

1804 - 1954



8

From the diary of Gen. George Griswold, of Worthington, Ohio—1827-1831:

Feb. 18-1827.

St. John's Church. Memo. At work for you. I have entirely worn out a new stone boat, finished using it today. Have never hauled anything on it except stone for you.

### "AT WORK FOR YOU"

These stones, these bricks, these heavy wooden planks,  
Bespeak hard labor given in love by men  
"At work for you" through daylight hours, and then  
At night, alone, with neither wage nor thanks,  
Writing down proudly, "Got out stone for you,"  
Or, "Hauled sawn logs of cherry, very fine,  
Using our oxen, five strong pairs in line;"  
This was the record, four hard winters through.  
Today, in this old Pentecostal room,  
The sun streams in on darkly mellow wood,  
On stone beloved by those who deemed it good  
To raise their church within the forest gloom.  
So, greatly served, among these aisles of light,  
Our fathers' faith shall we hold shining bright.

Helen Tappan Utterback—1953



A Brochure

Prepared in Commemoration of

The Sesquicentennial Anniversary

of

St. John's Episcopal Church

In Worthington and Parts Adjacent, Ohio

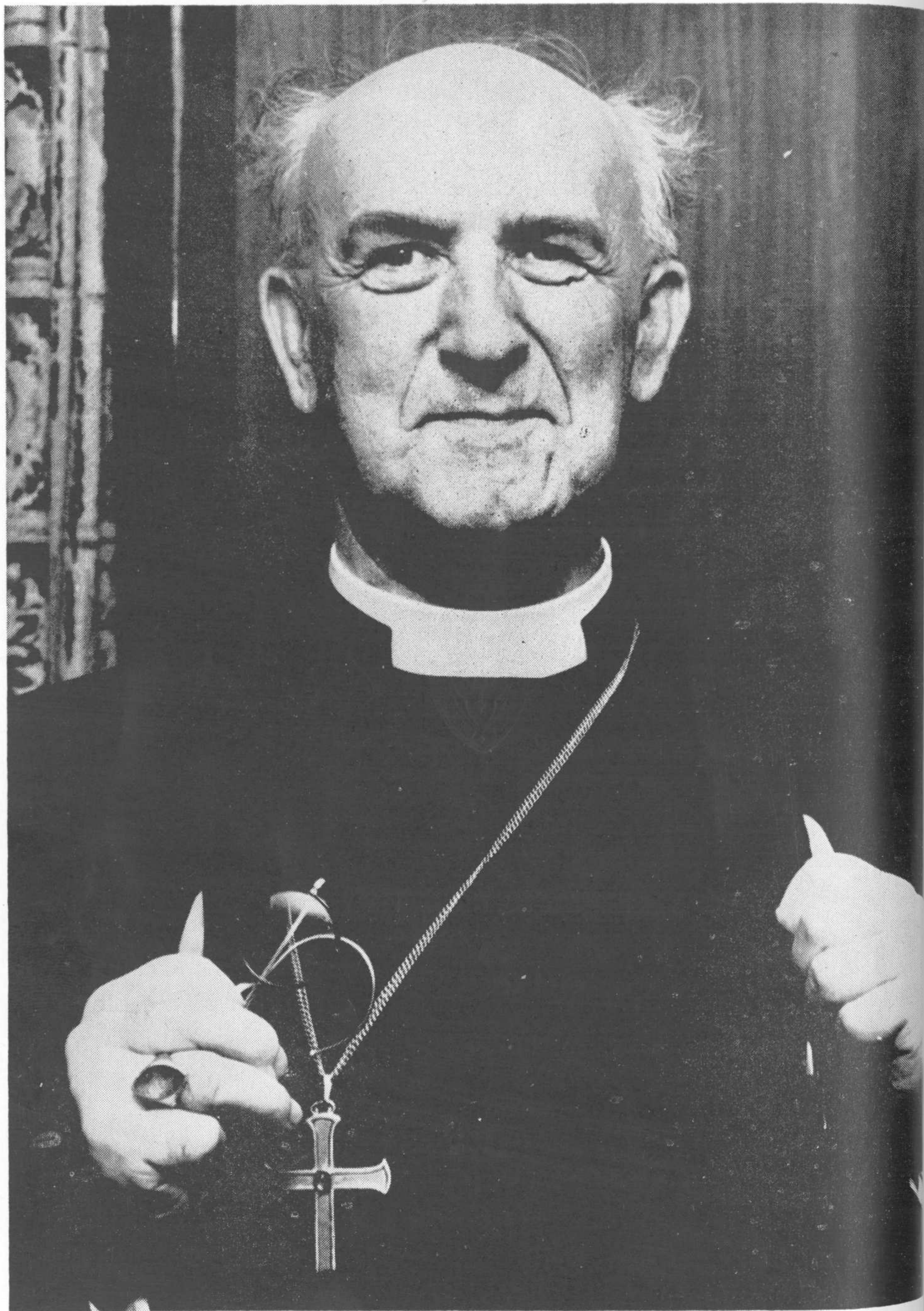


**SESQUICENTENNIAL PRAYER**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, Who hast been our refuge from one generation to another, we give Thee hearty thanks for all the blessings, temporal and spiritual, bestowed upon our people through many years, especially for the foundation of this parish and its preservation to this day. With grateful hearts we remember those men and women of former years who labored here for the extension of Thy Kingdom. Make us, we beseech Thee, worthy successors to those who have gone before us. Fill our hearts with love for Thee and for our fellowmen, and send us forth that we may serve others even as we have been served. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



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The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, D. D.  
Archbishop of Canterbury

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LAMBETH PALACE, S.E.1.

21st July, 1952.

Dear Miss Hansen,

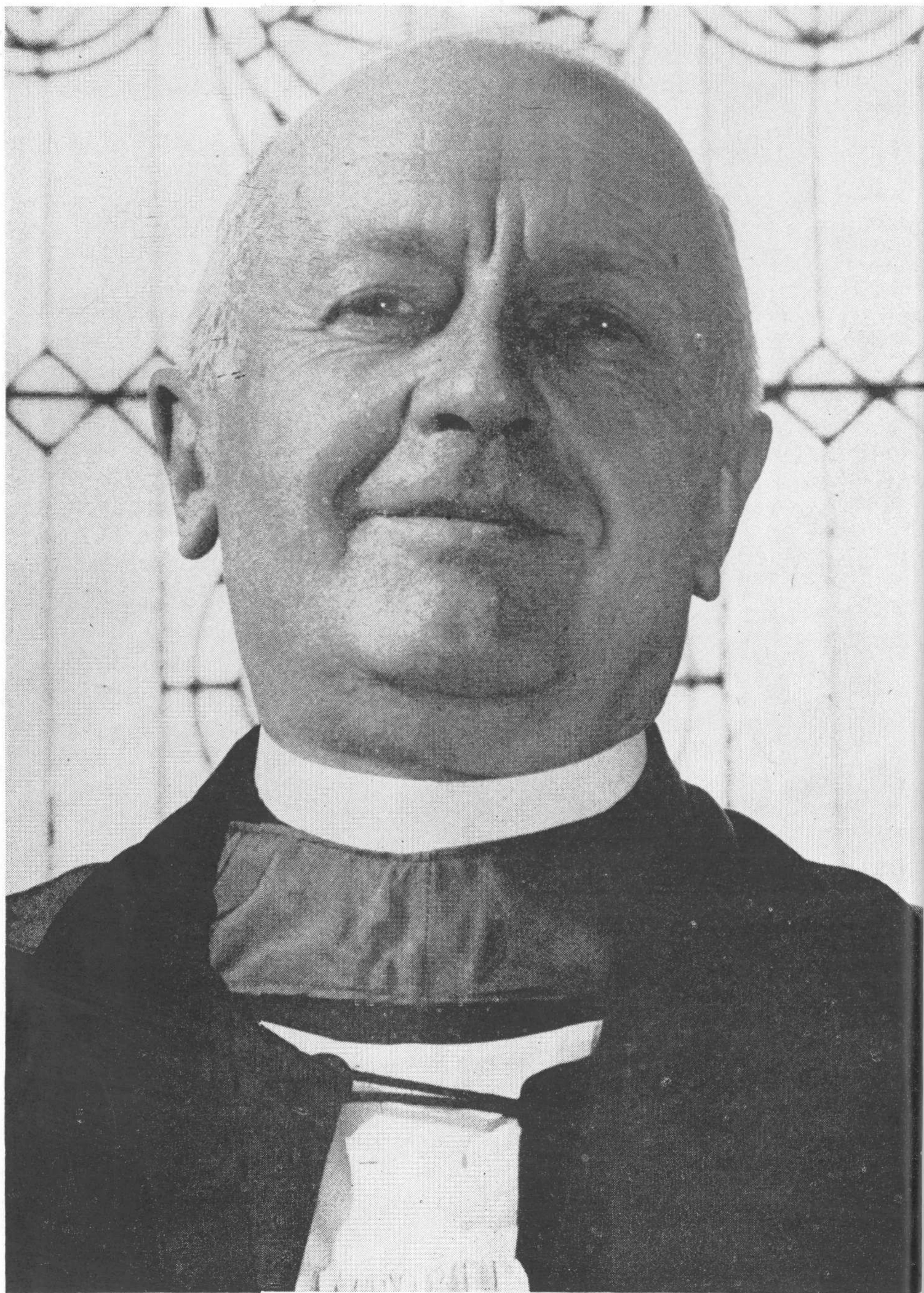
I am grateful to you for your letter of July 3rd in which you tell me of the Sesquicentennial of St. John's Episcopal Church, Worthington, Ohio, to be celebrated from Christmas 1953 to February 1954. Thank you also for giving me some information about the early history of this parish, the first Anglican Communion west of the Allegheny Mountains. Of Kenyon College I had heard when I visited the United States in 1946: indeed I remember attending an Anniversary Dinner of the College, and I am glad to think that the Archbishop of Canterbury of 1823 was one of those who supported its founding.

We of the Anglican Communion in all parts of the world have inherited a grand tradition in which the pure Word of God is preached and the Sacraments duly administered according to the Catholic Creeds. In that tradition order and freedom merge together without unlawful additions to or unlawful subtractions from the faith of Scripture and the Fathers. We hold a place of great responsibility. In that Faith I greet you all and send you my blessing and pray that you may be strengthened and prospered in your life of worship, witness and fellowship.

Yours sincerely,

Geoffrey Carter





—Photo Leo Lee

**The Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, D. D., S. T. D.**  
**Presiding Bishop, The Protestant Episcopal Church in the U. S. A.**



PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

281 FOURTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

THE RT. REV. HENRY K. SHERRILL, D.D.

November 2, 1953

The Reverend Harris J. Mowry, Jr.  
Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church  
Worthington, Ohio

Dear Mr. Mowry,

It is with great interest I have learned of the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. John's Church in Worthington. Also I have been most interested to hear from you as to the splendid way in which you have been marking this notable anniversary, including a generous gift to the missionary field in Oregon.

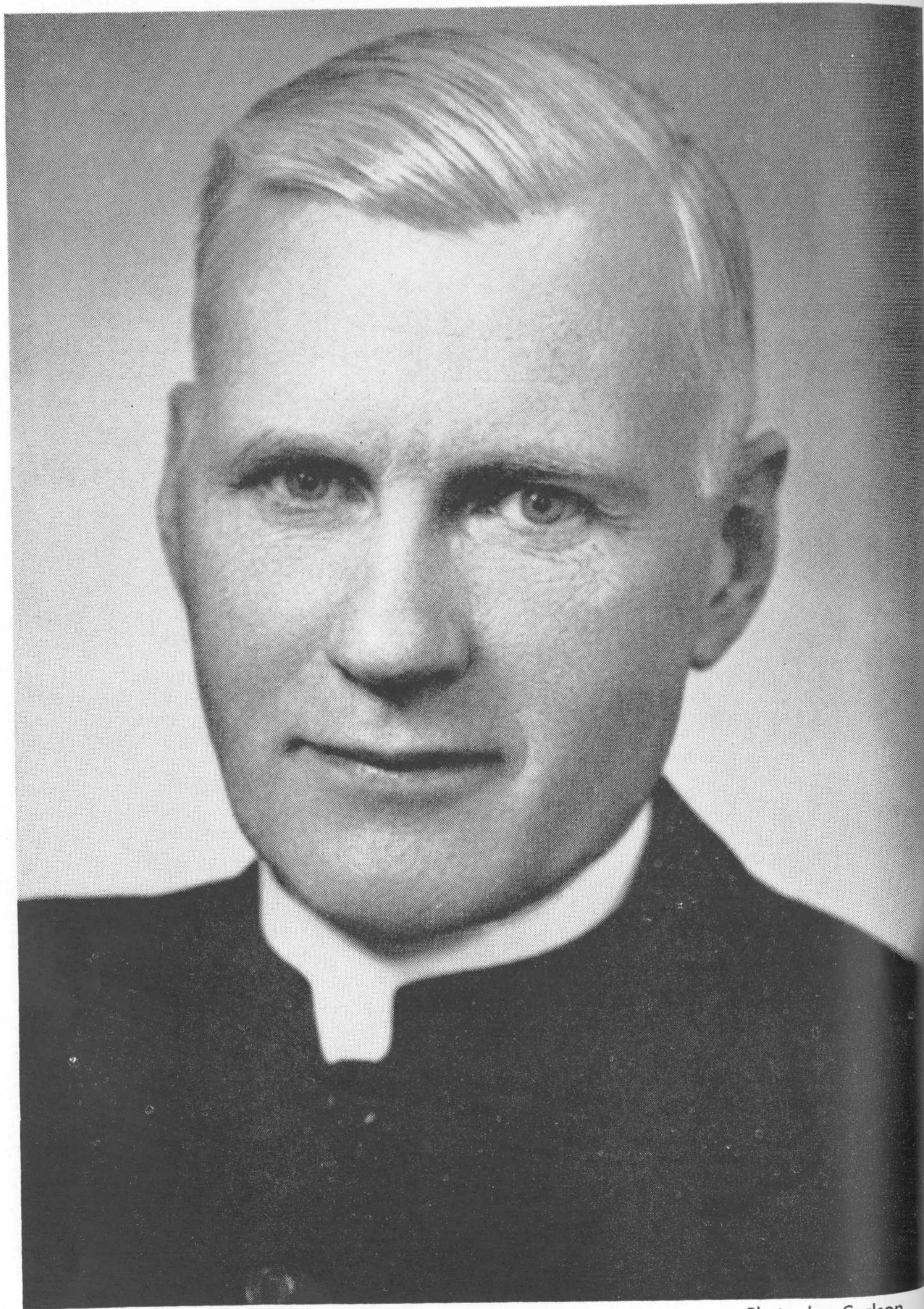
I wish it were possible for me to be with you on the occasion of your celebration, but since this is not possible I am happy to send my warmest greetings to Rector and people, with congratulations for the past and high hope for the future, and with the prayer that God will bless you all abundantly in the years which lie ahead.

Faithfully yours,

*Henry K. Sherrill*

PRESIDING BISHOP





—Photo by Carlson

**The Rt. Rev. Henry Wise Hobson, D. D.**  
**Bishop of Southern Ohio, The Protestant Episcopal Church in the U. S. A.**





OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN OHIO

412 SYCAMORE STREET  
CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

November 9, 1953

St. John's Church  
Worthington, Ohio

Dear Friends and Fellow Members,

To join you in the celebration of our One Hundred Fiftieth Birthday gives me one of the very happiest experiences of the years that I have spent in Southern Ohio. As your Bishop I belong to you and to your Parish, so naturally I feel that this is our celebration, and I rejoice in it.

There is no particular virtue in just being old, for aging is an automatic process with the passage of time. However, when a person or a parish is both old and at the same time strong, growing, and healthy, there's ample reason for celebration. St. John's has never been stronger, more lively, or more promising than it is today. You have had a fine history and tradition, but what makes me thankful and happy is that all signs point to an even greater future. I am grateful each day for the progress St. John's has been making, and will, I am sure, continue to make.

The friendship which your Rector and many of you have given me is a real blessing for which I am deeply grateful. To have my oldest child provide me with so much real joy means a great deal to me, and I, therefore, have a very personal reason for feeling so thrilled about this celebration. Also, I guess I am beset with considerable pride because I am the only Bishop between the Alleghenies and the Pacific Coast who has ever had a chance to celebrate the One Hundred Fiftieth Birthday of one of his Parishes.

To all of you: Congratulations, Best Wishes, and may God bless you now and always.

Affectionately yours,

*Henry W. Hobson*





—Photo by Howard Weber

**The Rev. Harris J. Mowry, Jr., S. T. B.**  
**Rector, St. John's Church, Worthington, Ohio**





## St. John's Episcopal Church

HIGH STREET AT GRANVILLE ROAD

Worthington, Ohio

The Rev. Harris J. Mowry, Jr.  
Rector  
695 Hartford Street

Dear Members and Friends of St. John's Church:

More than three years ago we started preparations for the notable anniversary now at hand -- the Sesquicentennial of our beloved Parish. What an exciting experience it has been to get ready for this significant birthday!

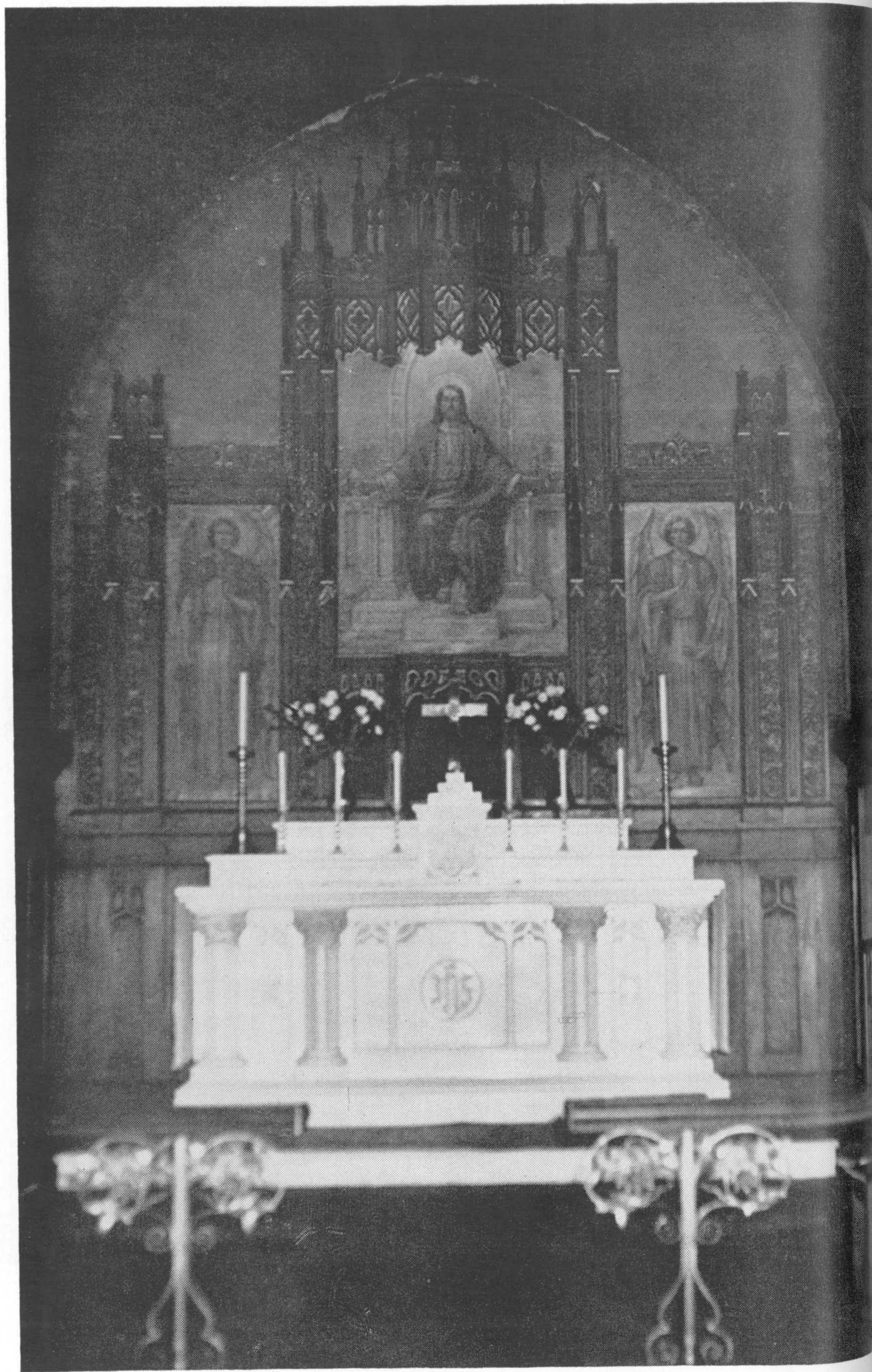
My heart is filled with gratitude as I realize how much careful planning has gone into it, and as I recall the loyal, enthusiastic work done by so many people. There is not space here to thank each one by name as I would like to do. But I am mindful of the splendid job accomplished by our Sesquicentennial Committee. Its sub-committees spared no efforts to make the observance really worthy of the occasion. In this they sought and received full cooperation from many individuals and groups. So I say sincerely --- thanks to you all.

I have a very personal reason for rejoicing in this Parish birthday. February 6, 1954, marks almost to the day my fifth anniversary as rector of St. John's. Though my tenure as such amounts to a paltry one-thirtieth of the parish's life-span to date, the five years past have been most happy ones for my family and myself.

A great English priest, Percy Dearmer, once said that the stupidest thing a man can do with his dignity is to stand on it. If I may borrow his thought and re-adapt it: the stupidest thing a parish can do with its past is to live in it. God calls us to meet the many new opportunities for service before us and to turn them to His advantage. So those who planned our Sesquicentennial program wisely insisted that we should begin with recognition of the past and then move on to consideration of the future. There are indeed situations in which "they also serve who only stand and wait." But it would seem that God has called us to a far more active vocation, namely: "As we were served, so shall we serve others." Together, let us go forth to do it.

Faithfully, your rector,





The High Altar  
St. John's Church, Worthington, Ohio



## "AS WE WERE SERVED"

### An Epitome of St. John's Parish History

by

Ann N. Hansen

WHEN all the Ohio country was an unbounded wilderness, an experienced woodsman from Maryland, Christopher Gist, came into the region as an agent for the Ohio Land Company. It was the middle of December, 1750, when Gist reached a town of the Wyandot Indians on the site of present-day Coshocton, where he met George Croghan, the Pennsylvania trader, and Andrew Montour, a Canadian half-breed who served as interpreter. Here, on Christmas Day, 1750, Christopher Gist read the Homilies of the Church of England to an assemblage of Indians and white men who were disposed to listen. As far as is known, this was the first Anglican service ever held in what is now Ohio.

Nearly half a century passed before another service of the Episcopal Church is known to have been held within the present boundaries of the state. The Reverend Dr. Joseph Doddridge, a physician, moved westward to Charlestown, Virginia (now Wellsburg, W. Va.) after his ordination to the diaconate in 1792. While settled there he made trips at varying intervals across the river to the village that had sprung up on the site of old Fort Steuben. There he held the first Christian services in what is now Steubenville. His activities apparently met with success, because by 1796, he was holding regular monthly services in the settlement. He was ordained priest in 1800. No parish, however, was organized there until 1819.

In the meantime, back in Connecticut, a young man, the Reverend James Kilbourne, had long been considering schemes of westward migration. Born in New Britain, Connecticut, in that part known as Farmington, in 1770, he had felt the hardships of the Revolutionary War. Because his family's finances had been considerably reduced by the war and farming was a laborious but unprofitable occupation in the rocky Litchfield Hills, Kilbourne, at sixteen, had set out on his own. He had eventually come into the employ of Elisha Griswold, and lived in his home. Kilbourne and Griswold's son, Alexander Viets Griswold, who later became the first Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, formed a warm friendship. It was probably at this time that James Kilbourne decided to leave the Congregational Church of which he and his parents were members and enter the Episcopal Church. Before he was thirty years old, Kilbourne had become successful in the textile business, had married Lucy Fitch whose father was the inventor of the steamboat, and had been ordained to the diaconate.

By 1802, Kilbourne was able to convince seven men of the soundness of his plan for migration to the Ohio country, and they became his associates. The group met, accordingly, on May 10, 1802, at the home of Eber B. Clark, in Granby, Connecticut. There they formed a company,



the purpose of which was to make a settlement in the "Territory of the United States Northwest of the Ohio and between the Muskingum and Great Miami Rivers." The company, they agreed, would be known as the "Scioto Company," and James Kilbourne was elected President and Josiah Topping Secretary.

It was decided that James Kilbourne and Nathaniel W. Little should explore and make a suitable purchase in this Territory. Supplies were purchased and other preparations made and on Wednesday, August 4, 1802, the two men set out on their journey which was to last for nearly two months. The six months after their return were months of preparation for Kilbourne who was planning another trip into the Ohio country, this time to lay the foundations of their future town.

On December 13, 1803, the company met and resolved that they would purchase the lands owned by Doctor Jonas Stanberry and Jonathan Dayton. They thus acquired 16,000 acres at \$1.25 per acre in the heart of Central Ohio lying along the Whetstone River (now the Olentangy), just outside the Virginia Military District.

With the lands purchased and all preliminary preparations made, James Kilbourne left Simsbury for Ohio on Wednesday, April 6, 1803. Reaching New York on Saturday, he stayed with Doctor Stanberry Saturday evening, Sunday, and Monday morning until ten A. M., when he set out for Pittsburgh. He had an extremely unpleasant journey being so detained by heavy snows that he did not arrive in the city until April 21.

After spending five days there obtaining supplies, he once again set out for the land they had purchased. It was Friday evening, May 6, when Kilbourne finally arrived at Franklinton, still wet, cold, and very tired. The crude pioneer home of James Scott where he put up for the night must have seemed like a palatial mansion to him as he sat before the great fire warming and drying himself.

Early the next morning Kilbourne set out from Franklinton to view the company's lands along the Whetstone River. He stayed in the woods until Monday evening during which time he chose the best site for their first improvements, and then returned to Franklinton. Upon his arrival there he found that some of the other men who were to help with the work were beginning to arrive. In Franklinton he purchased supplies and then went down the Scioto to Chillicothe where he obtained still more. From there he wrote to Lucy praising the lands on which they were to make their future home:

Everybody speaks highly of the Whetstone Country. . . . for goodness of the land. . . . I must say that if my affairs were well settled and had I my Lucy in my arms and the children around us I could very well dispense with ever going to Connecticut again.



On May 21, Lucy wrote to Kilbourne from Simsbury replying to his letter from Chillicothe:

I shall be very happy when the time arrives that you are returning home. I shall number the miles that you travel; I shall bring you 200 miles nearer home every week till I welcome you again to our dwelling.

By mid-summer Kilbourne had returned home to Connecticut to help his family prepare for the journey to Ohio and to conduct ten other families besides his own to the western purchase that autumn. It was difficult to decide which household goods to take to the new home and which ones to leave behind. Three women partly solved the problem by using a share plan. One took a chair, another a brass kettle, and the third, a sieve. It is said that this arrangement for their mutual use lasted until the sieve gave out. More difficult than this problem, though, was that of saying goodbye to one's friends and relatives with the possible expectation of never seeing any of them again. So it was that the beautiful and much loved Lucy Fitch Kilbourne left her comfortable home and the hills where she was born for a new home in the wilderness of Ohio.

The Scioto Company, meeting on August 11, 1803, decided that the town laid out by them in the State of Ohio would be known as Worthington. It was so named to perpetuate "the name of their worthy friend" Colonel Thomas Worthington, of the United States Land Office at Chillicothe.

On September 15, 1803, James and Lucy Kilbourne with their five children, began their journey to the Old Northwest from the home of Captain Shubel Hoskins, Kilbourne's brother-in-law, in Simsbury, Connecticut. The children were all quite young and it must have been very tiresome for them to travel day after day crowded into the pioneer wagons as it rolled over rough hills and forest trails. Hector, age twelve, was the eldest. Next was Lucy, age ten, and eight-year-old Harriet. Laura was six and Byron only two. They left one little grave behind them in Connecticut, that of a daughter, Orrel, who had died in 1800 before she was a year old.

The first to arrive on the purchase were Ezra and Ruth Griswold and their family, who reached the town plot October 29. They came with their household goods and a grandfather's clock piled in three wagons pulled by slowly plodding oxen. With the arrival of the Kilbournes on November 13, the town of Worthington then had an even one hundred inhabitants.

These first settlers of Worthington, unlike their New England brethren who had settled at Marietta in 1788, were not Congregationalists, but devout members of the Anglican Faith. Unlike the Puritan Fathers, they believed that Christmas was a season for merry-making; thus, on Monday, December 26, 1803, a grand entertainment was prepared at the schoolhouse which was the first log cabin built in the town, and which served also as the church. The day was spent in feasting and toasting with provisions supplied at the company's expense and partly from a liberal donation made earlier by the colony's great benefactor, Thomas Worthington.



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It was on this occasion that the name of the town was published. After some other business of the company had been attended to, the merry crowd drank eight toasts: first, to the Scioto Company; second, to the Town of Worthington; third, to the State of Ohio; and fourth, to the literary institutions of the Scioto Company, which had agreed before leaving Connecticut to appropriate two dollars from each subscriber's fund for the purchase of books for a public library. The fifth toast was drunk to Governor Edward Tiffin, Ohio's first Governor and brother-in-law of Thomas Worthington; the sixth to their great patron, the Honorable Thomas Worthington; the seventh, to Dr. Jonas Stanberry; and the eighth, to the "fair dames of Worthington." The bountiful tables were laden with wild turkey and venison, readily obtained from the surrounding forests, and for sweets they had maple sugar made from the boiled-down sap of the village trees. This Christmas feast was reminiscent of the first Thanksgiving of the *Mayflower* Pilgrims.

When evening came the older members of the colony returned to their cabins while the young folks finished the night with a ball, probably the first instance of their favorite diversion which was to recur thereafter about every ten days. Christmas had been observed according to the old English tradition for the first time in the State of Ohio.

On February 6, 1804, James Kilbourne organized the parish of St. John's in Worthington and Parts Adjacent, the first Episcopal church west of the Allegheny Mountains. He became its first minister. The first log cabin in the village continued to serve as the place of worship until 1808, when the Worthington Academy building was erected. Then for the succeeding twenty-three years services were held on its upper floors.

James Kilbourne laid out the town of Worthington in May, 1804, according to the New England town system. Each man received a town lot of three-quarters of an acre and a farm lot comprising ninety-eight and three-quarters acres. According to the Articles of Agreement executed before the settlers left Connecticut, the Protestant Episcopal Society was to receive a town lot of one acre and a farm lot of not less than one hundred acres. Lands were likewise set aside for the use of a school.

As it had been provided by the Scioto Company that Ezra Griswold should keep a tavern "if he saw fit," he opened the first inn in 1803. By 1805, he was able to build the first frame house in Worthington and in 1811, he built his twenty-room brick tavern facing the village green. During the first year of its existence it became the birthplace of the *Western Intelligencer*, the first newspaper ever published in Franklin County. The paper was founded by James Kilbourne, but soon passed to the ownership of Ezra Griswold, Jr., P. H. Olmstead, and Joel Buttles, by whom it was moved to Columbus, the new capital city, in 1814, where it became known as the *Western Intelligencer and Columbus Gazette*. With later changes it became the *Ohio State Journal*.



The print shop in the house was also used for making paper money when currency became scarce. Ezra Griswold issued bank notes on his own signature until someone broke into the shop and printed money at a rapid rate, forging his signature to it. Griswold redeemed the notes and then retired.

The Griswold Tavern was not the only popular stopping place in Worthington. James Kilbourne's new home was widely known for its hospitality. Hardly a day passed without a stagecoach full of travelers or a lone rider pulling into the courtyard, all of whom were invited to partake of the Kilbourne's sumptuous board or to spend the night. This constant entertainment made too much housework for Cynthia, his second wife whom he had married in 1808, so Kilbourne, with his Yankee shrewdness, opened part of his house as a real inn. In this way the extra money could provide for extra servants for his wife, but no doubt he made a profit.

In the meantime, education had not been forgotten in Worthington. In October, 1812, James Kilbourne, Ezra Griswold, Isaac Case, and John Goodrich, the trustees of Worthington Academy, published an advertisement in the *Western Intelligencer*. Spelling, reading, writing, and ordinary arithmetic were taught for the fee of two dollars per quarter; history, geography, English grammar, navigation, and surveying for three dollars. The cost was four dollars per quarter to study "all higher branches, such as the foreign languages, astronomy, etc." Small children who could not write were admitted for \$1.50. The Academy was a popular place.

A new era was opened in 1817, when Philander Chase, a Dartmouth graduate, came from Connecticut to Worthington as Rector of St. John's Parish. Now the Sacraments could be administered regularly, as he was the first resident priest in the village. Sunday, then, even for the Episcopalians, was nearly a day-long church service. The second floor of the Academy building was a drafty place so the Churchmen came dressed in warm clothes and brought their tea and crackers with them.

Frontier life proved to be too much for Philander Chase's wife, Mary. She bade a last farewell to her family on May 5, 1818, and was buried in St. John's Churchyard. Less than a month later, on June 3, a convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church met at Worthington, and there in his recent bereavement Philander Chase was elected the first Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Ohio. He was consecrated in St. James Church, Philadelphia, February 11, 1819, by the Right Reverend William D. White, D. D. The Bishops of New York, Maryland, and New Jersey assisted.

Bishop Chase proved to be an impetus to education. So many young people had finished the course offered by Worthington Academy and were eager for higher learning that in February, 1819, the General Assembly of Ohio chartered the institution as Worthington College, with the privilege of granting degrees. Its first trustees under the new charter were Philander Chase, James Kilbourne, Thomas S. Webb, Recompense Stanberry, Chester Griswold, Benjamin Gardiner, Lucas Sullivant, Orris Parrish, and Leonard H. Coles.



The first principal of the college was Bishop Chase, but he soon found his other duties too heavy. Upon his resignation his son, Philander Chase Jr., a graduate of Harvard College, succeeded him in the principalship. The Bishop's interest in the college continued, however, and he occasionally taught a few classes. Students were drawn to the school from distant localities and they found lodgings at the home of Bishop Chase. In this same house, on a farm a half-mile south of Worthington, the nucleus of Kenyon College was formed.

When Bishop Chase left Worthington for Cincinnati in 1822, St. John's was left without a clergyman until 1829, when William Preston became Rector. The erection of the first church edifice was begun in the summer of 1827 on a site facing the village green and at the crossroads of the town. Stones gathered from the nearby fields were used in the foundation and red brick kilned on a neighboring farm formed the exterior construction.

While Philander Chase was in England in 1823, soliciting funds for what was to become Kenyon College, he made a rough sketch of the interior of a London church. This, John Snow, the architect and builder of the Worthington church, used in creating the interior design of St. John's. Solid trees were used for the four columns supporting the roof and all the nails that went into the structure were handmade. The members of the parish who were skilled workmen gave their time to build the church and also furnished much of the materials.

The first service in the new building was not held until January, 1831 and on Christmas Eve, 1833, the church bell was rung for the first time. The Reverend Erastus Burr, Rector, in his diary describes the occasion: "This afternoon our ears were greeted with the sound of our new bell—it seems a good one—the sound is pleasant and musical." Solid comfort during religious services was still non-existent. The pews were hard and although the pew-doors may have kept off some of the drafts, the congregation could still sit and shiver. Little mushroom-like, carpet-covered hassocks served a double purpose: they provided something on which to kneel as they had no kneeling benches, and when not so used, they served as foot-stools for relief from the cold floors. On November 17, 1835, the new building was consecrated by the Right Reverend Charles P. McIlvaine, second Bishop of Ohio, who also preached at a service in the afternoon and at another the same evening.

With so many services the usual occurrence on Sunday it would appear that there was a great amount of piety; but, apparently, it was rather difficult to get the congregation to church, and even more so, to get it there on time. Mrs. Burr recorded in her diary: "My husband lectured after a cold ride, in a cold church to a colder congregation." On at least one occasion the bell had to be rung three times before anyone came, and it became the usual thing for a large number to arrive at Matins just before the sermon.



An equally difficult problem was the raising of sufficient funds. In 1820, for instance, only \$190 was subscribed, and there were always those subscribers who could not be depended upon to pay their pledges. The following year there was \$84.83 pledged from seventeen sources which it seemed unlikely would be collectable; and, there was one Mr. Barker who claimed he had paid \$49.66 of his \$89.66 pledge but that he had not been given credit for it on the books. The only fairly certain source of income was the rental of the farm at \$5 per acre. On the other hand, expenditures were not so great. In the same year the Sexton was allowed \$15 for his faithful services on Sundays and Holy Days, not including the cost of the wood which he piled into the stoves during the services.

The passing of time always brings changes in its wake. So it has been with St. John's. A few changes have been made in the building during the 123 years since its completion. The old tower was deemed unsafe; it was removed, and a spire which replaced it ruined the appearance of the building. No sooner had the spire been erected than a fund was started to restore the tower. Over a period of years the fund reached \$800; then, Mrs. W. G. Deshler gave the remainder of the sum necessary to accomplish the restoration, and the restored tower was consecrated in 1931, by the Right Reverend Henry Wise Hobson, then Bishop-Coadjutor of Southern Ohio.

During the rectorship of the Reverend Charles H. Young (1875-1882) the plain glass of the windows was replaced with the present stained glass. Later the pew doors were removed and the arrangement of the pews changed to form the center aisle of the nave. The two large tablets bearing the Creed and Commandments were removed from the wall. The choir and the organ were brought down from the gallery, and the two stoves which had customarily been filled with wood during the sermon hymn were removed.

Between 1916-1918 the chancel was made deeper, and in so doing some of the graves in the churchyard were covered by the addition, one of these being that of Mary Fay Chase, first wife of Bishop Chase. The old wooden altar was removed and placed in use as the credence table, and the present white marble altar and carved oak reredos with its three paintings, the center one depicting "The Reigning Christ," were installed, all the gift of Mrs. Herman Vance.

The first Parish House was made possible through pennies collected by the old Ladies' Aid Society, forerunner of the Woman's Auxiliary. The Society was organized in 1882 for the purpose of raising money for the church by means of quilting. The quilting frames and other necessary equipment were moved from one member's house to the next, where this group of older women met to work, and think, and talk, all at the same time. One rule, however, was strictly enforced—a five-cent fine for any member repeating gossip during a meeting. From this constant moving about came the desire for a settled place in which members could hold their meetings



and do their quilting. The nucleus for the Parish House fund was \$10 given by Mrs. Ezra Gilbert, Sr., which she had received as a gift on her sixtieth wedding anniversary. The fund grew until \$300 had accumulated, and the first room was built. The first meeting in the room was held on December 20, 1888. As sufficient money was obtained additions were built. The ladies at last had a place where they could peacefully quilt and chat and drink their tea. They were perfectionists, though, for if the work of one less experienced than the others did not meet their standards, one member would remain after the meeting to remove the stitches which had been put in the quilt by the novice.

The old Parish House was replaced by the modern brick structure completed in 1927, largely through the generosity and leadership of Herman E. Vance. Mr. Vance served St. John's as senior warden of the vestry for twenty-five years. The new Parish House greatly increased the value of the church properties. Another addition was made a few years later when the present rectory was received at Easter, 1931, as a gift from Mrs. A. N. Whiting. The old New England-type frame house, completely modernized, had been the home of her sisters, Eliza Ann Butcher and Gertrude Gilbert.

A few years after the organization of the Ladies' Aid Society interest was aroused in other groups. Colonel H. P. Ward organized and drilled the first vested boy choir and was its choir master. His wife was organist at the time. A few years later, on March 5, 1911, at the request of some of the boys, Colonel Ward organized the first Boy Scout Troop in Worthington. This was followed by Mrs. Ward's organization of the Girl Scouts.

As might be expected, the two World Wars made their impacts upon parish life. In a letter to parishioners dated January 24, 1918, the Reverend Alexander J. J. Greutter, then rector of St. John's, wrote: "We are at present praying by name for twelve 'Boys' in St. John's Church." The letter was written in connection with a church-wide appeal for half a million dollars for the 'Church's War Commission'.

In the Second World War many members of the parish served in the Armed Forces. A Roll of Honor Scroll, beautifully illuminated by Mr. Mark Russell in 1943, listed the names of thirty-five men and women thus serving their country. One of them, Jeremy Pruden, made the supreme sacrifice. The Roll of Honor Scroll is still in place on the wall of Kilbourne Hall in the parish house.

During the rectorship of the Reverend Philip Hull, there was a strong emphasis on the Church's work among children. A sizable Sunday School was then developed.

Through the years St. John's Parish has served Church and community well. Her pioneers, whose graves lie within her shadow, would have much of which to be proud.



## **"SO SHALL WE SERVE OTHERS"**

### **A Statement concerning the observance of the Parish Sesquicentennial**

St. John's of Worthington began in 1949 to think of fitting ways to celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its founding in 1804. The Vestry asked Dr. J. R. Van Pelt, then a member of the Parish, to undertake the preparation of some early plans which would give thoughtful consideration to the importance of the event and which would signify that we were mindful of our heritage and appreciative of the blessings we share.

Before the first committee could be formed, Dr. Van Pelt moved away and in due course Dr. Delbert Oberteuffer was asked to assume the general chairmanship. Directly thereafter, in the Fall of 1951, a large over-all committee of some forty-five members was formed, the personnel of which is listed on another page of this commemorative program. Sub-committees on Fund and Fabric, Religious Services, Lay Meetings, Public Relations, and Hospitality met first in February of 1952 and slowly the pattern of this celebration has evolved. A financial campaign for the purpose of refurbishing the church has resulted in complete redecoration within and restoration without, new lighting, improved heating, ceiling insulation, and rebuilt stained glass windows.

Early, however, in the formation of plans the committee as well as the Parish as a whole, recognized that the Sesquicentennial would be improperly celebrated unless we somehow were able to serve others as we were served a century and a half ago. We at once agreed that ten percent of whatever money was raised would be offered to another pioneer Parish to help them build. We were made happy when, with the help of the Home Department of the National Council, the small Mission at Prospect, Oregon was located and their eagerness to receive our gift has made our Sesquicentennial truly a celebration. Prospect is high in the wilderness of the Cascade Mountains along the highway between Medford and the famous Crater Lake. The people who are building the church at Prospect are doing just what our own founders did here—building a church from the forest. The gift has gone forward to them and we are thankful to have had the opportunity to share in their effort.

And so the seven weeks of rejoicing at anniversary time is upon us. The Sesquicentennial of St. John's gives us all a chance to realize how well the foundation of our Parish has been laid. At the same time it turns our thoughts to the future that we may plan as well as did our founding fathers.



## SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION SCHEDULE\*

*\* (This schedule lists only those services in the celebration period that have special relevance to the Sesquicentennial.)*

### CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 1953

St. John's Church. Memo: The Parish begins its 150th anniversary celebration as the early settlers began their communal life in Worthington—with the observance of Christmas.

11:30 P. M. Choral Eucharist and Sermon, with a prelude of Christmas music sung prior to the service hour by the Young Peoples Choir.

#### ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ: "Christmas Alleluia"—Hopkins

"Offertoire De Noel"—Nordman

Communion Service in E Flat—Eyre

Sermon: The Rector, Topic: "In The Same Country"

Organ: "Hallelujah Chorus" ("Mount of Olives") Beethoven

### THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

DECEMBER 27, 1953

St. John's Church. Memo: The Parish observes a Patronal Festival of special significance.

8:00 A. M. Holy Communion

9:30 A. M. Family Service and Church School

11:00 A. M. Morning Prayer with "Te Deum" and Sermon

#### ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude: "Adoration"—Matthews

The Order for Morning Prayer, with "Te Deum"

Sermon: The Rector, Topic: "Foursquare On This Foundation"

Offertory Anthem: "Glory to God in the Highest"—Pergolesi (1710-1737)

Postlude: "Festival Postlude"—Seifert

4:00 P. M. Festival Sesquicentennial Service

#### ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude: "Christmas Pastourelle"—Ferrari

The Order for Choral Evensong

Sermon: The Rt. Rev. Henry Wise Hobson, D. D.,  
Bishop of Southern Ohio

Anthem: "All My Heart This Night Rejoices"—Gow

Postlude: "Noel Parisien"—Quef

This service is to be followed by a Tea in the parish house honoring the Bishop, visiting clergy and guests.



## THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 3, 1954

St. John's Church. Memo: The Parish looks back upon  
its History and Heritage.

8:00 A. M. Holy Communion

9:30 A. M. Childrens' Eucharist with music by the Young Peoples' Choir.  
Celebrant: The Rector

Instructor: Mr. Allan McGregor

11:00 A. M. Sesquicentennial Service and Address

### ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude: "Voluntary in D"—Wesley (1766-1837)

The Order for Ante-Communion

Address: "St. John's Church, Worthington, and the Beginnings of the Church in Ohio"—Dr. Richard G. Salomon, Professor of History, Kenyon College and Professor of Ecclesiastical History—Bexley Hall, Gambier, Ohio.

Offertory Anthen: "O God, Our Help In Ages Past"—Grieg  
"Choral Amen"—Cherubini

Postlude: "Offertorium" (Mass IV)—Cherubini (1760-1842)

## THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 10, 1954

St. John's Church. Memo: The Parish looks hopefully  
to the Youth of the Church.

8:00 A. M. Holy Communion

9:30 A. M. Family Service and Church School

11:00 A. M. Sesquicentennial Service and Sermon

### ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude: "Epiphany"—Edmundson

The Order for Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rt. Rev. William Crittenden, Bishop of Erie and former Director, the Youth Division of the National Council, Protestant Episcopal Church in the U. S. A.

Offertory Anthem: "Remember Now Thy Creator"—Gaul

Postlude: "Triumphal March"—Hollins

7:00 P. M. Epiphany Feast of Lights Service, with music by the Young Peoples' Choir—Mr. Marshall Bowman, director and Mr. Philip Hintz, organist.

### ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude: "Priere"—(Suite Gothique)—Boellmann

Feast of Lights Ceremony

Anthem: "Send Out Thy Light"—Gounod (1818-1893)

Postlude: "Allegro"—("First Sonata")—Borowski



We welcome as our special guests at this service  
the members of the Junior High and Senior High  
groups of the Worthington Youth Fellowship.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1954

6:30 P. M. Potluck Supper in the parish house, followed by the Annual  
Parish Meeting, with election of officers.

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 17, 1954

St. John's Church. Memo: The Parish faces the future in  
the work of Christian Education.

8:00 A. M. Holy Communion  
9:30 A. M. Family Service and Church School  
11:00 A. M. Sesquicentennial Service and Sermon

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude: "Festival Hymn"—Piutti (1804-1890)

The Order for Choral Matins

Sermon: The Rev. W. Norman Pittenger, S. T. D., Charles  
Lewis Gompf Professor of Christian Apologetics—  
General Theological Seminary, New York, N. Y.

Offertory Anthem: "Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord"—Moir

Postlude: "Finale" (from the "Third Symphony," written in  
1804)—Beethoven (1770-1827)

Note: A Coffee Hour will be held following this service, with  
Professor Pittenger as our special guest of honor.

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 24, 1953

St. John's Church. Memo: The Parish faces the future  
in the tasks of Christian Social Relations.

8:00 A. M. Holy Communion  
9:30 A. M. Family Service and Church School  
11:00 A. M. Sesquicentennial Service and Sermon

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude: "Prayer"—Weber (1786-1826)

The Order for Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. Almon R. Pepper, D. D., Director, De-  
partment of Christian Social Relations, The Na-  
tional Council, Protestant Episcopal Church in the  
U. S. A.

Offertory Anthem: "My Faith Looks Up To Thee"—Schnecker

Postlude: "Hymnus"—West



THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1954

- 7:00 P. M. All Parish Dinner in the parish house.  
Speaker: Mrs. Theodore O. Wedel, Sometime Member, National Board of the Woman's Auxiliary to the National Council; Member, Board of Managers, United Church Women. Wife and co-worker of Canon T. O. Wedel, Warden of the College of Preachers, Washington, D. C., and President of the House of Deputies of the General Convention.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 31, 1954

St. John's Church. Memo: The Parish looks ahead to the world-wide program of the Church.

- 8:00 A. M. Holy Communion  
9:30 A. M. Family Service and Church School  
11:00 A. M. Sesquicentennial Service and Sermon

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prélude: "Benedictus"—Reger

The Order for Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. Charles H. Long, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Overseas Department of the National Council, Protestant Episcopal Church in the U. S. A.

Offertory Anthem: "Go Ye Into All The World"—Maker

Postlude: "Coronation March"—Meyerbeer (1791-1864)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1954  
FOUNDERS' DAY

- 10:00 A. M. Holy Communion

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
FEBRUARY 7, 1954

\*St. John's Church. Memo: The Parish presses on "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

- 8:00 A. M. Holy Communion  
9:30 A. M. Family Service and Church School  
11:00 A. M. Choral Eucharist and Sermon

Music: Communion Service in G—Loveday

Sermon: The Rev. Harris J. Mowry, Jr., Rector, St. John's Church, Worthington.

Topic: "Sicut Patribus, Sit Deus Nobis."

(Note: Sermon to be preached in English.)

\*General George Griswold used these words to introduce entries concerning St. John's Church in his diary, 1827-1831.



## THE SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

### Organization and Membership

#### VICE-CHAIRMAN:

The Rev. Harris J. Mowry, Jr.

#### GENERAL CHAIRMAN:

Dr. Delbert Oberteuffer

#### COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Mr. Allan McGregor, Chairman  
Mrs. R. R. Vance, Vice-Chm.  
Mrs. R. O. Chadeayne  
Mrs. K. W. Christman  
Mrs. Helen Wright Jones  
Mrs. S. I. Thackrey  
Mr. Fred Barber  
Dr. R. P. Downing  
Mr. Haswell Staehle

#### COMMITTEE ON LAY MEETINGS

Mr. Robert Nash, Chairman  
Mrs. Richard Huggard, Vice-Chm.  
Mrs. Evelyn McDonald  
Mr. Richard Savage  
Dr. Leroy Johnson  
Mrs. M. C. Slack  
Mr. John Mullineaux  
Mr. Everett Schreck  
Mrs. Frank Corbin

#### COMMITTEE ON FUND AND FABRIC

Mr. G. E. Mumma, Chairman  
Mr. Robert Stinchcomb, Vice-Chm.  
Mr. G. J. Thormyer  
Mr. R. R. Vance  
Mr. A. M. Stromberg  
Mr. Willard Morris  
Mrs. J. B. Titchener  
Mrs. C. D. McCall  
Mr. C. C. Cooke  
Mr. Galen Oman  
Mr. Leslie Harrison

#### COMMITTEE ON HOSPITALITY

Mrs. William Leeper, Chairman  
Mr. C. L. Tuller, Vice-Chm.  
Mrs. F. E. Archer  
Mrs. Robert Beckwith  
Mr. Horace Jones, Sr.  
Dr. R. E. Rebrassier  
Mrs. Marshall Bowman  
Mrs. G. C. Hughes  
Mrs. R. F. Lovell  
Mrs. Frank Fisher

#### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC RELATIONS

Miss Ann N. Hansen, Chairman  
Dr. William Utterback, Vice-Chm.  
Miss Ruth Griswold  
Mr. J. B. Fullen  
Mr. W. F. Howe  
Mr. V. E. Schmeiser  
Mrs. K. Starr Chester  
Mrs. William Utterback  
Dr. Meredith Gilpatrick



**STAFF AND OFFICERS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
IN 1953**

**THE STAFF**

The Rev. Harris J. Mowry, Jr. ....	Rector
Mr. Rowland P. Downing, Mus. Doc. ....	Organist and Choirmaster
Mr. Philip C. Hintz .....	Associate Organist
Mr. Marshall Bowman .....	Director, Young Peoples' Choir
Mrs. Eben Evans .....	Parish Secretary
Mr. F. M. Vaughn .....	Sexton

**THE WARDENS AND VESTRY**

Mr. Charles L. Tuller .....	Senior Warden and Treasurer
Mr. George J. Thormyer .....	Junior Warden
Mr. John Mullineaux .....	Secretary of the Vestry
Mr. Charles D. Wing .....	Financial Secretary
Mr. Marshall A. Bowman	Mr. George E. Mumma
Mr. Edgar S. Downs	Mr. Robert L. Nash
Mr. Allan McGregor	Dr. Delbert Oberteuffer
Mr. Robert Stinchcomb	

**THE ALTAR GUILD**

Mrs. David Jones, Directress	
Mrs. Richard Huggard	Mrs. M. C. Slack
Mrs. J. E. Moody	Mrs. George Thormyer
Mrs. H. J. Mowry, Jr.	Mrs. Charles Vernon

**THE CHURCH SCHOOL**

Mr. Allan McGregor, Superintendent  
Mrs. Charles D. Wing, Secretary and Treasurer

**TEACHING STAFF**

Mrs. Ted Isaacs	Mrs. L. D. Harrison
Mrs. E. G. Kessmeier	Mrs. Charles Schildknecht
Mrs. Marshall Bowman	Mrs. John Mullineaux
Mrs. G. A. Lenning	Mrs. H. John Williams
Mrs. E. B. Henderson	Mrs. T. J. Phillips
Mrs. J. B. Titchener	Mr. Allan McGregor
Mr. William Swager	Mr. E. B. Lund

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## THE CHOIRS

### SENIOR CHOIR

Sopranos: Mrs. B. N. Bauter, Miss Freddie Barber, Mrs. G. C. Hughes, Mrs. S. U. Robinson, Mrs. Robert A. Kloss, Mrs. Siegfried Panning, Mrs. Charles L. Tuller, Miss Mary Thormyer.

Altos: Mrs. John Archer, Mrs. Edgar S. Downs, Mrs. Gordon F. Pearson, Mrs. William L. Swager.

Tenors: Mr. Philip C. Hintz, Mr. Thomas J. Neel, Mr. Frank L. Fisher.

Basses: Mr. Marshall A. Bowman, Mr. Haswell E. Staehle, Mr. Warren F. Howe.

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHOIR

Misses Mary Barber, Peggy Campbell, Linda Crook, Jinny Evans, Ann Fisher, Mary Fisher, Rosalyn Gilpatrick, Martha Huggard, Janet McGregor, Judy Mowry, Joan Mowry, Marty Sanner, Sue Stinchcomb, Terry Wallace, Joan Williams, Donna Wood.

Messrs. Tom Blakemore, John Cuddy, Perry Gilpatrick, Ted Obersteuffer, Jim Slack, Dave Stinchcomb, and John Titchener.

### CRUCIFERS

Senior: George Staehle

Junior: Eric Stromberg

### FLAG BEARERS

Senior: Ted Smith

Junior: Sam Cushman

### CHOIR MOTHERS

Senior: Mrs. Marshall Bowman

Young People: Mrs. J. Franklin Crook

## THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Mrs. Spencer Ashton ..... President

Mrs. Thomas L. Blakemore ..... Vice-President

Mrs. George J. Thormyer ..... Secretary

Mrs. John Mullineaux ..... Treasurer

Miss Ruth Griswold ..... Historian

Mrs. Siegfried Panning ..... U. T. O. Custodian

Mrs. O. F. Garrett ..... Christian Education Chairman

Mrs. Hugh J. McMullen ..... Supply and Missions Chairman

Mrs. Robert Stinchcomb ..... Christian Social Relations Chairman

Mrs. Fred Barber ..... Personnel Chairman

Mrs. M. C. Slack ..... Devotions Chairman

Mrs. William Guthery ..... Finance Chairman

Mrs. A. M. Stromberg ..... Ways and Means Chairman



## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Grace Colburn Sewing Committee .....	Mrs. S. I. Thackrey, Chairman
Evening Branch .....	Mrs. E. B. Henderson, Chairman
Hospitality and Membership .....	Mrs. S. U. Robinson, Chairman
Church Periodical Club .....	Mrs. Fred Barber, Chairman
Telephone Committee .....	Mrs. Wesley Cushman, Chairman
Housekeeping Committee .....	Mrs. Forrest Smith, Chairman
Publicity .....	Mrs. J. E. Bourke, Chairman
Sales Tax Stamps .....	Mrs. Charles D. Wing, Chairman
Youth Activities .....	Mrs. Marshall Bowman, Chairman
Nightingale Cottage .....	Mrs. George Thormyer
Youth Group Suppers .....	Mrs. Frank Fisher

St. John's Church enjoys the honor of having one of its members, Mrs. Robert R. Vance, on the National Board of the Woman's Auxiliary as representative of the Fifth Province.

## THE KILBOURNE CLUB (YOUNG PEOPLE)

Miss Martha Huggard .....	President
Miss Susan Stinchcomb .....	Vice-President
Miss Janet McGregor .....	Secretary
Mr. George Krauss .....	Treasurer
Mr. Philip Herron .....	Sergeant-At-Arms

## ST. JOHN'S MENS' CLUB

Dr. Meredith Gilpatrick .....	President
Mr. Robert Stinchcomb .....	Vice-President
Mr. Leslie D. Harrison .....	Secretary and Treasurer

Other members of the Executive Board:

Mr. V. E. Schmeiser	Mr. Robert Nash
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## ST. JOHN'S CLERGY

- 1804-1817, James Kilbourne  
1817-1822, Philander Chase  
1829-1831, William Preston  
1832-1833, F. V. Rogers  
1833-1837, Erastus Burr  
1838-1839, Alfred Helfeinstin  
1841-1845, R. S. Elder  
1847-1851, Rodolphus K. Nash  
1852-1855, W. C. French  
1856-1858, Henry Floy Roberts  
1858-1859, C. F. Lewis  
1861-1863, Peter S. Ruth  
1864-1872, Rodolphus K. Nash  
1873-1874, Hosea W. Jones  
1875-1882, Charles H. Young  
1883-1890, Carlos E. Butler  
1892-1902, Norman H. Badger  
1902-1903, William R. Agate  
1904-1908, Francis Mansfield  
1909-1910, Frederick S. Gray  
1912-1915, Henry Clay Mitchell  
1915-1922, Alexander J. J. Gruetter  
1924-1932, William A. Stimson  
1932-1942, Philip H. Hull  
1942-1948, James Dyar Moffet  
1949-Present, Harris J. Mowry, Jr.







