

FOOTPRINTS



THE STORY OF
ROSENEATH
UNITED CHURCH

1881 - 1981

FOREWORD

CHRIST'S BODY — THE CHURCH

by

The Reverend W. E. Stephenson



We might well get the idea that we are united in the church by virtue of our talents. The president of the Church Women is often chosen for her organizational ability, the Stewards Board members for their financial management talents, the Elders for their sensitivity in caring for people's spiritual needs, the organist for her musical acumen, the Sunday School staff for their ability to articulate the faith and the preacher for his communication skills.

In reality I suggest that just the opposite is the case. The church is a fellowship of men, women and children who are united by a negative. Precisely at the point of their confession of weakness are they the strongest. The church is grounded on the need of her members. It is what we lack that unites us. It is when we admit that we cannot make it on our own and acknowledge our sin, which is not wrong-doing but wrong-being, that the Holy Spirit works through us in this army of wounded healers. In the brother-

hood of the church our liabilities become assets to God. The widow or widower can take the loneliness and hurt and turn it into a blessing as she or he helps the newly-bereaved person through the crisis steps of denial, anger, bargaining, depression and finally acceptance. The divorcee can help the newly-separated person and thus turn his or her negative into a positive. Even the student who has failed a year can be helpful to those who have failed an examination. Indeed, it is often those who have struggled most with a subject who make the best teachers because they can identify with the difficulty that the student faces and not simply become impatient with the new learner.

It is through our humility and experience of failure and suffering that we are able to identify with others who struggle and therefore become their ally and helper by walking side by side and standing with that person in solidarity. This is the church of the future!

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INTRODUCTION

January, 1881 "At a meeting of the trustees of the
Rosenearth Congregation of the Methodist Church called by the Rev.
Wm. Buchanan the deed for a church site purchased
from the heirs of the late G. Liscum being part of lot 17 in the
2 concession of the Township of Alnwick was laid on the table ..."

.....

February, 1882 "At a meeting of the trustees
Moved by W. Macklin, seconded by E. Macklin that the church be
opened on the 26 instant."

.....

Some time between these two dates of one hundred years ago the
Rosenearth Methodist Church, now Rosenearth United Church, was built,
and if all went according to plan, on February 26, 1882, its doors
must have opened to welcome its first congregation to the service
of worship, led by its minister, the Rev. William Buchanan.

In 1981 the committee in charge of planning our Centennial
celebrations wishes to record the story of this church from its be-
ginnings within the Alnwick Methodist Circuit to its present posi-
tion as part of the Hastings - Rosenearth Pastoral Charge, recogniz-
ing that its present membership is descended from many former
churches, some long closed, and others more recently so. We are
grateful that our forefathers preserved the records of their church
business as well as they did, but unfortunately there are gaps in
the information where we have to use our imaginations, supplemented
by the memories of some of our oldest members. For any errors or
omissions, we offer our regrets.

To all who have helped in compiling this tale of what one form-
er minister calls "the church built on a rock", we extend our thanks;
and to all who read it, we hope that it will bring alive the heri-
tage of its early days, revive our personal memories of its more
recent years, and deepen our resolve to make the second century of
this church a story even more worth telling.

THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Rev. Wm. Stephenson
Douglas Coyle
Helen Gallagher
Marion Hartford
Fred Lewis
Lois Linton

Doris McMillan
Thelma Stephenson
Ruby Thackeray
Beatrice Timlin
Reginald Timlin
Averta Tucker

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CHAPTER ONE

ROOTS -- 1855-1881

For the story of Methodism in this area before Roseneath Church came into being we are indebted mainly to an old minute book entitled "Recording Steward's Book Alnwick Circuit Minutes" whose first entry is dated August 5, 1855. The purchase price of the book is still written inside the front cover -- 7/6 -- given in English currency which was still in use in what was then popularly known as "Upper Canada".

From the early entries of this book it is clear that Methodists were meeting in several localities, without church buildings, but organized under the name "Alnwick Methodist Circuit". The classes were known as Macklin's, Sherwin's, Ebenezer, Rankin's, Fenella, and Bomanton. They were served by the same minister, the first one mentioned in 1855 being J. Ivison, but each class had its local class leader and recording steward.

It is evident from the records that their quarterly board meetings were held in the local school-houses in turn: "August 4, 1855 in Macklin's school-house; 3rd Nov. 1855 in Rankin's school-house; 26 Feb. 1856 in Sherwin's school-house; 16 May, 1856 in Weir's school-house." etc. Sabbath services were likely held there also, but one item of the minutes mentions a service conducted in the woods near Macklin's and another in "Brother Brisbin's barn". It is to be hoped they enjoyed favourable weather on these occasions! In Nov. 1856, it was recorded that -- "Sabbath services were conducted by Rev. S.O. Rice in Macklin's new chapel. Had an excellent sermon and meeting. Many praying earnestly for a revival. Circuit beginning to look prosperous. We are now supplied with preachers from Victoria College. Br. Willoughby, Supt. of Circuit brings 1 student every Sabbath. Plan works well."

Road conditions were very bad in winter and spring, and one very revealing item says -- "Roads very muddy. Some tried and could not get to chapel." Not only the congregation would suffer difficulty. The circuit rider went by horseback from one locality to another and was boarded at someone's house at circuit expense. Perhaps there were times when even he "tried and could not get to Chapel". In 1857 the total receipts of the circuit were £60.15.11½ which was used to pay the minister's salary, his board (and that of his horse) washing, horse-shoeing, bread and wine for sacrament and the children's fund. If only one of those circuit riders had written a book or published his diary, what a wealth of insight we would have into the church and social life of Alnwick and North Haldimand in the mid-nineteenth century.

By 1857-58, there were 138 names on the six class lists, and in 1859 it was decided to raise the circuit expenses by levying a certain amount on each class with the preacher and leader of each class apportioning it among the members.

It must be remembered that the Methodist Church, begun by John Wesley in England in the eighteenth century, had over the years become a divided one, and the Canadian Methodist settlers were also divided among its branches -- the Wesleyan (to which the Alnwick Circuit belonged), the Methodist Episcopal (to which Merrill's, Embury, and possibly McCarty's belonged), and the New Connection which was re-united with the Wesleyans in 1873. In 1884 there was a union of the Wesleyans and Methodist Episcopalists which resulted in Merrill's church becoming part of the Alnwick Circuit. In the Fenella area there was a Baptist church in which Methodist classes were held, and in Roseneath and Harwood there were Presbyterian congregations which later became a part of Roseneath United Church. In order to make clearer the relevant facts concerning these many congregations,

there follows a brief resume of each one, so that we may appreciate better the many roots of our own church.

MACKLIN'S (later known as BETHANY)

The Macklin chapel built in 1856 must have been the first one erected on the circuit, and was built on a piece of land granted to the trustees by Joseph George on Lot 15, Concession 9 of Haldimand Township. The present church building on that lot was built in 1888. Except for a period of twenty-two years (1884 - 1906) when it was a part of the Centreton Circuit, the Macklin or Bethany congregation was a part of the Alnwick or Roseneath Circuit until it was officially closed in 1930. Decoration Service is still held annually in the adjoining cemetery.

CENTENARY (formerly known as SHERWIN'S)

Centenary Church at Lot 8, Concession 1 of Alnwick Township was built on land from the farm of William Thackeray in 1866, but its congregation had been worshipping for several years in the school-house and was known as Sherwin's class. After a few years its name was changed to Centenary. It remained a part of the Roseneath Circuit and Pastoral Charge until 1966 when it celebrated its Centennial year, and shortly thereafter it officially closed its doors, except for the annual Decoration Day service.

FENELLA (first called FRANKTOWN)

The Fenella church on Highway 45 at lot 21, Concession 9 of Haldimand Township was built in 1885 and officially opened in January 1886 with three services held at 10:00 A.M., 2:30 P.M., and 6:30 P.M. A congregation had existed before this, probably meeting in an earlier building on the same lot because in December 1859 that land was deeded by Thomas and Elizabeth Frank to "the trustees of Franktown congregation of the Methodist Church in Canada in connection with the English Conference", the price paid being five shillings.

In 1865 the name "Alnwick Circuit" was changed to "Fenella Circuit" which it was called until 1889. Fenella Church celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1961. In 1968 its members voted to have it officially closed, and later it was sold to a private owner. The Fenella Sunday School still meets in the Community Hall.

BOMANTON (at first called PLAINS APPOINTMENT)

The old Circuit Register contains names from the Bomanton Class in 1857, but the first mention of a church there is in the minutes of May, 1864 when Bomanton Church was the meeting-place for the quarterly board. As with the Macklin Church, Bomanton was also added to the Centreton Circuit from 1884 - 1906, and then re-united with the Roseneath Circuit until its closing in 1910. The building was sold, and removed in 1913 by its new owners, Everett Turk and John Cowling who used it to make additions to their dwellings.

EBENEZER

Ebenezer Church was first mentioned by name in the minutes of 1861, but its members were listed in the register as early as 1857. It was built about two miles east of Roseneath on one-eighth of an acre of land on the south-east corner of Lot 22, Concession 3 of Alnwick Township, the farm now owned by John Wolfe. The land was deeded to the trustees of Alnwick Methodist Circuit by Christopher Slater on December 22, 1860, for five pounds. No description of the church, or information as to its ultimate disposal, has come to light, but in

the late 1870's its services were discontinued, and when Roseneath Church was built, this piece of land was sold back to John Linton, the new owner of the farm, for forty dollars.

RANKIN'S

There is no evidence that there was ever a church of this name, but "Rankin's Class" was a part of the Alnwick Circuit from the beginning and was led by Mr. Dyer Rankin who farmed the land on the slope just east of the home of Mrs. Warren Atkinson. Mr. Rankin, who was also a local preacher, was named Recording Steward for the circuit in May, 1856, and for the next nine years the minutes are in his handwriting. After reading his minutes and commentaries on the work, one seems well acquainted with him, and he comes across as a man very devoted to his faith and keenly concerned about the welfare of the work on the whole circuit. On one date he recorded with enthusiasm -- "About 100 conversions during past quarter. To God be all the glory." On another date they had -- "a good sermon, but dull meeting", and again after a brief period of controversy on the circuit, he reported -- "The storm on the circuit a little subsided": His minutes must have made good listening at the next meeting!

In the 1870's there was a suggestion that Ebenezer Church be moved to this area known as "Young's Neighbourhood", but we have no record that this was ever done. Since we know that many families from the Darling-Young neighbourhood later attended Dartford Church, we can surmise that what had been Rankin's Class was absorbed into that congregation.

MCCARTY'S

On Lot 27, Concession 8 of Haldimand Township, on land now part of Northumberland Forest, there once was a Methodist Episcopal Church called McCarty's. The only mention of it is in the Alnwick Circuit Register in 1884 when four members -- Hiram Brisbin, Mrs. Brisbin, Joseph Cole and Hannah Cole -- were added to the roll with the notation -- "received from McCarty's". Years later the building was removed to the next farm west to be used as a stable, and there it may still be seen by passersby, its church-window-frame bearing mute testimony to its past days when it was a building consecrated to the worship of God.

EMBURY

The church called "embury" was Methodist Episcopal, and was situated on the Joseph Sherwin farm, Lot 10, Concession 1, of Alnwick Township, now owned by his great-grandson Donald Sherwin. It continued in use until union in 1884. Later it was sold and removed to the Manasseh Brown farm where it became an addition to the farmhouse.

MERRILL'S

Merrill's Church, still standing on Merrill Road, Lot 19, Concession 4 of Alnwick Township, was also a Methodist Episcopal Church built on land given by Solomon Merrill in 1857 and deeded to the church in 1865. Its first minister, Rev. Wm. Bird, had visited the area and formed a class which met in Solomon Merrill's home and under his leadership. Because he gave the land, helped build the church and provided leadership until his death in 1896, the church was always known by his name.

The trustees of Merrill's Church when the land was bought were: John Sherwin, Edmund Taylor, Solomon Merrill, Artemis Blodgett, John Varcoe, all of the Township of Alnwick. As with the other Methodist Episcopal churches, the union of 1884 brought it into Fenella Meth-

odist Circuit (formerly Alnwick Circuit) but unlike the others it continued to be an active church for twenty-six years. In June 1910 a special meeting of the circuit, presided over by the District Chairman, was called to consider a change in the circuit boundaries "with a view to consolidating the work made necessary by the failure to procure a second minister". The end result of their deliberations was a motion passed in November 1910 that the circuit become a four-appointment charge with Merrill's and Bomanton closing. Accordingly Merrill's Church was closed, but each year a Decoration Service is held in the cemetery beside the church.

One of Solomon Merrill's daughters married Artemis Blodgett, and many of their descendants are members of Roseneath Church today.

ROSENEATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church in Roseneath was built in 1862, a frame building situated in the village a little way north of "the Corners", and was part of the Harwood-Roseneath Charge. We tend to think that the ecumenical movement is a modern trend, but as far back as May, 1858, it is on record that a quarterly board meeting of the Alnwick Methodist Circuit was held in the "Presbyterian Church, near the village of Alnwick". Again in October 1880, -- "it was resolved that Rev. Wm. Buchanan use his own judgment in giving Roseneath a fortnightly service in the Presbyterian Church on Sabbath evenings". Obviously our forefathers knew how to be neighbourly to another congregation which had as yet no permanent meeting-place. In such acts no doubt were the seeds of ultimate union sown.

In 1925 the United Church of Canada was born of a union of Methodist Congregational and Presbyterian churches which resulted in the closure of the Presbyterian Church in Roseneath. In 1927 part of the church lot was sold to Alnwick Rural Telephone Company for \$100. Six years later a motion was passed by the Official Board of the United Church -- "that we endorse and sanction the sale of the former Presbyterian Church and shed as recommended by the Trustee Board with the understanding that the proceeds of the sale be used to improve the church property now in use". The church building was sold to Norman Sherwin in 1934 for \$325. and removed to his property at the other end of the village, where it still stands today, having been put to many uses. Another part of the land was sold to Harold Hugh in 1936. The shed was sold to Alnwick Township Council in 1937, and used to house road equipment until 1977 when it was finally auctioned off by the Township.

HARWOOD PREBYTERIAN CHURCH (later UNITED)

The Harwood congregation worshipped from 1860 - 1881 in a small frame church, but in 1882 the present brick church was built, on Lot 35, Concession 9, of Haldimand Township, and was closely linked with its Presbyterian counterpart in Roseneath. At the time of Union in 1925 it became Harwood United Church, a part of the Harwood - Gore's Landing - Plainville Pastoral Charge. In 1968, following the re-alignment which altered the boundaries of many of the rural pastoral charges, Harwood became part of a combined Harwood-Roseneath Charge. This arrangement was of brief duration, and following a decision of its congregation in early 1969, the church was closed. The building remains on the site, and a Decoration Day service is held each summer. Many of this church's former members are now members of Roseneath United Church.

BAPTIST CHURCH

A Baptist Church existed at Fenella for many years, and it also played host to its Methodist neighbours according to the following items --

August, 1873 ... "Mr. and Mrs. German were received as members of this circuit and Bro. German was appointed class leader at the Baptist Church."

July, 1875 "Moved that the fortnightly service by the minister of the Baptist Church be continued during the next year."

August, 1879 ... "Moved that the Baptist Church appointment be continued by the travelling minister only until the labour can be expended to better financial advantage."

May, 1880 "Moved that the Baptist Church appointment be withdrawn and the work for the next quarter be given to Centenary."

The Baptist Church building was eventually sold and used by the local storekeeper as a storage area.

ALDERVILLE

The chapel of the Alderville Mission was the earliest Methodist church in this area, and is included in this story because in the beginning both Indian and white people were included in its membership. When the work was divided in 1855, the church at Alderville was known as the Alnwick Mission, and the rest became the Alnwick Methodist Circuit. At that time the minister in charge was Rev. Wm. Case, who died two years later, greatly mourned by both congregations. Since that time there have been several periods when both were under the same pastoral care, but the Alderville Church is not now an integral part of this Charge.



John Thackeray
Member
Church Building Committee



James Roberts
Recording Steward

CHAPTER TWO

ROSENEATH METHODIST CHURCH 1881-1925

Having examined briefly the roots of our present congregation, we now turn to the story of this particular church which has now existed for one hundred years. The first mention of a church for Roseneath village occurs in the Circuit minutes of May, 1875, when it was moved

".... that this Board very respectfully request the Conference to grant permission to the Trustee Board of the Ebenezer Church to remove the same to the village of Roseneath about two miles distant and to sell the lot (1/8 acre) to assist in the purchase of another."

For the next few years the destiny of Ebenezer Church seemed uncertain, but by February, 1878, its name no longer appears in the list of churches reporting, and that fall the following men were appointed trustees of the Roseneath Church Property:-

James Roberts, Ed P. Macklin, Wm. Noden, William Macklin, A. Sherwin, John Thackeray, Edward Macklin, W. Brenton, Chas. Talling.

In February, 1879, "Roseneath" first appears in the financial returns from classes. Its givings that quarter were \$6.25.

What negotiations were attempted in the next three years, we do not know, but by January, 1881, the deed to new land was in the hands of the trustees of Roseneath congregation, and since we have only their minutes to record that eventful year, we shall let the following motions from the minutes speak for themselves:-

January, 1881 ".... the deed for a church site purchased from the heirs of the late G. Liscum being part of lot 17 in the 2 concession of the township of Alnwick was laid on the table"

..... ".... the chairman is hereby empowered to nominate a building committee and to appoint the same."

June, 1881 ".... that we at once proceed to erect a church on the site procured from the Liscum estate."

..... "that the plans and specifications at present submitted and drafted by the Rev. Brooking be adopted with the exception that the church be fifty feet long or two feet longer than the plan."

..... "that sealed tenders be at once advertised for in one Cobourg paper also in one Peterboro paper for the erection of the church, tenders to be received up to 15th July next."

..... "that the building committee use their discretion as to whether they let the building of the church in whole or in part."

August, 1881 "that the tenders of James Steele & Colin Steele for the erection of a church according to plans and specifications produced for the sum of nine hundred and thirty dollars be accepted."

..... "that the contractors be paid the sum of four hundred and sixty-five dollars when the church is shingled and bricked up and the sum of four hundred

and sixty-five dollars on the first day of December next one month after the church is completed."

..... "the chairman having by the power in him vested by the trustees appointed Dr. Noden, Lewis Liscum and John Thackeray a building committee."

November, 1881 "that the building committee be instructed to procure seats for the church but not to exceed in cost the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars and that the committee be instructed to get this church insured at once."

February, 1882 "that the offer of John Linton of the sum of \$40. for the old church site be accepted."

..... "that the building committee be empowered and instructed to procure the necessary stoves and pipes for the church the stoves and pipes not to exceed the sum of \$30. also to procure the necessary lamps for the church."

..... "that the church be opened on the 26 instant."

..... "that the building committee be empowered to procure the amount due the contractors on the church."

..... "that a tea meeting be held on the 27 instant from two to six p.m."

The Rev. Robert Brookings who submitted the building plans had been in charge of the Alderville Mission since 1875, and was presently the Chairman of Bay of Quinte Conference. His long career in the church had taken him as a missionary to West Africa, into the Hudson Bay Territory where he served as Chairman, and to the Indian people at Rama and Hiawatha before coming to Alderville. He died in 1893 at the age of eighty.

The names of the men representing the church on the deed to the land, dated December 7, 1880, and registered March 1, 1881, were:- John Braithwaite, John Burkell, William Brisbin, James Roberts, Walter Grigg, Anthony Sherwin, yeomen; William Noden, physician; Edward Ellinor, carpenter; all of the township of Alnwick; Charles Talling, Edward Macklin, William Macklin, yeomen; and William Brenton, blacksmith, all of the township of Haldimand.

Of the three gentlemen appointed to the building committee, Dr. Noden had a drug-store in the building where until recently, M. D. Brown operated a store, Lewis Liscum probably lived a little east of the church, and John Thackeray lived west of the village on the farm now owned by Lyle Gallagher. Mr. Thackeray was a prominent man in both church and civic affairs, being at some time the local magistrate, reeve, clerk of township, Indian agent, and a stalwart leader in the church. He was also the first white child born in Alnwick. Children of the sixth generation of his family are attending Sunday School here now.

Not everyone was happy about the new church, it seems, for a complaint against the church trustees was directed to the Court of Common Pleas on March 15 of that year by Alex Kennedy, who owned land to the south, in an effort to reclaim the church land for himself. A rumour has survived the generations that his wife declared they would turn the church into a dance hall once they got possession of it. No such fate awaited the new church however; otherwise our story might have ended there!

It must have caused a disturbance in this very busy year to realize that the minister, Rev. Wm. Buchanan, was due for a move to

another circuit just when things were looking so promising here. In April, 1881, a motion was passed by the quarterly board:-

.... "that the stationing committee be respectfully requested to return Rev. Wm. Buchanan to this circuit the coming year as we do not think it would be in the interest of the cause of God here to remove him now."

Evidently the plea was heeded because he stayed another year, and on May 16, 1882, we find the following motion:-

.... "that this Quarterly Board deeply regret the unavoidable removal of the Rev. Wm. Buchanan from this field of labour as his term of three years expires at the coming Conference, and as the good Lord has greatly owned and blessed his labours among us during his stay we would hereby request Bro. Roberts, our recording steward, to send a sketch of the work of the Lord on this circuit during the last three years to the Christian Guardian for publication."

The secretary, James Roberts, must have wasted no time in complying with this request since, just eight days later, his article appeared in the Guardian dated May 24, 1882. This is what he had written:-

FENELLA CIRCUIT

Three years ago this circuit was in rather a low condition, and not a very desirable appointment, but God seems to have men fitted for every department of His work.

The Rev. William Buchanan was then appointed to this charge (and I believe sent by God) who came among us with fear and trembling; but the Lord has been with Him and owned his labours, and we as a circuit feel the effects.

During the last three years the work of God has been extended, a new and beautiful church erected in the little viillage of Roseneath, at a cost of about thirteen hundred dollars, which has all been provided for by good subscriptions. To the untiring energy and manly pluck of the Rev. William Buchanan and John Thackeray, Esq., Roseneath village and surrounding community will ever be indebted for this house of God. The difficulties in the way were insurmountable by most men, but they have succeeded, the Lord having blessed their efforts. May they have the pleasure of knowing that many were there born again. I would just say here that neither Methodist Church nor appointment existed in this village three years ago; now a membership of twenty is to be found, and a congregation of from two hundred to two hundred and fifty every Sabbath, listening to the story of Christ and Him crucified. May the Holy Ghost fall upon the people as they hear it. The other churches on the circuit have been repaired at considerable expense and paid for. The prospect for this circuit is bright and cheering.

When our good Brother Buchanan retires from this field of labour, he will carry with him the profound esteem, respect, and sympathy of the entire circuit, and especially the Quarterly Board. I am sure we all join heartily in the prayer that God may ever be with him and make him useful elsewhere, as here.

JAMES ROBERTS
Recording Steward

It would seem that Mr. Buchanan must have been the right man in the right place at the right time, and when he left to take up his next appointment in Warkworth, he may have felt more than one pang of regret at leaving the brand new church so soon after its opening.

Mr. Roberts lived in the west end of Alnwick, and was a school-

teacher at one time. His article mentioned a membership of twenty, but the following list of members is given for 1881 - 1882 when the last quarter's money had come in:-

Class No. 1

Wm. Noden, M.D.
Mrs. Noden
Thos. Frost
Harriet A. Frost
John Baxter
Mary Baxter
John Braithwaite
Ann Braithwaite
Agnes Burkell
Mary Harper
Ellen Atkinson

Class No. 2

George Ingham
Jane Ingham
Ethan Kerwin
Alex Edmison
Ernest Brown
Mary Bennim
Eliza Jane Brown
Ann Mary Brown
Sarah Lean
Ellen Brown
John Sandercock
Ellen Sandercock

Their year's givings amounted to \$81. In August their new appropriation handed out by the Quarterly Board was for \$110. out of a total of \$695. to be raised on the whole circuit. Within two years there were forty-five members on the Roseneath list.

They had other means of raising money besides the collection plate, and one of these was by charging rent for the pews. If the church opened on schedule February 26th, then the trustees must have met on the following day to set the pew rental rates -- maybe while the others were drinking tea! The resulting minutes leave no room for argument -- or pity for late arrivals! --

February 27, 1882 "... that the large pews in the church be let at \$5.00 each and the small pews at \$3.00 each per annum for the present but in case preaching be held every Sabbath the trustees may raise the price one dollar on each pew large or small."

.... "that the pew rent be paid $\frac{1}{2}$ yearly in advance commencing on 1st March, 1882."

.... "... that in case any person or persons surrender his or their pew or pews, such pew or pews shall be surrendered into the hands of the trustees or their executive committee."

.... "... that the sexton shall have the right to introduce any person or persons into the pew or pews of any person or persons after the first prayer when the said pew or pews are not full."

From this point the record becomes sketchy for a few years. An altar railing was to be constructed in 1884, and a sexton was to be paid the sum of \$4.00. The collector of subscriptions was "authorized and empowered to take legal proceedings against any person or persons who neglects, or refuses to pay, his, her or their subscriptions toward the liquidation of the debt of the church". During the eighties the circuit decided to build a new parsonage in Roseneath and much time and effort was expended in that enterprise. Social events for fund-raising purposes included a harvest dinner on Roseneath Agricultural grounds, and an excursion by boat to Peterborough on the "Golden Eye", fee charged 50¢, and leaving Robins Landing at 6:30 A.M.

In 1889 the name of the circuit was changed again so that in the course of seventy years it was called:-

Alnwick Methodist Circuit	1855 - 1865
Fenella Methodist Circuit	1865 - 1889
Roseneath Methodist Circuit	1889 - 1925

An interesting note in the circuit minutes of 1891 concerns Roseneath Church. It appears that the lot south of the church belonged to Mr. Wm. Edmison then living in Harwood. On it was a dwelling rented to a Mrs. Taylor, a house from which the only access to the road was across the church property. A committee named for the purpose visited Mr. Edmison asking for rent for this privilege and received the sum of ten cents for one year for which a receipt was given. Since it was another nineteen years before that land was purchased by the church, one wonders how many trips were made to Harwood to collect the rent? -- or by Mr. Edmison to Roseneath to deliver it? -- or did the ten cents arrive annually in the mail?

In 1898 the trustee board purchased another lot west of the church described as "Lot #1 of the subdivision of Indian location #63 of the Alnwick Indian Reserve", for the sum of one hundred dollars. This was financed by a loan at 5% interest from Isaac Dawe, and was repaid within four years. Twelve years later in 1910 they bought the Edmison lot south of the church for three hundred dollars, in order to build thereon a new church shed. A committee was appointed to tear down the old shed, and dig a cellar for a house, presumably on the lot west of the church to which the house on the Edmison lot was removed. It had at that time been rented by George Hogg, but after it was moved, the house and lot were sold to Arthur Tucker for \$475. The eastern boundary of his property was to be twenty feet from the church, but he would have the privilege of "working and occupying so much of the twenty feet hereby reserved as is not now occupied for a rental of twenty cents per annum to be paid to the treasurer of this Board on first January of each year." He was also to have the little stable at the south end of the lot.

During this decade of land transactions, the church itself was getting a new look. In September, 1908, a decision was made to "build an alcove in connection with repair at the south end of the church." Mr. E. Hill was given the contract to do the masonry required for \$225. as early as possible in the spring of 1909. According to Mr. Milton McMillan, our oldest resident member, the workmen hired to do the carpentry were Albert Blodgett and John McEllenborough, but in the treasurer's accounts it is plain that wages were also paid to a young man named "Milt" -- 13½ days -- \$13.50. Other interesting expense items were:-

12 lb. 5 in. cut nails	30¢
20 bu. lime	5.00
5,000 brick	45.00
1,500 ft. lumber	22.00
Glass	3.75

The alcove had a door at the west side and steps leading to it from the outside. The round coloured window which had been in the original building was replaced in the south wall of the alcove where it still is today.

In the same year a furnace was installed. T. Sandercock and F. Turner were named a committee to do the excavation, and the furnace was bought for \$138. Not content with a new alcove and new furnace, the new shed, approximately 60' by 50', was also erected that year in the recently acquired lot south of the church.

Property must be cleaned and cared for, and with all this flurry of building going on, it is not surprising to read in the minutes of December, 1909, that the board was calling for tenders for the position of caretaker, with the list of duties carefully defined:-

.... "To light fires when necessary for all and every meeting to be held in church day or night and attend to them in such a way that the church shall be comfortable for those inside. To light lamps and keep them clean and in proper shape for lighting church and put them out immediately after meetings are over. Lamp chimneys, wicks and oil to be supplied by trustees. To properly sweep and dust when needful,

also to scrub the church at least twice a year and clean and care for windows in a proper manner. The firewood to be furnished by trustees and thrown into shed under alcove but to be piled and split if need be by the caretaker."

Ira Lapp tendered for the position at \$25.00 a year, and was hired.

The minister during these years of activity was Rev. R. L. Edwards who stayed four years -- 1908 - 1912. In that year Mr. Rorke came and for the first time there is mention of a two-week holiday granted to the minister, the two weeks to include one Sunday, but in two years time this was extended to cover three Sundays. Another innovation about this time was that the finances of the whole circuit were to be handled through the bank and the minister be given a cheque for his quarterly salary in full. The envelope system was adopted for church givings to raise the minister's salary and other necessary funds.

August, 1914, to most people, means the beginning of World War One for which the following members of Alnwick Township volunteered for active service:-

Heber Nichol, Reginald Plant, John Holbart, James Yule, Harry Drope, George Mouncey, Earl Thackeray, Jack Halstead, William Robins, Max Herrington, Harry Ferguson, Walter Down, Clarence Weatherup, Frank Brown, Ray Brown, Roy Parker, John Mattress, Frank Halstead, Cecil Thackeray, Ernest Norris, Gordon Honey, Wellington Dowler, Robert Linton, Fred Norris, Keith Halstead, Ernest Kelly, Harold Taylor, Leo Timlin, James Smith, William Weatherup, Harold Doidge, Lawrence Tillet, Thomas Butcher, Arthur Down.

Of these men, the first four named lost their lives.

In August, 1914, plans were made by the Quarterly Board for a revival meeting on the circuit when they hoped to have Rev. H. T. Crossly for a two-week period beginning September 7th. Some of our present members recall these evangelistic meetings when the church would be filled to capacity night after night.

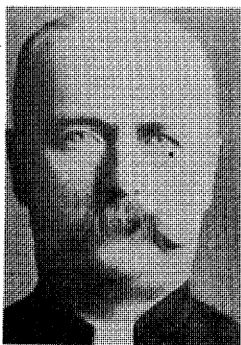
In 1916 there is recorded the purchase of an individual Communion Service for \$16.00. In 1918 the Quarterly Board passed a motion that "... the new Hymn Book be introduced in our Church as soon as possible."

The Roseneath Board decided to pay for sixteen books for their choir, and to procure sufficient chairs for the choir's use.

The church people must have served meals at the Roseneath Fair on October 10, 1919. Their net proceeds were \$133.80 of which \$116.70 went towards their share of the parsonage expenses, leaving \$17.10 for the general fund. Financing must have been a continuing problem for we read at one time of a year-end balance of \$6.00, and again a deficit of \$5.51.

Scanty as the records are in these preceding years of Union in 1925, a picture emerges of a thriving rural church on the main street of a busy village. Sunday School, C.G.I.T., Tuxis Boys, Ladies' Aid, and later W.M.S. were all organized and playing an important part in the life of the church. Somewhere along the line the trustees had become known as stewards. The minister's salary had risen steadily till it reached \$1,650. in the final year as a Methodist Church. In April, 1924, the Circuit Register showed a total of ninety-five members of Roseneath Church, about four times the number there had been when the church opened forty-two years earlier.

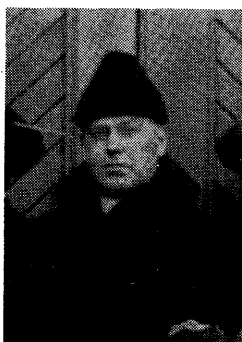
FORMER MINISTERS



Dr. Wm. Sanders



R. L. Edwards



C. C. Washington



J. N. Lovelace



M. R. Brown



R. W. Paton

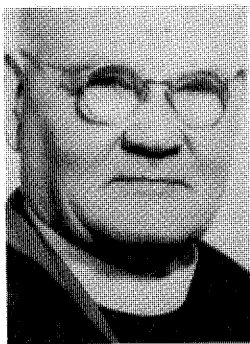


L. W. Scott

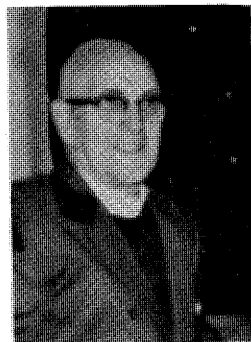


Eugene Beech

FORMER MINISTERS



Edmund Unstead



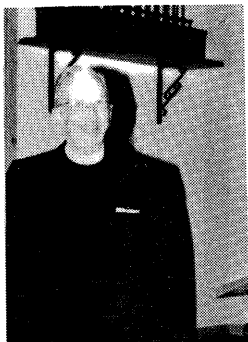
R. C. White



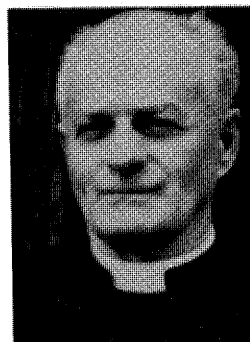
J. R. Wheeler



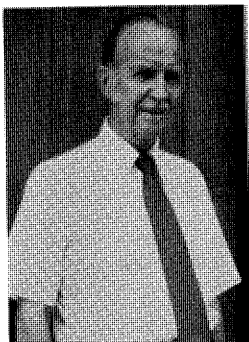
G. Lokhorst



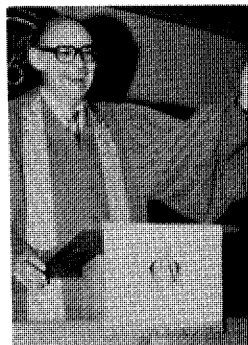
H. E. Beare



R. Sweeney



Dr. R. B. Green



E. S. Colwell

CHAPTER THREE

ROSENEATH UNITED CHURCH 1925-1981

The second phase in the life of this church began when it was united with the Presbyterian congregation in 1925, and, as part of the newly-formed United Church of Canada, continued to worship in the Methodist Church building. This period has been one of growth and change:- growth in membership, and in the physical aspect of the church premises; change in the boundaries and scope of the Pastoral Charge to which Roseneath Church belongs; change in the women's and youth organizations; and in the minister's residence. The two latter points will be dealt with in later chapters.

The earliest membership list after Church Union is not dated but with the combined congregations list 165 names. As of December 31, 1980, the church roll contained 243 members (198 resident, 45 non-resident) almost a 50% increase, part of which came about as a result of further amalgamations with neighbouring congregations. Each year some members move away, and some die; each year some new members come by transfer or by profession of faith, and new babies are born; and the cycle goes on. The names on the roll become statistics -- added and subtracted -- but the spirit of the church lives on, growing in proportion to the spiritual growth of each of its members.

The early years after Union must have been fraught with a few problems, but no areas of friction show up in the records. They installed hydro in the church in the twenties. There was the business of disposing of the property of the Presbyterian Church. Both churches had driving-sheds for the horses and vehicles, but as cars became more numerous, their owners must have wanted shelter for them too, for we read of a motion "... that we ask the constable to keep all cars and trucks from parking overnight in either church shed."

In 1932 the church's fiftieth anniversary was celebrated, and a "Golden Jubilee" booklet was produced by Miss Jessie Johnson and sold to interested people for twenty-five cents. Many of our members still treasure these booklets which contained some pictures, an account of the two special services held on Sunday, June 26th, and an historical sketch of the Roseneath Methodist and Presbyterian Churches up to that year. Special music, guest ministers, dedication of two hymnaries and the communion table, and the christening of three babies all combined to make this day what the writer termed "the most historic occasion the little village of Roseneath has ever experienced."

When in 1939 World War II broke out, many men and women of this community again responded whole-heartedly with their services, and in some cases with their lives:-

Ednel Blodgett, Clark Lapp, Walter Down, Frank Linton, Ewart Tucker, Wallace Field, Nelson Harvey, Jack Pacey, Neil Mouncey, James Robins, Melville George, William Stanworth, Allan Thackeray, Milford Macklin, Neville McCracken, Hilton Down, Anthony Hearn, Elmer Down, Basil Robins, Joseph Schrock, George Turner, Jack Arbor, Albert Waller, Frank Mouncey, Vernal Linton, Thomas Robins, Henry Field, Sidney Atkinson, Elmer McCracken, Russell McCracken, Elmer Mouncey, Charles Linton, Wilbert Robins, Lois Arbor, Kenneth Sherwin, Allan Norris, James Waller, Clayton Duff, Keith Brown, Gordon Pacey.

Of these forty people, three did not return:- Basil Robins, Russell McCracken, Neil Mouncey. Honour Rolls with the names of service people from both wars are hung in a prominent place in the church vestibule, a continuing reminder of their sacrifice.

In the next few years the church was given a new look by papering the walls, repairing the alcove, installing a new furnace, sanding and re-varnishing the pews and wainscoting, shingling the roof and reglazing windows, most of which was accomplished by volunteer labour. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Campbell donated half the cost of a piano for the church, the one which is now downstairs. More choir chairs and hymnaries were bought. The old shed was finally sold, as the horse-and-buggy era faded into history.

Time and again in the recorded minutes of these years, there was mentioned the need for an extension to the church to make room for its growing activities. There were suggestions of an annex, a basement, even of a new church. Committees were formed -- and disbanded; plans were drawn -- and withdrawn; and still the need grew. The biggest stumbling block was the "Rock" over which the church had been built, a huge stone over six feet in diameter which presented a formidable problem for any excavation beneath the building. However, problems were made to be overcome, and in the mid-fifties a Building Committee was formed with authority to remove the hindering stone and put a basement under the church. The committee chairman was D. L. Coyle, its treasurer A. J. Campbell, and secretary Walter Gallagher. The contractor hired to do the initial excavation was Ed Little of Campbellford. The offending rock was finally dislodged with a winch and cable, and it is said that the cable broke three times in the process! The work of building, begun in the fall of 1958, was directed by Flex McMillan, aided by many volunteer helpers.

During the months when the church was being face-lifted, Sunday School and Church services were held in the Township Hall which had served the same purpose nearly eighty years before in the year preceding the opening of the church. By the time the basement was completed, it was deemed advisable to renovate and re-decorate the sanctuary as well. The choir-loft was re-modelled; a new electric organ was installed; walls were panelled, and a vestibule was built at the front entrance with stairs leading to the basement. Many people were involved in this work, and many individual gifts were donated "in memoriam".

On September 6, 1959, a service of re-dedication was held in the re-opened church with Rev. G. Lokhorst, the current minister, in charge. Later that fall, on November 1st, many of the new church fixtures were also dedicated, including the lights and choir gowns which were a gift from Asbury and West United Church in Toronto.

At the annual congregational meeting held in January, 1962, the building committee made its final report. The total cost of the building project, including the cost of the organ, was \$18,348.47. With all expenses paid, the balance on hand was \$77.29 which the committee handed over to the church trustees with the suggestion that it, and any other donations still forthcoming, should be used at a later date for adding washrooms.

The new basement contained a kitchen at the south end, a closet under the stairs for choir gowns, and a large open room for Sunday School and for social occasions. To make some privacy for Sunday School classes, tracks were installed in the ceiling around each class area and curtains were hung which could be closed during class sessions. The walls and cement floor were painted. When in a few years it was decided to proceed with building washrooms, there arose the immediate need for a well to provide an adequate water supply. A forty-two foot well was dug in May, 1966. The water when tested by the Health Department was found to be excellent and the supply has been fully adequate. Subsequently, cement block washrooms were built by Leo Linton at the south-east corner of the church.

Finances for the extra building done in the sixties were aided by generous gifts and bequests, among them one from the estate of the late Wm. Yule of over \$3,000.

When in 1969 changes came about which resulted in the minister

living in Hastings, it became advisable to build a vestry for his use in Roseneath. This was a brick addition at the south-west corner of the church with an entrance to the main sanctuary, and stairs leading down to a second kitchen below. The vestry was panelled and carpeted, and furnished with desk, chesterfield, chair, china cabinet, etc. from the Roseneath parsonage.

In the last decade building improvement projects have included insulating the church ceiling, putting fans in it to better utilize the heat, cushioning the church pews through a memoriam gift, and beautifying the basement by panelling the walls, laying carpet on the floor, and putting new curtains on the windows. In 1977 a new organ was installed at a cost of \$3,967., with chimes, donated "in memoriam". One year ago a new furnace and dehumidifier were purchased costing \$1,550. In all of these improvements many man (and woman) hours of volunteer work were involved, pounding and painting, sawing and sewing, climbing and carrying and cleaning -- not to mention the singing, whistling, joking and coffee-drinking! -- with the end results a building which is more efficient, comfortable and attractive.

During all this period of time, names appear, disappear and sometimes re-appear in the list of church officials, but one name should have an honorary mention. In 1959 Mrs. Agnes Crego was elected to the Board of Stewards, the first woman to be a steward or elder of this church. Mrs. Crego was also church treasurer for nine years.

Much has been written about the improvements to the church building, but the care of the grounds has had attention too. The grass is well-tended. Shrubs at the front were provided by D. L. Coyle after the renovations, and Rev. H. Beare donated the flowering crab tree at the west which blooms so profusely every spring. Over the years many men and women have served as caretakers, cleaning, tending the furnace, cutting grass and shovelling snow, endeavouring to provide a clean and comfortable atmosphere for worship and all church activities.

Over a century one expects to find many changes in any organization. Perhaps the most profound change since Union came about in the late sixties when there was a movement in the United Church toward re-alignment of small rural congregations with resulting closures and amalgamations. For many years this charge had been comprised of Roseneath, Fenella and Centenary Churches. As has been noted earlier, Centenary Church closed in 1966, and Fenella in 1968 with their congregations being added to Roseneath. In 1968 this church was aligned with Bethesda North (Harwood) with Rev. R. Sweeney as minister, and on July 15 there was held the first official board meeting of the new Roseneath - Bethesda North Pastoral Charge. This arrangement was short-lived, however, as in the following year the Bethesda North congregation voted to cease functioning as a church as of June 30, 1969.

About this time, due to re-alignment in Peterborough Presbytery, the congregation of Trinity United Church in Hastings was also in need of joining with some other church in order to form a stronger charge. Overtures were made to both Peterborough and Cobourg Presbyteries regarding a possible merging of the Roseneath and Hastings charges. This was finally approved, and in April, 1969, the first joint meeting was held to work out details regarding hours of service, etc. In the following month a call was issued to Rev. Dr. R. B. Green, to become the minister of the newly-formed Hastings - Roseneath Pastoral Charge within Cobourg Presbytery. Dr. Green was inducted in August of that year, and in his five years of tenure greatly facilitated an orderly and amicable transition from the old order to the new.

One highlight of the seventies was the celebration of the United Church's fiftieth anniversary in 1975. Many members attended the Conference Service in Peterborough, especially the choir, but here on the home front the big occasion was a homecoming Sunday when many former ministers and members came to visit and participate in the

service after which fellowship was enjoyed over a picnic meal on the church lawn. Beautiful banners made by the Sunday School adorned the church walls for sometime thereafter, reminding us of this milestone in our church's history.

It is impossible to tell of all the meals that have been shared in conjunction with the church's work:- pot-luck dinners, oyster suppers, strawberry festivals, Canadian Fried Chicken dinners, roast beef dinners, ham suppers -- both for raising money and providing fellowship. Before the church had a basement, these were held in the Township Hall or the Agricultural Hall, but the addition of the basement with kitchen facilities made this work much easier. The "Sweetheart Supper" in February has been an annual event since 1976. Recently, one summer Sunday service has been an outdoor one at Crowley's Park near Hastings, an occasion shared with Trinity Church.

An unusual fund-raising event for the M & M funds was a Reduce-a-thon held during Lent in 1978 and 1979, when those members desiring to lose some weight solicited financial pledges -- per pound of lost weight! -- from other members. Instead of losing flesh, some people undertook to give up smoking for that period. From the standpoint of finances, health and good fun the idea was a great success, and a report of it reached the pages of the church magazine, the Observer.

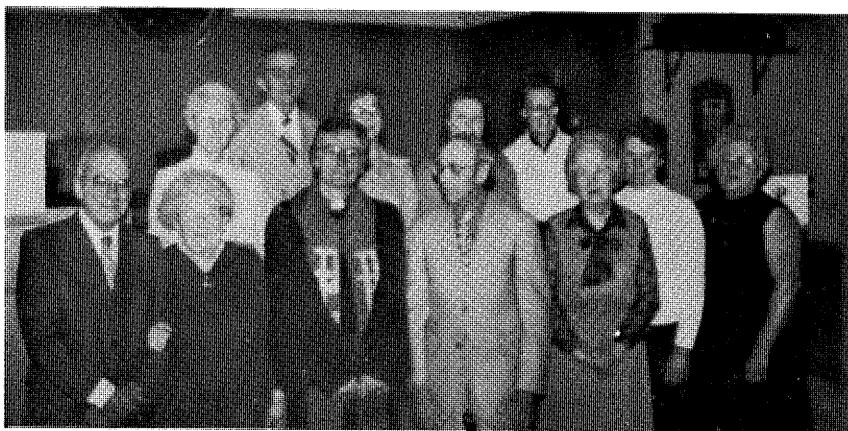
Not all the mid-week activities concern food for the body, -- or the effects of too much of it! Wednesday mornings in the winter season have come to mean Bible Study in the vestry to provide food for mind and soul. This period, led by the minister, creates fellowship and lively discussion arising from the searching of scripture. Many of the recent ministers have also gone into the schools to provide Christian Education where requested.

Over a century Roseneath Church has been well served by a long line of capable and dedicated ministers. Worthy of note is the fact that three of them were engaged "sight unseen" and travelled far to get here:- Rev. R. C. White, a Newfoundlander, who came here from Bermuda; Rev. G. Lokhorst who came directly from Holland with his wife and six-month-old daughter; and Rev. E. S. Colwell who returned to his native Ontario from a mission field in Brazil. The names of all ministers are listed elsewhere, but tribute is also due in large measure to their wives and families for the part they have played in our church and community life.



CHOIR MEMBERS - c 1965

Back Row - Douglas Coyle, Nelson Coyle
Front Row - Lois Linton, Marsha Halstead, Karen Halstead,
Rosella Carew, Organist, Tinka Clarke, Ruby Thackeray,
Helen Gallagher, Beatrice Coyle, Brenda Carew, Joanne Coyle.



Above - CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Back Row - Reg Timlin, Helen Lewis,
Donna Davis, Lois Linton,
Thelma Stephenson.
Front Row - Fred Lewis, Mrs. Tucker,
Rev. Wm. Stephenson, Doug Coyle,
Doris McMillan, Marion Hartford,
Beatrice Timlin.

Right - Ruby Thackeray
Helen Gallagher



Left - Mrs. Lois Linton,
Organist, 1966 - 1981.

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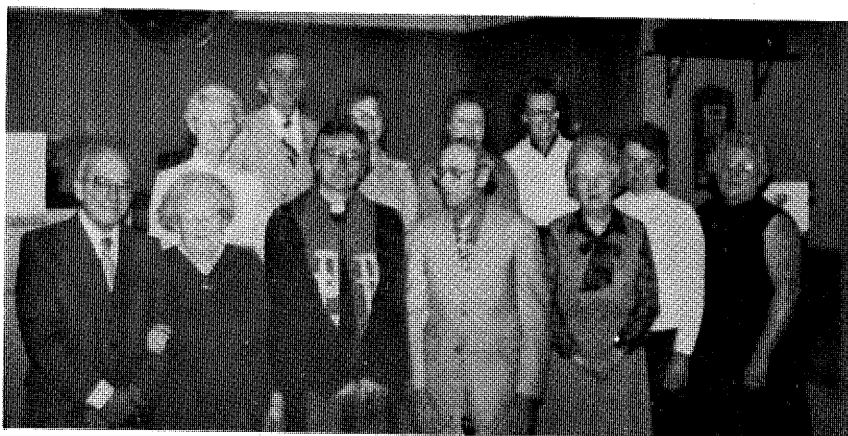
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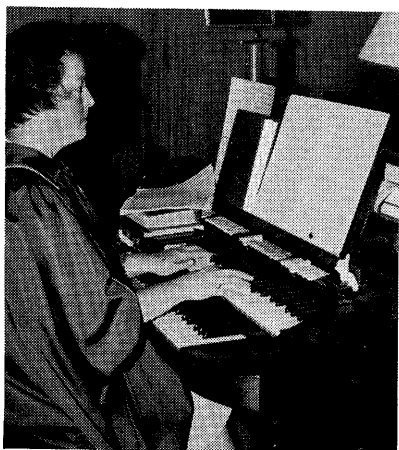
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Helen Gallagher



Left - Mrs. Lois Linton,
Organist, 1966 - 1981.



ELDERS and their wives at Mrs. Andrew Brown's farewell party

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Macklin, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sherwin,
Mrs. Andrew Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Archie Mouncey, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Campbell



C.G.I.T.

Mrs. Andrew Brown, Mary Braithwaite, Vera Varcoe, Ellen Duff,
Gladys Blodgett, Grace Arthur, Bea Turner, Bertha Clarke,
Eva Thompson, Irene Brown, Ella Campbell

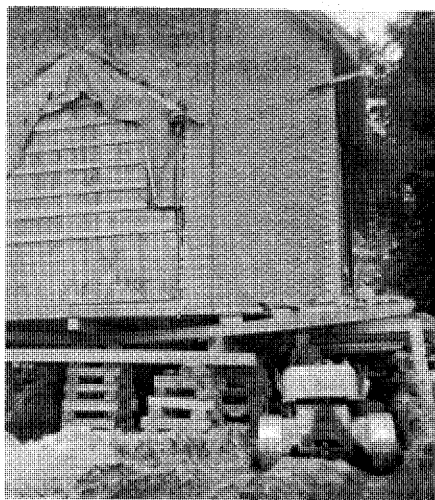
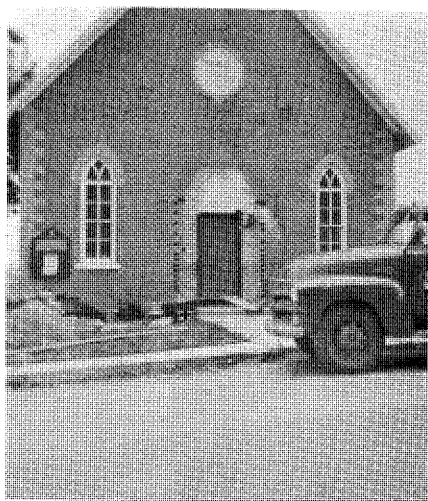


MISSION CIRCLE - at the Adams' Home late 1930's.

Back Row - Doris Roberts, Olive Sherwin, Golda Thackeray,
Shirley Prisbin, Elma George, Noreen Adams, Bea Sandercock,
Ruby Blodgett, Alma Thackeray, Joy Thackeray.
Front Row - Audrey Mouncey, Addie Mouncey, Gwen Varcoe,
Geraldine Hughes, Jean Carew, Valetta Thackeray, Kathy Hughes.



The Church as it was before reconstruction

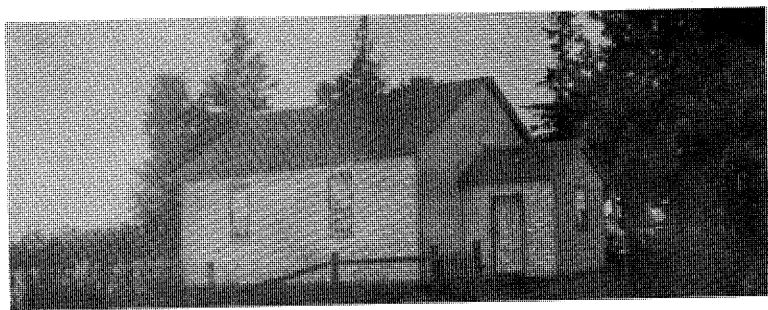


The Church during reconstruction.

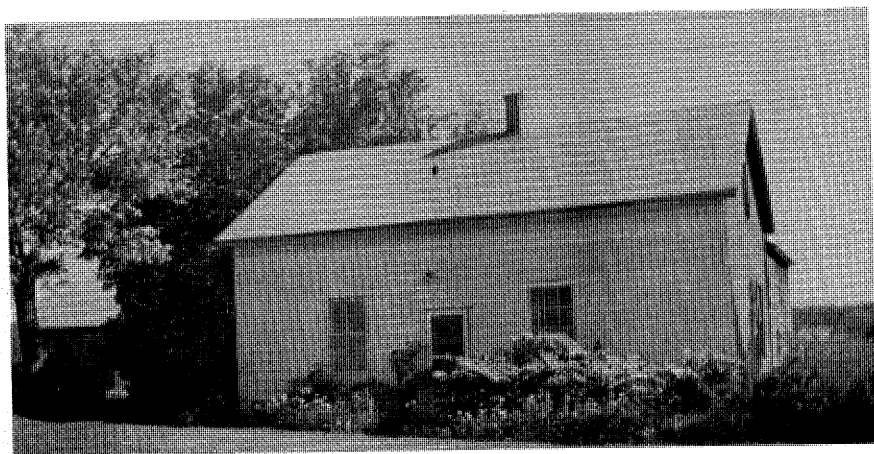


MISSION BAND

Nelson Coyle, Bryan Smith, Heather Smith,
Joanne Coyle, Nicky Linton, Walter Coyle,
Brenda Carew, Augusta Lokhorst



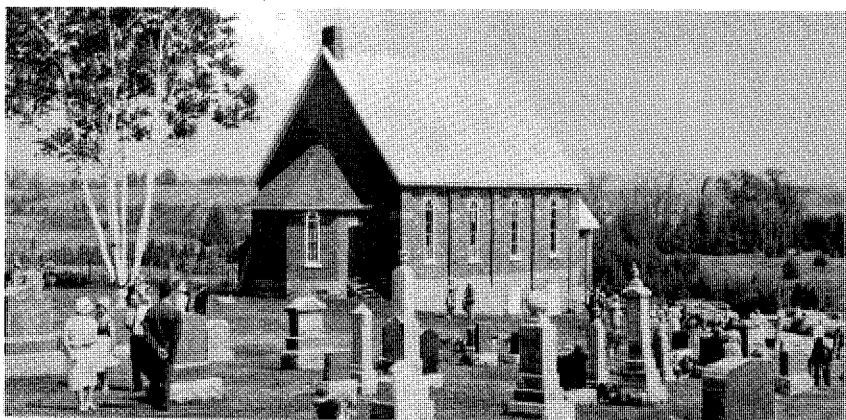
MERRILL'S CHURCH



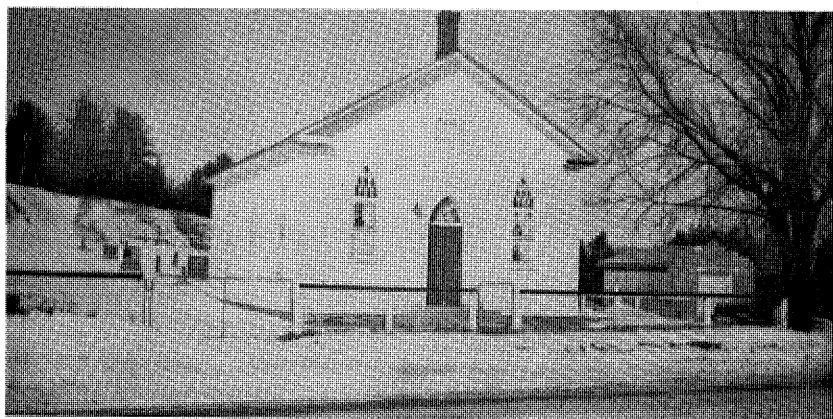
EMBURY CHURCH - as part of a dwelling house.



The former McCARTY'S CHURCH



MACKLIN'S CHURCH



CENTENARY CHURCH



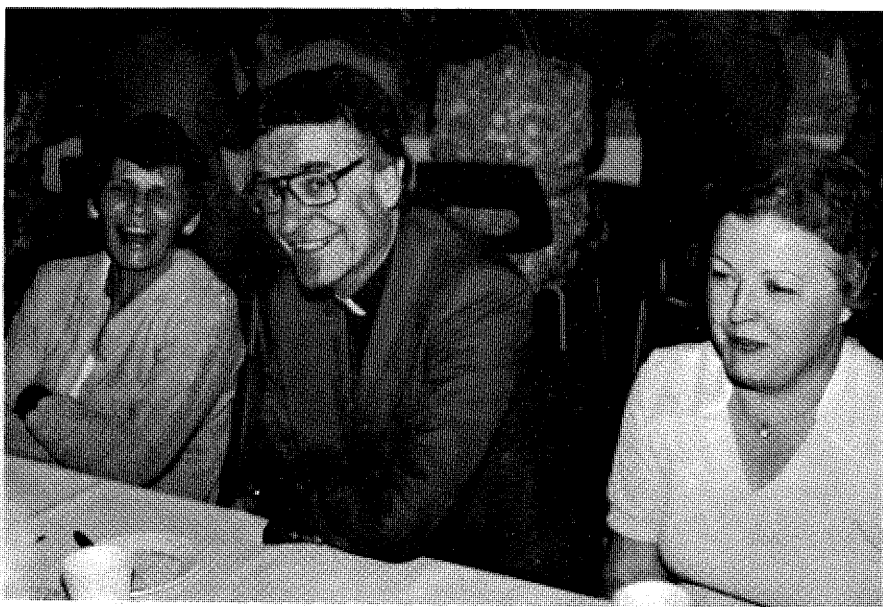
FENELLA CHURCH



Mrs. Eliza Sandercock, Mrs. Bertha Coyle,
Mrs. Minnie Smith - c 1968.



Mr. and Mrs. Archie Campbell,
Clerk of Session for many years.



Rt. Rev. Dr. Lois Wilson, Rev. Wm. Stephenson,
Mrs. Lois Linton.



Mrs. Averta Tucker and Mrs. Marjorie Brisbin
presenting a church plate to the Moderator.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE MINISTER'S HOME

"In the beginning" -- as all good stories start -- there was no permanent home for the circuit riders who administered to the several appointments of the Alnwick Circuit. They were given board and lodging in private homes, and, of course, the horses had to be stabled and fed too. The host was paid from the circuit funds for providing the minister with "a home away from home" from which he could travel to the meeting-place. The following quotation from the Circuit Minutes of November, 1855, is a sample of the arrangements made:-

"..... Agreed upon that Bro. Jos. Macklin be paid £5 for preacher's board 2 first quarters.

..... Agreed with Bro. Wier to board the preacher and his horse last 2 quarters for £14.10, £5.15 of which is to be paid in hay and oats market price.

Note Bro. Wier boarded only 5 months for which he got £10.6.3."

As the work progressed the wisdom of having the minister reside in the community was recognized, and some time in the 1860's a parsonage was provided at Fenella in the house recently occupied by the late Charles Childs. When in 1872 this circuit was again amalgamated with the Alderville Mission, furnishings from the Fenella parsonage were removed there. A detailed list of all the items taken was duly recorded in the minutes signed by the superintendent, with the added notation that "these are to be returned to Fenella again if ever the Mission is set off to itself." Mr. Wm. Brenton, a member of the Board, was authorized to rent the Fenella parsonage for "\$25. and repairs to the fence the first year, \$30. the second year, rent always to be paid in advance."

In the fall of 1882, just after Roseneath Church was opened, we find the beginnings of a movement to build a new parsonage for the Circuit (now called Fenella Circuit), and two years later, at the first board meeting after the union with the Methodist Episcopal Church, there was a committee appointed "to secure a parsonage or house for the minister when freed from the Mission." The committee was asked to see whether a suitable lot could be found in Roseneath on which to build. They received an offer from Thomas Frost to sell them a lot a short distance east of the church for \$150., payable in three annual instalments, interest free. This offer was accepted, and a Trust Board for the new parsonage was appointed: viz. James Roberts, Artimus Blodgett, Anthony Sherwin Jr., John Sandercock, Richard Arnold, N. Dodge, Alex Edmison. Of these men, James Roberts was named Secretary-Treasurer, and the building committee would be:- A. Blodgett, John Thackeray, Alex Edmison, N. Dodge, James Roberts. The Trust Board of the old parsonage was asked to take immediate steps to sell the same, and according to the treasurer's accounts the lot was sold that year to Ethan Curvin.

The deed to the land bought from Thomas Frost was dated October 11, 1884, and contained the interesting notation that the Trust Board "shall build a good picket fence on the west side of the premises hereby described on or before the first day of May A.D. 1885." Somewhere along the line the picket fence has become a wire one!

So far, so good, -- but in actual fact the parsonage was not built until five years later, and in the meantime any funds already gathered for the purpose were let out at interest until needed. On January 4, 1889, the Trustee Board met to look at plans and specifications and to call for tenders. The minister chairing the meeting was Rev. John Tozeland. Trustees present were:- N. Dodge, J. Roberts,

A. Blodgett, and A. Sherwin. C. Talling was elected trustee in place of Alex Edmison, deceased.

The building committee were also present at that meeting: viz. R. Sherwin, H. Brisbin, R. Elliott, John McDonald -- a new set of names since the original committee was named five years before. Three weeks later they met again to open the two tenders received:- one from Edward Ellinor for \$1,750. and another from Wm. Edmison for \$10. lower than the lowest tender, without stating any amount! The former tender was accepted. In addition to being a builder, Mr. Ellinor was the village constable and lived on the north side of the village street where Mr. and Mrs. C. Knox now reside.

In the spring, before starting to build, it was found necessary to buy from Mr. Frost another four and a half feet of land on the west side of the lot. At a meeting held in July, now chaired by a new minister, Rev. Thomas Brown, the committee authorized a promissory note for \$600. at 6% for one year, and with this and his current balance the treasurer was to pay Mr. Ellinor \$850. By September, the parsonage was pronounced satisfactory except for the addition of steps to the hall door, and we presume the minister moved into his new home -- a well-planned, two story brick house just a comfortable walk from his church.

A few items from the expenditure columns of the accounts kept by the Parsonage Trust Board in this year may prove interesting:-

R. Elliott - to pay for well	\$ 36.00
Mr. Hall - for 28 M. brick	135.00
W. A. Sherwin - lumber for fence	10.00
J. McDonald - 27 posts for fence	2.70
J. Sandercock - for 5 hundred feet plank ..	4.00
16 notices to subscribers - postage16
Paint for fence30
Tile for drain	1.05
Common picket fence	25.00
Albert Blodgett - digging holes	1.25
J. Roberts - 21 posts	2.10
Putting in posts	1.00

There remained the matter of finishing paying for the new building, its furnishings and outdoor expenses. In November a motion was made:-

"..... that the minister make a complete canvass of the circuit in aid of the parsonage fund in company with John Thackeray at Roseneath, A. J. Blodgett at Merrill's, James Roberts at Centenary, and H. Brisbin at Fenella."

How successful the canvass was is not revealed, but for the next few years they were borrowing money, holding dinners, teas, entertainment, etc. to raise money for the parsonage fund. One such occasion was a dinner held on September 7, 1893, on the Agricultural Grounds from 2 - 5 p.m. Admission was 40¢ single and 75¢ double, and one lady from each family that provided food was to get a free ticket. Tickets were to be taken up at table and another given for the evening. For this special occasion Rev. Wm. Buchanan, by that time preaching at Norwood, was invited back, and was paid \$2.00 expenses. Roseneath, Centenary and Fenella choirs were each asked to provide two pieces of music for entertainment. The day's proceeds were \$54.10. That fall Mr. Ellinor received his final payment, but for some time afterwards various functions were being held to "help liquidate the debt on the parsonage."

Rev. Thomas Brown, who was its first occupant (1889 - 1891), was succeeded by twenty-two other resident ministers, the last one to live there being Rev. R. Sweeney (1968 - 1969).

In the course of the eighty years in which this house was used as a parsonage, or manse, for the Roseneath Circuit of the Methodist

Church and later the Roseneath Pastoral Charge of the United Church, alterations have been made from time to time to meet changing needs, and like any other home it has required painting, papering, repairs to roof and chimney, etc. In 1914 a telephone was installed, after receipt of some money from the sale of Bomanton Church, and about thirty years later it was put on a private line. In 1928 both church and parsonage were wired for hydro, and thus entered the electrical era. A furnace was installed in 1946, and the next year one of the upstairs rooms was converted into a bathroom, part of the cost of which was paid by the Women's Association. In 1951 the Official Board decided to build a porch at the front of the parsonage which was done at a cost of \$655.54.

After the re-alignment of the late sixties when the Hastings - Roseneath Pastoral Charge was formed, the Roseneath parsonage was no longer required, but many church members will recall a great variety of memories related to this house. It was not only the home of the minister and his family, but the scene of many church gatherings, business and social, before the church basement was built. Committee meetings, ladies' meetings, weddings, working bees, crokinole games -- the parsonage was open to all -- the forerunner of the modern church "drop-in centre". This house and the twenty-three ministerial families who called it home were a vital part of the history of Roseneath Church.



A picture of the choir during the re-opening ceremonies in 1959. In the foreground is Mrs. Lily Turner, a former organist and in the back row is a former male quartet, left to right, A. Kelly, W. Dowler, L. Roberts and M. Macklin.

CHAPTER FIVE

WOMEN'S AND YOUTH WORK IN THE CHURCH

Few and far between are any references to women in the early records of the church, but it is noteworthy that in its first membership roll of twenty-three people, as listed in Chapter Two, fourteen were women. The first direct mention of their church activities was in the Circuit Minutes of May 11, 1891 (ten years after the church was built), and the item concerned a quilt! Here is what it said:-

"..... Moved by A. J. Blodgett, seconded by W. Curtis, that two young ladies at each appointment be selected to get up something like an autograph quilt in aid of the parsonage fund."

..... and then a committee of one man from each appointment was set up to select the young ladies. They would be from four appointments, but who the chosen eight were, or what became of the quilt, will probably remain a mystery.

The first mention of a Ladies' organization is in the Treasurer's books of the Roseneath Parsonage Trust Board dated January 29, 1895:-

"Receipts: Mrs. Harper for Ladies' Band \$30.80".

Similarly, in June 14, 1897 ... Ladies' Band, proceeds of tea \$42.00
Mar. 26, 1898 ... Ladies' Band per Annie Brown 26.00
Mar. 26, 1898 ... Ladies' Band per J. E. Brown 60.07

Obviously, the ladies were working to help furnish the parsonage, but as to where they met, how often, who were their leaders, or how they raised their funds in all corners of the circuit, no details are recorded.

By the years 1909, 1910 and 1911, the name appears as Ladies' Aid and since there were annual contributions to the funds of the Church Board, there must have been a local organization, but again details are missing. Festivals, Sunday School entertainments, teas, basket socials are all mentioned and undoubtedly were joint projects of men and women.

In contrast to the dearth of information on women's work in the first forty years, the last sixty are well documented and tell the story of three thriving women's organizations.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

It is an interesting co-incidence that 1881, the birth-date of this church, was also the year in which the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church in Canada was founded. For the record of its local beginnings we are indebted to a yellowed sheet of scribbler paper tucked inside a minute book telling of the initial meeting of Roseneath Women's Missionary Society:-

"..... The W.M.S. of the Roseneath Circuit was organized at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Washington on May 6, 1919, with a promised membership of about twenty. During the year nine meetings were held, today making ten in all. Owing to the flu epidemic and other contagious diseases the meetings for January and February were wisely withdrawn. There was an attendance of 88 with offerings amounting to \$13.40. Five quilts were made, one from each appointment, and then together with canned fruit, pickles and other articles were

sent to the Deaconess Home in Toronto. The mite box offering amounted to \$30.82 which was brought in last October."

The first available minute book of the W.M.S. starts at April 4, 1923, and tells of meetings held in the homes at Fenella, Bethany, Roseneath and Centenary in turns during the years 1923 - 1928. The first minutes were signed by President Mrs. Walsh, the minister's wife, and Recording Secretary Mrs. M. Davey who held that office for twenty-seven years. The minutes for the first four years are not available (1919 - 1923), but we think Mrs. Robert Sherwin was the first president.

There is a record of an occasion when the W.M.S. hosted a District Annual meeting (the forerunner of our Presbyterial) in the spring of 1924. Mrs. Jibb and Mrs. Walsh were to conduct the opening exercises. Mrs. Nill would give the address of welcome, and a cold salad luncheon would be served in the Orange Hall.

The roll call for the year 1925 shows thirty-six names. Of these we have one active member still in the U.C.W. -- Mrs. Marjorie Brisbin -- but some others are still living elsewhere -- Mrs. Wilbert Smith, Mrs. Hilda Atkinson, Mrs. Beatrice Coyle, Mrs. Ethel Acton.

Not long after Church Union in 1925, the format was altered so that instead of a joint meeting of the women on all the appointments every month, each group met separately for nine months of the year, and came together on the other three to report progress. Eventually each church had its own organization.

The W.M.S. of this church continued to be a very active organization until December, 1961. Its meetings were planned to include worship, study and fellowship, and many were its enlightening programmes on the mission work of the church both at home and abroad. Besides its regular offering, funds were raised by quiltings, crokinole parties, pageants and plays, and for many years its December bazaar was an annual event held in the Township Hall. Regular meetings were held in the homes of its members who provided food and fellowship at the close.

The W.M.S. was the "mother" of many youth organizations which were born and flourished at various periods:- Light-Bearers, C.G.I.T., Mission Band, Mission Circle, and Baby Band. Many dedicated leaders used their time and talents in the work of these groups of young women and children.

One of the W.M.S. ladies, Mrs. J. N. Lovelace, held offices in the Cobourg Presbyterial W.M.S.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Women's Association was formed in 1934 at the instigation of Rev. and Mrs. L. W. Scott, and held its initial meeting in September of that year at the church. Present at that meeting were:- Mrs. F. Turner, Mrs. M. Davey, Mrs. L. W. Scott, Mrs. E. Braithwaite, Mrs. Beecher Hogg, Mrs. Herman Blodgett, Mrs. A. Braithwaite. Mrs. Turner was elected president and Mrs. A. Braithwaite secretary-treasurer.

The purpose of the W.A. was stated thus:- "To raise funds to help carry on the work in the church and in the parsonage", and during the twenty-seven years of its existence, this aim was faithfully carried out. Meetings were held on the third Wednesday of each month either in the members' homes or in the Township Hall, and eventually in the church basement, and followed the usual format of devotions, business, roll call, offering and programme. Many capable and faithful women held office in the W.A. and devoted much time and effort to the preparation and conduct of its meetings.

the Presbyterian level, offices were held by:-

Mrs. Hazel Varcoe -- Vice-President 1954 - 56
Christian Citizenship Secretary 1955

Mrs. Bernice Waldie -- in 1956 took over both the above offices
and in 1960 - 61 was President.

The list of activities in which the ladies of the W.A. were involved is a long one, and their financial contribution to the work of the local church was remarkable. They catered for church functions, wedding receptions, Men's Club dinners, Fair Board dinners; sold lunches at auction sales and at the Community Sale barns; sold Christmas cards, and passed a "travelling apron", held bazaars, quilted innumerable quilts, entered displays at the local fair. For a few years they were divided into three groups, each of which set out in its own way to raise funds in a little friendly competition for the good of the cause. Many people will remember especially the St. Patrick's supper sponsored by one of these groups for several years.

With their funds the W.A. helped in the installation of a bathroom at the parsonage, bought rugs, furniture, etc., and many a time its members were active in the redecoration projects of both church and parsonage. Long before there was a church kitchen, the W.A. had purchased cutlery and dishes which they kept in a cupboard in the Township Hall, to be used for their own meetings and for the many activities which required the serving of food.

During the war the local soldiers were remembered with gift boxes, and contributions were made to the Red Cross work with blankets, etc. The sick and shut-ins were always remembered with cards, and many worthy community efforts were supported.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The year 1962 marked a new beginning in women's work in the United Church of Canada when the two existing organizations -- W.M.S. and W.A. -- were disbanded and a new one called "United Church Women" or U.C.W. was formed. The inaugural meeting in Roseneath was held on January 10 in the church basement, presided over by the minister, Rev. H. E. Beare, who had been a member of the provisional committee of Presbytery in charge of planning the changeover. In the service of inauguration Mrs. Ila Sherwin, the last president of the W.A., and Mrs. J. N. Lovelace, the last president of the W.M.S., came forward each carrying a lighted candle symbolizing the service and fellowship of each organization, and together they lighted a new candle to represent this service and fellowship continuing in the U.C.W.

The first president of the U.C.W. was Mrs. Averta Tucker, the first secretary Mrs. Lavinia Varcoe, and the first treasurer Mrs. Doris Riley. Delegates were named to attend the inaugural meeting of Cobourg Presbyterian U.C.W. in Trinity United Church, Cobourg, at which Mrs. Bernice Waldie, secretary of the provisional committee, gave the report of that committee's work.

The first regular meeting of Roseneath U.C.W. was held on January 31, 1962, presided over by Mrs. Averta Tucker. The following ladies who were already life-members of the W.M.S. and W.A. became life-members of the U.C.W.:-

Mrs. H. Beare, Mrs. Alfred Braithwaite, Mrs. Arthur Braithwaite, Mrs. D. Brisbin, Mrs. A. Brown, Mrs. J. A. Brown, Mrs. T. S. Coyle, Mrs. R. Crego, Mrs. J.N. Lovelace, Mrs. G. Mouncey, Mrs. L. Tucker, Mrs. Charles Sandercock, Mrs. Clarke Sandercock, Mrs. T. Sandercock, Mrs. Wilbert Smith, Mrs. E. Waldie.

Of these sixteen ladies, seven are no longer living; six are still active in this church; two have moved away; and one, Mrs. Wilbert Smith, has reached the wonderful age of 104 years.

In this the centennial year of the church, the U.C.W., having reached its twentieth year, can look back over an enviable record of achievement in service on the local scene and to the whole mission of the church. At first, meetings were held monthly, but in time the July and August meetings were discontinued. Every meeting is distinctive, but January is special for installation of officers, April for the visit of Explorers and Messengers with their leaders, June for the picnic meeting at Cardinal Cottages, October for Thankoffering, and December for a pot-luck dinner and special Christmas programme. There being no longer any membership fees, every lady of the United Church is considered to be a member and welcomed at all times.

For a few years the U.C.W. had three branches on this charge -- Roseneath, Fenella and Centenary -- and for two years (1969 - 1970) Roseneath had two units. In 1968 the Fenella ladies were welcomed into the Roseneath meeting; by February, 1971, the two units of Roseneath were re-united; and in 1976 the Centenary ladies, who had continued to meet and work independently for ten years after the closing of their church, also merged with Roseneath U.C.W. and they all became "one family".

The format of meetings sounds very routine -- worship, business, roll call, programme, lunch -- but the substance of what goes on is varied, inspirational, lively, educational, and spiced with good fun and fellowship.

The first study book prepared for use in U.C.W. was "Signals for the Sixties" and was introduced by Mrs. R. Crego, then followed up at subsequent meetings by other members. Each year the theme is different:-- China, India, Japan, Brazil, etc., or mission endeavours at home in Canada.

So many are the activities of the U.C.W. that a brief mention will have to suffice:-- packing bales of used clothing for Street Haven and elsewhere; supporting the work of Quin-mo-Lac, the Church Camp, and financing children and delegates to it; quilting; providing flowers for the church; remembering deceased members with funeral flowers or other tokens; holding bake sales and bazaars; sharing in group exhibits at the local fair; selling lunches at auction sales; holding fashion shows; remembering the sick, elderly and shut-ins with cards and visits and especially at Christmas with Good Cheer boxes; and catering to dinner parties, after-funeral family gatherings, anniversary teas, and weddings. Many a young bride and groom have had the first meal of their married lives served to them by the willing hearts and hands of the church women.

On many memorable occasions the ladies have received visitors or gone visiting themselves. Among the visiting speakers have been:-- Mrs. Elizabeth Allen, Mrs. Betty Thompson, Mrs. Ida Angier, Mrs. Carl Curtis, Mrs. Marion Minifie, Mrs. Joy vonBoetticher and Rev. Sidney Bates. Others who came to demonstrate handicraft skills were:-- Mrs. Mary Davidson, Mrs. Jean Murphy, Mrs. Vera Murphy, Mrs. Muriel Hywarren. Sometimes members have attended functions elsewhere, such as Thank-offering meetings in neighbouring churches, Presbyterian meetings, workshops, Conference meetings, etc. Special mention should be given to the interdenominational gatherings for the World Day of Prayer which has been observed annually in this area for many, many years. We believe that the World Day of Prayer was instituted about ninety-five years ago, but just when it was first held in the Roseneath area churches is not clear.

Members of Roseneath U.C.W. who have held Presbyterian offices are:--

Mrs. Margaret Coyle, President 1976-78
Mrs. Beatrice Timlin, President of the Central Division 1975-76
Mrs. Blanche Poole, Stewardship Secretary 1972-73
Mrs. Bernice Waldie, Stewardship and Recruiting 1962-64.

Until recently the Sunday School played host each fall to a Hallowe'en party open to the whole community. It was held in the Township Hall, the Orange Hall, and lately in the church basement. Weird and wonderful characters attended these parties providing hilarious entertainment for everyone.

CHURCH LEAGUE

The Church League was an organization of young people -- singles and young married couples -- which was formed in September, 1927, and continued for a few years. The meetings were held in the League Hall which was the former Presbyterian Church building. Its first president was Mrs. Gladys Campbell, and secretary Elva Sandercock. High on the list of their activities was debating. At the February, 1928, meeting, about one hundred people attended to hear Mrs. Gladys Campbell and Miss Stewart (affirmative), Howard Lapp and Bruce Timlin (negative) debate the subject:- "Resolved that men spend more money on pleasure than women." The ladies won!

YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION

In the thirties the Young People's Union came into being, and continued until about 1969 under a succession of capable presidents and other officials. Most meetings were held in the Township Hall, but some in members' homes. Their agenda included programmes based on education, missions, stewardship and social affairs. They too engaged in debates and other entertainment, notably dramatic work, sometimes in conjunction with the community Dramatic Club directed by Mrs. Albert Tucker, and sometimes on their own. Financially, these dramatic efforts provided for the church a communion table and an outside light, but perhaps their greatest value was in the training received and the fun and fellowship involved. On occasion, plays were taken out-of-town for replay, and one story is still told about a certain lady whose role in the play required male clothing. Minutes before her cue, the belt for the pants was still missing, but a quick dash to the men's dressing-room by the minister's wife remedied the situation and the play went on. What happened to the poor minister's trousers is left untold!

At one point in the thirties there was a competition within the Presbytery for dramatic work. Roseneath Y.P.U. won first prize for their production called "The Lost Church".

Delegates from Y.P.U. went to winter schools in Cobourg and Belleville in the early years. Later, several young people attended Oak Lake and Quin-mo-lac camps as campers and counsellors. In the early sixties, Donald Robins, after holding local and Presbytery offices, became President of the Conference Y.P.U. In 1961, the Official Board sponsored Donald's trip to the North American Youth Assembly at Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.

The successor to the Young People's Union was called "Kairos". One of these groups was organized in 1968, but was short-lived. In 1978 an interdenominational group called "Amica" was formed to serve the needs of Hastings and Roseneath. Its president for one term was Anita Hartford. Our young people have been active in Sunday School and Choir work, Toc Alpha, taking up offering in church, and generally lending a helping hand to the adults at social functions.

C.G.I.T.

This girls' organization for 12 - 17 year olds has existed intermittently under the auspices of the W.M.S. and was revived under the U.C.W. by Mrs. H. Beare. Many of our church people from girls to great-grandmothers remember the good times and cherished experiences of C.G.I.T. meetings and camps.

MISSION BAND

Mission Band was the mid-week group for children 6-12 years existing through most of the W.M.S. years. It was first organized on November 1, 1921, with president Ednel Blodgett. Twenty members were enrolled, including some children from the Presbyterian Church. Meetings were held monthly in the church, parsonage, Presbyterian Church, or sometimes in member's homes. From the late '30's the Mission Band met at the local school with the teachers of the Junior Room as leaders. In the '50's meetings moved back to the church again, and continued thus until 1961 when, along with its parent organization the W.M.S., it was disbanded.

MISSION CIRCLE

The Mission Circle was organized in 1937 by the W.M.S. for the young women of the church with Mrs. R. Crego, leader, and Ruby Blodgett, president. The Circle continued to meet for about five years with a peak membership of twenty-four. Their programme was varied. One special outing recalled was a hike to Sandercock's Camp.

BABY BAND

The Baby Band was a short-lived society formed in 1949 under the auspices of the W.M.S. for mothers with very small children.

BOYS' WORK

'Tuxis Boys' were a group organized during the ministry of Rev. H. A. Bunt (1920 - 1922).

'Trail Rangers' were organized during the ministry of Rev. Redvers Brown in the late '20's.

'Sigma C' was organized by Rev. H. Beare and continued through most of the sixties. The boys met in the church basement for meetings which included worship, crafts and games. Woodwork and leathercraft were very popular activities with the boys. A similar club met in Fenella, and both groups helped to fill a very great need in the field of Religious Education.

EXPLORERS (9-12 yrs.) and MESSENGERS (6-8 yrs.)

The Explorers and Messengers are the children's groups which were formed to replace the Mission Band after the U.C.W. came into being. These have been very active, meeting in the church basement twice monthly for worship, study, crafts and fun. Once a year, they, with their leaders and mothers, come to the U.C.W. meeting and present a well-prepared programme of songs, skits and stories.



200th ANNIVERSARY Celebration
of the founding of
SUNDAY SCHOOLS - June, 1980

Small boys have nothing on United Church Women when it comes to collecting things! -- Canada Packer labels, Dominion Store tapes, used stamps for the Leprosy Mission, discarded eye-glasses -- they save them all, and turn them to useful purposes either for others, or for items for their own kitchen and serving facilities.

The old adage says that "woman's work is never done". If the church ladies of a century ago could return and drop in on the U.C.W., they would find everyone still busily and happily "going about our Father's business".

YOUTH WORK

The following verse from a poem "Roseneath" by the late Fred Elliott, a former resident of this area, pays tribute to the work of this church among children and young people over many years:-

"It was here that I spent my boyhood.
It was here that I went to school.
It was in this village's Methodist Church
That I learned the Golden Rule."

Many organizations have served the young in many ways, and left a host of indelible memories. A very brief outline of the life and work of these organizations is included in the hope that the memories of those who read will clothe the bare facts with the rest of the details.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The minutes of the Circuit as far back as 1875 include a list of Sunday School Superintendents, one for each appointment. The S.S. Committee named for Roseneath in 1888 was:- J. Sandercock, J. McDonald, and Alfred Ingham; and in 1895 it was R. A. Elliott, John Sandercock, George Ingham. Little is written down about the early years of the local Sunday School, but it is thought that George Ingham was its first superintendent. It is evident that those in charge must have laid a sound foundation upon which the school grew and flourished, for at one time in this century its membership was over one hundred, often augmented still more in the summer months by tourists who returned to our church and Sunday School year after year. Classes have ranged from nursery age to adult, and its teaching staff has included all ages from enthusiastic teenagers to our beloved "Grandma Coyle" who was still teaching the adult Bible Class when she was ninety-five. The list of teachers, superintendents and other officials is long, and their names are best remembered in the hearts and minds of the Sunday School pupils themselves. Special recognition is due to Mrs. Doris McMillan who has been Sunday School pianist for forty-six years, besides at times being treasurer, class teacher and assistant secretary.

The Sunday School has met in the Township Hall when necessary, but generally in the church and since 1959 in the church basement. Some of the children of the congregation attend Sunday School in the Fenella Community Hall since the closing of the church at Fenella. Several special occasions are honoured each year by having the children participate in the church service:- Mother's Day, White Gift Sunday, and Promotion Sunday. Of these, the last is the most unique. Nearly fifty years ago a white picket fence in two sections with a hinged gate in the middle was made especially for the Promotion Service. While a song "Open the Gates" is played and sung, each teacher in turn brings the children going up to the next class to one side of the gate which is opened by the superintendent to allow them to pass through to be welcomed by their new teacher. "Going through the Gates" is always a big occasion!

For many years near-perfect attendance was rewarded annually with the Robert Raikes diplomas and seals which were treasured by many students both young and not-so-young.

CHAPTER SIX

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH

The Wesley brothers, founders of the Methodist Church, left to it a rich heritage of hymns, and a hymn book whose one hundred year copyright only expired in 1879 requiring a new one to be published soon afterwards. No wonder that from the beginning the singing played an important part in the Methodist services. We have already noted that choirs were formed and functioning in the early years of this Circuit, but few names of leaders or members have come to light. Just how soon an organ was procured is not certain, but our "over-ninety-year-old" Mr. Milt McMillan assures us there was one before ever the alcove was built at the south end in 1909. In 1919 Mr. and Mrs. George Ingham donated a new organ which served the church well for forty years.

The first electric organ was installed in 1959 when the church was renovated, and was financed by an organ fund collected by the choir. The present organ and chimes were bought in 1977. Many capable organists, choir leaders and faithful members have added to the service of worship their "ministry of music". Choir gowns were donated by the Asbury and West United Church in Toronto in 1959, but these were later replaced by the ones now in use, paid for by donations and money raised by the choir with variety concerts, music recitals, etc.

From time to time, on special occasions we have enjoyed the music of talented people from other churches, but our own choir with its soloists, duets, quartets, etc. has also done some travelling, providing music for anniversaries and decoration services. Over the years, the choir, under the direction of Margaret Atkinson, and Mrs. Rosella Carew, distinguished itself in the Northumberland Music Festival with several winning entries under Church Choir, Mixed Chorus and Male Quartet.

More recently, the choir participated in the massed choirs at the United Church Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations in the Memorial Centre in Peterborough in 1975, and in the "Festival of Hymns" during the Music Festival week.

Christmas is always a special time in the church, and particularly so in the Music Department. On several occasions the choir has presented special Christmas Eve programmes, and twice in recent years they and the Sunday School have worked together to produce a Christmas Eve pageant. For several years Mrs. Carew also directed a Junior Choir of up to a dozen children. Twice recently the Hastings Choir came to present their cantata in our church, and several times our present organist, Mrs. Lois Linton, has co-operated with Mr. Don Pollock, organist at Trinity Church, Hastings, in a joint effort for such services as Good Friday.



Combined Choirs of Roseneath & Hastings
enroute to 50th Anniversary Celebration at
Memorial Centre, Peterborough.

CHAPTER SEVEN

EVENTS OF OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR

JANUARY —

January 4, 1981, the first Sunday of our Centennial Year, was memorable for much more than its frigid far-below-zero temperature, since it brought Rev. Ted Colwell back to our pulpit to, in his words, "kick off" the Centennial Celebrations. With him were Molly and their three children, Susan, Tom and Heather, and in the congregation also were some friends from Trinity Church, Hastings, and from St. James Anglican Church, Roseneath.

Mr. Colwell's sermon, entitled "Retrospect and Prospect", reminded us of our inheritance from those who built and maintained this house of worship for one hundred years. Their most important treasures bequeathed to us are:- (1) their faith in God, (2) their faith in one another, and (3) their love for, and service in, the community. Like Christmas gifts, these treasures are no use to us until we open them and use them. For the years ahead, he challenged us to be faithful to this inheritance by continuing to provide for others that unique gift of a Christian which no secular agency can provide -- the gifts of the spirit -- and to move confidently into the future, not crawling on all fours, but daring to risk all for and with God who provides all the strength, insight and courage we need.

Following the service, a pot-luck dinner was served downstairs, and then we viewed the slides taken by Ted and Molly in the summer of 1980 when they re-visited Brazil where they had previously worked as missionaries.

FEBRUARY —

On February 1st, Dr. and Mrs. R. B. Green, now retired in Napanee, came to visit our church on the eve of their winter holiday. Dr. Green's sermon was entitled "Looking unto Jesus", from the text found in Hebrews 12: 1-2, where the writer is urging his readers to remember the great "cloud of witnesses" -- the great heroes of the past -- who witnessed to the faith by giving their lives for it. His readers are suffering persecution and they need similar patience and perseverance. But, while they can be inspired by past heroes they should keep their eyes fixed especially on Jesus who was by far the greatest example of the perseverance they needed.

In this anniversary year, Dr. Green said, we would do well to remember the pioneers of this community -- both Methodist and Presbyterian -- who witnessed to the faith by establishing our church and creating a heritage for us. But Jesus is the true goal of the Christian race, and we should keep our eyes on Him both in our individual lives and in the work of the congregation. With the passing of the years Christ never becomes out-of-date and always remains the standard for his followers and for His church.

MARCH —

On March 1st we welcomed back Rev. and Mrs. Howard Beare, now retired in Springbrook, Ontario. Mr. Beare was our minister for eight years in the sixties, and both he and Mrs. Beare were especially well-known for their work among the children of the church. Mr. Beare served one term as President of Cobourg Presbytery, and was also a part of the team that planned and introduced the new Curriculum for the Sunday School.

For our Centennial year, Mr. Beare reminded us of Peter's answer

to the Master's searching question concerning his true identity:-
"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God". Only by retaining and demonstrating our sincere belief in God, and by recognizing that the church is one body made of many parts, each necessary to the well-being of the whole, can we ensure a safe journey for our second and succeeding centuries.

APRIL —

(1) April 17th was the ninetieth birthday of Mrs. Averta Tucker, one of the members of the Centennial Committee. Her family, and her many friends, attended a birthday tea in the Sunday School rooms, arranged and served by the U.C.W. Mrs. Tucker was born in the western part of Alnwick Township in 1891 when this church was only ten years old, and while she has since lived in several places, she has been an active member of this church for many years. "Active" is still the best word to describe a lady who, in spite of her advanced years, often walks down the street to church, Bible Study, or U.C.W. meeting, regales audiences with her homey readings, and, to paraphrase one of her favourite ones --

..... "lives in the house by the side of the street,
and is a friend to all."

(2) Easter services conducted by our minister, Rev. Wm. Stephenson, were well attended, both for Good Friday evening and Easter Sunday morning when people shared in the sacrament of communion. Mr. Stephenson's theme for Good Friday was:- "I must climb the tree", stressing personal involvement with Christ's sacrifice, and for Easter Sunday "God's Body Language", a lively message regarding our communication with God and with each other in word, look, touch, hearing, and just by "being there".

(3) On April 26th our clocks were put ahead one hour for DST, but time turned backwards a whole century when Foxboro Fashions presented their parade of century-old fashions to an enthusiastic audience in the Alnwick Civic Centre. Ladies' men's and little girls' clothes were modelled by a very competent group of people among whom were three local models:- Mrs. Ila Sherwin, Mrs. Anne Parker and Anita Hartford. Mrs. Lois Linton played appropriate background piano accompaniment.

The other treat of the evening was the singing of the Pine Ridge Barbershop Chorus. Rev. Wm. Stephenson, resplendent in period costume for the occasion, was Master of Ceremonies. Mrs. Beatrice Timlin spoke on behalf of the Centennial Committee who had sponsored the evening, and lunch was served by the U.C.W.

MAY —

Family Sunday, May 10, was the occasion when Mrs. Gwen Black was our special guest soloist. Gwen is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Varcoe, and was a former member of this church where she sang regularly in the choir for several years.

JUNE —

(1) Special music was provided on this Pentecost Sunday, June 7, by a ladies' quartette of present and former choir members -- Mrs. Lois Linton, Mrs. Blanche Poole, Mrs. Joyce Duncan of Napanee, and Mrs. Linda Beauchamp of Grafton -- accompanied by Joanne Coyle of Guelph. These four ladies are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Arthur, and great-great-grand-daughters of Solomn Merrill, founder of Merrill's Church.

(2) The highlight of Centennial Year occurred on June 14th when Roseneath Church was honoured by a visit from Rt. Rev. Dr. Lois Wilson,

Moderator of the United Church of Canada. Large congregations attended both services, for which special music was supplied by the Pine Ridge Chorus and the Choir from Trinity United Church in Hastings. One of the scripture lessons was read by Rev. William Stephenson from the recently discovered Bible which was once the property of Ebenezer Church and, according to its fly-leaf, was given to Rose-neath Methodist Church one week before its official opening date. Lunch was served at the Alnwick Civic Centre at noon, and in the church basement at night. At the conclusion of the evening service, Dr. Wilson was presented with a church plate by Mrs. Averta Tucker and Mrs. Marjorie Brisbin. She also cut the large one-hundredth birthday cake made by Mrs. Blanche Poole. A guest book signed by all who attended the services was given to Dr. Wilson for a keepsake.

Dr. Wilson's sermons were a memorable message for our Centennial year. In the morning she spoke from Psalm 51: 8 -- "Let the bones dance which thou has broken", the psalmist's plea for a renewed spiritual life. Something in a person, a family, a congregation, an institution or a country has to be broken before a new spirit can emerge. Out of death comes resurrection; out of trials and suffering can come hope and a new spirit within us if we learn to let our "broken bones dance".

The evening's theme came from Matthew 10: 34 and 16: 3 where Jesus said:- "I came not to bring peace but a sword", and again "You can read the face of the sky but can ye not read the signs of the times?" Current "signs of the times" which we need to read concern the gap between the rich and the poor, the management of the earth's resources, our increasingly pluralistic society, racism, and sexism. To these problems we can respond by abdicating responsibility and being totally indifferent, or by taking Christian action in the light of Jesus' life and teaching. How we as individuals and as a church read the "signs of the times" will depend not alone on our knowledge of the past and present but our vision for the future. Dr. Wilson closed with this quotation from the work of Elizabeth Barrett Browning:-

"Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God,
But only he who sees takes off his shoes.
The rest sit 'round and pluck blackberries."

JULY —

On July 5th, amid excessive heat, a crackling thunderstorm and a heavy downpour of rain, the sermon on "Vigilance in Living" was preached by Rev. Ronald Sweeney, a former pastor, now retired in Kitchener, Ontario. From the text "Watch with me", Matthew 26: 38, he emphasized that the church is built on the active day-by-day Christianity of its individual members. The word 'watch' bids us be alert to the nature of the Words we speak, the Actions we take, the Thoughts we think, the Company we keep, and the Hours we spend, seeking at all times the power of God in our daily living.

Mrs. Sweeney and their son Stewart were also welcomed back by the congregation.

AUGUST —

Rev. Geerlof Lokhorst returned from his present charge at Wakefield, Quebec, to take the Sunday service on August 2nd here in his first Canadian church. Because this year is also the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination into the United Church Ministry, he used the same text -- II Thessalonians 5: 19 - 22 (from the Cottonwood version) -- from which the sermon was preached on that occasion. Echoing St. Paul's warnings -- "Don't switch off the Spirit" and "Don't despise honest preaching" -- he reminded us that the Spirit is a great disturber of complacency and, if heeded, can lead us to greater vigi-

lance, new vision and added courage to guide us into our second century of challenge.

Mrs. Beatrice Timlin presented Mr. Lokhorst with a gift in honour of his twenty-five years of ministry. Special music was provided by soloist Joanne Coyle, a former choir member.



As this story goes to press, there remain four months of this Centennial Year during which other special events will take place. The regular Anniversary Service is scheduled for October 4th when the church will be highly honoured by a visit from a former Moderator, Dr. Robert McClure, whose messages are always timely, dynamic and inspirational. In November, we are hopeful the Singing Edwards Family will lead a musical service, and December always brings the special events of Advent and Christmas.

The Centennial Committee is extremely grateful to all the very special people who, during the year, have enhanced our services of worship by their leadership. We greatly regret the passing of Rev. Redvers Brown who was to have come here to preach in September. Two other former ministers, Rev. R. C. White and Rev. J. R. Wheeler were prevented by age and declining health from accepting our invitation to be a part of our celebrations.

When this year of "remembering" winds down, a second century will begin for which all that has gone before will be only the prelude. Many men and women of great vision, fortitude and dedication have walked through the pages of this history leaving footprints which are large and clear and pointing forward, inviting us to follow where they, by the Spirit of God, still lead.



Rt. Rev. Dr. Lois M. Wilson,
Moderator-United Church of Canada,
receiving our Centennial Church
plate on her visit June 14, 1981.



Audrey Thackeray
Typist

APPENDIX

OFFICIALS OF ROSENEATH UNITED CHURCH — 1981

Minister -- Rev. William Stephenson

Elders -- Douglas Coyle (Clerk of Session), Clifford Broadworth, Donna Davis, Anne Duff, Helen Gallagher, Helen Patch, Ross Poole, Hazel Smith, Beatrice Timlin.

Stewards -- Murray Thackeray (Chairman), Alyn Stephenson (Secretary), Thelma Stephenson (Church Treasurer), William Boyko, Mavis George, Rupert Hartford, Helen Hogg, Elmer Harper, Leo Linton, Ronald Macklin, Peter Newton, Ernest Radcliffe, Neil Shearer, Reg Timlin, David Ward.

Trustees -- Bruce Arthur, Clifford Broadworth, Marvel Lonsberry, Flex McMillan, Ross Poole, Roland Thackeray, Reg Timlin.

Sunday School Superintendent -- Ross Poole.

Organist and Choir Leader -- Lois Linton.

U.C.W. President -- Blanche Poole.

Leaders of Explorers and Messengers -- Shirley Childs, Anne Duff, Helen Radcliffe, Gail Sheardown, Glenda Townsend.



The following names are those of ministers and officials who have served during previous years:-

MINISTERS OF ROSENEATH METHODIST CHURCH —

Rev's. William Buchanan, Joseph C. Bell, John Davies, Samuel Thompson, John Tozeland, Thomas Brown, William Sexsmith, C. Hiram Fusee, Thomas H. McDonald, Thomas Snowden, Dr. William Sanders, S. A. Duprau, R. L. Edwards, S. G. Rorke, C. C. Washington, H. A. Bunt, A. R. Walsh, J. N. Lovelace.

MINISTERS OF ROSENEATH UNITED CHURCH —

Rev's. J. N. Lovelace, M. R. Brown, R. W. Paton, George Empey, L. W. Scott, Eugene Beech, Edmund Unstead, R. C. White, J. R. Wheeler, Geerlof Lokhorst, Howard E. Beare, Ronald Sweeney, Dr. R. B. Green, Edward S. Colwell.

ORGANISTS and/or CHOIR LEADERS —

Eliza Hoskin, Jennie Ingham, Ida Turner, Mrs. Thomas Snowden, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. G. Ingham, Mrs. Frank Turner, Charles Brown, Mrs. Cora Nill, Mrs. Joy Thackeray, Mrs. Doris McMillan, Mrs. L. W. Scott, Margaret Atkinson, Clarice Atkinson, Carolyn Atkinson, Hilda Arthur, Mrs. Margaret Coyle, Mrs. Rosella Carew, Mrs. Blanche Poole, Joanne Coyle, Anita Hartford.

ELDERS —

Samuel Bradshaw, Howard Macklin, Archie Mouncey, A. J. Campbell, Rev. J. N. Lovelace, Leslie Tucker, Frank Adams, Rae Brown, Silas Sherwin, Marvel Lonsberry, William Montgomery, Frank Down.

STEWARDS —

Andrew Brown, William Arnold, M. Davey, A. J. Campbell, Archie Mouncey, Clarence Varcoe, Gordon Parker, Frank Brisbin, Harry Mouncey, John Baxter, Norman Sherwin, John Nichol, Delbert Varcoe, Albert Halstead, Alfred Braithwaite, Herman Blodgett, Charlton Grigg, Fred Norris, George Turner, Rae Brown, Fred Lewis, O. J. Robins, Ray Bradshaw, Milton McMillan, D. L. Coyle, Mervin Smith, Walter Gallagher, Frank Adams, Clifford Broadworth, Victor Morrow, Fred Riley, William Coyle, George McCleary, Ross Poole, Mrs. Agnes Crego, Mrs. Clara Varcoe, J. P. Hansen, Allan Gallagher, Glenford Linton, Hazel Smith, Ellis Isaac, Mrs. J. P. Hansen, Clare Harper, Douglas Root, Eric Childs, Newton Taylor, Earl Sherwin.

CARETAKERS —

William Jackson, Mr. Dawe, Ira Lapp, Wilbert Blodgett, S. A. Tucker, Howard Lapp, Beecher Hogg, John McMillan, Milton McMillan, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Skuce, Mr. and Mrs. James Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Hilton Down.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS —

Wm. Davey, James Roberts, Arthur Tucker, George Ingham, Andrew Brown, Norman Sherwin, Walter Gallagher, Hazel Smith, Ross Poole.

TRUSTEES —

J. Roberts, Anthony Sherwin, Dr. Noden, Charles Talling, Wm. Brenton, E. Macklin, W. Macklin, J. Braithwaite, John Burkell, George Ingham, W. Brisbin, Walter Grigg, Edward Ellinor, Robert Elliott, Arthur Tucker, James Elliott, Artimus Blodgett, John Sandercock, John George, Thomas Sandercock, Frank Turner, E. A. Drury, Wilbert Blodgett, Wm. Davey, R. Macklin, W. J. Varcoe, Wm. Arnold, George Broadworth, Hugh Sherwin, W. J. Roberts, Gordon Parker, Andrew Brown, Norman Sherwin, Clarence Varcoe, John Baxter, Archie Mouncey, Irvin Brown, Clifford Leach.

W.M.S. PRESIDENTS —

Mrs. Robert Sherwin, Mrs. A. R. Walsh, Mrs. G. Ingham, Mrs. J. N. Lovelace, Mrs. Wilding, Mrs. F. Turner, Mrs. M. R. Brown, Mrs. Cora Nill, Mrs. Gladys Campbell, Mrs. Marjorie Brisbin, Mrs. Gladys Harvie, Mrs. L. W. Scott, Mrs. E. Beech, Mrs. Agnes Crego, Mrs. R. C. White.

W.A. PRESIDENTS —

Mrs. F. Turner, Mrs. Cora Nill, Mrs. Beatrice Sandercock, Mrs. Leslie Tucker, Mrs. Bart Thackeray, Mrs. Ford Derry, Mrs. Earl Waldie, Mrs. Helen Gallagher, Mrs. Mary Braithwaite, Mrs. Ila Sherwin.

U.C.W. PRESIDENTS —

Mrs. Leslie Tucker, Mrs. Mary Braithwaite, Mrs. Agnes Crego, Mrs. Hazel Smith, Mrs. J. P. Hansen, Mrs. Helen Gallagher, Mrs. Lois Linton.

ROSENEATH LEAGUE AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION PRESIDENTS —

Mrs. Gladys Campbell, Mrs. Agnes Crego, Clara Nieman, Kay Barry, Ruby Blodgett, Fred Lewis, Douglas Coyle, Donald Kemp, Donald Robins, Helen Sandercock.

MISSION CIRCLE LEADERS —

Mrs. Agnes Crego, Ruby Blodgett.

LITTLE LIGHT BEARERS LEADERS — -

Fenella - Mrs. Chas. Macklin, Centenary - Mrs. Wilbert Smith,
Roseneath - Mrs. G. Ingham.

MISSION BAND LEADERS —

Mrs. J. N. Lovelace, Jessie Johnson, Mrs. D. Brisbin, Mrs. R. Crego, Hildred Taylor, Mrs. Ednel Blodgett, Mrs. Leslie Sherwin, Mrs. W. Smith, Mrs. Andrew Brown, Mrs. A. Halstead, Irene Brown, Mrs. F. Turner, Mrs. K. Harvie, Lois Talling, Clarice Atkinson, Mrs. Gwen Black, Mary Maunder, Mrs. G. Lokhorst, Mrs. H. Beare, Mrs. Beatrice Coyle.

C.G.I.T. LEADERS —

Mrs. H. A. Bunt, Mrs. A. Brown, Mrs. D. Brisbin, Hildred Taylor, Mrs. L. W. Scott, Jessie Johnson, Kay Barry, Mrs. R. Crego, Mary Maunder, Mrs. H. Beare, Mrs. Sweeney.

BABY BAND LEADERS —

Mrs. A. Halstead, Jessie Smith, Mrs. Agnes Crego.

BOYS' GROUPS LEADERS —

Tuxis Boys - Rev. H. A. Bunt, Trail Rangers - Rev. M. R. Brown
Sigma C - Rev. H. E. Beare

EXPLORERS AND MESSENGERS —

Mrs. H. E. Beare, Mrs. R. Sweeney, Judy McCleary, Thelma Stephenson, Valda Ward, Hazel Smith, Blanche Poole, Emily Macklin.



IN MEMORIAM GIFTS

The following furnishings, memorials and gifts have been received by the church over a period of years, and are gratefully acknowledged here, with the names of their donors:-

The Pulpit -- The McMillan family in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John McMillan.

The Pulpit Bible -- Mrs. Lorne Thackeray in memory of her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Blodgett.

A Hymnary -- Rev. and Mrs. R. C. White.

The Cross and Vases -- The Varcoe family in memory of
Mrs. Hazel Varcoe.

The Lectern -- The McMillan family in memory of their brother
and sister Mr. Cecil McMillan and Miss Maud
McMillan.

The Lectern Bible -- Mrs. Frank Turner in memory of her husband.

The Flower Stands -- Mr. and Mrs. William Bowen.

The Pulpit Seat -- Mrs. Isabel Brown in memory of her husband
James A. Brown.

The Altar Rail -- Mr. and Mrs. Earl Waldie.

The Lectern Seat -- Mr. Garth Waldie.

The Hymn Boards -- Mrs. Isabel Brown in memory of her grand-
father Mr. George Whittaker and his family.

The Antependia of the Pulpit and Lectern -- The combined gift of
several members of the congregation.

The Organ Light -- In memory of Mr. Arthur Braithwaite by his
family.

The Guest Book -- The Lovelace family.

The lights in the sanctuary and the choir gowns formerly in use
-- Asbury and West United Church, Toronto.

Pictures -- Mr. Lorne Huston; Mrs. Fred Norris.

Sunday School Hymn Board -- The Sunday School in memory of
Mr. Andrew Brown.

Piano Light in Sunday School Room -- The Sunday School in mem-
ory of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sherwin.

Pianos -- Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Smith.

Bible -- Rev. and Mrs. G. Lokhorst in memory of Mr. A. J.
Campbell.

Pew Cushions -- Mrs. Grace Sherwin in memory of her husband
Mr. Leslie Sherwin.

Organ Chimes -- In memory of Mrs. T. S. Coyle by her family.

Bible Stand -- Mrs. Averta Tucker in memory of her husband
Mr. Leslie Tucker.

Collection Plates -- The families of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Sherwin,
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Pringle, and
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shearer.

Altar Cloth -- Centenary U.C.W. in memory of Mrs. Lyle Willson.



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