



MRS. VERA NEIL AND MRS. VERA RIPLEY PARTICIPATED IN Sunday's 100th anniversary at West Lorne United Church. Mrs. Neil has been a church organist and an accompanist 50 years, and Mrs. Ripley has been a member of the church's choir 50 years, and sang in other choirs nine years before that. She also sang a solo in Sunday morning's anthem.

United anniversary

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west of Graham, and facing the railroad, with Rev. Thomas Hanna being the first minister.

In 1889 Wesley Church was rebuilt and a bell hung in its tower through the generosity of Amasa Wood of St. Thomas.

In 1925 Presbyterians and Methodists voted to unite and formed Knox United Church of Canada, although union did not take place until the following year. First minister was Rev. W.M. Kitley.

Other ministers were: Rev. W. Stafford 1930, Rev. W.T. Eddy 1933, Rev. W.J. Wilson 1938, Rev. R. Simpson 1940, Rev. F.G. Purchase 1943, Rev. O.R. Dyke 1948, Rev. H. Hamilton 1950, Rev. H.E.J. Moorhouse 1955, Rev. Alex Taylor 1962, Rev. Hill Hamilton 1965, Rev. Trevor

Richard 1966, and Rev. James Vanslyke 1970.

In 1933 the church was rebuilt, with a basement being placed under it by W.T. Merrett, and the bell from the Methodist Church, which had closed, was placed in the belfry.

A new organ was presented to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Basil Fisher and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kemp in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Howison of Windsor.

Three years later a two-storey, 25 by 26-foot brick addition was built on the south side of the church at the back, for Sunday School rooms at a cost of \$10,000. Mr. Merrett oversaw construction for Miller Lumber Co.

In memory of Mr. Merrett, and his wife, who played organs in the church for 60 years, new lighting was installed in the chancel by the family this year.

United Church Women hold 25th anniversary

West Lorne United Church celebrated the 25th anniversary of its U.C.W. in a special service Sunday, Jan 11th.

That day, Rev. Jim Potter sat among the congregation and seemed to enjoy himself, while the ladies conducted the entire worship service.

Guest speaker was Joan Patterson, president of the Elgin Presbyterial, and whose message, "We Respond", was enjoyed by all.

Mary Rose opened the service with a warm welcome and the Call to Worship. Jean Bell followed by reading Psalm 100 and leading the Prayer of Confession as well as the Assurance of Pardon.

Nellie Hewings explained the meaning of the "Anniversary Logo", which was displayed on special envelopes. She then read the introduction to the Scriptures. Reading Scriptures were: Betty Ross, Margaret Barber, Helen Mooser and Carolyn Jewell.

Mary Rose read the History of the West Lorne U.C.W., compiled by Mrs. Agnes Reid, who, unfortunately could not be present. In it she stated that for many years the United Church had two main organizations; The Women's Missionary Society and the Women's Association.

In 1962 the two organizations were combined to become one, known as the "United Church Women."

The purpose of this organization was to unite all women of the congregation for total "Mission of the

Church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service." The West Lorne United Church Women elected Mrs. Manson (Margaret) Robinson as their first president.

There were to be 10 meetings a year under different leaders at West Lorne and Eagle, that is, until Eagle disbanded. There was also an evening group which held meetings for a few years. There were four general meetings a year when all the groups met together in the church. The ladies supported their allocations which were set each January.

Dagmar Jobson read the announcements and called for the offering. Ushers were Bertha Cooper, Katherine Schepanski, Georgina Staddon and Joyce McFadden. Dedication of the offering was sung by all.

The Litany was led by Marion Hauser with the congregation responding.

At this time the candle lighting ceremony was celebrated.

First Candle: representing the past, was reminisced by Vera Ripley and lit by Eric Bird. The second candle: representing the Present, was explained by Mary Belle Cook and lit by Francis Graham. The third candle: representing the Future, was read by Donna Ripley, and lit by Kim Jewell, and little Katie Smale.

The guest speaker brought an excellent message on "We Respond" and was graciously thanked. Kathy Johnston led the Commissioning and Benediction. Janice Brearley closed the service with the reading "God's Presence in our Lives."

After the service, everyone was invited for coffee and a piece of anniversary cake, made and decorated by Kim Jewell and Terri Smale. Susie Staddon had the honour of cutting the cakes.

Potter for being so helpful and letting us have a free hand.

WL Church of Christ marks 90th anniversary, Sunday

A beautiful, sunny first day in May provided a Spring-like mood for an important celebration by West Lorne Church of Christ (Disciples) as the congregation marked its 90th year (1887-1977) Sunday.

The celebration had four phases . . . first, the 11 am. worship and Communion service with 60 present; second, anniversary dinner at 1 pm. when 40 sat down to a generous roast beef dinner (family style) at Town and Country Restaurant, third, the 7:30 pm. evening service with 110 present, and fourth, the fellowship-refreshment time in the lower hall at 8:50 pm. which many remained to enjoy.

Rev. Joseph D. Driskill, Disciple-ordained and serving the United Church of Canada as Chaplain at the University of Western Ontario, was guest speaker for both services, his messages being "A Vision Rekindled" and "A Time to Celebrate!" morning and evening, respectively.

CHALLENGE

Rev. Driskill challenged the congregation in the morning to rekindle the vision with which the Disciple movement was born in the early 1800's — the Holy Grail of Christian unity. He indicated that though union conversations between Anglican, Disciple and United churches faltered, new conversations are under way between the Disciple and United Churches.

Our goal is not simply a merger, but rather the creation of a new church into which each of our two churches brings its own unique contribution.

In the evening he recalled Isaac's persistence in redigging Abraham's wells and the scene at the cross where the soldiers gambled to win Christ's seamless tunic.

He stressed that inevitably we take risks in life and that the important thing is how significant the cause for which we risk our honour, name and fortune. He stressed how urgently the world needs a church that will take risks for its Lord today in terms of making a real impact for love, justice, and peace in this day and age.

MUSIC

Special music was provided by Mrs. Anne Driskill who sang at both services: "Eternal Life", "Thanks Be to God" and

"Happy Birthday!" The West Lorne Ecumenical Choir, with members from the Disciple and United Churches, sang two anthems in the evening service: "Redeeming Love" and "Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveller", under the direction of Mrs. Robert Walker. Organist and pianist for the services were Mrs. Grace Lemon and Miss Beth McKillop, respectively.

Among the numerous guests sharing the day with the congregation were Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Parsons of Poplar Hill, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rolfe, Sr. of Windsor, President and Past-President of the Ontario Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), respectively.

Ecumenical and Disciple sharing from the Rodney-West Lorne-Dutton area and from nearby communities was symbolized by the following clergy present: Rev. James Vanslyke of the United Church, Rev. Norman Schlarbaum of the Baptist Church, Rev. Thomas Gray of the Rodney Christian Church, Rev. Dr. B. C. Eckardt of First Church of Christ (Disciples), London, Rev. D. L. Howlett serving the Ridgetown-Northwood Disciple Parish, Rev. Ben L. Herring of Princess Avenue Christian Church, St. Thomas, and that grand old man of the Disciple ministry in Ontario, who will reach his 92nd year May 13, Rev. Wm. Bilson of St. Thomas.

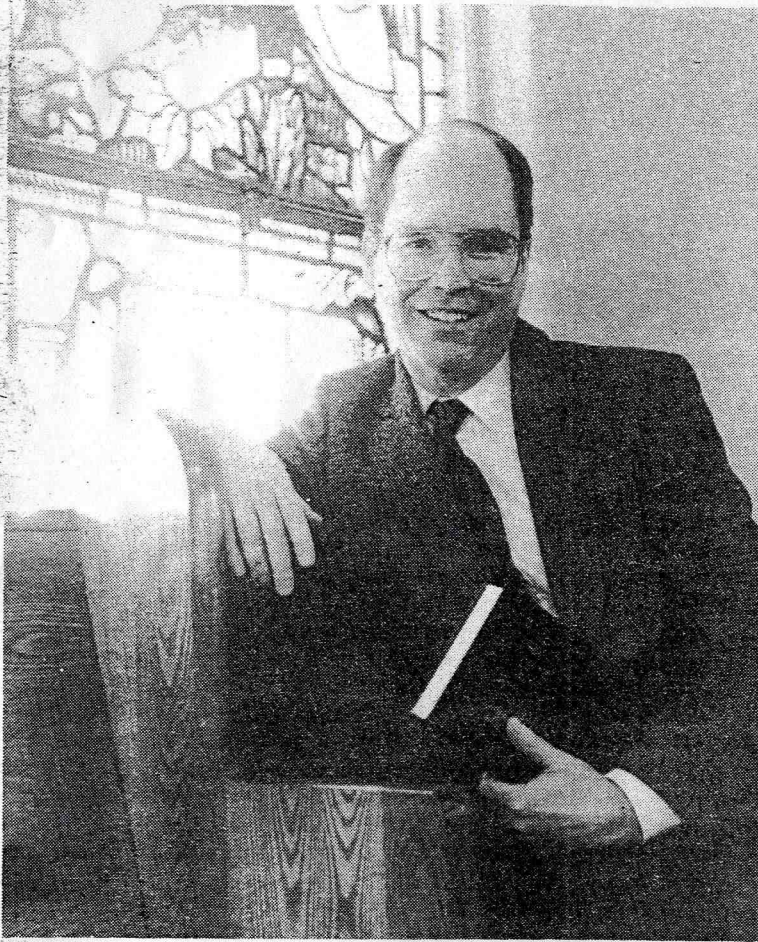
Elder Earl Lemon and Board Chairman Donald McKillop join Rev. Halsey Wakelin in expressing the congregation's gratitude to all members and friends of the congregation who, by their presence and help, (much of it behind the scenes) helped make the celebration of the 90th year a significant and memorable day.

HISTORY

Today we are heirs of yesterday, heirs of Scotch Baptists who migrated to South-western Ontario via Lake Erie, having developed early ties with the Disciples of Pennsylvania (followers of Thomas and Alexander Campbell) and with the Christians of Kentucky (followers of Barton W. Stone) both movements uniting in 1832.

Even so may the heirs of yesterday be enabled today to be shapers of tomorrow, even a people of God who demonstrate that God, Himself, is in the midst of life every day for those who have seriously taken the risk of belonging to Jesus Christ, having named him Saviour and Lord of their lives.

Meet your local pastor



JIM POTTER grew up in the church and is now the minister at Calvary United Church. — Mercury-Sun photo

By Kathy Hollingsworth
For seven years, Jim Potter has been the minister at Calvary United Church. Born in Nova Scotia, Potter attended Queen's University and received a BA in history and a Masters Divinity. He has been married for 12 years to his wife Louise, whom he met while attending university. They have four children, Geoffrey, 10, Jennifer, 8, Beth, 5, and Emily 3.

"I grew up in the church, but I never thought I would be a minister," says Potter. He drove a bus for a while and then decided to see if the ministry was what he wanted to enter into. He went to Cape Breton as an intern and that's when he decided the church is where he wants to be.

Working on his sermon and visiting people in the community and in hospital, he keeps himself busy. "If needs come up, we try and respond to them," says Potter. He is doing what he loves best, working with, and helping people. Sometimes people who are travelling a long distance stop at the church for a prayer before heading towards the big cities.

When it comes to the Canadians going to war in the Gulf, "I'm not that happy about

them going to war, nobody likes to see war. It's difficult, you can't let Saddam Hussein do what he wants," says Potter. Each Sunday the church lights a candle to ex-

press its desire for the men and women to come home soon. "Since it has already started, we have to support them there and hope they will be home soon," says Potter.

WEST LORNE ANNIVERSARY, OCTOBER 21, 1990

ORGAN PRELUDE

GREETING

THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God.

CONGREGATION: the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea,
and everything in them--the Lord, who remains faithful
forever. (Psalm 146:5,6)

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Almighty God, you have sent Jesus to show us how to
live. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit so that we
may follow him in faithfulness all the days of our lives.

Amen

DEDICATION OF NEW HYMNBOOKS

HYMN #95 - "GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"

WEST LORNE CHILDREN'S TIME

THE CHAPELAIRES

SCRIPTURE: RUTH1:1-19a

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE CHAPELAIRES

THE OFFERING

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and
the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that
is in the heavens and in the earth is yours; yours is the
kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.
(1 Chronicles 29:11)

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING: #296 vs. 1

We give Thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be:
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

OUR PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As our lips praise you and our spirits seek your power,
so our hands provide the support for your church at work
today. Thank you for giving us this privilege. Amen.

HYMN #50 - "HOW GREAT THOU ART"

SERMON - "THE ABANDONED BAG"

HYMN #49 - "AMAZING GRACE"

COMMISSIONING

Go to be Christ's body in the world.

BENEDICTION

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

CHORAL AMENS

ORGAN POSTLUDE

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THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (Twenty-first after
Pentecost)

Ruth 2:1-13

Psalm 128

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

There is a nursery available today for children five years
and younger. These children can go to nursery after the
children's time or before if they like. There is no Sunday
School today because of the set-up for lunch.

Our thanks to Mr. Ross Daily for bringing our message
this morning and to the Chapelaires for adding to our
worship with their musical gifts. Thanks also to the
people who prepared our lunch after the service, to the
people of Wallacetown United Church for lending us some
hymnbooks and to those who watched children.

This week Jim will be attending the semi-annual meeting
of the Canadian Bible Society in London on Tuesday,
3:00-9:30 p.m. and a London Conference Stewardship
meeting on Wednesday 10:00-3:00 at Westminster College,
London.



Anniversary Sunday

West Lorne Christian Church's history spread over 100 years

Rodney's Christian Church's history, published as part of its 100th anniversary, September 7th, 1975, records that the West Lorne sister church traces its roots to Argyleshire, Scotland, from where pioneers landed at Port Galsgow.

Some settled and established a church in Eagle. From that church grew congregations at Rodney, and West Lorne. Later the Eagle congregation became a community church of Methodists, Baptist, Presbyterians and United; the type of church some hope for today. Also mentioned are sister congregations of Lobo (Poplar Hill), Mosa, Ridgetown and South Dorchester (now

Mapleton).

Celebrating our 50th anniversary in 1937, John A. McKillop wrote an excellent detailed account of the first 50 years, copies of which are available from the Ontario Archives.

The West Lorne Church reached 50 years with flags flying high. Possibly by the height of its 100 years was during the late 20's and early 30's, when the largest attendances were recorded. Rev. Fred E. Dunn was the minister in the late 30's and early 40's. He was followed by Rev. David Waterworth, Rev. Quigley and Rev. Elmer Stainton. In the 50's Rev. T. A. Gray, Rev. Ray Whitton and Rev. Carr ministered. The 60's brought Rev. J. P. Murray and Rev. W. O. Weale who led into the 70's.

These ministers all carried a dual ministry with Rodney. In the early 70's West Lorne went on its own for a period under the leadership of Rev. Wm. Bilson. In 1973 the church shared Poplar Hill's Rev. Steve Dobbins.

Many other renovations and installations were made possible through memorial funds established by former members and families, for which the congregation is thankful and fortunate.

The past 50 years the congregation has enjoyed summer exchange for holidays with sister congregations in the village. Most recently they have been with Baptist neighbours, who down through the years, have supported various special occasions, which are acknowledged with gratitude.

The 100th anniversary will be held Sunday, May 3rd.