



Intelligencer photo by Tom Gavey

Members of Mac MacFarlane's family gathered Sunday during dedication of BGH hospital chapel. Standing beside a photo and a plaque of Mac (at left) are, from left, sister Jessie Andrews, current BGH Pastor Les Picard and Mac's brothers Donald and Dean MacFarlane.

'He had a special feeling'

Chapel dedicated to Mac MacFarlane

By Tom Gavey *Still April 22/96 p. 8*

The Intelligencer

No one will ever know how many patients and families the late Rev. J.C. "Mac" MacFarlane consoled and counseled in the chapel at Belleville General Hospital.

But, Sunday, his efforts were recognized with the dedication of the fourth-floor chapel in his name.

Current hospital pastoral care co-ordinator Pastor Les Picard says MacFarlane's dedication to the hospital was considerable.

"He was the pastoral care co-ordinator for many years and he was very devoted. This seemed a suitable way to recognize Rev. MacFarlane," he says.

The decision to make the dedication was made by the hospital's Pastoral Care Advisory Committee.

MacFarlane, in addition to his duties at BGH, was pastor at Sidney Baptist Church for many years.

He died in 1994 at the age of 78.

Two brothers and a sister travelled to Belleville Sunday to help mark the dedication. His wife predeceased the reverend and his three sons live outside the Quinte area.

MacFarlane's brother Dean says the reverend had a special feeling for BGH.

"He had a special feeling for the Belleville area. We definitely found out he was well known and well liked," he says.

Picard says MacFarlane was part of a voluntary pastoral care service that has become a model for others in the province.

For more than 20 years various chaplains have donated at least eight hours per month to the hospital, not just for patients but also to counsel families and hospital staff. There is also a 24-hour on call volunteer for crisis situations.

Sunday, hospital president Brian Steinberg, Pastor Murray McKnight (MacFarlane's successor at Sidney Baptist) and fellow chaplains Rev. Father G. Scanlan, Rev. C. Buchanan and Rev. L. Turner all paid tribute, remembering a man who gave countless hours of voluntary time to the hospital.

Chaplain Colleen Cardiff gave the Prayer of Dedication and a plaque and picture were unveiled in the chapel.

MacFarlane,
Rev. J.C. "Mac"