

Young families swell Trinity church congregation

By ANI PEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

When Rev. Chuck Beaton came to town in 1975, he wasn't the only newcomer. A lot of others were moving into Acton at the same time, filling up homes built in the Kingham Road and Bovis subdivisions.

The new homes brought lots of new members to Trinity United Church, swelling its



ranks so that now, seven years later, an addition on the side of the 21-year old building is being considered.

"Our church gained a lot of new, young families, so that for the size of the congregation, we have quite a lot of youngsters," Rev. Beaton said.

He said there are over 100

The new United Church building on Acton's Mill Street is already feeling cramped. The 21-year old building was erected when the former church was condemned and cost too much to

children in the church's Sunday School, causing problems with space. If Acton continues to grow, the addition will likely become a reality in four years, Rev. Beaton said. Right now it's still in the "dream" stage.

The current red brick build-

ing, serving 290 families, was built around for a long time.

Orwell Johnston, 83, remembers what the former church building looked like.

"It was a massive church with spires on it," he said. "Inside, it had a gallery and

the old building go because it had been around for a long time."

Orwell Johnston, 83, remembers what the former church building looked like.

"It was a massive church with spires on it," he said. "Inside, it had a gallery and

furnishings raised, the church held its opening services.

With long, deeply arched windows, outside buttresses and a steeply sloped roof and turrets, the new building represented English Gothic architecture. The acoustics inside were reportedly excellent.

In 1898, a new foundation became necessary for the church and a stone base was inserted, with a brick boiler room added at the rear. Its walls extended upward to form the choir gallery.

However, the history of church buildings for the congregation goes back much further.

ADAMSVILLE

Trinity United Church on Acton's Mill Street was originally a Methodist church, and had its start in an old log house belonging to Reverends Ezra and Zenas Adams. They came into the region in 1826 and gave the village its first name of Adamsville. Regular Methodist services were begun in the kitchen of their log house. As the congregation grew, an adjacent woodshed was used for services.

Later, when the first schoolhouse was erected in Acton on Main Street, the Methodists used it on Sundays as a church building.

With the church community growing, the schoolhouse became inadequate and plans were made for a church, the first Methodist church building in Acton.

The neat frame structure was opened in February, 1852, and gave its name to Acton's Church Street. Contractor Angus Kennedy received 50 pounds for his work, though this sum didn't include plastering, painting or the installation of pews. Those improvements came a whole year later, after the church had opened, and when the congregation felt they could afford it.

In the meantime, planks provided seating.

Unfortunately, at the grand

opening service of the new building, with the church full to overflowing, no minister showed up. Apparently, the fellow in charge of telling the circuit minister, shared with Georgetown and Stewarttown, forgot to tell Rev. Joseph Messmore about it.

However, all was not lost. In those days lay people were able to fill the role of mini-

ster and a local chap led the service, despite exceedingly short notice. A preacher from Guelph took on the afternoon service and Rev. Ezra Adams preached at night.

With finances improving, the frame church was plastered

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Sikh temple bound for Ashgrove site?

A public meeting is expected to be held later this month concerning a proposal by Halton area members of the Sikh faith to establish a temple near Ashgrove.

With approval still required from town council, the proposal gained conditional approval from Halton region's agricultural advisory committee March 2.

The committee asked Sikh

lawyer David Dolson to ensure that the six-acre property and existing house proposed for conversion to a temple for use initially by about 50 people is the right distance from a neighboring farm in accordance with guidelines in Ontario's agricultural code of practice.

Mr. Dolson also offered to have his clients agree not to object to odors from a nearby

slaughterhouse. Bob Walraven of Alf's Custom Meats had written the committee indicating the potential for complaints if the temple were approved.

The rezoning endorsed by the committee and requiring approval from town council would see the property's designation change from rural residential to general residential.



Orwell Johnston was a young lad when he joined the Methodist church in Acton. Before that he attended another Methodist church at Highway 25 and Erin townline but as members went off to war, that congregation joined the Acton group in town. Now 83, Mr. Johnston hasn't been a farmer for three years. He and his wife moved into a house in town, making getting to church Sundays easier.

(Herald photo)

Worshipping at night

Non-Church people sometimes do not understand the terminology we use in church circles. This can cause confusion and is the reason I try to avoid such terms. If I think before I speak or write

This past week, I have had many people ask me if I write or have anything to do with The Herald feature on various churches in our area. The series was inherited by staff writer Ani Pederman when she started at The Herald. Ani is a great person and an excellent writer, a person who is counted among my close friends.

I write the regular column you are now reading along with the Ontario Outdoors column and various features for The Herald and other publications.

The reason I am spelling this out is the aforementioned flood of questions last week. Ani writes what the interviewee tells her, as a good reporter should, and one fact that she dutifully recorded in her feature last week was incorrect: The statement that there are no churches in Halton Hills holding evening services now.

The fact is there are several, and these services have been running every Sunday evening for as long as those churches have been in existence. Our local Pentecostal and Alliance Churches hold regular services, as does Maple Avenue Baptist Church, whose services have been open since 1955.

There is a distinction between the two Baptist groups in town, yet they enjoy direct fellowship on occasion.

The above is to clarify a point and not to cause friction



IN THE CHURCHES

By Bob Ollivier

or provide occasion to write in and "set me straight". Personally, I feel that all members of the Christian community should read the series on the churches by Ani Pederman and let her know how much you enjoy them and her hard work.

Often I am asked what I believe in regard to the "end times" or what is my position on eschatology. The term eschatology is the study of end times, and although I do not make it a point of fellowship, I have definite views on the subject. This column is directed to all churches and to infer one belief above another would be unfair and would not be in the true spirit of this column.

facilities available by calling Ruth Bultrey at 877-4158 and for further information.

Focus on the Family at Holy Cross Church tonight at 8 p.m. Preparing for adolescence: the origins of self doubt. All are welcome to this series of films that have changed the lives of thousands of people.

March 16, the Baptist Bible College Chamber Chorus will present a program at Maple Avenue Baptist at 7:30 p.m. This choir comes from Clarke Summit, Pennsylvania, and has travelled extensively. Be sure to hear them.

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