

St. David's History

1959 - Earliest Beginnings

In **October, 1959**, in the scenic rolling hills of Brown County, Indiana, a small group of people gathered together with the desire to establish an Episcopal mission church. They were lead by Rev. William Casady of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Columbus. The first organizational meeting was held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Andy Rogers. Those present were:

James and Marion Mara
Lennis and Judith Baughman
Andy and Judith Rogers
Fred and Jeannette Rigley
John and Mickie Williams
Gladys McDonald

Thomas and Roxanne King
Nellie Jewell Meyrick
Dr. Robert and Betty Percival
Elizabeth Percival
Rev. William Casady

Meeting held to discuss Episcopal Mission

A meeting was held at the home of Mrs. John Williams for those interested in forming an Episcopal Mission in the Nashville area. Those present were Mrs. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. James Mara, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wrigley, Mrs. H. A. Meyrick, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Rogers and Mr. and Mrs. Lennis Baughman from Morgantown.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wrigley on Thursday, November 5th.



Rev. William Casady

BC Democrat article
November 5, 1959

This small group of friends wanted a place of worship to bring up their children and for themselves to be under God's guidance in the Episcopal faith.

The second meeting in October was held at the home of John and Mary Lynn (Mickie) Williams, for all those interested in forming an Episcopal mission in the Nashville area.

A third meeting was held on **November 5th** at the home of Fred and Jeannette Rigley. Those present were: Fred and Jeannette Rigley

Andy and Judith Rogers
Lennis and Judith Baughman
Mrs. Elizabeth Percival
Mrs. Betty Percival
Rev. R. Stewart Wood Jr.
Mrs. Nellie Jewell Meyrick

At this meeting a **petition** was presented, signed, and readied to take to the Diocese Mission board meeting in Indianapolis for their approval.

Petition

We, the undersigned, residents of Brown and Morgan Counties of Indiana, Diocese of Indianapolis, being desirous of obtaining the services of the Church, do hereby request that we may be canonically organized as a congregation of the Diocese under the name of The Brown County Episcopal Mission. We hereby declare ourselves, individually and collectively, ready to do what in us lies to establish and sustain the regular worship of the Church and to promote its influence in our neighborhood. We promise conformity to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Church, to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of the Diocese of Indianapolis, and to the rules and regulations of the Convention of the Diocese. Furthermore, we pledge ourselves to pay such sum as may be assumed by us for the salary of a minister, and also such other sums as may be assessed upon us by the Convention of the Diocese. For the first year we promise to pay not less than \$50.00 for ministerial support.

1. Judith E. Rogers
2. Elizabeth A. Percival
3. John M. Williams
4. Mrs. Harold A. Meyrick
5. James H. Mara
6. Frank A. Rogers
7. Lennis A. Baughman
8. Judith M. Baughman
9. Elizabeth S. Percival
10. Marion D. Mara
11. Sydney Ann Mara
12. Jim Mara, Jr.
13. Mary Lynn Williams
14. Jeanette G. Rigley
15. Mrs. James Graves
16. Thomas E. King
17. Mrs. Bernice Bohanan
18. Miss Donna Bohanan (14 yrs. old)
19. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gatlin
21. Miss Myrtle Chapin
22. Roxena B. King
23. Katherine Smith
24. Frederick W. Rigley
25. Robert A. Percival
26. Gladys E. Cox
27. *R. A. King*

Note: This petition was approved by Bishop Craine and the Department of Missions on November 8, 1959.

The next item on the agenda was where to locate the mission. After much discussion, the old Bean Blossom schoolhouse was selected for use until May 1960. Everyone knew there would be much work involved in making the building presentable for worship services. Pledges were made to cover future expenses.

On **November 8, 1959**, the **petition** was taken to the Diocese of Indianapolis, Department of Missions by James Mara, Fred Rigley and John Williams.

The Rt. Rev. John P. Craine, Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis, gave permission at this time for the mission to be established.

The following evening, on **November 9**, a fourth meeting was held at the home of Dr. Robert A. and Betty Percival. The favorable report from the Bishop was given and received with happy hearts. They immediately began work plans, setting up in work squads with duties assigned to each squad. The borrowed stove needed to be connected and oil purchased. Several paid their November pledges so there would be money on hand.

On **November 11th** Bishop Craine wrote a letter to Rev. William Casady, granting consent to organize an Episcopal Mission and making Father Casady Priest-in-Charge.

Brown County Episcopal Mission established

The Right Reverend John P. Craine, D.D. Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis, recognized the Brown County Episcopal Mission on Sunday, November 8. A meeting was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Percival on Monday, November 9 to discuss plans for the use of the Bean Blossom School as a place to hold worship services.

This article was placed in the Brown County Democrat on November 12, 1959.

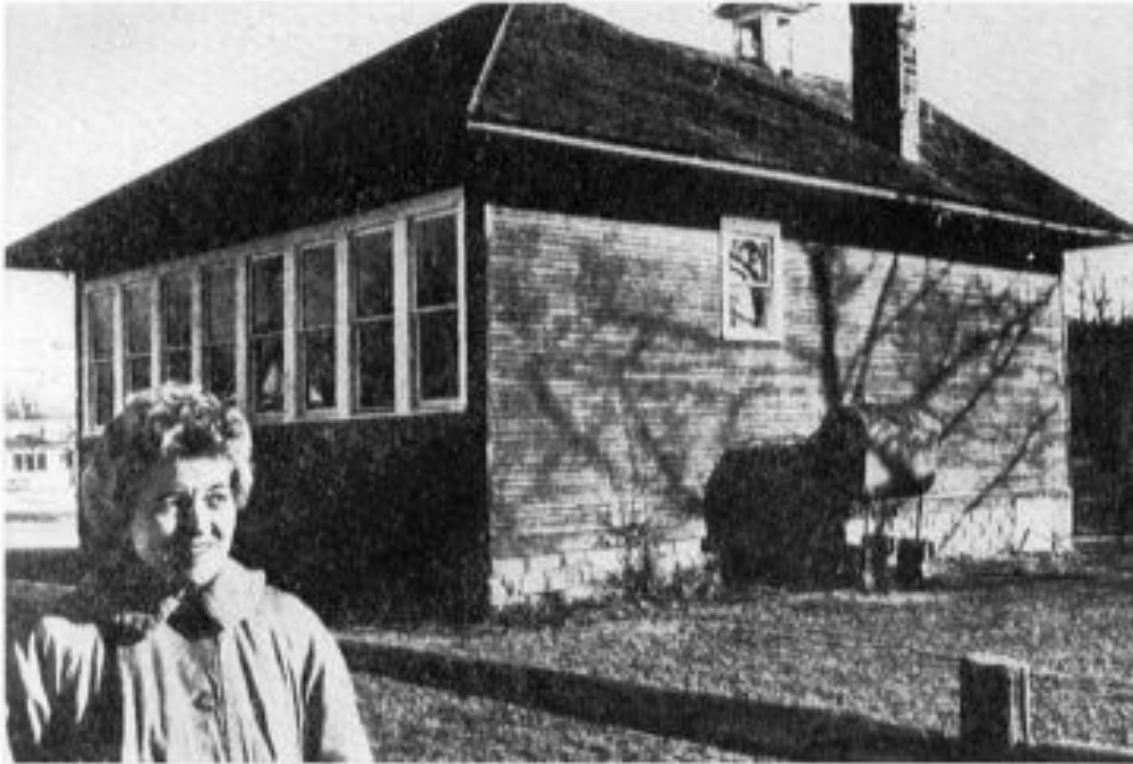
On **November 17th** another meeting was held at the Old Georgetown schoolhouse. Elizabeth Percival said this was the "beginning of the "Scrub Brigade." Many work hours were donated to scrub, clean, paint and repair the place, hoping for an early December Service."

Bishop John P. Craine, came to the Episcopal Mission on **December 1, 1959**, to preside over an official organizational meeting. The following issues were settled:

- ❖ The name **Brown County Episcopal Mission** will be used until the mission is given a permanent name.
- ❖ The Second Sunday of each month a service of Holy Eucharist will be celebrated by a visiting priest. Amount paid to him to be \$15.00. Morning Prayer to be held on the other Sundays by lay readers. Service to be at 10 A.M
- ❖ The **first Bishop's Committee** was elected as follows:

Andy Rogers-V.Chair	James Mara-treasurer	Nellie Meyrick
Mickie Williams-Clerk	Lennie Baughman	Vicar- Chair

The old Georgetown Schoolhouse now being used by the BC Episcopal Mission before it was remodeled into the church building. Gladys McDonald stands outside.



Those attending this official organizational meeting were:

Bishop John Craine	Gladys McDonald
Rev. William Casady	Betty Percival
Rev. Stewart Wood Jr.	Elizabeth Percival
James and Marion Mara	Myrtle Chapin
Andy and Judith Rogers	Floyd and Gladys Cox
Lennis and Judith Baughman	Joe and Grace Gatlin
John and Mickie Williams	Bernice Bohannon
Harold and Nell Meyrick	Donna Bohannon
Fred and Jeannette Rigley	

The first Services (Morning Prayer) began on **December 6, 1959**, with James Mara, Lay Reader, in the old Georgetown Schoolhouse building.

On December 20th, 40 new folding metal chairs were purchased for \$3.73 each from Cosco Co. in Columbus, Indiana. Elizabeth Percival wrote in her notes for the year 1959 the following: “Now we think we are very elegant with all matching chairs.”

The **First Holy Eucharist**, Christmas Eve, **December 24, 1959**, was held with Rev. R. Stewart Wood Jr. officiating. Again Elizabeth writes in her notes, “On Christmas Eve we celebrated our first Holy Communion at 8 PM with Father Wood. Father Wood has just been ordained on December 19, 1959. (It was) A very inspiring service with our very young priest and our makeshift equipment.”

Elizabeth ends this memorable year of 1959 with this note: **“Pray with us and for us that the enthusiasm shown so far will continue as we need this mission here, for there are so many children in this group who need to be brought up in the Episcopal faith”**.

1960 - 1963

1960 - A year of Dedicated Work and Continued Organization

Under the leadership of Bishop Craine in Indianapolis, his Archdeacon, Canon Frederic Williams, Rev. William Casady, Rev. R. Stewart Wood Jr. and visiting priests, the year was off to a energetic and productive start for our new small congregation.

The **first Baptismal Service** was held **January 10, 1960**, by the Rev. James H. Kirkhoffer. Those baptized were: Mabel Allbright - Elaine Boyd and her four children: Anthony Boyd, Gladys Boyd, Pamela Boyd, and Marion Boyd.

The **first Inquirers' Class** was held **January 19, 1960**, by Rev. Canon Frederic P. Williams with 30 people in attendance.

January 31, 1960 -- “Two fine young men received training and will begin to serve as Lay Readers, **Mr. Andy Rogers and John Williams**”

February 23, 1960-- Notes from the mission history by Elizabeth Percival:

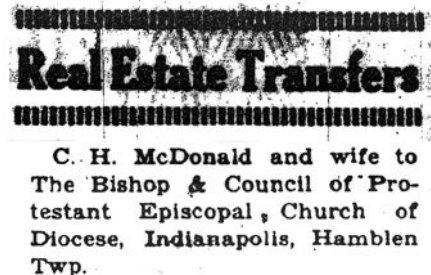
“In February, after much discussion of the pros and cons, whether to purchase the present site or to look elsewhere, we had to vacate the present quarters by May 1st. A parish meeting, which turned into an old fashioned New England town meeting was held, where we had a lively discussion of our future plans. It was decided to purchase the building where we were meeting if we can get the necessary diocesan approval.” The diocese gave its approval at the March meeting of the Diocesan Council.

March 12, 1960 – Bishop’s Committee Meeting

“A motion was passed that we buy the Old School property at roads 135 and 45 in Bean Blossom. This motion was made on the basis of a parish meeting held on February 23rd when the possibilities of property and buildings were discussed.” The price for the property was \$9000 to be paid at \$97.68 a month to Nashville State Bank.

This property transaction was recorded at the Recorders office in Brown County on May 31, 1960. The Deed is in the Treasurer’s Office at the Diocese of Indianapolis and a receipt will be kept in the church office.

Article in the B.C Democrat June 16th.



The **first Confirmation– April 12, 1960**, were held at Evening Prayer by Bishop Craine. Those presented for confirmation by Rev. Frederic P. Williams were:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mabel Allbright | Anthony Boyd |
| Lennis Baughman | Elaine Boyd |
| Judith Baughman | Gladys Cox |
| James Baughman | Joseph L. Galton |
| Donna E. Bohannan | Nell J. Meyrick |
| Elmer W. Strode | Robert A. Percival |
| Helen L. Strode | Mary Jeannette Rigley |
| James L. Strode | Elizabeth A. Percival-received |

The **first Easter Service – April 17, 1960**, with Rev. Chester Minton officiating. Elizabeth’s notes say, “The largest congregation to date, as usual with most churches on Easter Sunday. There was standing room only.”

First Vacation Church School (Bible School)-- June 6-10, 1960. Classes were provided for nursery, kindergarten, grades 1&2, and 10 year olds. Mr. Andy Rogers led a short worship service each morning. Teachers and helpers were:

Judy Rogers	Ellen Rigley	Mickie Williams
Judy Baughman	Betty Percival	Gladys Boyd
Irene Welch	Jane Raines	Mrs. Smith

On **June, 1960 – Rev. R. Stewart Wood Jr.** was appointed to be Priest-in-Charge of the Brown County Mission. He would also serve All Saints Church in Seymour. Father Wood and his wife Kris lived in Seymour. He would be assisted by Rev. William Casady.



In **July, 1960 - Elizabeth Percival's Notes:**

“Improvement were made”:

Building painted, insulation added
 New wiring throughout
 A new parking lot
 Furnace installed
 Beautiful new chalice & paten
 New piano from Ruddick's Music Co.

Father Wood introduced the **Commission Plan** in July to the Bishop's Committee for consideration. At the August Bishop's Committee meeting it was adopted. The commissions and chairpersons were as follows:

Christian Education – John Williams	Fellowship –Bernice Bohannon
Worship – Nell Meyrick	Finance – James Mara
Outreach – James Mara	Property – Lennis Baughman
Christian Social Relations – Gladys Cox	

The **First Bazaar was held on October 27, 1960** – From Elizabeth's Notes: “An experiment entirely”.

Nell Meyrick was chairperson. Most of the women made things, handcrafts, cooking items such as canned fruits, vegetables and jellies. We discovered food stuff sold best and there was a demand for homemade pies, which no one thought to make. Profit \$170.00.”



Joan Rigley & Sarah Williams



Jeannette and Fred Rigley



John and Mickie Williams





Roxena and Tom King: Children
Roy, Eulala, Deirdre



Lennie and Judy Baughman



Judy and Andy Rogers
Baby Jane in carriage



Marion and James Mara



First Bible School



Elizabeth Percival

**First Row – Hans Welch, Laura Percival, Jane Rogers, Eulala King, Joan Rigley, Bobby Percival
Back Row – Ellen Rigley, Leigh Ann Mathis, Mickie Williams**

