

First Bible School June 6-10 ,1960



1st Row- Hans Welch, Laura Percival, Joan Rigley, Unknown, Jane Rogers
2nd Row- Sarah Williams, Vicky Schrogam, Ukn, Susie Percival, Bobby Percival, Greg Baughman
3rd Row- Ukn, Ukn, Ukn, John Williams Jr., Louise Percival
4th Row- Betty Percival, Jane Raines, Mrs. Smith, Mickie Williams, Gladys Boyd, Grandma Perc,
Irene Welch



Most Unknown, Center Boy-Roy King, Woman on left-Betty Percival

First Marriage Ceremony – October 27, 1960. Grant Renier and Karen Sims of Indianapolis were married with Father Wood officiating

Near the end of the year, Elizabeth writes in her notes the following:

“The beautiful **new wood cross** hanging over the altar is the product of the talents of John Williams, James Mara and Fred Rigley.”

This cross is approximately four feet tall and is currently hanging over the inside entrance to the sanctuary. Also, Elmer Strode and his son James and Tom King constructed the **large cross** on the Mission grounds. In removing it for the new construction in 2009, it fell into pieces and was not repairable.

Elizabeth Percival ends the year 1960 by writing in her notes:

“I feel safe in saying there never will be as interesting and as exciting a year as this one, where we started from nothing, and with nothing, but our ideas and have made a permanent place for ourselves in the Episcopal Church family and in our local Brown County community”.



The Brown County Episcopal Mission in the old Georgetown Schoolhouse before being moved to the west end of the lot.

1960 to 1963 Rev. R. Stewart Wood Jr.

During Rev. Stewart Wood's time as Priest-in-Charge of the mission there was much excitement and enthusiasm among the growing congregation. Father Wood was well liked for his compassion, energy and good sense of humor, even though he was a stickler for Episcopal Church rules.

He performed many baptisms, confirmations and brought in many new members. The church women began having their first bazaar, other fund raisers and outreach activities. Father Wood led them to work with the Brown County Mental Health Agency, participating in the Muscatatuck Mental Health Hospital project by visiting groups of patients. The Mission also sponsored a Girl Scout Troop.

There were many children, so more space was needed for church school. Gladys and Herb McDonald made available the small building across the street, the second building on the on the NE corners of St. Rd's. 135 and 45. This building is currently still standing, but unused (2009). The teachers and fourteen children began having church school there on September 16, 1962. This arrangement lasted only a few months because of the hazard of crossing 135.

The long range plan for the mission at this time was to renovate the old schoolhouse which was the building used as the church and later to add a sanctuary to that building. The mission also desired to achieve parish status.

In early 1963, the diocese's plans to transfer Father Wood to Grace Episcopal Church in Muncie, Indiana, was announced to the congregation and was received with sadness. The congregation gave him a heartwarming farewell party. Rev. William R. Detweiler would replace him on September 1, 1963.

The Reverend R. Stewart Wood named priest at Bean Blossom church

The Rev. R. Stewart Wood has been named "priest in charge" of the Brown County Mission at Bean Blossom, Indiana, by the Rt. Rev. John Pares Craine, D.D. Bishop of Indianapolis.

Father Wood assisted Father Casady of St. Paul's Church in Columbus in the organization of the Brown County Mission and has held services there on several occasions.

Father Wood will continue to serve All Saints Protestant Episcopal Church in Seymour and the new mission in Bean Blossom. However, the missions are his primary responsibility.

The Rev. Mr. Wood, installed as curate of St. Paul's Church, Columbus, in July, where he is in charge of the program of Christian Education, college work and lay readers, was ordained deacon on June 11 at

Christ Cathedral, Indianapolis. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wood of Indianapolis. After completing high school, he received his A. B. degree from Dartmouth College in 1956. He then attended Virginia Seminary and a 12-week clerical training at Lorton reformatory in Virginia. He completed a summer

course at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, England, and a year of field work in Washington, D. C. He was graduated with a bachelor of divinity degree in May, 1960, from the Virginia Seminary. He is married to the former Kristin Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allan C. Miller, Indianapolis. The Wood family lives at 1513 Village Drive, Columbus, and has one daughter, Lisa Cameron.

July 22, 1961 These photographs show **Jim Baughman** receiving his “**God and Country Award**” for Boy Scouts. Rev. Stewart Wood Jr. officiated in the newly organized Brown County Episcopal Mission. The church was using the Old Georgetown Schoolhouse Building at that time. This picture shows the windows before most of them were removed in remodeling for the church use. It also shows the wooden walnut cross that was made by John Williams, James Mara and Fred Rigley.



1963 -1965

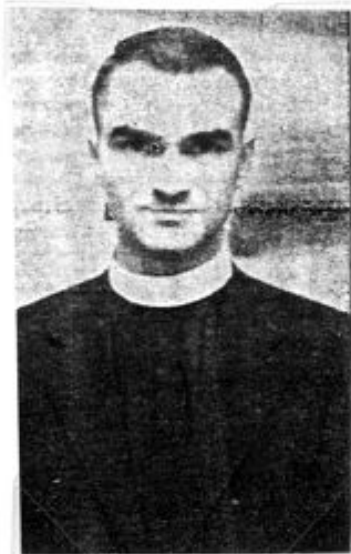
Rev. William R. Detweiler

In preparation for Rev. William R. Detweiler, who was soon to be married, the Bishop's Committee began looking for a vicarage. They found and purchased a house and lot on Old Settlers Road for \$10,500. The Emily Upfold Endowment Fund gave the church \$1606.00 for the down payment. A loan for \$9200 at 5.75% interest for ten years was taken out at Federal Savings and Loan for the balance and repairs.

Rev. Detweiler, recently married to Mary Jo Holmes on August 3, 1963, arrived as Priest-in-Charge on September 1, 1963. He and Mary Jo lived in the newly acquired and repaired vicarage. He served as part-time priest and was also priest at Waycross and Hickory Hill. Father Detweiler began two church services at 8 AM and 10 AM each Sunday. He also initiated discussions with the Bishop's Committee about a possible new church building where there would be room for church school classes.

During 1964, the Mission lost two of its founding families. James Mara moved his family to Seminole, Oklahoma, to build another Episcopal Camp and Conference Center. John and Mickie Williams moved to Marshall, Michigan, where John would be a teacher at the Star Commonwealth School for Boys.

On October 14, 1965, Rev. William Detweiler was assigned to Christian Education work at New Orleans, La. A temporary priest, Rev. Ralph E. Dille, will be Priest-in-Charge on an experimental basis for six months. In June of 1966, this plan will be re-evaluated.



Rev. Detweiler New Vicar at Mission

The Rev. William R. Detweiler, former curate at Grace Episcopal Church, Muncie, is the new vicar of Brown County Mission at Bean Blossom.

He assumed his duties September 1 after three years at Muncie where he conducted college work at Ball State Teachers College and helped place boys and girls from troubled backgrounds into St. Francis Boys Home, Salina, Kansas, and other Episcopal homes.

A native of Chalfont, Pennsylvania, he is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University, and of

the Church Divinity School of the Pacific at Berkeley, California.

He was active in the early days of Brown County Mission as a three-time member of the summer staff at Waycross, diocesan camp and conference center near Trevlac.

Father Detweiler was married to the former Mary Jo Holmes of Muncie on August 3 in Grace Church.

Although he is the first vicar appointed for the mission, the Rev. R. W. Stewart Wood, Jr. conducted services there in addition to being curate at Seymour.

1965 - 1974
Rev. Ralph E. Dille

On November 14, 1965, Rev. Ralph E. Dille arrived as Priest-in-Charge at the mission on a temporary basis, with this plan to be re-evaluated in June 1966. He will be part time, Friday – Sunday, and remain at his weekday employment as Social Services Director of the Marion County Home in Indianapolis. He and his wife Lucille and children, Geoffrey, Ellen, Claudia and Martha continued to live in Cumberland, Indiana, but they were building a cottage here in Brown County. Lucille was a school-teacher in Indianapolis.

Father Dille immediately stated to the Bishop's Committee that it was time to start some kind of definite plan for building. He suggested using the current building as a Parish Hall after a new church was built. He estimated a new building would cost \$30,000 and 75% of it would be needed in cash before starting to build. A planning committee was elected consisting of the following people.

Elmer Strode Don Tuggle Katherine Clawson Marie Glidden

The Architectural Commission of the Diocese met with Father Dille and the Bishop's Committee to discuss mission activities and needs for the new church building or renovation of the existing one. **Long range plans** for what was needed were: **four church schoolrooms, all purpose room and a church office.** An architect was suggested to develop a master plan so that in future years, additions to the church would have continuity. During 1966 and well into 1967, plans emphasized the idea of renovating and adding needed space to the existing building, the old schoolhouse. Architect Richard Hartung presented his sketches for this plan.

The desire for the mission to become a self-supporting church was discussed again. Plans toward this goal were to begin by asking everyone who wished to join the Mission to write to their former church and request a transfer.

In June, 1966, the congregation advised the diocese that they are very pleased with Father Dille and requested he remain as Priest-in-Charge on the part-time basis. The diocese granted their request. Since they would not need the vicarage, the suggestion to rent it was discussed, but correspondence with the diocese informed them that the diocese cannot rent property as it would have to pay taxes on that income. So on August 15, 1966, the vicarage was sold for \$10,500.

In November of 1967 architect Tom Dorste at the Diocesan Architectual Committee meeting submitted drawings for a **proposed new building** for the mission.

In 1967, the diocese headquarters in Indianapolis in the old Sherwood House decided to move from this building due to costly repairs. The diocese made a decision to donate the furnishing of the St. David's Chapel in the Sherwood House to the Brown County Mission for their new building. The Sherwood House had been donated to the Diocese by Mr. & Mrs. R. Hartley Sherwood and the chapel in the house was named St. David's Chapel in memory of their son David.

Serves Mission



Rev. Ralph E. Dille

Beginning January 1, 1996, the Rev. Ralph E. Dille will be associated with the Brown County Episcopal Mission in Bean Blossom. This is a ministry that will bring Fr. Dille to Brown County from Friday evening to Sunday evening each week to minister to the Episcopal Congregation.

Fr. Dille is a midwesterner. He was born in Fond du Lac and educated at Carroll College, Waukesha, Wisconsin. He was graduated in 1943 from Nashotah House Seminary of the Episcopal Church at Nashotah, Wisconsin. He has served congregations in Wisconsin and Texas before coming to Indiana in 1955 as Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis. While there a building program was initiated and the new church on E. 10th Street has been the home of this 59 year old congregation since April 1958.

In June 1965 Fr. Dille resigned his work at St. Matthew's to become Social Service Director and Investigator at Marion County Home, Indianapolis, where he is employed during a week.

Fr. Dille is a Brown County resident and has been building a small cottage here. He hopes to have it completed "someday" he says. He considers his charge here a wonderful opportunity to serve the Mission, and at the same time it will also enable him to enjoy Brown County.



Father Dille was the inspiration of our new church building.

Beginning in **January, 1968**, Tom Dorste presented his drawings for a **new building** to the Bishop's Committee, to be presented to the congregation for approval. The congregation then had differences of opinion as to the style of the church building, conventional or contemporary. The contemporary style won out, resulting in members leaving the church, because of differences in opinion. Mr. Dorste was asked to draw up plans for a new building that would include church space, church school rooms, moving the old schoolhouse building to the west end of the lot and getting an estimate from a local contractor. The need for a pledge campaign began with the Bishop's Committee and was presented to the congregation. The pledge campaign was very successful. By June the Bishop's Committee made the following resolution:

Resolution

Whereas: On Friday, the 28th of June, 1968, the members of the Brown County Episcopal Mission committed themselves to construction of a new church.

Whereas: It is recognized that this joyous and responsible undertaking must have the approval of the diocese.

Whereas: The members of the Brown County Episcopal Mission appreciate the encouragement of the diocese.

Whereas: The members of the Brown County Episcopal Mission thank the diocese for the generous gift of the altar and all appointments from St. David's Chapel, formerly located in the Sherwood House, then the headquarters of the Diocese of Indianapolis.

Whereas: Be it resolved that the members of the Brown County Episcopal Mission, assembled on the 14th day of July, 1968, name their new church,
St. David's Episcopal Church.

In a special meeting of the Bishop's Committee on August 23, 1968, architect Mr. Thomas Dorste of James Associates, Indianapolis, Indiana, was chosen as the architect and Mr. Al Robertson of Nashville, Indiana, was chosen as the contractor. The building cost estimate was \$29,622.00. For moving the old schoolhouse to the west-end of the property and providing a foundation, the estimate was \$2983.00. The furnishings from the St. David's Chapel at the Sherwood House were received and put in storage and a letter was sent to Mrs. R. Hartley Sherwood inviting her to visit us at the mission.

The **Ground Breaking Ceremony** for the new church was held on September 20, 1968, at 5:00 PM. Those attending were: Bishop Rt. Rev. John P. Craine, Canon Frederic P. Williams, Rev. Stewart Wood Jr., Mrs. Marjorie B. Sherwood, Rev. Ralph E. Dille, church members and guests, 26 persons in all. The new church was built on the site of the old Georgetown Schoolhouse, which was on the S.W corner of St. Rd 135 and Rd 45. The old schoolhouse was moved to the west end of the lot to become the parish hall. Church services were held at Waycross until the parish hall was back in operation again.

At the October 18th meeting of the Bishop's Committee, Father Dille reported the offer of a **Baptismal Font** from St. Multose Church in Ireland. (St. Multose was the nephew of St. David of Wales). This offer came through Mr. Murphy and Father Gibson of Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis. The committee requested Father Dille to contact Mr. Murphy and accept the gift providing the font is not more than 24" and that "shipping costs would be no more than \$100."



**Ground Breaking Ceremony – September 20, 1968
Rev. Ralph E. Dille, Bishop John P. Craine, Rev. Stewart Wood Jr.**



**The Blessing of the grounds and old schoolhouse building
Rev. Dille, Rev. Wood, and Bishop Craine leading**