

Strong ties joined two congregations

But discussions on establishing a Mission church by modern Baptists premature

By ANI FEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Membership in Georgetown's modernist Baptist church has been halved since an attempt to form a mission church on Mountainview Road in 1959 proved unsuccessful. In 1960, the George Williams, Earl Clements and George Tracy families of the



Erected in 1960, the Mountainview Baptist Church on Mountainview Road, south of Highway 7, was originally called St. Paul's Baptist Church. It was established as a mission church by three families from the Georgetown Baptist Church on Main Street. However, the move proved to be premature and the two

congregations amalgamated to build their strength in 1970. Selling off the old church building on Main Street to the Christian Missionary Alliance Church, the downtown congregation moved to the Mountainview Road location.

(Herald photo)

was, and we were really out in the sticks."

She said a University of Guelph professor had told the congregation that problems with the files would cease once other buildings had been erected nearby, and that proved to be the case.

With the new church building came a new pastor, Rev. Edwin Pinkerton, who now lives in Paris, Ontario. Before his arrival, Earl Clements, a lay preacher from Norval used to do the services. Soloists and groups of singers from the mother church on Georgetown's Main Street would visit and perform Sundays for St. Paul's Church. Ties were strong with the downtown Georgetown Baptists, who were housed in what is now the Christian Missionary Alliance Church.

TEN YEARS

Ten years of trying to get interest in the mission church proved unfruitful and the Canadian Baptist Mission Board recommended the two Baptist churches amalgamate in 1970. The board felt the Baptists would be a stronger group in Georgetown if they joined forces.

"We had this new building down there not attracting too many people and they thought it best for us to move down," church clerk Norma Thompson said.

Sept. 20, 1970, the last

service was held in the Georgetown Baptist Church and the downtown congregation moved east into the Mountainview church. The Rev. Leslie Wilton of the downtown Baptist church accepted a call to minister in Nova Scotia, leaving the St. Paul's minister to take charge of the newly formed congregation.

The remaining Rev. William Cairns felt it would be better if the two congregations coming together took on a new name altogether. It would reduce friction between them, Miss Thompson said. The congregation voted for the name, "Mountainview Baptist Church."

However, the amalgamation of the two congregations didn't work out as the Mission Board had hoped. Members left as a result of the move to the new church building, and membership dwindled steadily from 120 at the time of amalgamation to the current 64.

GO DOWN

"I guess some people just didn't want to go down there, and a lot of people moved away," Miss Thompson said. "If you've gone to a church for 50 years you don't want to go someplace else."

"Some people didn't want to give up the old church. It's something we were sort of tied into," she said. "Sometimes if people are forced into some-

Continued on page 2



Winifred Mulder, currently organist with the Mountainview Baptist Church said the Baptists had wanted to build onto the Main Street Church, but weren't allowed to because there wasn't enough parking nearby to accommodate a larger congregation. With the new church building on Mountainview Road, there's no trouble finding enough parking.

(Herald photo)

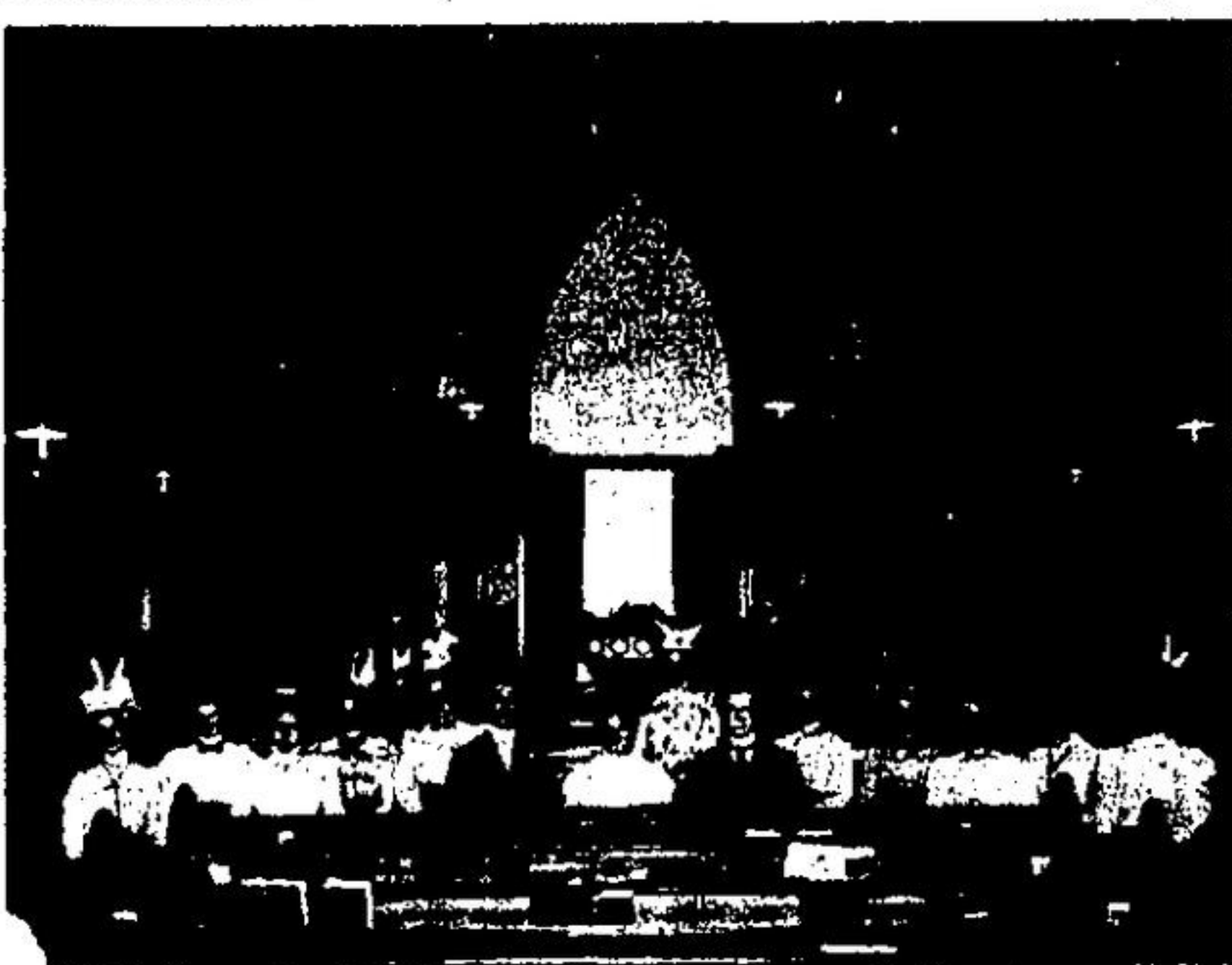


Twenty-sixth
in a series

Georgetown Baptist Church made an attempt to form a mission which they called St. Paul's Baptist Church on the east side of town. Receiving a great deal of spiritual and financial support from the Georgetown and area Baptist churches, the small group held services at George Kennedy Public School for a year until their own red brick church building was erected on Mountainview Road south of Highway 7 in 1960.

When St. Paul's was erected, there were no housing developments surrounding it. In fact, being the only building in the middle of the fields, it attracted a large number of black-

"We used to sweep up pine full of flies," Winifred Mulder, church member since 1959 and current organist, said. "This building was erected at the time St. Andrew's United Church (across the street)



There's no date for this photo taken in the Main Street Baptist Church in Georgetown. Formerly the Georgetown Baptist Church, the building was sold to the Christian Missionary Alliance in 1970 when the Baptists moved out to their Mountainview Road address.

(Herald photo)



IN THE CHURCHES

By Bob Ollivier

Beliefs fading?

A recent report states that "traditional Christian beliefs are fading."

The survey gives the impression that Christianity as a whole is threatened, and the greater portion of Canadians no longer follow or accept traditional forms of Christianity.

The survey does not show the basis on which the report is given, and whether or not "traditional" Christianity includes the evangelical wing of the church. Possibly that Evangelical wing has become more vocal or more public or both, but it seems to this writer that the Gospel is more prevalent than the last few years.

Now, of course, would be an ideal time to state the Bible description of a Christian: "And the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch," Acts 11:26.

Disciple: (a learner) a pupil of some teacher. The word implies the acceptance in mind and life, of the views and practices of the teacher. Hence a true Christian is one who accepts the views and teaching and life of Christ. A non-

distorted view and belief in the scriptures. One who will follow Christ as did the first disciples. Can you wear the label? Of course, this is the Evangelical way of life and many more are accepting Christ and His teaching as the "end times" are approaching.

This Friday (March 5) is the World Day of Prayer. The theme this year is "The people of God - Gathered for worship - Scattered for service". This

Continued on page C2

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