

## GLIMPSES OF ST. PAUL'S HISTORY

- 1864** - September 25, dedication of First Methodist Church built on the corner of Duke and Argyle streets, on land donated by Jacob Hespeler. Cost of stone building was \$900. (Now a private dwelling.)
- 1868** - On the site of our present church, only the stone portion was the original church. It was built at a cost of about \$5,000 and seated nearly 300 people. "The Little Grey Church" (Methodist) was completed on October 18, 1868. The original plaque of the church may be seen in the Waterloo Street entrance vestibule.
- 1871** - The church was enlarged by an additional 16 feet also adding a tower and spire.
- 1897** - The church became self-supporting for the first time.
- 1916** - "Golden Rule Bible Class" was organized on October 29.
- 1925** - The consummation of Church Union in Preston was celebrated, June 14. (Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational)
- 1928** - October of this year the congregation celebrated their Diamond Jubilee.
- 1929** - Sometime during this period the United Church in Preston was given the name, St. Paul's United Church.
- 1945** - The church property was free of debt with the burning of the mortgage.
- 1952** - The parsonage at 606 Queen Street (Queenston Road) was sold.
- 1953** - A newly built parsonage on Dover Street was dedicated on Sunday, March 8. Rev. & Mrs. Harry Herlihey were the first to live in the new house.
- 1955** - Dedication service of the renovated and extended church sanctuary took place on January 30. Seating capacity was increased to about 475. Cost was more than \$100,000.
- 1955** - The new organ, now used, was shipped from Ludwigsburg, Germany, where it was manufactured at a cost of \$15,000.
- 1957** - The Brobst Memorial Windows (King Street side) were dedicated in January. These were the first stained glass windows to be installed in the sanctuary. They are entitled "The Abiding Fellowship" and show Jesus and the twelve disciples sharing the Last Supper. These windows were given by the Brobst family in memory of their son, Bruce W. Brobst, who died suddenly after a short illness at the age of 39. (For more information about the windows please refer to the binders entitled "Behind St. Paul's Stained Glass Windows" found in each vestibule.)
- 1958** - Another mortgage burning, covering the cost of remodeling the sanctuary.
- 1961** - At the Annual Meeting in January of this year, women were, for the first time in the history of the congregation, appointed to the Session.
- 1967** - A church office was planned and building of it was completed early in 1968.
- 1968** - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Centenary Outreach - a Volkswagen bus was purchased for \$3,000 for use by native pastors in the Methodist Church in Parana, Brazil.
- 1980** - The church was redecorated. New rugs were laid. The curtain and cross at the front of the church were changed to a single lighted cross.
- 2000** - The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the United Church of Canada took the form of a delicious barbecue and old-time campfire service on St. Paul's side lawn.
- 2000** - Several rows of pews were removed from the front to allow for more varieties of worship format.
- 2002** - The Choir area was changed from the split chancel back to a centre configuration, and the Communion Table was brought down into the front central area of the sanctuary to symbolize God's people gathering as the "family of God" around the Lord's table.

