

OUR PLACES OF WORSHIP

THE ASHFIELD GOSPEL HALL

The origins of Ashfield Gospel Hall began long before it was built in the early 1940's. Even prior to 1920, about a dozen families from around Gonor, Lockport, and St. Andrews first started worshipping together as "Christians gathered in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ". They held services on Sundays and Wednesdays at Miss Mowatt's house, which still stands in St. Andrews. In the 1920's, a few of the Assembly members who lived in Gonor would walk across the frozen Red River in the winter, pulling the Sunday School youngsters on a sleigh. In the summer, before anyone owned a car or truck, they often took a shortcut by rowing across the river in a homemade flat-bottomed boat, or walked the three-mile distance around Lockport Bridge to attend services.



Later on, they met at Adam McDonald's house at Donald Road and River Road until his death. The Adam McDonald Memorial Cemetery in Gonor is named after him although the land was donated for that purpose by William Flett. Special meetings were occasionally held at Mr. Flett's house in Gonor. Among the original members were Ada Peebles, and the families of Ben Roberts, Adam McDonald, William Flett, George Harris, Steve Fegol and John Kreviazuk and several of the Homenick children.

After a series of meeting places over the years, as the group expanded, they made plans to build a permanent home around 1940. George Harris' house in Gonor and John Homenick's home in Ashfield served as the last meeting spots during the period of construction of the Ashfield Gospel Hall. All of the oldtimers have either passed away or moved from the area. A handful of Christians who joined the Assembly shortly after the Hall was built are still active, along with more recent members.

HISTORY OUTLINE OF THE BALSAM BAY ASSEMBLY

The winter of 1889-90 was spoken of as "the cold winter", it was a winter of below normal temperatures. That same winter Mr. and Mrs. Willie Monkman decided that they would celebrate their 5th wedding anniversary, and as the custom was of the district this demanded a supply of whiskey. So he left by team and sleigh from Balsam Bay, an extremely cold morning, for the town of West Selkirk where he intended to purchase two gallons of whiskey. He decided to call in at his parents whose home was in the district of Poplar Park. The area where his parents lived then is now known as Walkleyburg, three miles south of Libeau and sixteen miles northeast of the town of West Selkirk. Before reaching his parents' home he stopped at a neighbour's house, where a gospel meeting was being held. Knowing his parents would be there, he went in. The gospel message was "Christ the Bread of Life". (John 6) There he heard salvation preached by Richard Varder and Alfred Goff, and he accepted Christ as his Saviour on January 26, 1890.

It was not necessary now to continue his journey to West Selkirk. The next morning he returned to Balsam Bay, with the two preachers instead of the "two gallons of whisky", and in place of the intended dance there was a gospel meeting. Several meetings were held at this time and nine people professed salvation:

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Monkman
Mr. and Mrs. John Flett
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Derby
and Mrs. John Rupert

During the early part of June that year, Mr. Varder returned to Balsam Bay to baptise these nine people in the waters of Lake Winnipeg. It was at this time that the new converts gathered together as an assembly in the home of John Flett, (this house was later purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Willie Thomas).

In 1905 the Flett family moved into West Selkirk to make a permanent home, and shortly after the Monkman family moved there, also, then the Remembrance Meeting was held, for a short time, at the home of the Derby's which was situated on the lakefront about five hundred feet south of the Balsam Bay Cemetery. Then they decided it would be more convenient for all if it was held in the school which at that time was just about the place where Mr. and Mrs. Henry Geo. Thomas are buried today. The meetings continued there until 1910, which was the same year Alex Anderson decided to move his family to Victoria Beach. There were no meetings at Balsam Bay from that time on until the Anderson's returned again on November 4, 1915. Their new home

was designed so that the dining and sitting rooms could be used for the meetings.

In March 1916 George Brandow and Alex Monkman arrived at Balsam Bay to hold a series of gospel meetings in the new schoolhouse, situated about five hundred feet north of the home of Fred Orvis. During this time arrangements were made to keep the Remembrance Feast in the home of Alex Anderson, Sundays at eleven o'clock.

In January 1921, Mr. Brandow and Mr. Alex Monkman returned to Balsam Bay for more meetings. At that time the assembly numbered fifteen:

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Orvis
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Treadway
Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Monkman
Mr. and Mrs. Willie Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Anderson
and Mr. Norman Thomas

The gospel meetings were held in the schoolhouse, where they were blessed with a full meeting every night and a working of the Holy Spirit. Six young people accepted Christ:

Emily Thomas - now Mrs. Henry Reimer, Beausejour
Evelyn Orvis - now Mrs. Murray of Vancouver
Ethel Orvis - now Mrs. Dawson Jenkinson, Penticton, B.C.
Valley Monkman - now Mrs. Alfred Thomas, Grand Beach
Margory Anderson - now Mrs. Harry Newman, Winnipeg
Harry B. Newman - who had just recently come to Canada from London, England married Margory April 3, 1923. Mr. John Gunn, of Winnipeg, performed the ceremony.

Before Mr. Brandow and Mr. Monkman returned to Selkirk, they suggested that now was the time to start a Bible study meeting in order that we might have fellowship and learn from God's word. It was arranged that a meeting be held every Thursday night at the Anderson home. That Bible study has continued all through these years to the present day (January 1977), now being held in the Gospel Chapel at Beaconia, just three miles from the old Anderson home. In July 1921 the new converts were baptized in Lake Winnipeg down the bank from the Anderson home.

Every year, from 1921 until about 1935, there were gospel meetings held in the school during the New Year holiday. Usually four or five brethren would arrive from Selkirk and Winnipeg staying at the home of Mr. Anderson. Others who came from Winnipeg at various times were, Mr. Percy Rich, Mr. David Bell, Mr. L. Evans, Mr. Robert McClerkin, Mr. D. Donaldson, Mr. Dave McCarty, Mr. Geo. Stewart and Mr. Timms of Lockport.

In the Fall of 1921, Henry Geo. Thomas decided to move his family to Stoney Point, about seven miles south of Balsam Bay, now known as Patricia Beach. In order to remember the Lord Sunday mornings at Balsam Bay, they had to travel in winter approximately fourteen miles

(round trip), using a team and open sleigh. Seven miles of this was marshland. In summer they travelled along the lakeshore, which was sand. There was a channel from the marsh to the lake, about one hundred feet wide at low water making it accessible to cross over. When there was a north wind the water would be higher and forced the passengers to stand on the seat of the buggy while the horses swam the channel. There were times, too, when the young people walked to the meetings at Balsam Bay.

In a few years the number of Christians increased, and it was agreed to start an assembly at Stoney Point in the home of Henry George Thomas, also, a Bible study every Wednesday evening when Norman Thomas took a very prominent part.

The winter of 1931-32 Doris Treadway, of Balsam Bay Assembly, and Dorothy Thomas, of Stoney Point Assembly, were doing house visitation in the Gull Lake area teaching the truth of redemption through faith. Great interest was shown and four persons made a profession of faith:

Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Klatt, Monel Stubel and Benny Nixdorf. These saints were received into fellowship in the Balsam Bay assembly. The next summer there were sixteen baptized. Three of them are at present members of the same assembly:

Mr. and Mrs. Felix Paulson, Mr. Monel Stubel and Mr. Harold Thomas.

For many years Monel Stubel, who lived at Gull Lake about three and one half miles East of Stoney Point, travelled through the bush in the winter on skis or snowshoes making a direct line to the Point. In warm weather he would walk to Beaconia station, then South along the track to the Point to remember the Lord in the morning and conduct Sunday School in the afternoon, then return home late in the afternoon. A round trip of fourteen miles.

About this time, Harry Newman was given the privilege of ministering the word every Thursday evening to the Balsam Bay Assembly. This he continued to do until he moved into Winnipeg in September 1967, but would go out occasionally on Thursdays during the winters until 1976. And he still ministers there in summer while living at their cottage.

On December 10, 1934, Mrs. Alex Anderson passed into the presence of her Lord. Now it was Marge and Harry's full responsibility to care for her father. Also, to prepare for the Sunday morning service and Thursday night Bible study, and to care for the many preachers who came to minister in those days.

Mr. Thomas' daughters, Mable, Dorothy and Mildred, were in fellowship in the Stoney Point Assembly at this time. Mable and Dorothy were married in October 1939 and moved to Victoria Beach. In October 1943, Mildred and Alex Smith moved to Victoria Beach. With the depleting numbers it was decided, in the Fall of 1948, that the Stoney Point Assembly should once have fellowship at Balsam Bay.

In June 1946, Mary, wife of Henry G. Thomas and eldest daughter of Alex Anderson, passed into the presence of the Lord. In October of that same year Henry George decided to move to Victoria Beach. A year later the Christians there decided to gather in his small home

to remember the Lord on Sunday mornings.

Henry Geo. Thomas
Mrs. Beth Paulson
Mrs. Mable Katz
Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Bert Anderson
Mrs. Dorothy Olafson
Mrs. Mildred Smith, and her son Jimmie.

At this time a Mr. Phillips, who lived part of the time with the Olafson's, agreed to a ninety nine year lease on a lot of his property where a chapel was built in May 1950. Much labour was put into the building of the chapel by the brethren, along with much help from Cecil Roach. The chapel was ready that summer. The assembly ladies gave a small sum towards the building, proceeds of their baking at the Community Hall annual sale.

In the Fall of 1954, Brethren from the Steinbach area held gospel meetings in an unoccupied house, the property of Mrs. Robt. Klatt at Beaconia. Ben Reimer, of the Mennonite Evangelical Church of Steinbach, was in charge of this group. When they finished their series of meetings, the local Brethren continued with the meetings every Sunday evening. Mr. Lawrence Giesbrecht, a Mennonite brother from Altona, was teaching school at Balsam Bay during the year 1955. He helped to keep the lines of communication open between the Mennonite Brethren and the local Brethren. Lawrence and his wife Susan, were a great asset to our work in the district and were missed greatly when they moved back to Altona to continue in the teaching profession.

During the winter 1956 Ben Reimer informed the assembly that we could obtain a church building, free of charge, from the village of St. Annes, if we would pay the moving cost of \$200.00. We gratefully accepted the offer and raised the money by making a special donation. Felix Paulson was appointed to inspect the building. He returned with a good report and Mr. Reimer was asked to make the final arrangements for moving it to Grand Marais. Fred Orvis, Gordon Thomas and Billy Anderson were appointed to find a suitable lot on which to transfer the building. When a suitable lot could not be found, Billy Anderson very graciously offered to give a corner of his land. The Brethren insisted that he be paid \$150.00. John Anderson, who was experienced at building, directed the laying of the foundation, and the building was placed there approximately March 10, 1956. Once this was done there were many hours of free labour to finish the inside and paint the outside of the building. On two occasions some Mennonite Brethren came out for a day to assist.

The building was ready that same summer, and the Remembrance feast was held Sunday mornings with a gospel meeting in the evening. Doris Anderson started Sunday School at this time, continuing this work until the present day (Jan. 1977).

by Harry Newman

BALSAM BAY CEMETERY AND CHURCH

submitted by Vera Thomas

Another part of our area's history that is taken for granted now, is our cemetery and church in Balsam Bay. William Craigie told me the story many times. It seems in this area there was no cemetery, so William's father Magnus Craigie and Eugene Durby having a lot of land got together and donated a piece of land each for a cemetery. This cemetery was to be for free burial and for any denomination. Magnus Craigie also donated a smaller piece of land for the Anglican Church. This happened in around the year 1884. No one is really sure of the year as there was no need at that time to draw up any papers, a man's word was ok.

It was not until the early 1920's that the church was actually built, being of logs and hand made pews, as it still is today. Also the cemetery, there is still no charge for burial there for people who were brought up in Stony Point, Beaconia and Balsam Bay area. When there is a death, the men would go and open the grave and later close it. We feel we are very unique here, that with all the different denominations, this wish by the two men who donated the cemetery so many years ago, can still stand just as firm today. As my family knows so well, the people in our area are kind and always ready to help whenever they are needed.



Balsam Bay Church, 1979.

I know there must be much more history in our cemetery along the banks of Lake Winnipeg, I only wish I knew it so I could put it in writing for all times.

Our church and cemetery is right along the bank of Lake Winnipeg. The church is nestled in amongst the Evergreens and Birch trees. When you stand in the cemetery, you can hear the lake's quiet roll, or the wild breaking of the waves. But it is still a peaceful, hallowed place, that when you go there, outside or in the church you can surely feel God is very near. There are people from every walk of life and denomination buried in the cemetery. I don't know if there are very many cemeteries now that are like this, I guess the most amazing thing is that it's free. It's really heart warming to see how everyone turns out to open a grave or if the people can't do that, they will go to the home of the family and do what they can.

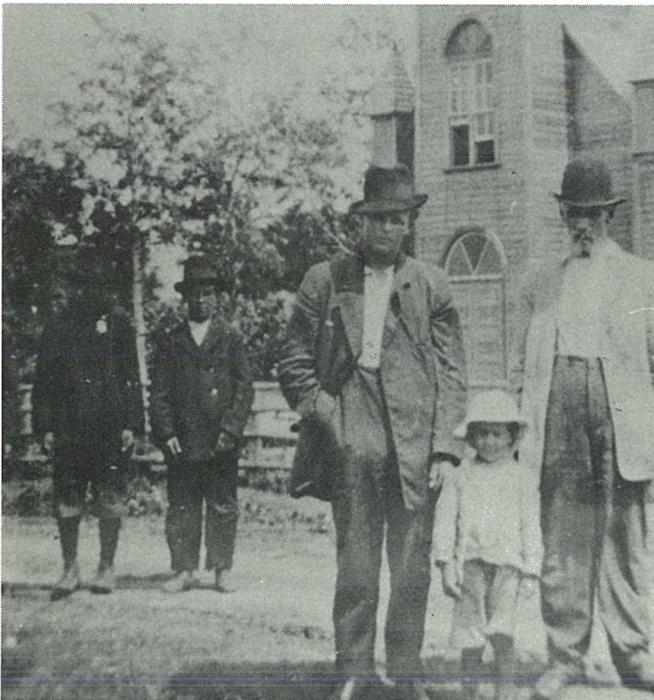


Beaconia Gospel Hall - Chapel.

THE CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH

submitted by Mrs. G. Perchotte

The history of Corpus Christi began over 75 years ago with just eight families in 1907, when it was founded and it has now grown to more than 100 families of different ethnic backgrounds. Corpus Christi (Body of Christ) is situated at 5819 Henderson Hwy., Narol. The following story of this little church has been compiled from conversations with the descendants of the founders together with information extracted from the original books of minutes.



Corpus Christi Church - extreme right with beard is Yoseph Onhaiser with T. Onhaiser and Mr. Oleszczuk.

In the year 1900, certain Polish people immigrated to this area from Poland. They held weekly devotions in the home of Mr. Jozef Onhajzer for several years and although they were experiencing extremely hard times, they began a "Church Treasury Fund". By 1904, a one acre parcel (99' x 440') of land was purchased from Mr. Franciszek Tomczak for \$50.00, who also donated \$25.00 around the same time. Mr. Anton Wachal, Mr. Walenty Wisniewski and Mr. Jozef Szajewski were in the process of clearing an area for a cemetery when Mr. Szajewski said he wondered who would be the first among them to be buried on that spot and just twelve months later, it was he. A huge wooden cross was erected to mark the cemetery.

The first recorded minutes of April 17, 1906 (written in Polish) reveals that the "Church treasury fund" balance was \$165.00 and discussions commenced regarding the construction of a church building. Mr. Harcus was hired to be the builder with the voluntary help of all the parishioners. The records show that the first eight people were: Mr. Franciszek Tomczak, Mr. Franciszek Oleszczuk, Mr. Jozef Onhajzer, Mr. Antoni Wachal, Mr. Grzegosz Szajewski, Mr. Jan Hoc, Mr. Jan Wachal, and Mr. Waclaw Wachal.

The presiding pastor and secretary was Rev. Fr. B. Kowalski, o.m.i. The first elected parish treasurer (with six out of eight votes) was Mr. F. Tomczak and the first trustees were: Mr. J. Onhajzer and Mr. F. Oleszczuk. These three names were placed in a little green bottle and buried either beneath the building formation or beneath the soil where the huge wooden cross had been erected. On Aug. 25, 1906, a discussion regarding the name of the Church took place and the two other names that had been considered were: "Our Lady of Scapular" and "St. Michaels".

In 1907, Mr. F. Tomczak donated the large Sacred Heart statue which is presently fixed above the center altar. Father F. Kowalski had been invited to say Mass at different homes every 6 weeks and he would stay for two to three days at which time he would have catechism classes for the children. Everyone took turns meeting him at the station to help with his bags.

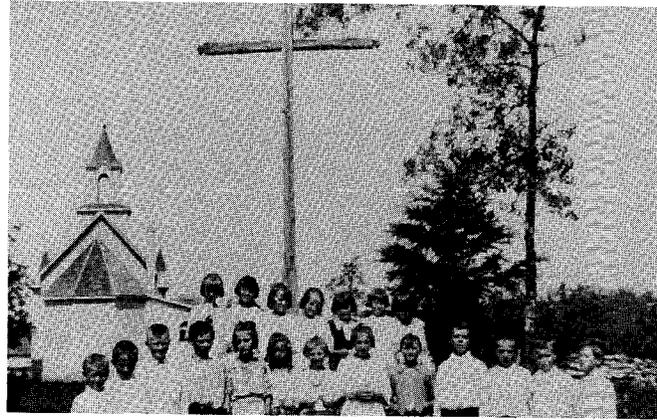
By June 16, 1907, although incomplete, the church building was being used for prayer meetings and on June 24, 1907, it was blessed. On this happy occasion, hereafter called Corpus Christi Day, the following six children received their first Holy Communion: Wladyslaw Tomczak, Stanislaw Tomczak, Franciszek Oleszczuk, Jan Szajewski, Miss Bronislawa Onhajzer, (Mr. Majewski who died in 1983 and was buried in Teulon) and Miss Stanislawina Cieslik, who married Mr. Kryschuk and she died in 1982.

By 1912, it was apparent that the building had to be enlarged to accommodate the increasing number of parishioners and so it was.

In 1940, (war time) the original structure had to be torn down to make way for a new building which included a full basement. The Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface has recorded Corpus Christi as being a chaplaincy attended from East Selkirk ever since that time because St. Stanislaus, E.S., which was declared a "parish" had also constructed a rectory.



Corpus Christi Church in 1912.



Corpus Christi Church Communion - note the wooden cross, 1921.

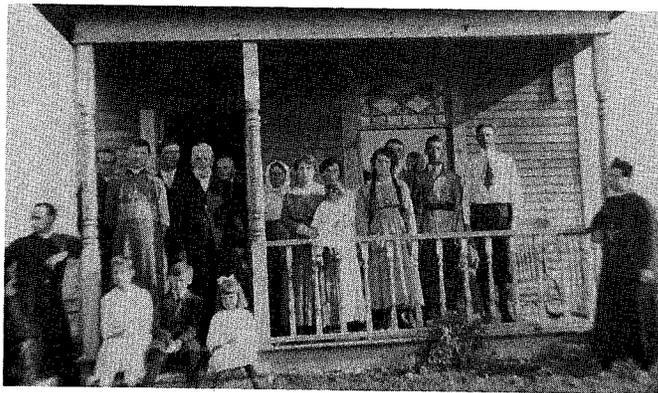
which proudly hangs in the center of the Church and in 1963 another acre of land was purchased adjacent to the first parcel from Mr. F. Tomczak's son, Charlie, for \$600.00. This was necessary to expand the cemetery. In 1966, a long narrow strip of land along the South side of the original site was also purchased from Mr. Charlie Tomczak for \$518.00, to make room for cars to gain access to the cemetery. In 1972 the Minkus family donated the baptismal font in memory of their daughter, Cheryl Ann. In 1978, Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Perchotte returned from Rome, Italy with a large Rosary which had been blessed by Pope John 1, at His first General Audience on Sept. 6, (just 22 days before his death) and was donated and placed on the North side altar.

In addition to the numerous functions that are sponsored by the C.W.L. and the Knight's of Columbus, coffee is available after Sunday Mass to help newcomers get acquainted and to encourage friendly conversations. This project began on May 6, 1979 and although it was never aimed at profit-making, the generous contributions have afforded a Religious Library. At the time of this writing, there are over 115 children's books to choose from. As of Nov. 1983, plans are underway to begin an Adult Bible Study program once again and the excess funds from the coffee contributions has also afforded a Bible Dictionary and a Commentary which are two of the main tools that will be needed.

There is no doubt, that God is the ultimate cause of any achievement, therefore let us be thankful for His Limitless blessings and for the following pastors for the growth and vitality that has characterized Corpus Christi and is so obvious today:

Residing pastors:

Rev. Fr. Frank Frazik o.m.i.	Sept. 1981	
Rev. Fr. John Sajewicz o.m.i.	1970	Sept. 1981
Rev. Fr. S. Misiag o.m.i.	1969	1970
Rev. Fr. J. Ciepły o.m.i.	Oct. 1959	1969
Rev. Fr. Albert Pilikowski o.m.i.	Dec. 12, 1955	Oct. 1959
Rev. Fr. Feliz Kwiatkoski	Oct. 14, 1949	Dec. 12, 1955
Rev. Fr. Walter Paul Golecki	Feb. 1, 1948	Oct. 14, 1949
Rev. Fr. Miecislus Wecki o.m.i.	Dec. 14, 1947	Feb. 1, 1948
Rev. Fr. R. Latussek	July 14, 1946	Dec. 14, 1947
Rev. Fr. A. Michalik	Nov. 30, 1945	July 14, 1946
Rev. Fr. L. Calenski	Sept. 7, 1945	Nov. 30, 1945
Rev. Fr. S. Prokop	Mar. 15, 1940	Sept. 7, 1945

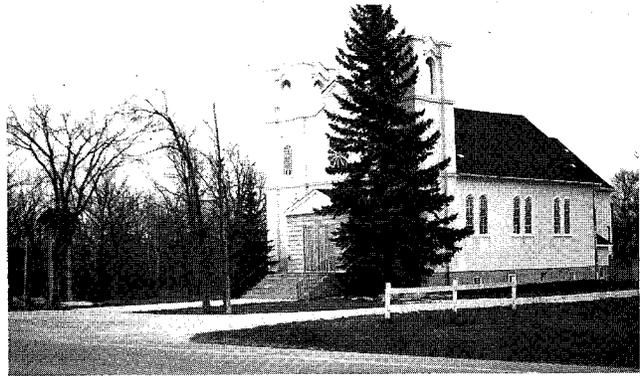


A. Wachal's home. In photo are the Roman Catholic Bishop, Anton Wachal, Joseph Onhaiser, Mrs. Onhaiser, Stanley Onhaiser, Tony Tomczak and Father Bronislaw. Seated are: Helen Onhaiser along with Frank and Jean Wachal.

It was not until 1949 that the women functioned under the umbrella of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, although they had always been actively supportive from the beginning by way of establishing a Rosary Society and by holding fund raising activities such as teas and church picnics. Tekla Huzarski and Apolinia Onhajzer were instrumental in founding the Rosary Society. In 1955, Mr. Paul Kruger donated the chandelier



*Father
Antoine
d'Eschambault*



*Father
John Sajewicz
1980*



Non-resident pastors:

These pastors came only on invitation which usually was every 6 weeks.

Rev. Fr. A. D'Eschambault	1922	March 15, 1940
Rev. Fr. Bronislaw Heintze	1917	1922
Rev. Fr. B. Kowalski	April 17, 1907	1917



Corpus Christi Church, 1979.

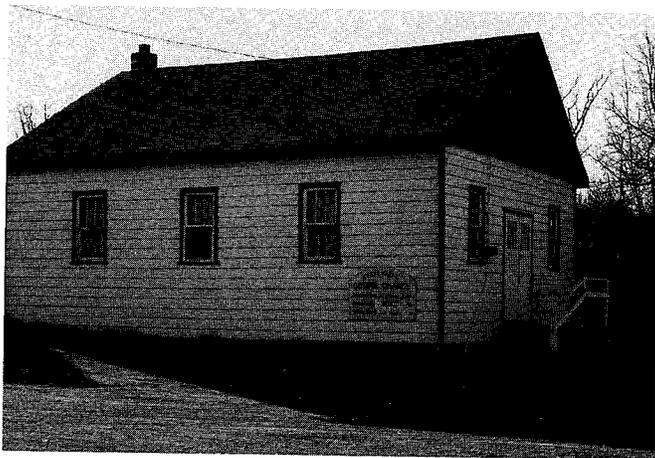
Sincere gratitude is to be given to Mr. Frank Wachal and Mr. Charlie Tomczak for their long years of devotion to this little chapel and for their eagerness in providing much of the above information. Many thanks to Helen Doherty also for her efforts in submitting her story and pictures. I am grateful and honored to have been asked by Mr. Ray Minkus and Mr. Frank Wachal to compile this story. Thank you.

When the above story was read, many people pointed out that much has been omitted. Therefore, efforts are being made to organize a committee to compile all the valuable information and publish the same, into a souvenir booklet.

CORPUS CHRISTI ROSARY SOCIETY

The Rosary Society was started in Corpus Christi parish in 1907. A Rosary Society consists of prayer groups, each group with 15 members, one member for each mystery of the Rosary. The members pray the rosary on a regular basis. Our parish has 2 groups. The first group leaders were Mrs. Apolonia Onhaiser and Mrs. Eva Tomczak. Over the years the leaders have been the wife of Gustav Ludwick, Mrs. Annie Ludwick and Mrs. Agnes Gusnoski. The present leaders are Mrs. Hedwig Natuik and Mrs. Mary Wachal. The prayers have been continuing for over 75 years and are still doing so today. The rosary is prayed after mass on the first Sunday of each month.

“The family that prays together stays together.”



Grand Marais Gospel Chapel.

HOLY TRINITY UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, GONOR

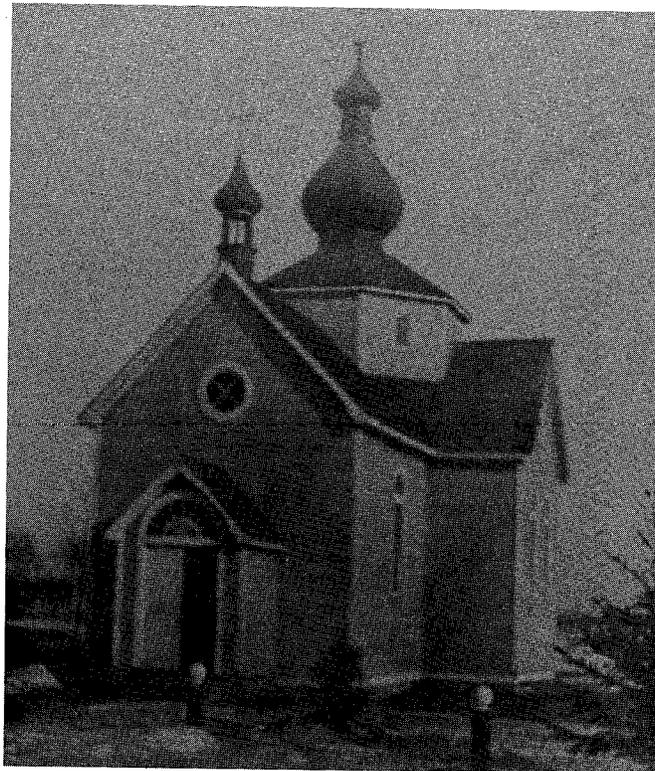
submitted by Betty Romano

As early as before the turn of the twentieth century, around 1890, a large influx of Ukrainian settlers were emigrating to Canada which led to the establishment of Ukrainian Catholic parishes.

Being people of great love for their homeland and great faith in God, soon led them to worship in homes and later churches were built. Encountering many hardships in a new land, they endured quite well. The first services were held at the home of Pawlo Ritchie family, with land donated by this very same family as well as Hilko Lewis and family. The first church was started in 1899, in the traditional Byzantine, rite style, in the form of a cross.

At first only about five families arrived, but by 1899 a meeting was held and by this time there were fifteen families who were greatly pleased to start a new church that year. First members were: Pawlo Ritchie, Ignatius Romano, Hilko Lewis, John Kotyluk, Joseph Dubowits, Samuel Hnatyshyn, Safron Rewutcky, Matthew Maruda, Jakuba Semeniuk, Dmetro Semeniuk, Nicholas Pronyshyn, Toma Pronyk and John Ewaschuk.

By 1901, the first services were conducted by Rev. Sholdak of the Basilian order. By 1904 namely Rev. Fathers, Hoor, Kryzanowski, Filipiw, Zaklinski, Vasylewich, Humetski, Kracitski and others offered their services in later years.



Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Gonor.



Bill Ramano - the interior of the first Holy Trinity Church.

A larger church was built in 1911 and Rev. Didyk arrived from Wpg., to serve the people whenever services including baptisms, marriages, funerals, etc., were held.

As the congregation increased, many priests from the Wpg., Diocese rendered their services. Among these were

Rev. Fathers, Andrucovitch, Pelech, Semczuk, Hryhorchuk, Charney and others.

Rev. Anthony Luhovy was parish priest, with headquarters in Wpg., during the years 1930-1945. During the depression years, a parish hall, built solely with volunteer labour, was realized.



Staking and digging the footings for the new Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Gonor.

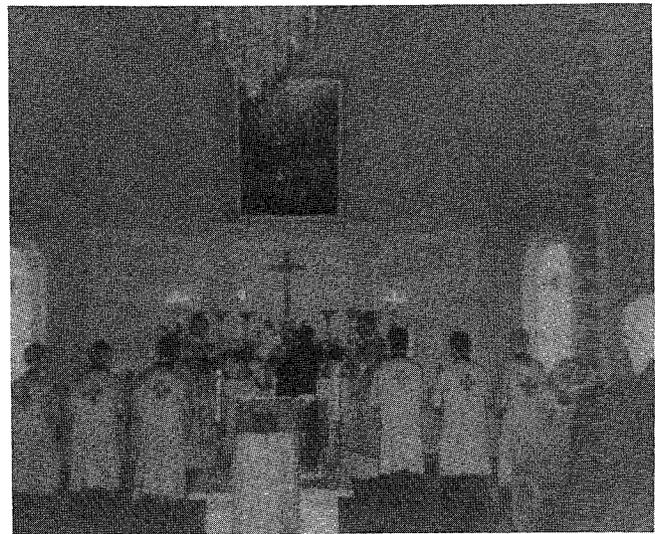
In the year 1952, under the energetic and capable Leadership of Rev. V.J. Bozyk, the present church, of brick and stucco structure, with its two radiant stainless steel domes, which could be seen from miles around was begun. In 1953, it was completed. By 1955 a Church residence was built on the land adjoining and the parish cemetery is directly behind the Church building.



Blessing of the Corner Stone.

For twenty years, Rev. V.J. Bozyk served the parish, most faithfully. By this time, an acute shortage of priests was being felt and Rev. Bozyk, the local resident priest, was transferred to serve the Holy Eucharist parish in East Kildonan.

Our parish is now being served by priests who now have to take charge of more than one parish until the



Inside the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1971.

situation changes. The present priest of the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church is Rev. Michael Kolenich, who also has charge of St. Anne's Catholic Church, North Kildonan, Man.

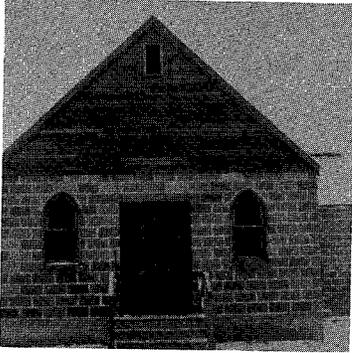
THE KIRKNESS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

submitted by Mrs. Bobbie Huck

The Kirkness Presbyterian Church originally named St. Andrews Presbyterian church was built in 1949 on a 1/2 acre piece of property donated by Mr. Wm. Kirkness. The building was 30' x 20' with a 10' x 10' vestry which served as the church until 1966 when the Provincial Government purchased the building and property for the Highway No. 59 overpass and cloverleaf. Around this time, the Lord Selkirk School Division was consolidating schools and in 1967 the Presbytery purchased the Ashfield School and property for the Church location. Due to confusion with the St. Andrews on the Red church,

the name was changed to Kirkness Presbyterian Church in 1970. Presently services are held every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School was held in the Ashfield Schoolhouse for several years before we had our church located there. Some of the teachers are: Mrs. Moore, Miss Stannis, Mr. G. Gunn, and Mrs. McKenzie.



St. Andrews Kirkness Presbyterian Church.

A RECORD OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES IN EAST SELKIRK AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

(Exerpts from a journal written by Mrs. John (Mabel) Martin submitted by Florence Martin and Mrs. O. Wardrop

Protestant services were held in this district from the early beginnings. Methodist and Presbyterian ministers came on alternate Sundays to conduct services of Worship.

In 1884, the congregation met in the upstairs room of the School House. One of the ministers at that time was Reverend Galloway, brother of the author, Nellie McClung. In those early days, people walked to Church. Attendance was good, and the Offerings were generous. Later, when school attendance increased, the services were held in the Round House.

In 1915, the Round House was torn down, and the congregation made another move to the Mayfield School House. A presentation was made at that time to Miss Topsy (Jean) Nelson in recognition of her services as Organist, and it was signed by Jessie McLeod and Ina Dixon.



Miss Dorothy Jenkinson, founder of the MacBeth Church.

In 1929, Miss Dorothy Jenkinson, Deaconess of Scarborough, Ont. came to the East Selkirk District to organize services for the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

She was a very dedicated worker, and soon started Church services, Young Peoples Club, Mission Band, Ladies Auxiliary and a Sewing Class for girls.

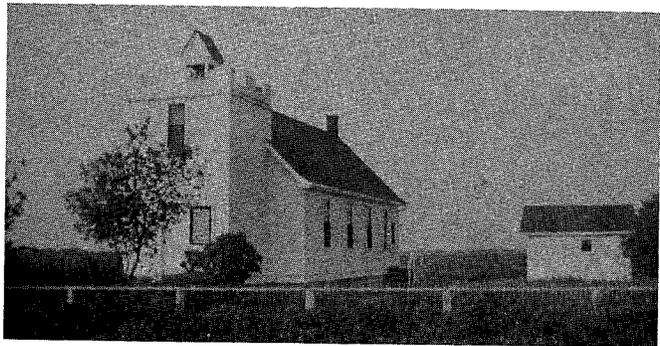
The members of her congregation back home in Scarborough provided her with a portable organ, which she took from meeting to meeting in her car.

Early services and meetings were held in a building owned by Mrs. Eva McLean. Miss Jenkinson also had her living quarters in the same building.

In 1931, Mrs. B.C. Nelson presented an acre of land in the Southeast corner of her farm to the Presbyterian Church of Canada. The building was started in Oct. and was completed the following year. The dedication service was held on Aug. 19, 1932. The Church was named after Reverend R.G. MacBeth a friend of Miss Jenkinson's.

Reverend MacBeth was born and raised in West Kildonan, a native of the Red River Valley.

The gift of a bell was received from D.C. Coleman, Vice-President of the CPR. A belfrey had been built, the bell raised into position, and it pealed forth a "call to worship". All of the necessary furnishings were donated by friends of Miss Jenkinson's, the Congregation, and friends of the congregation.



MacBeth Church.

The first meeting of the Ladies Aid was held in 1929. The Ladies group raised funds at Bazaars, Teas, Socials, etc., to help with the finances of the Church. They also made yearly donations to the Red Cross, March of Dimes, Christmas Tree of the Canadian Legion, the Selkirk Hospital Auxiliary and the Women's Missionary Society.

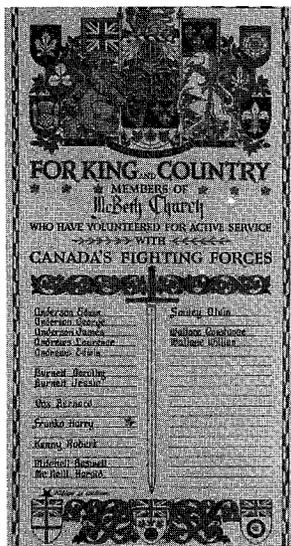
A Good Cheer Fund was maintained, with contributions not only for members, but, to many in the Community who were ill or bereaved.

Charter members of the Ladies Aid were: Mary Bryko, May Kenny, Mabel Martin, Florence Martin, Eva McLean, Kate McLean, Eva McNeill, Mrs. B.C. Nelson, Jean Nelson, Emma Nelson, Mary Robertson, Lily Smiley, Mrs. W.J. Wallace Sr., and Jean Wallace. Members who joined later were: Benny Bosko, Ina Burnett, Dorothy Burnett, Myrtle Burnett, Mary Cox, Ruth McLean, Margaret McNeill, Cathy Smith, and Cathy Waytiuk.

Sunday School was formed with thirty charter members. Summer Vacation Bible School was very well attended. A girls' camp was held at the "Thompson Place". The old stone barn and some borrowed tents were used for sleeping quarters, and the food was cooked over bon-fires.

Some early ministers were: Miss Dorothy Jenkinson (Deaconess), Reverend Peter Sanky, Robert McCall (student), W.C. Troyer (student), Peter Reid (student), Reverend Esek Stewart, and Reverend James Clarke. The following men served as Elders: Charlie Kenny, Gerald Smith, John Martin Jr., and Wilfred Martin.

A Hymnal Board was dedicated on Sept. 5, 1937, in memory of Mrs. Mabel Martin, who served as Sunday School Superintendent for many years. An Honour Roll was hung in the Church in Oct. of 1947. The names of fifteen girls and boys, who volunteered to serve their country, are listed. Seven of the boys served overseas, and one, Harry Franko, paid the supreme sacrifice. In Dec. 1948, Mr. and Mrs. James Nelson presented a Christening Font in memory of their daughter Isabelle. In memory of Mrs. Eva McLean, a Communion Table was dedicated on May 1, 1955.



In 1967 Services were put on a rotation basis with St. Andrews at Kirkness and, McKenzie Church at Gonor.

Then in Feb. 1968, the members of the congregation were informed that MacBeth was to be closed. A sad day for the Congregation.

Mr. W. Tulloch, Clerk of Session, Knox Presbyterian Church of Selkirk, extended a welcome to the members of MacBeth to join with Knox at Selkirk.

GOODWILL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

submitted by Pat Smolinski

The Goodwill Women's Missionary Society of St. Clements was founded by Mrs. Mary McKenzie. Mrs.

McKenzie was born in Glenrines, Dufftown, Banffshire, Scotland in 1861. She married Reverend Ewan McKenzie when she was 25 years old. They spent time in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick before coming to Missions at Oak River, Man., and Saskatchewan.

Reverend McKenzie died in 1915 at an Indian Reservation Mission in the Hurricane Hills, Sintaluta, Sask. In 1919, Mrs. McKenzie came to East St. Clements, across from Lower Fort Garry, where she planned to retire. However, she soon found herself teaching Sunday School in her home. When the group became too large for her home, she rented a tent for the summer. When winter came she had a shanty built to shelter her congregation.



McKenzie Church, 1922. Goodwill Women's Missionary Band. Back Row, Left to Right: Miss Innis, Miss Todd, Mrs. McKenzie, Esther Clarke holding Myrtle, ?, ?, Jessie Flett, ?, Beckie Donald. Second Row: Helen Donald, Sophie Lazaruk, ?, Della Prettie. First Row: Alva Swain, Katherine Clarke, ?, ?, ?.

In 1926 Mrs. McKenzie was appointed to the Executive staff of the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society, and she organized a branch of the Missionary Society in St. Clements. Their first meeting was held on January 3, 1927. The Mission's purpose was: "to meet monthly to study the needs both local and world-wide, and to work to help according to our ability to supply these needs." The meetings opened with a prayer, hymn, and scripture reading. An hour was spent in sewing, quilt-making, and knitting socks, mitts and scarves. These articles were either given to a needy person or sold to raise money. Some of the monies raised through collections and their sewing and knitting projects, was allocated to the Presbyterian Church of Winnipeg.

Mrs. McKenzie saw need for a church to be built in the area and donated river property for the church site. She, along with her sister Miss Annie Innis, donated money towards the structure, the remaining funds donated by the Presbyterian Church of Winnipeg. The church was built in 1930, by construction workers from Winnipeg. Meetings of the Missionary Society were then held in a small room of the church for a number of years.

The Group did Red Cross work during World War II. The Red Cross contacted Mrs. McKenzie to enquire if her