



History of the Parish

(Handwritten essay by Percy W. Jones, rector 1918-1920, and revised by Dr. Rene Schmidt for the Historical Designation Committee of the City of Dallas, 2004-2005)

Fr. Graff, Vicar, 1883 In 1886, Thomas Field and Thomas Marsalis bought a 320-acre farm on the west side of the Trinity River and divided it into twenty-acre blocks. The land was platted and lots were quickly sold in the first two days of November of the following year. The Daily Herald reported that it was “A grand beginning of what will be the grandest suburban town in the South.” The population then was estimated to be 500 people.

Other than the Sunshine Chapel, early Oak Cliff had no churches. Christ Church in Oak Cliff traces its beginnings in a Sunday School that was “started in the spring of 1890 by Mrs. Anna R. Charlton, Miss Carrie Mason and Miss Lena Parks...and assisted by Mr. Samuel N. Delano and Mr. Charles A. Gulick, the former acting as superintendent.” On December 13, 1890, the Episcopal Bishop of the Missionary District of Northern Texas, the Reverend Alexander Garrett, made an entry into his journal: “New mission. Gave consent to organizing Christ Church, Oak Cliff”. In Bishop Garrett’s last entry in his diary for that year, dated December 29, he appointed the officers for this new mission in Oak Cliff. Mr. William Charlton was the Warden, Mr. George C. Lester, the Treasurer, and Mr. James I. Walsh was named the Clerk. When Bishop Garrett came to Dallas in 1874, a small frame church on the corner of Elm and Lamar was the only Episcopal church in the city. Christ Church is one of the original five parishes that Bishop Garrett founded. Excluding St. Mary’s chapel, they were Christ Church, St. Matthew’s Cathedral, Church of the Incarnation, All Saints Church, and St. Andrew’s Mission.

A brick store on Lancaster Avenue near Tenth Street was the first home of the new mission. Unfortunately, the building burned to the ground on June 16, 1891, forcing the congregation to move to a two-story frame building on Jefferson near Beckley, and then to a small frame house nearby, “thence about Sept. 1, 1891 to the Seymour Building,” located at the intersection of Beckley & Jefferson. Mrs. G. N. Quillman, Mrs. Charlton, Mrs. Upshur and Mrs. Gillette organized a Christ Church Guild in 1892 with the intent to do “charity work and to help the church.” Through dues, socials and a dinner they served to the male voters on election night 1892, the ladies raised enough money for the down payment for a lot at the southeast corner of Ninth and Marsalis. Judge William Charlton, one of Dallas’ most prominent lawyers, a resident of Oak Cliff and the Church Warden, soon went to see a little church in McKinney that had recently been built. It must have pleased him because he brought back the blueprints and specifications and called a meeting at his house. The “small but enthusiastic crowd” began a subscription list to pay for the new church, based on the McKinney prototype. Bishop Garrett laid the cornerstone on July 20, 1893 and the church was consecrated on May 13, 1894. Lena Parks and Charles A. Gulick, charter members of the mission, were married on October 14, 1894 in the new church by Rev. John Ulrich Graf. This ceremony was the first marriage performed in the church. Lena was the church’s organist for twenty-five years.



Father Ohl



9th Street and Marsalis

By 1904, the mission had grown to 87 communicants with the Rev. George L. L. Gordon being in charge, giving three Sundays a Month of his time. The Choir Guild, newly formed, had twenty-six members. The Rev. Gordon complained that because much of his flock was young and financially dependent upon their parents, the church had difficulty meeting its Diocesan and Mission assessment and the financial burden fell mainly on a few adults. Christ Church shed its mission status on January 11, 1913 and became a fully-organized, self-sufficient parish with the Rev. J. B. Whaling as the first Rector. When Bishop Garrett visited the church the following year, he found:

...the western suburb of Dallas, Christ Church, Oak Cliff, under the direction of the Rev., J. B. Whaling, has awakened to the realization of the fact that while it slept, it has become surrounded by new additions with beautiful homes, modern improvements of many kinds, and is traversed in every direction by a network of local and interurban car lines. Of course the building has become too small for its growing congregation, which must proceed without delay to erect a suitable and stately building upon its commanding site. Handsome plans have been adopted, a subscription has been begun, and sanguine expectation beams from every countenance.



Church ladies, 1914

In 1914, Christ Church counted 184 communicants, 60 males and 124 females. Christ Church added 108 communicants the following year, bringing the total to 292. The Bishop reported that the Rev. C. A. Whaling had “adopted handsome plans for a new church building of a permanent character of best material and workmanship” since the congregation was “pressing elbows against the side walls and feel(s) straitened in their present quarters.” The church was to be paid for with subscriptions. What plans Father Whaling and his committee had drawn up we will never know for Father Whaling resigned on Dec. 1, 1915, and the church was never built.

The murder of Mrs. Hugh H. Perry, a “consistent member” and a “well-known worker” of Christ Church, captivated the attention of the Dallas public in the middle of World War I and dominated the headlines of Dallas’ Daily Times Herald in late November and December 1915. She was last seen on Nov. 15 when she went shopping downtown with her sister, Mrs. Royal Smith. Her body was found 10 days later, on Thanksgiving morning, in a ravine in Trinity Heights with the nuts she had purchased with her sister still in her purse. Doctors estimated she had been dead for two days. Missing were diamond rings and a brooch. The police were baffled; the body was found neatly placed in the ravine, there were no signs of struggle and doubts initially existed that a murder had even taken place. The authorities later were convinced that it was a murder. Mrs. Perry was buried from Christ Church on Nov. 29 at 4:00. Officiating in what was to be one of the Rev. Whaling’s last official acts at the church. The intense curiosity of the public in the murder, inspired an unknown reporter to visit Christ Church shortly after Mrs. Hughes’ untimely death, on the first Sunday of Advent, 1915. This anonymous writer documented a detailed report of the Christ Church liturgy as was then practiced.

In 1903, Oak Cliff had been annexed to Dallas by a margin of 18 votes. The hard fought campaign was over the issue of alcohol (Dallas was wet and Oak Cliff was dry) and the restraining of livestock. Dallas required that horses, cattle, and hogs be fenced or tied down twenty-four hours a day while the city of Oak Cliff permitted the animals to roam freely during the day and restrained only at night. The bitterness over the election and continuing distrust of the larger metropolitan area across the river must have caused the Vestry of Christ Church on July 27, 1917, to appoint the Senior Warden to talk to Mr. Heaton, who was then rector, about “his spending so much time on the other side of the river and that much more could be accomplished for Christ Church if he devoted all of his time over here.”

The vestry met again on August 6 to consider Mr. Heaton’s response and three days later a split vestry accepted his resignation. A petition submitted by the congregation asked the vestry to reconsider the resignation but by a vote of 4 to 4 with one abstention, the issue was unresolved. After a series of failed parliamentary moves, three vestrymen walked out, the rector declared a quorum still present, and the vestry voted to accept Mr. Heaton’s offer to withdraw his resignation. It was a pyrrhic victory for the Rev. Heaton, however, for by March 6, 1918, Christ Church had a new rector, a Mr. Sherrin. The church probably continued in turmoil for the Rev. Sherrin remained only until August 5, 1918 because of the uncertain finances of the parish and his refusal to accept less money than he was currently getting.

By 1920, the membership had dropped to 131 communicants. It remained for the Rev. John Wallis Ohl, who became Rector on the first Sunday in June 1920 to complete the vision for the new church begun under the Rev. Whaling. The parish had purchased a lot in 1916 at the southeast corner of 10th and Llewellyn with a “frontage of 12 feet on 10th st. and 134 feet on Llewellyn St.. for the sum of \$4500.” Three years later the Vestry had begun exploring moving the church to this lot on “for a sum not to exceed \$1,000” and to offer the “whole property” of the old church on Marsalis for \$9,000. On April 12, 1920, the Marsalis property was sold to Cecil L. Simpson for \$9,307 with the “vestry to pay paving assumable and \$150 commission.” The original church was never moved and was eventually demolished.

It was a curious decision to move the location of the church as the terminus of the original streetcar line was at Tenth and Jefferson, a block away, and afforded convenient transportation. A 1911 Sanborn Map shows the old church and rectory at the corner of southeast corner of Marsalis and East 9th Street adjacent to a vacant lot. One block away is Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and close by is Oak Cliff Methodist, both of which remain in their present location. The first Christ Church was located at the top of a ridge overlooking the Trinity River basin and was close to the heart of the commercial district of old Oak Cliff.

Surviving church documents only record that the original church was too small and there is no mention of an interest in purchasing the vacant adjoining lot for expansion. Clearly, other factors seem to have captivated the attention of the parishioners. Originally residential, Jefferson Avenue was becoming the

“commercial, financial and social heart of Oak Cliff.” Street car lines down Jefferson provided easy access and middle class housing on Center, Sunset, Tenth and Twelfth, sprang up on both sides of Jefferson. Rather than being in the heart of the old commercial district, the Church founders inspired to be close to the conveniences of Oak Cliff’s emerging downtown, easily accessible by the streetcar, and yet located in a modern suburban residential area. Several years earlier and several blocks away, at the corner of Tyler and 10th Street, the Tyler Street Methodist Church had already begun to pursue this vision with the completion of their massive new edifice in 1912. This church, “the finest in the state,” had seating for 2,000 people and was claimed to be “thoroughly imbued with the ‘Cliff spirit.’”

(Eventually 10th Street was nicknamed “Church Street” because it contained a great concentration of churches that attracted thousands of worshippers each Sunday. For years 10th Street was recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records, the most church-populated street on the planet! By 1950, the following houses of worship on 10th Street:

- Trinity Presbyterian, SE corner of East 10th and Beckley*
- Oak Cliff Christian Church, SE corner of 10th and Crawford (300 E. 10th)*
- Oak Cliff Methodist Church, 1100 East 10th*
- Central Baptist Church, SW corner of West 10th at Beckley*
- Christ Episcopal Church, SE corner of 10th at Llewellyn*
- Tyler Street Methodist Church, 941 W. 10th Street*
- Galilean Baptist Church, 201 East 10th*
- Antoich Baptish Church, 929 East 10th*
- Elizabeth Chapel, CME Church, 1028 East 10th*
- Smith Chapel AME Church, 1225 E. 10th.*
- Cliff Temple Baptist, 126 W. 10th*
- Oak Cliff Presbyterian, 300 W. 10th*
- Grace Temple Baptist, 831 W. 10th*
- Calvary Baptist Church, 1900 W. 10th*
- Memorial Christian Church. 2021 W. 10th)*



Easter at Christ Church, 1927

When the Ohls arrived in 1920, the first construction on the new lot was a rectory. By January 7, 1921, a building committee for the new church was organized, headed by Mr. F. A. Gillette, and included Jess Hassell, John Cavender, Jr. C. N. Norton, and Mrs. R. H. Steger. The church was to be of brick, with sufficient seating capacity, and was modeled after St. Martin’s of Tours Episcopal Church in Omaha, Nebraska where Father Ohl had served previous to being appointed to Christ Church. The architect of St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church is unknown. However, similarities to Omaha’s St. Matthias Episcopal Church suggest that the architect may have been John H.W. Hawkins.



Christy and Dolph Construction Company were in charge of the building project. Modifications (particularly on the inside) were made to accommodate the contemporary popular Arts and Crafts movement.

Christ Church’s outside structure, however, is almost a carbon-copy of St. Martin in South Omaha. The ground for the new church was broken on January 30, 1921 with Bishop Moore officiating and, due so some mix-up, with the walls of the church already up, the cornerstone was laid later by Bishop Alexander C. Garrett on the first Sunday of Easter, April 3, 1921. On Whitsunday (Pentecost Sunday), May 15, 1921, the first service was held in the new church.

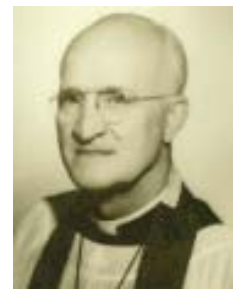


The Card Game, c 1930

Father Bertram Smith, rector from 1932 until 1959, was a graduate of Western Theological Seminary. His seminary training was interrupted by the First World War when he served in the Marine Corps. During the next World War, he again served his country as a military chaplain and was absent from the church from 1940-1945. Because of his close affiliation with the military, the Christ Church Records contain names of the war dead whose last rites were conducted by Father Smith.

After the War, both Oak Cliff and Christ Church began to experience rapid growth. The population of Oak Cliff grew 42 per cent to 80,212 in the 1950 census. The commercial district of Jefferson Avenue continued its expansion so that by 1948 West Jefferson was acknowledged as the largest commercial area in the city, second only to downtown. Tenth Street continued to be known as “Church Street” because of the presence of six major churches that attracted an estimated 40,000 members. By 1952 Christ Church had 1,428 baptized and 1,049 confirmed members. Because of this population explosion, the church completed a two-story parish wing, and expanded the parish hall and offices. Proposed by the architects Hidell & Decker of 2814 Fairmount, Dallas, on March 26, 1953, it was completed shortly thereafter.

The old quarrel over the sale of liquor in Oak Cliff erupted with a moral vengeance in the 1950s. Oak Cliff originally was annexed into the city of Dallas in 1903 with promise that alcohol sales would be prohibited. With the end of prohibition in 1933, 3.2 beer was legalized, the sale of stronger drinks was not strictly enforced, and the entire county voted to go wet by a huge margin in 1944. As more and more establishments began to serve alcohol on Tenth Street, the Avenue of Churches, the righteous sought to ban the sale of alcohol in Oak Cliff. In 1956, after a campaign led by the area churches, particularly some on Tenth Street, Oak Cliff voted to go dry. Dr. Lewis Stuckey, minister at Tyler Street Methodist, expressed his pleasure by declaring that “Oak Cliff people now will have the right surroundings to live in. We are gratified by the recent election. Lots of people who say that are going out of business are not really going. We will not lose as many business institutions as they say.”



Father Smith

Because of the automobile, white flight, the attraction of the suburbs, and the loss of business opportunities, Oak Cliff experienced a major decline in population. From 1960 to 1970, the number of people living in Oak Cliff actually declined by 18 percent. During the 1970s Oak Cliff continued its precipitous population descent and fell to 73,005 people. Churches in Oak Cliff, especially those on Tenth Street mirrored the decline throughout most of the waning years of the century. Cliff Temple Baptist, once a powerhouse that saw 2,500 people worship each Sunday and claimed 5,000 members, was down to 500 parishioners in 1996. Christ Church similarly saw a decline in the early 90s to less than 250 active parishioners. After the turn of the twentieth century, Christ Church, like many other churches on 10th Street, has again seen a gain in its membership, largely because of the explosive growth of the population in Oak Cliff.

Vicars and Rectors of Christ Church

The Rev. John Ulrich Graf	Dec. 3, 1893 to Feb. 1, 1895
The Rev. Robert Hammond Cotton	Dec. 1, 1895 to Oct. 31, 1896
The Rev. James Craik Morris	Jan. 10, 1897 to Jan. 25, 1898
The Rev. J. M. Hillyer	Nov. 27, 1899 to Sept. 29, 1900
The Rev. Wm. Stokes	June 1, 1901 to May 1, 1903
The Rev. G. L. L. Gordon	August 4, 1903 to Oct. 31, 1904
The Rev. W. S. W. Raymond	Feb. 9, 1905 to Sept. 25, 1908
The Rev. J. Donohoo	Oct. 1, 1909 to Feb. 26, 1912
The Rev. Joshua B. Whaling	Dec. 1, 1912 to Dec. 1, 1915
<i>(Parish sheds mission status on Jan. 11, 1913)</i>	
The Rev. Lee W. Heaton	March 1, 1916 to Nov. 30, 1917
The Rev. Joseph Sherrin	March 12, 1918 to Aug. 6, 1918
The Rev. Percy W. Jones	Dec. 5, 1918 to Jan. 31, 1920
The Rev. John Wallis Ohl	June, 1920 to Aug. 19, 1924 <i>(Rector Emeritus until Oct. 16, 1924)</i>
The Rev. Goodrich R. Fenner	Aug. 19, 1924 to Feb. 1, 1932
The Rev. Bertram L Smith	Feb. 1932 to Nov. 1940 <i>(Leave of Absence for Father Smith beginning Nov. 1940, to serve in WW II)</i>
The Rev. Gerald Grattan Moore, D. D.	Dec. 1, 1940 to Oct. 1, 1941
The Rev. Charles L. Street, D. D.	Jan. 2, 1942 to Feb. 18, 1945
The Rev. J. R. Maceo	April 1, 1945 to Sept. 30, 1945
The Rev. Bertram L. Smith	Oct. 1, 1945 to December 31, 1959
The Rev. Harry R. Heeney	Jan. 1, 1960 to June 30, 1961
The Rev. W. Francis Craig	Sept. 1, 1961 to Dec. 31, 1969
The Rev. Theodore A. Heers	Mar. 16, 1969 to Dec. 29, 1969
The Rev. A. Harrison Lee III	June 1, 1970 to Jan. 1995 <i>(current Rector Emeritus)</i>
The Rev. John Heidt	Jan. 1996-Feb. 2003 <i>(Spanish-language ministry began during this time.)</i>
The Rev. Robert Bosworth	March 1, 2003 – present

In 1973, the church contracted for a new pipe organ built by Rudolph Janke of Germany. This organ was the second instrument in the metroplex to be built as a



result of the so-called organ reform movement. To make space for the instrument, the choir and the organ were moved to the rear of the church. The fourteen Stations of the Cross and the large crucifix in the chancel were hand carved by Ludwig Keininger of the Bavarian Woodcarving Studio in DeSoto in 1997. The baptismal font was a thank offering from the Sunday School class of Mrs. C. N. Norton and her eleven female students. They held two rummage sales each year in Deep Ellum to raise the money for the font. It was dedicated on September 23, 1923. [Pictures of all these beautiful appointments may be seen on the Visual Tour page of this website.](#)

Some Influential Christ Church Parishioners of Days Past

Alloa G. Butler

Mrs. Butler was the founder of the St. Matthew's Home for Children. She was also the director for eighteen years. She died at her home at 520 North Lancaster at the age of 84 in April 1933.

Judge William Charlton

A member of the Dallas Bar, he was one of the prominent lawyers from Dallas who was persuaded to move to Oak Cliff. He was the first Warden of the church and was instrumental in building the 1893 church. In 1913 he is again listed as the Senior Warden.

Gillon Mattney Cole, M.D.

A c. 1930 graduate of Oak Cliff High School, Dr. Cole was co-founder of the Oak Cliff Medical & Surgical Hospital in 1956. He founded the Oak Cliff Medical Center in the 1970s. He was founding director of the People State Bank and the Bank of Van Zandt. He died in Dec. 1990.

Deaconess Lillian W. Crow

Deaconess Crow came to Dallas in 1901 and "fought for the annexation of Oak Cliff, then a city of 3,000, with the understanding that Oak Cliff would retain its artesian wells and that saloons would be barred." She was a former superintendent of St. Matthew's Home for Children and a founder of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Dallas. She was recognized for her years of service in 1942 and given the W. H. Adamson Civic Welfare Award by the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce.

William C. "Pop" Davis and the Davis Family

Mr. Davis established the Office Equipment Company in 1924. Originally located at 1301 Young Street, it occupied a whole city block and by the 1930s had become one of Texas' largest office equipment dealers. After "Pops" retirement, his son "William C. "Bud" took over the business. The same year as his sudden death in 1969, the City announced plans to expand the convention center and the business moved the following year to its present location, 800 Jackson Street. It continues to be owned and operated by third and fourth generations of the Davis Family, William and Brad, respectively.

Charles Adam Gulick and Lena Parks Gulick

Lena Parks was one of the three women who organized the Sunday School that was the beginning of Christ Church in 1890. Charles married Lena in 1894 in the first wedding performed in Christ Church and, if the claim in Lena's obituary is accurate, was the first wedding in a consecrated (Episcopal) church in Dallas. Lena was the church's first organist, serving for twenty-five years.²⁸ Charles was the church's first superintendent.

Jesse Hargrave

In 1911 he was General Superintendent of the Postal Telegraph Company in Dallas and in 1929 he became the General Manager for the Southwestern Division of that company which included parts of Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. He died in 1933. The large nativity window in the rear of the church was donated by him in honor of his father.

Arthur H. Fonda

Church treasurer from 1927 to 1961, Arthur Fonda was a partner in an insurance agency. When he died in 1969, he bequeathed a substantial amount of his estate to the church and Christ Church was able to pay off its debts. When his sister, Clara Luella Fonda died in 1976, Christ Church was the primary beneficiary. Managed by Frank Hoke for many years, the fund became known as the Fonda-Hoke Fund.

Frank A. Hoke

Frank Hoke was the representative from Place No. 1 in the Dallas City Council from 1965-1969. He was Mayor Pro Temp from 1967-1960. He was chairman of the Board of the Oak Cliff Savings & Loan, a member of the Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Airport Board and former Vice-Chairman of the Dallas Transit Board. Chair of the City Planning Commission from 1958-1960, he was also a president of the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce and the Oak Cliff Rotary Club.

Alice Knox Ferguson

Alice Knox Ferguson was a well-known musician and music teacher in the Dallas area. She was the second Dean of the Dallas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists serving from 1919-1921. She was organist/choirmaster at Christ Church from 1926-1960.

Judge Carl Fite

Born on March 7, 1917 and died February 2, 2003, Judge Fite was confirmed at Christ Church on March 20, 1960, and named a Senior Warden in that same year. He received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his role in World War II. Judge Fite was an icon in the real estate business and founded a company that still bears his name. He served as President of the Greater Dallas Association of Realtors and of the National Farm and Land Institute. At the time of his death, Judge Fite held the position of Founder and Honorary Chairman of the Board of Century 21 Judge Fite Company and affiliated companies. He was a board member on the Dallas Housing Finance Board and the Dallas County Appraisal Review Board.

Louie and Samuel Kimple

Louie Kimple quit his sales job at Reynolds Tobacco Company and along with two partners, purchased the small and failing Dixie Wax Paper Company in 1922. Louie's brother, Samuel, came to Dallas in 1922 to help his brother with the factory. The company moved to a new plant in 1925 at Zang and Colorado, and subsequently to a factory on Polk Street at the Sante Fe Railroad. Eventually renamed Dixico, the company produced waxed paper and "Dixie" cups and during the 1970s controlled "20 per cent of the market for flexible packaging." Sales during that time totaled almost \$100 million. Samuel was director of manufacturing and plant manager of the Dallas plant until he retired in 1954. Louie was the President of the corporation. The company was sold in 1985 to Bell Fibre Products of Indiana for \$36.6 million. Samuel died on Oct. 1, 1981 and Louie passed away Jan. 1988. Both were buried from Christ Church. The large Ascension Window in the church was given by them in honor of

their mother, Daisy Perkins, who died in 1948.

Ruth Fabian

Born on January 7, 1893 and died on her birthday in 1989, Ruth Fabian was a professional singer. Her family moved to Oak Cliff shortly after she was born. While she was studying in St. Louis, she sang for the famous tenor Enrico Caruso who referred her to his vocal coach, Dr. Mario Marifiotti, house physician at the Metropolitan Opera and voice coach to many of the Golden Age singers. She subsequently sang for Ziegfeld's Follies in New York. Before electrical amplification, Mr. Zeigfeld always had six young women with large, well-trained voices posted on stage for the big production numbers. Ms. Fabian was one of these singers. She starred in Carmen and other roles with the Dallas Symphony in the 1920s and was employed as a soloist with the Gaston Avenue Baptist, Temple Emanuel, and First Baptist Church. She sang with the Christ Church Episcopal Choir up until the time of her death.

Mr. and Mrs. George Quillman

Married in 1876, the Quillmans were early residents of Oak Cliff who arrived in the spring of 1893. George was the first street car superintendent of Dallas back when the streetcars were pulled by mules. Mrs. Quillman organized the Woman's Guild of Christ Church, was instrumental in organizing funds for the payment of the founding church, and was a member of the Standard Club and the Quaero Club of Oak Cliff. They lived at 233 N. Ewig in a "house of the old Southern style," a "landmark of Oak Cliff." Namie Maud Quillman was born in 1859 and died on June 22, 1940 at the age of 81. Their house is no longer extant. The St. Mark window is in their memory.

Harold W. Jones

Born on March 24, 1924 and died on November 18, 2000. Mr. Jones received a Purple Heart as a corporal in the US Marines during World War II. A parishioner for over 50 years, he held positions of Senior Warden, Vestry member, and Sunday School Teacher. An architect by training, he was responsible for much of the 1953 parish hall addition to Christ Church as an employee of the firm, Hidell and Decker, Architects.

The Muse Family

The Muse family lived at 505 West Tenth Street. E. B., the patriarch of the family, E. B. Muse was a prominent judge and lawyer in Dallas. Although existing records can be found that show he was an actual parishioner, his wife, Mrs. E. B. Muse, died August 6, 1949 and was given burial rites by the church. Their son, Willard Burt, was baptized at Christ Church on Dec. 26, 1937 by Father Smith and confirmed Dec. 23, 1945 by Bishop Moore. Willard died at his house on Nov. 1, 1978 and was buried from Christ Church. His wife, Ruth Eugene, was confirmed at the church on April 3, 1938 and was buried from the church on January 30, 1994. Their daughter, Ann Estette, married Gordon Johnson at Christ Church March 10, 1949.

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- Statement of Significance
- Designation of Christ Church as a city landmark recognizes one of the few remaining expressions of the Arts and Crafts movement in a public building in Dallas and will honor early residents of Oak Cliff. Period of significance: 1921-1948 (Date of the original construction of the church through the date of the last window by Jacoby).

The city of Dallas designated Christ Episcopal Church an historical landmark in the Spring of 2005.