



REV. HIGGINS BEFORE MODERN BUILDING

Thornhill United Church Traces 160 Years

Thornhill United Church will celebrate its 160th anniversary with a service October 27, when Dr. E. E. Long, general secretary of the United Church of Canada will be special preacher.

On October 28, at a congregational supper in the church auditorium, Rev. A. E. Baker of Toronto will speak.

Paradoxically Thornhill United is both an old and a new church according to its historian, Dr. Herbert Paisley who has compiled a record of the past 160 years.

By direct descent, the church came from the first congregation in the area, established in the beginning years of the 19th century by pioneers in a land where settlement was sparse, life was hard and travel and communications slow.

It is young in the sense that it reflects a changed social situation which in recent years has seen an increasing number of people who carry on their occupations in large centres and live in outlying areas.

Today, a third or more of the congregation are families which have moved to the community in the past few years.

Ten years ago when the church celebrated its 150 years, about 425 families totalling 1,250 people were within the church. At the close of last year, families exceeded 500 and the total was 1,840 with another 175 in the sister congregation at Carrville.

Circuit Preacher At Farm Church

The church traces back to the preaching of a Methodist circuit rider believed to be Nathan Bangs on the farm of pioneer settler Benjamin Hosel, a mile east of Langstaff on Highway 7.

Originally, the new congregation like others in Upper Canada was associated with the Methodist Episcopal Church in the U.S.

In the 1820's, it entered into the newly-formed Canadian Wesleyan Methodist Church with which British Wesleyans in Upper Canada united in the 1840's.

When the Methodist Church of Canada was formed in 1883, the Thornhill congregation became a part of it and in 1925 went with it into the United Church of Canada.

From 1811 onwards, the congregation held its services in the Cobler School, a small building where today Langstaff School stands. In 1838, its first church was built, roughly opposite the Cobler School and in 1852 it was moved to Centre Street or what is Highway 7 West.

There the services continued for more than 100 unbroken years until 1956 when the present building on Dudley Street was opened. The original building is now the home of the Reformed Church.

After its farmhouse and school beginnings, the congregation, small as it was in both numbers and finances but large in faith, built their first house of worship in 1838 on land deeded to the church by Elizabeth Lyons, a daughter of Jeremiah Atkinson, one of the original settlers in the district.

Following its dedication in 1838, a year after the first Sunday school was organized with Thomas Harris as superintendent.

In 1852, the church was moved to Centre Street and it was not until January, 1953, that the present, larger, well-planned church structure was the subject of an annual meeting.

Congregation Pledged \$125,000

It was at that meeting that active thought was given to expansion and what and how it could be accomplished.

Two years later, a fund raising campaign was approved for a new church.

After its initial start, the campaign was interrupted by the withdrawal of Dr. E. E. Kent to accept a call from another congregation.

Its new pastor, Rev. E. B. Eddy however plunged immediately into fund raising.

In his history, Dr. Paisley says, "The undertaking was carried forward with zeal and enthusiasm. The objectives were clear but the paths not always immediately definable.

"Many people gave much time and effort with a fine unselfishness and aided by the earnest support of others with-

ference of the United Church, Rev. A. D. Matheson and Rev. Everitt Ashton, chairman of the Toronto Centre Presbytery were among those present including ministers from nearby churches and municipalities.

The cornerstone was laid on September 9, 1957.

Representing the church in the formal ceremony were Building Committee Chairman R. S. Hansford, Recording Steward N. L. Morton and Honorary Elder Mr. Francis. Toronto Conference President Rev. F. L. H. Stytiest, Toronto Centre Presbytery Chairman Rev. R. D. Binning and Thornhill-Richmond Hill Ministerial Association President Rev. C. H. Chambers were also there.

One year later almost to the date of the sod turning, the church was dedicated by the Very Rev. George Dorey, a former United Church Moderator before an overflow congregation and a week later, the first communion was held and new members received with Rev. Stytiest as preacher.

On February 24, an inter-denominational service was held with ministers of churches in Thornhill, Richmond Hill, Willowdale and Maple joining in the dedication of the building to community needs.

When it held its 150th anniversary in 1938, about 1,500 took part in an open air service on the Leitchcroft Farm near the site where the circuit preacher held his meetings in 1803. The date was marked with music and an historical pageant.

Among those present were George Hosel of Vandorf, a great-grandson of the Hosels who owned the farm and Thomas and George Lyons, descendants of Elizabeth Lyons who deeded the Yonge Street land where the church was built in 1838.

A melodeon, the first musical instrument used in the church was still in existence in 1947.

Thornhill's present minister, Rev. A. I. Higgins, B.A., B.D., joined the church last fall after seven years as minister of First United Church in Victoria, B.C.

He was inducted by Rev. R. Harold Farr, Glebe United Church and Chairman of the Toronto Centre Presbytery and Yorkminster United Church, minister Rev. H. Egerton Young preached the sermon.

A native of the Maritimes, Mr. Higgins is a graduate of Dalhousie University and Pine Hill Divinity School. After a period with the RCAF, he was pastor at McKay Road United Church in Ottawa and then in Victoria.

Dr. Paisley notes: "In this 160th anniversary year, the congregation rejoices, not proudly but with thanksgiving, at what was accomplished under God in the adventure in faith and will think gratefully of the men and women who prepared the way of service for this church in generations past."

Thornhill and District News

TELEPHONE AV. 5-2331

"The Liberal" is always pleased to publish items of interest contributed by its readers in the Thornhill area. Our representative in Thornhill is Mrs. Margaret McLean, who may be reached by phoning AV. 5-2331.

Community Happenings In Thornhill

Holy Trinity News

The general meeting of the Parish Guild was held October 15. President Mrs. Ruth Gall opened the meeting with the reading of the Guild prayer.

A letter from Rev. H. R. Howden was read, asking members of the congregation to attend two very important key meetings of the church on Oct. 23 and 28. Tickets for the Ontario Hydro Showtime on Nov. 12 were reported to be selling very well.

Speaker for the evening was Bishop of the Arctic, Right Rev. D. B. Marsh, D.D., who was introduced by Mr. Howden. Mr. Marsh told about the customs of the Eskimo and the problems of the church in the Arctic. He told of the good that white men have done for the Eskimo and also the bad example which some white men have set them. White men must live a Christian life in order to set an example for the Eskimo and not just talk about being Christian, he said, adding that it was the responsibility of everyone to help the Eskimo meet their problems.

Mr. Marsh showed coloured slides of the Arctic and, after giving his address, answered many questions about the Eskimo people.

Hostesses for the evening were the Alpha group. The ball group will be in charge of the November 19 meeting and as they have a special project, something totally different, they asked for a good turnout at the meeting.

United Church News

The 160th anniversary of Thornhill Congregation will be observed October 27, with services at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Rev. Dr. E. E. Long, Secretary of the General Council of the United Church of Canada, will

be preaching. Dr. Long's history of the church will be sent to each family prior to anniversary Sunday.

An anniversary dinner and social evening is being arranged for October 28 at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment will include speeches and music by the church choir.

The Young People's Union members in grade 12 and over are invited to join the day-long rally and study at Mr. and Mrs. L. Clark's cottage on October 26. Subjects to be discussed will include, "If I were choosing a religion, why would I choose Christianity?" and "How do you live a Christian life in Thornhill in 1963?"

During the Sunday evenings of November 3, 10, 17 and 24, and December 1, there will be an evening service in the sanctuary of the church. The minister will preach a series of sermons prior to Reformation Sunday which will be observed December 1. Subjects of the sermons are: 1. The Need of the Reformation; 2. Three Heresies; 3. The Lordship of Jesus Christ; 4. The Justification by Faith; 5. Ethics and Politics.

The senior choir will lead the church service, which will be conducted by the young people.

Anyone wishing to act as a "spare" on the church bowling league is asked to call Mrs. Landon at 444-7567. The league bowls on Wednesday evenings at North Yonge Bowling Alley.

Thornhill Public School News

A grand total of 13 youngsters at Thornhill Public School won prizes at the Woodbridge fair, and we offer them our hearty congratulations.

Little Marlene Newton, a grade 3 student, won a fourth prize for her crayon drawing. In the grade 4 art exhibition, three Thornhill youngsters won prizes. Dan Hall won second prize, Kathy Billings third and Nancy Sills won fourth prize. The grade 4 children also did well in the writing contest, with

Susan Fairy walking off with first prize and Ricky Hopper taking fourth prize. (Isn't it nice to know that some boys can write well?)

The honour of grade 5 was upheld by Margie Smithers who won first prize for her writing and by Stephen Timmins who won first prize for his art work.

Thornhill grade 8 students carried the day in the exhibition of art work. John Stoddard was awarded first prize, Gillian Duder second and David Large third prize.

While all the entries were school projects, two Thornhill students, Joel and Randy Baggs, had individual entries, unconnected with their school work. Joel, who is in grade 2, won two first prizes with his calves, and Randy, who is in grade 5, won four firsts, one second and two third prizes for his calves. Congratulations to you all!

Thornhill Ladies' Bowling League

Seems to me I must have had last week's news about this bowling league a little mixed up as the posting at the October 15 games showed the Cameos leading with 16 1/2 points, Sweet Caps and Matinees tied with 14 points, and the Exports trailing with 11 1/2 points. As of October 8, Phyllis Stockhart had the high single at 256, Anita Clark the high triple at 672, and Lil Langston the high average at 189.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hedley Millar, 142 Thornridge Dr. for the Thanksgiving weekend were their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Millar of Montreal. A special welcome

was given to their small daughter, Linda, by her grandparents.

Now I know that much more than just the above went on in Thornhill last week, so take pity on me. I haven't the time to ferret it all out and would love to have any of you give me a call (285-2331) so we could all hear what you have been doing. Thornhill is a friendly place and we're all interested in hearing what has been going on, so give us a call, won't you?

Thornhill Couple Fuse Jewellery In Home Studio

Thornhill graphic artists Leonard and Grace Hutchinson are chief exponents of the craft of fused jewellery.

According to a Toronto Globe and Mail feature story, fused jewellery, an Egyptian art which almost disappeared through the centuries, is now undergoing a small-scale revival in Canada and the United States, notably in the Toronto area by the Hutchinsons who work at home.

Mr. Hutchinson, as craftsman, and his wife as designer, discovered the craft almost by accident when listening to a description of methods for fusing glass to metal for radio and television tubes.

Experimenting with glass and silver, Mr. Hutchinson now turns out small jewellery pieces to larger outdoor plaques selling from \$12.50 to \$100 depending on the time spent on them.

Material donated by friends, broken tumblers, liquor glasses, bits from stained glass windows in all colors and shapes . . . are gathered and after Mrs. Hutchinson draws the design and the glass is cut to the design it is placed in a kiln, heated and cooled until it is the shape she wants.

Sterling silver is usually used as a frame, although sometimes gold and silver are combined. The metal is cut to a paper pattern, refined, cleaned and buffed before receiving the glass, connected with claws or clasps as in rings or simply fused into the glass.

The Hutchinsons have found hazards although the process appears simple. Only one of every six or seven pieces is expected to be saleable, others crack or melt. For this reason, their craft won't be mass-produced.

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PROCLAMATION
Notice Is Hereby Given That
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
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BROWNIES GUIDES

4th Thornhill Girl Guides
Former Lieutenant Miss L. Trudel has entered Loretto Abbey in Toronto as a novice. Miss Christine Knight will be acting Lieutenant and will take two year training to become a provincial cadet.
1st Langstaff Girl Guides
Guides and Captain Mrs. P. Brown have welcomed Miss Carol Rider as their new Lieutenant.

Thornhill House Guttled By Blaze
Man, Dog Escape

A Thornhill house was gutted following a Sunday morning blaze which got a firm hold before Richmond Hill Fire Department arrived on the scene. Damage to the rented house was estimated at \$3,500 Fire Chief Alfred Stong said. Most of the furnishings were also lost. The fire apparently started in the upper storey of the cement brick and frame house. No one was injured.

Tenant was Paul Hansen, a middle-aged landscaper who escaped with his dog. Later, Richmond Hill Red Cross Disaster Committee Chairman Douglas Flynn helped outfit Mr. Hansen in new clothes. Most of the furnishings including furniture, furnace, television set and refrigerator were Mr. Hansen's.

This is the second case which the Red Cross group has assisted in the past 10 days. A Gormley family was burned out. Fire at the home of Charles Sare, 336 Skopit Road on October 16 resulted in about \$1,900 damage.

One bedroom was completely gutted with smoke and water damage to the rest of the home. The call was received at 6:17 p.m.

Mr. Sare commended Richmond Hill firemen for their promptness and for treating his home like their own and helping with the mopping-up operations after the blaze was put out.

Firemen had to put a few gallons of water on burning straw in an old building on Bayview Avenue, Sunday apparently touched off by children playing with matches.

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