

New Directions

The Post-World War II Years

By the Hon. John C. Ahlgrimm

St. Luke's Church began its second century with the nation in the throes of World War II. The great conflict deeply affected the life of the parish. The Annual Report prepared for the 1944 annual meeting indicated that 104 men and women from St. Luke's were serving in the armed forces. The 1945 Annual Report noted that Second Lieutenant Robert Gordon Pritchard and First Lieutenant Alan Corey Judd laid down their lives in the service of their country.

At the 11 o'clock Sunday morning service worshippers said special wartime prayers. In the prayer "for those in the service of our nation" each person from St. Luke's in uniform was remembered by name. A large banner near the communion rail displayed a white field with blue stars in the form of a cross representing each service person from St. Luke's. Gold

The 1944 Annual Report indicated that 104 men and women from St. Luke's were serving in the armed forces.

stars signified those who had died while serving their nation. On Thursday mornings at 9 o'clock parishioners gathered for a special wartime mass.

To keep those in the service informed of the activities and addresses of other service people, a special newsletter was composed and mailed to everyone in the armed services. The parish also sent a Christmas gift to everyone in the service. The rector, the Rev. Alexander Simpson, enclosed a personal note with the gift.



The Chapel of the Holy Spirit was remodeled in 1967. It was made smaller, refurnished in contemporary styling, and given a free-standing altar. Air conditioning was added.

POSTWAR CHANGES

Two particularly noticeable improvements were made in the early postwar years. In 1946, through a belfry fund gift, the church tower bells were electrified. In 1954 the church was wired for sound and an amplifier system was installed.

Meanwhile, the postwar period was witnessing major changes in the community with the historic movement—or "flight," as it was called—to the suburbs. Minutes of the June 1951 vestry meeting stated that the Rev. Harold Baker from Immanuel Episcopal Church and Father Simpson had met to consider acquiring property for eventual building of a church on the north side with all Racine area churches participating. From this idea, the founding of St. Michael's Episcopal Church at 4701 Erie Street developed.

1956 REMODELING

The early postwar years also brought an increase in church attendance and membership. Accordingly, the Vestry made plans for remodeling the Parish Center, which

served both as a hub for church activities and as the education facility for teaching children.

The building program was delayed twice due to the St. Luke's Hospital building plans and the Diocese of Milwaukee Advanced Program, a campaign for capital improvement. Father Simpson in his plea to the members and friends of St. Luke's Church declared, "Almighty God is continually calling the people to

renewed dedication in worship and service, and here in the support of the much-needed building program comes a special call, challenge, and opportunity to all the members of St. Luke's to prove themselves a people mindful of His favor and glad to do His will."

The expansion and remodeling was financed by gifts of money and a three-year pledge system. A professional fund-raising organization was hired to direct the overall solicitation. It produced a brochure outlining the program and stationed a representative in Racine to organize and train the church members recruited to canvass for donations. The total pledged was \$103,042, which was short of the goal of \$150,000. Construction began nevertheless, with the balance borrowed from local banks. A mortgage secured the loans.

The building program completely remodeled the Parish House (formerly the Parish Center) by providing a library lounge and kitchen on the first floor, with parish offices on the second floor and a curate's apartment on the

third floor. Attached to the rear of the Parish House was a new auditorium constructed in space that had been an open yard. The auditorium was serviced by the kitchen in the remodeled Parish House. Beneath the auditorium and the old gymnasium west of the chapel, education rooms were built to provide adequate facilities for the increasing number of children. The completed project cost \$211,957, and members were subsequently asked to continue their pledges beyond the original three-year period. Five years later, on November 21, 1961, the Clerk of the Vestry announced that the mortgage was fully paid.

THE CLOSE OF AN ERA

In May 1957 Father Simpson's son, Geoffrey, was ordained to the priesthood at St. Luke's. He was one of fifteen Episcopal protesters arrested in Mississippi for attempting to desegregate a bus. The parish made a money contribution to the Defense Fund for Freedom Riders.

In June 1959 Father Simpson suffered a stroke and for the next six months the curate, the Rev. Donald

Radtke, was in active charge of the church. After making an almost complete recovery, Father Simpson returned to active service on January 1, 1960.

On December 31, 1961, an era ended with the retirement of Father Simpson. He had served as rector during the depression of the 1930s, World War II, and the postwar period. During these years many of the traditional values and concerns of life were being influenced by the use of automobiles and television, the mobility of people, and the movement away from the city.

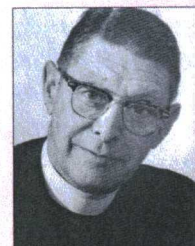
THE REV. WINFIELD E. POST, 1962-1975, SEVENTEENTH RECTOR

On January 1, 1962, the Rev. Winfield Post became rector of St. Luke's. His first official duty was to administer Holy Communion in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on New Year's Day. The chapel was filled to capacity with eager parishioners.

A coffeehouse for high school students, known as the "Scarlet Snag," was opened on December 29, 1966, in

The Rev. Winfield E. Post Upheld Traditional Values and Customs

Winfield Post was born in Peekskill, New York, on September 19, 1913. He worked in a bank for five years before deciding to enter the ministry. Taking advantage of a joint arrangement between Carroll College in Waukesha and Nashotah House



that provided for simultaneous enrollment in both institutions, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carroll and a Bachelor of Divinity from

Nashotah, both in 1943. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Ivins of Milwaukee in October 1942 and immediately accepted the call to Christ Church, Delavan, where he was rector from 1942 until 1945. On January 10, 1944, he was married to Benita M. Bowers. They were the parents of two children, John and Mary. He next became the dean of St. Mark's Cathedral in Hastings, Nebraska (the home of St. Luke's organist Marilyn Stulken), from 1945 until 1955. Returning to Wisconsin, he was rector of Holy Communion Church in Lake Geneva from 1955 until January 1, 1962, when he came to St. Luke's Church, Racine.

Although always able to see the humorous side of events and given to enlivening his conversation with a flickering wit, Father Post was a person of strong convictions about the church and society, holding to traditional values and customs, and in a newspaper interview in 1971, characterized himself as outspoken. He was a member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese from 1962 to 1966 and became the president of that group in 1967.

After serving as St. Luke's rector for thirteen years, he resigned on October 1, 1975, and, as the first step towards retirement, became priest-in-charge of St. Paul's Church in Ashippun, Wisconsin. He began full retirement in 1979 when he moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where his son was a physician. He died there on January 2, 1991, at age seventy-seven, and is buried at Nashotah House Seminary.

A Baby's Cry . . .

Tuesday, December 20, 1955, was a day to remember. Patricia Bardeen had arrived at St. Luke's to play the 5 o'clock chimes. She was talking with the Rev. Kazimier Olubowics, curate, and Tinus Larsen, the sexton, when a cry was heard.

The church was immediately searched. In the last row of pews, the priest, sexton, and chimes player were astonished to find an abandoned baby boy less than a week old. The infant was wearing a white flowered nightgown, blue sweater, and blue booties and was wrapped in a blue blanket. The clothing was new, but the labels had been removed.

Police and welfare workers were called, and the baby was taken to St. Luke's Hospital. The hospital administrator named the baby John Matthew Luke, and authorities began making plans for John's future adoptive home.

the gymnasium as a recreational facility for young people of all religious denominations. The Rev. Edwin M. Leidel, Jr., the curate, explained that it was created for students as a place for them to be themselves. It was a place for informal discussion, a place to meet with friends, listen to folk music, play chess or cards, or just relax and sip coffee or Coke. The coffeehouse was created as a joint venture of the youth from the five Racine Episcopal churches. Among the guests who performed was Roger Steffens, a nationally known speaker who presented social awareness readings enhanced with slides and lights.

1967 REMODELING

The 1956 building construction program was followed by a further remodeling of the chapel, sacristy, and gymnasium in 1967. The new project was financed by a building fund pledge system managed by members of the parish. The amount pledged was \$102,023.40.

The old gymnasium within the Parish Hall, which had been important to the social and cultural life of the youth for many years, now became a memory cherished in the thoughts of those who were an integral part of St. Luke's in the 1920s and 1930s. The gymnasium had been used for choir rehearsals and parish meetings and activities. It had served the Boy Scout program and been an education facility as well as a place for fun. The sound of basketballs smacking the gym floor, the joyful voices of the Sunday School Christmas party, and the echoed harmony of choir rehearsals now ceased.

The "old gym," which had served its purpose in the past as an active Christian center, thus yielded to a new design. By bridging over the balcony area of the gym, a second story with added education rooms was created, along with a choir room on the first floor that had adequate rehearsal and storage space.

A second part of the project

enlarged the sacristy to make available much-needed work space for the altar guild, elbowroom for the clergy and acolytes, and storage space for vestments. This required taking about eight feet from the front of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit and incorporating a new entrance connecting the sacristy and the chapel. In addition a "satellite" organ console inside the chapel, which allowed the organ to be played during chapel services and heard through a doorway, had to be removed. There were further changes in the chapel. The skylight was removed from the high flat roof and the ceiling was lowered. Together these changes produced a balanced, intimate feeling. New pews and woodwork and a wooden freestanding altar were selected in a contemporary style. The addition of air conditioning completed the project. The end result was a modern, compact chapel located within the historic Gothic building.

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Concerns, which, representing various Racine churches, was designed to promote social justice by enabling concerned Christians to be involved in an ecumenical program to give dignity and respect to all citizens of the community.



In the ancient tradition of churchyard burial, the long-admired garden in 1986 was designated a memorial garden for the interment of ashes. The granite marker can be incised with seventy names.



The stage of Simpson Hall in May 1992 at the church's sesquicentennial style show, "Figleafing through History." A temporary runway appears in front of the stage.

St. Luke's Church was one of the pioneer supporters of the Boy Scout movement in Racine. In 1964 Father Leidel accepted an award for the church's sponsorship of Troop 10 for forty-seven years. This was the longest existence of any troop in Racine up to that time. The troop met in the Parish Hall, and the scoutmaster and his assistant were usually members of St. Luke's.

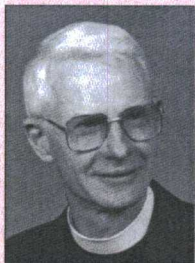
A second troop was sponsored in later year for boys from the inner city. The scoutmaster was a lawyer and parish member who was employed with the Racine County Probation Department.

The Rev. James A. Kaestner

Follower of St. Benedict, Staunch Friend, Joyful Runner

James Kaestner was born on August 17, 1935, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He spent many of his early years living and working on his family's farm, an experience that gave him in his mature years an appreciation of hard work, a sense of practicality, and a deep love of nature and understanding of the natural world. He obtained his formal education at Carroll College, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1956, and at Nashotah House, which conferred a Master of Divinity degree in 1959.

Ordained to the priesthood in August 1959 by Bishop Donald H. V. Hallock, he immediately began a four-month temporary assignment assisting Father Radtke at St. Luke's, Racine, during the absence of Father Simpson. He next served as assistant at Trinity Church, Janesville, from 1960 to 1961. On May 7, 1960, he married Judith M. Pallett. They have three children, Mary, Andrew, and Peter. From 1962 until 1969 he was priest-in-charge of St. Thomas the Apostle of Hales Corners and St. Hugh of Greendale. In 1969 he became rector of St. Alban's in Marshfield and remained there until October 1, 1975, when he accepted the call to be rector of St. Luke's, Racine. In the Diocese of Milwaukee he was a member of the Commission on Ministry from 1978 to 1984 and was appointed to the Standing Committee in 1985. He is currently on the



Executive Council and is dean of the DeKoven Deanery.

As a crusader for nonsmoking and physical fitness, he maintains a strict exercise regimen that provides an example for young and old. He runs several miles a day throughout the year, has made long-distance bicycle trips around Wisconsin, and regularly competes in the Racine triathlon and the Lighthouse Run. A joyful personality, he is a follower of the discipline of St. Benedict. While devout in worship, he is also sensitive and empathetic in the face of human need. In his active ministry within the parish he is widely known for his informal manner and ready friendship.

His wife, who is a middle school counselor in the Racine Unified System, sings in the choir. Their sons, now grown, served as acolytes.

THE REV. JAMES A. KAESTNER, 1975- , EIGHTEENTH RECTOR

Another era came to an end when Father Post retired and, on October 1, 1975, the Rev. James A. Kaestner became rector.

A number of major renovations and improvements were accomplished over the next fifteen years. The church interior was completely redecorated in 1979. The tower clock faces were rebuilt and refinished in gold leaf in 1988, and the exterior of all buildings was repainted in 1990. A memorial gift made possible lighting the steeple in 1989. (See "Designed for Worship," p. 57.)

To provide wheelchair access to the church, in 1988 a ramp was built into the alley walk on the north side of the property and a connecting chair lift was installed inside the north exit door, at a cost of \$5,643.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

As a visible expression of our faith and our service to the community, parishioners of St. Luke's collect and distribute food baskets throughout the year, and participate with other downtown parishes in periodically serving meals at St. Rose Catholic Church.

Members of St. Luke's have also served on the Board of Directors of the Dispute Resolution Center. The parish furnishes financial support to this community program, which is dedicated to the peaceful resolution of disputes through mediation.

Standing erect and proud on the corner of Seventh and Main Streets, St. Luke's Episcopal Church has been a continuous reminder of Christian faith to the people of Racine. The lighted church tower with the plangent bells is visible both day and night.

THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

The grounds of the church fronting on Main Street burgeon with an ornamental garden that is a topic of praise for its peaceful beauty and grace. In 1986 a portion of the land was designated for the interment of the ashes of deceased loved ones, and the grounds were named St. Luke's Memorial Garden. The following year a granite marker was installed to bear the engraved names of those interred there. By 1992 the remains of more than ten persons reposed in this space. In 1989 Racine Urban Aesthetics presented the Belle Award, recognizing the beauty of St. Luke's Memorial Garden, which is maintained by gifts to the Flower Memorial Fund.

In 1976 St. Luke's Episcopal Church was designated a local landmark by Preservation Racine, Inc. In July 1979 St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, and the Parish Hall and Parish Center were listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior. The Wisconsin State Historical Society was the nominator. In 1991 Preservation Racine awarded St. Luke's a Century Certificate, signifying a building in excess of 100 years in age.

At the 1992 Annual Meeting the parishioners adopted the following words as the St. Luke's Mission Statement:

Rooted in the Anglican tradition and liturgical expression of worship, study, prayer, and music, we, the parishioners of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, are guided by God to celebrate the gospel by living each day in service to our families, friends, and neighbors. May all who enter our church feel safe and welcome.

A second action of the 1992 meeting was the naming of the auditorium as Simpson Hall in recognition of the twenty-seven years of Christian leadership and service of the Rev. Alexander Simpson. †

The Rev. Travis T. DuPriest, Jr.
Scholar, Poet, Director of DeKoven Center

Travis T. DuPriest was born in Richmond, Virginia, on August 15, 1944. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Richmond and his Doctor of Philosophy degree, in Renaissance Literature, from the University of Kentucky. He pursued further study at the Divinity School at Harvard University, receiving a Master of Sacred Theology degree, and at St. Chad's College of the University of Durham, England, where he spent a year. On September 1, 1972, he married Mabel Ann Benson; they are the parents of two sons, Travis E. and Benson H.

He was ordained to the diaconate in June 1974 and in the same year started his academic career as associate professor of English at Carthage College. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Hosea of Lexington, Kentucky, in June 1975.



Since 1983 he has been a professor of English. He has also served as chair of the English Department and director of the Honors Program at Carthage. In pursuit of his dual academic and theological careers, he has written five books, one on the Anglican priest and bishop Jeremy Taylor. He has been a visiting fellow at the University of California at Los Angeles, and the Universities of Chicago, Toronto, and Cambridge. He is also book editor of *The Living Church* and chaplain of the National Huguenot Society.

Father DuPriest joined St. Luke's Church in 1979 as assistant to the rector and is believed to be the first to hold that title, as distinguished from curate. In that position he participates part-time in all areas of parish life, including the Sunday school and youth activities, adult education, preaching, and celebrating. His homilies reflect his academic background in their clarity, elegance of expression, and apt illustrations drawn from literature as well as from everyday life. Currently he is on leave of absence from Carthage College while working for the Diocese of Milwaukee as director of The DeKoven Center. His wife, who is a professor of English at Carthage, sings in the choir and their sons serve as acolytes.

Other Clergy, Past and Present

CLERGY WITH EARLY ROOTS AT ST. LUKE'S

The Rev. George F. Schiffmayer, 1906-1993. Bachelor of Divinity, Nashotah; ordained 1930. Curate of St. Luke's and vicar of St. Stephen's, 1930-1934. Married Margaret Hart (deceased; sister of John S. Hart), 1932. Two sons: the Rev. Jeffrey P. and Karl F. Schiffmayer. Rector of Church of the Redeemer, Elgin, Illinois, 1956-1978; retired 1978.

The Rev. John Henry Tredrea, 1909-1971. St. Luke's member (brother of Mary Tredrea). Bachelor of Divinity, Nashotah, ordained 1934. Curate of St. Luke's, 1934-1936. Married Martha Adamson (sister of Elizabeth Adamson), 1936. Four children. Rector of Holy Communion, Maywood, Illinois, 1941-1969. Part-time chaplain at Veterans Hospital, Maywood, 1969-1971.

The Rev. John R. Crockett, 1907-1980. St. Luke's member (three sisters, all deceased). Master of Divinity, Nashotah; ordained 1935. Three children. Rector of St. Stephen's, Absarokee, Montana, 1958-1973. Retired 1973.

The Rev. Charles H. Washburn, 1910-1980. St. Luke's member. No family members remaining at St. Luke's. Nashotah class of 1944; ordained 1944. Four children. Rector of St. Matthew's, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1968-1972. Retired 1972 to St. Louis, Missouri.

The Rev. Francis G. Washburn, 1919-. Brother of the Rev. Charles Washburn. St. Luke's vestryman. Attended Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, class of 1956; ordained 1956. Three children. Rector of Redeemer, Sayre, Pennsylvania, 1979-1982. Retired 1983.

The Rev. Benjamin M. Cape, 1940-1990. St. Luke's member (son of Milo and Ethel Cape). Bachelor of Divinity, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary; ordained 1967. Two children. Vicar, St. Michael's, Racine, 1970-1973. Subsequently assisted at St. Luke's, Racine. Later moved to the South. Vice-president Seabury-Western Theological Seminary Alumni Association 1976-1978; president 1978.

The Rev. Geoffrey S. Simpson, 1932-. St. Luke's member (son of the Rev. Alexander and Helen Simpson). Bachelor of Sacred Theology, General Theological Seminary; ordained 1957. Rector of St. Stephen's, Racine, 1963-1966. Ph.D., Cambridge University, 1973. Vicar, Shoreham, Kent, England, 1980-1990.

NONSTIPENDIARY CLERGY

The Rev. James E. Griffiss, 1928-. Bachelor of Sacred Theology, General Theological Seminary; ordained 1955. Ph.D., Yale University, 1962. Associate Professor of Theology, Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, 1961-1971. Professor of Philosophy and Systematic Theology, Nashotah, 1971-1990. Visiting Professor of Systematic Theology, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, California, 1990-1991. Currently assisting at St. Luke's; teaching part-time at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary.

Author of *A Silent Path to God* (1980), *Church Ministry and Unity* (1983), *Naming the Mystery* (1990), and the essay "Jesus Christ: God with Us," in *Theology in Anglicanism* (1984). Editor of *Anglican Theology and Pastoral Care* (1985) and the periodical *Anglican Theological Review*. Also author of an essay in forthcoming book on Arthur Michael Ramsey, the 100th Archbishop of Canterbury (who was a frequent visitor to Nashotah House) and editor of book of selected writings of Archbishop Ramsey, in progress. Member of the Conference of Anglican Theologians and the Hegel Society.

The Rev. Betty H. Marquand, 1926-. Bachelor of Music, University of Colorado, 1946. Married Kenneth Marquand, 1948 (deceased). Two children. Master of Divinity, Nashotah; ordained to the diaconate, 1985. Currently deacon at St. Luke's Church and part-time chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital.

A Fit Dwelling Place

The Rectories

By John S. Hart

Over its 150 years of existence St. Luke's Church has built two rectories as well as having owned or rented others, depending on the preferences and family size of its rectors.

In the earliest days the church rented houses for the rector's residence; usually they were within a few blocks of the church. In 1865 the home of Philo White at the southeast corner of Eighth and Chatham (now Lake Avenue) Streets was purchased as a parsonage. Dr. Meachem, Sr., and H. G. Winslow, the two wardens, solicited subscriptions from the members, including \$300 from Philo White as a reduction in the purchase price.

The Rev. A. D. Benedict and his family were the first to occupy it, until ill health forced his resignation in 1866. He was followed by the Rev. E. C. Porter, who with his wife lived in it for two years. At that time Mrs. Porter was the recipient of a large gift from her wealthy father, and the Porters purchased their own home on the corner of Twelfth and Main Streets. Directories list their residence on the northeast corner in 1873 and on the southwest corner in 1875 (in both cases the houses on these corners were later replaced by the present homes).

The unused parsonage at Eighth and Chatham was subsequently sold for \$2,000, with the announced intention of paying off a \$2,000 debt remaining on the new church built two years previously. Dr. Meachem, along with Mr. Winslow, strongly opposed the sale, and they both resigned from their positions. Their elected replacements chose not to pay off the debt but made expenditures that consumed the funds in addition to incurring another \$2,000 debt. By the next annual parish

meeting dissatisfaction with the existing state of affairs resulted in the reelection of Dr. Meachem and Mr. Winslow as wardens by a unanimous vote.

Rented houses again were used for the next several rectors, including the Rev. Arthur Piper, who was unmarried and lived for a time with his sister at 841 Villa Street. On Easter 1891 Father Piper made an appeal for funds

by 1898 a \$200 payment left a remaining balance of \$125, which was paid by A. J. Horlick.

FIRST RECTORY BUILT

When the Rev. Walter G. Blossom arrived in December 1905, he agreed to sleep temporarily in the rectory but announced that it would not be acceptable for his family, who



Procession to the church from the rectory, completed a year earlier, at the consecration in 1908 of the Rev. Henry D. Robinson, D.D., of Racine College, as Missionary Bishop of Nevada. From the left after the crucifer: the Rev. Walter Blossom, fifth; the Rev. Arthur Piper, seventh; Bishop Elect Robinson, eighth; and Bishop Webb of Milwaukee, on steps, followed by Presiding Bishop Daniel Tuttle, last. Others are mostly bishops from midwestern dioceses.

to purchase the house and lot just north of the church for eventual use as a rectory. The generous response provided \$2,000 toward the cost, including a substantial gift from Dr. Meachem, who was still serving as senior warden. With Dr. Piper residing at Racine College in this period, the house was purchased but rented out until it would be needed as a rectory. Payments toward the cost were made from subsequent Easter offerings, and

would arrive the following May. Accordingly, the vestry began planning for a new rectory to replace the old building, which was soon sold for \$411 and moved to another location. The design, selected from several provided by architect A. A. Guilbert, incorporated the cloistered walk and porch and a Gothic Revival style compatible with the church. It included a door on the north side as an entrance to the rector's study.

When the Rev. Walter G. Blossom arrived in December 1905, he agreed to sleep temporarily in the rectory but announced that it would not be acceptable for his family, who would arrive the following May.

The Easter offering designated for the new rectory was almost \$3,000, and additional substantial subscriptions were obtained from a number of major givers. Work began in the summer and was completed in early 1907, and one newspaper account described the new parsonage as "the handsomest in the state." Originally estimated at \$6,500, the final cost increased to \$10,387, of which \$3,000 had to be borrowed. The last payment, clearing the debt, was from the 1910 Easter offering.

After Father Blossom, the new rectory was occupied successively by the Rev. Frederick S. Penfold and the Rev. Harwood Sturtevant until 1924, when it was converted for use as a parish center and offices. Father Sturtevant spent the remainder of his time as rector living in the house at 1308 South Main Street, for which he was provided with a housing allowance to cover the rental.

The Rev. Henry W. Roth, who was single, chose to reside at the relatively new apartment building at 1130 South Main Street, then known as Bull Manor, and was accorded a housing allowance.

The Rev. Alexander Simpson arrived in 1934 with his wife and several small children and rented the house at 1527 College Avenue. He received a housing allowance. Several years later he moved to 1505 College Avenue.

Upon the death of Dr. John G.

Meachem, Jr., in 1942, his will provided for his home at 905 South Main Street to be sold with the proceeds used to set up a rectory fund for St. Luke's Church. This large, imposing stone house was ultimately purchased by William Horlick, Jr., and presented to the church for use as a rectory. St. Luke's Church therefore benefited by receiving both the house and a fund of equal value.

Father Simpson lived there from 1943 until 1948, when his feelings prevailed that a smaller house would be more suitable. After selling the former Meachem house and some of its furniture for about \$22,000, the vestry purchased the Victorian frame house at 1750 Wisconsin Avenue as a rectory for \$16,000 and spent about \$6,000 for repairs and improvements. Father Simpson lived there until his retirement in 1961.

SECOND RECTORY BUILT

The Rev. Winfield E. Post, who also had a young family, began his service to St. Luke's living at the 1750 Wisconsin Avenue rectory. After about a year, concerns about the continual exterior maintenance of an old frame house precipitated the decision to sell the rectory, which was accomplished

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in 1963 for about \$17,000. A thorough search for a newer available brick house disclosed several at various locations around the city, but after due consideration, none was considered acceptable. The Post family moved into a rented apartment in the Bull Manor while the vestry began plans to build a new rectory.

The lot at 418 Jonathan Drive, on the northern limits of the city, was purchased in 1964 for \$7,500, and a modern two-story house with attached garage was built in 1965 for about \$37,000. The remainder of the proceeds from the sale of the Wisconsin Avenue rectory, plus an amount borrowed from another fund, totaled \$17,000, which necessitated taking out a \$20,000 twenty-year mortgage. The monthly payments were made from the income of the Rectory Fund, and periodic additional payments on the principal were made from gifts received and amounts accumulated in unearmarked or reserve accounts. By the time of the 1972 annual parish meeting, the clearing of the mortgage, in less than seven years, was announced.

Father Post and his family lived in the new rectory until his retirement in 1975, when his successor, the Rev. James A. Kaestner, moved in with his family of a wife and three children.

In recent years it has been recognized that a priest who serves out his ministry living in rented houses or church-owned rectories will retire without building up equity in a house. Accordingly, in 1991, Father Kaestner accepted the offer of the vestry to be provided with a housing allowance which he could apply to the purchase of a condominium in the Gaslight Pointe development on the waterfront at Racine's new marina. The rectory at 418 Jonathan Drive was subsequently sold for \$143,000. This sum was segregated in an account with the principal to be preserved and the income to be combined with that from the Rectory Fund to provide the housing allowance. †

Threads in the Fabric

The Episcopal Presence in Racine

By the Rev. James A. Kaestner

St. Luke's Church provided the threads necessary to create the fabric of an "Episcopal Presence" in Racine. These threads, when followed, lead to St. Luke's Hospital, Racine College and the DeKoven Center, Taylor Orphanage, and four Episcopal churches—Immanuel, St. Michael's, St. Stephen's, and Holy Innocents—as well as to one of Racine's Armenian churches and a small corner of the African-American community.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL

St. Luke's Hospital began at a meeting in the residence of the Rev. E. C. Porter, St. Luke's rector, on Wednesday, December 13, 1871. Dr. John G. Meachem, Jr., in the capacity of secretary of the organization, penned the following, as reported in the *Racine Journal Times* of May 14, 1972, in an article on the Hospital's first century. "It was resolved," wrote Dr. Meachem:

That it is practicable to have and to organize a hospital in this city;

That it be an institution for charitable purposes—for the care and attendance of the poor;

That it shall be called St. Luke's Hospital.

This hospital was a two-story house at Chippeway (now Park Avenue) and Tenth leased for \$200 a year. The Drs. Meachem, Jr. and Sr., volunteered their services, and a Racine couple, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nase, did the day-to-day care of the patients for \$100 a year, plus \$3 a week for each patient. Of note: four years later, in 1875, Mrs. Porter gave the land at Thirteenth and College with a proviso that a new hospital costing not less than \$5,000 be built within five years and

used as a hospital for at least five years.

The founding fathers were precise in their intent to create an Episcopal presence in Racine by stating in their incorporation laws for the new hospital that it should be managed by a board of from nine to twelve trustees and that the board should include the bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee and the rector of St. Luke's Church as ex-officio members. The articles of incorporation specified further that "trustees shall be male communicants of the Protestant Episcopal Church of adult age" and, with the exception of the bishop of Milwaukee, "shall be residents of the county of Racine." In more recent years the trustees have included women members of the Episcopal Church.

Not long after the hospital was founded, the Episcopal-based Board of Trustees set up a separate, community-based organization to operate the hospital. The operating group, after undergoing changes in its name, finally evolved into today's St. Luke's Memorial Hospital, Inc., which is governed by a Board of Directors selected from the business and industrial community to represent the city's diverse religions and cultural beliefs. Thus the Memorial Board has full authority to manage the day-to-day operations of health care within a building and property owned by St. Luke's Hospital, Inc.

The distinction between St. Luke's Hospital Trustees and St. Luke's Memorial Board is apparent when we look at the history of St. Barnabas Chapel and Library. This building, given by Dr. Meachem, Jr., in 1932, was built on the property at Thirteenth and College to provide a neighborhood chapel offering Sunday morning

services and a sacred place for the teaching of the ethical and moral dimensions of nursing to students enrolled in the St. Luke's School of Nursing, which was under the direction of the management board. The rector of St. Luke's Church or his assistant taught the class and provided the Sunday morning services.

After the position of a full-time, professionally trained hospital chaplain was established, plans were inaugurated to make the chapel accessible to patients and their families. This development took place in 1987, when a new St. Barnabas Chapel was consecrated within the hospital building. The former chapel was remodeled into a physicians' study area because of its proximity to the library. In the remodeling and relocation most of the stained glass windows were removed from the old chapel and placed in the new. The figure of St. Luke was placed at the hospital entrance and set off by back lighting.

In 1979, in an effort to alleviate the high medical costs that advancing technology and delivery of services were demanding of the sick and injured, the boards of St. Luke's Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center took the first bold steps to share in the health delivery system for Racine residents. In 1992 this effort culminated in a joint venture, named All Saints Health Care Systems, Inc., with a board of directors composed of representatives of each hospital operating board and religious entity.

This alliance between the hospitals is consistent with the vision of the founders of St. Luke's Hospital to provide community involvement in managing the hospital.

RACINE COLLEGE, THE DEKOVEN CENTER

Racine College (now the DeKoven Center), established in 1852, was an answer to a call from the Episcopal Church to form a college. Once again threads from St. Luke's Church were woven into the fabric of the institution. Benefactors from St. Luke's and their friends raised more than the \$6,000 stipulated by the

Racine College (now the DeKoven Center), established in 1852, was an answer to a call from the Episcopal Church to form a college. Once again threads from St. Luke's Church were woven into the fabric of the institution.

Episcopal Church and more than the six acres the Church required for the new buildings. Faculty from the College served the parish at various times and, reciprocally, the parish clergy taught in the College. The most notable example was Dr. Roswell Park, who held the position of rector of St. Luke's at one time and president of the College at another. As if the threads from St. Luke's had multiplied and spread to take on a life of their own, the influence of the Episcopal Church in Racine and in this geographical area can be appreciated when we think of the clergy who served St. Stephen's Church, Holy Innocents, and St. Paul's, Sturtevant. Several of them were associated at one time with St. Luke's Church. We also recognize the names of several Racine College students who went on to achieve honors in our nation, especially General William "Billy" Mitchell, U.S. Navy Commander Earl W. Spencer, General Mark Clark, and industrialists

Frank Kellogg and A. J. Horlick.

After the College faltered and, finally, closed in the early 1930s, the Community of St. Mary in 1935 bought the property and took over the management of the buildings and grounds, making them available to the entire church for retreats and conferences. The DeKoven Foundation for Church Work came into being at this time. During the 1980s the sisters of the Community sold the property to the Diocese of Milwaukee and went on to other work. Its name now changed to The DeKoven Center, this institution still serves the church, providing conferences and retreats under the direction of the Rev. Travis DuPriest, who assists at St. Luke's Parish.

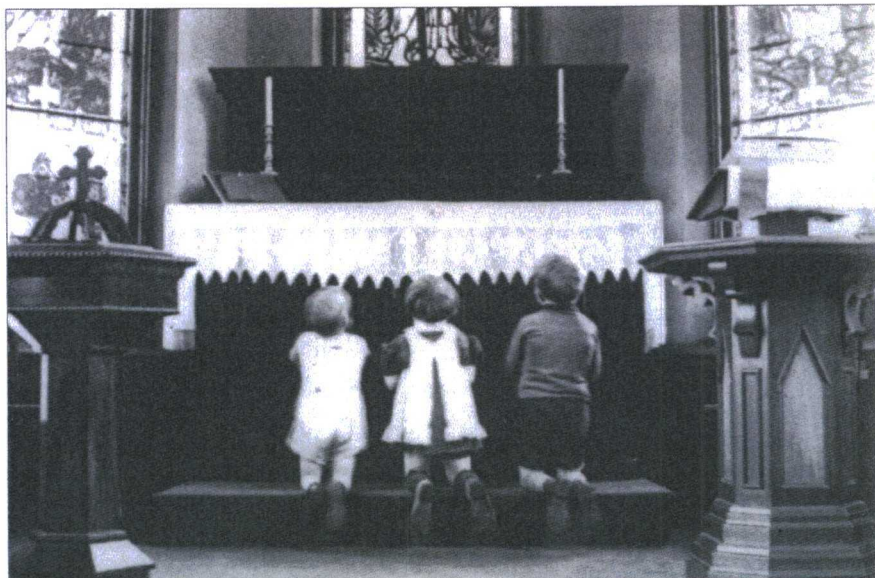
TAYLOR HOME, OTHER PARISHES

The thread between the Taylor Orphanage and St. Luke's Church is a mere filament because it emerged from the vision of one man, Isaac Taylor. Mr. Taylor had vowed to build a safe and secure home for orphans because of his own mistreatment as an orphan. The personal promise of providing a safe haven for orphans was never seen by Mr. Taylor. However, his widow left half of their joint fortune of

\$300,000 for the establishment of the home to complete the dream of her husband. St. Luke's Church supported this project, but the actual involvement of church members never matched the commitment they made to St. Luke's Hospital or to the College, even though St. Luke's clergy offered services and religious instruction for the children at the home.

In recent times the facility has adapted to the changing needs of the community and now serves the educational requirements of problem children. It operates as Taylor Home in several one-story buildings that replaced the original structure. No longer connected to the Episcopal Church, it is now community-based and is supported by the community.

The thread linking Immanuel Parish to St. Luke's was mostly economic. Immanuel began in 1850 as a mission of St. Luke's but was served by clergy of Racine College. It became an independent parish twenty-one years later. The church was located several blocks north of the Root River, at 1306 North Wisconsin Street. In 1961 Immanuel Parish founded St. Michael's Episcopal Church at 4701 Erie Street to serve the growing residential section north of the city. The rectors of



The chapel within Taylor Orphan Asylum. The structure was razed in 1973.

St. Luke's and Immanuel saw the need for this northside parish as an opportunity for the Episcopal community to work together. St. Luke's Church gave the new parish \$30,000 to begin its operation, and Immanuel gave the land. Eventually St. Michael's became the stronger of the two northside parishes and assimilated the people of Immanuel. In 1970 Immanuel Parish went out of existence. Neighborhood changes, the close proximity of Immanuel to St. Luke's, and the assimilation of former Immanuel members into St. Michael's all contributed to the closing of Immanuel parish.

The thread linking St. Stephen's Church to St. Luke's is the clergy. St. Stephen's Parish on Racine's northwest side came from the hearts of the Racine College clergy. In 1885 this area was seen as a desirable area to begin an Episcopal mission. Its connection to St. Luke's occurred in the 1920s and 1930s when the curate of St. Luke's assumed the pastoral responsibilities as vicar of St. Stephen's. At various times the curates from St. Luke's also became full-time vicars of Immanuel.

Holy Innocents Parish, now at Sixteenth Street and Holmes Avenue, had its beginning in 1867 when the wives of two professors at Racine College started a small Sunday school in what is now the Uptown business district to provide spiritual education for children in the southwestern section of Racine. The success of the Sunday school led to the construction of a small building for the school and for worship services. The resulting mission was served by the clergy staff of Racine College for many years until it became an independent parish, its name reflecting its origin in work with children. Thus, somewhat indirectly, a thread links Holy Innocents and St. Luke's Church through their common association with Racine College.

A very thin thread goes out from St. Luke's to the Armenian community. The parish, now known as the St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church,

used the St. Luke's church building on Sunday afternoons in the early 1920s until it had a community with financial support to build its own church. It was at St. Luke's that the Armenian-American children were baptized and the congregation received the sacraments, administered with the encouragement of St. Luke's clergy and laity. The experience built a spiritual bond that exists to this day.

Another thread brought little fruition when St. Luke's sponsored an attempt to establish a parish in the African-American community. The mission, named St. Mark's, existed from 1890 to 1892. Ten years later Immanuel Parish sponsored a similar mission, named St. Augustine's, which also lasted only two years.

Today the threads from St. Luke's Church continue to go into the community. Food is distributed to needy persons, and meals are served to them at churches in the Downtown Cooperative Parish program, of which St. Luke's is a member. Money is budgeted for outreach to community programs that provide health care and protection for the poor, and members of the clergy offer the Eucharist on a regular basis in several homes for the aged. Alcoholics Anonymous has met in St. Luke's Church Parish House for more than forty years.

The relationship between St. Luke's Hospital and St. Luke's Church is expected to continue but in new and different directions. The former Racine College site—now the DeKoven Center—is also in a transition mode, with the ownership of the property in jeopardy because of financial difficulties of the Lake Oakes apartment project constructed in 1990 on the DeKoven grounds as a retirement community. One thing we do know is that wherever the threads linking the parish to humanitarian and spiritual needs of the community are involved, St. Luke's will endeavor, within the limits of its resources, to help meet those needs. †

IN RECOGNITION

While it is not possible to recognize all of the many persons now living who have made significant contributions of their time, judgment, and gifts, both material and spiritual, to St. Luke's Church, a few of those who have departed this life stand out in recent memory.

Melvin Swenson

Junior warden, 1958.
Senior warden, 1959-1961.
(Later moved to Florida.)

Dr. Arthur Jacobsen

Vestryman.
Junior warden, 1962-1974.
Trustee of St. Luke's Hospital.
(Later moved medical practice to northern Wisconsin.)

B. Milo Cape

Senior warden, 1964-1974.
Benefactor and staunch supporter of the choir and music.

Sadie (Mrs. Harry) Schaefer

Active in women's guilds.
Planned Parish Center kitchen.

Charles M. Constantine

Senior warden, 1975-1977.
Legal consultant and adviser to parish.
President of St. Luke's Hospital Board of Trustees.

Peter Falconer

Junior warden, 1959-1961.
Senior warden, 1962-1963 and 1985-1987.
Strong music supporter.

Horace M. Benstead, Sr.

Established endowment (the Benstead Fund) benefiting the choir and music at St. Luke's.

Elizabeth Walker

Parish librarian and donor of books.

The Rev. James DeKoven, 1831-1879

Warden of Racine College, 1859-1879

By the Rev. James A. Kaestner

The Rev. James DeKoven was named warden of Racine College in 1859, seven short years after a movement to found in the diocese a church college that might also serve as a preparatory school for those entering Nashotah House Seminary. The moving figure behind the establishment of the college was the Rev. Joseph H. Nichols, rector of St. Luke's Church. He and Dr. Roswell Park worked tirelessly for little or almost no money through the depression of 1859. It was their feeling that Father DeKoven's ability and vitality as well as his vision would propel the school, which indeed they did. During the twenty years of his direction the school grew steadily in physical facilities and enrollment and reached heights never attained again after his death at the early age of forty-eight.

Father DeKoven's influence on the life of St. Luke's Parish resulted more from the saintly aspects associated with him and from his stature in the Episcopal Church than from his personal presence and direct parochial involvement. His impact here was made through his faculty at Racine College and his own intellectual and missionary zeal. This zeal, as expressed in words he preached at convocation in Milwaukee April 19, 1876, was characterized in his persuasive calls for the church "to proclaim the Gospel of Christ; to do His work upon earth; to be in His stead a messenger of love, mercy, and pardon to mankind."

Father DeKoven's quick wit came into play at the General Convention of 1871 when the Bishop of Delaware proposed a canon prohibiting various acts of ritual expression in worship. Seeing the proposal as absurdly restrictive, Father DeKoven ridiculed it on the convention floor by



The Rev. James DeKoven, second president of Racine College.

reading an obscure English canon of 1603 that prescribed clerical dress right down to undergarments. The Delaware canon was not passed. Later on the same day he eloquently defended the Anglican position of Real Presence in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and reverential acts of devotion in the celebration of the Eucharist. Father DeKoven's reasonable position and the intellectual acuity of his persuasion saved the church from serious splits at that time.

In 1872 he was nominated as bishop of Massachusetts but lost by only a few votes. The 1874 convention to elect a bishop for the diocese of Milwaukee was particularly rancorous. Father DeKoven was one of three nominated for the position, and the resulting controversy drew national attention. After a number of scurrilous attacks made against him and his supporters for the nomination, Father DeKoven took the floor and defended his views on ritual and belief as eloquently as he had done in the 1871 convention. But his efforts were not enough. The convention postponed a decision and Father DeKoven later withdrew. In 1875 he was elected

Bishop of Illinois but was not confirmed by the required two-thirds of the other dioceses in the nation.

These frustrations are symbolized in St. Luke's Church with a design painted over the inside doors at the corner entrance depicting three bishop's mitres—tipped away and askew from his name and only about ten meters from a place at which he may have stood when the cornerstone of the church was laid by Bishop Kemper in 1866.

And the memory of these experiences inspired St. Luke's Church in 1938 to provide funds to outfit a small chapel in Taylor Hall at the DeKoven Foundation (now the DeKoven Center), which by that time occupied the site of Racine College. The chapel gave the Sisters of St. Mary, who were administering the DeKoven grounds and buildings, a place for the daily celebration of the Eucharist and a site for the recitation of the monastic offices. In addition it gave visitors and retreatants to this sacred space a place to meditate and pray.

All this was in keeping with a man some have called the American Saint of the Episcopal Church. The Rev. Harold Wagner, in his *Episcopal Church in Wisconsin* (1947), said of Father DeKoven: "He has been nominated by some as the only 'saint' the American Church has produced to date." In 1978 Thomas Reeves edited a small collection of writings titled *James DeKoven: Anglican Saint*, which records the view of contemporaries that Father DeKoven was a saintly person and one of the holiest in the church. *The Lesser Feasts and Fasts of the Church* has given him a special day and a prayer alongside his biography; mention in *Lesser Feasts* is about as close as our American Episcopal Church can come to naming a person "saint." †