

St. Paul's marks 100 years

Last Sunday St. Paul's Presbyterian Church at Ingersoll was one of hundreds across Canada which at some time during 1975, will have celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

That St. Paul's observed its' 125th Anniversary in 1974 is a matter of pride in the local congregation.

One hundred years ago in June the Canadian Presbyterian organization was born in Montreal. Four facets of the Presbyterian faith met there and from that assembly the Canadian Presbyterian Church was instituted.

On Sunday of this week a full sanctuary at St. Paul's Ingersoll paid tribute to this 100 years of

service by the church in Canada. Rev. Donald Wade praised the work of the men and women who have gone out from the Ingersoll community to forge the chain of Christian influence throughout the world.

Rev. Wade, was a product of the Ingersoll school system and Knox College, Toronto. Presently he is professor and chairman of the department of religious studies at Victoria College, University of Toronto.

At the reception following the service Dr. Wade was welcomed to Ingersoll by the mayor. For Dr. Wade and the many people who recall him as a boy growing up in town or as a school mate it was an hour of "remember when."

The session at St. Paul's expressed appreciation to the accomplished young ladies of D.M. Sutherland Public School choir from Woodstock and Harry Smith, their director for taking part in the service.

Strong feelings of 100 years ago in some places, objected to a pipe organ in the sanctuary. It was a pleasure and perhaps a tribute too, that a trio of the congregation, Pipe Major Bob Collins and pipers, Doug Collins and Jim Armstrong contributed to the music in the service.

National recognition of the centennial of the Presbyterian Church in Canada will be in June. The 100th general assembly will be held in Montreal the same place in which the first was held a century ago.



Rev. Dr. Donald Wade, right, a former Ingersoll resident and student at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, returned for a guest speaking appearance Sunday at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Rev. Dr. Wade spoke to the congregation, marking the 100th anniversary celebrations of the formation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Talking with Rev. Wade following the service is Rev. George Johnston, minister at St. Paul's.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church To Observe 100th Anniversary

Commencing on September 25 and for four weeks, the congregation of St. Paul's Presbyterian church will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first Presbyterian church in Ingersoll.

St. Paul's Presbyterian church, Ingersoll, has had a rich and colorful history. There were two Presbyterian churches in the ear-

ly days. In Scotland there were several groups within the Presbyterian church, the Established church, the Free church, the United Presbyterian church, and others. When the early settlers came to Canada they brought their own church preference with them. In Ingersoll Knox was the Free church and Erskine the United Presbyterian church.

In the year 1834 the Synod of Ross in Scotland sent out the Rev. Donald MacKenzie whose ministry, it may be said, laid the foundation for Presbyterianism in this part of Western Ontario.

A little grove of trees on the north side of St. Andrews street, which seems to have been the favorite spot for holding religious services in those days, and on which Knox church was subsequently built, was where Mr. MacKenzie preached to an ever-increasing number who gathered during those years between 1834 and 1846 to listen to his messages of salvation and hope.

During the summer of 1847 encouraged by a generous offer made by Mr. James Ingersoll (a member of the Ingersoll family after whom the town was named, the few Presbyterians built a small brick church known as Knox church on St. Andrews street.

In September, 1848, the Rev. Robert Wallace preached for a call in this new church. He received the call and was inducted as the first minister in January, 1849.

Among the first members of Knox church we find the names of Mr. and Mrs. R. Falconer, Mr. and Mrs. W. Dunn, Thomas Telfer, Mr. and Mrs. W. Telfer, Mr. G. Telfer, Mr. and Mrs. Haining, Marion Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. H. Matheson, Alex. Morrison, Alex. Brown, Mr. R. Kerr, J. Barker, D. Ross, A.

Sentinel Review

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St Paul's
100th Anniversary
cont'd

1860 and he was followed by Rev. John Straith. The congregation grew rapidly and a gallery was added to the church.

Rev. Straith resigned in 1870 and he was followed by Rev. R. N. Grant whose ministry made a very deep and lasting impression on the spiritual life of Knox church.

Turning to the history of Erskine church we find that the Rev. Archibald Cross was inducted as first minister on January 11, 1855. In the first year of Mr. Cross's ministry, a church was built on Charles street west on the site now occupied by the Beaver Lumber Co.

The first session of Erskine church consisted of T. Hislop, D. Irving, J. Hay, R. Kerr, D. Kerr, J. Walker, J. Lawson, J. Muir and J. Grant. Mrs. Grace Smith who lives with her daughter, Mrs. W. Bailey, Cemetery Lane, was baptized by Rev. Cross in Erskine church in 1855. Mrs. Smith who is 94 is enjoying good health. Her memory is very vivid and she well remembers the building of St. Paul's church in 1872. Mrs. John Gibson, 93; of Mossley district, another member of St. Paul's church was a member of Erskine church.

Rev. Cross left in 1869 and he was followed by Rev. Peter Wright who remained until 1873. During his ministry a new church, which forms part of the present St. Paul's, was built.

The Rev. John McEwen followed the Rev. Peter Wright. During his ministry an organ was introduced into the service of praise. For some time there was talk of union between Knox and Erskine. In 1889 the final union was consummated and the new church was called St. Paul's.

The Rev. E. R. Hutt was or-

were taken to enlarge the building. A large addition was made on the south side and a new pipe organ was installed.

The Rev. A. Bright became the next minister of St. Paul's and he labored faithfully until 1914 when he went to be assistant minister of Parkdale church, Toronto. The Rev. R. McLeod followed Rev. Bright. The World War, 1914-18 came during Rev. McLeod's ministry and he served for a time as chaplain. Mc. McLeod resigned in 1919.

It was during the next minister's ministry, the Rev. G. Wood that the question of church union between the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian churches was considered. By an overwhelming majority St. Paul's decided to remain Presbyterian. Mr. Wood went to be assistant minister of Trinity church and 127 members from St. Paul's went with him.

The next minister of St. Paul's was the Rev. J. A. Brown. By his faithful and untiring efforts and deeds of kindness, he endeared himself to his people. After serving for seven years he died on April 20, 1932.

Rev. Dr. H. H. Turner followed Mr. Brown. Dr. Turner's ministry extended from 1932 until 1946. During this time the world passed through the depression and World War II. In 1935 extensive renovations were made to the church. Dr. Turner retired at the end of September, 1946.

The present minister, the Rev. G. W. Murdoch, was inducted on January 17, 1947.

In preparation for the Centenary the church has been redecorated inside and outside. A new organ was installed by the organists of Toronto, the original builders of the organ. The organ will be dedicated Sunday, Sept. 18, in loving memory of the men who gave their lives in the two World Wars. Chimes will be dedicated in memory of Miss Janet McKellar, offering plates in memory of A. Cuthbert.

Sentinel Review

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PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER DIES AT INGERSOLL

Rev. J. A. Brown, Former Moderator of Hamilton-London Synod, Passes in 76th Year

46 YEARS IN MINISTRY

Much Loved Pastor of St. Paul's Church, Ingersoll, Passes—Funeral Friday

By Ingersoll Staff Reporter
INGERSOLL, April 20.—The Presbyterian Church in Canada lost one of its outstanding sons and ministers early this morning in the passing of Rev. J. A. Brown, for the past six years or more minister of St. Paul's Presbyterian church here. The death followed a sudden illness which came just a little over two weeks ago, and which since has varied in its gravity. For the past two or three days Mr. Brown's condition had been the occasion for much concern among his multitude of friends in Ingersoll and district.

The deceased, who was in his 76th year, was born at Beaverton. He had been in the ministry for 45 years, and during that term had held many of the most honored positions within the giving of his church. He had ministered during his long ecclesiastical career in Belmont, Agincourt, Ferguson, Shakespeare and Ingersoll. He came to Ingersoll six years ago last August.

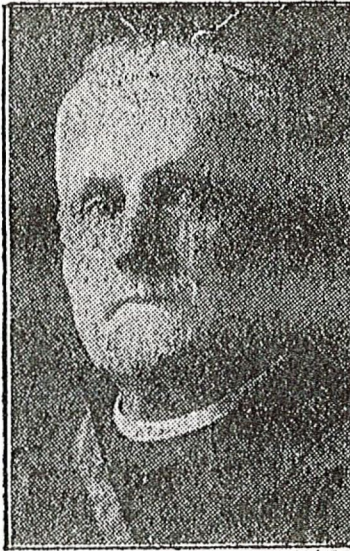
MODERATOR IN 1928.

Four years ago, deceased was elected moderator of the Hamilton-London Synod, the finest tribute to his worth within the giving of the church in that jurisdiction. He had also been honored in being chosen moderator of the presbytery of Paris. In many other ways he had been honored by his church and by the people of his church within the term of his long ministry.

Mr. Brown's last charge before coming to Ingersoll was at Shakespeare. In all places where he had been stationed as above, he was beloved as he was in Ingersoll.

In a very definite and personal way, deceased will be missed in Ingersoll. He will be missed only as a minister of the gospel with all the practical Christian

(Continued on page 3)



DIED THIS MORNING
Rev. J. A. Brown, pastor of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Ingersoll, whose death occurred today.

MINISTER DIES AT INGERSOLL

(Continued from page 1)

that was peculiar to him, but in a personal way as a friend of many.

He will be missed as a leader in every movement that was for the common good, both within the church and without. He will be missed as a citizen whose sincerity and friendliness stood out in his every hour of life and under every condition. He will be missed by the shut-ins to whom he brought many movements of cheer and friendly consolation. He will be missed in countless ways, not alone for what he did or could do, but just for the man and friend he was.

In Ingersoll's every church congregation and among people of all walks of life, Rev. J. A. Brown's friends were legion. It often seemed that trouble or trials were his greatest passports to many homes and many hearts. Whenever he could be of assistance in smoothing afflictions of mind or body, Rev. J. A. Brown was one of the first to present and offer himself. His was no make-believe sympathy or help, but the sincere, seeking type which came from within.

Among the elder people or with those of the younger generation, his counsel, his steadfastness and his friendship were attributes to be always desired. In his church, on the street or even in police court circles, his broad and sympathetic understanding of men and their weaknesses gave his friendship and help a mellowing influence which fostered friendship. There was nothing ostentatious about him. Quickly he moved about in his ministrations and on his journeys of help. The left hand never learned what the right was doing excepting insofar as situations were to be explained or matters set in their proper order. His great theme of life was not so much religion as Christianity and the brotherhood of men. His outlook was sunny. His attitude ever hopeful. His belief was that in all things, right would ultimately succeed over might. His was the outlook which saw good in most people and in most things. The friendless and the stranger at his door always had a friendly and sympathetic hearing.

This then, is but a feeble reference to a great life which has gone—a life rich and full in its every aspect. No greater tribute can be paid him than to say that his passing has created a void in Ingersoll which will be difficult to fill. His greeting, his smile, his beloved Scottish humor, his simplicity which gave him his greatness, his understanding heart—all these are but a faint few of the qualities which made Rev. J. A. Brown the minister, and J. A. Brown the man, beloved by all.

Surviving are his widow, one daughter, Miss Anna Brown, Toronto, and two brothers, Dougald Brown and Donald Brown, both of Beaverton.

Passing of Rev. J. A. Brown Deeply Regretted by Citizens

Many expressions of deep and sincere regret at the passing of Rev. J. A. Brown were to be heard on the streets of Ingersoll today.

HELPFUL CITIZEN

Rev. Dr. R. G. Peever, pastor of Trinity United church said:

"The death of Mr. Brown is a matter of great personal regret. For the past seven years we have enjoyed the closest fellowship as ministers and co-workers together in Ingersoll. During my recent illness, Rev. Mr. Brown has been kindness itself to me, and always ready to assist in any way the calls of my own congregation.

"As a minister, his long pastor-

ate of 45 years in the many important charges which he has held bear witness to his zeal, wisdom and untiring energy as a worthy ambassador of Jesus Christ. He has had the confidence of his church in Canada in the very highest degree as evidenced by the positions of trust in the councils of his church to which he has been appointed from time to time.

His congregation in Ingersoll has suffered a great loss and the community has lost one of its most interested and helpful citizens.

"Trinity congregation tenders its sincere sympathy to the family bereaved and especially to his faithful companion, Mrs. Brown, in his long and splendid ministry and also to the congregation of St. Paul's which has lost its beloved pastor and leader."

A TRUE CHRISTIAN

Rev. W. E. V. McMillen, rector of St. James' Anglican church this morning said: "I regret very much the passing of Mr. Brown. He will be much missed, not only by the whole community but particularly among his brother ministers. His kindly words, deep sympathy and extreme tactfulness were always in evidence in times of need. His true Christian life has had an influence on the community that no one can estimate. While his death is regretted by all and our sympathies go to his loved ones, we know that his faith is rewarded and he has passed to a higher service in the great eternity beyond.

"The highest praise that can be shown to him is for those who have been in contact with him to endeavour to emulate his noble example of Christian life."

MAYOR'S TRIBUTE

Mayor James E. Ferguson this morning said: "In the death of Mr. Brown the people of Ingersoll in every sphere and walk of life have suffered an irreparable loss, and he will be missed not only for his outstanding work, but in many other ways.

This is a deep personal loss to me, as in my capacity of mayor of this town of Ingersoll, Mr. Brown was a wonderful help, always ready to assist by advice and work, and never too fatigued at any hour of the day or night to give any assistance that was in his power.

"Although personally I was in constant touch with him in my work, it was a privilege that very few held to realize the full extent of Mr. Brown's activities, and sacrifices in both time and money.

"Every citizen of Ingersoll is in mourning this morning, on hearing of the passing of Mr. Brown."

MISSED ON STREET

Rev. A. P. McDonald, former pastor of the Ingersoll Baptist church, said: "We all regret greatly the passing of Rev. J. A. Brown. I have known him intimately for nearly six years. We will miss him greatly at our meetings and on the street. He was a good preacher, an excellent pastor, faithful and kindly. Mr. Brown was not only interested in his own church, but in every good work. He was a good citizen, interested in all that was going on. He has earned the 'Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joys of thy Lord.'"

ASSISTED ARMY

Capt. C. F. Zarfus of the Salvation Army paid the following tribute: "The community has lost an able minister, a man of God, in the passing of Rev. J. A. Brown. For many years Mr. Brown worked in the interests of righteousness. The Army loses a sincere friend as Mr. Brown took a great interest, not only in his own church, but in the meetings conducted by the Army. We wish to convey every sympathy at this time."

FUNERAL FRIDAY.

Following a short private service at the manse, Charles street west on Friday morning, a public service will be held at eleven o'clock in St. Paul's Presbyterian church. The remains will be taken to Agincourt where a short service will be held in the Presbyterian church at 4.30 Friday afternoon. Interment will follow at Agincourt cemetery. Friends are asked to kindly omit flowers.



St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Thames St. is getting a new look, as painters tackle the job of painting the trim. High on the ladder is Warren Clifford of Ingersoll who is the contractor. His assistant is Brian Branton.

The Ingersoll Times
September 15, 1976

St. Paul's celebrates

125th year

For 125 years God's word has gone out into Ingersoll from the Presbyterian church in Ingersoll.

Sunday, Oct. 27 the congregation will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the first Presbyterian congregation in Ingersoll.

St. Paul's Presbyterian church is the result of a union between Knox Church and Erskine Church. The differences between many branches of the old church in Scotland were carried by the settlers into Canada. In Ingersoll Knox was the Free Church "The Wee Frees" and the Erskine congregation upheld the United Presbyterian in Scotland.

During the summer of 1847, encouraged by a generous offer made by James Ingersoll, a member of the family which gave its name to Ingersoll, the few Presbyterians who had been gathering under the trees built the walls and roof of a small brick church on the north side of St. Andrews Street and called it Knox Church.

During 1850-51 several families which had United Presbyterian leanings settled in and around Ingersoll. Along with others already present in the area they decided to organize a church in Ingersoll.

This accomplished in 1852 and their services were held in a school house on John St. north of the river and in a little Methodist Church which once stood on Oxford St. not far from the corner of King St. W.

The Rev. Archibald Cross was ordained and inducted as the first minister of the Presbyterian congregation in the fall of 1854. During the first year of his ministry a new church was built on Charles St. W. on the site formerly occupied by the Beaver Lumber Co. The name Erskine was not given until 1862.

The union between Knox and Erskine was not always harmonious. The union was consummated in 1883 but a very short time later a minority withdrew from the union, applied for and were successful in obtaining the use of the old Knox Church property on St. Andrews St. Matters between the two factions were settled satisfactorily in presbytery and this continuing

tended a call which was accepted by Rev. Thomas Atkinson who was inducted on Dec. 30, 1884.

By a congregational vote in the following May 1884, the splinter group of Knox Presbyterians agreed to drop both names of the united congregations and chose the name of St. Andrews.

The continuing Knox congregation had constructed for themselves a new church building on Thames St., site of the present church.

But the talk of union was heard on every side in both congregations. Committees to form a basis of union were formed and on Dec. 9, 1889 the conditions of union were discussed, approved and adopted by a joint congregation meeting. The leading paragraph for the basis of union reads.

"Believing that the union of Knox Church Ingersoll and St. Andrews Church of the same place would be to the glory of God and in the interests of religion generally, said congregations agree to write into our organization which shall be known as St. Paul's Church, Ingersoll."

This began the congregation of the present church. The next year, May 1890 an unanimous call from this congregation was accepted by a recent Knox College graduate from Port Dalhousie, Rev. E.R. Hutt.

The highlight of these 125th anniversary celebrations will be that a great grandson of this first minister will preach the sermon, Rev. John Miller who is senior minister of Presbyterian Church on the Green, Morristown, New Jersey.

Rev. Hutt, in his ministry, saw great growth in his congregation, not only was he instrumental in this growth of his congregation but was able to plan the alterations

which took place to accommodate the larger seating capacity required. Rev. Mr. Hutt died in 1906 after continuing poor health for three years.

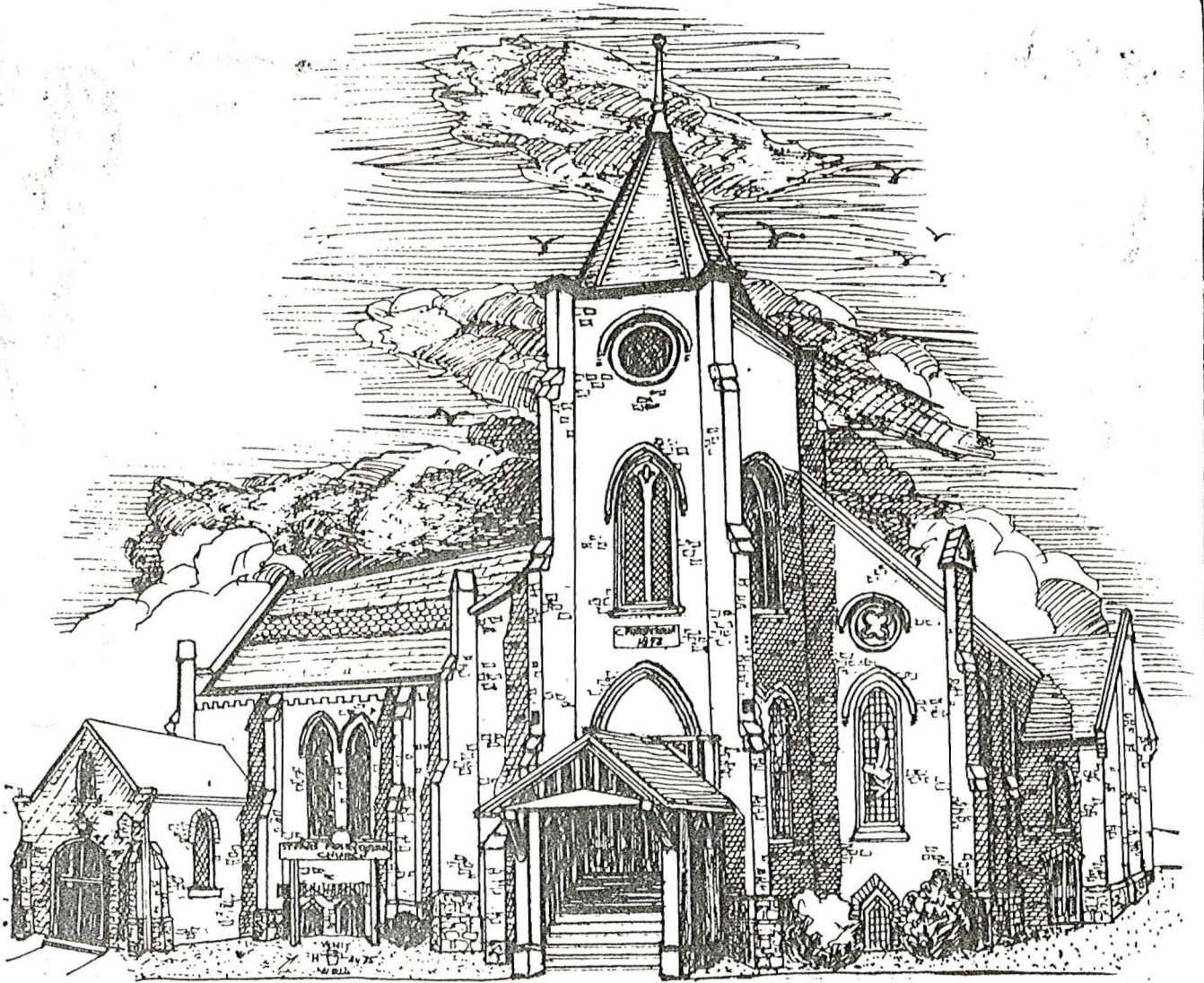
Monday evening a congregational dinner will be followed

by an historical slide presentation. There again members adherents and those formerly associated with St. Paul's will have an opportunity for fellowship which will assure a continuing of a 125 year tradition



St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Ingersoll

Sentinel Review
May 3, 1975.



ST. PAUL'S Presbyterian Church seen here in sketch by Harry Whitwell.

St. Paul's built in 1872

INGERSOLL — St. Paul's Presbyterian Church depicted in this sketch by Harry Whitwell was built in 1872, when it was known as Saint Andrew's Church.

It was in 1889 that Knox Presbyterian church congregation joined St. Andrew's church and became known as St. Paul's church.

Knox Presbyterian Church began in a grove of trees in 1834 on what is now St. Andrews Street.

In 1847 Knox Church held a lottery with a prize of 1,000 pounds for the lucky holder of a two-shilling ticket. Proceeds

were used to build a brick church on the original site.

Following union, Knox Church members sat on one side of the new St. Paul's Church and Saint Andrew's members on the other. It seems Knox members were debt-free, but Saint Andrew's members were not.

When union between the Methodist and Presbyterian churches was considered in the 1920s, Saint Paul's congregation decided to remain Presbyterian. However, 127 members did follow their minister who went to Trinity United Church as assistant minister.

Church celebrates birthday

INGERSOLL — In the coming year, St. Paul's Presbyterian church will celebrate its 130th anniversary of serving Ingersoll and area residents.

The year 1978, says Al Murray, clerk of session, was a normal year in the life of the congregation, with no great peaks of achievement, nor any low valleys of failure.

Numerous projects are now in the planning stage, he said, and there were high hopes that 1979 will be one of progress and accomplishment.

More than 300 families now are associated with St. Paul's, and there are more than 400 members on the communion roll. Members include everyone from teenagers to senior

citizens, so the church program includes activities for all ages.

The church school has Sunday classes at all grade levels, as well as nursery and junior congregation for tiny tots.

There are mid-week activities for different age groups and a recently-revived youth program has been very successful.

The various groups in the Women's Federation have many interesting programs and projects, which culminate in the annual bazaar held in November.

St. Paul's is fortunate in having so many hard-working members in the Women's Federation, says Murray, and is proud of their many worthwhile accomplishments.



Rev. John J. Jennings will be inducted as the new minister of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Ingersoll September 10. The induction service will be at the church beginning at 8 p.m. Mr. Jennings hails from Oakridge Presbyterian Church, London, and moves to Ingersoll with his wife and two sons to take up where Rev. Dean Cassidy left off. Rev. Cassidy is now preaching at St. Andrew's Church in Strathroy and the local charge has been without a minister of its own for the past few months.

New minister at St. Paul's church

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church has finally received a new minister after being without one for several months since Reverend Dean Cassidy left.

Reverend John Jennings will be officially inducted at a special service Thursday, September 10 at 8 p.m. The St. Paul's congregation and the public are welcome to attend.

Reverend Jennings has a lengthy history behind him as a minister, originally receiving his education in his natieland, Ireland. He attended Trinity College at Dublin University and the Presbyterian College in Belfast, graduating in 1956. He came to Canada in 1957 and

settled in a small community called Chatsworth, near Owen Sound, as minister of the Presbyterian Church.

From there, he moved to the Presbyterian charge of Meaford and Thornbury before going to the London area in 1964 where he became minister at Oakridge Presbyterian Church.

Reverend Jennings is very pleased to be coming to the Ingersoll area and has several reasons for wanting the position as minister of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

"I have been interested in Ingersoll for quite a few years and the position was open at the time. I felt it was

a place I could work," he explained.

"I am very glad and very happy I chose to come. It has been a wonderful, warm reception my family and I have received from the congregation," he said.

Reverend Jennings explained both he and his wife are from small farming communities and are glad to be back in a small town.

"I like the small community. I find the people exceedingly friendly and I am pleasantly surprised at their friendliness," said Reverend Jennings.

There will be no change in services at the church. They will continue to be Sunday mornings at 11 a.m.

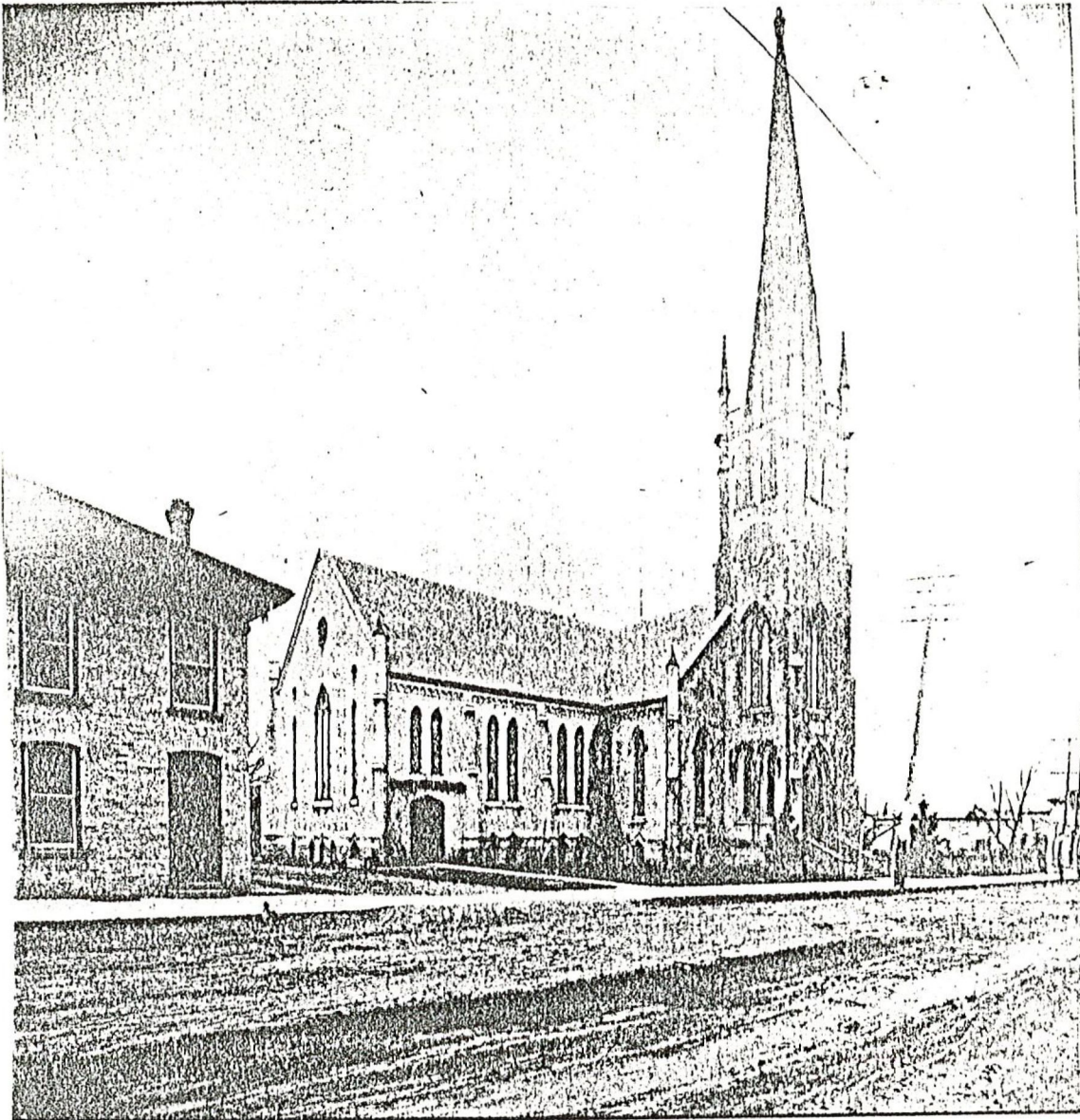


NEW MINISTER

Rev. John Jennings (left) is welcomed to his new post as minister of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Ingersoll by clerk of session A.G. Murray. Rev. Jennings, former minister at Oakridge Prebyterian Church in London, was inducted at a service

at St. Paul's Thursday. The native of Portadown, Ireland replaces Rev. Dean Cassidy, who left St. Paul's last March to become minister at a Strathroy church. The father of four and his wife Mildred have settled in Ingersoll.

(Staff photo by Michael Barris)



In the Ingersoll Times' Bicentennial edition, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, shown here, was incorrectly identified as Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Ingersoll Times
August 1, 1984

Church marks 137th anniversary

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church will be celebrating its 137th anniversary Oct. 19 with a special service conducted by the Rev. Douglas Gordon.

Gordon, of Southampton, will conduct the 11 a.m. service. He was the minister at St. Paul's from 1961 to 1967. Since leaving Ingersoll, he has ministered in Brantford, Fredericton and Mitchell. He is presently the minister at St. Andrew's Church in Southampton.

St. Paul's was formed in 1980,

uniting two churches, Knox and Erksine.

The congregation of the Knox Church was formed in the summer of 1846 under the ministry of the Rev. William Burns. At this time, services for the Presbyterians were held beneath a small grove of trees. Shortly after this first service, a small brick church erected on this site on the north side of St. Andrew's Street, became known as the Knox Church. The first minister of Knox Church was the Rev. Robert

Wallace.

In 1855, another branch of the Presbyterian Church was established in Ingersoll. The Erksine congregation of Ingersoll held its services in a church built on Charles Street West.

Finally, in 1890, the Knox and Erksine Churches were joined together to form what is now St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. The Rev. E.R. Hutt was the first minister of the united congregation. During his time as minister, the south end of the present building was constructed as was an addition for the choir. An organ was also added on the north side of the building.

The present minister at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church is the Rev. John Jennings.

Everyone is invited to attend the 137th anniversary service on Oct. 19. Following the service will be a social hour in the Sunday school at the church.

Ingersoll Times
October 15, 1986

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church celebrates its 137 full years

By PHYLLIS COULTER
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Their only shelter was a grove of trees when a group of Presbyterians first gathered to worship in 1846. In spite of a thunderstorm, the preacher,

Rev. William Burns encouraged the congregation to stay outside and listen to the rest of the sermon.

It wasn't until 1855 that the group officially got out of the weather permanently when a brick building was erected on the north west corner of

Charles Street and Boles Street.

It was known as the United Presbyterian Church and was often called the UP Church.

The congregation of this church now located on Thames Street is known as today St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and is celebrating its 137 years of ex-

istence on Sunday, Oct. 19.

The guest speaker will be Rev. Douglas Gordon of Southampton. He was the minister here for six years from 1961 to 1967.

Since leaving Ingersoll he has been minister at Brantford, Fredricton, Mitchell and is presently at St. Andrews Church in Southampton.

Rev. Gordon will conduct the 11 a.m. service, and a social hour will follow when members of St. Paul's and other friends will have an opportunity to renew acquaintances with Gordon and his wife Marg.

"The public is cordinally invited to attend these services," says J.C. Herbert, a member of the congregation.

The church which still stands on Thames Street today has had a colorful history. It debated some issues for years. For example, old newspaper clippings from *The Sentinel-Review* show that considerable discussion took place as to whether the congregation should stand or sit to sing. It wasn't until after 1865 that the congregation stood for praise.

In 1868 the church declared that it was "unanimously of the opinion that to allow the use of instruments in the worship of God in the sanctuary would be inexpedient and would endanger the unity and peace thereof." The musical question was a controversial one that wasn't settled for many years.

The original church built on this site had a very high and artistic steeple but it was twisted by a strong north wind and had to be replaced with a shorter one.

The building was demolished in 1950 and the Beaver Lumber Company erected a more modern one.

Services for the "137-year-old congregation" on Oct. 19 will begin at 11 a.m. followed by a social hour where everyone is invited.

SKRIVER REVIEW
October 15, 1976

Church to mark 139 years service



Wade

INGERSOLL — It seems appropriate that St. Paul's Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 139th anniversary on Sun. Oct. 30th with Dr. Donald Wade as guest speaker.

St. Paul's has always been a missionary church, with many young men and women committing their lives to the full time ministry, says John Herbert, a member of the congregation. The first of these was Dr. Wade.

Born in Ingersoll, he attended local schools and graduated from the University of Western Ontario, earning graduate degrees from the

University of Toronto. He is a graduate of Knox College and has taught at Queen's University, Knox College and the University of Toronto.

Over the past 30 years he has travelled extensively in the Far East. Based for the most part in Taiwan, Dr. Wade has lectured in theological colleges and universities in Asia and is consultant in theological education at the South East Asian Graduate School of Theology.

At present, he is minister of St. John's church, Milliken (Toronto). The congregation is multi-cultural and growing rapidly, with about 450 people in its pastoral care.

Dr. Wade attributes his interest in the world mission of the Church largely to his early training at St. Paul's Sunday School and to the congregation, which has always had a strong interest in mission and missionaries.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church is a union of two branches of the

Presbyterian Church. The Free Church, Knox Church on St. Andrew's Street, was organized as a congregation in 1847. Rev. Wallace was the first minister and remained until 1860. In 1855 the United Presbyterian Church, or U.P. Church as it was known, organized a congregation and built Erskine Church on Boles Street. Later a new building called St. Andrew's was constructed on the present site of St. Paul's. Rev. Archibald Cross was the first minister.

After lengthy and difficult negotiations, the two churches combined in 1890 to form St. Paul's Presbyterian Church with Rev. E. R. Hutt as its minister. Since union, 13 ministers have served St. Paul's. Rev. John Jennings is its present minister.

Dr. Wade will speak at the 11 a.m. service. In the evening on Oct. 30, the St. Paul's choir, under the direction of Eula Hunt, will present concert of sacred music, assisted by the Oxford Brass and the Snell Family Singers. An offering will be received.

Refreshments will be served following both services. The public is invited to attend.

October 25, 1988
SENIOR REVIEW



REV. JENNINGS RETIRES

Rev. John Jennings and wife Mildred greeted well-wishers from the congregation of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Ingersoll, and from the community during a reception following the Sunday service. Rev. Jennings has announced his retirement from the active ministry after eight years at St. Paul's. He has been a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for 32 and a half years and is originally from Ireland. Both Jennings and his wife have many friends in town and will be missed.

(Staff photo by Pauline Kerr)

SENTINEL REVIEW

June 27, 1989

St. Paul's minister retires



St. Paul's Church held a reception for Rev. and Mrs. John Jennings last Sunday.

Mr. Jennings will retire from the active ministry following the Union services this summer. After eight years, as minister at St. Paul's, the Jennings have endeared themselves

to members of the congregation, and have made a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in the community.

Everyone was invited to attend the service and reception which follows in the lower hall of the church.

INGERSOLL TIMES

June 28, 1989

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church celebrating 140th anniversary

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 140th anniversary October 15 with Rev. Wallace Little Th.M. as guest speaker at the 11 a.m. service. Rev. Little is presently minister at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Hespler. For a short time before entering the Christian Ministry, he lived in Ingersoll where he was on the staff of I.D.C.I.

At the 7:30 p.m. service, the St. Paul's senior choir under the direction of Mrs. Eula Hunt will present a night of music, featuring the Bonds of Love Quartet. There will be a free will offering and refreshments will follow the service.

St. Paul's Church is a union of two branches of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church. In 1849, Rev. Robert Wallace was the first minister of the Free Church which was known as Knox Church. This was located on

St. Andrew Street. The U.P. Church, as it was called, was located on Charles Street, West. Later they built a church on the present site of St. Paul's where it was known as St. Andrew's Church. In 1890 union of both churches was finally achieved and was called St. Paul's. Rev. E. R. Hull became its first minister.

Since unison, 13 ministers have served St. Paul's, including a former

moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Rev. Dillyn T. Evans. The last minister was Rev. John Jennings, who retired following the union service this summer. A search committee is now seeking a minister to succeed Mr. Jennings. Rev. George Dobie of Woodstock is the interim minister.

The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

INGERSOLL TIMES

October 11, 1989

St. Paul's Ingersoll celebrates 140 years

Story and photo
by PAULINE KERR
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — St. Paul's Presbyterian Church didn't have the most auspicious beginning.

Long ago, a small group of Presbyterians gathered under a grove of trees in Ingersoll to hear Rev. William C. Burns preach a sermon. A severe thunderstorm arose but the congregation remained. After 140 years, they're still there, still struggling, and stronger than ever. A brief glance at the history of this church makes interesting reading, for it's really a history of several churches, and several groups within the Presbyterian Church.

Among the different groups in Scotland, the Free Church, and the United Presbyterian Church became established in Ingersoll in the mid 1800's.

The Free Church formed the early congregation of Knox Church, built at the site of that grove of trees on St. Andrews Street. Thanks to a generous offer by James Ingersoll, there was a small brick structure on the site in 1847. In 1849, Rev. Robert Wallace was inducted as the first minister of the Presbyterian Church

of Ingersoll and Beachville.

SERVICES HELD AT SCHOOL HOUSE

At the same time, several families connected with the United Presbyterian Church, known as the U.P.'s, were settling in the Ingersoll area and decided to organize a U.P. church here. This was done in 1852 and services were held in a school house and a Methodist Church on Oxford. A new church was built on Charles West in 1855 but the name Erskine wasn't given until 1862.

In 1862, several members of Erskine Church applied for membership in Knox, an early indication of what was to come.

A new church, which formed part of the present St. Paul's, was constructed in 1872/73. Meanwhile, talk of union between the two groups was progressing.

In October of 1883, both congregations voted for union, but that first union was not a happy one. Shortly after, some members applied for the use of the old Knox property and continued to occupy it until final union in 1889.

But the larger part of the joint congregation continued to worship at the Erskine location and the decision was made to drop both old names in favor of a new, St. Andrew's Church, as talk of union continued.

The final joining of the two congregations took place in 1889 and the new organization was known as St. Paul's.

Soon after the induction of Rev. E. R. Hutt as the new minister in 1890, the old church was enlarged and renovated — additional pews were added at the west end, where the pulpit and choir loft were originally located under the burning bush

emblem, and the east side. The centre of the south end was extended and an addition for the choir stand and organ was added to the north.

MANY GIFTED MINISTERS

St. Paul's has been blessed with many gifted ministers, most recently Rev. John Jennings, who has retired after eight years of dedicated service. Both he and his wife have been

popular and highly respected members of their community. The congregation is now in the process of extending a call to a new minister.

Despite adversity, or perhaps because of it, St. Paul's has always been a strong missionary church and has sent a number of young men and women into the full-time Christian Ministry — Dr. Donald Wade was the first and several have followed.

St. Paul's has also supported outreach efforts including Kintail Camp, Crief Hills Community and other projects.

Rev. Wallace Little, onetime member of St. Paul's congregation, will be special speaker for the anniversary service. At the anniversary evening service, the senior choir will present, *A Night of Music* featuring *The Bonds of Love* quartet.

SENTINEL REVIEW

October 14, 1989

New minister at Presbyterian Church

Rev. Lonnie Scott Atkinson will be inducted into the pulpit at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church at 8 p.m. this Friday.

Rev. Atkinson was born in Moncton, N.B. His high school and university years were spent in Halifax.

He received a bachelor of commerce degree from Dalhousie University with majors in marketing and organizational behavior in 1974.

Following graduation, Rev. Atkinson worked for the federal government in St. John's, Nfld., in an administrative capacity.

In 1976, he received his call to Christian ministry and began his studies at the Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax. He graduated with a Masters of Divinity degree in 1979, receiving prizes in Church History and Biblical Studies.

Rev. Atkinson was ordained in May, 1979 by the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada.

During the following ten years, he was pastor of congregations in Murray Harbour, Prince Edward Island, Winnipeg and Halifax.

At a national level, Rev. Atkinson offered leadership in youth and young adult ministry, leadership development, and shared a ministry of music.

Rev. Atkinson is currently in the thesis stage of a Doctor of Ministry degree at Pittsburg Theological Seminary. Rediscovering the eldership as a model for community spiritual leadership is the subject of his thesis.

In the spring of 1989, Rev. Atkinson sought admission to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. He was received by action of the 115th general assembly.

He is married to Joan and they have two sons, Peter, eight, and Phillip, five.

Rev. Atkinson replaces Rev. John Jennings who retired to London in August of last year.

The public is welcome to the induction. A social time will be held following the service.

SENTINEL REVIEW -

INGERSOLL THIS WEEK

February 27, 1990

SENTINEL REVIEW
March 13, 1990

New minister at Presbyterian Church

Not only is the Rev. Lonnie Atkinson new to Ingersoll, his assignment to St. Paul's Church is his first as a Presbyterian minister.

Atkinson, a United Church minister for a decade before being received by



Atkinson

action of the 115th general assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, was inducted to the pulpit March 2.

At one time a government employee in Newfoundland with a desire to enter law, Atkinson hopes to develop programs for both the adults and youth at his new church.

A native of Moncton, NB, his father was a United Church Minister,

and Atkinson sought admission to the Presbyterian Church of Canada in the spring of 1989.

His assignment to Ingersoll comes following the fall retirement of Rev. John Jennings. Atkinson says the congregation here wanted a minister with more than 10 years of experience.

While he says the congregation may have taken a particular risk in inviting a younger minister to Ingersoll, "I think the congregation is trying to say the town of Ingersoll is growing through change. . . the hope is that we as a congregation will begin more program life outside of Sunday mornings."

Currently, St. Paul's is active in women's programs and Atkinson wishes to see the involvement expand to other areas.

"The hope will be that we will begin more adult study programs

—particularly Bible study — but also programs for assisting people in family life and those decisions," he says.

"We hope, as well, to start some major youth programs — co-operative community-operated youth programming for the junior high and high school people."

In addition, Atkinson says the congregation also wants to increase its profile in the community.

His ministries in the past have focused on music — he has sung on national television — youth ministries and the spiritual development of leaders. Currently, Atkinson is in the thesis stage of a Doctor of Ministry Degree at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Continued on page 7

ST. PAUL'S

New minister at St. Paul's Church

Continued from page 6

Rediscovering the eldership as model for community spiritual leadership is the subject of his thesis.

The congregation at St. Paul's consists of about 240 families. With family members and a large number of adherents, Atkinson speculates there are 500 persons who are part of the pastoral care.

After leaving rural Prince Edward Island, he ministered for a congregation of 625 families in Winnipeg then 1,100 members in suburban Halifax.

His decision to leave the ministry of the United Church for that of the Presbyterian Church of Canada was a change which had been coming for about 15 years.

From the time he entered seminary he had questions about the direction mainline Christian theology in North America was taking. While at the Atlantic School of Theology where he earned his Masters of Divinity, Atkinson won prizes in Church History and Biblical Studies.

His decision to leave the United Church was based on four areas of concern in addition to his belief he was called to be a leader and a pastor, not a political lobbyist.

He cited the decision-making process in the United Church as one of the four areas of concern. He says the power of a small group of people is moving the church in a direction he did not want to go.

The ultimate example — many people feel this is why he left the

church, but Atkinson says it is not so — were studies of sexual orientation and lifestyle in the ministry. He notes the Upper General Council was presented with some 2,000 petitions, the majority being against, but it apparently chose to ignore the desire of the lay people.

When Atkinson began his studies for his Doctor of Ministry degree at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (a Presbyterian seminary) he says he found he was at home theologically.

The church, believing the the sanctity of life, is not pro-choice and urges persons to carry pregnancies

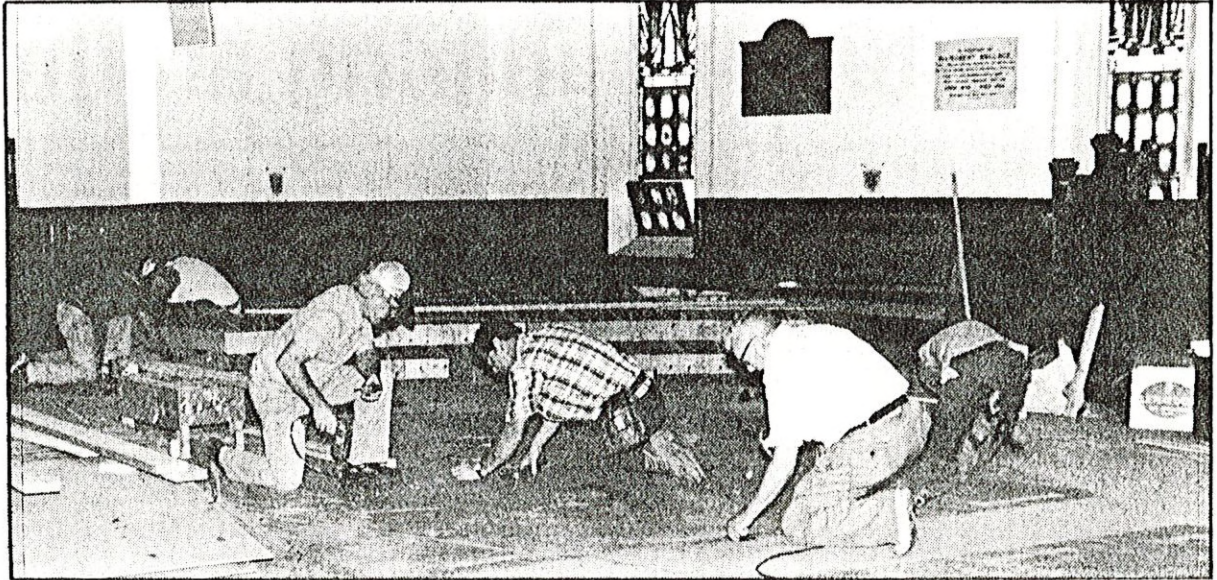
to term. However, the cunundrum exists: are there certain circumstances — if the mother's health is at risk — when an abortion is permissible?

Asked to described Prysberterian beliefs in 25 words or less, Atkinson said: "We believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour.

"That as followers and disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to carry the gospel — the good news that he would bring to us — into the community so that it lives in the community and so the community knows he still has a transforming power today."

SENTINEL REVIEW

March 13, 1990



IT'S DIFFICULT TO find a safe place to walk on the floor at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church these days as workers are busy putting down new subflooring and

carpeting. Eric Minogue (wearing the cap) and other volunteers are doing the work under the direction of a professional contractor.

AT ST PAUL'S A simple project turns complex

By PAULINE KERR
of Ingersoll This Week

It started as a simple project to replace the church carpet, but in a church the size of St. Paul's Presbyterian it has proven to be a major undertaking.

The age of the structure showed in the uneven floor boards which meant putting down level subflooring while a portion of the floor sagged where the original church is joined to the addition and it had to be filled in.

Margaret Paton, chairman of the church carpet committee, said fundraising events have been held for the past year. She hesitated to say what the final cost of the project would be because some unexpected problems have already arisen

However, the work is progressing at a remarkable rate.

Contractor Adrian Van Der Pass is supervising the project. The work is being done by Eric Minogue and approximately a dozen men of the church, working in shifts from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day.

Among the volunteers is Bert Hutson, who remembers with pinpoint accuracy the date the old carpeting was installed. He and his wife Betty were the first to walk on it when they were married June 16, 1956.

The renovations work includes a platform for the junior choir and new steps leading to the pulpit area. The new carpet will be a cranberry color, similar to what was there before. Everything should be ready when Summer Union Services are held at St. Paul's in August.

SENTINEL REVIEW - INGERSOLL

THIS WEEK

July 3, 1990