

McDowell
Rev. Alex



Rev. Alex McDowell has been retired from full-time ministry at Eastminster United Church for seven years but, he remains active. Sunday, assisting the youth group, he dug out a "down home" recipe for fish chowder from his native Prince

Edward Island and helped train the young people to make the dish, which proved popular to a large number of the congregation who stayed for lunch.

(Staff Photo)

Cleric's secret chowder makes a 'miracle' meal

By JACK EVANS
Staff Reporter

One might not equate a bowl of soup and a slice of bread with a feast, but it seemed like that to the congregation of Eastminster United Church Sunday, especially when the soup was a hearty fish chowder from a secret recipe of Rev. Alex McDowell's native Prince Edward Island.

McDowell, who came to Belleville in 1956 as first pastor of the Eastminster congregation, is formally retired but remains connected with the church as minister emeritus.

Having left the full-time ministry seven years ago, he still helps out at services and with pastoral duties, and remains a valued and respected member of many of the church's activities. Sunday, his role was to be a resource person for the young people's organization in

both preparing and serving the luncheon following the morning service.

McDowell looked busier in the kitchen, than at your average television chef, assiduously tending the blending of the chowder and assuring that the many dozens attending were served with efficiency. While he rapped out the orders, a crew of young people labored with trays of chowder and buttered bread.

The young people got the credit for putting it on, but it was a congregational effort, explained the present minister, Rev. Ed. Bentley. It was meant to emphasize fellowship in the congregation and it got the new year off to a good start, thanks to the chowder.

McDowell didn't divulge the precise proportions, but ingredients included clams, salmon, tuna, scallops, haddock, cod, bacon,

onions, celery and milk with assorted seasonings.

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