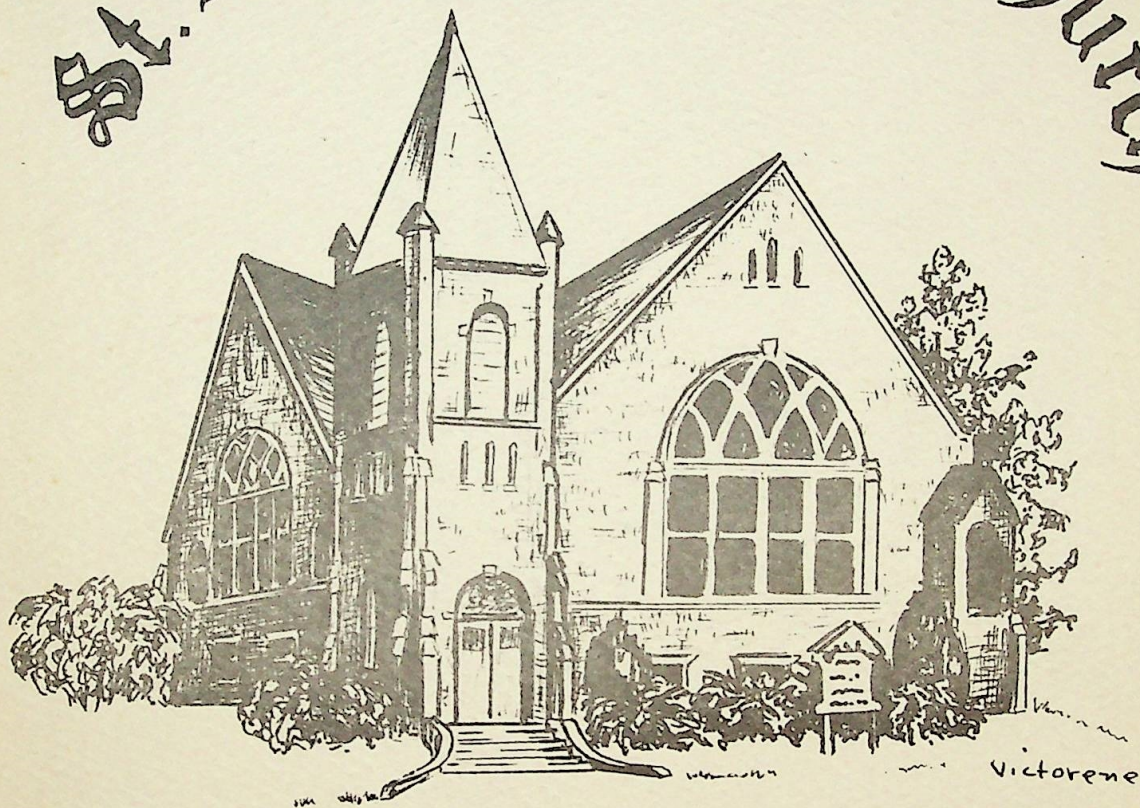
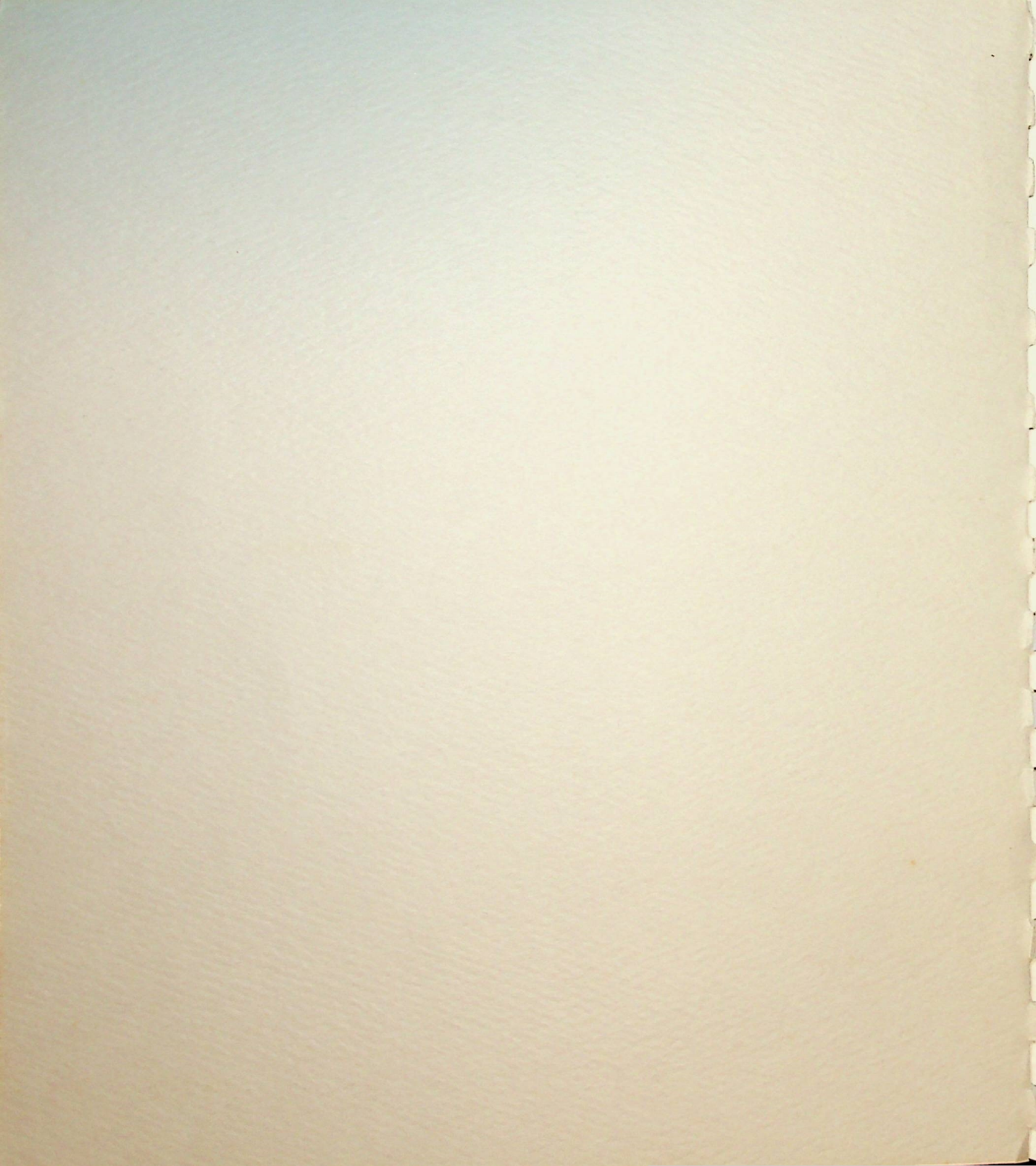


St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1973



Whitestown, Indiana



FOREWORD

In these trying times it seemed important to somehow put together the story of the life and times of the people who have been a part of the Christian Heritage centered around St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Whitestown, Indiana for 125 years. We are overcome each day by evidence of a total breakdown of our American Dream. Here, a part of the dream is still alive and well in 1973.

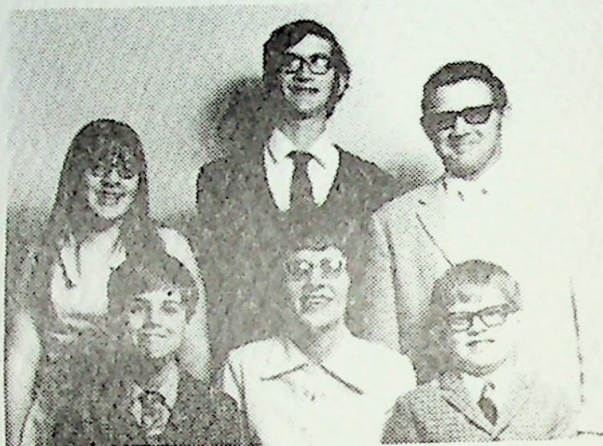
The present building was dedicated in 1905, with a few people still active who were present then. Ruth Shoemaker sang for that service when she was a very small child. Opal Etter, whose great-grandfather was the first person to be buried in the little country cemetery by the Newtown Church, where the fellowship of St. Marks began, has played the piano or organ for over fifty years for the congregation. Many names mentioned in the old church books are on the roll today as active members.

Today, in 1973, the 125th Anniversary Year, the congregation has the bell in the tower ringing again, has in progress a program to renovate the original stained glass windows and is tackling a new plan for the Sunday School designed to reach the new generation. Flora Laughner, now 91 years young and still living alone since her husband's death, rarely misses church on Sundays and has a Sunday School pin for 25 year continuing attendance, and she has made possible a complete face-lifting job for the large stained glass window in the chancel. She hopes to see this finished in her lifetime, though her sight is dimmed by the years.

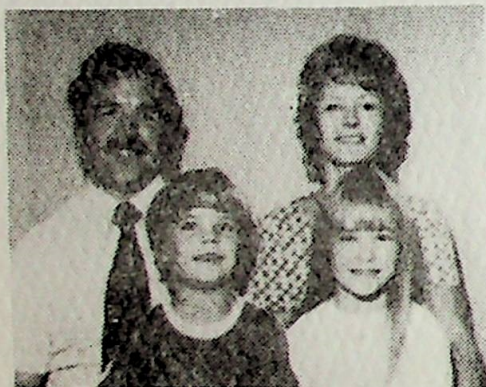
Along with old members, are their children and grandchildren, some of whom are sixth generation at St. Mark's, and there are new people who have come in recent years and some very new, who have become dedicated to the ongoing Christian Testimony of the church in the community.



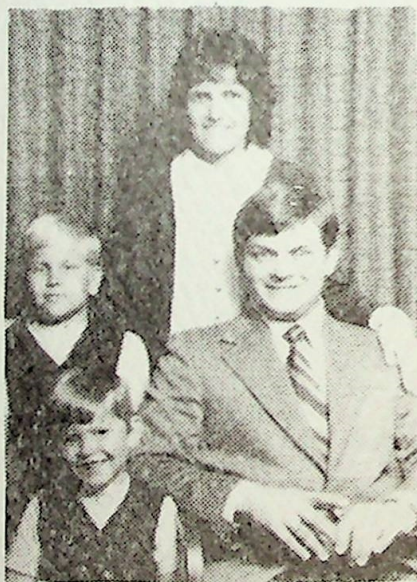
John and Susan Hancock
Mike and Mark



Imogene and Bob Hines
Vicki, Earl Lee, Dennis
Garry Gordon



James, Lynn, Valerie,
Douglas Caylor



Sue and Dick Patton
Ricki and Mark



Bill and Joanne Shoemaker
Deidra, Doug, Natalie
Nannette



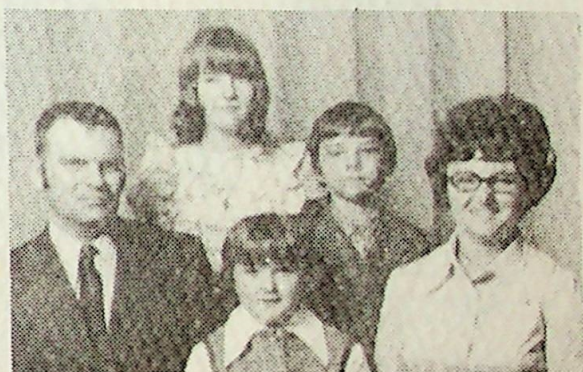
Lowell, Lynn, Karen, Pam,
Sue, Chila Von de Mark



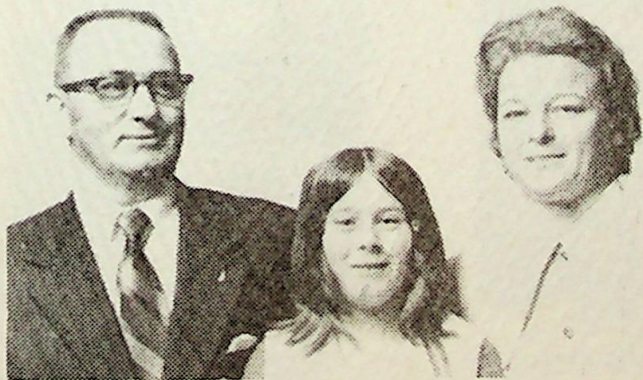
Dorit Ann and Al Hall
Jimmy



Dan, Colleen, Deanna
Parks



Lee, Judy, Marcia, Mark,
Angela Goodwin



Virginia and Dale McKinnis
Donna



Kip, Kent, Patty, Dawn
McGinnis



Flora Laughner



Clara Prosser



Goldie Hine



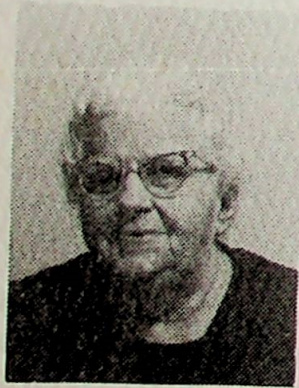
Ruth Shoemaker



Edna Steffey



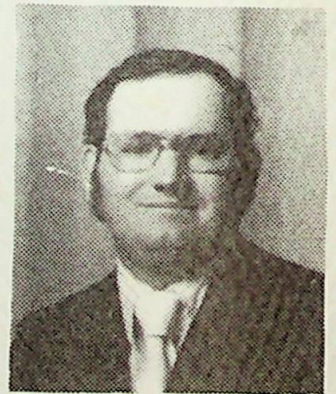
Hortense Parks



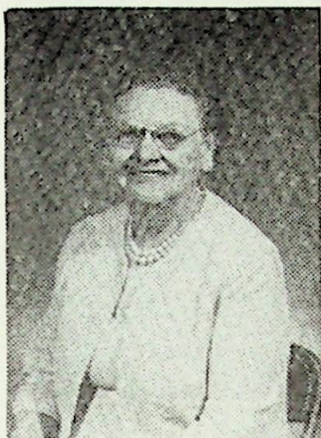
Ruth Spaugh



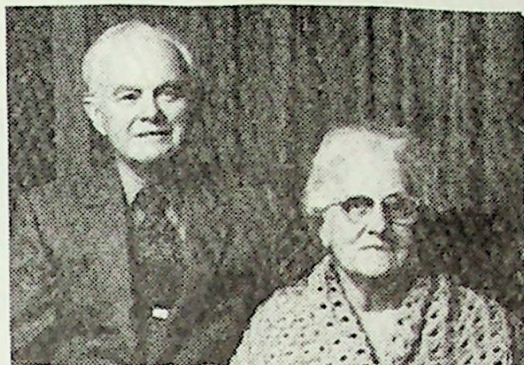
Virginia Thurgood



Myron Cragun



Ella Hine



Naomi and Noble Beck



Orpha Wilkins



*Cecil, Rlou, Corena
Bennington*



*Harold and LeAnna
Livengood*



Mennis Ottinger



Ruth Berry



Ada Witt



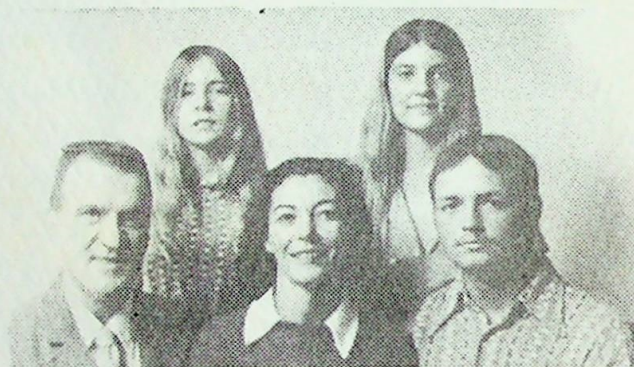
Peg and Ed Hine
Reba, Jeff, Dawn, David



Ed and Marguerite Lamb
Eddie, Debbie, John
Josette



Nelda, Lauri, Flint,
Lloyd Rohrbach



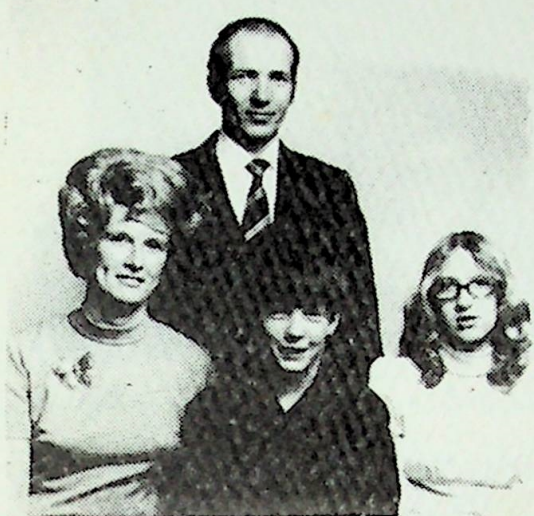
Dale and Jackie Habegger
Jacque, Lisa, Richard



SuAnn and Jerry Stoner
Rebecca and Andrea



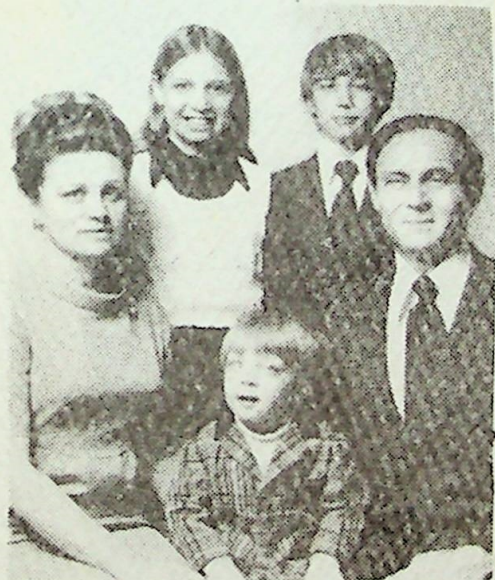
Ruth and Bob Fleener
Kathy and Brent



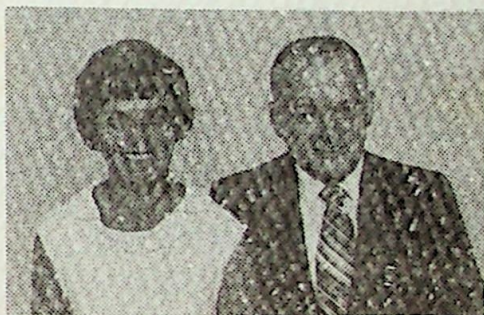
Bob and Wilma Hancock
Joel and Robin



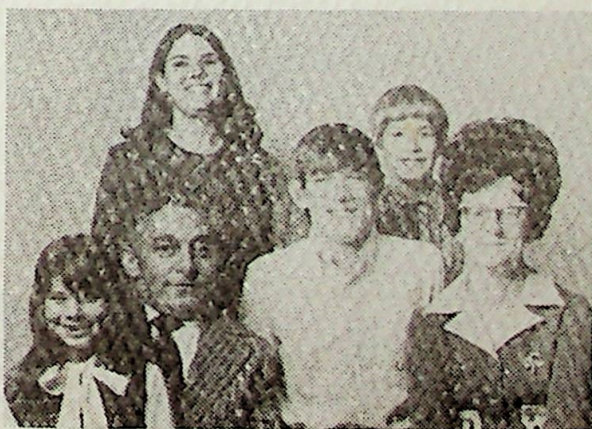
Victorene and
Darcy Bates



Mona and Gene Etter
Debbie and Mike
Doug



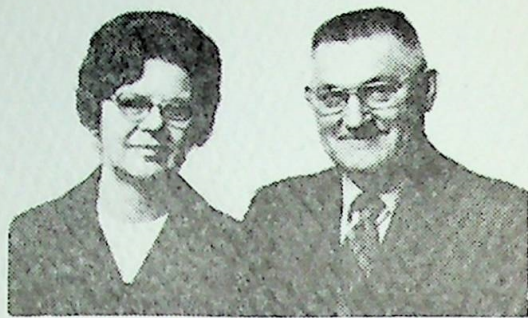
Hilda and Charles Reinker



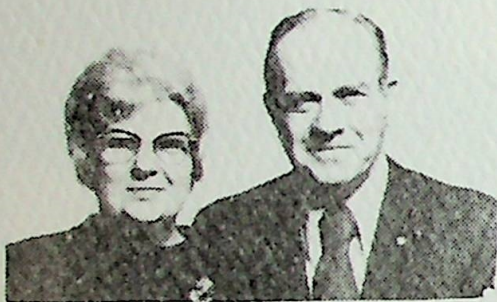
Bill, Denise, Dennis, Terry,
Christina, Shirley DeVol



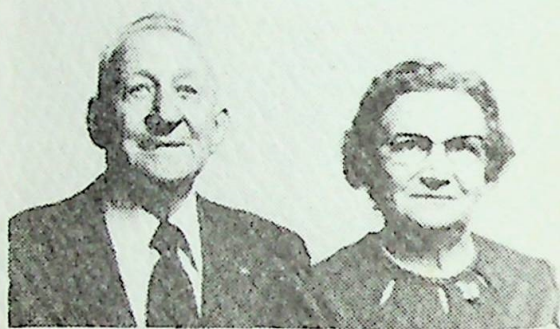
Rogella and Paul Groover



Mardelle and Charlie Kouns



Mary Louise and Bob Hancock



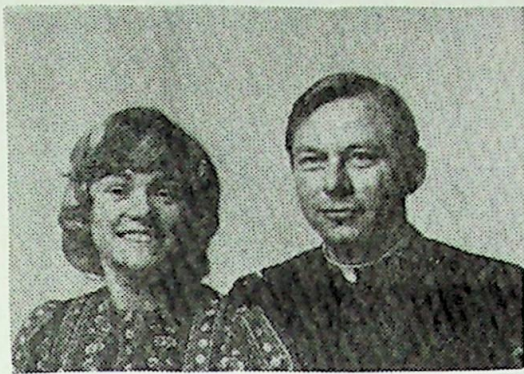
Opal and Harry Etter



Opal and Earl Byrkhett



Eleanor and Carl Cragun



Sue and Dale Beutler



*Curt, Joan, Todd,
and April Jackson*



George and Katy Groover

George and Katy Groover lived all of their lives in the area, celebrating their 50th Wddding Anniversary not long ago. Their lives were centered around their home and family and St. Mark's. George suffered a stroke and now Katy is still attending St. Mark's and continuing their life, only alone for a while. One who loved the church as did George, cannot be far away.



Betty Miller



*Harold, Patti, Linda, John,
Mary Beth, Janie Anderson*

History of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Whitestown
Whitestown, Indiana 1973

Based on Historical Records
and other sources

Compiled by Mary Louise (Laughner) Hancock

As the early settlers came to this area, we find a group of Lutherans, praying and singing in a log cabin about 1834.

In 1835 Rev. Ezra Keller was sent into this region as a missionary explorer by the Missionary Society of the Pennsylvania Ministerium (the first Lutheran Synod in America). In reporting his travels he wrote, "I went to Boone County where I found a number of Lutherans from East Tennessee. These people have been visited by Rev. E.S. Henkel. I preached to them in a log cabin".

The first record book in our possession is from Union Lutheran Church which was located near the present cemetery. These records started in the year 1838. It is possible this group was the origin of St. Mark's for I find records stating this congregation grew to such an extent it was necessary to divide it. There are conflicting dates recorded on this division. We do know that this group adopted the name of Newtown Lutheran and selected E.S. Henkel as their pastor. They soon erected a frame church just east of the present intersection in Whitestown.

April 11, 1868 the Newtown congregation met to discuss a new church building, ground was bought from Ambrose Neese, where the present church stands, and the building was started in the fall of 1868. This new church was finished in May 1869. However, the first sermon was not until the 3rd Sunday in July, 1869, by Rev. Miles Stirewalt.

Saturday, July 31, 1869, the congregation met for re-organizing and a committee was appointed to draft resolutions and a constitution.

Thursday, August 12, 1869 the committee reported as follows to the congregation: "Whereas we the members of the Newtown Evangelical Lutheran Church, Whitestown Boone County, have during the year 1868-1869 erected a new house of worship for ourselves at the above named place under the name and style of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, it becomes us, in order to take possession of said property as a congregation, to adopt the name and style under which said house was erected As the name and style of our congregation".

"Therefore be it resolved that the name of this congregation be changed from Newtown Evangelical Lutheran Church to that of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church."

"Resolve that the congregation be re-organized by adopting a constitutional, electing officers as provided by the constitution. The above preamble and resolution were duly considered and adopted without a single dissenting voice."

The constitution was signed by 41 members and Rev. Miles was selected to be the first pastor.

Sunday, August 15, 1869 the new brick church was dedicated to the worship of God by Rev. Stirewalt, assisted by Rev. E. Rudisel, E.S. Henkel, J.R. Stirewalt and J.E. Wesner.

No unusual events were recorded during these years. In 1903 the congregation found the church in need of repairs. Under the leadership of Pastor D.L. Reese the congregation took action to build a new church instead of repairing the old one, because the reported cost of remodeling was almost as much as a new one. The new church was to be made of brick, trimmed in stone and to cost \$7000. The present structure is the result of these plans.

In the spring of 1904 the old church was torn down and the excavation of the basement was begun. The foundation was completed on May 1904.

Tuesday, June 21, 1904 the cornerstone was laid at special services conducted by D.L. Reese and the address by Isiah Whitman. While the new church was under construction services were held in the Whitestown School building.

January 29, 1905 the new church was dedicated free from debt by Rev. David L. Reese assisted by Rev. W.J. Seiberling, Rev. Hiram Peters and A.H. Arbaugh.

The total cost was \$9847.39 and is still serving the congregation though many changes and improvements have been made over the years. During the early years traveling ministers served. Rev. Miles Stilewalt was the first to be permanently called in 1866. Since then 25 ministers have served the congregation.

In March 1876 J.G. M. Hursh was called to pastor St. Mark's with a salary of \$225 per year, to be paid as pastor desired. In February 1891 a sexton was hired for \$24.00 per year. He was supposed to furnish oil for lamps, brooms, and lamp flues. The bell for the first brick church was purchased in 1868 for \$112.00 and is in the present church in use now.

In April, 1919 St. Mark's purchased a parsonage located on the north edge of town for \$4000. On January 16th, 1925 the Dorcas Society (now called LW) destroyed the note for \$670.00. Just six months later on June 4, 1925 it was destroyed by fire. The present parsonage is built on the foundation of that one.

In May 1926 the Home Builders Sunday School Class was organized and was responsible for many improvements, including \$171.20 in 1941 for drilling a well and water was piped to the kitchen sink. Their largest project was the purchase of a Baldwin organ.

In 1929 Rev. Davis began to discuss choir robes with the council and finally in 1933 the choir appeared in black hassocks and white surplices.

It was during the years Rev. Davis was pastor that early morning Easter Services were started in 1931 and the Christmas Candlelight Service was first recorded in 1939.

Early in 1948 the floor and pews were refinished, the interior repainted, new carpet laid, and the Baldwin organ purchased.

On October 1, 2, 3, 1948 St. Mark's celebrated their 100th Anniversary. On October 1, at the evening service a pageant, "The Flight of a Century" was presented and October, 2, a movie "Salt of the Earth" was shown. On Sunday, October 3, at 10:30 a.m. services Holy Communion was observed and at 2:30 a pitch--in dinner was enjoyed and an Anniversary service was held with Rev. H.G. Davis preaching for this service. There were three former pastors who helped during these activities.

In 1951 for the first time two women were elected to serve on the council.

In 1954 St. Mark's has their first Advent wreath.

In 1967 on June 6, 1967, St. Mark's became incorporated.

During the summer of 1967 the ceiling in the church was lowered. The window frames were stripped of old varnish and refinished and paneling installed in the chancel and entrance, and stairway to the basement.

In February 1972 the Council approved a joint Bible School with the Whitestown Methodist Church which was very well attended.

In 1972 the men of St. Mark's finished an office for the Pastor and a nursery. Also in 1972 St. Mark's entered a float with a replica of the church and the ladies of the church served corn bread and beans for the Whitestown Pioneer Days celebration. In the fall of 1972 a bad leak in the choir loft made necessary a new ceiling which was put in.

In 1973 the men of the church put a new roof on the parsonage.

In 1973 three louvered panels were installed in the bell tower and the old bell was put into service after years of silence.

A large project undertaken under the leadership of Peg Hine was participation with the Methodist Church of Whitestown and St. Alphonsus of Zionsville (Catholic) at the Farm Progress Show held near Lebanon by the Prairie Farmer. The food tent was very successful and the entire congregation responded. Sold were 6,318 ham sandwiches, 4,065 hot dogs, 1,690 hamburgers, small pies, donuts and pop, milk and coffee. The show was held on the Hoffman farm near Lebanon and drew crowds of hundreds of thousands from all over the country. A tidy sum went into the treasury from this effort.

For several years there was a Sunday School Orchestra. Opal Etter remembers that they played an opening number for Sunday School and for the congregational singing. Opal is still one of the organists for St. Mark's, having played for fifty years and Mardell Kouns has been organist since February 1942. Darcy Bates began filling in in September 1970. Over the years there have been active church choirs, junior and senior. Harry Etter, who in no financial secretary, has been Sunday School teacher and superintendent, council member and his grandfather was one of the original members of the church.

In October 1968 Riley Laughner celebrated his 100th birthday. He has now gone to be with the Lord but said at that time, " I don't drink or smoke. I figure that I should take care of this body that God gave me. My life depends upon God... it is in His hands." He retired from farming at 85 years and was still teaching Sunday School at 94 years. He lived with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kouns and from their home could look across the field at his birthplace, now the home of his niece and her family, Mrs. Robert Hancock, sr.

Our church history would not be complete without mention of the congregation's first deaconess. Sister Nanca Schoen (1883-1967) came to St. Mark's from the little Lutheran church northeast of Whitestown, when it discontinued regular services. Sister Nanca was also affiliated with the Lutheran Deaconess Motherhouse in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She spent eleven years as a missionary in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Becoming ill with malaria in 1928 she returned to the Motherhouse. After her recovery she served as Training Sister for the student Deaconesses and later was chosen Directing Sister of the institution. She always spent her vacations with relatives in Indiana and worshiped at St. Mark's.

Albrecht, Dwight, Dorothy, Barbara Whitestown	769 6380	Cragun, Carl, Eleanor Rt. #2, Lebanon	769 3334
Anderson, Harold, Patti, John, Linda, Marybeth, Janie Rt. #1, Whitestown	Not Listed	Cragun, Myron, Judy, Kim, Jon Rt. 2, Lebanon	769 6674
Bates, Victorene, Darcy Whitestown	769 3696	DeVol, William, Shirley, Denise, Dennis, Jerry, Christina Rt. #1, Whitestown	769 6569
Beck, Noble, Naomi 1702 Garfield, Lebanon	482 4666	Etter, Harry, Opal Rt. #1, Whitestown	769 6629
Bennington, Cecil, Rlou, Corena Rt. #1, Whitestown	769 6316	Etter, Hubert Gene, Mona, Mike, Debbie, Doug Rt. #1, Whitestown	769 6227
Berry, Miss Ruth (shut in) Oak Park Manor, Lebanon		Ferch, Lee, Peggy, Vanessa, Toni, Lora, Leo, Jr., Tracy Whitestown	
Beutler, Rev. Dale, Sue Whitestown	769 3773	Fleener, Bob, Ruth, Kathy, Brent 417 Ulen Dr., Lebanon	482 1603
Byrnett, Carl, Opal Rt. #1, Whitestown	769 3536	Goodwin, Lee, Judy, Marcia, Mark, Angela Rt. #1, Whitestown	769 6426
Caylor, James, Lynn, Valerie, Douglas Whitestown		Groover, Katie Rt. #1, Whitestown	769 6429
Cline, Adrian, Ruth, Ronnie Rt. #1, Whitestown	769 6649	Groover, Paul, Rosella Rt. #1, Whitestown	769 6431
Cline, Ralph, Shirley, Lisa, Ralph, Jr. Rt. #1, Whitestown	769 6496		
Cragun, Alan Rome City, Indiana			

Habegger, Dr. Dale, Jackie, Richard Jacque Lee, Lisa Rt. #2, Brownsburg 769 6387	Ottinger, Mennis Oak Park Manor (deceased)
Hall, Alvin, Dorit Ann, James Rt. #2, Zionsville 769 3641	Parks, Hortense Rt. #1, Whitestown 372 3320
Hancock, Joel Robert, Sr., Mary Louise Rt. #1, Whitestown 769 6628	Parks, Dan, Colleen, Deanna Rt. #2, Zionsville 372 3399
Hancock, John, Susan, Mike, Mark Rt. #1, Whitestown 769 6563	Patton, Richard, Sue, Rich, Mark Willow Road, Zionsville 873 2218
Hancock, Robert Joel, Jr., Wilma, Robin, Joe Rt. #2, Lebanon 769 6673	Rt. #1, Box 352, Zionsville
Harvey, Dr. Ralph, Rose 95 S. Third, Zionsville 873 2321	Peetz, Emma Odd Fellows Nursing Home Greensburg, Ind. 47270
Hine, Edna (shut-in) Oak Park Manor, Lebanon	Presser, Clara 131 Ulen Drive, Lebanon 482 5213
Hine, Edwin, Peggy, Jeff, Dawn, Reba, David Rt. #1, Whitestown 769 6620	Reinker, Charles, Hilda Rt. #6, Lebanon 482 0151
Hine, Ella 1901 S. Park, Apt. 101, Kokomo	Rohrbach, Lloyd, Nelda, Lauri, Flint 8254 W. 87th St. Ind. Ind 291 9763
Hine, Goldie Rt. #1, Whitestown 769 6631	Show
Hines, Robert, Imogene, Gary Dennis, Vickie, Carl Whitestown 769 3699	Shoemaker, Bill, Joanne, Douglas, Diedra, Nanette, Natalie Rt. #1, Zionsville 372 3483
Jackson, Curt, Jean, April, Todd Rt. #1, Whitestown 769 3799	Shoemaker, Ruth Rt. #1, Zionsville 372 3238
Kouns, Charles, Mardell Rt. #1, Whitestown 769 3431	Spaugh, Ruth 901 Harney Dr., Lebanon 482 2331
Lamb, Joseph, Marguerite, Josette, Debbie, Eddie, John 769 3472	Spencer, William Whitestown 769 6648
Rt. #1, Box 22, Whitestown	Steffy, Edna 611 N. Lebanon, Lebanon 482 2332
Laughner, Flora Rt. #1, Whitestown 769 6551	Stoner, Jerry, Suamm. Rebecca, Andrea Rt. 2, Lebanon 769 3495
Livengood, Dick, LeAnnah Cooper Road, Zionsville 873 2047	Thurgood, Virginia Rt. 2, Zionsville 769 3645
McGinnis, Kent, Patty, Dawn, Kip Rt. #3, Lebanon 482 0131	Van DeMark, Lowell, Chila, Karen, Pam, Sue 873 3180
McKinnis, Dale, Virginia, Donna Rt. #2, Thorntown	Rt. #1, Box 66, Zionsville
McKinnis, Capt. Wayne, Cheryl, Dale, Tammra Rancho Cordova, California	Wilkins, Orpha (shut-in) Oak Park Manor
Miller, Betty J. 959 N. Sherman, Indianapolis	Witt, Ada Box 74, Kirklin 279 8301

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We respectfully submit this record of the life and times of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in this its 125th year of service to our Lord Jesus Christ and the propagation of His Saving Grace-----In the hope that if you are discouraged by the times, or your own life, you might find rest for your soul, Christian Fellowship, the answer to your search for a way of life-----or a Saving Knowledge of the Gospel Of Christ -----here in this time honored, sacred place.

Betty Miller ----- Who was the instigator.

Goldie Hine ----- Who was our treasurer and spent many hours getting the money we needed.

Ruth Fleener----- Who ran errands, typed, did research and gave lots of moral support.

Dr. E. Dale Habegger- Who payed for the production of photographs printed here-in.

And Pastor Dale Beutler and the Church Council who were so helpful and enthusiastic and patient as our original plans were expanded and delays were encountered and more money needed.

Mary Louise Hancock-who has undertaken to record the church history and has spent hours poring over old church records and running down the facts.

Victorene Bates ----- Who did the cover sketches.

And the people who paid for copies sight unseen and made the whole project possible at all.

As instigator of this directory, I would like to dedicate it first to Dr. and Mrs. E. Dale Habegger, who have been so good to me and made me a part of their family; and second - to all of the dedicated people shown here-in who are a part of St. Marks, in the hope that a strong effort will be made to insure the existence of this testimony in 125 years from now..

If the strong fundamentals of the faith of Martin Luther that sparked the great Christian Reformation are not instilled in the children now coming up, the Church will not stand. A watered down social gospel will not bring them through the bad times.. The same faith that has kept people coming to St. Marks for all of these years was not nurtured without an acknowledged commitment. The spiritual fires will not be kindled in the hearts of the next generation and those outside the church without inspiration from the Holy Spirit..

The fires of Hell burn now at the gates of our civilization and many signs point to fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and it becomes very important for Christians to speak up about why they live as they do. If all of the people priveleged to worship at St. Marks will make every effort to let the world know what a Lutheran Testimony to the the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and what His Gospel really means *****then St. Marks and the Great American Dream will live here in Whitestown, until Our Lord comes again.

Betty J. Miller





• Victorena