

Ashgrove United Church One Hundred Years Old

History Recalls Early Days in the Township

The one hundredth anniversary of Ashgrove United Church was observed by holding three church services and two other events, a Mission Night and a Strawberry Social. Friends and relatives and former members gathered at the several occasions to share in the happy fellowship and to pay tribute to those who had served in various capacities throughout the years.

Rev. J. C. Hill, the minister of the church, and the centennial committee spent much time gathering historical records for their booklet and in planning for the celebration. Those who attended the services and the fellowships in connection with the celebration will vouch that everything was carried through smoothly and efficiently.

The first event was a Family Service on June 19th at 2 p.m. At this service a Bible and pulpit drape, the gift of the Young People's Society of the church, and a baptismal font and two flower stands, the gift of the late Mrs. Dell Nixon Dawson, were dedicated to "The Glory of God." This ceremony was followed by a communion service.

On Thursday evening June 23rd, the Young People's Society held their "Mission Night." Mr. Bill Wilson, a past president, was chairman for the evening. Taking part were former members as follows: organist Mr. John Bird, Sermon by Mr. Fred Wrigglesworth, prayer, Mrs. Donald Lawrence of Milton; vocal duet, Mrs. Jay Carney and Mrs. John Hunter of Glen Williams, guest speaker, Mrs. Wilbur McCurdy of Streetsville, Miss Sharon Swartz of Georgetown sang a solo "I Walked Where Jesus Walked."

On Sunday, over 225 filled the church to overflowing at the morning service. Rev. John C. Hill, the minister of the church, conducted the service with Rev. Wray L. Davidson, who was the minister at Ashgrove from 1919-1923, as guest speaker. Mr. Davidson spoke from the text "For without me, ye can do nothing." Mrs. R. H. Wright, a former organist of the Ashgrove Church, presided at the organ. The choir, all former members, sang "The Lord Is My Shepherd" and Mrs. H. C. Wrigglesworth of Georgetown, sang a solo "The Holy City."

Luncheon was served at the close of the service, this gave an opportunity for friends to renew old acquaintances. The beautiful day contributed greatly to the occasion also, the speaker system, installed in the Sunday School Room for the day, enabled all to share in the whole service.

At the evening service the minister in 1923, Rev. Geo. Leck, who was the guest speaker. He spoke on "The Place of the Bible in a Modern World." He pointed out that the world deals in things and the Bible with people and human relationships. The church choir, with Mrs. James Carney presiding at the organ, sang the hymn anthem "Praise and Commemoration." Mrs. Francis Thompson, soloist for the evening service, sang "Come Unto Me."

Flowers were placed in the church in memory of the late Mrs. Irvan (Minnie Brownridge), the first organist of Ashgrove Church, who passed away on Wednesday, June 22, 1960.

The Centennial was brought to a happy finale at the Strawberry Social, Tuesday evening June 28th on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Brownridge. In spite of threatening weather, a good crowd enjoyed the excellent program. The musical numbers were under the supervision of Mr. Ken Harrison of Georgetown. Vocal solos were rendered by Mr. Bill Brush, Miss Sandra Sproule, Master David Farnell and Mr. Tom Trouton. Saxophone solo by Robert McCumber and guitar solo by Robert Wrigglesworth. Elocutionists Mrs. Haight and daughter Ruth of Oakville delighted the audience with their numbers. Due to showers coming on, shelter had to be sought to eat the strawberries, cake and ice cream, but no one seemed to complain.

Friends were registered from Toronto, Hamilton, Guelph, Brandon, Man., Brampton, Woodbridge, Milton Georgetown, Streetsville, Whitevale, Port Carling, Cooksville, Islington, Glen Williams, Rockwood, Richmond Hill, Stouffville, Terra Cotta, Norval, Bolton and Montreal.

Church History

Your lots north of the present church on Lot 13, Con. B, had the first church to serve the Ashgrove community, known as Mount Pleasant Wesleyan Methodist, 1841 - 1860.

At present the only landmark still visible is a small cemetery, which serves to remind us of a congregation which once existed.

The Ashgrove Church was erected in 1860 and began its career as a Methodist New Connexion denomination. Rev. J. C. Hill, who with the aid of a group of men were the leaders behind the cause in the Ashgrove community.

In 1874 the first union of the Methodist Churches took place and a change was made in the circuit boundaries. At this time Milton was head of the circuit. Ashgrove now became a part of the Georgetown circuit and continued in this fellowship, with the exception of one year (1885) when it was transferred to the Ashgrove circuit.

The first organ in the church was purchased in 1882. The second organ was purchased in 1905. The Ashgrove church, being in the worship service of their own church has frequently been invited to provide music in neighbouring churches.

The Women's Association has been an independent organization in that it has not affiliated with the Presbytery. At various times past they helped at the

the building fund of Ashgrove Methodist Church. Thomas Crawford, George Wrigglesworth, Thomas Welsh, George Nixon, Alfred Thompson, John Brown, John Hunter, Joseph Brownridge, Joseph Ruddle, Hugh Nixon, Richard Graham, Andrew Neilson, William Wilson, Isaac Hunter, Sr.

Mr. Abram Brownridge was the first leader of congregational singing. Mr. Brownridge was a good singer and pitched the tunes for the hymns before there was an organ in the church. The first organ was purchased in 1882. The second organ was purchased in 1905. The Ashgrove church, being in the worship service of their own church has frequently been invited to provide music in neighbouring churches.

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Wind Transfers Gift Shop Gala Indoors

Despite the fact the umbrella-topped tables had to grace the inside of Knox Church Hall, instead of the lawn, as planned, the Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop was a resounding success.

The Gift Shop, patterned after the actual gift shop which will be in the hospital, offered a wide variety of articles seen by the Auxiliary members, and did a brisk business.

The proceeds will provide material for the sewing for the nurses. While the group-ups enjoyed their strawberry tea, under the low canopy, the small fry had their own Junior Tea, complete with balloons and Freshie.

During the course of the afternoon tea was poured by Mrs. G. L. Royal, Mrs. M. MacFarlane, Mrs. A. Calder, Mrs. J. E. Maxwell, Mrs. D. C. Lee, Mrs. E. White, and Mrs. M. Adams.

The success of the venture was due to a "great extent" to the two convicts, Mrs. A. O. Mathison, convict, Mrs. A. O. Little and to the willing hands of Mr. Bob Burns and Mr. Frank Harb.

Norval School June Promotions

Junior Room
Mrs. W. F. Cascadden, Teacher

YO GRADE II
Geoffrey Burk, Douglas Campbell, Holly Cunningham, Gordon Fenley, Ann Kjarvalden, Laurel Lagerquist, Gary Lyons, Gay Nixon, Danny Norman, Julie Pomeroy, Billy Spaans, Dennis Stephenson.

YO GRADE III
Kathleen Carter, Goldie Cor-Walter Coupland, Paul Fenley, Corina Maile, Laurie Maxwell, David Norman, Penny Reynolds, Marion Vandenberg, Gwen Webb, Jan Woudenberg, Raymond Wright, Blair Youmans.

Intermediate Room
Mrs. Bernice Decker, Teacher

YO GRADE IV
Ian Arnold, Kenny Breby, Lois Clements, Billy Cunningham, Lundy Davis, Brian Evans.

Tommy Eyre, Marie Fendely, Jackie Gray, Alan Murray, Susan Nixon, Tommy Reynolds, Barry Richardson, David Royal, Michael Rutledge, David Thurlbeck, Michael Todd, John Vandenberg, Glen Webb.

YO GRADE V
Pat Crawford, Barbara Davis, Jean Lee, Gayle Lyons, Iris Maile, Gary Murray, Linda Nixon, Deborah Reynolds, Bruce Robertson, John Royal, Larry Scherby, Barbara Youmans, Jimmy Taylor.

Senior Room
Mrs. Alvonia Noble, Teacher

YO GRADE VI
Sally Barnes, David Carter, Carol Clements, Bonnie Fendley, Susan Finnamore, Donna Fuhburn, Wendy Hunter, Gunn Brit Kjarvalden, Heine McLean, Bryan, Reynolds, Lynda Rutledge, George Shering, Christine Vis, Harry, Smith.

YO GRADE VII
James Carter, John Crawford, Janet Finnamore, Edward Royal, William Rutledge, Lynda Shea, Gloria Shering, Joanne

Reach 2000 Mark in Library Memberships

The total membership of Georgetown Public Library reached the 2,000 mark during June when 39 adults and 49 juniors enrolled.

Total circulation for June 3,396
Adult fiction 1,234
Non fiction 465
Total adult books 1,699
Junior 1,697

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD THURSDAY, JULY 7th, 1960 PAGE 8



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100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION was a big event at Ashgrove United Church, as around 225 present and past members and friends gathered to honor the church founder, Abram Brownridge, who died in 1927. From left are: J. Brownridge, Hon. J. C. Hill, Rev. W. G. H. McAllister, and Mrs. W. G. H. McAllister.

with Norval, until 1926, one year after the Union of Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, when they became a member of the Home by Pastoral charge which consists of Hornby, Bethel and Ashgrove.

The 50th anniversary was celebrated in 1910 with the Rev. W. G. H. McAllister who was the son of the first minister, as guest speaker for the day.

In 1925 the church sanctuary was elevated to permit the building of a school room in the basement. New seating heating and lighting were installed. This was during the incumbency of Rev. H. H. Caldwell.

Last year, 1959, again saw great improvements. Stone steps were built and a new entrance into the church has given additional space in both the sanctuary and the basement. The extra space in the basement has been used to enlarge and modernize the kitchen.

Many have gone forth from the church to become influential leaders in various parts of Canada. One was the late Rev. F. W. Thompson who entered the ministry from this congregation. The descendants of several of the first members are active in the church today.

Prior to union the Quarterly Official Board met and carried on the work now looked after by the session and the stewards. Names we remember as serving on this board are: Wm. H. G. Ruddle, John F. Brownridge, K. Ruddle, John Wrigglesworth, J. H. Nixon, Wm. Thompson, George Wrigglesworth, John H. Graham, Robert Wright, Arthur Ruddle, Norman Wrigglesworth, and Dan Wright.

Members who have served on the session since 1926 are: John Giffen, D. F. Wright, Thomas Brownridge, Earl Wilson, R. J. Graham, Frank Wilson, Clayton B. Dick, Frank Ruddle and Robert Cunningham.

Members of the Board of Stewards for 1960 are: Claude Pickett, chairman; Bruce McClure, secretary; James Carney, Treasurer; Charles Austin, past chairman; Ward Brownridge, Robert Cunningham, Bill Wilson, Ford Wickson and Leslie Giffen.

No complete history of the Board of Trustees is available but it is thought the first were: Thomas Crawford, Joseph Ruddle, Joseph Brownridge and George Wrigglesworth. The descendants of all but Thomas Crawford are still attending the church today and all four were buried in the church cemetery.

The land on which the church was built was donated by Mr. Wrigglesworth and the land for the cemetery and the church shed by Mr. Ruddle. Mr. Crawford built the church. Among the records we find the following names as contributors to

The Power of Your Pledge!

by Tom Ferguson

To hear some one say "Their word is as good as their bond" means to most of us, that the persons of whom they speak, are highly respected by those who know them.

When some one gives their word, they usually do all in their power to make it good, for a pledge, and we do make a pledge when we give our word, is something few of us make lightly for we know our good name is at stake, and our good as our word reputation is something we all guard jealously and so we should, for once lost, we rarely regain it.

Hundreds of citizens of Georgetown and district made such a promise when they pledged to give a certain amount of money to the Hospital Building Fund. Construction on your hospital was started on the strength of many of these pledges, and next year at this time some one near and dear to you, maybe even you, will be receiving treatment, that may be a matter of life or death in the hospital that was built with the money you pledged. However, there are some people who for some reason or other, are not keeping their pledge. I suppose that some of the people who could only afford to give a relatively small amount, may feel that their donation does not really make much difference. Nothing could be further from the truth, for believe me when I tell you that be your donation large or small, it is extremely important, for without it, and hundreds like it, construction on the new hospital could never have begun. Now that we have overcome one of the greatest enemies in a project such as this, namely "inertia", let's keep the project rolling, and finish the job we all undertook when we pledged to give to the Hospital Fund.

I believe that many of the people who have failed to honor their pledge so far, have done so because they did not fully understand how and where donations can be made. Some people I have talked with thought that the canvassers would collect their donations when they fell due, not so! Your canvassers work for the moment is finished. Getting your donation in, is up to you. How you do it is simple, let me tell you how!

Take your pledge card to any one of the three banks in town, The Canadian Bank of Commerce, Main Street or Delrex Branch, The Royal Bank of Canada, Main Street, or send a cheque or money order to the Georgetown Hospital Association Building Fund Georgetown.

If you have lost, or misplaced your pledge card, you can get a new one by writing to the Building Fund address.

You know now how to honour your pledge.

You know now where to honour your pledge.

You know now that your hospital is under construction.

You know now the power of your pledge.

You know now that the completion of your hospital depends on your pledge.

You know now that your pledge is the most important one of all.

Won't you honour it now? Make your donation today.

Shower Honours Thursday Bride, Muriel Davison

A very pleasant afternoon was spent last Monday on the lawn at the home of Mrs. Wilfred Bird, when neighbors and friends gathered to honor Miss Muriel Davison, a bride of Thursday, who was given a very elegant shower. Mrs. Françoise Thompson sang two lovely songs. Mrs. John Bellhobby gave a reading and Mrs. This Giffen conducted some contests after which the bride opened the quality gifts, thanking everyone and inviting them to her future home in Hampton. A lovely lunch concluded the happy event.

School is out. Holidays are here and no need to ask the children if they are glad. Their faces tell you that. But what about the mothers, who will have them underfoot for the next two months.

Congratulations to all the school pupils and music students who successfully passed their exams. To those who did not make it we can only say, Try, Try, again, furthering your education is very important.

Robert Bridgen Tommy Ruddle and John Nurse are spending this week at Humber Glen Camp, Bolton.

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Ministers

New Connection Methodist, Milton Circuit
The Revs. James McAllister, 1860-1862; Thomas Goldsmith, 1863-1864; William Burks, 1865-66; John Kay, 1867-69; William Tyndal, 1870-71; George Brown, 1872-74.

Georgetown Circuit
Revs. William Mills, 1874-76; Hugh McLean, 1877-79; William Morrison, 1880-82; Joseph Collins, 1883.

Ashgrove with Norval
Rev. George Aibs, 1883.

Methodist Church, Georgetown Circuit
Rev. Walker Shilton, 1881-86; Robert Davy, 1887-88; Thomas Grey, 1889-92; David A. Moor, 1893-95; Geo. A. Mitchell, 1896-98; John Saunders, 1899-1900; Austin Potter, 1901-03; Henry A. Cooke, 1904-08; Dr. George Clarke, 1908-11; Samuel Roadhouse, 1911-15; Judson Traux, 1915-19; Wray L. Davidson, 1919-23; Henry Caldwell, 1923-26.

Hornby Pastoral Charge United Church
Rev. John Kitching, 1928-29; John A. Neill, 1929-33; Benjamin Eyre, 1933-38; J. O. Totton, 1938-45; Fred Ainsworth, 1945-52; George Leck, 1952-53; Ian Williams, 1953-55; Norman Russ, 1955-57; Clifford Brown, 1957-58; John C. Hill, 1958.

Church History

Friends were registered from Toronto, Hamilton, Guelph, Brandon, Man., Brampton, Woodbridge, Milton Georgetown, Streetsville, Whitevale, Port Carling, Cooksville, Islington, Glen Williams, Rockwood, Richmond Hill, Stouffville, Terra Cotta, Norval, Bolton and Montreal.

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