

St. Mark's Chapel—

An Integral Part of St. James' Parish (Episcopal)

St. Mark's Chapel, along with St. James Church, located at the northeast corner Routes 2 and 258 comprise St. James' parish (Old Herring Creeke). The Parish of St. James' was established in 1692 and the present church structure was built in 1763.

This church is a "Chapel of Ease" for St James Episcopal Church in Lothian, and is not part of any museum. As an active place of worship, we ask that you show appropriate respect. We welcome you to come to the 8 a.m. service, which is held here every Sunday morning.

Early Days

The first St. Mark's Chapel was consecrated in 1850 in Friendship, Maryland.

St. Mark's Chapel continued in Friendship until 1915, when it was closed due to poor attendance. The building in Friendship was sold for a private home.

Meanwhile, in 1876 the Weems family deeded one acre of land at this location to St. James Parish. St. James' Chapel at Tracy's Landing was built here at a cost of less than \$500. The cemetery contains the graves of many local Weems families.

St. James' Chapel served from 1876 as the first church of Deale and Tracey's Landing until Cedar Grove United Methodist Church was built in the early 1900s.

Today's St. Mark's Chapel

St. Mark's Chapel, the one you see today, was built in 1924 near the site of the older brown frame chapel. The new chapel was called St. Mark's because money used to build it came from the sale of St. Mark's Chapel in Friendship.

Well past the turn of the new millennium, some of our oldest parishioners could tell of taking boats to the chapel from the eastern side of Tracey's Creek—the present bridge being a rather late addition to the area.

The oak grove surrounding the old chapel was a tall landmark for incoming watermen taking bearings on Deale and Rockhold Creek. However, only a few of the great oaks remain around the present chapel.

The Chapel was vandalized and its interior burned in the 1960s. It was restored and remodeled to its present state about a year later—a state all agreed was to its great improvement.

As we mentioned, St. Mark's is used throughout the year for the Parish's 8 a.m. Sunday Eucharist. It has a very loyal and active congregation. Please consider joining us in worship and Christian fellowship.