

Celebrating a Proud History and a Bright Future

Wallacetown
United Church
History
1970 - 2000

By: Louie Lackey

We have come to the last 30 years of our church history, and looking back, some things stay the same and some things change.

In 1970, a very special thanks went to Mrs. Glanfield and her sister Miss Jean Elcoat for their untiring efforts in providing flowers and floral decorations for the church services and for weddings and special celebrations.

It was mentioned she had been doing this for 20 years and carried

on unto 1975, at which time I believe Teresa Bobier took it over for probably another 20 years.

The high school graduates, as they left school for the work force or went on to further their studies, were presented with gifts from the congregation following the evening anniversary service. This was carried on for many years.

A group committee was formed in July 1971 under the direction of the combined Anglican and United Churches in Dunwich to co-ordinate the then newly formed Scout-Cub and Brownie units in Dutton and Wallacetown.

The Presidents of the UCW in this time period were - Ina Crawford, Mary Gow, Teresa Bobier, Annie Brown, Gertrude Sloan, Louie Lackey, Jackie Shipley, Mary Manchester, Leta West, Marion Page.

The treasurers were - Annie Best, Teresa Bobier and Dorothea Monteith.

The organists for the same time were Margaret Welch, Mary Manchester, and then in a short time period we had high school girls - Patti Hopper, Jennifer Dowker, Jennifer Bol, Melanie Lapadat and Cindy Walker. It was probably good training for these girls at this time in their life. Sharon Atkinson filled in when needed and Sophia Gowan became our organist in 1989 and still is at the present time.

The Ministers at Wallacetown United Church between 1970 and 2000 were:

Rev Murray Barnet, 1967 - 1975; Rev. David Northey, 1975 - 1980; Rev. Ernest Fellows, 1980 - 1985; Rev. Barbara Laing, 1985 - 1988; Rev. Lloyd Carver and Rev. Burton Crowe finished 1988. Rev. Lloyd Carver as Interim Minister to 1990; Rev. Evelyn McLacklan, 1990 - 1998; Rev. Jane Hallett, 1998 - 2000.

Extending communion to children was started December 29th, 1985, when Rev. Barbara Laing was minister.

The 50th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada was observed on June 1st, 1975, with Rev. Murray Barnet as guest speaker. Also on July 13th, the 100th Anniversary of Wallacetown United Church was celebrated with Rev. Kenneth Welch as guest speaker and special music by choir and former members.

On October 12th, continued celebrations of the 100th Anniversary were observed with Rev. William Shaver, a former min-

ister, as guest speaker. Special music was by the choir and the trio Teresa Bobier, Louie Lackey and Leta West and duets by Don and Jack Page. Margaret Welch wrote a centennial song which was sung at this time. She also wrote a booklet "Century of Service" the History of Wallacetown United Church. Publication took place and the book went on sale at this anniversary service. This is the book which has been used for our history information these past several months.

On October 10th, 1976, at the Anniversary service, Margaret Welch was remembered for her many years as organist. At the same time, Mr. and Mrs. Morely Page and Mrs. William McKillop were presented with gifts for their long service in the choir and church work.

On October 9th, 1977, at the Communion service, Mrs. Margaret Welch presented a Communion table runner in memory of her late husband Norman Welch.

The annual report stated, on January 1979, there were 108 members in the congregation.

In 1982 the ceiling fans were installed by Hull Electric at the cost of \$664.00.

In 1986, there was an enrollment of 37 children in the Sunday School. In 1987, the Sunday School and UCW took 1st prize with a float in the Wallacetown Fair parade and Colleen West was chosen as Fair Queen. Again in 1990, the Sunday School aided by the UCW entered another float in the parade and, with much hard work, were rewarded with a 1st prize ribbon.

In 1989, permission was given to the Dutton Co-operative Day Care Centre Incorporated to rent the church basement for their toddler and preschool program commencing October 1st. They stayed until they

moved to their new facilities in Dutton in September 1993, when we had our Sunday School facilities back to normal.

Through the years, the UCW sponsored the Flower Fund which provides remembrances to members of our church families in times of sickness, bereavement and celebrations. This is done by phone calls, cards, flowers or other tokens of remembrances or goodies and the many boxed packed and delivered to shut-ins at Christmas. The ladies responsible for looking after this through the years have been Mrs. Glanfield, Viola McArthur, Ruth McKillop and at present time Margaret Gowan.

The restoration of the stained glass windows in the church was started in 1988 by the stewards and completed in June 1990. All of the windows were restored and donors were found for all the windows. The dedication service was held Sunday, June 3rd, 1990, in the afternoon with an overflowing crowd. Former minister Rev. Murray Barnet conducted the service and music was

provided by the Lyons Family, the Page brothers and the choir.

New carpet was installed in the church in March 1991. While installing the carpet, it was discovered that the pulpit area needed extensive repairs. Under the guidance of Doug Simpson, all of these repairs were done by members of the church. Also in 1991, the back entry way had vinyl siding installed.

November 1991, our Anniversary speaker was Ross Daily from CFPL TV, London, with special music by the Lyons family and Page brothers.

On June 2nd, 1991 a Dutton Centennial Project, which was an outdoor ecumenical Worship Service, was held at the Sons of Scotland Park in Dutton with all surrounding churches taking part.

In July 1992, a new Baldwin organ was purchased to replace the existing one that had been in use for over 30 years. The cost of the new organ was \$10,500.00.

November 8th, 1992, a special music night was a great success (continued on next page)

Wallacetown United

(continued)

and remembered by many for years to come with the proceeds going towards the new organ. Also that fall, a travelling dinner was held - going from Darlene Ford's to Doris Barber's and ending up at Ev. the Rev.'s with proceeds of \$230.00 going to the organ fund. A good time was had by all at this event.

In November of 1992, new furnaces were purchased for the church to replace the existing ones that had been installed in the late 50's.

1993 saw a new roof installed on the church with work done by Charles Schultz Construction at a cost of \$5046.00.

The Christmas Eve service of 1993 was held at Wallacetown and was very well attended with chairs in the aisles and people standing at the back. This certainly ended the year on a great note.

Proceeds from a silent auction in 1994 was \$4,025.00.

On July 18th, 1994, a lot of people turned out and the outside trim of the church was caulked and painted - a very worthwhile job done and it looked good also.

Fall of 1995, our min-

istry took on a different design with the addition of student minister, Don MacPherson, who needed a placement to fulfill the requirements in his academic studies. We all benefited by his time on the charge.

A Heritage Weekend was held in February 1995 which proved to be very successful. On Saturday afternoon there Down Memory Lane video interviews, memorabilia displays, quilt tying demonstrations and tea tables. The evening was spent with games and horse and wagon rides. Sunday breakfast was served by the men, followed by a hymn sing and concluded with a Revival Church Service.

Mission contribution over the years went to Manitoba Relief Fund, Habitat for Humanity, Fire Victims donations, Fellowship of the Least Coin, Bobier Home and Villa, Pearce Williams, Vacation Bible School, Christmas Shoppe, Elgin Presbytery Bursary, Medical Electives, Rekobath Home, Food Grains Bank, Daffodil Society, Bluefield Project, Second Stage Housing, Tornado Funds.

Out of the Congregational Renewal Project in the late 1980's,

Nov 15/2000
came three proposals - Spiritual Growth and Enrichment and also Community Outreach. From the first, a committee was set up to organize "greeters" from the congregation for morning services. The Outreach Committee consisted of representatives from all churches. Their purpose was to visit newcomers in the community and present them with a flyer that outlined resources in the area.

The UCW penny contest started in 1968 and has long been a way for the UCW to raise some money and also something planned by the 2 captains. This has meant that some very interesting events have taken place.

Cancer bed pads were made by the UCW at the church at work bees in the 1980's for the Daffodil Society for cancer patients in the area.

Another Silent Auction was held in 1996 with receipts totaling \$1700.00.

Heritage Sunday was planned on February 16th, 1997 with a keynote speaker in the morning giving an illustrated presentation on the Medical Elective's Overseas Program at the University of Western Ontario. Then hands-on exhibits of 11 area displays to present

outreach activities supported by our church. A light lunch was then served followed by a hymn sing, concluding with a celebration in worship and special music by Johnny Stevens.

November 14th, 1999, our Anniversary Service was depicted in 5 light-hearted historical sketches beginning as it was in 1875 with the church evolution through the years. We were celebrating 124 years of faithful ministry, "Something to Sing About."

January 2000, on a cold, crisp Sunday morning, the Wallacetown UCW Time Capsule, with interesting items from everyone was sealed and buried on the church property, to be dug up and opened in 25 years for our 150th Anniversary.

So it seems, we have been a very interesting, active congregation, working together, willing to learn about our own walk with Christ, and a sense of equality with one another. May we be aware of God's presence as we go about our individual Ministries.

This brings us all the way through the highlights of our church history for 125 years helping us to "Celebrate a Proud History and a Bright Future."

Dutton-Dunwich Adult Club

by Will Lamont
Co-Op Student

Television constantly bombards viewers with hundreds of images each day. Presented, are idealized portraits of men and women who are in the prime of their lives. The elderly is one age category which is grossly under-represented in our youth-oriented culture, when in fact, they are the fastest growing. Groups like the Dutton-Dunwich Adult Club are geared towards keeping mature adults active, appreciated and involved.

For the past 20 years, the Dutton-Dunwich Adult Club has been providing an avenue for seniors to develop friendships and pursue activities which interest them. The Club, which, last February, moved to a new location at 185 Main Street, now boasts a 100 member roster. Throughout the year, the group has numerous activities planned. There is something for everyone, whether it be bridge, quilting or simply enjoying a morning cup of coffee with friends.

Quilting

Every Monday and Friday at 1:00 p.m., a dozen or more ladies gather for an afternoon of quilting. "We all have a good time here," explains one participant as to why she is involved. The women are willing to create a quilt upon request, and all proceeds go towards covering club expenses. At the upcoming "Dutton Days" at the Fanshawe Pioneer Village, London, members of the D.D. Adult Club will be giving a quilting demonstration. A quilt which they are presently making with a Scottish Thistle pattern will be raffled off at the Pioneer Village. Half of the monies raised through ticket sales will be received by the D.D. Adult Club.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY - On the first Wednesday of every month, club members enjoy a Birthday Party with cake and tea, after having their monthly Travelogue.

Cards

Bridge, one of the most successful programs, is held Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. A fair number of people gather for an enjoyable time of card-playing. Thursday - euchre never caught on as well, and was thus discontinued. Beginning the first Thursday in May, the group is hoping to recommence the euchre parties. Another activity being investigated as a possible addition to the weekly schedule is darts.

Eventful Wednesdays

Wednesdays at the D.D. Adult Club are usually very full days. In the mornings from 9 - 11:30 a.m., the Clubroom is open for Coffee Break. A mere 15¢ is the cost for a bottomless cup of tasty brew. "It's one of the best deals in town." Along with the coffee, people can also enjoy cookies. Coffee Break is a time when members can come out and enjoy a morning of talking, sharing and of course, great coffee.

In the afternoon of the first

Wednesday of every month, members are invited to voyage to distant locals while remaining in the confines of the Club room. It is called Travelogue, and with the aid of a slide presentation, viewers are able to learn about regions around the globe. Following the interesting visual excursions, the Birthday Party is held, celebrating the birthdays of members born in that month. The ladies of the D.D. Adult Club all take turns preparing the cake and refreshments. The second Wednesday of each month is geared at encouraging a healthier lifestyle for older adults, called the Wonders of Wellness. The visiting Public Health Nurse speaks about different topics and issues which are related to the lives of the area's elderly.

Other Activities

Along with the regularly scheduled activities, there are many other well-attended events throughout the year. To kick-off and close each season, the club hosts a pot luck lunch in both September and June.

There is a bazaar in November at which the Adult Club sells Christmas items and crafts, baked goods and serves tea. A catered Christmas dinner followed by entertainment during the noon hour is another warmly received annual festivity. In addition, the group usually organizes one or two day trips, including a July picnic at Port Glasgow.

Senior Games

This coming June 22nd, Rodney will be the 1995 host for the Oxford-Elgin Senior Games. All senior groups from the two counties are invited to participate in the 18 category competition. A few of the activities are bridge, euchre, cribbage, golf, lawn bowling and shuffle board. Winners advance to the Ontario Senior Games later in the year. Last season, the D.D. Adult Club had 1st and 2nd finishes in the euchre competitions. They are hoping to have just as much fun and success as last year.

Involvement in the Community

Although the Club focuses mainly on the interests of the older adult population, they are nevertheless involved with the community at large.

The dedicated members stuffed envelopes for the March of Dimes, and have collected \$800.00 plus in donations from the area. On two previous occasions, the Adult Club has provided and served the refreshments for two 8-night runs of WEDS productions.

President Louie Lackey says that they are "here to serve the community" and "any suggestions are welcomed." The rooms are available for a rental fee of \$25.00 per event. If you have any comments or questions concerning the D.D. Adult Club, you can inquire at this number: 762-2364.



AN AFTERNOON OF QUILTING - Ladies of the D.D. Adult Club are pictured above quilting, as they do every Monday and Friday beginning at 1:00 p.m.



BRIDGE ANYONE? - These ladies are only four of the many D.D. Adult Club members who come out every Tuesday.