St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
Historical Marker Dedication

Sunday April 10, 2011 1:30 p.m.
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
6744 S. Kings Hwy., Alexandria VA 22306

The Diocese of Virginia –
The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston,
Diocesan Bishop

2011 Clergy of
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church:

The Very Rev. John Weatherly
The Rev. Meredith Heffner
The Rev. Dr. Cherian Pulimootil

Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church is one of several congregations that evolved from the efforts of nineteenth century students from the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. The first congregation met at the original Groveton Schoolhouse on Popkins Lane and Richmond Highway in 1850, providing the farming community its first place of worship between Alexandria and Woodlawn Plantation. In 1905 the Groveton Mission built a church on the west side of Richmond Highway on land donated by Franklin Pierce Reid, adopting the name Christ Protestant Episcopal Church of Groveton. When the congregation moved to this location in 1950 on land given by Carl and Beulah Tavener, the present name was adopted.

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Photo by A.M. Hicks

1880 Groveton Mission

1903 Christ Protestant
Episcopal Church
of Groveton
Celebrating St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Historical Marker Dedication

Established April 1880 as Groveton Mission
by the Virginia Theological Seminarians

Two young Seminary students named Kensey Johns Hammond and Andrew Johnson “AJ” Willis began meeting in the homes of the Groveton farmers. By April 4, 1880, Hammond and Willis were holding Sunday school in the first Groveton schoolhouse (which is still standing on the corner of Popkins Lane and Route 1).

The establishment and founding of this service at the Groveton Mission is attributed to the seminarians Kensey Johns Hammond, Andrew Johnson Willis, Jacob “Brit” Brittingham and Mercer Patton Logan.

The Groveton Mission evolved into the Christ Episcopal Protestant Church of Groveton which was built on the west side of Route 1. In 1929, the chapel, along with the communion table and alms basin hand-made by Seminarian David Campbell Mayers, burned to the ground. Within a year, the resilient Groveton community had rebuilt the chapel.

From 1880 until 1942, the Seminary students managed the church. In 1942, Groveton Episcopal Chapel had its first full-time minister in charge. The chapel remained at the Route 1 site until the new St. Mark’s Episcopal Church on South Kings Highway was built and opened its doors in 1958.

The parish of St. Mark’s is proud to be part of the history of Groveton in Fairfax, Virginia and to commemorate the historical marker celebration with a program orchestrated by The Very Rev. John Weatherly along with:

➢ The Rt. Rev Shannon S. Johnston, Diocesan Bishop
➢ Fairfax County Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay
➢ Fairfax County Historical Marker Committee Chairman Jack Hiller

St. Mark’s Parish is grateful to Lile Hammond Deinard, granddaughter of The Rev. Kensey Johns Hammond for her participation in this celebration.