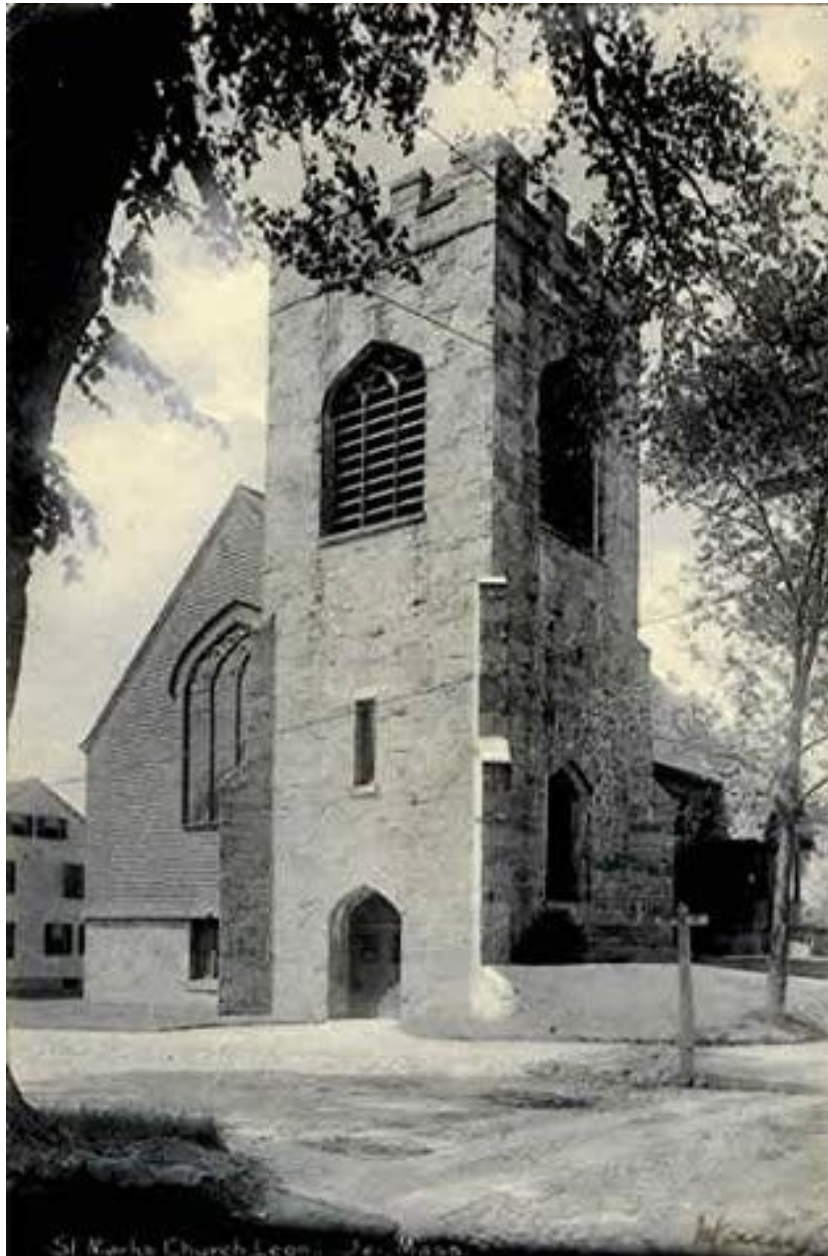


History of St. Marks



Vintage Postcard – St. Mark's 1907

Text from Richard Nunley's book *From the Blackstone to the Housatonic*.

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. St. Mark's began as a mission of Christ Church, Fitchburg in Fraternity Hall, Nickerson Building on Sunday, June 11, 1893. In 1897 St. Mark's acquired a large lot on the corner Cotton and West Street for \$1.00 (originally priced at \$4,000) through the Christian kindness of Minerva Cushing Crocker of Christ Church, the rectory was completed in 1899. A year later, the stone and wood frame Tudor Gothic church building was completed. "The cornerstone was laid by the Rev. Henry Hague, Archdeacon of Worcester."¹

The granite stone used to build the church came from nearby Monoosnock Mountain. Mrs. Crocker paid the total cost and burned the mortgage for both the rectory and the church building as a gift to the new congregation. She later purchased the “old” organ from Christ church and donated it to St. Mark’s. This organ is still in use and is known to be one of the finest tracker organs in New England.

Bishop Willian Lawrence consecrated St. Mark’s in 1901. In attendance we Rev. Alexander Vinton, who shortly thereafter became the first bishop of Western Massachusetts. Also present was Josephine Wright Chapman, the church’s architect, and Rev. James DeWolf Perry, who later became the bishop of Rhode Island and, from 1930 to 1937, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.²

Over the passing years, St. Mark’s has continued to be a force in the community with many outreach programs. And like all churches, we continue to upgrade and maintain our facilities with siding, roofing, heating and other routine maintenance projects.

¹ Alexander, Rev Donald Nelson, **The Diocese of Western Massachusetts 1901-1951**. N.D.

² Nunley, Richard. *From the Blackstone to the Housatonic*. 2002, 200.