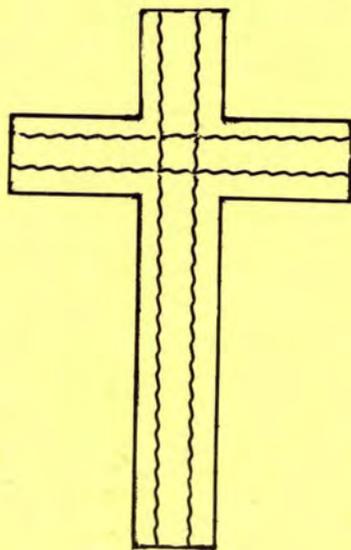


# **One Hundredth Anniversary**

**1876 - 1976**

**Flinton United Church**



**Sunday, October 10,  
1976**

**Rev. John McKibbon,  
Minister**

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**A  
HISTORY  
of the  
UNITED CHURCH**



**In Flinton , Ontario  
from  
1876—1976**

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## MINISTER'S MESSAGE



**REV. JOHN MCKIBBON**

**Minister**

**Flinton , Ontario**

As a minister just appointed to this Pastoral Charge I feel honoured to have been asked to write a brief introduction for this Centennial book. Of course I am not aware of the many events that have made this Church what it is today. However there is a common bond that binds all churches together, that is the Spirit of God or Jesus Christ in the present tense. On this special occasion let us renew our faith in Christianity as a movement. The Christian life is participation in that movement. You and I are to be the rock on which Jesus Christ will build His church. The church is much more than the building which has stood here for 100 years. The real church is people. People like you and I who exist to pour out the love of Christ to others. We are called, not to be like a great reservoir that takes the Spirit in Sunday after Sunday, week after week, year after year and never open the top and let it out into the dry and thirsty land. We as the body of Christ are to be the channel in which the Spirit can move through to do His work in the world .

As the Flinton United Church moves into its second century of Christian Service we are reminded of the many people in the past who have contributed to it's life. We think of the many dedicated Pastors who have worked and supported the numerous Church organizations and still found time for their regular pastoral duties . We think of all the people who have offered themselves freely to the many tasks that facilitate the daily operations of the church . We remember with pride many who have silently endeavoured to become God's hands, arms, eyes and voice here in this small community. We as a congregation are very thankful for all those who have supported the Church, the Body of Christ, in so many different ways.

*John McKibbon*

## EDITOR'S NOTE

We the editors wish to express our grateful thanks to all who assisted in any way - providing information and bringing much needed pictures - making it possible for us to edit this Centennial Booklet for your enjoyment.

We know there will be omissions and probably inaccuracies in this History and ask your indulgence.

Betty Davison  
Verna Andrew



William Wagar, who helped build  
the church 100 years ago.

## FLINTON UNITED CHURCH

Before Renovation - 1962

### HISTORY OF FLINTON UNITED CHURCH

The Flinton and Addington Mission was set off from the Hungerford Circuit in June 1858. It's first minister was Rev. L. Houghton. At the close of the year he had 77 members and 24 on trial. Soon after the Mission was established Billa Flint of Belleville, presented to it a lot at Flinton consisting of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre of land, with a small frame house and a stable. Later 3 rooms were added which made the house quite comfortable.

The first settlers in this part of the country were chiefly poor people, and dependent mainly on the lumber trade. Therefore money contributed towards the minister's salary did not exceed \$60.00 a year all totalled. In 1862 with hard times, the mission raised that year for all purposes, \$200.00.

In 1864, at a meeting in the town hall, the Superintendent of the Mission, introduced the subject of erecting a new church large enough to accommodate all. The Hon. Billa Flint made the offer of material, leaving the labour only to be supplied. The next few years were bad for the Mission, due to failing crops and families moving away. In 1873 and 1874 Rev. John Fozeland organized the first Methodist Class and by 1875 the membership had climbed to 86.

Improvements were made on the parsonage and in 1876 a new church was erected. It was an elegant looking structure 45 by 30 feet with a steeple 90 feet high. We have been told that the construction of this steeple had to be built higher than the one on the Catholic Church, so ours could be spotted first. While this steeple was being completed, one of the construction workers turned a somersault on the high structure. From the high steeple, someone would watch, when there was a funeral procession coming, then quickly ring the bell, letting the people know when to gather at the church. By 1878 all was paid for and a deed of property valued at \$2300.00 was issued to



Before Steeple Removed

After Renovation - 1962



to the Flinton Church. A few years later the Church was painted and by 1897 membership had gone up to 143.

In the following years the parsonage and the church were improved and a new stable was built. a new verandah and a cistern were added to the parsonage.

In 1908 renovation of the church was left to the ladies.

In 1925, under the union, the Methodist Church was changed to Flinton United Church.

In the year 1955, under the supervision of Rev. Wakeling, the first Auction Sale was held for the church. It was called God's Little Acres Sale. It was held in the old school yard across from the town hall. Everybody near and far donated anything and everything from homebaking, livestock, used cars and used machinery. It was a tremendous success.

In the year 1962 the minutes of a congregational meeting record the motion to renovate the church, the money to be borrowed from the Bank of Montreal, up to an amount not exceeding \$4000.00, for this purpose. Under the construction of Leland Blackwell, the floor was raised and a basement was built under the church. This contained a kitchen, a large room for suppers and to be used for Sunday School Classes. A furnace was installed and the high steeple removed.

During renovation, Rev. Behie, who had helped with all the planning etc. was being moved to another church, and with his insistence, his farewell services were to be in the not yet completed church. During the morning service and a thunderstorm, there was one large crack of thunder and the centre of the floor began to cave in. It was quite an experience for all trying to creep along the walls to get out, but with lots of hard work during the afternoon and reassurance from the menfolk, an evening service was enjoyed by all.

A bathroom, running water and a furnace were added to the manse.

At an annual meeting in Jan. 1965, Mrs. Cora Davison was elected as Sec. Treas. for our

church and to date still fills this position. This was upon the resignation of Mrs. Ena Yanch who filled the office for a number of years.

In 1965 renovations to the floor and doors of the church lobby were carried out successfully.

At an annual meeting in Jan. 1967 John F. Davison was made an honorary member of this church.

In 1971 Earl Davison was elected to serve as Clerk of Session and has so remained.

It was at an annual congregational meeting in 1972 that a motion was passed to make a charge for the use of the church building for outside events and permission was to be got from the elders.

In 1974 25 new chairs were purchased for the basement.

In 1975 we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the amalgamation of 3 churches making the United Church of Canada. This was celebrated by having combined services on this charge, ours being the Easter service. We also had an outdoor service at Bon Echo Park, followed by a picnic, on June 8th. 50th anniversary cups and spoons were bought and sold by the church. Banners were also made and displayed. Plans for our Centennial year, 1976, began in 1975 under the leadership of Rev. D. Darrell. There was a Fellowship Supper to begin projects for the Centennial year. The projects planned were to be -painting inside and out of the church, a special supper and a special church service. Centennial plates were to be bought and sold, these bearing a picture of the church, also a book edited with the history of the church. To start off raising funds we had an auction sale in the fall of 1975. In spite of a sudden downpour of rain the sale went on and the proceeds were over \$600.00. A canvas of church members was made bringing in \$1042.55.

29½ dozen centennial plates were purchased. With the money from the canvas the inside of the church was beautifully redecorated. The basement was also painted.

A special combined Easter Service was well attended. Plans are being carried out for a special Thanksgiving Supper and Church Service. Proceeds from the Supper and the Auction Sale will be used for painting the outside of the church and putting water in the basement , also some type of sewage system . The Committee is hopeful of getting the Moderato, Wilbur Howard for a Special Nov. Service . Other projects are pending . Special invitations are being sent to past ministers and non-residents for the Special Supper and Church Service .

#### CENTENNIAL INVITATION

A Special Centennial Service  
Sun. Oct. 10, 1976  
at 2.00 p.m.  
Speaker : Rev. John McKibbon  
Lunch following in Church hall



A view of Flinton United Church  
from across the street.



The inside of the church as it is now.

MINISTERS WHO SERVED FROM 1858- 1976

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1858- L Houghton     | 1951- A L Borland   |
| 1859- W Sanderson    | 1952- F Wakeling    |
| 1861- JA Dowler      | 1956- H Lowenberger |
| 1865- R Robinson     | 1958- D Lonie       |
| 1867- J Corbett      | 1959- B Eaton       |
| 1869- P Roblin       | 1960- W H Behie     |
| 1870- W Norton       | 1962- M Willows     |
| 1872- J Tozeland     | 1965- W Hilliker    |
| 1875- H Leith        | 1968- R Wylie       |
| 1878- W E Smith      | 1969- E Cook        |
| 1881- A Wilson       | 1971- S Bates       |
| 1883- I Jackson      | 1974- D Darrell     |
| 1884- T Brown        | 1976- J McKibbin    |
| 1887- J H Oke        |                     |
| 1895- C Adams        |                     |
| 1898- W S Boyce      |                     |
| 1901- G McConnell    |                     |
| 1903- H C Garbutt    |                     |
| 1906- Thos. Wallace  |                     |
| 1908- R T Williamson |                     |
| 1911- S Ferguson     |                     |
| 1913- W R Merrick    |                     |
| 1915- J T Ireland    |                     |
| 1916- J A Carmichael |                     |
| 1917- H L Seymour    |                     |
| 1919- J I Wickware   |                     |
| 1920- W Hall         |                     |
| 1921- A Poulter      |                     |
| 1923- J W Ogden      |                     |
| 1924- J H Beck       |                     |
| 1925- E Cofley       |                     |
| 1926- I Wickware     |                     |
| 1929- J F Everson    |                     |
| 1932- A A Edwards    |                     |
| 1934- E L Beech      |                     |
| 1935- A J Gall       |                     |
| 1938- O Wager        |                     |
| 1941- I D Fife       |                     |
| 1947- F A McNulty    |                     |
| 1948 K McCallister   |                     |

## 1976 Church Committees



Centennial Committee - missing are  
Eva Marrisett, Madeline Freeburn,  
Marjory Reavie, Arnold York.



Manse Committee Members - Agnes  
Bryden, Earl Davison.



A few United Church Women (sev-  
eral missing).

## THE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The devotion of the United Church Women throughout the life of the church is almost unexplainable. This group has always seen the many extras needed by the different departments in the church and have always found a means of raising the funds. Some of these extras have been providing more hymn books, choir gowns, carpeting for the church, curtains for the Sunday School and giving extra funds to the Sunday School if the need should be, getting much needed chairs and many other articles too numerous to mention. For a number of years this busy group had an annual turkey supper each Thanksgiving, but due to the lack of help this was discontinued. It is hoped with the Turkey Supper celebrating this our Centennial year, it will once again become an annual event. The women have continued catering to wedding dinners and receptions. They also help the other two churches in our community with two Rummage and Bake Sales twice annually. Many women have filled the office of president and other offices throughout the years. Space will not provide publishing all the names, but two presidents who served for long periods were Mrs. John Davison and Mrs. Agnes Bryden. In our midst there exists the need for sacrifice, humility, obedience and service to God and man and that's exactly what these women are doing.



Primary, Junior and Intermediate Sunday School classes with teachers Pat McKibbon, Verna Andrew, Lois Wise and Betty Davison.



Nursery and Kindergarten Sunday School classes with teachers Rosemary Rooke, Janice Andrew, Debbie VanNess and Eva Reavie.



U.C.W. at a quilting bee.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

There has been a Sunday School for many of the 100 years of the church, but unfortunately there isn't too much record of it until recent years. During the past few years the Sunday School has been very active, being a joint Sunday School with the Anglican Church. This has worked out very well with joint Superintendents and team teaching, teachers representing both churches. There is an average attendance of 45 to 50 scholars. The Sunday School has assisted with different services in the church throughout the years. There's been an annual Christmas Concert much enjoyed by the surrounding communities. An annual Sunday School picnic has always closed the school season in mid-June. It has been through the influence of many devoted teachers and officers that the "word of God" has been spread to the children. It is hoped in the future years the same influence and support will gain in strength and continue successfully in molding Christian lives.

### CEMETERY BOARD

The cemetery board was formed on July 23, 1963. The board has consisted of the same members namely; Gordon Wood (Sec. Treas.), Donald Freeburn (Chairman), Douglas Davison, Arnold York, and Charles Reavie. Donald Freeburn succeeds the late A W McLuckie. The main functions of the board are the upkeep of the cemetery, a job well done. The board is responsible for the Annual Memorial Service for which invitations are sent to families and friends of the deceased. The funds received from this service are used for the maintenance of the cemetery.

### CHOIRS

At many different times throughout the church years there have been some very good choirs consisting of both younger and older members. There has been much effort put into joint choirs for special services, consisting of members from the 3 churches on this charge. This has worked out very well. Our present organist Mrs. Mary Ann Tryon does a very good job.

"Music is the universal language of mankind"  
Longfellow

"Music is the medicine of the mind"  
J Logan

### OTHER GROUPS

Over the years there have been many other groups that have been very active. For a number of years there was a wonderful CGIT group which impressed everyone each Christmas with their beautiful Candle-lighting Service. Because of the lack of leadership this was discontinued. There was also a very active group of Explorers at one time. Under very capable leadership there was a Young Peoples group, which many of us are hoping will once again come to life. All these groups met weekly in the Church basement, learning the Word of God, doing Mission work and handicraft.



OFFICERS FOR 1976

SESSION- Earl Davison (clerk), Ed Reavie,  
Glenn Davison, Gordon Wood,  
Agnes Bryden, Verna Andrew.  
STEWARTS- Ed Reavie, Eva Marrisett, Gordon  
Wood, Douglas Davison, Glenn Andrew,  
Cheryl Davison, Don Freeburn,  
Wilma Wood, Cora Davison (Sec. treas.)  
TRUSTEES- Earl Davison, Charles Reavie,  
Gordon Wood.  
CEMETERY BOARD- Donald Freeburn (chairman)  
Gordon Wood (sec. treas.), Douglas  
Davison, Arnold York, Charles Reavie.  
MANSE COMM.- Agnes Bryden, Earl Davison.  
UNITED CHURCH WOMEN- Eva Reavie (Pres.),  
Madeline Freeburn (sec.), Verna  
Andrew (treas.)  
SECRETARY TREAS.- Cora Davison  
ORGANIST- Mary Ann Tryon  
Sunday SCHOOL SUPT.- Betty Davison  
Rieta Freeburn  
USHERS- Laverne Andrew, Mark Vanness, Robert  
Bryden, Charles Davison, James Wood.  
Centennial Committee- Betty Davison, Verna  
Andrew, Cora Davison, Eva Marrisett,  
Eva Reavie, Madeline Freeburn, Marjory  
Reavie, Arnold York and others interested.

CHURCH STATISTICS

Total number of families served- 46  
Total number of persons served - 120  
Total membership - 105

OUR HOMETOWN

Our hometown is so quaint and so small,  
Its hardly on the map at all,  
A winding road and a village store,  
Three churches, a post office and not much  
more.

Old fashioned is this little place,  
Where a smile is found on each friendly face,  
For each neighbour is a magic gem,  
We are ever thankful for each of them.

Our hometown is where real folks live,  
Where hearts are ready to help and give,  
With showers, weddings and dinners too,  
We are kept busy the whole year through .

This little town is a treasured spot,  
Where friends and family forget us not  
A door thrown open and a welcome true,  
For anyone who is passing through.

The simple treasures we are looking for,  
Are all far away from the city's roar  
In all the world, its what a village should be,  
Flinton, our hometown, is the place for me.

Verna Andrew.

POEM

In the village of Flinton  
On the very main street  
Stands a dear old church  
Each Sunday the faithful to greet.  
For one hundred years  
It has stood quite strong  
Through happiness and tears  
The Word of God has passed along.  
Quite well it has passed the test  
Each one giving his very best  
Everyone belonging has done his part  
Even new members get off to a good start,  
Young and old helping in their own way  
Has made the church what it is today .

Betty Davison



