

A SHORT HISTORY OF ST. GEORGE'S

St. George's Parish was founded by St. Paul's Church in Oakwood following a survey of the Kettering-Washington Township area. In late March, 1954, services were begun in the Kettering Room of the Merchant's Bank in Town & Country (now the First National Bank of Dayton). On September 1, the first Priest-in-Charge, and present Rector, The Rev. Frederick A. Pope, came from New Hampshire to take charge of the new mission. In December, 1954, the new mission was admitted as a Diocesan Mission as "St. George's Episcopal Church," named for the Patron Saint of England, St. George the Martyr. In May, 1955, the first building campaign was held, and the design of the first unit, the parish hall, was begun by Mr. Craig Cowden, who is also the architect for the church, itself. Construction was begun in April of 1956 by the James Beale Construction Company, also contractors for the new church. In January of 1956, the congregation, because of its rapid growth in size, moved to the Oakview School, and on March 3, 1957, first services were held in the newly opened parish hall.

In April, 1960, owing again to the increase of the congregation, a parish meeting was held, and it was voted to build the church. The building campaign began in September, 1960, and ground was broken for the new church in June of 1961. The new church will seat approximately 480 persons and cost approximately \$325,000. The church, with its undercroft and church school rooms, together with the parish hall, will adequately provide for the work of the parish and the church life of its members. At present, St. George's has 600 communicants and 1300 baptized members.

The Dedication of the Church comes a little over nine years after the beginning of the parish.