More Support

The Church of St. Mary of the Harbor on Commercial Street is putting on a full scale campaign for pledges of support for 1963 during the week of November 18-25, according to an announcement by the vicar, Rev. Ernest D. Vanderburgh. A committee of twenty people has gotten together under the leadership of Claude Jensen, chairman, and Burton Kenney, church warden and co-chairman, and includes past and present vestrymen George Chapman, Dennis Cole, Winthrop Farwell, Sumner Horton and Mrs. Horton, Lionel Medeiros, Helen Richards and William Strachan, church treasurer; and members Sheldon Caldwell, Mrs. Reeves Euler, Edwin Fowler and Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Frank Frost, Manuel Henrique, John Johnson, William Joseph and William Wenneman.

The committee has held two meetings in preparation for the campaign. Speaker at the first meeting was the Ven. Lewis B. Sheen, Archdeacon, who challenged the group with the fact that sharply increased expenses now facing the church, without a sharp increase of gifts and number of

givers, will threaten St. Mary's with financial crisis in 1963. A fifty percent pledge increase is needed, he said.

The committee plans to find fifty new givers and many increased pledges, and confidently hopes that many friends of St. Mary's will rise to the occasion as they have in the past at other times of need. It was pointed out that while St. Mary's is a favorite tourist attraction in the Summer, only about one-third of the little church's support comes from Summer people, about two-thirds being still from the local Winter community.

The people of St. Mary's are asked to remain at home on the afternoon of Sunday, November 18, until visited by one of the committee, and to give the committee member at least a few minutes of their time. On Sunday, November 25, the pledge cards will be blessed at the altar in the church services.