

PART SIX
THE SECOND CENTURY --- A RENEWED SPIRIT
(1970-1984)

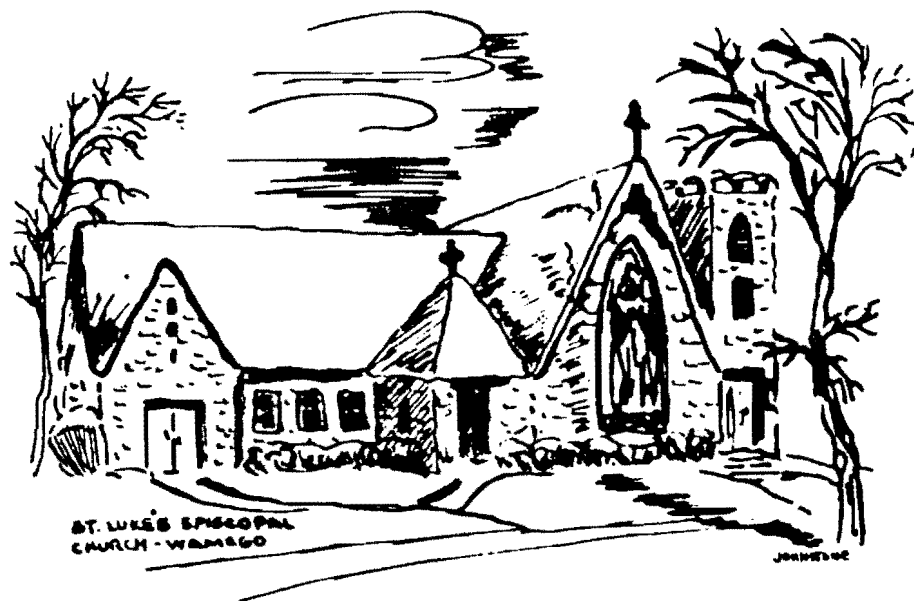
In 1970 St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Wamego began its second century of existence. In the first century there had been periods of great hope, despair, dreams, perseverance, growth, adversity, and change. The second century started with new vigor, a desire to make St. Luke's a force in the lives of the parishioners, a rekindling of interest. All in all, the second century to-date seemed to be characterized by a Renewed Spirit.

Writing a section dealing with those events which are so familiar to present day parishioners was perhaps the most difficult task encountered by the author. Trying to determine which events characterize the spirit of the second century became a matter of subjective judgment. There was not the advantage of looking at the present from an historical perspective. Future historians will have to re-judge the events and their relative importance to the Renewed Spirit.

THE CENTENNIAL OF ST. LUKE'S

On Sunday, November 15, 1970, St. Luke's Episcopal Church held a celebration to commemorate their one hundredth year of existence. At the time, William MacMillan was the priest in charge.

The celebration started with a Service of Morning Prayer at 9:30 followed by a sermon and Holy Communion. The Reverend William MacMillan was the priest and the celebrant. After the church services there was a noon dinner in the Guild Hall. Mrs. Glenn Meyer was president of St. Luke's Guild at the time of this event and was in charge of the dinner and program. She had charge of the arrangements with the help of committees which she had appointed. A feature of the dinner were the silk-screened paper napkins made by Howard Johnstone. Shown below is the original drawing of the church by Mr. Johnstone which was on the napkins. In addition there were the words, "1870 St. Luke's 1970; 100th Anniversary".



An account of the Centennial appeared in The Wamego Times on November 26, 1970. A copy of that account is on the page which follows. However, the newspaper did not give a complete account of the program. Prior to the dinner, the group sang the Doxology which was followed by a prayer given by Father MacMillan. After the dinner, Howard Johnstone led the group in singing three verses of the song, "The Church's One Foundation". Father Wiley, a former rector, was introduced and gave greetings. Then letters from friends and former parishioners were read by Father MacMillan.

The high light of the program, however, was the reading of a history of the church by Mrs. Ella Balderson. The newspaper account agrees with comments from parishioners who attended the event. The account said, "She interspersed her talk with enough humorous incidents to keep her listeners awake and interested and was given a standing ovation at the close of her talk." This history presently being written has benefited by the account Ella Balderson wrote for that occasion.

As reported in the paper Mrs. Balderson recognized one member, Mrs. William (Georgiana) Rankin as the oldest confirmee living at that time. Mrs. Rankin was also the oldest living member. At that time Mrs. Rankin was ninety-three years old. She had been confirmed in St. Stephens Church, Bayswater, London, in 1895.

After Mrs. Balderson's talk, Howard Johnstone again led the group in singing, "Onward Christian Soldiers".

RECTORS

The Reverend William MacMillan was at St. Luke's at the time of the Centennial celebration. In fact, he stayed at St. Luke's until August 20, 1972. He left then to serve a parish in Garden City.

The next priest to serve at St. Luke's was the Reverend Elborn E. Mendenhall. He came on August 27, 1972. He, too, had a dual role; that is, he also served St. Mark's at Blue Rapids. During his tenure, agitation was again revived to obtain a full-time priest. However, the Bishop's Committee decided that to have a full-time priest would require a budget of \$12,000. That amount seemed out of the question. Some unrest developed within the church, and on June 14, 1976, Father Mendenhall submitted his resignation.

In August of 1976, the announcement was made that the Reverend Harold Weaver would be available. The vestry agreed on September 13, 1976, to ask Father Weaver to serve as priest and they specified that he should live in Wamego. Father Weaver was at retirement age; in fact, he had retired because of age from two other parishes--Liberal and Manhattan. In spite of his age, he was a forceful individual. If he felt something were wrong, he said so.

Father Weaver was opposed to a change in the liturgy, and he used the 1928 Book of Common Prayer throughout his ministry. Only a few of his friends knew that he had been offered a Bishopric in the Anglican Church. The Anglican Church had been founded in protest to changes in the Episcopal Church of America. However, Father Weaver remained loyal to his church and refused the offer.

100 Years For St. Luke's—

Hardship.. Success

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Wamego, observed 100 years of existence Sunday, November 15, 1970.

It was an important event in the life of the church which struggled through the late 1860's and 1870's without a church building.

The present stone church was built in 1894. Up to that time services had been held in various homes, the schoolhouse, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church, the J. C. Rogers building on Lincoln Avenue and the Pythian Hall.

The centennial celebrated November 15 started with morning prayer, sermon and communion, conducted by the rector the Rev. William T. MacMillan.

A bountiful noon dinner was served in Guild Hall, followed by appropriate music, program and reminiscing. A capacity crowd attended the event.

Special floral arrangements for the occasion were given by Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Trivett; Miss Mabel Mitchell in memory of her parents and sister; and Mr. and Mrs. N. T. Larson in memory of Mrs. Z. Detwiler and Mr. and Mrs. George M. Bittmann.

A beautiful three-tiered cake decorated with white with purple roses was provided by Miss Mabel Mitchell and Mrs. Laurence Mertz. The napkins with a picture of St. Luke's Church were made by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnstone.

The Rev. MacMillan presided over the program after the dinner. He introduced The Rev. Lester Wiley and Mrs. Wiley of Wichita.

Mr. Wiley was priest in charge of St. Luke's in 1959-'60. He spoke briefly complimenting St. Luke's on its progress. Other introductions included out-of-town guests, who were former residents. He also read letters from former priests and members.

Mrs. N. C. Balderson presented the 100 year history of the church. She traced the life of the church through struggles, hardships and discouragements, along with interesting statistics and many joyful and thankful occasions.

She interspersed her talk with enough humorous incidents to keep her listeners awake and interested and was given a standing ovation at the close of her talk.

The history included the organization of the church in 1870. Names of the original church families; charter members who organized the womens guild Oct. 22, 1890; the building of the church in 1894 and early day services.

The 24 priests who have served the church were named along with their tenure of service.

The building of the Guild Hall adjoining the church in 1925-1927. The dedication services, and the many interesting events that have taken place in the hall, and the various money-making schemes used to pay for the building.

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The story of the vested choir and music used in the church in its earlier days.

The organists and older choir members were brought to light.

The church school and its leaders were recalled. Also the marriages, baptisms, confirmations, burials, the bequests left to the church, the many gifts and memorials were all recounted.

* * * *

The oldest confirnee in the church is Mrs. William (Georgiana) Rankin. She was confirmed 75 years ago in St. Stephens Church, Bayswater, London, in 1895. Mrs. Rankin, also the oldest living member was 93 years of age on Oct. 8, 1970.

The next oldest members are almost twins: Frank C. Fitzgerald was 89 on August 1, 1970 and Guy Sesler was 89, on October 19, 1970.

* * * *

Mrs. Glen Meyer president of the guild presented "Treasure Memory" booklets to the older confirnees, as mementos of the centennial, honoring their long membership in the church.

The meeting closed with the singing of "Onward Christian Soldiers". Mrs. Mertz cut and served the centennial cake which was served with coffee as a parting courtesy.

A diagnosis of cancer did not keep Father Weaver from continuing to perform his duties long after others would have quit. June Meyer said that when she, James Boyce, and Waunita Leonard were in the hospital, that Father Weaver came to see them when he was probably in a worse condition than they were. The Reverend Harold J. Weaver died in the summer of 1978. He was the only St. Luke's rector who died while serving that church.

For a period of six months from July, 1978, when Father Weaver was first hospitalized, until January 1979, Lay Readers, J. Harvey Littrell and Richard Winkler, held Morning Prayer. Occasionally a priest came from Topeka for the service of Holy Communion.

Another chaplain at Kansas State the Reverend David Fly came to St. Luke's for one and one-half years, from January 28, 1979, until June 29, 1980. David Fly's informality, love of life, and "free spirit" immediately endeared him to the people. However, an opportunity to become a full-time minister in Missouri took him from St. Luke's. The knowledge of Father Fly's departure prior to the actuality of it occurring allowed the parish and the Bishop to find a replacement immediately.

On the third of July, 1980, the Reverend Peter G. Berdahl came to Wamego, to serve not only St. Luke's, but also St. Mark's in Blue Rapids. While at St. Luke's, Father Berdahl became the first priest to be married in the church. On January 28, 1981, he married Betty Burke. Father Berdahl was noted for his well-planned sermons. These messages were spiritually uplifting and almost poetical in composition. During his tenure a pipe organ was installed in the church.

Father Berdahl remained at St. Luke's until July, 1983. Following his departure, priests from other parishes had services each Sunday until the new resident rector arrived. These priests were David Laird Barclay, Earl O. Minturn, Conrad McNeer, and Ronald Clingenpeel.

In March 1984, B. Shepard Crim came to St. Luke's from a parish in California. He was installed as rector by Bishop Grein. The Right Reverend Richard F. Grein had been consecrated the Diocesan Bishop of Kansas on May 22, 1981 to succeed Edward Clark Turner, who retired that month. Father Crim in his short time at St. Luke's has been instrumental in encouraging the parishioners to maintain their evangelistic spirit and to maintain the plant which the parish inherited from the past parishioners.

WARDENS, MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY, AND CHURCH OFFICERS

During the Nineteen Seventies, the governing body of the church was called "The Bishop's Committee". This nomenclature was used to distinguish between governing bodies of Mission Churches and Parishes. Later, the term "vestry" was permitted at St. Luke's. Names of individuals who served on the governing body since 1970 were obtained from the minutes which were available. During the early seventies, St. Luke's Guild had representatives who met with the vestry. In the minutes, names of persons present at the meeting were given. It was impossible to tell in what capacity they attended the meeting. They may have been elected vestry members, church treasurer, clerk, or Guild representative. Rather than make an error of omission, all names found in the minutes have been listed.

Between 1970 and 1984, the following men served as Senior Warden: Glenn Meyer, Alfred Burgess, David Vanderbilt, Richard Martin, Richard Winkler, David Frey, and J. Harvey Littrell.

Vestry members, officers, or representatives to the vestry included: Freda Pitney, Margaret Hines, David Warnow, Doyle Danker, Blanche Kaine, Cecil Smith, June Meyer, Bill Birk, Hurley Fellows, Jean Birk, Craig Campbell, Laurence Mertz, Edward Pugh, Ronald Price, Sue Danker, Paul Murray, Judy Hildreth, Susan Toy, Myrline Winkler, Verda Serrin, Malcolm Smith, Jay Hildreth, Douglas Elcock, Veda Burgess, Anne Price, Joyce Elcock, Charlotte Fane, Neil Buie, and Cinnie Hill.

VESTRY FUNCTIONS DURING THE SECOND CENTURY

The Second Century vestry seemed to have major items of business which fell into three categories; namely, Hiring Rectors and Maintaining Church Services; Maintaining the Physical Property; and Planning for the Future.

Hiring Rectors and Maintaining Church Services

The number of rectors hired during the first fourteen years of the second century attests to the fact that the vestry had to form several Search Committees. The vestry had to take the responsibility of selecting, with the advice of the Search Committee, the clergyman whom they believed would enable St. Luke's to grow in numbers and in spirit.

Each time during the search process, the vestry had to maintain the church services for the people. They were able to do so by the services of the Lay Readers who read Morning Prayer when no priest was available. Lay Readers whom were called upon frequently were Richard Winkler, David Fry, and Harvey Littrell. The cooperation of surrounding churches and of priest unassigned to parishes enabled the parishioners of St. Luke's to have Communion Services frequently.

Maintaining the Physical Property

During the Seventies, the control of St. Luke's Guild Hall was transferred from St. Luke's Guild to the Bishop's Committee (later the vestry).. New rules for the use of the Hall were established, and the Bishop's Committee was to approve all uses of the Hall. Also, all money obtained from the use of the Hall went to the church's maintenance fund, rather than to the Guild. The change over was made possible by the change in the way operating expenses were paid. Whereas, in early years the Guild had paid all operating expenses, except for the rector's salary, under the new organization, the vestry paid these expenses. During the Seventies, the Pugh family made substantial contributions to the salaries of the rectors, so that the money obtained elsewhere could be used for the maintenance of the church property.

The only major expenses in the maintenance of the church property during the first fourteen years occurred in 1972 and 1973. The interior of the church was repainted using funds from Mrs. Batchelor's gift. Also in those same years, the purchase of two new furnaces for the Guild Hall and air conditioning of the church were accomplished. In 1984 the Guild bought an exhaust fan for Guild Hall, and the vestry bought ceiling fans for the church. The latter were to replace the old ceiling fans whose worn bearings made so much noise they could no longer be used.

Two other improvements which cost very little, and which may have been slightly controversial, were the removing of the lighted cross from above the front door of the church, and painting the front door a bright red. Since the latter is becoming rather standard for Episcopal churches, little objection was met. A third improvement which did not cost a great deal because of Malcolm Smith's volunteer labor, was the widening of the steps to the altar rail. As many communicants in the parish grew older, it was becoming increasingly difficult to maneuver the narrow steps which previously existed.

In 1983, the House and household furnishings which Mary Breymeyer had willed to the church, became available. Under conditions of the will, her sister, Charlotte Gilmore, could live in the house until her death. The Standing Committee of the Diocese and Bishop Grein gave their approval for St. Luke's vestry to sell the house. One condition had to be met; that is, the \$13,333 owed the Church Extension Fund had to be paid. This money was borrowed at the time the organ was purchased. A Committee consisting of Ralph Fane, Alfred Burgess, and Malcolm Smith were assigned the task of disposing of the house. Prior to offering it to the public, the parishioners of the church were given the opportunity to buy the house. None made an offer, so it was offered to the public, and sold. The vestry gladly repaid the loan!

Planning for the Future

One indication of the Renewed Spirit in St. Luke's is shown in the amount parishioners pledged to the church. In 1975, \$3571.10 was pledged. This amount did not allow the vestry to do much planning for the future. Each year thereafter the amount pledged has increased until in 1984, \$25,000 was pledged by 43 pledging units. In addition, some parishioners are regular contributors, but do not pledge. In 1984, the Diocesan Apportionment was \$5,304--almost \$2000 more than was pledged in 1975.

The increased amount in 1984 was a response to a letter sent to all parishioners by the Warden and Members of the Vestry. Two paragraphs from that letter which indicated the spirit of the parish noted by others follow:

During the past three months we have had several different guest priests for the celebration of Holy Communion at St. Luke's. Each of these men has expressed his admiration for our congregation. Each one has spoken of the WARMTH OF THE PEOPLE and the SPIRIT OF LOVE which seems to prevail at St. Luke's.

Each year this spirit of love is manifest in the support members of the parish have given their church--St. Luke's. Once again it is time to show our love for the church and our fellow members, by making a generous pledge for the continuation of the church's work in Wamego and its environs, we will be showing this love.

At the annual meeting of the parish in January, 1984, the parishioners were apprised of action being considered by the vestry; the inception of an Endowment Fund. The purposes of the fund were outlined to the parish.

The major purpose of the Endowment Fund will be to have a source of income from the interest accruing from the fund. This income can be used to reduce our dependency upon the Diocese for operating expenses.

Subsidiary, but important to the major purpose would be the opportunity the fund offers for persons wishing to make gifts, bequest, and

special offerings. The donors to an Endowment Fund will know the major purpose for which their contributions will be used.

With the increased support of the parishioners, it became possible for the vestry to begin planning for the future. In 1982, the Landmark Company, an architectural firm, was employed to make plans for the future. These plans involved extensive change in the church plant. In August of 1984 the vestry began a plan of extensive renovation of the church plant, but not the addition of rooms or other space. The purpose of the renovation was to make necessary repairs, increase the usefulness of the Guild Hall, and make the plant more energy efficient.

ST. LUKE'S GUILD

One product of the Years of Change was the reduced role of the St. Luke's Guild in the operation of the church. In the Second Century, except for the Johnny Kaw Fair and an occasional smaller project, present day members of St. Luke's Guild no longer feel the necessity for extensive money-raising activities. In this century, the women no longer pay for the utilities or other general operating expenses. The contribution of the Guild members has been toward adding additional features for increased comfort or beauty.

Women who have served as president of St. Luke's Guild since 1970 have been Mrs. Glenn Meyer, Mrs. William Kaine, Mrs. Fred Baker, Mrs. Victor Picolet, Mrs. Paul Murray, Mrs. Laurence Mertz, Mrs. J. Harvey Littrell, and Mrs. Douglas Elcock.

The Johnny Kaw Fair

Since the first Johnny Kaw Fair in 1966, the event has become increasingly an important event for the city of Wamego. No longer is it merely a money making project for St. Luke's Guild. In the April 26, 1984, issue of The Wamego Times an excellent explanation was made of the history and nature of the fair.

Episcopal women prepare for 18th Johnny Kaw Arts and Crafts Fair

St. Luke's Episcopal Church will present the 18th annual Johnny Kaw Arts and Craft Fair on May 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Luke's Guild Hall, Seventh and Lincoln, Wamego.

Lunch will be available and Mrs. Mamie Young will be baking her donuts again this year.

Jean and Bill Birk are chairmen and will be assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Dick Winkler. Sixty-three exhibitors have registered. Twenty are new exhibitors with 43 returning from last year. The main floor, basement and outside will be used. The Sweet Adelines will again provide some musical entertainment. Admission is free

and browsers and buyers alike are welcome.

The fair has grown the past few years. The majority of new exhibitors hear about the fair by word of mouth. The fair is listed in the 1984 Kansas Arts and Craft Fair booklet published by the Kansas Arts Commission.

Some of the crafts that will be featured this year are dolls, wood turning, wood cuts, wood picture frames, crochet items, needlepoint, taxidermy, wheat weaving, pottery, stoneware, hand painted china, puppets, turquoise jewelry, wood toys, leather items, stuffed toys, macrame, flower arrangements, stained glass,

ceramics, water color painting, oil painting, tole painting, acrylic painting and ink prints.

The Johnny Kaw Arts and Craft Fair originated in 1966, and was started by Wamego YWCA. It was named Johnny Kaw because of its pioneering nature and its goal to promote art in the area. Two YWCA women, Mrs. Carl Pageler and Mrs. Darrell Buzan, conceived this idea after recognizing the large number of local artists and the need to expose their work to the public. Women of St. Luke's Episcopal Church took on the fair approximately six years later because they did not want to see this successful program leave Wamego. The congregation of St. Luke's has continued to support and promote the fair ever since.

In 1976, the Johnny Kaw Fair became a city celebration and was held all day on Saturday and on Sunday afternoon. An advertising notice for the Fair is in Appendix A. In 1977, many parishioners and the rector, Father Weaver, felt that it was inappropriate to operate on Sunday. Many of the workers felt it was too tiring a task. The profit that year was about \$200 more than the profit the previous two years; therefore, the extra time was not of great advantage. The profit each year in recent years has been between \$1200 and \$1400.

In 1978, the Guild sponsored the Johnny Kaw Fair, but the Wamego Hospital Guild had the food table. In 1979, the Fair was held on Saturday in the Guild Hall in the Masonic Hall on Sunday afternoon. The Chamber of Commerce helped sponsor the Fair, but did not earn money. Since that year, the Johnny Kaw Fair has been a one-day project, held only on Saturday in the Guild Hall.

Individuals who have served as chairpersons through out the years in sponsoring the Johnny Kaw Fair have been Sue Danker, Waunita Leonard, Susan Toy, Isabel Mertz, Douglas Elcock, and Bill and Jean Birk. The latter served as co-chairpersons. In recent years Dick and Myrlene Winkler have co-chaired the "lunch room" for the Fair. Many individuals have contributed their time and efforts in setting up the tables, selling at the St. Luke's Guild booth, and serving lunches. The women of the church have baked many hundreds of pies to be sold at the lunch counter.

Additional Activities of St. Luke's Guild

Other money making projects of the Guild in addition to the Johnny Kaw Fair have been an auction, a Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast and Hot Dog Stand. In 1978 they netted \$600 with the Hot Dog Stand; but the next year they only netted \$140. Other events have been a Soup Day and a Flea Market Day. An important money-making project in 1982 was the writing and selling of Cook Books. Two hundred books were sold at \$3.50 each.

A project, which was not a money-making project, was the construction of kneeling pads at the Altar Rail. These kneeling pads were all needlepoint work. Margaret DeBord procured the designs and was in charge of the project. Members of the Guild did the needlework.

The Guild members continue to make the necessary preparations for receptions and pot-luck dinners. In 1983 the Guild installed an exhaust fan in Guild Hall. Although it cost them over \$800, the after-church coffee hours have been much more pleasant because of their purchase. In 1984, the Guild purchased twenty new chairs for Guild Hall.

Through the years the Guild has continued to be altruistic. For example in 1970 they gave \$198.10 to various organizations---Rt. Reverend Mize's work in Africa, the St. Francis Boys' Home, the Good Shepherd Indian Mission, and the Turner House in Kansas City. When Grace Cathedral in Topeka was burned, the Guild sent \$25 to help in the rebuilding.

CHURCH SCHOOL

At the start of St. Luke's second century in 1970, Glenna Johnstone and Blanche Kaine were the teachers in the Church School. During the year members of the Dewese family provided money for the basement to be painted. Myrline and Dick Winkler, who also became Church School teachers, did the painting. In addition to those mentioned, other teachers during the seventies were Barbara MacMillan, Jan Vanderbilt, and Judy Hildreth. Later in the eighties others also became teachers. They were Susan Burgess, Gail Campbell, and Cinnie Hill.

Several innovations in the work with the youth of the church were made during the second century. Each seems to illustrate the Renewed Spirit in St. Luke's. In 1971, an experiment was tried. On the first Sunday of each month there was a family breakfast, and then the children stayed for the church service. At that time Tina Warnow, and Barbara MacMillan were assisting Blanche Kaine. In 1975, Dick Martin was in charge of the Church School, and he urged the re-formation and continuation of the Adult class.

The first Summer Bible School was held with thirty-four children and four teachers in 1977. The next year, thirty-one children attended. A change was made in the Summer School format in 1982. In that year Jennifer Edwards, the choir director, held a church music school for the children. In 1984, Father Crim, being new in the parish used the Summer School to become better acquainted with the children. Margaret Buie helped the children in making various keepsakes with a church theme. These were designed to have artistic quality.

Starting in 1977, the children on the Sunday after Easter have had a ceremony called the "Flowering of the Cross". Flowers which are brought from their homes and the homes of other parishioners are carried to the front of the church by the children. There they are placed on a large, upright wooden cross. The ceremony is beautiful most years. However, in 1983, Kansas had a late, cold spring and flowers were scarce. Families had to search every shrub and plant trying to find blooms. Needless to say, the cross that year was a little bedraggled.

Father Berdahl had a Youth Sunday. On that Sunday the youth of the church took the various roles generally played by adults, other than the priest. The youth who were the Lay Readers were John Price, Todd Campbell, and Thomas Vanderbilt.

In recent years a real effort has been made to celebrate Christmas during the Christmas season and not before. Therefore, the old-fashioned Christmas party during the week preceding Christmas Day is no longer considered theologically suitable. At St. Luke's, the Christmas tree and get-together follow the Christmas Eve service. The important celebration is the Epiphany Play. In this Play the children assume various roles. The play presently being used was written by Peder and Betty Berdahl. Following the Epiphany Service, an Epiphany Cake is cut. This cake is filled with various prizes.

A tradition was revived in 1984 when Don and Carolyn Tessororf invited members of the Parish to hold a picnic at their farm. Although the picnic was a parish picnic and not solely for the Church School, the children were the center of attention. A pond in which the children could swim was a major attraction. Even some adults took part. The occasion was similar to the one illustrated by the Church School picnic picture

included in Part Five. Even though there are changes in society and in institutions, some longings and pleasures continue to exist.

MUSIC

Two major musical events occurred during the Seventies and Eighties. First, the choir was re-organized to include both adults and youth; and second, a pipe organ was purchased and installed.

The Choir

In the early part of the 1970's, the only time there was a choir was for special occasions, such as Christmas and Easter. The choir was a "pick-up" choir. Among the individuals who were called upon for the occasions were Alfred Burgess, Joyce Elcock, Richard Winkler, Myrline Winkler, Jan Vanderbilt, and Barbara MacMillan. After the choir was reorganized to include children, other adults joined the choir; among them were Arlie Purcell, Joe Bramledge, Theresa Colson, and Gail Campbell. Today the choir has several of the people named above, but many new ones have been added. In 1984, the choir members were directed by Jennifer Edwards, a professor of vocal music at Kansas State University, and a communicant at St. Luke's. It is of interest to know that Jennifer was the first person ever confirmed by Bishop Grein.



St. Luke's Choir, September 1984

Top row, l.to r.: Richard Winkler, Joyce Elcock, Jan Vanderbilt, Joie Crim, Susan Sedlecek. Second row: Myrline Winkler, Katie Winkler, Andrew Vanderbilt, Matthew Elcock, Corey Winkler, Ann Winkler, Margie Winkler, Mary Winkler, Lucinda Clingenpeel, Jennifer Edwards. Bottom row: Cheryl Hill, Ted Winkler, John Elcock, Mike Winkler. Member absent: Ellen Edwards, Patricia and David Frey, Jason Jensen.

The Organ

As early as 1972, members of the vestry had been considering the need for a new organ. The Hammond electric organ was becoming erratic in its behavior. It gave a particularly embarrassing performance one Sunday when the Bishop celebrated Holy Communion. It was also becoming difficult and expensive to find needed parts. Finally in 1981, the vestry decided it was time to act. Father Peder Berdahl was instrumental in helping them make the decision.

The need for a new organ was presented in a letter to the parishioners prior to the Annual Meeting . A portion of that letter read,

.....the need for a new organ for our church is a critical one. Music has been an important part of the worship of our church for a long time, and the present instrument is in imminent danger of breaking down permanently. The vestry decided that an instrument of quality and flexibility is required both to continue to provide us with the standard of music to which we have become accustomed and which would be capable of building on this foundation. We wanted an instrument that would be suitable for the accompaniment of congregational singing and choir anthems, yet capable of playing the finest of organ literature. All this was to be done within the confines of a cost that this congregation could afford.

At the Annual Meeting the parishioners voted to buy a four rank organ custom designed for St. Luke's. The organ selected was made by the Reuter Organ Company of Lawrence, Kansas. The organ selected has four ranks and 335 pipes. The cost of the organ completely installed and tuned for the building was \$33,777.

An Organ Fund Committee was created by the vestry. The members were Richard Winkler, Chairman, J. W. DeBord, Ralph Fane, and Myrline Winkler. The latter person was the representative of the vestry on the committee. Just five months after their formation, and prior to the installation of the organ, the committee announced, "A sizeable gift has put us over the top. The organ will be completely paid for out of gifts and pledges".

For several years Karen Sedlacek was the organist. When Karen married Joe Bramledge, the choir sang at her wedding in her home town of Marysville. When Karen resigned in May, 1982, Dr. Robert Edwards, a Professor of Music at Kansas State University, became the organist. He was the organist for the Evensong and Dedication of the Organ on Sunday, December 5, 1982. A copy of the program is in Appendix A. Upon the resignation of Dr. Edwards, Susan Sedlacek became the organist.

An article about the dedication of the organ appeared in The Wamego Times on December 2, 1982. This article is reproduced on the page which follows.

At the time the Hammond Organ was installed it had been dedicated to Mrs. Lowry, who had supplied much of the money for its purchase. Therefore, when the new pipe organ as installed the old Hammond was removed, and Father Crim had a service of "de-consecration". The brass plate with the dedication statement was removed from the Hammond and placed on the wall of the church near where the organ had stood for over three decades.

St. Luke's to dedicate organ on December 5

The congregation of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Seventh and Lincoln, Wamego, announces the service of dedication of the organ and first recital.

The event will take place Sunday, December 5, at 5 p.m. The entire congregation will take part in the dedication which will include the singing of Evensong, reading the Book of Remembrance, and the dedication of the organ. Following the dedication, a recital will be given by Robert Edwards, associate professor of music and director of keyboard studies at Kansas State University. Edwards is the organist at St. Luke's Church.

This is a day which has been long anticipated by the congregation and culminates a project that began several years ago. The congregation's music program is known in the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas to be one of the finest small-church programs.

In January 1982, the congregation made the decision to purchase a pipe organ after much research on the part of several people, and selected The Reuter Organ Company of Lawrence to construct the instrument. The organ was installed, tuned and tonally finished in September. The project was financed entirely by gifts and pledges from the congregation and friends of St. Luke's, both in Wamego and throughout the United States.

rites of the church

Confirmation

Since the beginning of the second century there have been thirty-seven confirmations at St. Luke's. Those confirmees who are still attending St. Luke's are: Douglas Allen Elcock, Cheri Clerihan Pugh, Thomas Allen Vanderbilt, Ralph Elwood Fane, Charlotte Mae Fane, Jennifer Edwards, Neil William Buie, Lee Ann Seager, Ann Elizabeth Winkler, Kathryn Lynn Winkler, Mary Jo Winkler, Adrian Corey Winkler, Jeffrey Joe Jensen, Jennifer Lee Jensen, Andrew Robert Vanderbilt, James Adam Hildreth, Brian Eric Hill,, Sherry Ann Burgess, Susan Burgess, Barbara Jones, and Patricia Frey. (See Appendix C for complete list).

There are several children who have yet to be confirmed who attend church. Some of these children sing in the choir; others come with their parents to church. These children are Ted and Michael Winkler; Catherine, Jacob, and Ted Pugh; Eric and Drew Smith; Cheryl Hill; Katharine Stark; Hannah Rebekah Clingenpeel; Susan, Angelena, and Christina Burgess; and Benjamin and Jennifer Cohen.

Marriages

In 1979 two prominent members of St. Luke's Church were married on February twenty-second. David Frey has served and continues to serve the church in many roles--Warden, Vestryman, Lay Reader, and Choir Member. His bride, Pat Rogers, has been a Choir Member and has assisted in other church activities.

Three unusual matrimonial events occurred in St. Luke's in the 1980's. On April 21, 1980, Anna and Scott Gibbs wedding which had been performed previously in a civil ceremony was blessed in a religious ceremony at the church.

On January 28, 1981, the first time a rector of the church was married in St. Luke's took place. The Reverend Peder Berdahl and Betty Joyce Burke exchanged vows. Following the ceremony, there was a reception for the parishioners in Guild Hall.

Donald and Carolyn Tessororf hosted a reception, dinner, and dance in the Guild Hall on January 7, 1984 to honor their son, Steven, and his bride, Colleen Esperlaub. Prior to the reception, Mark and Colleen renewed their vows in a church ceremony. Their wedding had been in Colleen's home of Evansville, Indiana.

Deaths

During the decade of the 70's, some long time parishioners and active participants at St. Luke's died. One tragic death was that of Sophia Ingram, who was killed in an automobile accident near Wamego. At the time of her death she was a communicant at St. Paul's in Manhattan, but as a girl and young woman she had been a member at St. Luke's. She had also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Northwest Convocation. Sophia's mother, Georgiana Rankin, was a long-time member of St. Luke's.

The son of a former rector and husband of Virginia Boyce, long time organist at St. Luke's, Mr. James Boyce died during the decade. Several women who had been very active in the church as Church School teachers, Guild officers, and Altar Guild members died during the decade. These women were Gale Parsons Dawe, Golda Jones Johnstone, Catherine Kuster Pugh, Genevieve Rogers Smith, Eunice Weybrew Deweese, Ella Sessler, Edna Lister, Elizabeth Tauer, and Daisy Picolet.

In the 1980's three men died who had served on the vestry and various other leadership activities. Wilford Vilven and Glenn Franklin Meyer, both had served many terms on the vestry and had helped to maintain the church through the lean financial years. The third man, Paul R. Murray, though newer in the church, had served on the vestry and was faithful in his attendance at church services. A tragic automobile accident resulted in the death of Douglas Kaine, a communicant of the church, and son of long time members, William and Blanche Kaine.

Several women who had been active in the church in Guild activities died in the 1980's. They were Alta Smith Parsons, Freda Louise Pitney, Mabel Mitchell, Charlotte Gilmore, and Veda Burgess. Freda Pitney had served on the vestry, and Veda Burgess served many years on the Altar Guild and as Pledge Secretary of the church. She was the mother of Joyce Elcock, who is still a communicant. The most recent death was that of Virginia Prunty Boyce, the organist at St. Luke's for thirty years. She died in September, 1984.

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

In 1977, Edna Batchelor gave the church \$3000 for restoring the inside of the church, and then in 1978, she gave a new dossal. When the pipe organ was installed, the beautiful dossal was hung on the wall by the organist where it could be enjoyed by the congregation.

Using Memorial Fund money in 1978, the church purchased a new Pascal Candle Holder for \$143. The same year the vestry voted to buy a lectern for the Gospel side of the altar in memory of Elizabeth Tauer and Daisy Picolett. Presently the lectern is used in the vestibule window to hold the Guest Book.

On November 23, 1980, funds given in memory of Harold J. Weaver were used to buy an Altar Book and a Book of the Gospels, both of which were for the revised service. Father Weaver was rector of St. Luke's until his death in August of 1978. In a letter to the Bishop, the Reverend Peder G. Berdahl asked the Bishop to dedicate the Books. In his letter Father Berdahl said, "He (Father Weaver) was loved here and it was felt that, his views on the new Prayer Book notwithstanding, this was an appropriate memorial". Those parishioners who were close friends of Father Weaver feel that he too would have accepted the changes eventually, and that he would have approved of this purchase.

Funds given in memory of Paul Murray were used, at the request of his widow, Carolyn Murray, to purchase new curtains for the Guild Hall. Choir Books were given to the church by the Guild in memory of Freda Pitney. In 1984, Mrs. Fred Baker gave a much needed telephone communication set in memory of her husband, Fred Baker. The set permits calls to be placed to the church in absence of personnel in the office. It permits the rector to return those calls.

Margaret Buie designed a Church Flag for St. Luke's. She used one of the window designs as the motif for the Flag. Ann Price and Betty Berdahl constructed the flag. The three women presented their work as a gift to the church.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

During the 1970's, the Episcopal Church throughout the nation was engaged in having Trial Liturgies using what was called "The Green Book". Because some of the liturgical forms and their wording were distasteful to many Episcopalians, the term, "Green Book" had a very negative connotation.

As in other churches, there was considerable discontent with the Trial Liturgies which preceded the change from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer to the new version. The vestry minutes in this period of time reflected the discontent. In 1971, the vestry asked that the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) be used on Christmas Eve. Then because of the unrest, Trial Liturgies were postponed until after the First Sunday after Lent.

In 1972, the vestry asked to have the BCP for Easter, and also requested that there be a service at 8:30 every Sunday with the BCP and the Trial Liturgy at 9:30. No official evidence could be found that such a plan occurred. By 1974, the BCP was used exclusively for three or four months.

When Father Weaver came in 1976, there were no Trial Liturgies during his tenure from October of that year until his death in August, 1978. However, after the new Book of Common Prayer became official, St. Luke's parish has used it exclusively. Many Episcopalians of long standing are still unsure of the newer liturgy. To them it was much simpler to follow the rule they had grown up practicing, that is, "You kneel to pray, you stand to praise, and you sit for instruction".

Whitsunday on May 2, 1977 was designated as Founders Day in which "...we remember all of the people who have founded our church". The Warden and Wauneta

Leonard composed a letter sent "...to any one who had anything to do with St. Luke's to attend this service". They enclosed an envelope for an offering with the letter.

As the years passed, evidence of a Renewed spirit could be seen in the increased number of families in the church and in the increased church attendance. Father Berdahl started having a second morning service on Sunday at 8:00. This early service has been continued by Father Crim.

Through the years many activities for Spiritual Growth have been incorporated into the Church's program. Both Father Weaver and Father Berdahl conducted study group sessions at various times during the year, not just during Lent. A Prayer Committee of individuals was formed to offer prayers for those who desired them. The Guild sponsored a daytime study group one year.

When the Diocese of Kansas sponsored the Venture in Mission to raise funds for many diocesan needs, St. Luke's participated. Joyce Elcock was appointed to chair the drive for funds. It is to the credit of St. Luke's parishioners, that although they were having an Organ Fund Drive at the same time, they met their goal for the Venture in Mission also. St. Luke's pledged \$11,132 for the Venture in Mission.

There are two groups of individuals whose services add greatly to the church services, and hence to Spiritual Growth of the parishioners. These two groups are the Altar Guild and the Acolytes. Unfortunately, no written records exist which list the individuals who have given their time to these two functions.

An attempt was made to secure names of Altar Guild members from others who have participated. It was concluded that practically every woman on the church rolls had at some time or other served on the Altar Guild. However, in talking with both past and present members of the Altar Guild, four names were most frequently mentioned as deserving of receiving special recognition. The four women were Ethel Doll and Dorothy Burgess--"You can always depend on them to be at the brass polishing meeting", Gwen Smith, "Faithful in her duties for many years", and Daisy Picolett--"She did all the altar linens for years".

The list of names of Acolytes who have served at the altar at St. Luke's since 1970 is probably incomplete. The names given to the writer by members and by others who have served were: Mark and Steven Tessoroff; Barton, Keir, and Joel MacMillan; Rex Leonard; Carrie Martin; Shari Danker; John Price; Todd Campbell; Thomas and Andrew Vanderbilt; Ellen Edwards; Brian Hill; and Corey, Ann, Katie, Mary, Margie, Teddy, and Michael Winkler.

A Message from Bishop Richard F. Grein

That the Spiritual Life at St. Luke's is healthy has been noted by The Right Reverend Richard Grein in the short time he has been Bishop of Kansas. In an interview with the author, Bishop Grein remarked that there were three important aspects of Spiritual Life which he had noted in St. Luke's.

1. A characteristic I noticed most about St. Luke's was that the people cooperate and work together. They genuinely like one another.

2. Of equal importance are the individuals at St. Luke's, who by what they do in their everyday lives, witness in a unique way to Christianity.

3. St. Luke's is unique and fortunate in the way they accept new people and the new life these new people bring to the church.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

The year 1984 is the 115th year that St. Luke's Episcopal Church has existed in Wamego, Kansas. Through the years, from its organization in 1870, until the present time, St. Luke's has had periods in which there were great hopes for the future, and periods when the people were discouraged.

Presently St. Luke's Episcopal Church is in a period the writer perceives as one of Renewed Spirit. Whether or not this Spirit continues depends upon the willingness of the parishioners to seek and abide by God's will. It seems appropriate therefore, to conclude this history with a Collect from our Book of Common Prayer,

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.