

*Ralph & Mary E*  
*Aug 4-1985*



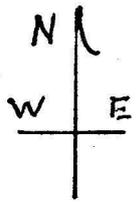
## **CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Cutler, Indiana**

**1835**

**-**

**1985**



SR 75

SR 29

John S. Shanklin

Wildcat Creek

Wildcat R.O.

Cutler

North Fork Church

Coach Road Lafayette to Kokomo

Burlington

Cutler Church 1890

(1860)

Ball Hill

Stage

Penn. R.R.

Lexington

Lexington Church (1844)

Prince William

Middlefork Church

Middle Fork of Wildcat Creek

Hyde Park Church (1859)

Sedalia

SR 26

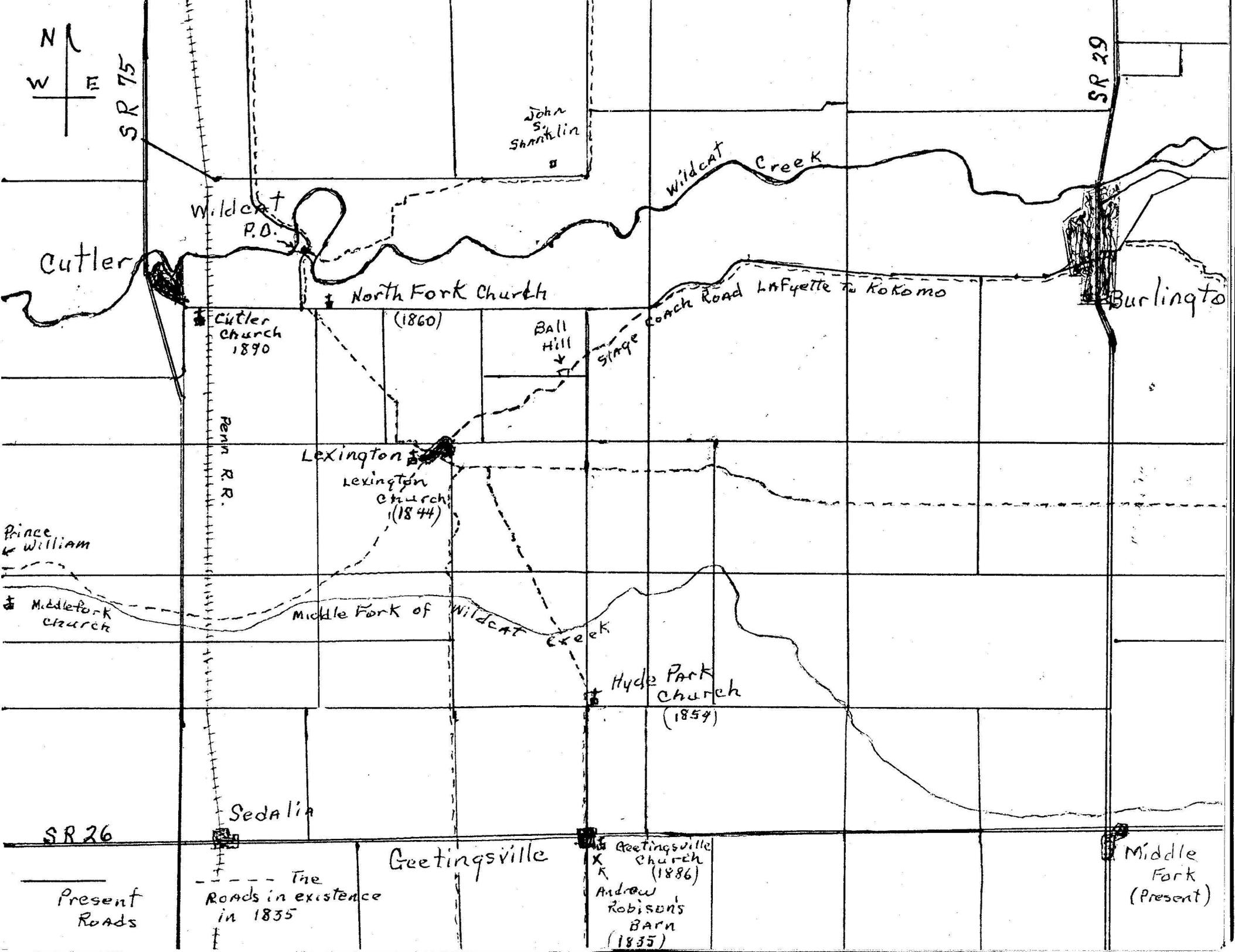
Geetingsville

Geetingsville Church (1886)  
Andrew Robison's Barn (1835)

Middle Fork (Present)

Present Roads

The Roads in existence in 1835



Indiana was admitted as the nineteenth state of the Union in 1816, and from then on there was a rapid advancement in population with towns and villages springing up all around. Indianapolis was located in 1820, Crawfordsville in 1822, Lafayette in 1825 and Delphi in 1828.

The Synod of Indiana was formed in the year 1826, and consisted of four Presbyteries. Three states, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri were all in this Synod. Crawfordsville Presbytery was formed in 1830, and the action of Synod constituting it was taken at Shoal Creek, Pocahontas County, Illinois.

Frankfort Presbyterian Church was organized in 1831 and Middlefork, which became Rossville Presbyterian, in 1834.

It was in the year 1835 that a few of our God-fearing forefathers became convinced that a church was necessary in their community in order to hold that close and constant communion with our Lord, Jesus, that is essential to the happiness and welfare of every peace loving community. Accordingly, through the Rev. Leonard G. Bell, who at that time was pastor of The First Presbyterian Church at Frankfort, Indiana and divided his time between it and the Middlefork Church, named for being situated near the middle fork of the Wild Cat Creek south of Prince William, and later became the Rossville Church, they asked and obtained permission of the Crawfordsville Presbytery to organize a Presbyterian Church in the neighborhood of Andrew Robison, near what is now Geetingsville, Indiana.

Saturday, August 1, 1835 was set apart as the day upon which to effect this organization. All of that vicinity that were holding membership with the Presbyterian church, together with those favorable to the measure were invited to be present. As there was no public house wherein to hold such a meeting, Mr. Andrew Robison kindly offered the use of his barn for this noble cause. Consequently, the first church was organized in a log barn situated on the Robison Branch, a short distance from their present barn. The organization took place under the direction of the Middlefork Session, which was composed of Rev. Bell, moderator, Archibald Chittick, Richard Wilson, John Smith, and John Fisher, elders. It was decided that this church should be denominated the Bethesda Church - meaning "The House of Mercy" or the place of flowing water. It was named in honor, it is supposed, of the Bethesda Pool at the Sheep Gate of Jerusalem.

At this time the charter members of this church were received into it by certificate. They were James McCrary and wife, John Fisher and wife, Andrew Robison and wife, Samuel Guinn, Mary Robison and Samuel McCrary. Following the reception of the above members into this church, an election was held for the purpose of selecting three elders. Those elected were, John Fisher, Andrew Robison and Samuel Guinn. Only the last two were ordained as Mr. Fisher had previously been ordained as an elder of the Middlefork Session. John Fisher was then appointed as Clerk of the Session.

On Sunday, August 2, 1835, this church met for its first service. Rev. L.G. Bell had the honor of conducting the first service, which consisted of a sermon and the administration of the Lord's Supper.

Services were conducted in private dwelling houses and when the weather permitted, in the grove or farm barn until the winter of 1836, when a log school house was erected very near to the site of the present Geetingsville church, and this was also used for a house of worship. Services were not held regularly every

Sunday, but whenever a preacher came along who could be prevailed upon to hold them. More often these services were held during the week than on Sunday. Many are the times when the routine of this little group was interrupted for the holding of church services by some passing preacher, so when the church service was over, the parents returned to their work and the children to their books.

At this time the Bethesda Church consisted of nine members, three of them women and during the next 18 months it remained stationery in membership.

On January 18, 1837, Joseph Robison was received into the church, and it is at this time that we have the first record of infant baptism, when John Milton and Mary, children of Joseph and Mary Robison; and James Alexander, son of John and Martha Fisher were baptized. In May of that same year, Andrew Beck and wife, John S. Shanklin and wife, and Mrs. Agnes Young were received as members of the church. During all this time the church was in charge of Rev. Bell. In August 1838, Archibald Chittick came from Middlefork Church; and in May 1839, Mrs. Anna Long, Mrs. Isabella D. Young and Nancy Guinn became members. In August of the same year Mr. Davis united. As one member withdrew and another was suspended, this left the church at the end of four years with a membership of only 17.

From April 1837 to August 1844, this church seemed to have been supplied by visiting ministers, with the exception of one year when the Rev. Jones gave it one-half his time. During the year 1841, five members: John Young, Jane Guinn, Mary Jane McCrary, Margaret B. McCrary and John M. Vandike, were received into this church; and in 1842 three members: John Teel, David Long and Elizabeth Shaffer united. For the next two years nothing special is recorded.

In August 1844, great interest was manifested among its members. It was about this time they erected their first church building, which in order that it might be centrally located was built at Lexington, Indiana, one mile west and three miles north of the place of organization, on lot #10, according to the deed from Eli Patten to the Church Officers recorded in Book "G", page 533 in the Carroll County Courthouse. Rev. T.M. Chestnut had come into this field the first of August, 1844 when the church consisted of only 25 members. On Sunday, August 25, the following officers who had been elected the previous afternoon were installed in the Bethesda Church: elders, Anthony Wilson, John S. Shanklin, J.W. Glasscock; deacons, Edward Quinn, John Young, and Andrew Beck. Note that this is the first time deacons for this church are mentioned. It was at this time too, that they thought proper to change the name from that of Bethesda to that of Lexington Presbyterian Church. Accordingly, when the Logansport Presbytery was in session in October 1844, this request together with a call for the ministerial labors of Rev. T.M. Chestnut were presented. Both requests were granted, so in 1845 Rev. Chestnut was duly installed as pastor of Lexington Presbyterian Church. He served five years or more during which time twenty-eight additions were made.

In May 1850 Rev. John Dale was called as stated supply giving one-half time to this church. During the year he was here three members were added and one reinstated.

In the fall of 1851, Rev. Joseph Platt came as a stated supply, staying two years, during which time twelve united with the church.

Early in the year of 1854, the Rev. J.W. McClusky was called. When he took

charge the church consisted of 69 members. The officers were as follows: elders, Anthony Wilson, Andrew Robison, John S. Shanklin, and J.W. Glasscock; deacons: John Young, Andrew Beck and Edward Quinn. For over ten years, if we accept an absence of six months when he was in Iowa, Rev. McClusky labored successfully here. He was with this church at the dedication of two new houses of worship. At this time the congregation came from a territory extending from the John S. Shanklin place north of Wild Cat Creek to the Andrew Robison farm south of Geetingsville and east almost to Koro. So since, too, the congregation was large enough to divide, the Lexington Church voted to separate into a north and south congregation each to have a church building within its environs. Accordingly two churches were built. The first was the Hyde Park Church located one mile north of Geetingsville. It was dedicated January 28, 1854. On that day Mrs. Pheobe Jane Robison was accepted as a member of the Lexington Church. She was the first person baptized in the Hyde Park Church. The second church known as the North Fork Church was built one and one-fourth miles east of Cutler. It was completed in the fall of 1860. About this time a parsonage was erected just west of the church. After the completion of the second church, the old building at Lexington was abandoned.

Rev. McClusky gathered, while laboring here, forty members, besides eleven who came from other churches. One member was suspended and six granted letters of dismissal, leaving a total of 44 members.

Following the Rev. McClusky, came the Rev. W.C. Thomas, who remained with the church one year during which time a total of nine additions were made. Early in the year of 1865, Rev. Thomas installed Dr. R.O. Young and John Cook as elders. Dr. Young was then appointed clerk of the session in which capacity he served until 1880 when George W. Shanklin was appointed and served until his death.

During the fall of 1867, Rev. W.P. Koutz came as a stated supply. After one and one-half years service, the church put a call into Presbytery for him as pastor. The call was accepted and he was installed as pastor remaining with the church until 1874 when, at his own request, Presbytery released him. During the seven years of his pastorate no less than 142 members united with the church.

In 1869 Rev. Koutz installed the following officers: elders, John Young, Warren Adams, Geo. W. Shanklin, T.P. Robison and Robert Geffin; deacons, William Beck, William B. Wilson, John Stevenson, B.J. Wilson, James Wharton and Isaac T. Tinkle.

(We have found a letter from E. Barr of Lafayette to John S. Shanklin making arrangements for them to attend the Assembly in Pittsburgh in Nov. and according to the Presbyterian Historical Society, the General Assembly, PCUSA did meet in Pittsburgh, PA in November of 1869.)

During the year of 1874-75 Rev. R.C. Colmery served the church as stated supply. No increase in membership was made and this seems to have been a season of discouragement.

In June 1875, Rev. W.M. Stryker received a call from this church as stated supply, in which capacity he served for the succeeding 18 months. During this time seven members were added, and five given letters of dismissal and 15 names erased from membership roll in consequence of the organization of a Presbyterian Church near or in Sedalia. William Benton Adams was installed as deacon.

In February 1877, Rev. John Hawks came as stated supply. Seventy-two members united with the church during his stay. At the beginning of the year 1880, W.P. Koutz was again called as stated supply and continued as such for two years giving this church one-half his time. Eleven came in during his second period of service.

For the next two years with the exception of a short time when Rev. John Campbell preached, this church was supplied by visiting ministers. In Dec. 1883 the Rev. Ambrose Y. Moore was called as pastor. He remained for a period of six months during which time 18 new members were united with the church. On January 13, 1884, Rev. Moore installed the following officers: elders, John I. Clark, Milton J. Wilson, William Beck and James M. Wharton; deacons, G.W. Mabbitt, W.H. Wilson, and John Woodrum.

Rev. G.D. Parker followed A.Y. Moore, beginning his ministry here Sept. 1, 1884 and continuing until Jan. 1893, serving the church eight and one-half years. At the beginning of his ministry the church consisted of 124 members. He received 150 new members. In August 1892 he installed John Woodrum as ruling elder and John H. Teavebaugh and John W. Hinkle as deacons. It was during his pastorate too that the present church (which he was very instrumental in securing) was built. This church was built in 1890 and dedicated on February 8, 1891. Rev. Parker continued as pastor until he accepted a call to Lagro, Indiana in January 1893.

Up to January 1889 the total number admitted to the membership of the church since its organization was 483, with an active roll of 150. The following officers were in charge at this time: Dr. R.O. Young, George W. Shanklin, Thomas P. Robison, John I. Clark, William Beck and James M. Wharton, elders; William M. Wilson, George W. Mabbitt, John H. Woodrum, Andrew Y. Shanklin and R.C. Menaugh, deacons.

On January 1, 1893, Rev. John Hale was called as stated supply and continued as such until January 1, 1895. It was during his ministry that the present parsonage was built. He took in 72 members. Rev. Hale was assisted in the fall of 1894 by Samuel S. Aikman, state evangelist who conducted a series of services which were very fruitful to the church and resulted in forty-seven additions as shown in the minutes of the session under the date of October 7, 1894.

On May 1, 1895, Rev. O.L. Prentice was called as stated supply for this church, and served as such until October 13, 1904 when he was installed as pastor in which capacity he continued to serve until May 1, 1907, when he went to Flora, Indiana as pastor of the church there. During his twelve years of service, Daniel L. Hostler and William H. Hinkle were installed as deacons, and on March 22, 1906, John H. Brookie was installed as an elder. In this period of service, there were received 296 persons, 3 suspended and 41 granted letters of dismissal. This was an unusually important period of the churches activity, as Rev. Prentice combined the qualifications of a strong pastoral minister with those of a strong preacher in the pulpit. Both his sermons and work in the community were outstanding as well as his work in Crawfordsville Presbytery, where he served on the Board of Home Missions, contributing valuable time and leadership.

On May 1, 1907, Rev. J.K. Bliss from Schuler Presbytery, Illinois, was called as stated supply and served us until his resignation in the spring of 1919, when he went to Bright, Indiana.

In his ministry, in the spring of 1908, a petition was sent to Presbytery to divide the Lexington Church into two churches. One to be known as the Presbyterian Church of Geetingsville and the other as the Lexington Church. Presbytery appointed a commission which met with all the elders and deacons of the Hyde Park and North Fork divisions of the Lexington Church at the Cutler Church building. (The Geetingsville people had built their present church in Geetingsville and dedicated it in February of 1886.) In this meeting it was decided to separate into two churches. Accordingly, on the morning of June 30, 1908 a meeting of the Lexington Church was convened. In this meeting details concerning the division of the above church were settled. The two divisions were to be known as the Geetingsville Presbyterian Church and the Cutler Presbyterian Church, thus recognizing both as successors of the Lexington Church. As a settlement Cutler Church paid to Geetingsville Church \$150. as their share in the manse which had been built beside the North Fork Church.

In the afternoon following the above meeting, a congregational meeting was held at Cutler Church for the purpose of completing the organization of the present Cutler Presbyterian Church. In this meeting it was voted to elect four elders and two deacons for life. In accordance with this vote, James M. Wharton, John Woodrum, John Brookie, and G.W. Shanklin were elected ruling elders, and Daniel L. Hostler and William Hinkle as deacons. It was also voted to elect three trustees and John Woodrum treasurer. It was further determined that the legal name of this church should be "The Presbyterian Church of Cutler". After the separation of the Lexington Church, the Rev. Bliss was called as pastor of the Cutler Church. In April 1916 he installed Daniel L. Hostler, William E. Hinkle, William H. Bordner and Walter Wharton as ruling elders. About this time Jessie Johnson and Septimus Miller were elected trustees. During the twelve years of Rev. Bliss's faithful and self-sacrificing ministry, 175 united with this church.

During the spring of 1919, Rev. H.C. Johnson came and served until his resignation became effective on October 15, 1921. Forty-six united with the church during his stay.

In December 1921, Rev. J.L. Milling took up his pastorate here. Rev. Milling remained with the church until June 1924. On January 2, 1924, J.L. Clauser, Frank A. Mitchell, C.N. Lung and Frank M. Moss were ordained and installed as ruling elders. Philip R. Miller, R.W. Cross, R.W. Whetzel and LM Chittick were installed as deacons and Chester Landis was elected trustee. Forty-five members were added to the church during his ministry.

Rev. A.W. Carter came as pastor in November 1924 and his stay was terminated in June 1927. During that period 27 members were received.

Rev. Cecil Atkinson was called to this field in October 1927 and left in December 1934 to become the pastor of the Stidham Memorial Church, Lafayette, Indiana. In the spring of 1928, John Tingley, Lloyd Beard and Charles Pullen were elected deacons and were installed April 8. On May 31, 1930, the rotary system of electing officers was adopted. Orth Quinn, John Tingley and Charles Sandifur were ordained and installed as ruling elders. Stanley Anderson was installed a deacon and William W. Cook was elected a trustee. At this time William W. Hinkle, Frank A. Mitchell and Charles N. Lung were elected to serve as ruling elders for life.

In 1932 Charles Landis was ordained and installed as ruling elder and Artis

Rodenbarger and Clyde Bonebrake were installed as deacons. In 1933 Charles L. Pullen, Lloyd Beard and C.V. Quinn were ordained and installed as ruling elders; J.C. Humes, Bert S. Pullen, Robert F. Sheagley, Larry Stong and Lloyd Unger were installed as deacons. Arthur Kingery and Chalmer Trobaugh were elected trustees. In 1934 John Tingley and Charles Sandifur were reinstalled as ruling elders. Carl Lowery, Chalmer Loman, and Arthur Kingery were installed as deacons and Tillman Snipes was elected trustee. There were 77 new members added to the church during his stay.

Our present pastor, Rev. George J. Goris of Galena, Illinois, began his pastorate in April 1935, and was duly installed by Presbytery on May 28, 1935. On May 12, Phillip Miller was ordained and installed to the office of ruling elder. William H. Bordner was reinstalled as ruling elder. William Quinn was installed to the office of deacon and Stanley Anderson and Lloyd Unger were reinstalled to the office of deacon, and Robert Reef was elected trustee. During this time seven members have been added to the church roll. On this our One Hundredth Anniversary, we now have 9 elders, 9 deacons, 3 trustees and 182 communicant members.

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### **THE SESSION 1835 - 1935** **By William Bordner**

The church was organized in 1835 with three elders, John Fisher, Andrew Robinson and Samuel Quinn. In 1834 under the pastorate of Rev. T.M. Chestnut and with a membership of 25 an election was held and Anthony Wilson, John S. Shanklin and J.W. Glasscock were elected elders.

Dr. R.O. Young and John Cook were elected later in 1865. Four years later in 1869 John Young, Warren Adams, George W. Shanklin, T.P. Robinson and Robert Griffin were added to the session. In 1883, J. Clark, B. Wilson, James Wharton and William Beck were elected elders and one year later John Woodrum was added to the above named list.

In 1908 when Rev. J.K. Bliss was pastor, the Lexington Church was officially separated into the Cutler and Geetingsville Churches. After the division the Cutler session was composed of John Woodrum, James Wharton, John Brookie and George Shanklin, elected to serve for life. In 1914 four more elders were elected namely, William Hinkle, Luther Hostler, Walter Wharton and William H. Bordner.

In 1924 under the pastorate of Rev. J.K. Milling, F.A. Mitchell, C.N. Lung, J.L. Clauser and F.A. Moss were elected elders. In 1930 during the ministry of Rev. Atkinson the rotary system was adopted but it was voted that C.N. Lung, F.A. Mitchell and William E. Hinkle were to serve for life.

Since then the following have been elected elders: Orth Quinn, John Tingley, Charles Sandifur, Chester Landis, C.V. Quinn, Lloyd Beard, Charles Pullen and Philip Miller.

## THE CHOIR

By Anna Wharton Wingard

Choir work in the North Branch of the Lexington Presbyterian Church now known as Cutler Presbyterian Church began at the time this present house of worship was to be dedicated in February 1891. When a very little girl I recall the singing, led by an earnest able man, Mr. Warren Adams, with Addie Weaver, now Mrs. Luther Hostler, as organist, everybody sang. Ever since the dedication there has been someone as leader and someone presiding at the organ or piano. Those present who remember the Parker family can recall the consecrated earnestness and inspiration aroused by them for choir work. Cora Parker, now Mrs. S.L. Heeter of Minneapolis, Minn., the only one of the family now living sends to us today greetings and continued God's speed. As time and years have gone by there has been the ebb and flow - but choir work still goes on. Webster says the choir is a company of singers in an appropriate place in the church. Some have said, if we paid singers, we would always have something ready, but another says volunteer and consecration brings best results. Ours has been volunteer, it is what we give not what we get. We live to serve.

"Tis the sweet song ringing in the heart

That gives life its glad refrain.

But the singers self must do its part

Lest discord mar the strain.

To have this we must practice. Padereiwiski, world famous pianist, who was on October 12, to have broadcast over N.B.C. radio, was taken ill, not serious, but he cancelled his engagement saying "One day without practice and critics knew it, but three days without practice and everyone could tell it."

Our choir work has not been perfect or famous but time has been given to practice. Years ago we practiced after C.E. on Wednesday nights and many times the following Friday night. In the earlier days of choir work the mode of travel was on horse back, two-wheel cart or buggy over muddy roads. Thanks now to improved roads and the auto.

Practice was held to lead in the hymn singing and many have been encouraged, cheered and strengthened by the inspirational singing. The choir has rendered many specials in chorus, duets, solos and trios carrying the Divine message, not for entertainment but for immeasurable helpfulness. I would not try to name all those who have served as leaders or helpers, but how it has helped the pastor to have the support of the choir and faithful organists and pianists.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Mrs. C.N. Lung

According to the history of the early church the first Sabbath School of which we can give any account, was held soon after the church was organized and met at the various places as was convenient for the Church services not meeting regularly but as conditions made it possible. We regret that we find no continuous record of the S.S. available and the history cannot be as complete as we might wish. As we go down thru the years there are indications from the records we have that the church and Sunday School, as other institutions, has had its seasons of prosperity and its times of depression, but in spite of discouragement has continued to grow.

No doubt the step taken by these pioneers, at this time, has had the most im-

portant and far reaching influence of anything ever in this community. And we note new names being added with passing years and many have labored as faithfully and courageously as did the early pioneers to carry on the work of the church and we - the church of today, thank them most sincerely for such a heritage.

In the early years the lessons consisted of studying the Bible and learning the simple catechism. The lesson helps are proving beneficial to all ages and we are thus enabled to become better acquainted with the Word. Thus it seems that the Sunday School, with its better training, has come to hold, almost as important a place as the church service.

For recreation, community's spirit and the good it might do, it was the custom thru the 1880's and 90's and a few years after 1900 to have an annual picnic usually in the month of August in some nearby grove, where other schools from most directions came in great bunting draped wagons with banners and streamers. There was always a speaker for the day and each school sang a song or gave a recitation towards making up the program. They all brought dinners and it was truly a gala Sunday School Day. We reached out as far as we could to have a large delegation and then made an earnest effort to keep the new members in Sunday School.

We place much stress on the children's division, believing that it is the early impressions that are the lasting influences.

In 1907 the Cradle Roll became a new feature in our Sunday School. It has been much treasured and has certainly played its part - both mother and child becoming interested. In 1908 the grades were divided into the Beginners, Primary and Juniors, and they have the departmental graded lessons. For a few years a Daily Vacation Bible School was held. We have a Council of Christian Education, acting as advisory council of Sunday School under the jurisdiction of the session.

We appreciate the annual Children's Day Services. We have great faith and hope in our young people. Realizing that they are the school and church of tomorrow and all should "Remember now their Creator in the days of their youth."

We celebrate Rally Day and Home Coming each year, and as we review the records of the past one hundred years with gratitude, let us pray for faith and courage to go forth valiantly holding up the Banner of the Cross.

## **THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

**By Mrs. Ida M. Trobaugh**

When our Lord was here on earth his disciples were told to go preach the gospel to every creature. At Antioch the first missionaries were sent out namely, Paul and Barnabas. Down through the ages we have the organized societies to carry out the work at home. The missionary society of our church existed as early as 1880. The organization we now have was perfected under the pastorate of Rev. O.L. Prentice in 1895, namely The Womans National and Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church. As auxiliaries we have the Mary Shanklin Guild and the Light Bearers.

Our motto for the centennial year is: "We must work the works of Him who sent us." Ours is an active society of 33 enrolled members and have met our ap-

portionment for the year and am looking forward to increasing this amount the coming year.

**THE LADIES AID**  
**By Mrs. C.V. Quinn**

The Ladies Aid Society of the Cutler Church was organized in July 1915 and during the 20 years of active work has done a great deal towards helping the church in a financial way. The society meets monthly in the church annex.

**CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY**  
**By Charles L. Pullen**

For many years the Cutler Church has had a Christian Endeavor Society and at the Centennial celebration we have a large number of young people constituting our society. The average attendance is now 43 at our regular meetings. The Christian home and Sunday School are the main tributaries of the Society.

The meetings are held weekly on Sunday evening prior to the evening preaching service. Hymn singing, prayer, Scripture reading and topic discussion constitutes the meeting. The officers are: president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. There are also various committees such as the social committee and program committee. There is also a social president whose responsibility lies in the social functions of the society. Social functions are held monthly with the president in charge. The program committee together with the adult sponsors are responsible for the programs. May this society help the youth to remember their Creator in the days of their youth.

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Most of the preceding material was prepared and presented at the Church's Centennial Celebration on Sunday, October 13, 1935 when their anniversary committee was: Mr. & Mrs. C.N. Lung, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. H. Bordner, Mrs. Daniel Hostler, Mrs. Anna Wingard, Stanley Anderson and Rev. Goris.

We have added a few things taken from the Church History printed by Geetingsville in 1976 and have tried to bring the following lists up-to-date - which the above committee began. We are adding reports from our Session's Committees to show something of the life of our church at this time of our Sesquicentennial Celebration Year of 1985.

Special Celebrations this year include:

Memorabilia Sharing over light lunches after Church Services on February 17 and April 21.

A "Penny Supper" and Quilt Show with the auctioning of our Church Quilt on June 22.

A United Vespers with Geetingsville at their church, then touring our historical church sites and ending at our church for an

Ice Cream Social on Sunday afternoon, July 21, beginning at four o'clock.

Anniversary Sunday Observance, August 4, will include a special worship with some of our former pastors, a Basket Dinner with an afternoon program.

The Session records which are in our possession at this time, begin with 1908 when this church began as a separate organization. In the front of this first record book, George W. Shanklin who was then Clerk, copied the history of the church from the time of its beginning. We are not able to locate the original records from 1835 to 1908. We searched the archives with the help of Robert E. Zilliox at Hanover College and phoned the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia where they searched but could not find them.

Sesquicentennial Committee:    Fay Humes Sheagley  
  Phyllis Reef Cook  
  Clayton Hutson  
  Connie Washington Jervis  
  Roy Ladd

#### PASTORS

1835	Rev. Leonard G. Bell of the Frankfort Church moderated the session and held communions at least up to 1837
1837-1844	Supplied by visiting ministers A Rev. Jones gave ½ time for a year, others were - Rev. James A. Carnahan, Rev. Mr. Taylor, Rev. A. Williamson, Rev. E.W. Wright and Rev. J.T. Patterson
1844-1849	Rev. Thomas M. Chestnut (first installed pastor)
1850	Rev. John Dale (stated supply ½ time)
1851-1853	Rev. Joseph Platt
1854-1864	Rev. J.W. McClusky
1864-1865	Rev. William G. Thomas
1866-1867	Rev. C.R. VanEmmen
1867-1874	Rev. William P. Kouts (second inst. pastor) (formerly Chaplain of 128th Regiment Indiana Volunteers)
1874-1875	Rev. R.C. Colnery (part of year)
1875-1876	Rev. William M. Stryker
1877-1879	Rev. John Hawks
1880-1881	Rev. William P. Koutz (came back after six yrs abroad, s.s. ½ time)
1881-1883	Rev. John A. Campbell and other supplies
1883	Rev. Ambrose Y. Moore (six months)
1884-1893	Rev. G.D. Parker
1893-1895	Rev. John T. Hale (s.s.)
1895-1907	Rev. O.L. Prentice (inst. 1904)
1907-1919	Rev. J.K. Bliss (s.s.)

1919-1921	Rev. J.C. Johnson
1921-1924	Rev. J.L. Milling
1924-1927	Rev. A.W. Carter
1927-1934	Rev. Cecil Atkinson
1935-1936	Rev. George J. Goris
1938-1941	Rev. Ward McCabe
1941-1943	Rev. Ira Myers
1944-1948	Rev. Dale L. Brubaker (s.s.)
1948-1959	Rev. Edward E. Morris
1959-1961	Rev. Thomas I. Russell
1962-1966	Rev. Don Kastner
1968-1970	Rev. Philip P. Brunn
1971-1976	Rev. William Beswick
1978-1984	Rev. Don Denton

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

Four Communion Bread Plates given to "Lexington Church" by John L. Rodkey in 1868. We still have two of these engraved plates. Mr. Rodkey's parents came to Indiana from Pennsylvania just before he was born in 1839, settling in Clinton County. His father had the store in Middlefork from 1854. John never married and later moved to Kansas owning land which is now Wichita. He is buried at Kokomo.

Electric Light Fixtures memorial to daughter, Grace, by Mr. and Mrs. C.N. Lung

Two Side Chairs next to Communion Table in memory of H.S. Peters family

Communion Service in memory of Orth Quinn

Organ in memory of parents, George W. & Mary H. Shanklin by Glenn Shanklin Quinn

Communion Table in memory of daughter, Dora E. by Mr. & Mrs. Carlisle Humes

Baptismal Fount in memory of Irvin M. & Bertha Flora by family

Communion Chairs in memory of Dr. and Mrs. William A. Trobaugh

Pulpit Chairs in memory of Larry A. Stong

Pulpit Lectern in memory of Richard Owen Sheagley

Home Communion Service in memory of Bert Shanklin Pullen

Yard Flood Light in memory of Lloyd D. Beard

Hymn Books in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Kingery by son, Philip

Four New Communion Plates in memory of Joseph Wm. Bordner in 1966

Wooden Celtic Cross hung back of pulpit made and presented by Hobart Deeds, 1964

Collection Plates made from walnut log of old church by Elva Peters

Brass Cross and Candle Sticks in memory of Phil & Mabel Miller by family

Palms in memory of Jerry Kelly by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Kelly

"Garden Gate" picture given by D.L. & Anna Wharton Wingard

Pulpit Bible by Anna Wingard's Sunday School Class

Clock by Stanley Anderson's Sunday School Class

Collection Plates - Earl McCarty

Carpet, Office Equipment & Stereo-Tape Player from the Memorial Fund donations

Storm Windows in memory of Walter Beverly Squier  
Sound System in memory of Harold Washington by wife, Doris  
Choir Rail in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Luther Hostler by Ruth Dyer  
Ceiling Fans from the Gladys Cunningham family  
Kitchen Base Cabinets in memory of Jerry Reed from Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Overholser  
Upper Cabinets from the Frank Sheagley family, the Blanche Mann family & others

### **MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES FROM CUTLER CHURCH**

The first one to enter the ministry from the Cutler Church was Walter Parker, who graduated from McCormick Seminary and after two years of service died of typhoid fever. He was buried at Converse, Indiana.

The second one was James Adams, who was taken under care of Crawfordsville Presbytery while a student at Wabash College; but before his course was completed he died and was buried at Ball Hill.

The third contribution was Elle Dee Quinn who after one year at McCormick Seminary died and was buried at Ball Hill.

The fourth was George Prentice who was serving a church in Adrian, Michigan at our church's Centennial Anniversary.

The fifth was John Prentice who was serving a church in Bedford, Indiana in 1935. The Prentice Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis was named for him.

The sixth was Chester Wharton who was pastor of the church in Valparaiso, Indiana in 1935 and took an active part in the Church's Centennial Celebration here. He died in 1953 while he was pastor of the Prentice Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. He had participated in the installation of the Rev. Robert E. Sheagley at the Presbyterian Church in Kentland, Indiana in 1948.

The seventh listed for the Centennial History was Ernest Herron, who "though not an ordained minister, yet was engaged in full-time Christian Service, connected with the staff of the Moody Bible Institute."

Robert Preston Shanklin grew up in the Cutler Church before moving with his parents to Frankfort. He served as pastor of Methodist Churches in Indiana from 1943 to 1963.

Robert E. Sheagley graduated from the Pastors Course at Moody Bible Institute in 1941, Hastings College in 1945, McCormick Theological Seminary in 1948. He was ordained by Logansport Presbytery and installed at Kentland, Indiana. He served Presbyterian Churches full time 1941- 1982, first as student, then installed pastor, in Indiana, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois before being honorably retired. He has supplied in the Cutler Church part of the time while we have been without a pastor 1984-85.

Waneta Sheagley Granger, a graduate of Taylor University, served as a missionary with the Navajo Gospel Crusade south of Gallup, N.M. for seven years 1953-60. She attended Grace Brethren School in Phoenix for one year, then spent four years at Kayenta, Arizona where she taught in public school and assisted the Kayenta Presbyterian Church in their work with the Navajoes - teaching them to read the Navajo Bible and working each week in released time classes. Since 1965 she has worked with Navajo children in public schools and private tutoring in Albuquerque, N.M.

David E. Morris, son of Edward & Gladys Morris, was ordained in the Cutler Church in 1956 while his father was pastor here. He was deceased in 1984 while serving as Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Northern Waters, in Superior, Wisconsin.

Vinton Fry attended Bob Jones University and graduated from Indiana Baptist College in 1977, pastored a Baptist Church in Indianapolis from 1980 to 1982, is presently living in Indianapolis and leading a Bible Study in Morristown.

Two outstanding Presbyterian ministers came from the Geetingsville Church, Arthur Miller, ordained in 1925 and became Moderator of General Assembly in 1959; and Jesse Young who was ordained in 1939 and is now deceased.

#### CLERKS OF SESSION:

1835	John Fisher	1944	Stanley M. Anderson
1865	Dr. Robert O. Young	1946	J. Carlisle Humes
1880	George W. Shanklin	1947	Lloyd D. Beard
1919	William H. Bordner	1952	Fritz G. Schnepf
1934	Charles N. Lung	1973	Walter B. Squier
1939	Charles L. Pullen	1980	Carol R. Bordner
1940	Orth Quinn	1982	Sharon Deboy Sparks
1943	William H. Bordner	1984	Carol R. Bordner

\* \* \* \* \*

The church building was built in 1890-91 at a total cost of \$3,932.51 for the building and furnishings.

The manse was built in 1894. The basement for it was dug in 1944.

The addition on the south of the church and the basement were added in 1914 at the cost of \$2,260.50.

Rest rooms were added to the church in 1961 by Carlisle Humes, Fritz Schnepf, Bert Pullen and Stanley Anderson. At this time the outside basement stairway was closed up and a new stairs was made to the south.

## NEW ELDERS, DEACONS AND TRUSTEES since 1935

### Elders

Ralph W. Whetzel  
William S. Bordner  
Stanley Anderson  
Bert S. Pullen  
J. Carlisle Humes  
William Enoch  
Bryce Nevin  
Fritz Schnepf  
Frank Miller  
Arthur Kingery  
Morris Clem  
Robert Ayres  
Don Wagoner  
Truman Plank  
Walter Squier

Robert J. Bordner  
Carol Reef  
Frank Snipes  
Robert Dyer  
Ralph Overholser  
Clayton Hutson  
Carol Bordner  
Tex Matthews  
Don Reef  
Dean Sheagley  
Mark Cook  
Carol Pullen  
Dick Sparks  
Irma Cook  
Marjorie Squier

Don Jewell  
Mary McCarty  
Colleen Blackburn  
Anna Louise Kelly  
Mildred Hausenfluck  
Sharon Sparks  
Ted Enoch  
Glendon Wolf  
Rosalea Sheagley  
John Fields  
Charles Bordner  
Marjorie Reef  
Sue Webb  
Todd Bordner

### Deacons

Joseph O. Flora  
Paul A. Miller  
Everett McCauley  
William Enoch  
Frank Miller  
Bryce Nevin  
Fritz Schnepf  
William Dickinson  
Charles Avery  
Ralph Overholser  
Robert C. Humes  
Earl Robison  
Robert J. Bordner  
Dwight G. Beard  
Ben Dye  
Morris Clem  
Robert Dyer  
Carol Reef  
Walter Squier  
Lester Aiken  
Tex Matthews  
Ted Enoch  
Dean Sheagley

Frank Snipes  
J.C. Jervis  
Mark Cook  
J. Wm. Bordner  
Meredith Ayres  
Carol Bordner  
Clayton Hutson  
Don Reef  
Carol Pullen  
Richard Wilson  
William McCarty  
Richard Sparks  
Robert Ehler  
Don Jewell  
Rosemary Dyer  
Sue Webb  
David Matthews  
Roger McCarty  
Charles Bordner  
Tami Cook  
Jane Pullen  
Joyce Ann Bordner

Jerry McCarty  
Brad Blackburn  
Rodric Squier  
Dana Hutson  
Mary Lowery  
Marvin A. Jervis  
Toni Cook  
Todd Bordner  
Rosalea Sheagley  
Diane Gangwer  
John Fields  
Phyllis Cook  
Marjorie Reef  
Shirley Plank  
Tim Hutson  
Wilma Snipes  
Irma Gangwer  
Jay Bordner  
Sheila Lowery  
Lola Bordner  
Terri Cook Sink  
Mildred Hausenfluck

## Trustees

Chalmer Trobaugh	Tex Matthews	William McCarty
D.L. Wingard	Dick Smith	Carol Bordner
Robert Patty	Carol Reef	Don Jewell
Henry Neinaher	Ralph Overholser	Carol Pullen
Elvie Peters	Walter Squier	Anna Louise Kelly
Artus Rodenbarger	Don Wagoner	Mark Cook
James Sandifur	Truman Plank	Mildred Hausenfluck
Bert S. Pullen	Dick Sparks	Marjorie Squier
Robert J. Bordner	Vernon Hausenfluck	Don Reef
Phillip Miller	Frank Snipes	Sharon Sparks
Morris Clem	Robert Dyer	Charles Bordner
Clyde Jones		

### Reports Follow from Committees Organized under the Session

(It is interesting to note that credit is given to Don Kastner for teaching and forcing these committees to know and to take their responsibilities, which has enabled the church to survive and grow even when they have been without ministers over the last 25 years.)

### WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee remains a very active committee. Since July of 1984 our church has been without a regular minister. This committee has been responsible for securing guest ministers and lay leaders each week. It is set up so a committee member will contact people to be lay leaders one month and then that same member has the responsibility of finding someone to fill the pulpit the next month and we are always open for suggestions.

It is always nice to have continuity during the seasons of Advent and Lent. During the 1984-85 year, Rev. Robert Sheagley has been kind enough to provide his messages to our congregation. We appreciate everything he has done for our church.

John Fields, Chairman; Todd Bordner, Mark Cook, Ann Kelly, Mary McCarty, Jim Plank, Doris Washington.

### STEWARDSHIP & MISSION

The Stewardship & Mission Committee interprets to the congregation the Mission of the larger church to the world, and also, the local Church Mission to the community.

We support the One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent, the Peacemaking Offering on World Communion Sunday, the Christmas Offering, and the Hunger Fund. We also support the County Council of Churches, the Food Pantry, Geneva Center (Presbytery's Camp & Conf. Center), and our congregation has always supported people and families from our community and other projects as the need arises.

Good stewardship comes by knowing who we are - GOD'S PEOPLE: and what God expects of His People - to show His love and care to all people.

Irma Cook, Ch., Marjorie Reef, Wilma Snipes, Randy Sparks, Carol Pullen and Bob Ayres.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The Christian Education Committee's job has been to get teachers and an assistant for each class, also the Sunday School Superintendent and the assistant, and selects the material used.

The committee selects the Vacation Church School Director and the assistant who will become the director for the next year. These two persons and our committee work together to select the material to be used.

In the fall of the year, those children who are in the third grade and live in Democrat Township and do not attend any other church, are presented Bibles which they can use for the Released Time Bible Class at school.

Sue Webb, Ch., Mary McCarty, Mary Lowery, Shirley Plank, Jeff Bordner & Clayton Hutson.

### **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

This past year was a very good year as far as improvements to the church. The new wiring system was started in 1983 and completed in '84. The Sanctuary was completely redone and insulation was blown in over it. Two fans were installed in the Sanctuary. The South room and hallways were painted. New faucets were installed in the rest rooms. New guttering was installed around the South room and some gutters repaired on the rest of the church. A new shower and tub were installed in the manse.

For 1985 we are planning on redecorating the North room of the church and the contractor has been hired. Also we are installing some new cabinets in the kitchen of the church. (Both of these were accomplished in March).

At the manse we are planning on painting the inside, but not until we hire a pastor so they can choose the colors they like. Also we plan on putting a new floor on the back porch and making any other repairs which are needed.

Charles M. Bordner, Chm., Don Reef, Bob Dyer, Helen Lucas, Joyce Ann Bordner and Bobby McCarty.

### **MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM**

Our committee has a direct responsibility to new member recruitment, developing a program of visitation and outreach, and welcoming visitors and new people in the church and church school.

We have placed visitor forms in the sanctuary and bulletins at worship services. Newsletters are being sent to all members quarterly and a recruitment program is in the developmental stage.

Carol R. Bordner, Chm., Joseph Carol Reef, Clint Jervis, Mildred Hausenfluck, Colleen Blackburn, Fay Sheagley, Diane Fields.

## WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (UPW)

1984 was a fruitful year for our association. The Day and Night Circles used the monthly Bible Studies from the Concern Magazine. Both circles were well attended with an average attendance of 10 women in the afternoon circle and 8 in the evening circle meetings.

Our sewing assignment included giving \$31 to missions and making 2 corduroy crawlers for babies. This year, so far we have made and knotted a quilt for missions.

Prayer partners were instituted by the UPW and names were exchanged during worship service. We pray for our partners all during the year. These partners were revealed in March of this year and new partner names were exchanged.

The Summer Medical Offering was collected in August and the Thank Offering in November. We, along with several from the community, helped the Church Women United collect for the UNICEF drive near Halloween.

Several of our UPW women visited all the unchurched families in the town of Cutler one Sunday afternoon in hopes of attracting new members to our church.

Our UPW was busy with several activities during the year, including 5 wedding showers given for those attending our church, 6 funeral dinners, 2 sale dinners, the graduation breakfast for 7 Democrat Twp. graduates, and the shampooing of the carpet in the sanctuary. We also donated money toward the new ceilings in the sanctuary, vestibules and north room, and the painting of the sanctuary and north and south rooms. Our women fixed the election day meals in the spring and fall. They had noodle and angel food cake making days in both the spring and fall. They provided the Easter Sunrise Breakfast for the joint Bachelor Run and Cutler Churches Sunrise Service. They also gave a Mother-Daughter Tea in May and a Going-Away Picnic-Ice Cream Party for the Don Denton family. Several persons helped the Dentons move to Indianapolis and furnished food. A Presbit supper was prepared when they met here and a breakfast was served to the County Ministerial Association when it met in our church. We adopted a needy family for Christmas and provided gifts to the six children and the mother, which helped to make each of our Christmas's more meaningful. Cheer baskets were fixed and distributed at both Easter and Christmas. A Baby shower has already been given for one in our community this year.

We are very proud of our church and various things we have accomplished and pray our Heavenly Father will guide us in new projects and in greater faith.

Colleen Blackburn, Pres.  
Connie Jervis, Vice Pres.  
Shirley Plank, Treas.  
Mildred Hausenfluck, Sec.

## **MUSIC**

**By Lola Bordner**

Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and praise in the congregation of saints. Ps. 149:1

Through the years Cutler has been blessed with people that loved to sing unto the Lord. During the thirties, we had a large choir. Mrs. Edward Morris had a young group of teenagers who were most faithful. Rev. Thomas Russell had a choir that was made up of younger children. Later Sharon Sparks led a group of children in singing.

Since then there have been several attempts but with little enthusiasm until just this year, when William McCarty organized a group of fifteen who provided special music and plan to sing at least once a month and for special times.

Playing the organ and piano is shared at this time by Mary Rose Reef, Phyllis Cook and Lola Bordner.

## **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

**By Mildred Hausenfluck**

A group of churches in southern Carroll County organized with Church Women United in February 1956. This is an international inter-denominational group of women that meet three times a year: in March for "World Day of Prayer", in May for "World Fellowship Day", and in November for "World Community Day".

Those churches organizing were: Koro, Ball Hill, Mt. Olivet, Radnor and Pymont Methodist, Pymont Church of the Brethren, and Cutler Presbyterian. For several years it was a full day of worship with a carry-in dinner at noon. In the last years with the following churches closing: Koro, Ball Hill and Mt. Olivet and the withdrawal of Pymont Brethren, we are down to three churches: Radnor and Pymont Methodist and Cutler Presbyterian. The officers for this year, 1985, are: Rosemary Dyer, Pres., Doris Washington, Sec., and Frances Neuhauser, Treas.

## **QUILTING CIRCLE**

**By Doris Washington**

A group of ladies from the present UPW have met during the school year every Monday for quilt sessions for the last three years. Four to twelve women participate each week. We feel it is a most successful time not only to bring in money but for the fellowship, special "group therapy", memories and prayer.

Besides making a Christmas quilt and three comforters for our last minister and family - the Dentons: Don, Beth, Matthew, Andrew & Luke; we have completed nine projects and eight custom quilting jobs. At the present time we have two quilts in and more waiting for us to begin next fall.

We are proud of our "Friendship Star Quilt" which we made commemorating our 150 years. Anyone who was active or is active in our church or ladies group could have their name on the quilt. We began piecing it in 1983.

We feel we are carrying on our heritage since quilting was a common activity 150 years ago, and we welcome anyone who would care to join our group.

## LETTERS FROM ALL OUR PAST PASTORS Who are still living - 1985

### DALE L. BRUBAKER 1944-1948

"Then there is Cutler, but you wouldn't want to go there," said Alex Sharp, the Synod executive as he was interviewing prospective student pastors for small, Indiana churches. His statement caused me to be curious and challenged about Cutler.

Although I started occasional preaching in small churches in Minnesota and Iowa while in college at the University of Dubuque, Cutler was really my first pastorate. In a very real sense, it was a student pastorate during the four years I commuted to McCormick Seminary in Chicago. The Cutler Church was truly a learning experience for Katie and me. Its people were our teachers. They provided the practical experience to balance the required Biblical, theological and academic education of the Seminary. By the time I finally graduated from McCormick, I had already had a wealth of experience of what the ministry was all about to continue my service in the Presbyterian Church.

My first week-end in Cutler confirmed much of Alex Sharp's description of Cutler and the church. There were signs of neglect and discouragement. But there were hopeful people that welcomed our presence and responded to our challenge. Before long, pride began to replace neglect. Faith, hope, and Christian renewal began to replace discouragement.

It was the concluding years of World War II. The war touched and separated Cutler families, and we were a part of a concerned community. Volunteers cleared the junk and weeds from the town corner and created a simple but beautiful memorial to those who served and died. The memorial remains as a symbol of pride and patriotic honor.

There were accidents and tragedies, and we were a part of a caring community. There were joyful occasions, and we were a part of a celebrating community. There were births and deaths and all the happenings of life between. The Cutler people welcomed us as a part of their lives, and we stumbled and learned what the ministry and the Gospel of Christ was all about.

The congregation *endured* my first years of preaching (I still have the bulletins and sermon outlines of those years), and some there were who kindly helped me improve my preaching style.

There was a large and enthusiastic youth group of twenty or more with whom we had many good times including several "rough-it" camping trips. We also had Sunday night youth meetings with meaningful worship and serious discussions. Katie and I have often commented that we had in Cutler the best youth group and program of all our parish years. I'm sure that some who were youth in those years are now the adult leaders of the present congregation.

There were active young adults who planned activities such as Saturday fox drives and hamburger fries. Especially, there was the Session of six men who tempered some of my ideas with wisdom, not always to my youthful liking.

There was always good humor and funny experiences, like Katie missing the Flora stop on the Pennsylvania Railroad her first trip from Chicago, ending up in Frankfort. There was our first summer Sunday in 1944, when we lifted our bedroom shade to meet a horse looking in on us. There was another Sunday when Everett McCauley's pigs wandered across the church yard on their way up-town. We were visiting an elderly couple who had made some modest improvements on

their home. We mentioned it would be nice if they could have a bathroom and modern plumbing. "No," the man said, "The more you got, the more you got to go wrong." From then on to this day, when something goes wrong with a convenience of any kind, Katie and I look at each other and say, "The more you got, the more you got to go wrong." A skilled writer could make much of the priceless stories we can still recall of our Cutler years.

Much of Christian stewardship of time, talents and treasure I learned in Cutler. There was little money, and we were on mission aid from Crawfordsville Presbytery and the Synod of Indiana. But with sacrificial giving of meager means, lots of good old Presbyterian hard work and old lumber, we soon fixed and cleaned the place up in spite of limitations of the war years. I'll never forget the time we had digging a basement under the manse, getting new furnaces for the church and manse, getting the plumbing to work, patching the leaky roofs, rebuilding the sagging porch, and much, much more. Being a proud people we got off of mission aid, and as I understand it, the Cutler Church has been self-supporting ever since. When we visited last October, we were pleased to observe the obvious spiritual vitality of the congregation and the care and order of the church, manse and grounds.

Through all of this, I learned more than the practical side of ministry. I learned skills of plumbing, wiring, carpentry and construction which have proven valuable over the years.

Then there was my old 1941 Studebaker. Now that was a car! It was known as the "South Bend Vibrator". It transported me and other area student pastors including Bob Sheagley, back and forth to the Seminary in Chicago every week of the school year. Tires and gas were rationed. So we kept going with defective recaps and occasional donations of kerosene from tractor rations of several farmers. On more than one occasion, mailman Bob Sheagley came to our rescue when we broke down on the way home from Chicago. Session members signed a note at the Delphi bank to buy the car in the first place. With the help of town and church mechanics, we kept that old car going, including a new engine installed over a weekend which we had acquired through the ration board.

The telephone system in Cutler run by the Enochs was the best and most efficient we have ever had, including the modern day dialing and computer systems. No number - just ring up and ask by name for whom you wanted. If they weren't home, Bill or Lois knew where they were. "Bordners aren't home, but I think Bob's up at the store. I'll ring him there."

It was a sad but necessary time when after graduation, ordination and officiating for my first communion service we left Cutler. As I write, after thirty-six years, and several new coverings, "I'm sitting in the very platform rocker given to us by the Cutler Church as a going away gift. It's a cherished reminder of a very special time and very special people in our lives. Names, many no longer living, come to mind as I write. I purposefully have refrained from using names, for they would include all who were so much a part of the church and the community and who were so much a part of our lives. To them and to all we are grateful.

I'm now retired. It has been my privilege to serve the Presbyterian church on all levels of its ministry and mission -- four parishes, the Board of Christian Education of the General Assembly, as a member of the staff of the Synod of Arizona and as executive of Blackhawk Presbytery in Illinois. I shall always be grateful to

Almighty God for the Cutler Church and the Cutler people for those beginning years of a fruitful and rewarding ministry.

Dale L. Brubaker, Pinetop, Arizona

**EDWARD E. MORRIS 1948-1959**

We had never heard of Cutler before we were asked to go there for a trial sermon. But Cutler proved to be a happy place for us for about ten years of our ministry. Our children got a big welcome into a better school than they had been attending, and the relationship with the school for all of us was full of pleasure, work, achievements and a lot of good fellowship.

Work in the church went along smoothly with good attendance, fine cooperation and support. We also had good relationships with the other churches in the community. This included cooperative vacation church schools, a men's inter-church fellowship and an active part in the religious week-day education classes throughout the county, a county youth program and a vocational guidance program provided by the ministerial association.

During my ministry there, I moderated the sessions of all seven Presbyterian Churches in the county at least one time during their vacance or pastoral leave. The same was true of the Geetingsville church on two occasions.

We felt a warm welcome in every home in the community and everywhere we went we felt needed and appreciated. The Christmas parties - "Preacher's Punch Parties" they were called by Morris Clem's preschooler - were well attended and seemed to be much appreciated, even getting a write-up in the Indianapolis Times. We got a great satisfaction out of the youth group which was well attended and full of enthusiasm. The choir was made up of both adults and young people. There was good fellowship there and a sense of faithfulness that made working with these people a real joy. Illustrative of their faithfulness was the way young people who had gone off to college came back on Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving to an early choir practice so they could sing with the choir for the early Thursday morning Thanksgiving Service. The practice had to be early so everyone could go to the ball game. We give high marks to those fine people.

We look back with a lot of satisfaction on the years we lived in the Cutler manse. Besides the church and its work there were the 4H clubs, Boy Scouts, Home Economics Club, Music Club, Fire Department and other things. We continue our interest in the church with a feeling that it can perform a truly great ministry to the people of that area, continue to grow and be strong witness to Christ in that community and in the world. It is a remarkable church in that it has sent seven of its young men into the ministry. There is no reason that it should not continue to prepare young men and women for Christian vocations.

Edward and Gladys Morris, Monticello, Indiana

This letter is from the widow of

**THOMAS I. RUSSELL 1959-1961 Deceased 1964**

Covering our time at the Cutler Church, I guess the part I remember most is the small, friendly community. The kids really enjoyed being able to just run across the road to school. I think that was one of the main reasons we considered taking the church.

We did enjoy the ministry there. We all enjoyed the manse as it was large and roomy and felt like home. My husband liked the smaller churches - he always said that the younger pastors liked the larger churches and so it was hard for a small

church to get a pastor. He didn't care about prestige. He had received enough of that in the service. He had the highest rating of any chaplain in the China, Burma, India Theater. He was regimental chaplain of 2,000 boys in the Burmese jungle and that was why he was disabled with diabetes. (They said it was caused from stress and strain). Of course that was another reason for pastoring the smaller churches.

Another thing he especially enjoyed was the Children's Choir. He saw an ad in the ministers Monthly Newsletter that the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg had children's robes to give on a first come, first serve basis. He got up at 4:00 A.M. and drove like the wind, arriving in Pittsburgh at noon, and was the first one there, so got them.

Lois Russell, Kokomo, Indiana

### **DON PAUL KASTNER 1962-1966**

The things that I remember most are the attempts I made at helping the people there carry out their ministry. One of the most wonderful compliments I have ever received came as a result of such efforts. The compliment simply stated that when I left the Cutler Church was better prepared than ever before to carry out its own ministry.

I remember during my years there the two Methodist churches in the area were closed and we welcomed several of those families into our congregation. It was a time of adjustment too, for the Cutler School had been closed a short time before our arrival and the people were going through a great adjustment because of the school closure. I recall the "Accent on Africa", the week-long Mission Festival that involved every group in the church and the Boy Scout Troop.

I recall the Library on Wheels. I don't know whether it is still there but it was basically two bookcases hinged together on wheels which could be closed like a book and moved about in the Fellowship Hall.

Don Kastner, Community Presbyterian Church, Englewood, Florida

From his wife, Janet: My memories of Cutler are much more personal than Don's. The years in Cutler are the years we had Philip with us, and therefore they are always special and dear.

Living there those four years were hard for me in so many ways. I had been teaching for six years, and then suddenly I wasn't anymore. I was staying home keeping house with a child who I later realized was handicapped. Instead of being a super-teacher, I was trying to be super-mother, super-wife, super-minister's wife, and I was very inexperienced in at least two of those areas. Living in the country for the first time, I found out I was a city girl! And motherhood, while challenging, required a whole new and different set of attitudes and skills than I had acquired in teaching.

But the people of Cutler were so kind and helpful to me. I was never aware of criticism. People let me grow up and learn so much without trying to tell me how to do what I had to do. They offered friendship, kindness, and garden surpluses and let me be me, however odd my ways and ideas must have seemed.

I'm sure they laughed at me. I remember the first year we were there, one Sunday morning when Philip wasn't up to going to church. I looked out the east window and saw the field on the other side of the railroad tracks was on fire and the

flames were coming my way. I was sure it would just jump the track, race across Bob Bordner's field, and burn down the manse. When Don came home, I had packed lots of clothes so we could get out before we were burned out. I remember learning all about UPW for the first time and trying so hard to do everything right. I remember wondering what to do with trash since there was no regular pick-up. I'd throw things away, and they would still be there!

One spring day, I leaned out the window and watched Bob Bordner picking up rocks and throwing them on his stone boat. I asked him if he had planted gravel to get rocks that big. I hope he knew I was joking!

When I think of Cutler, I think of particular people, especially Carlisle and Savannah, Mick and Irma, Dick and Sharon, Louise and Don, Marjorie and Walter, Ann and Kenneth Kelly, Mabel and Burt Pullen, the Hausenflucks, the Overholzers, Frank and Wilma, Lola and Bob, Mary and Bob McCarty...I wonder how far I could go with this list and how many of them are still there.

I guess what it all adds up to is this, that in Cutler I learned so much about what the church is supposed to be, the Body of Christ, because people were willing to share their lives and their struggles with us. I've been real happy to recall this special time.

Janet Kastner

### **WILLIAM H. BESWICK 1971-1976**

Attempting to choose a couple of memories from the many, many blessings I received from the Cutler Presbyterian Church is very difficult. My 5½ years at Cutler were some of the best I have ever enjoyed. You took in a green kid, fresh from Seminary, out to change the world, and loved him as one of your own. You taught me what a loving congregation was, gave me many super examples of dedicated Christians, and in the process, I hope, made me a better pastor. The love you showed me, and continue to show me, will always remain one of the special blessings of my life.

I remember Carol Bordner taking out one of the windows in the upstairs hallway, when I moved in, so we could get my queen-size box springs in the house. They would not go up the stairway. When we moved out, I took the window out! See, I did learn something from you!

I suppose that the one, overwhelming memory of Cutler that I hold dearest is the tremendous sense of family with which you blessed each other, Jane and me. You are truly a loving family. Whenever one member of the family was hurting or in need, you were there to give comfort and aid.

The Cutler family always gave generously to mission. I seem to recall that it always ran 10% to 12% of the church's budget. You permitted me to spend a fair amount of time, which you were paying for, working on the Board of Directors of the Lafayette Urban Ministry. You have a keen sense of the church universal.

Because of the family atmosphere of the Cutler Church, I could probably come up with a memory for everyone of you: stuffing myself on Joyce Ann's rolls; a little 5 year old named Penny spending the night at my house; solving the world's problems in the grocery store; my source of omniscience, Doris at the post office; beating Mick at golf; talking Carol Pullen into being a lay leader (I understand he's a real pro, now!); ordaining Cutler's first women elders, Marjorie and Irma; my own Ann Kelly-made teddy bear; Euchre at Bill and Mary's my first New Year's Eve; Clayton's laugh; and Alena's patience!; Youth Group Christmas par-

ties with a bunch of wonderful people; the horse running into Carlisle's car on the way home from church; children born and growing up, and friends dying.

I remember getting married, now almost ten years ago! The church family had a market basket shower for us. Our house has never been so full of food! Your presence at our marriage made the occasion especially meaningful. All of my family were present. And, of course, your greatest gift to me; one of your own children, Jane. Cutler will always be "home" to us.

I suppose I could write more about each of you, but this is only supposed to be part of your book, not the whole thing!

May God continue to bless you as you serve him in Cutler. Our love for you is strong and everlasting.

William H. Beswick, Memorial Presbyterian Church, Dayton, Indiana

### **DONALD D. DENTON 1978-1984**

I want to add my congratulations to those of others on your sesquicentennial! I am certain that this will be a rich year for you as you reflect upon 150 years of continual worship and ministry in Democrat Township. From what I hear via many sources this process of celebrating the faithfulness of God in your lives has already begun.

When I recall my own time there as pastor and the life of my family with you some themes emerge which I think clearly indicate the heart of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Many of you have given years of devoted and unselfish service to your neighbors and the Church, not only through your organized mission but also through your daily activities of being good neighbors. A number of you have consistently witnessed to the sustaining power of Jesus Christ in your own families, under less than ideal circumstances. Many of you have supported the wider ministries of the Church even though there was no obvious "pay off" to your local congregation.

But there are other sides to your life as a congregation, and the way you cared for my family, that speaks even more personally of your faithfulness to Christ. I will not cite specific examples for fear of leaving out someone, but as I look at what my children know of Christ and the growth of our life as a family while among you, I recognize that this is due to your significant love for us. Through your gifts to our family and to me professionally, your faithfulness to Jesus Christ continues to have an influence even though we are no longer with you.

The body of Christ is indeed wide and I have no doubt that we shall meet again. Until that time, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Donald D. Denton, Jr., Buchanan Counseling Center, Indianapolis, Indiana  
Don's wife, Beth Beckon Denton, had the unique background of having parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who were all missionaries to China. Her great-grandfather went there in 1892 from Sweden under the China Inland Mission and helped establish the Scandanavian Alliance Mission. Several members of that family were serving there until the Communists took over in 1949. Beth had the opportunity to participate in the Contemporary China Student Seminar trip to China, sponsored by Macalester College, The Program Agency of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA (Ours), and the Division of Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the US (Southern) in July 1983. It was made a reality for her by money gifts from members of the Cutler Church and surrounding Presbyterian Churches and a \$1,000. scholarship from The Program Agency.