

For pastor, faith is a two-way street



Rev. Sharon Patterson, formerly of Fenelon Falls and Arcola, Saskatchewan, is the new pastor at Greenwood and Mt. Zion United Churches.

"It's right for me, I'm very happy," says the ordained mother of two. The two congregations are happy also. —Jim Thomas

By JIM THOMAS
GREENWOOD — En route to Fenelon Falls, Rev. Sharon Patterson, husband Russel and sons Tim, 16, and Chris, 14, had bypassed the community of Greenwood many times.

Little did they know they'd some day be living in the hamlet and Sharon would be pastor of the United Church.

The two-point charge includes both Greenwood and Mt. Zion.

"It was God's call," says Sharon. Not until Rev. Patterson appeared in the pulpit that first Sunday, had most members ever seen her. "They accepted me on faith—a relationship of trust," she says, "I'm very happy."

A native of Napanee, Mrs. Patterson comes from a family of six, four girls and two boys. Following graduation from Theological College, Queen's University, Kingston, and a period of internship, Mrs. Patterson was ordained. Her church at the time of ordination was Fenelon Falls.

The past three years have been spent in Arcola, Saskatchewan. "We had a wonderful time there," she recalls, "but we wanted to be closer to our families."

Sharon applied for the preaching positions at Greenwood-Mt. Zion.

Due to the distance factor, it was impossible, (and impractical), for Rev. Patterson to appear

in person before the church boards or the congregations.

"None saw me until that first Sunday," she explains.

Sharon says everything's working out well. "It seems so right to be here." Mrs. Patterson says her husband's been wholly supportive. He's a graduate secondary school teacher, specializing in music and architectural drafting. He plays both the saxophone and clarinet.

Sharon has three top priorities—preaching, pastoral care and counselling. "I want my services to be a family experience," she says. She describes the presence of children in church as "a joy".

Did the presence of a lady pastor in the pulpit raise any eyebrows? "I ask not to be judged on my gender, but on the quality of my work," she replied.

Rev. Patterson considers herself "fairly conservative" in her worship style. "But we do laugh sometimes," she says with a smile.

Sharon admits handling two services so close together, (Greenwood at 9:45 and Mt. Zion at 11), presents a minor problem. However, the Mt. Zion congregation understand if I'm a few minutes late, she says.

"At Greenwood, I've adopted the motto, 'thou shalt not chat'" she joked.

Opposes service station

Recently, a request was received by Town Planning Committee for permission to erect a service station on the south-west corner of Stouffville Road and McCowan Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The application has aroused the concern of Mr and Mrs Bert Baker, residents in the immediate area. A letter to Town Planner Michael Saunders, dated July 7, reads as follows:

Dear Sir:
With regard to the recent application for a gas station on the south-west corner of McCowan Road and Stouffville Road, we understand the said applicant plans to re-apply after being turned down by Town Council. For the record, both my wife and I are against such commercial development.

Having only recently purchased the Todd property on McCowan Lane, we were assured the two-acre lot would remain estate residential with no commercial or industrial usage.

The applicant was aware of the zoning bylaw when offering to purchase the corner lot. We have yet to see a gas station that's compatible to private residences in any area. They only depreciate property values.

Hoping you and your Council will give the applicant a negative response and protect existing properties in our area.

Sincerely,
Mr and Mrs Bert Baker,
R.R. 2, Markham

Dance class underway

Dear Mr Thomas:
I'm writing to express my appreciation for your wonderful support of my Summer Dance Class.

The first evening, thirteen students registered, and I'm expecting several more this week.

We're all having a lot of fun staying in shape. In addition, I'm gaining valuable teaching experience.

I want to thank you personally, and The Tribune for bringing students and teacher together.

Sincerely,
Tim Brazier,
Hawthorne Avenue,
Stouffville

Organize rabbit club

YORK REGION — Beginning this fall, a Rabbit Club is proposed as part of the 4-H Program in the Region of York.

It's for young people between the ages of 12 and 21 years before July 1, 1986.

"If you're interested in rabbits or would like to learn more about them; this Club's for you," says Cathy Wilson, Farm Management Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Newmarket.

Topics for discussion will include—breeding stock, mating, out-crossing and line breeding, weaning and raising the young, judging and showmanship.

The number to call, (before Aug. 1), is the Newmarket Agricultural Office, 895-4519 or Zenith 5-9650.

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