# THE ST. THOMAS' BIBLICAL HERB GARDEN



On the church property lies the Biblical Herb Garden. It began as a brick patio with a cement bench and a small statue of St. Francis of Assisi accented with a few plants. Frances Rogers grandson, Michael E. Tyler, earned his Eagle Scout badge for constructing the patio. It became a place for quiet contemplation. Two large camellia japonica shrubs (var. Glorie de Nantes and var. Essie M. Rollinson) and several boxwood plants had been planted previously as landscaping for the original parish hall.

In the 1990's, Don Bass and the members of the Coastal Georgia Herb Society redesigned that corner (between the original parish hall and the church) to become the Biblical Herb Garden. Judy Macolly donated the brick pillar and Anne Gay donated the plaque of St. Fiacre. St. Fiacre was born in Ireland about 670 A. D. and raised in a monastery. He sailed to France seeking solitude so that he might devote himself to God. The Bishop of Meaux gave him land for a hermitage. Thus, was established St. Fiacre's famous monastery near Brie where he welcomed all who sought his counsel and healing. A culinary garden that fed the poor, a 'physick' garden that cured the sick, and a flower and herb garden occupied another part of the property. August 30th is the feast day of St. Fiacre and his emblem in art is the spade. "Europeans have recognized him as the Patron Saint of Gardeners since the Middle Ages."

The Biblical Garden at St. Thomas' was blessed by the Rev. Stacy F. Sauls on May 16, 1993. A prayer from that service is as follows:

> *"Jesus, our good Companion, on many occasions you withdrew with your friends for quiet and refreshment; Be present with your servants in this place, to which they come for fellowship and recreation; and make of it, we pray, a place of serenity and peace; in your Name, we ask it. Amen."*

Listed below are some of the plants mentioned in the Bible and the verses in which they appear:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mint | Mt. 23:23 |
| Myrtle | Neh. 8:15 |
| Bay | Ps. 37:35 |
| Pomegranate | Deur. 8:7-9 |
| Rue and every herb | Luke 11:42 |
| Fig | Mt. 24:32 |
| Garlic Chives | Num. 11: 5-6 |
| Century Plant | John 19:38-42 |
| Mustard | Mark 4:30-32 |
| Egyptian Onion | Num. 11:5-6 |

*The text above was taken from a pamphlet titled, "St. Thomas' Biblical Herb Garden; A Self-Guided Tour."*