

# NEIGHBORS

By  
Kim Seale

God didn't speak to Judy Crump from a burning bush or even from behind a fence post. The Queen's University theology student says that her decision to become a minister with the United Church came from a gradual process of searching "where I fit in".

In April Judy was honoured for her approaching ordination with a Service of Recognition sponsored by the Morewood United Church.

The Reverend Leonard Ferguson was responsible for the presentation which used to be a tradition in the Maritimes and was enacted as a service licensing someone to preach. Since then it has become a service in recognition of a theology student's candidacy.

She sat in the cosy farm kitchen of her home just outside of Morewood and pondered the reasons for her decision to take up the cloth.

"I think that the church was just there, an important part of stability. It was something to grow and strive towards," said Judy.

Although the church had been a consistent part of her growing up years, it was only in the last few years that she began to consider the idea of becoming a minister.

"I asked Mom how she would feel having a minister in the family. All our lives my parents always said to my sister and I "If you want to do it, go for it", Judy said.

Judy's decision to become a minister can also be accredited to Reverend Ferguson's influence in her life.

"It had a lot to do with Mr. Ferguson's personality. I saw that it wasn't always having tea on a silver tray type of thing but there is the human side."

Judy is presently enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Queen's University. When she graduates in June she will be assigned to her first parish by a committee from the church in Toronto. She was allowed a choice of areas and chose the Maritimes, Northern Ontario and Saskatchewan in that order.

For two of the three summers during the course of her schooling, she was required to serve as a minister in a parish. Last summer she worked in Hillsboro, New Brunswick, just south of Moncton.

"It was scary because I didn't know what to expect and I was afraid someone would die on me or something. The people were very tolerant because they've had students during the summer before.

There are 26 in her graduating class of which 14 are women. Most of the students will be becoming ministers. Some of them are young and others have already worked at other careers before deciding to study theology.

Ministers in the United Church are allowed to marry unlike the Catholic religion.

Judy is far from being the first woman to take up the cloth and she notes that more and more women are becoming interested in that career. The United Church has been ordaining women since the 1930's.

The ordination itself will take place June 2 at the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Crump awaits it with excitement and just a shade of hesitation as she considers the change from spending 20 years in school to finally reaching her goal.

One feels though that the aura that surrounds her as the sunshine streams through the window will always go with her and touch those who will seek her help long after this day has passed.

## 25 years a minister

On Sunday, April 26th the Reverend Kenneth McLaughlin was ordained in the Christian ministry twenty-five years.

His first charge was in Granby, Quebec.

He has since served churches at Edwards, Ontario; Ayer's Cliff, Huntingdon and Verdun, Quebec; Beachburg, Ontario and Dawson Creek, B.C. At present, he has the two point charge of Russell and Kenmore.

Reverend and Mrs. McLaughlin have two children, Mrs. Douglas Cherry (Donna) of Russell and Corp. David McLaughlin of Moose Jaw, who is married with a small son.

He is greatly involved in his churches as well as at presbytery and conference level. For recreation he is very active in baseball and curling.



Morewood's Judy Crump

## Death

Mrs. Milton Walker

After several months' illness, Mrs. Milton Walker, a former Russell resident died at Riverside Hospital, April 9th in her 79th year.

Born at Springhill, daughter of the late James and Isobel (Kennedy) York, she attended school at Springhill and Metcalfe, moving to Russell at an early age.

At Ottawa in 1935 she married Milton Walker who predeceased her in 1951. In 1961 she moved to Ottawa and was a civil servant until retirement.

A member of the United Church, the late Mrs. Walker was active in all organizations in the Church until her death. She was also a charter member of Russell Women's Institute.

The funeral was held from Hulse and Playfair, conducted by Rev. W.H. Le Grow April 11th.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Edward Boyce (Arloene) Leitrim, a son Dr. James Walker, Ottawa, five grandchildren, Dale and Scott Boyce, Catherine, Miriam and James Walker and a sister, Mrs. William Hamilton (Muriel) Chesterville. Interment was in Springhill Cemetery.

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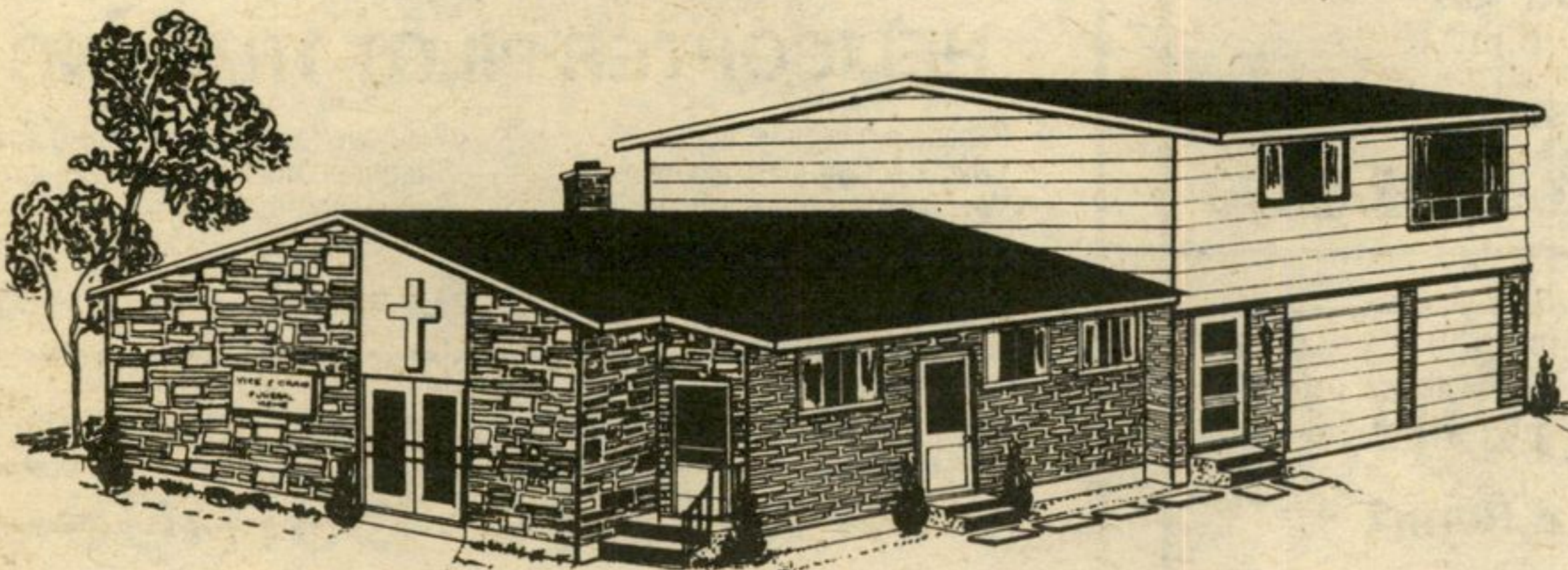
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