

The congregation of Holy Comforter Episcopal Church was established in 1871. Until 1874, when the first building was completed, worship services were conducted in the court house. Holy Comforter's first church was one block from this building, at the corner of Henderson and Robinson Streets. It was the first church building completed in Cleburne.

The present church was built in 1893 and is now the oldest church building left in Cleburne.

The Baptismal font, 1912, is placed near the front door as a reminder that Baptism is the way we enter the Church, the Body of Christ. The path taken each week from door to altar represents the Christian pilgrimage which begins at Baptism and ends in God's nearer presence.

The windows are original, and the large West window is a memorial to Harry Scribner, nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lawrence, two founders of the congregation. (Mr. Lawrence was a grandson of the English painter, Sir Thomas Lawrence). Total cost of the West window was \$100.

The construction of the roof is of interest to students of architecture, who have lain on the floor to study the hand hewn beams. The building is countryside-Gothic, and as in Gothic cathedrals of Europe, the worshipers face East, toward Jerusalem.

The high altar, choir pews and wooden rood screen date from 1905. The wooden Cross atop the rood screen is a replica of the heavy brass altar Cross. The altar Cross, vases, missile stand and candlesticks also date from 1905 and have been in continuous use.

The side altar is modern and is dedicated to St. Mary. The Holy Spirit window, symbolized by a white dove, is new, and represents the name of this parish--Holy Comforter, or Holy Spirit. The small window above the high altar is new also.

Two large walnut chairs inside the altar rail were used in the original church, as were the metal uprights of the altar rail.

The congregational pews were purchased from Incarnation Church, Dallas, and are contemporary to the original pews of this church. (Our pews became split and began to pinch worshipers as they sat down.)

The kneeling cushions at the altar rail were done in celebration of the parish centennial year, 1971. The Agnus Dei needlepoint on the litany desk in the aisle is a copy of a kneeler in the National Cathedral, and is executed in petit point.

In celebration of our country's Bicentennial, 1976, the needlepoint kneelers for the congregational pews were designed. They are almost completed and will be dedicated in the Fall. A total of forty symbols is used in the kneelers, with the central motif of each being the shield of the Episcopal Church.

In 1974 the Parish Hall was drastically remodeled (we call the style mod-Gothic), but retains the old windows and woodwork while adding modern comforts.

Holy Comforter Church welcomes you to marvel at the skills of our ancestors, and then to worship with us the God who made us all.