

# Wesley United Church - how it began



Ten members of Wesley United Church congregation 'turned back the clock' Sunday. They participated in a skit, recalling decisions that resulted in the erection of present building, 100 years ago. Shown (left to

right) are - Stewart Burnett, Bill Richardson, Doug Brown, Ken Grimmett, Marjorie Richardson, John Petch, Arend Vanderwiel, Arthur Starr, Meryl Cox and Robert Staley. Jim Thomas



Checking over plans, such as they likely did 100 years ago, are members of the Wesley Church building committee portrayed by (left to right) Art Starr as Pearson Starr; Bill Richardson as George Richardson; Ken Grimmett as Isaac Petch; Arend Vanderwiel as architect Hall; John Petch as John Petch; Meryl Cox as Rev. Keam and Bob Staley as Rev. Howell. —Jim Thomas

## Special service recalls history

HACKING'S CORNERS — Time was turned back, Sunday — one hundred years. Narrator Marjorie Richardson and ten members of the congregation, re-enacted deliberations that led to the building of "the new brick church at Hacking's Corners". The skit was included in one of several special services, marking the 100th anniversary of the present Wesley United Church, Woodbine Avenue and the Aurora Road.

(Pearson Starr); Stu Burnett (David Evans) and Arend Vanderwiel (Architect Hall). The play's introduction told how pioneer families met regularly in homes, barns and the school for worship and prayer meetings. This led to the construction of a 40' x 30' log church at what was then known as Hacking's Corners in "Petch's Neighborhood". The land was donated by Jonathon Petch to the trustees of Wesleyan Methodist Church. The building, known as Petch's Chapel, served the community more than 40 years. Discussions on the erection of the present church became in earnest according to minutes of Jan. 4, 1881. Said David Richardson: "The present building is cold and drafty; the rough benches are primitive

and uncomfortable and there is simply not enough room for our people at many services and meetings". Henry Lines estimated the cost at between seven and eight thousand dollars. Isaac Petch recommended it be a large, up-to-date structure, of brick construction, able to seat 200 souls. The financial response was described as "wonderful" with six families promising \$100 each, raising the total pledged to \$1,700. The bricks were donated by John Williamson of Vandorf and the sand by John van Nostrand. Much of the stone came from neighborhood farms. The motion to proceed with construction was made by George Richardson and seconded by David Evans.

**Special** and Service worship this Sunday at 11:15 a.m. The message will be brought by Orville Ewart, formerly of the Wesley community and now of Sutton. Orville and wife Enid have been serving as teachers in Japan. Mrs. Ewart's father ministered at Wesley from 1936 to 1943.

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**Church Services**

**CHRIST CHURCH**  
ANGELICAN  
Sunset Blvd.  
Rev. Philip Poole  
640-1461  
Sun. Apr. 5, 1981  
PASSION SUNDAY  
8 a.m. Holy Communion  
9:30 a.m. Holy Comm.  
Guest Preacher  
Rev. Jack Rose  
Church School  
Nursery  
Youth Bible Study  
Wed. Apr. 8, 10 a.m.  
"SENIOR'S SERVICE"  
Guest Preacher:  
Canon Puxley  
Lunch will be served  
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN WORSHIP

**SPRINGVALE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Gormley-Stouffville Rd.  
At 6th Conc. (Kennedy Rd.)  
Rev. Tom Hamilton  
Sunday, April 5, 1981  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
11 a.m. - "Seek and Live"  
7 p.m. - "Giving in the new testament"  
Wed. 7 p.m. - Family Night - Skyforce for Children.

**ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
101 Main St. E.  
Rev. Ted Green  
640-4195  
Sat. April 4, Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. An open invitation to all men.  
Sun. April 5: Morning Worship at 10 a.m. (nursery facilities)  
God Cares - We Care

**GORMLEY MISSIONARY CHURCH**  
Rev. Ed Sparks  
887-9325  
9:50 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
7:30 p.m. - Evening Service  
A Congregation That Cares

**STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH**  
34 Church St. N.  
Rev. Cecil W. Tiller  
Minister  
April 15, 1981  
11 a.m. - Morning Worship  
Infants Nursery Kindergarten, Primary, Junior & Intermediate Sunday School Classes.  
YOU WILL BE WELCOME

**McCORMICK MEMORIAL CHURCH**  
PASTOR: REV. W. GAWA  
9:45 a.m. - Mr. and Mrs. H. Schulz (slides)  
11:00 a.m. - Mr. and Mrs. H. Schulz (Wycliffe Bible translators)  
Special music - Glen Langford  
7:00 p.m. - Doug Percy - Special Music - Pastor Jim Shantz and Mrs. Oldham  
Missionary conference in progress

**NURSERY SUPERVISION AND JUNIOR CHURCH PROVIDED**

**STOUFFVILLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
Pastor M. Steacy  
640-5596  
Youth Pastor R. Ecker  
640-5596

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH, 1981**  
9:45 a.m. Christian Education  
10:45 a.m. - WORSHIP SERVICE - Pastor Ecker speaking  
Special Music  
6 p.m. GOSPEL RALLY  
Pastor Ecker speaker Special Music  
"A Smile is a carnation in the buttonhole of life"  
"THE CHURCH THAT CARES"