

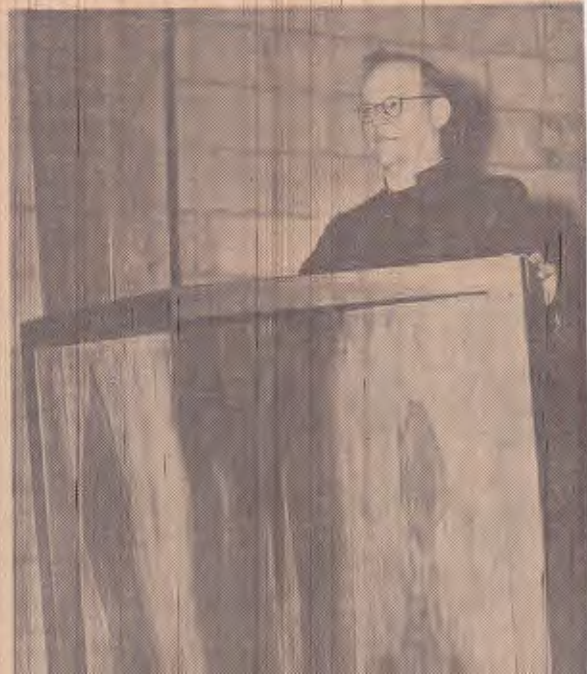
# Traditional Goes Modern



*CROSS is concave, showing the absence of Christ, who is risen; ends of crossbar point toward Heaven, Rector Mason explains.*



*PULPIT is made of African cherry, matched to produce effect of lighted candles; wood has character to it, church designers emphasize.*





**F**OR the families who make up the congregation of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Haworth, it seemed as if God were against them in their efforts to obtain property for and start on the construction of a new church.

Truly the congregation could have felt that its efforts for a new church were being opposed on all sides, but today it can realize the waiting was worth the delay and the house of worship is one of which it can be proud.

The congregation, which numbers about 160 families, is now located in its new church and parish hall off Massachusetts Avenue. For the first 36 years of the church's existence, it was housed in a small sanctuary off New Milford Avenue in Dumont.

There is considerable background to the move of the church, which started as a mission of All Saint's Episcopal Church of Bergenfield in 1922. After the property for the new church was purchased from the Borough of Haworth, the church was involved in litigation over the terms of the sale.

It was finally resolved so the church obtained a clear title for the site.

In the same period the church received a new vicar, the Rev. John T. Mason Jr., a native of Illinois who was chaplain to Episcopal students at the University of Maine before coming to the Diocese of Newark. Mr. Mason's experiences at the University were to affect the future of the church construction and provide it with some unique elements as integral parts of the sanctuary.

The church obtained John Trich of Oradell as architect for the new building. In March of 1957 ground for the new church was broken. Work started last July. Trich designed an edifice which captures the traditional but also incorporated some modern concepts. He has given the church an unusually high ceiling.

Problems, of a pleasant nature, developed when Mr. Mason suggested Joyce and Edgar Anderson of Morristown, whom the Masons met when they worked on a new chapel at Maine University, be asked to design the elements for the interior of the church.

Known as design craftsmen, the Andersons were to carve in their own styling the cross, altar, lectern, pulpit, and altar railing.

The Andersons admit whatever they design and make they do to please themselves and they are never really sure what the final product will be. They had to incorporate their ideas and still convey the idea the church desired.

The biggest, if not most difficult task, was the 18- by 13-foot cross which hangs against the inside wall of the church, behind the altar. It is made of Honduras mahogany. The Andersons worked from a 1-inch model of the cross. The cross, concave to show the absence of Christ who has risen, also has the cross-piece slightly turned up at each end pointing to Heaven. It took three men the better part of a day to set the cross in place.

Working with the wood chosen for the lectern and pulpit proved the most difficult. The wood used was African cherry. It was the first and probably the last time the Andersons will use the wood.

Cutting the wood and the resultant dust proved to cause an allergy due to a natural abrasive in the wood. Cutting tools were soon dulled by the wood, but view of the final results will prove the Anderson choice was right. As they say, "The wood has a character to it."

By meticulously selecting and matching the wood, the Andersons produced a lighted-candle design from the grain in the pulpit and lectern. The latter was also designed to produce an open book appearance as viewed from the congregation.

The altar was another problem. The Andersons were opposed to anything that was box-type for the altar. They felt it was dishonest to have a box which was not to be used as such.

Many designs were suggested before a decision was made on the altar. As designed it presents a 2-faced table—one the front facing the congregation, and the other the surface proper of the altar.

It was only a few days before the dedication of the new church on April 26 that the major work on the church interior was completed. Minor details are still to be completed.

In their new church the members have an energetic vicar to lead them. Mr. Mason served in the Office of Naval Intelligence for 5 years during World War II. He entered General Theological Seminary after the war.

After the seminary, Mr. Mason started his

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ministry as assistant and later associate rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Bethesda, Md. He later served on Diocese mission work in New York City.

Married to the former Marion Elizabeth Branch of Mexico City, the couple undertook college work at the University of Maine. Mr. Mason as chaplain and Mrs. Mason as an instructor. The Masons served there for 3 years before coming here.

Besides his work with St. Luke's, Mr. Mason

serves on the Diocesan College Work Committee and is Episcopal chaplain to the students and staff of Fairleigh Dickinson University on the Teaneck campus.

Currently the Masons are residing in Hackensack, but in the near future a rectory will be built near the church.

With a new church and an energetic rector, St. Luke's can look to the future confident it can surmount any problems which may confront it.