

Earliest History of Sherwood Church

Sherwood Church was established in the mid-1820's for those residents who no longer wanted to make the arduous journey to either St. James or St Thomas Episcopal churches.

Construction of the church was begun in 1826. The original deed of 1827, in which Mrs. Frances Thwaites Deye Taylor transferred the one-half acre lot to Alexander Nisbet, Nicholas Bosley, James Howard and John S. Webster stated that the property contained an unfinished building "intended for a Protestant Episcopal church" which was to be completed within two years.

The name of Sherwood Church comes from the name of Mrs. Taylor's estate which had acquired its name from Sherwood Forest in England. In a deed of 1834, Mrs. Taylor transferred two lots, totaling five acres that included the church building, to the Reverend Dr. John Johns and the Reverend Dr. John P.K. Henshaw.

The first Vestry was elected in 1835 and the Chapel became part of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. The church was consecrated on August 1, 1837, by Bishop W.W. Stone.

The original rectory, now the Parish House, was built in the 1840's. It was built, as was the Chapel, "of stone, pointed and striped, rather than plastered." It featured large rooms and high ceilings. The cost of the Rectory was financed chiefly by the sale of timber from the property and through the generosity of Colonel Bosley, who it was said, "defrayed most of the expense."

Shortly after the completion of the rectory, the congregation decided to build a school in the same fashion as the rectory. It was a frame building with a very heavy stone foundation and was located at the gateway of the church property. It was a boys' school where "various branches of a Classical and English Education" were taught and it may have contained a library. The building fell into disrepair by 1864 and many in the congregation wanted it removed. It was later torn down and the stone from its foundation was reused to add a wing to the rectory.

Mrs. Taylor died in June, 1870 at her home in Baltimore and is buried in the cemetery of Sherwood Church. Through her will, she donated another acre of land to the chapel.

A rich history accompanies the present life of the Sherwood Church; and in the spirit of friendship and Christian fellowship, the congregation continues to work for the extension of its mission in our community, nation and the world.