# THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

A history of the Clearwater United Church, compiled by Betty Johnston from old Records and Minute Books, with special mention of the history of the early choirs, which was written by Enid Colborne.

We first met in May, 1956, in the Clearwater Community Hall. Art Anderson, our Student Minister, boarded with Les and Mavis Parker in Clearwater. There was an adult choir with Art Anderson as leader and Dorothy Monroe at the piano.

In 1957, our Student Minister was Art Mundy who came with his wife, Jean, and small son, Paul, in May. In June, Frank Capostinsky sold the building used as a primary school (value $12,000) for $8,000 with the terms of $1,000 down and $1,000 per year. This was a great windfall to the little congregation. Wooden benches were hastily built and the first meeting was held in the new church building on May 24th. Trustees were Earl Johnston, R. Dickie, Les Parker; Stewards were Sherman Colborne, Bessie Hagensen, Earl Johnston, Alex Johnston, O. Price, Gerald McGregor, Ada Pearse. The Elders were Ira DeWitt and Robert Hawthorne. Gordon Bennett replaced Ronald Dickie as Trustee in December. Betty Johnston and Grace McGregor were Secretaries. There was a balance of $1,011.00 in the Treasury. A. M. Johnston donated the piano from the Blackpool Hall. A Communion Service was donated by the Mt. Paul United Church in North Kamloops. Another Communion Service was offered by Knox United Church in Vancouver, but declined. A large Bible was received from R. Perry of Knox United Church in Vancouver. In June it was decided that the North wing be used as the Sanctuary and that a tower be erected. Later, Doris Johnston was able to obtain a C.N.R. bell from her brother D. Pawson, to be installed in the tower and rung before services on Sundays. Twelve copies of Hymnaries with music were given to the Choir by the Junior W. A. of the Kamloops United Church. A Junior Choir was organized with Audrey Sargeant leading and Enid Colborne as accompanist. The choirs were disbanded during the winters of 57/58 and 58/59.

organized in early '59

In 1958, our share of a minister's total salary of $3,200 per annum could not be raised for an ordained man so we requested a Student Minister. Rev. C. Richmond (Convenor of Home Missions Committee) asked us to raise $1,800.00 toward the salary for the first year. In July, Reverend David S. Wilson and his wife, Enid, arrived and we rented a house from Mr. Wurm. Later a house was purchased and renovated from Mr. Belica for $4,500.00 and occupied by the Wilson's. On July 26th, a County Fair was held at

Les and Mavis Parker's. In October, a Communion Table was donated by Mrs. Sykes.

David Pelton made a beautiful Pulpit and a Communion Table. A lighting plant was loaned by the Clearwater Community Club but returned. A propane stove for the kitchen was donated by the firms of R. Dalgleish and L. Bibby of Kamloops. Church pews and carpets were obtained from the North Kamloops United Church. By December, the Women's Auxiliary had twenty members. Mrs. Harvey Miller was church janitor. Mrs. Enid Colborne began as organist about October or November, using the piano at first, but the organ arrived from North Kamloops United Church in time for the Christmas Eve Service. Mrs. Marie Galer was Sunday School Superintendent, with seven teachers and seventy-three children. The average attendance is given as forty-two. There was a large Hi-C Group with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hawthorne as leaders. The average weekly contribution was reported as $1.58 for members of the congregation. Church membership was seventy-eight, of whom fifteen were non-residents. The W. A. President was Grace McGregor. There were twenty-five members. Enid Wilson led the C.G.I.T.. Marge Bennett was in charge of the eleven Explorers. The Sanctuary was heated by an oil heater.

In 1959, in April, we made application for electricity. In June, Stanley Davison was appointed representative of the church to the Clearwater Cemetery Board. In November, Thompson River Logging Ltd. (Frank Capostinsky), upon payment of the balance of the monies owing on the church building, donated the sum of $1,000.00 toward the cost of installing lights, etc.. Elworthy Electric Co. of Kamloops donated the necessary labour to install the wiring and fixtures in the church. Wilfred Lawson was janitor, services being donated. Marie Galer was W. A. President.

July 60

The Wilsons left in June of 1960. Reverend Van Herwaarden, his wife Jackie, and family, occupied the new manse which had been purchased from Mr. Schmidt. In August, there was a joint service and picnic held with Barriere United Church. A Pastoral Relations Committee was formed with Barriere. A Vacation Bible School was held in Clearwater. Mrs. Buddy Johnston led the Junior Choir, Enid Colborne was organist. Twelve choir gowns were made, more later on. Mrs. Pauline Gregory was W. A. President. There were

sixty-two Sunday School children; Marie Galer was Sunday School Superintendent. Jackie Van Herwaarden led the Explorers. The Hi-C Group had donated a framed picture of The Last Supper. A Teen-Aged Group was led by Renas Van Herwaarden.

In 1961, Mr. Van Herwaarden informed the Board that Barriere was no longer in his Pastoral Charge and that he would be holding services in Avola and Blue River. The Manse price of $4,500.00 had been paid in full. Mrs. Ralph Ashley was W. A. President. Mrs. Mamie Fox was hired as janitor at $10.00 monthly.

By October of 1962, Barriere United Church was now contributing $10.00 weekly to the minister's salary. When the Van Herwaarden's left to go to New Zealand, Mr. Ted Hannah, his wife Mary, and family arrived. Mrs. Ada Pearse was Envelope Recording Secretary. Janitors were Lynn and Shirley Lawson. Mrs. Mavis Parker was the first President of the United Church Women. Some of the fund-raising activities of the W.A. (now U.C.W.) were: Donations; Catering; Bazaars; Coffee and Tea Parties; Suppers; Home-Baking Sales; Dime Plates; Donations and Donations.

In May of 1963, Ira DeWitt was made an Honorary Elder. Mr. Hannah held one service per month in Vavenby and two in Birch Island. There was a mid-week Bible Study Group in Clearwater. Pauline Gregory was U.C.W. President. A Vacation Bible School was held jointly with the Evangelical Free Church with eighty children. Mrs. Isabel Pelton was Envelope Recording Secretary.

In September of 1963, Frank and Pat Lewis came to lead us, and with their family, moved into the manse. We had an active Teen-Aged Group. The Blue River United Church was active. Our Envelope Recording Secretary was Mrs. Ada Pearse. Stacking chairs were purchased. An outside light was purchased to illuminate the path to the outdoor toilet. The leaking church roof continues to plague the Stewards. In June, the Junior Choir presented a program with Mrs. DeWitt at the organ. In September, the same Choir presented a program in Clearwater and in Barriere Churches. In December there were more programs. More gowns were made. The highlight of the year was when the Choir members were guests of the Beaconsfield United Church in Vancouver on December 29th where they took part in a program. An active Hi-C Group was led by Pauline and Greg Gregory.

In 1964, the Junior Choir sang at a fashion show in May, and conducted a worship service that month, and sang at a P.T.A. program. In June, they conducted a program of singing and readings. By December, there were now twenty-three in this Choir and they presented the Christmas Eve program.

In May of 1965, the church accounts were changed from the Bank of Nova Scotia in Kamloops to the North Thompson Credit and Savings Union in Clearwater. Mr. Osterhout agreed to be Envelope Recording Secretary.

In July, Carleton McNaughton, a lay preacher, came from Oliver to lead us. A successful Spaghetti Dinner, put on by the men of the congregation, raised $266.48. Water was to be installed in the church, with a sink and a hot water tank. In September, the Reverend Alec Sandilands and his wife Doris arrived. He was our first ordained minister. The local kindergarten was renting and using the Activity Room. A chemical toilet and firedoors had to be installed. Mrs. May Oleson was janitor. Part of the manse lot was sold to Ken Dunford.

The church was repainted in 1966. Mrs. Audrey Sargeant was Sunday School Superintendent. Tile was laid on the floor of the Activity Room and a phone was installed. The janitor, Meredyth Dunford, was paid $20 monthly in winter and $15 monthly in summer. A successful Every Member Canvass was led and organized by Roy Sallows.

In 1967, the North Thompson Health Unit rented the Activity Room each month. Tables were made for the Activity Room. More leaking roof troubles. The church loan was paid in full. Mr. Sandilands made and installed a sign on the outside wall of the church. The kitchen was built and a propane stove installed. The Bridge Club was now renting the Activity Room weekly. The two propane tanks were stolen but another tank was donated by Howie Mjolsness. A street light was intalled between the church and the manse. A well was dug and the pump and waterline installed. The insurance on both church and manse cost $119.88.

The Activity Room was repainted in 1968. The insurance on the manse and church could be renewed for three years for $298.50. The roof was leaking, as was the manse roof. Mrs. Betty Johnston was Sunday School

Superintendent. The Friendly Club was started as a joint Centennial Project of the Anglican and United Churches in 1967 and the senior citizens were now meeting in the Activity Room each week. Motor Vehicle Branch rented the Activity Room. Land at Vavenby was given to the United Church, donated by the late Mr. Govett of Vavenby, for the purpose of building a church there. Mrs. May Oleson resumed janitorial duties at $20 monthly. Church accounts were transferred to the Royal Bank in Clearwater.

The Reverend and Mrs. Sandilands left in 1969. Mr. Charlie Ward, a lay preacher from New Brunswick, came for the spring and summer months. The church and manse were connected to village water. Mr. Stan Sweet was janitor. There was continual trouble with the oil heaters. Reverend Arthur Bitten arrived in September.

The Sunday School Superintendent in 1970 was Mrs. Gail DeJong. Payments were being made on a manse loan. Plumbing was installed in the church. The kindergarten was still using the Activity Room at $50.00 per month. The roof was mended.

In 1971, the propane furnace was installed. We held a Vacation Bible School. There was discussion on selling the manse but it was decided to renovate instead. The manse loan was paid off. The Sunday School enrolled eighty-nine children, with John Harwood as Superintendent. Stan Sweet was Building Fund Chairman. A Ministerial Association met in Clearwater each month. Mrs. Bess Hagensen was made an Honorary Elder.

Mrs. Marie Blair was Sunday School Superintendent in 1972. There was a Vacation Bible School. The manse was sold. The U.C.W. took on the job of janitors. A new organ was purchased by the U.C.W.. Miss Joy Gregory was organist. The Committees of Elders and Stewards were to be disbanded and a Committee of nine people was to serve as a Church Board. Mr. Bitten boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Max Miller. The roof was leaking. The old organ was loaned to Blue River United Church. The kindergarten finished using the Activity Room in June. A rental fee of $30.00 was established for the use of the church.

In 1973, a manse was purchased in the Weyerhaeuser Subdivision. Sunday School Superintendent was Mrs. Ellen Harwood. A piano was donated by Mr. and Mrs. 'Spud' Blair. Reverend Gary Dickson, his wife Marge, and their family arrived that summer. There was a weekly Bible Study Group. The kitchen in the Activity Room was renovated. The Vavenby lot was connected to power and water. Betty Johnston and Ellen Harwood edited a church newsletter. The Mount Paul United Church Choir presented a Cantata at Clearwater.

In 1974, the Dickson's moved into their own house and the manse was rented. There was a Youth Program and a weekly Bible Study. Mrs. Irene Wurm was Sunday School Superintendent. The cost of the telephone installed in the Activity Room was shared with the Friendly Club. Renovations were made to the church but additions were not allowed because of flood level restrictions. The church was repainted outside and inside. The U.C.W. purchased new carpet. John Harwood resigned as Board Chairman and was replaced by Les Davies. The U.C.W. continued to be responsible for the janitorial work. The roof was leaking. Mrs. Betty Davies became Sunday School Superintendent when Irene Wurm resigned. A housing allowance of $2,400.00 yearly was now being paid to the minister. The church well was filled in and the well pump was sold.

In 1975, charges for the use of the church, etc., were increased to $40.00. The roof was repaired. Marge Dickson and Dorene Radmacher led the C.G.I.T.. Betty Johnston and Pauline Gregory printed a newsletter.

A list of Memorial Donations was printed by Lois Moss and framed, in 1976. The church entrance was renovated and a new roof put on the building. Mrs. Judi Nelson was Sunday School Superintendent. Charges for the use of the church for weddings and funerals were raised. The Reverend Dickson resigned. The Pastoral Charge then called Reverend Max deHamel of Sundre, Alberta, who came in June.

Reverend deHamel began Family Enrichment Groups in 1977. A proper constitution for the Clearwater United Church was drafted by Mr. deHamel

and accepted by the congregation. Mr. Stanley Davison was made a Life Member of the Clearwater United Church Board in honour of his years of service. Sunday School Superintendent was Mrs. Judi Nelson. Personnel representative was Pauline Gregory who also looked after church rentals. Donna Gladish was choir leader.

There were now two toilets in the church. Service time had been set at 11:30 A.M. to accommodate the minister travelling 35 miles from Barriere's earlier service. Lamps were purchased for the pulpit and the organ. Alterations to the outside of the church were finished. More cupboards were installed in the Activity Room. Weekly Bible Study Group. We sponsored a "Louise Rose Concert" at Clearwater.

In 1978, the manse interior was repainted. Manse steps needed repair. A new sign, made by Harold Macdougal of Barriere, was purchased for the church lawn. Ross Smith led a Youth Program, in co-operation with the Catholic Sisters of Clearwater. Double doors were installed in the church entrance. Charges for renting the church for weddings and funerals were to be $75.00; rent for the Activity Room to be $20.00.

We hosted a speaker on Uranium Mining - John Moelart - in 1979. A choir, with J. Liebe leading, and E. Colborne at the organ, presented Christmas and Easter services. Reverend deHamel resigned to move to Ontario.

The manse was rented, the exterior painted and the lawn seeded. Reverend Lloyd Strickland, Pastor of the Church of Christ in Clearwater, accepted a posting to the North Thompson Pastoral Charge. There were weekly Bible Study Groups. Louise Smith edited a Newsletter.

On October 26 - 28th, we hosted the Fall meeting of Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery. The U.C.W. catered for this, assisted by the Barriere U.C.W.. The manse was rented for $350.00 monthly.

An adult choir took part in the Christmas service and the Easter service in 1980. A Worship Committee was established. A cement sidewalk was laid

in front of the church porch. Les Toth built an ornamented shelf for the Visitors' Book. The U.C.W. established a Snapshot Book of items donated to the church In Memoriam. A laminated cross for the front of the Sanctuary was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Jim London and family. Mr. Strickland decided to return to his duties with the Church of Christ congregation. Reverend David Parks, his wife Joan, and their family rented a house in Barriere and later built their own home there. A new sign for the church was made by Les Toth. Carpet was installed on the porch. Services were being held twice monthly in Blue River. The U.C.W. continues to do the janitorial work. The same Marriage Register is to be used for both Barriere and Clearwater United Churches.

Classes for English for East Indians were being held at the church. The U.C.W. helped to sponsor one Refugee Family for one year in Clearwater. The White Gift Service gifts and money were donated to 'Amalgamated Christmas', Pauline Gregory representing Clearwated United on this Committee.

In 1981, the church was being rented by the New Life Assembly Congregation for their services on Thursday evenings, and Sundays at 9:00 A.M.. A Public Address System was purchased for use in the church. Louise Smith was Superintendent of the Intergenerational Worship Service which was held from 10:45 to 11:15 A.M..

The North Thompson Pastoral Charge voted in favour of selling the manse and investing the proceeds to help pay the minister's housing allowance. A propane stove for the kitchen was donated by Lorne and Joanne Wright. Earlier, a refrigerator had been given by Mr. and Mrs. K. Zimmerman. Brochures regarding times of services of Clearwater churches were distributed to all motels and hotels in the area.

The manse was sold and the grant of $10,000.00 was returned to the National United Church. A weekly worship group met with the minister to discuss the texts for the services. A choir was organized for the Christmas season and presented the cantata 'Joyful'. A new organ was purchased with a bequest from the estate of the late Lois Hutchinson, and with U.C.W. funds.

Ms. Leslie Ross was Church School Superintendent. Liturgical banners were made and hung in the Sanctuary and Activity Rooms.

In 1982, a submission was made to the Cancer Control Agency Advisory Committee Hearing in Kamloops asking for the establishment of a larger and major treatment centre in that city. A Communion Set was purchased to be used for homebound members. A Library is to be set up by a Library Committee, with Leslie Ross in charge. A donation of $100.00 and three boxes of books had been received from Canadian Memorial Church in Vancouver. The Church Board gave permission to the Clearwater Recreation Commission to use and maintain part of the property for parking for the adjacent ballpark. New carpeting was placed in the church vestibule. The church parking lot was gravelled. In September, a 25th Anniversary Celebration was held, with a Special Service and a Barbecue.

David Parks Resigned in 1984
Julie K. Sousa Arrived in July 1984

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