

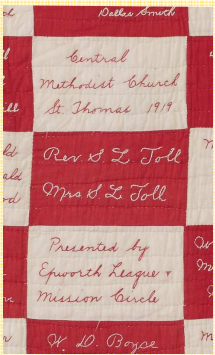
## St. Thomas Central United, 2008

Photo by R. LeBlance  
Courtesy, Ontario Heritage Trust



## St. Thomas Central United, 1919

Elgin County Museum  
Gift of Central United, 1977



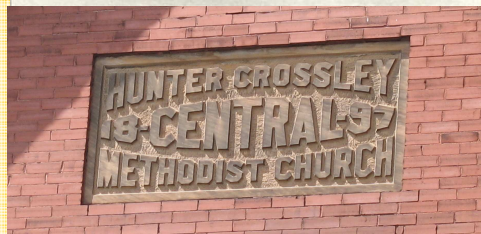
Central United was founded in 1874 as a Methodist Episcopal church. Its congregation then was composed of railway workers, many of whom worked for the Canada Southern Railway, and shopkeepers who had come to town following the beginning of the railway boom. The members had been meeting in the railway's passenger station while raising funds for a building which was commenced in 1874 on the site of the present church at 135 Wellington Street. In the 1890s, two well-known

evangelists, Rev. J. E. Hunter and Rev. H. T. Crossley moved to St. Thomas and chose Wellington Street Methodist as their place of worship. They topped the list of donors when replacement of the 1874 building was proposed and the new church was named in their honour when it opened in 1897. The community known as Crossley-Hunter in Malahide was named for the church that once stood there. It was built following a very successful open-air revival held on the site by the two evangelicals. In their 30 years together the Crossley-Hunter team converted by profession of faith over 100,000 people across Canada.

This quilt was presented to Rev. S. L. Toll (1915-1919) upon his departure from the church. It was under Rev. Toll that the purchase of pews ended and the use of envelopes for contributions was begun. He lived in the church's parsonage at the corner of Moore and Wellington which still stands. The quilt was made and presented by the Epworth League and Mission Circle and was returned to Central United by Rev. Toll's daughter Wilma during its centennial year. Names were embroidered for a donation of ten cents. The names embroidered in black commemorate members who had passed away.



Rev. J. E. Hunter



Rev. H. T. Crossley