

THE HISTORY OF THE CHATSWORTH UNITED CHURCH

Prepared by Miss Merne Wilson.

"We are entering on our work together trusting that a greater desire to serve in God's work will come into our lives, for only in love, service and prayer can the world be won for Christ".

This is a quotation given by one of the Church leaders at the time of Church Union in 1925. We are proud to say that this spirit has predominated and still predominates in the outlook of the United Church.

At the time of Union, The Rev. Sidney Martin was the pastor in the Methodist Church while the Rev. Robert Bryden was in his sixth year as minister of the Presbyterian Church. When Union came it was decided that Rev. Martin should come over and take charge of the new Chatsworth United Church. The former Presbyterian Church building now became the church home of the United Church congregation while the continuing Presbyterians became the owners of the former Methodist Church.

There was a much needed readjustment of the charge but at the end of the year the session "gave thanks for the splendid harmony that had prevailed in the Church."

The first session was made up of well tried Christian gentlemen: T. Pringle, E.O. Merriam, S. Byers, R. McKennitt, C. Atkinson, T. Collins, G. Cook, J.C. Baird, W.G. Wilson, T. Young, W. Lundy and C. Bye. These men were appointed for life and were responsible for assisting the pastor in all spiritual work. It is a happy thing to report that although the first elders have all passed on, their spirit lives on and the standard set by them is still kept up.

Now we know that, like all institutions, the Church must be financed and so must have some one to take charge. So a committee of twelve stewards was appointed. These were chosen not only for their integrity but also for their business ability. These men were: Dr. M. Phillips, R. Milson, E. McInnis, W.J. McNabb, J.T. Hemstock, I. Carson, G. Rowe, J. Martin, and F. McFarlane.

Although they were responsible for collecting and spending all money, there was still another Committee, the Trustees. These were chosen from the session, the board of stewards, and the congregation, and only they could buy or sell Church property. The first Trustees were: T. Pringle, R. Hogg, R. Milson, J. Fraser, G. Cook, C. Bye and J. Hemstock.