

Willoughby E.U.B. church has suffered the same as all rural churches from a continual loss of members as they move to take employment in the urban areas. However, most generous support for some of the expansion projects has come from these former members who moved away or from their children who have given in their parent's memory.

Pastor of the church for 22 years prior to his retirement on June 30, 1966 was Rev. C. T. Houck of Niagara Falls, a twin brother of the late William L. (Bill) Houck, M.L.A. and M.P. for many years. Rev. Houck also served as Sunday School Superintendent for 35 years prior to 1951.

The present pastor is Rev. George Wilkinson of Waterloo, who is taking further studies at Waterloo University while serving as pastor. He is married and has two children.

Ross Somerville is in charge of the senior Sunday School and Mrs. Carman Sauer heads the Junior Sunday School. The Junior Sunday School carries on a very worthwhile training program among the children of the community.

ST. JOSEPH'S, SNYDER

St. Joseph's Church, Snyder (New Germany), celebrated its centenary in 1949. Thus St. Joseph's Church pre-dates Canada's Confederation by some seventeen years.

While the church and parish have always been known as St. Joseph's, the names that have been used in reference to the area around the Church have not always been one and the same, and indeed are not even as of the present.

In the beginning, the Church was known as St. Joseph's Black Creek. But because the settlers who came to this area all spoke German, it came to be known as St. Joseph's New Germany. The post office was at Stevensville. Ultimately a post office was established in the village and given the name Snyder after a Lutheran minister who resided here at the time. In 1920, the post office was discontinued and the rural mail route known as R.R. No. 2, Stevensville, was inaugurated.

Today the parish is officially designated St. Joseph's Snyder, but among the people New Germany seems a more popular name.

From the parish records, the first settlers of German nationality were Jacob Schihl and his wife Catherine, and they were soon followed by others from Germany and Alsace. In 1837 Father John Wiriath of Berlin

At this time, the Diocese of Kingston embraced all of Ontario, but in 1842 the Diocese of Toronto was established under Bishop Power and St. Joseph's became a part of the Diocese of Toronto. The number of priests in the diocese was small and the territory huge. In German settlements such as St. Joseph's, language made the problem greater. Thus the people of St. Joseph's Black Creek might not see a priest for months on end. They baptised their own children and buried their own dead.

In 1848 the construction of a church began, apparently under the direction of the Jesuit Fathers. It was blessed on June 24, 1849, the feast of St. John the Baptist and dedicated to St. Joseph. The first baptism registered in the new church was Catherine Critz, baptised at home and on June 3, three baptisms took place in the Church itself, Frances Blonde, Eva Koenig and Frederick Stephan. The priest, who administered the Sacraments in these instances, was Rev. Lucas Caveng, S.J., who later founded St. Michael's parish in Buffalo and built St. Michael's Church there. The first marriage recorded was that of Felix Waibl and Eleanor Hein on June 2, 1849. In 1853 Bishop de Charbonnel conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation in the church for the first time, confirming a class of fifty seven.

From 1849 to 1860 the parish was served by a number of priests, some religious some secular. In 1860 the Jesuit Fathers from Buffalo took over the parish and served it until 1880. In a report to Bishop Lynch of Toronto in 1864, Father Kottman wrote of St. Joseph's "there are 50 families here and they are scattered in the woods." In 1880 the Carmelite Fathers took over the parish and had care of it until the coming of Rev. Wilfred Gavard. Too much could not be said to the zeal and devotion of the Carmelite Fathers during these 66 years. They will long be remembered by the people of New Germany.

In 1946 Father Wilfred Gavard became pastor and took up his duties on June 26 of that year. In 1951 Rev. Alphonse McNicholl became pastor. During Father McNicholl's tenure of office two very important additions were made to the parish, through the building of St. Joseph's and St. Pius Schools. Then in September 1957 Cardinal McGuigan gave St. Joseph's its first resident pastor, Rev. John Marvyn, who is pastor at the present time. In the last nine years, the parish has seen St. Joseph's School in