



Ground Breaking Ceremony-Worship Service



**Jeannette and Joan Rigley, Lennie and Judy Baughman, Rev. Stewart Wood Jr.,
Canon Rev. Frederic P. Williams, Elizabeth Percival, Gladys McDonald
Roxena and Eulala King**

Construction work began immediately after the ground breaking, beginning with moving the old schoolhouse to the west end of the lot and now facing Rt. 45. By the end of November, the septic system was installed between the two buildings consisting of a 500 gallon tank and three fingers. Footers were put in; the roof beams were in place and a slab floor poured. Much discussion was held concerning windows, lighting, furnishings, decorations, and whether to have church pews or chairs, altar rails or kneeling benches. The large outside cross, made by Elmer and James Strode and Tom King, was placed between the two church buildings. It was decided that there would be no smoking in the new church building and it would be used strictly for a place of worship.

On January 15, 1969, a loan was taken out at the Brown County Federal Savings and Loan for \$11,000 as well as \$11,000 from the Diocesan Revolving Loan Fund for the new church building

On **April 4, 1969, Good Friday**, six months after the groundbreaking ceremony, The first **Worship Service** was held in the new St. David's Episcopal Church. The first **Easter Service** in the new church building was on **April 6, 1969**.

The **Dedication Ceremony**, led by Bishop John P. Craine and Rev. Ralph E. Dille, was held on Sunday, July 6, 1969, with the blessing of the building and its contents, which included all the items from St. David's Chapel. The ceremony included a Holy Communion Service at 10:00 AM, the dedication ceremony at 3:00 PM, a party in the Parish Hall at 4:30 PM and a "Summer Get Together" for the parish and Bishop Craine at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jordan.

A memorial plate of 1"x 3" was put on the hymn board in loving memory of Harold A. Meyrick, who passed away on May 30, 1968. Harold and Nellie Jewell Meyrick were among the original ten founding families.





New church under construction – January – March 1969



Our New St. David's Episcopal Church - 1969

St. David's Baptismal Font

“An Irish Connection in Bean Blossom, Indiana”

Entering St. David's church for the first time, many people are drawn to its imposing stone baptismal font. It was given to the church in September, 1969, soon after its July dedication.

The font came from Cullen Church of County Cork, Ireland, situated not far from the Blarney Stone and close to the ancient town of Kinsale. In September, 1849, a new church was erected there replacing an ancient building on a still earlier site. The font was found at the old site and was re-consecrated with the new church. It is assumed that the stone font is about four hundred years old.

An interesting story was told by Rev. Charles Gibson, who was rector of the Cullen church where the font was located: During the famine years, around 1849, the font was used by the Cullen church to serve soup to the hungry. From this event, the Cullen church became known as the “Souper” Church.

Rev. Charles G. Gibson, Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis, was Rector of the Cullen Church when it closed and performed the last baptism in the font in 1960, in that location.

The whole idea of bringing the font to the U.S.A. was born in the mind of Joe Murphy (a member of Christ Church Cathedral) who was born in Ireland, lived in Indianapolis, and had a home named “Fin Barres Folly” in Brown County on Freeman Ridge Road. With the help of Rev. Gibson, it was arranged for the font to be gifted to St. David's.

The cost of transporting the font was borne by Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, as a gift of historical interest to the new church in Bean Blossom. The font left Kinsale in April, 1969, for the U.S. via Liverpool and The Great Lakes. Delayed by many dock strikes, it finally arrived in September, 1969. It was unpacked and set in place at St. David's on September 13th. It has three parts: base, stem, and octagonal top and weighs 1200 pounds.

In the fall of 1969, the first baptism was performed in St. David's new font. A group from Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis, came on their annual trek to Nashville. On their way, they attended the Sunday Eucharist at St. David's. The Rev. Ralph Dille, Vicar, had invited Rev. Charles Gibson to come along and preach about the story of the font.

The following are Charles Gibson's own words: “It occurred to me that having baptized the last baby (in 1960) in the font in Ireland, it would be very fitting to baptize someone in the same font in the U.S. I suggested the idea to Father Dille, who said. ‘Great, but there is too little time to produce a baby here.’ Greatly daring, I mentioned the problem to the guild at the Cathedral. Neva Willey, frequent visitor to Brown County and St. David's, immediately volunteered, ‘I can help. I have a grandson and granddaughter, ages five and

seven. I will bring them along.' So, I baptized Leslie Rene Willey and Ian Christopher Willey at St. David's amidst the glorious fall colors of Brown County. Bean Blossom's Irish connection was complete." –(The Rev. Canon Charles Gibson-Christ Church Cathedral)

The parishioners of St. David's were, and still are, thrilled to have such a historical font to beautify the church. A little bit of Ireland – right here in Brown County!

By Phyllis Sindlinger



**William McGahey, Louis Seiler, Rev. Ralph Dille, Joe Murphy
Rev. Charles Gibson and Gladys McDonald**

1970 - 1974

Our New Church Building

The year 1970, began with the realization that there were now two buildings to maintain. The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) continued to have fundraisers. They held an auction, garage sales, bake sales, book sales, homemade ice cream socials, monthly pancake suppers, chili suppers and a Christmas bazaar. Their monies going toward the needed repairs of the Old Schoolhouse church building, now the Parish House

Before and during the building of the new church, disagreements had risen. These disagreements concerned, whether a new building was actually needed, the architectural style of the new building and the name chosen for the new church, as well as the use of and repairs for the Old Schoolhouse, now called the Parish House. Many parishioners left the church over these disagreements. As a result, with the cost of the two buildings and fewer people there was never enough money to do the needed repairs and maintenance. An attempt was made to bring people back to the church and to resolve differences, but money problems continued to plague the congregation over the next years.

During the **January, 1974, Bishop's Committee meeting**, Father Dille announced his planned retirement as of April 1, 1974, due to his deteriorating health. In the minutes the following words were written by the Bishop's Committee:

“His words evoked consternation and tears from his friends and faithful followers. His retirement leaves us without a wise, strong guiding hand in this parish. The congregation voted to accept his resignation with regret and extends to him our sincere appreciation and thanks for his eight years of faithful service to this congregation.”

Rev. Dille and his wife Lucille had sold their home in Cumberland, Indiana in 1972 and had moved permanently to their Brown County cottage. Their three daughters, Ellen, Claudia and Martha were now grown and married and their son Jeff, was in the Navy. They would retire to their Brown County cottage. Rev. Dille would fill in at St. David's whenever he was needed. He did this until his death in 1977.

1974

Interim Period

Archdeacon Fredric P. Williams – Priest in Charge

Rev. Jack Bird – Sunday and Holy Days Celebrant

Rev. Overton Sacksteder III – Pastoral, Administration

In April 1, 1974, upon the retirement of Rev. Ralph E. Dille, three interim priests replaced him. Rev. Sacksteder, who was called Father Lad, was to be at St. David's two Thursdays of the month. He would be serving All Saints Church in Seymour and St. Thomas Church in Whiteland as well as St. David's in Bean Blossom. He and his wife Lucille lived in Seymour. Father Dille would fill in when needed.

The Diocese of Indianapolis, under the direction of Bishop Craine, began a study of St. David's financial condition, members, pledges and attendance, as all of these areas had decreased considerably since 1970. The Bishop's Committee was increase from six to nine members. A **Mission Planning Commission** was organized of fifteen members to determine the long and short range goals and to select a program that was rich and varied to fill the needs of the parishioners. An outline for the Planning Commission with nine areas of importance was given to the Bishop's Committee by Rev. Sacksteder. Those areas of importance and those assigned to them were:

Worship	Outreach	Service	Property	Education
Music	Youth	Communication		Finance

The Planning Commission made resolution of the following:

- ❖ Lay Readers may now be women as well as men and instructed by Father Lad
- ❖ Acolytes may be girls, boys, women and men.
- ❖ Evensong will be held at 7:30 PM monthly.
- ❖ A men's group was formed to do work around the church grounds.
- ❖ Father Lad to visit lapsed members and follow up with lay member visitation.

1975

Archdeacon Fredric P. Williams – Priest-in-Charge
Rev. Harold Edwin Taylor – Sunday and Holiday Celebrant
Rev. Overton Sacksteder III (Father Lad)–Pastoral and Adm.

In January 1975, Rev. Jack Bird was transferred and was replaced by **Rev. Harold Taylor** (Father Hal) as Sunday and holiday celebrant. He was to be assisted by Rev. Dille when necessary. Rev. Sacksteder (Father Lad) continued to live in Seymour and to serve as Pastoral Care and Administrator. The following activities occurred during 1975:

- ❖ The altar was moved forward to be a free standing altar in September 1975.
- ❖ Father Lad (Sacksteder) recommended an architect be hired to either build another building or add on to the Parish House for Sunday school rooms. In November of 1975 architectural plans were drawn up for a 2000 foot expansion to the church building or Parish House. This would include a church office, mimeograph and supply room, three classrooms, meeting room, two bathrooms, remodeled kitchen, and a dining room or all-purpose room. **More land was needed.**

In December 1975 Rev. Harold Taylor was re-assigned by the Diocese and Rev. Overton Sacksteder was in full charge. Rev. Dille would continue to serve when necessary.

1976

Rev. Overton Sacksteder III (Father Lad)– Priest-in-Charge

With Rev. Taylor's reassignment, Rev. Overton Sacksteder (Father Lad) was Priest-in-Charge and serving All Saints in Seymour. He was Sunday celebrant, holding service at 11 AM and to be at St. David's on Tuesday, Wednesday and every other Saturday.

- ❖ A kitchen in the Parish House was completed.
- ❖ Steve Stackhouse moved and there was no teenage Sunday School.
- ❖ All church school classes were stopped due to lack of attendance.
- ❖ The Bishop's Committee was still talking about the new addition to the church or Parish House.

1977

Rev. Overton Sacksteder III (Father Lad) – Priest-in-Charge Rev. Brian Patrick Hall - Assistant

Beginning in 1977, Rev. Sacksteder remains Priest-in-Charge and now has an assistant, Rev. Brian Hall. The newsletter began again in January.

On February 2, 1977, Rev. Ralph E. Dille, former priest of St. David's from 1965 – 1974, died of a heart attack at the age of 62. Rev. Dille was the priest responsible for promoting the building of our new church building in 1968-1969. One month later, on March 1, his wife Lucille, at age 62 was killed in an automobile accident on St. Road 135 North. They both are buried at the Weeping Willow Cemetery in Bean Blossom, Indiana.

During 1977, the following activities took place under Rev. Sacksteder and Rev. Hall

- ❖ The new prayer books are now being used and paid for by each member.
- ❖ Mary (Winkie) Sacksteder (Father Lad's wife) organized a Sunday School class for grades 7 – 12.
- ❖ Church Service was changed to 10:30 AM with Sunday School for adults and children at 11 AM



Rev. Overton Sacksteder

In May 1977, Bishop Craine in Indianapolis becomes seriously ill and a new bishop was to take his place. **On December 24, 1977, Bishop John Pares Craine**, Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis, **passed away**. He had served our diocese from 1959 – 1977 and was dearly loved. **On September 10, 1977, Edward Whitker Jones** was ordained and consecrated.

1978

Rev. Overton Sacksteder III – Priest-in-Charge-Jan-April 1978
Rev. Brian Patrick Hall – Priest-in-Charge – April-December 1978
Rev. Harold Edwin Taylor – Assistant to Rev. Hall – April – Dec. 1978

In April, 1978, Rev. Sacksteder (Father Lad) left St. David's going to New Orleans, Louisiana to pursue a career in pastoral counseling. He was to receive his doctorate in this field from the Christian Theological Seminary in 1979.

The congregation voted to call Rev. Brian Hall as their new Priest-in-Charge. He and his wife Diane were living in Brown County on Possum Trot Road and he was a professional counselor and author of several books. He was to be with the St. David's congregation ten months of the year and two months of the year work with overseas missions of Europe and India. He would also have a counseling office in Nashville.

Rev. Hall made the immediate changes and continued on with others.

- ❖ Sunday Service was at 9:30 AM with adult education and children's church school as part of the service. The service to be concluded by 10:45 AM.
- ❖ There was to be coffee and refreshments after the service to make visitors feel more welcome and the morning more social.
- ❖ Shrove Tuesdays continued.
- ❖ The ECW (Episcopal Church Women) continued to have fundraisers.



On June 5, 1978, **Edward Whitker Jones** was installed as **Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis.**

By December of 1978 Rev. Hall decided to move to San Francisco, California to continue his career in counseling and writing.



**Jane Rogers and
Ronald Herr
Wedding**

**May 31, 1977
St. David's Church
Bean Blossom, Ind.**

Officiating Priest

**Rev. Overton
Sacksteder III**

Best Man

Greg Thomas

