

## Churches in the Shenandoah Valley

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,  
5890 Main St,  
Mt. Jackson, VA 22842**



### A brief History

Only two communicants attended the Rev. Dr Alexander W Weddell from Emmanuel Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia, when he began his mission in Mt. Jackson on Nov 3, 1870. However the congregation grew and worshipped in the Union Church in Mt Jackson until they had raised enough to build a church on Main Street. St. Andrew's Chapel, as it was known then, was consecrated on July 27, 1877.

Rev. John Mason is recognized as the founder of the present church, having graduated from the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria in 1876 and was ordained a deacon and sent to take charge of Beckford Parish. He was ordained a priest on June 29, 1877.

The deed for the land was not recorded until March 21, 1877 when John W.R. Moore and his wife, sold it to the Trustees for \$100 – “for the sole use and enjoyment of the Episcopal congregation of St Andrew's Church, Beckford Parish, as a place for the erection of a house in which to worship and as a place for the burial of their dead”.

A Sunday School record book for October 20, 1878, showed an enrolment of 51 scholars and 11 teachers and this Sunday School gave the font and chancel window - since covered by a dorsal.

Church website:  
Telephone: 540-477-3335

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In December 1879, a house on the lot north of the church was purchased for use as a rectory. Dr W. Woodson Walker became the rector for Beckford Parish in March 1880 and during his tenure a kitchen and storeroom below and servants quarters above were added to the parsonage. (This was rented for some time in the early 1900's and eventually sold in September 1924).

In 1884, under the guidance of the Rev James W. Shields, the church building was enlarged and greatly improved. The original front was removed and the vestibule and the church and bell tower added. Mrs Dr Pennybacker donated the bell in memory of her husband.

From September 22 1946 to October 26, 1952, according to the official church records, no sacraments or other church services were held. Structural repairs took place together with reconditioning the furnace to burn oil, rebuilding the floor and repairing the organ. Finally the interior was painted with a soft cream cover.

The Education building was constructed, paid for, and dedicated in March 1961.

In 1969, the church was air-conditioned. New lighting was installed by the Women of St Andrew's in 1970. In 1974 the adjoining Lindamood property on the northern boundary was purchased – the house on the property was torn down and the lot was graded and seeded in grass. Also in 1974 the sinking church floor was replaced and covered with a vibrant red carpet.

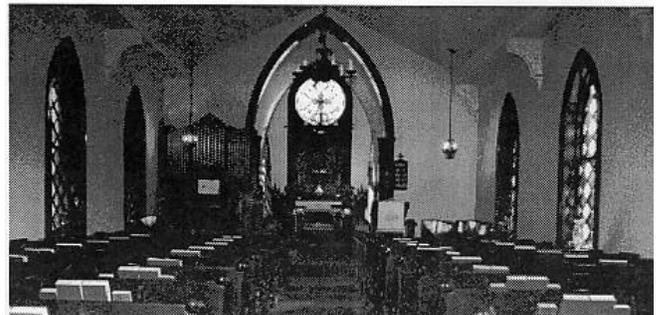
In December 1976, the furnace was replaced by a heat pump and central air conditioning and the old air-conditioning unit moved to the Parish Hall. In April, 1979, storm glass was installed over the leaded stained glass windows to protect them.

St Andrew's Church elected its first woman to the Vestry- Mrs F.M. S. Bird, in 1980. In 1989, the first woman Senior Warden, Elizabeth Burke, was elected.

*Condensed from book "When Two or Three Gathered Together in Jesus' Name" written by Betty Burke*



*St Andrews circa 1920*



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## Churches in the Shenandoah Valley



*St Andrew's Stained Glass Windows*



*Original Rectory*

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