

# Tradition, future combine at anniversary of church union



THREE GENERATIONS welcomed everyone at the door of Trinity church Sunday morning, Roberta Nessett, her mother Mrs. Irma and grandmother Mrs. Alvina Wilderspin. All have been active in church groups.



CHOIR LEAVES Trinity United church after special 50th anniversary service. The big banners were made by the C.G.I.T., Activity Group, Youth Group and the choir. Fifty-year members were especially honored.

Tradition and the future came together Sunday at Trinity United church when a special service marked the 50th anniversary of church union. Although the congregation is 131 years old, it was half a century ago that Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists joined to form the United Church of Canada.

Part of the service followed the printed program used here 50 years ago and included the presenting of the membership rolls of the Acton Methodist church and Knox Presbyterian church. Re-enacting this historic moment and using the same words, Mrs. Marguerite Taylor again presented the roll of 40 Presbyterian members who had joined the United Church, and Orwell Johnson the roll of the 353 Methodist members. Both are 50-year members of the church and were among 25 who still live here.

**Corsages**  
There were corsages for all these half-century members present, presented to them by Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Johnston at the door.

Welcoming the congregation at the door were three generations of one family, two of them among the 50 year member group. Mrs. Alvina Wilderspin, and her daughter Mrs. Irma Nessett were joined by Roberta Nessett.

**Cuts cake**  
Mrs. Mae Lambert, who has turned 90, came forward to cut a special 50th anniversary cake and to bridge the generations, Maureen McGillivray, three, walked up to the front of the church to present her with a bouquet. (Maureen ran back out again at top speed; Mrs. Lambert walked).

The cake, decorated with the United church crest in all its color, was made and decorated by choir member Mrs. Kay Hart. It was cut up to go to shut-ins of the church.

Also destined for shut-ins were the dozens of bright banners which the Sunday School children brought in with them before the service. These young people held their banners high as they circled the church and then hung them all along the side walls. A special banner was presented to the minister.

Sunday school scholars also took part in a demonstration when parts of the United Church crest were compiled as different narrators told their significance.

**Music**  
Music also played an important part in the service. Guest soloist Norman Gibson was a choir member before World War II; he has lived mostly in England since. He sang 'Ye People, Bend Your Hearts from Elijah by Mendelssohn and How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings by Liddle, etc.

Another was 'Sing A New Song Unto the Lord by Violet Archer, commissioned for the anniversary. The congregation also sang a new anniversary hymn, as well as old favorites, 'The Church's One Foundation, and 'Blest Be the Tie that Binds; a bouncy song 'The Wedding Banquet' that the Sunday school all knew, and an impressive version of 'The Lord's My Shepherd' to the tune of 'Happy Wanderer'.

Before and after the service organist George Elliott played the trumpet, Dave Sale the oboe and Blair Batty the organ.

**Playlet**  
A short playlet was given depicting a pioneer problem—a Methodist or Presbyterian church? Taking part were narrator Helen Little, Gloria and Bill Coats, Wendy Dunn, Mark Sawden, Lucinda Freeman and Eldon Comfort. Director was Karen Hillman.

Ralph Denny, chairman of the board, led the psalm selection and one of the young people recently confirmed Susan Dedman read Scripture.

**Ushers were C.G.I.T. girls.**

**Sermon**  
In his sermon, the Rev. Eric Nelson spoke especially of the church's heritage, and the unbroken line of religious worship through the centuries although methods varied.

We are living in an entirely changed world, he observed, and wondered where our mission will take us in the future. The gifts we need most—courage, acceptance and support—are those we receive from one another, he concluded.

Lunch was served downstairs, and a display of old church pictures was inspected.

There were decorations all over the church. The large banners at the front of the church were made by the C.G.I.T., choir, Activity Group and the youth group.

After lunch Norman Gibson sang a very short concert of four songs upstairs, and after urging agreed to come back in the summer to sing here again.

**50 year members**  
Some of the members of the church when it was formed 50 years ago were photographed together Sunday—Mrs. William Middleton, Mr. and Mrs. George Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Orwell Johnson, Mrs. Mae Lambert, Mrs. Lena Cleave, Mrs. Marguerite Taylor, Mrs. Lucinda Freeman, Mrs. Elva Gordon, Mrs. Alvina Wilderspin, Mrs. Irma Nessett, Alfred Fryer, Mansell Nellis, Mrs. West, Gordon Johnston.

On the anniversary committee were chairman Ethel Denny; Orwell Johnson, Arlene Bruce, Josephine Force, George Elliott, Kit Dowding, Sue Dunn, Karen Hillman, Jean McLean, Bobby Nessett, and the Rev. Eric Nelson.



SUSAN DEDMAN read the Scripture Sunday. She's recently confirmed.

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VISITOR FROM Germany, Susan Middleton attended special service.

Maureen McGillivray

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RICKY Allen reads his part of the ceremony explaining the United church crest.



BEAUTIFULLY decorated anniversary cake in the shape of a cross featured United church crest all in colored icing. It was made and decorated by Mrs. Kay Hart and cut by 90-year-old Mrs. Mae Lambert.

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