

Facets: one of the many views of this Community

A CHURCH in CHANGE

St. Philip's Anglican Church has been a quiet part of life in Marysburgh almost as long as there has been a Marysburgh. An Anglican church has stood on Philip Street since 1830. When the previous church was struck by lightning in the 1920, some of the furnishings and the bell from the bell tower were saved, and were reinstalled in the rebuilt church.

Little had changed in the church since its rebuilding. Memorial stained glass windows were dedicated, a work party would paint the interior, not too frequently, and the brasses and floors were lovingly polished and maintained. The Sunday School Hall was used for gatherings, church suppers and special events, but it too became shabby.

In the early 1980's it was decided to redo the church hall, and add on a larger kitchen. The small congregation raised the money through bake sales, suppers, teas and rummage sales, as well as individual donation, the remainder being obtained through a loan from the Diocese of Ontario. At that time, Parish of Marysburgh, comprised of St. Philip's and its sister congregation St. John's in Waupoos, could not afford the full time services of a rector, and had as well been receiving some support for the rector's stipend from the Diocese. But St. Philip's was determined to improve the facilities and encourage greater participation by the parishioners through the use of these improvements.

Other problems appeared. In order to provide a place for the rector to live, the Rectory had to be made livable. Although this was a parish responsibility, the congregation of St. Philip's did wonder at times whether they could raise their share of the cost of these renovations and as well as the cost of their plans to enlarge the facilities at the church. More pies, more

teas, more strawberries, more personal donations, more rummage sales, more bazaars and another loan later, and it was all accomplished.

On the retirement of Rev. Patterson, the parish decided to try to find a full time rector. (Now lest you get me wrong, it should be explained that although for several years the rector, for salary purposes, was considered part time, to all other intents and purposes, that worthy was as full time as a dairy farmer, just as is any other minister in the community.) To have a full time rector meant paying a full time salary, and although the congregations at St. Philip's and at St. John's had new faces and were slowly growing, taking on the responsibility to pay a full salary seemed a bit risky.

Reverend Thora W. Rowe began her ministry in the Parish of Marysburgh on January 1st, 1988. She is our first woman priest and brings with her a different approach in her ministry.

St. Philip's again began to look at its facilities and wonder if more needed doing. The altar was refinished a new memorial window to the memory of Leila McCaw was installed and railings put at the steps to the chancel. The church hall was getting far more use, and on entering the church from the hall, the church seemed rather shabby. The floor was becoming a problem and its covering needed to be replaced. What to do?

It was decided to redo the church.

The redecoration has been no small task. Elmer Terpstra stripped the walls down to the old lathe, insulated and dry walled and replaced or added the wood trim. Then came the painting of the interior and the repair of the metal ceiling, by Splash of Colour (Dot Stevenson and Barbara Walford-Davis). As this is

Facets (cont'd pg. 8)