

# Senior warden retires after 57 years



Staff Photo by Bill Jordan

By THOMAS R. WARING  
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AFTER 57 YEARS as senior warden of St. Luke's Reformed Episcopal Church, Henry Mangault has retired from his office as chief layman of the congregation.

In an interview at the church, constructed in 1907 at 60 Nassau St., Mangault says

"I have given up the title, but I'm still willing to work."

Born Sept. 17, 1904, on a farm in Berkeley County, Mangault had only two years of schooling. He moved to Charleston in 1925 and found work as a longshoreman. The job gave only a couple of days a week in employment. In 1927 he was hired as mechanic and blacksmith at the Koppers Co. on King Street Extension.

"I worked for Koppers for 42 years," Mangault says. He opened a general store at 1976 Forrest Ave. in Charleston Heights, and still operates it.

Though he lacked schooling himself, Mangault managed to put five of his seven children through college. For a period he had four children in college at the same time.

Two sons have died. The surviving children are Laura Toalley, a teacher at Rivers Middle School; Thelma Ruffin, a teacher in New York City; Robert Mangault, a bookbinder in New York City; Rebecca Stegney, manager of the Dart Hall branch of Charleston County Library; and her twin brother, Isaac Mangault, a chemist in New York City.

AS A PILLAR of a Reformed Episcopal Church in Charleston, Mangault has been associated with an offshoot of the Episcopal denomination. The Reformed Episcopal Church was founded Dec. 2, 1873, in New York City.

The church was organized under the leadership of Bishop George David Cummins and a group of min-

isters and laymen

"The teachings of this newly founded church were protestant," says a pamphlet entitled "Foundations of Our Faith." "The Reformed Episcopal Church from the beginning has been protestant, liturgical and episcopal. The Reformed Episcopal Church is really the true Episcopal Church."

Organized in 1887, St. Luke's first was known as the Nassau Street Mission. The members met in a rented room at 48 Nassau St. Soon afterward the lot and building at 60 Nassau St. were acquired. A school was established, and a reading room was stocked with books "from our good friends from the North."

In 1893 the church was chartered. The third pastor, the Rev. William DeVeaux, found what the pamphlet calls "a handful of men and women struggling to keep the infant alive." He was a man of zeal and determination and faith in God and was ever willing and eager to do his part. In a short time things began to move.

Lucille Williams of Mount Pleasant, an active member of St. Luke's, is a granddaughter of the Rev. William DeVeaux. She was born next door at 58 Nassau St.

"The Episcopal Church did not accept black ministers," Miss Williams says. St. Luke's now has a membership of 167. The present pastor is the Rev. Marcus Liferidge.

ON JUNE 7, the Rev. William H.S. Jerden of Sumnerville, presiding bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church, was honored with award of the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian award.

Henry Mangault does not own an automobile, but friends transport him around the community. His progeny includes 15 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

(Thomas R. Waring is a retired editor of The News and Courier and Evening Post.)

## Still going strong

Henry Mangault, who has served for 57 years as warden of St. Luke's Reformed Episcopal Church at 60 Nassau St., is pictured in front of the church.