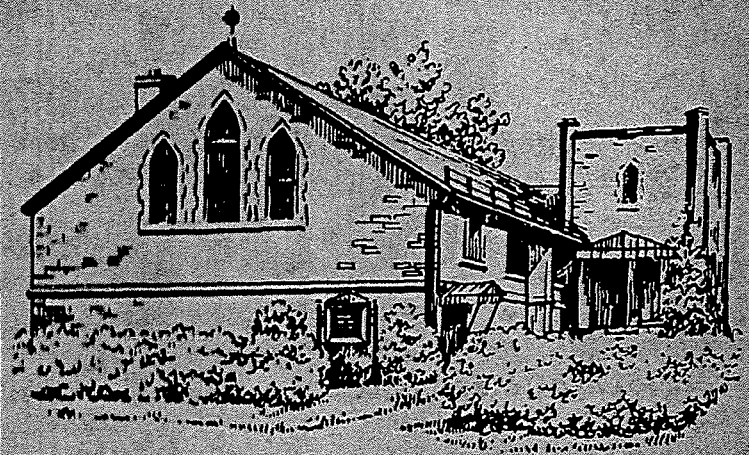


CRAWFORD PARK UNITED CHURCH

1947-1997



50 YEARS OF MEMORIES

CRAWFORD PARK UNITED CHURCH

1947-1997

CHURCHES

Beautiful is the large church
With stately arch and steeple,
Neighbourly is the small church
With groups of friendly people
Reverend is the old church
With centuries of grace,
And a wooden church, or a stone church,
Can hold an altar place.
But whether it be a rich church
Or a poor church anywhere
Truly it is a great church
If God is worshipped there.

Author unknown

CRAWFORD PARK UNITED CHURCH

The Early Days

Although the actual structure that was to become Crawford Park United Church was not begun until 1947, the actual community of faith began to form much earlier. This small group of people who met in the little red schoolhouse would eventually form the nucleus of Crawford Park United Church.

In the growing community of Crawford Park, a dozen or so faithful souls felt the need to gather together on Sundays to worship in some form of the Protestant faith. Permission was secured to use the two classrooms of the little red schoolhouse then standing on the corner of Lloyd George and Churchill Avenues. The Rev. Wilkinson came out to lead these services each Sunday beginning in the early 1940's and continuing until 1944. As time went on about 34 to 45 hardy citizens braved the pioneer conditions prevailing in the schoolhouse and supplied the enthusiasm and fellowship that more than made up for any lack of comfort.

In 1942 their Sunday collections amounted to \$236.58 and in 1943 had swelled to \$327.25.

As the word spread that a service was held each Sunday, the congregation sometimes filled all the desk seats and available chairs and those in charge at the door would hurriedly borrow kitchen chairs from the nearest homes to seat the overflow.

Begun as a joint community Church to serve the needs of the Protestant people of Crawford Park and neighbouring environs, the present building of what is now Crawford Park United Church was begun in 1947. With such funds as could be given or pledged by members, adherents and friends and with the help of the Home Mission Board of the United Church of Canada, the group meeting in the little red schoolhouse planned and prepared the basement of what was later to be completed as the splendid Church which now stands on Clemenceau Avenue. A six roomed manse was constructed as well, and in February of 1948 the congregation began to hold its meetings in the basement hall of its own building.

After Mr. Wilkinson gave up the charge in the fall of 1944, the Rev. Meech

carried on. The Rev. J.K. Brown took overall responsibility for the Church and filled in when needed. During the period from 1944 to 1947 the Rev. O. Stevens, Rev. Starkey and Rev. Williams supplied leadership briefly. The Rev. Douglas Reed, the Rev. W. Morris and the Rev. R. Purvis Smith came for somewhat lengthier periods. In 1947 Rev. J. C. Downing came from Greenfield Park and continued services in the schoolhouse and then took charge of the Church congregation preaching there in the morning and travelling to St. Jerome in the afternoon to hold evening services there.

Sunday School sessions began simultaneously with the Church services and continued diligently through the years offering leadership and training in Christian living to all children in the vicinity. The first Sunday School party was held in 1942 in the schoolhouse, and these festivities became an annual event. In 1948 the party was held in the present Church basement hall.

In 1944, the Women's Auxiliary (W.A.) was organized under the leadership of Mrs. Oke and Mrs. Hepworth and the group held regular monthly meetings in the homes. Soon the membership and popularity of this organization made a larger meeting place imperative, and in 1948 the basement hall made it possible to extend the hospitality and interests of this group.

Late in 1944, the Women's Missionary Society (W.M.S.) was begun under the leadership of Mrs. Maud Hall, gradually assuming responsibility for the extension of spiritual welfare in missionary work and younger groups.

C.G.I.T, Explorer and Mission Band groups were formed to service the needs of girls from ages 6 to 16. Cubs and Boy Scouts began to meet weekly in the hall.

Beginning with a piano and small group to lead the singing in the schoolhouse, the choir met faithfully and unceasingly to prepare music to enhance the atmosphere of worship as the congregation moved on from the schoolhouse to the basement hall. It was very fortunate that upon completion of the Church and the gift of an electric organ from the Men's Club, a gifted and willing organist Mr. W. Hindle arrived in the district. Under the leadership and training of Mr. Hindle the music of the services contributed much to the enjoyment of the congregation.

Early historical sketch by church member
Author unknown

CRAWFORD PARK UNITED CHURCH

A CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1939 - 1944

Crawford Park began as a Home Mission Field in the fall of 1939 when Rev. J. Wilkinson arranged regular Church services and Sunday School in a two-room Protestant school building located on the corner of Churchill and Lloyd George.

1944 - 1946

Rev. J. Wilkinson retired in the Fall of 1944, due to sickness. The Mission continued with student supply. Rev. J.K. Brown of St. Columba House was appointed Supervising Pastor over the Supply Ministers after a petition was signed by 152 Crawford Park residents. His appointment as Supervisor of Pastoral Supply was granted in February 1945.

Mr. M.O. Stevens was student Supply in the Winter of 1944 - 1945.

Rev. W. A. Morris served from October 1, 1945 until May 1, 1946.

Rev. R. Purvis Smith (Post-graduate student at McGill after serving in the Navy) took over as supply from May 1, 1946 to May 1, 1947.

The Board of Stewards was organized in February 1945 and the Congregation was officially constituted in March of the same year. The first members of the Official Board included Mr. Hill, Mr. Hall, Mr. Oke, Mr. Whitlock, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Penniston, Mrs. Hepworth, Mr. Morris, Mr. Archer, Mr. Aston, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Bowen, and Mr. Driscoll.

The Women's Association (W.A.) was organized under the leadership of Mrs. Oke and Mrs. R. Hepworth, holding monthly meetings in their homes, beginning in 1944. In 1946, the W.A. hosted a church social at the Old Stone House, with Mr. Grandame acting as the master of ceremonies. As the congregation began to grow, the Official Board began discussing plans for the construction of a new church building. Mr. Aston was elected chair of the Building Committee, with Mr. Archer as head of the Finance Committee. They began a campaign to raise money for the new church.

Lots 586, 587, 588 and 589 on Clemenceau Street were purchased on July 10, 1945 by Rev. J.I. Mackay on behalf of the United Church. Rev. Mackay was Superintendent of Home Missions in Bay of Quinte, Montreal and Ottawa conferences.

The Registers of Civil Status were secured in September 1946.

1947

Permission to erect a church hall in the form of a basement for a Church was granted at the meeting of the Presbytery in February 1947. In July, permission to erect a manse adjacent to the Church was given. The double project was financed by the United Church Home Missions and Finance & Extension Board, supported by donations from members of the congregation and interested people of Verdun and Montreal.

At this time, the church decided to have a properly constituted Official Board, consisting of Mr. Hill, Mr. Hall, Mr. F. Archer, Mr. J. B. Archer, Mr. Aston, Mrs. Hepworth, Mr. Oke, Mr. Grandame, Mr. Hinkley, Mr. Penniston, Mr. Hepworth, Mr. Huslow, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Bows-Lyons, and Mr. Robinson. Mr. F. Archer was elected Clerk of Session and was the first elected elder of Crawford Park Community Church.

The Board of Trustees was also formed in 1947, with an initial slate of five officers: Mr. J. B. Archer, Mr. D.A. Hill, Mr. W. Oke, Mr. C. Penniston and Mr. J. Thomas.

In 1947, Mrs. Hill was the president of the W.A., with Mrs. Hall as vice-president, Mrs. Bowen as recording secretary and Miss Bray as corresponding secretary and representative of the Official Board. Mrs. Hill was also the Superintendent of the Junior Sunday School. The church decided on a seven year plan for the construction of the church basement and super-structure.

In the summer of 1947, Rev. J.C. Downing was appointed Minister of Crawford Park Church. On October 1, 1947, Mr. Downing moved into the newly erected manse to become the first resident Minister. During his term the congregation grew steadily. The Sunday School membership approached 130, with 11 teachers, too many for the two classrooms of Crawford Park School.

Laying of Cornerstone

November 23, 1947 the cornerstone of the present building was laid with Rev. J.I. Mackay, Superintendent of Missions for Eastern Canada officiating. The members soon taxed the basement facilities, proving that a proper Church building was required.

1948

The newly formed committee of Stewards consisted of Mr. Archer, Mr. Pollock as Chairman, Mr. Adams as Treasurer, Mr. Bowers-Lyons as Hall Steward, Mr. MacInnis as Envelope Steward, Mr. Methersell, and Mr. Knight as secretary. Their first major task was the canvassing of the Crawford Park area, soliciting funds on behalf of the church, and asking families to pledge a specific amount of money to the church for the year.

The first record of an Elders committee appears in the church records on March, 1948. Elders at this time included: Mr. Whitlock as Sunday School Superintendent, Mr. Thomas who was responsible for Baptisms, Mr. Penniston, who with Mr. Thomas, greeted people at the door on Sunday mornings, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Hill, who was Clerk of Session. It was noted that the Penniston family were responsible for storing the Communion Service and that year there were two Good Friday Services: one at 11 AM (with no choir) and one at 7 PM (with a play put on by the W. A. and the choir).

A number of clubs were formed in 1948, including the Cradle Roll, The Mission Band (under the leadership of Mr. Knight), Cubs and Boy Scouts (led by Mr. Knight and Mr. Hutchinson), the Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT), led by Mrs. Kennedy and Miss MacInnis, the 50-50 club, led by Mr. and Mrs. Henderson.

1952

Dedication of Sanctuary

On November 7, 1952 the completed Church was dedicated in a special service. Rev. Harvey B. Campbell, D.D., Chairman of the Montreal Presbytery with other ministers set the church apart for Holy Worship. At

this service a bible was dedicated to the memory of the late Rev. Arthur Wilkinson who in the Autumn of 1939 began holding services in the schoolhouse at Crawford Park. The bible was presented by the Women's Association and dedicated by Rev. DeWitt Scott, D.D., Secretary of Presbytery and a close friend of Rev. Wilkinson.

The keys to the new building were handed to the Chairman of Presbytery by Mr. J.B. Archer, Secretary to the Trustees. The sermon on this occasion was given by Rev. Harvey B. Campbell, D.D., Chairman of Montreal Presbytery.

The first Sunday Service was held in the new church on Sunday, November 9, 1952 at 11 a.m.

The Church was the seventh in a series built under the Finance and Extension Board of the United Church Montreal Presbytery. The buildings were valued at an investment of \$70,000.00. The buildings are finished in buff brick with the interior of the church in oak.

1955

In August, Rev. A.E. Jones was inducted as Minister and under his leadership the congregation enlarged greatly. During his term, the congregation numbered nearly 350 families, with a Sunday School enrollment of nearly 275 children with a budget of \$20,000.00 a year.

1957

The Rev. Dawson MacDonald took over ministerial duties in November, 1957. Also in this year, Crawford Park United Church moved from mission to fully independent status, and pledged to fully liquidate its mortgage and widen its services.

1967

Our Centennial project was the reconstruction of the church basement, including the addition of wood panelling which remains in place today. This was also the year that the three stained glass windows were donated to the church by Mr. Hill, in loving memory of his wife, Ruby Fern Hill. These windows, designed by Guido Nincheri, a well-known stained glass artist, became the focal point of the church.

1979

On November 24, 1979 the burning of the mortgage ceremony took place. The attending Minister was Rev. Ernest Barratt. Mrs. Doris Dupuis represented the U.C.W., Mrs. Gena Cuthbert represented the Session, Mr. Garth Holmes represented the Board of Stewards and Mr. Arnold MacInnis represented the Trustees.

1972- 73

Crawford Park United Church became a shared pastoral charge with St. Paul United Church, under the ministry of Rev. J.R. Corbett.

1976

Crawford Park United Church became a shared pastoral charge with Verdun United Church, an arrangement which continues to the present day.

1977

Silver Anniversary of the United Church of Canada.

1987

Crawford Park United Church celebrated its 40th Anniversary.

Our 40th Anniversary celebrations began on Sunday, November 15, 1987, with a service of Thanksgiving led by the Rev. Maurice Nerry and assisted by Cynthia Mitchell, who was then our candidate for the ministry. Cynthia had met with several members of the congregation and put together little stories of the past - called "Echoes". Following the service, the men of the congregation, ably assisted by Mary Lloyd, served a delicious brunch in the church hall.

On Saturday, November 21 a pot-luck supper was held, with 90 people present to enjoy a wonderful evening. We were fortunate to have several guests including the Rev. John Matheson and Father Roland Blouin, chaplains at the Douglas Hospital and the Rev. David Yarrow, priest of All Saints Anglican Church in Crawford Park. An hour of fellowship followed the supper renewing friendship and looking at the pictures on the display boards which had been set up around the hall.

A beautiful and moving Anniversary Service on November 22 was led by Rev. Nerry assisted by Rev. Ray Corbett who gave greetings and Gena Cuthbert gave a most inspiring and moving testimony on her memories of Crawford Park United Church over the last thirty or forty years.

1997

As Crawford Park United Church celebrates its 50th anniversary, we remember with respect all those, in the distant and recent past, who have contributed to the spiritual growth of our community church. From rather humble beginnings, Crawford Park United Church has been able to serve as a constant source of support and encouragement to the surrounding community for the past 50 years. We continue the work of those who came before us, carrying on God's work in the community, and serving as a reminder to all that 'we are not alone.' We are continually grateful for the caring ministry provided by the Rev. Dr. Maurice Nerry, who has been an inspiring leader, counsellor and friend to our congregation for the past 17 years.

CHURCH MEMORIES

MINISTERS

1939 - 1944

Rev. J. Wilkinson

1944 - 1947

Supply Ministers:

Rev. J.K. Brown (supervisory Pastor)

Rev. Meech

Rev. Doug Reed

Mr. Williams

Rev. O. Stevens

Rev. W.A. Morris

Rev. Purvis Smith

1947 - 1955

Rev. John Downing

1955 - 1957

Rev. A.E. Jones

1957 - 1971

Rev. C. Dawson MacDonald

1974 - 1979

Rev. Raymond Corbett

1979 - 1980

Rev. Ernest Barratt

1980 - current

Rev. Dr. Maurice Nerry

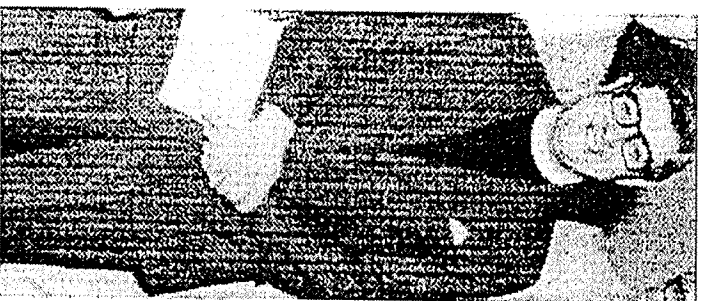
Lay preachers and Supply ministers: Robert Bowker, Rev. E. A. Kirker, Mr. Charbonneau, Ian McCullough, Rev. Joanne Barr, Rev. Mackenzie, Rev. A. Mackintosh, Arnold MacInnes, Mr. Whitlock, Rev. Cynthia Mitchell, Peter Bennett, Rev. Harold Kennedy, David Scott Lytle, Christine Lowson.



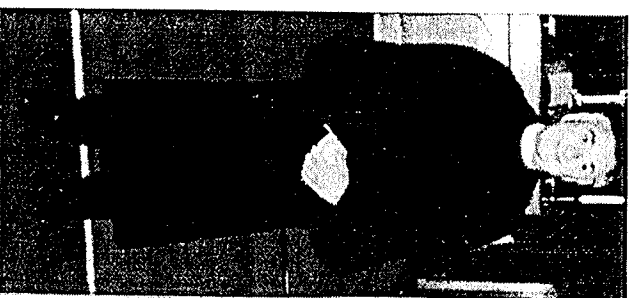
REV. A. E. JONES



REV. C. D. MACDONALD



Rev. Raymond Corbett



Rev. Dr. Maurice E. Nerry

Crawford Park United Church
Memorials and Gifts

In Memory of

Stained Glass Windows Ruby Fern Hill
Outside Sign Lottie Bowes-Lyon
Organ (first) Those who paid the supreme
Tower chimes and recordings sacrifice in war
Church clock Mr. & Mrs. D. Turnbull
Memorial book stand Robert Mitchell
Chancel carpeting Harold Grace
Baptismal font Departed members and friends
Chancel chairs E. Humphrey, L. Bennett, F.
Candlesticks Lloyd, D. Husolo, G. Sharp, K.
Dudka, H. Grace
Norman H. Gardner
Mary Jane Alice Yates
John Thomas
John Oliver Redding
Mr. & Mrs. F. Penniston
Mr. & Mrs. G. G. Bresee
John Donald Boswell
Margaret (Peggy) Lowson
Annie Gray
E. D. Booth
Mr. & Mrs. T. Broadbent
Agnes Duff White
Archibald Weston
Annie Way Whitlock
Roy Mitchell
Laura B. Downing
CGIT

Bible in entrance
Pen and stand
Christian Literature table
Pen Stand in Minister's Vestry
Chancel Bud Vases
Communion Table Runner

Crawford Park United Church
Memorials and Gifts

Gift of

Pulpit
Pulpit chair
Open Bible
Flag of Canada
Flag of Canada
Pulpit Antependium
Chancel chairs
Hymn Board
Women's Association
Adult Club
Boys of the Church
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Hollett
Youth of the Church
The Explorers
Mr. & Mrs. G. F. Gray
Women's Missionary Society

EARLY CHURCH GROUPS

1. **Sunshine corner** (run by Rev. Jones and his wife). This group was for young mothers and their toddlers. Rev. Jones would tell Bible stories and instruct the children. At its peak in 1956, this group numbered 50 toddlers.
2. **The Mission Band** was for older children, with a focus on Christian education and missionary work. This group was an offshoot of the **Women's Missionary Society (WMS)**, which eventually joined forces with the **Women's Association (WA)** to form the **United Church Women (UCW) in 1961**. Leaders have included Grace Thompson, and Mr. Knight.
3. **The Women's Missionary Society** was led by, among others, Mrs. G. Hall, Bertha Halfyard and Margaret MacDonald.
4. **The Women's Association (W.A.)** organized church fairs and helped prepare congregational meals, etc. Past presidents include Lottie Bowes-Lyons, Nancy Sutherland, Mrs. R. West, Mrs. Hutchinson, and Mary Lloyd.
3. **The Young Worshipper's League (YWL)** focused on church attendance, with individual children being rewarded for their consistent attendance.
4. **The Men's Club** was active in the early days of the church, putting on Minstrel shows and fairs, raising money. In 1952, they donated the first organ to the church, in honour of War Veterans.
5. **Messengers, Explorers and CGIT (Canadian Girls In Training)**. These groups met weekly, learning about God's world (including the environment, nature and people of different lands) and singing church songs. Over the years, these groups were led by a variety of ladies including: Mrs. Downing, Mrs. Walker, Mary Lloyd, Nora Mitchell, Mrs. Whitlock, Mrs. Hollett, Joan Warnock, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Young, Miss McCall, Jean Gallop, Gena Cuthbert, Mrs Erskine, and Jean Gillebrand.
6. Louise Smith remembers a **Badminton club**, with Natalie Lauder-Walton.

7. **The Cradle Roll** consisted of all children who had been baptized in the church and who were not yet old enough to attend Sunday School (about 3 or 4 years old). In earlier times, the church had a party for these mothers and their young children once a year.
8. **The 50-50 club**, formed in 1948, was established for young married couples, and was initially led by Mr. and Mrs. Henderson.
9. **The Young Adult Club** was established in 1962 by James Jack.
10. **The Hi-C group** met on Sundays at 5pm in the church hall, led by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Reeves, and this club was set up for the teens of the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMORIES

- Sunday school classes were originally held in the nearby elementary school. During the late 1950's, there were three Sunday school levels (Junior, Intermediate and Senior), with well over 200 pupils enrolled. Past superintendents have included : Mr. Hall, Jan Barr, Reg Morgan, Mr. Hunt, Harry Bennett, Bill Kolmar, Mrs. Jaeggin, Mrs. MacIntosh, C. E. Humphrey, Jim Crawford, Ian McCullough (a theological student), Mrs. Miele, Mrs. Kunz, Gena Cuthbert, Nancy and Grant Sutherland, Brian and Michelle Warnock, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Peddar, Malcolm Bennett, Mrs. Warnock, Christine Lowson, Cynthia Mitchell, Cheryl Mees, and Anne Bowker.
- Teachers have included : Agnes Ackerman, Peter Brunt, B. Pollard, T. Armstrong, Bill Ludlow, C. Moore, Marion Bennett, Jane Sutherland, Ann Gillebrand, Judy Langille, Karen Mackett, Sheila Mitchell, Hazel Mitchell, Kevin Bennett, Darlene MacMillan, Peggy Lowson, Evelyn Tuttle, Lorraine Pilon, Maggie Bryson, Lynn Ryan, Doris Purcell, Alexandra Jeffrey, as well as many other volunteers who have pledged their time and love over the years to help with this special part of church life.
- Christmas pageants:** One of the highlights of the Sunday School year has always been the Christmas pageants. In the 1960's and 70's, these pageants became quite elaborate productions, with both children and adult participants. Men from the choir would play the part of the wise men (i.e., Bill Bowker, Angus Goodfellow, Cliff Gillebrand, Mac Bennett) and a

couple from the congregation would often take the part of Mary and Joseph (e.g., June and Ron Pettes). Stewart Lowson had a long history of playing the angel Gabriel. As children, we would look forward to the progression from pink angels (youngest) to blue angels, or shepherds, and finally to white angels (played by the oldest girls in the Sunday school). Jean Gillebrand remembers that one year the wisemen's Eastern hats were made out of men's shorts, filled with cotton batting and covered with jewels. Lights and sound were provided by Doug Boves-Lyons and family, with Harold Grace in charge of make-up.

Many of the former Sunday School students returned to teach Sunday School, and several of these former students have gone on to become United Church ministers. Joanne Barr became Crawford's first candidate for the ministry in 1964, as she attended Mount Allison University. Joanne was ordained in 1972 and is currently a minister in New Brunswick. Cynthia Mitchell became our second candidate for the ministry in 1981, attending the United Theological College at McGill University. Cynthia was ordained in 1989, and is currently a minister in Beloit, serving the parish of Richelieu Valley United Church. Christine Lowson is our most recent candidate for the ministry, and she will be ordained in May, 1997. Frank Humphreys, also a Sunday school and church member is now a minister at People's Church in downtown Montreal. We are proud to have played a role in the development of their religious training.

CHURCH GROUP MEMORIES

The role of music

Mrs. G. Hall, was the first church pianist, followed by Mrs. Downing, and then Mrs. Agnes Keene who served as pianist and choir leader. Mrs. Keene also taught singing and elocution lessons on Saturday mornings. By 1952, a new Minschall organ had been purchased for \$1500 by the men's club, and Mr. W. A. Hindle became the new church organist, with Mrs. Downing serving as choir leader, with 19 choir members.

The next church organist was Betty Faulkner (1956) and she was succeeded by Marvin Smith who took over in 1957. Notes from the Board of Stewards at this time note that Marvin Smith was willing to work for \$25 per month, while the other (unsuccessful) candidate for organist wanted \$60!

A junior choir, under the leadership of Reg Morgan began in 1960. By 1969, the junior choir had been taken over by Donald Mackenzie, who was also church organist during this period.

In 1972, Roger Smith (Marvin's son) became church organist and choir director. He was replaced by Bill Bowker in 1974. In 1977 we purchased a new organ, which was dedicated in a Thanksgiving service in October, 1977. In 1993, Stewart Lowson and family donated a piano to the church, in loving memory of Peggy Lowson.

In 1989, Bill Bowker retired as organist and his position was taken over by David Scott Lytle, who is now the organist and choir director for both Crawford Park and Verdun United Church.

Choir members over the years have included : Angus Goodfellow, Jean Grey and her daughter, Jean and Cliff Gillebrand, Murray Beasley, Jan Woodley, Trudy Conlon, Marg, Bill and Anne Bowker, Genie Abbott, Marvin & Louise Smith, Ernie Pettit, Hazel Long, Mary MacDowall, Lorraine Pilon, Gloria Cooney, Malcolm Bennett, Bud Walker, Stewart and Peggy Lowson, Bill and Reg Morgan, Hazel Mitchell and Ernie Pettit. Our current choir (1997) consists of Bill Bowker, Keith Bider, Bill Rolling, Hazel Long, Jean Gillebrand, Anne Bowker, Marg Bowker, Gloria Cooney, Alexandra Jeffrey, as well as Linda Dixon and Phyllis Spurrell who sing with both Verdun and Crawford Park choirs.

Choir events include : Joint services with Verdun United choir at Easter and Christmas, Joint Good Friday services with Verdun area churches, the Candlelight service during the Christmas season, and the making of a recording each year, containing the year's anthems, and introits.

Board of Stewards

The Board of Stewards was formed in 1948. The initial slate of officers consisted of Mr. Archer, Mr. Metherell, Mr. Pollock as chairman, Mr. R. Adams as treasurer, Mr. Boves-Lyons as Hall Steward, Mr. MacInnis as Envelope Steward, and Mr. Knight as secretary. Additional members who helped with the canvassing of the area included Mr. Dyke, Mr. Prentiss, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Barr, Mr. Cropper, Mr. Wragg, Mr. Peddar, and Mr. F. Sutherland.

In 1949, new members included Mrs. Hepworth, Mrs. Bray, and Mrs. Stirling, the latter becoming the recording secretary. Other new members included Mr. Bentley, Mr. Hutchison and Mr. Tessier. As the church grew in the 1950's, new stewards were appointed. Mr. Tatlock, Mr. Humphrey, Mr. Moore, Mr. Richardson, Mr. P. Brunt, Mr. J.B. Pollard, Mr. Garrity, Mr. C. Barr, and Mr. J. Wells all served as Chairmen of the Stewards in this decade.

The executive committee in 1960 consisted of the following officers:

Projector committee: Harold Grace, Rev. Dawson MacDonald, Mr. Pollard, and Wilf Rodgers

Maintenance: Howard Cuthbert, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Methrell, Joe Ackerman, Bob Hepworth, and Cliff Gillebrand.

Publicity: G. Liddell, J. Wells and J. O'Reilly

Telephone: Peter Brunt, Ralph McKee

Liason with other church groups: J. Hutchison (W.A.), Howard Cuthbert (Sunday school), G. Liddell (Boy Scouts), G. Martin (W.M.S.), W. Methrell (Choir), Bill Morgan (Junior choir) and W. Ludlow (CGIT, Explorers, Missision Band).

Church members who became Stewards during the 1960's:

George MacDonald, G. Moss, H. West, J. Armstrong, Mr. Griesback, Mr. Krul, Everett McIntosh, Jim Lowson, G. Vince, N. Passmore, M. Warnock, Wm. Bush, Mrs. A. Lowson, Dr. K. Ferguson, G. Noel, G. Holmes, L. Holmes, Stewart Lowson.

In the 1980's our Board of Stewards had the following active members:

Bill Allen, Malcolm Bennett, Tim DeVries, Cliff Gillebrand, Garth Holmes, Arnold MacInnes, Ernie Pettitt, Ed Purcell, Wilf Rodgers, Murray Warnock, Bill Rolling, Mary Lloyd, Bill Siebrasse, Craig Buchanan, and Stewart Lowson as Chairman.

The current Board of Stewards has the following active members:

Bill Allen, Malcolm Bennett, Ed Purcell, Murray Warnock, Stewart Lowson, Brian MacMillan, Sandy Mackenzie, Don Ross, Harvey Halfyard, and Bill Rolling.

The Session (Church Elders)

The elders of the church are responsible, in conjunction with the minister for the spiritual needs of the congregation. In the early years of the church, the elders were in charge (in conjunction with the minister) of all aspects of the church service, including communion and greeting people at the door. They were responsible for telling the pianist to "tone down her playing" when it became too loud, and for suggesting that the church have children's movies on Friday nights, to offset the 'questionable' movies shown at Tetrault Hall in Crawford Park. They represented the moral fibre of the congregation and helped the early church evolve from a home mission field into an autonomous United Church of Canada.

Members of the session have included:

Mr. Whitlock, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Penniston, Mr. Hall, Mr. Hill, Mr. McInnis, Mr. F. Archer, Mrs. Stirling, Mrs. Hepworth, Mrs. Gray, Mr. Pollock, Mr. L. Ford, Mr. A.E. Bentley, Mr. Brown, Mr.R. Mitchell, J.P. Moore, J. Hunt, C.E. Humphrey, C. Gorrie, L.J. Bennett, W. Bryce, Dr. Morf, Mr. Pollard, Mr. McBain, W. Kolmar, J. Crawford, Mr. Bush, Fred Sutherland, Frank Woodley, Howard Cuthbert, Bill Morgan, John O'Reilly, Betty Peddar, Gena Cuthbert, Nancy Sutherland, Louise Smith, Peggy Lowson, Christine Lowson, Cynthia Mitchell, and Heather Allen.

The current slate of elders includes Dru MacMillan as Clerk of Session, with Mary MacDowall, William Ludlow, Gladys Bush, Pauline Anderson, Phyllis Dearn, Bud Walker, Don Ross, Jean Mann, Rose Johnston, Anne Bowker, Margaret Bowker, Diane and Malcolm Bennett, Doris Purcell, and Joe Ackerman.

Clerks of session:

F. Archer, D. Hill, C.E. Humphrey, Grant Sutherland, Joe Ackerman, Maurice Peddar, Norm Bullock, Gena Cuthbert, Margaret Bowker, and Dru MacMillan.

United Church Women (UCW)

The United Church Women (formed in 1961, with the amalgamation of the W.A. and the W.M.S.) have provided a rich source of fellowship for the women in this church. In recent years, the financial contributions of the UCW (through bazaars, bake sales, teas and lunches) have enabled Crawford Park United Church to remain a viable, active United Church.

Indeed, the UCW have been active in many fundraising projects over the years, including breakfasts, luncheons, suppers, bazaars, garage sales, barbecues, as well as fashion shows and penny fairs.

At their monthly general meetings, UCW members have welcomed special guest speakers such as Rev. Faye Wakeling from St. Columba House, Serge Dyrflinger speaking on the history of Verdun, Lori Boucher from Teen Haven and Harry Carlyle on gardening. Strawberry socials, which are usually held in June have always been very popular, as much for the fellowship they afford as for the refreshments.

Over the years, the UCW has helped out many charitable groups such as "Skiff", Chez Doris, St. Columba House, Manna (the Verdun food bank), The UCW has also organized various outings to places such as Moore's Canadiana Village in Rawdon, Madame Benoit's sheep farm in the Eastern Townships, and a sugaring off party at Covey Hill.

Over the years, French classes were led by Sister Sheila and Sister Gertrude, Stretch and Sew classes were offered, and exercise classes were held on weekday afternoons.

Presidents of the UCW have included: Lottie Bowes-Lyons, Hazel Brunt, Margaret Bowker, Bunny Craig, Nancy Sutherland, Jean Gray, Gena Cuthbert, Grace Ironside, Lina Ludlow, Mary MacDowall, Diane Bennett, Doris Dupuis, Mary Lloyd, and many others.

Although membership has decreased over the years, the UCW is still a very active group, providing a source of fellowship and support for all the ladies of the congregation.

Recently, the younger members of the UCW honoured the elder members with a luncheon, and Rose Johnston wrote a poem which aptly describes the

special work of the UCW over the years.

"Our Special Ladies"

How do we love you?
Together we'll count the ways
For your loyalty and compassion
And your kind words of praise.

The friendliness with which you serve
The years of pure devotion
The recognition you deserve
Have stirred up our emotions.

You've given us a sense of pride
In all our church events
We truly believe that God provides
For he sent us his very best.

Our meetings are a pure delight
With fun and games and motions
Now who would like to volunteer
To do the next devotion

And now to each and everyone
We would like to express
Our love and good wishes
THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!

Crawford Park United Church Women
November 28, 1995

PERSONAL MEMORIES

Stained Glass Windows

I am a part of all that I have met
Yet all experience is an arch wherethrough
Gleams that untravelled world, whose margin fades
Forever and forever when I move
Tennyson, "Ulysses."

School was out and my two eldest children came running into the house. "Mummy" they cried, "We have been to see the new church on Quimet St., and it is lovely. I stood right inside the church and do you know what?" said my son, "They have God in their church." "But we also have God in our church too," I said. "We also have a kind of stained glass window in our church if we only look for it. You see, things that happen in your church make a picture on your mind and years later these pictures will come back to your memory as clearly as the stained glass windows of a church."

Betty Peddar Halburton

Crawford Park Church, the chief centre of my happiness for 41 years; and it all started with a gigantic headache.

Our old friends, Winnie & Jimmy Richardson on Dunver Crescent were active in the choir and on the Board. They invited us to come to the Christmas Candlelight service in 1953, 3 months after the death of our 19 month old, charming, blond son. Darling across Manning Ave., he was struck by a City of Verdun truck.

There we were in a front pew with empty arms and a quiet empty room at home. Wilf Hindle at the organ and the age-old story of Baby Jesus being told again in the warmly-lit, pretty little church full of people whose happy hearts knew nothing of us or our agony.

Oh dear! Oh, Crawford Park - comfort all the people!

From: Jean Gillebrand

I remember when I first came from Verdun United to Crawford Park United in the 50's. I saw Rev. Downing mowing the lawn. His wife Georgina was a very nice lady. I saw the superstructure being built.

There was a photo of Mr. Winters who had something to do with the government laying the cornerstone. Rev. Downing, Mayor Wilson, The Salvation Army and others were also present.

If I remember correctly the superstructure cost \$35,000.00 in 1952.

From : Murray Warnock

Memories of Crawford Park United go back to the wonderful Christmas pageants the Sunday School and members of the congregation put on. The Church was crowded, sometimes a pageant that was like an interview about the Christmas story. It was original and enjoyed by all. We also recall the crowded, curtained off basement for Sunday School and the Sunday School picnics on St. Helen's Island. We also remember Mrs. Lowson, as the Sunday School teachers having the girls meet at her home Friday evenings to make crafts etc., or rehearse for a play. The "Young Adults" is another fond memory.

I have very happy memories of UCW meetings, even the sewing lessons and exercise classes we had. The fashion shows and pageants as well. "Explorers" was also a fun time. The camaraderie of the UCW ladies is so much a part of us all.

From : Jean Gallop and Barbara Ingalls

The Young Adults' Group - the Minister's chair was donated by the Young Adults Group in 1966 with money raised by the publishing of the Centennial Cookbook. This group was around from 1965 to 1967.

Honorary members were Rev. & Mrs. Dawson Macdonald. The President was Gordon Price and Sherrill Wheeler was the Secretary. Other members included Murray and Dorothy Beasley, Fran and George Warren, Lewis Miller, Edgida Hum, Natalie Lauder-Walton, Barbara Ingalls, Beverley and

Gilbert Ryan, Marion Bennett, David Barr, Ian McCullough and Malcolm and Diane Bennett. Other than holding scheduled meetings, fun activities were organized such as bowling, a visit to the Senior's Home on Ballantine in St. Pierre, with a hymn sing conducted by Lewis and Murray, an engagement party for Barbara. A Christmas house party, who spiked the punch?

From: Diane and Malcolm Bennett

The Annual Sunday School Picnic is a happy memory of my childhood days at C.P.U.C. In those days there were a large number of children at Sunday School and a good number of busses were needed to transport the children and adults to St. Helen's Island for the picnic. My greatest wish at that time was to be on the same bus as Mr. Jim Crawford. He was such a jolly man and so well liked. He always kept us happy and singing to and from the Island. He made the picnic a joyous one.

I was confirmed and married by Rev. Dawson Macdonald. He also baptized my 3 children and buried my Dad. I have very fond memories of him.

Mistral shows (watching - I was very young at the time).

Auctions: Fun time.

From : Dru MacMillan

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

At one end of our Church basement hall is a raised portion furnished with a table, sofa and some chairs which is seldom used except by the Stewards for counting the Sunday offerings. Some time ago this was a very important part of our church life. It was much larger and extended further out into the hall, and was a different colour. Many concerts were held in the hall and the stage was the focal point.

The most memorable performances to me were the Minstrel shows put on by the Men's Club in the early 1950's. These were based on the old Dixie

Minstrel Shows which had been popular in Canada and the U.S.A. for many years. Today they are virtually unknown and considered politically and racially incorrect, with good reason.

They consisted of a choir of white men performing in blackface makeup, singing Stephen Foster type songs of the Old South, playing banjos, banging tambourines and telling jokes in "phony" accents of the southern black men. There was one "white" man in the show, dressed in evening clothes, black tie and tails and wearing a black top hat. He was called the Interlocutor, was seated in the middle of the front row and acted as the master of ceremonies and kept the show moving along at a good pace.

They were great fun to watch and even better fun to participate in. We toured around a bit and made money for various causes as well as our own church.

Other types of concerts were put on by the Men's Club, one in particular was a lampooning of the early days of Crawford Park when many of us were living in houses which were in various stages of construction and we were trying to get the contractor to finish things for us. at least we could laugh at our own misfortunes!

When the present superstructure of our church was finally built, the Men's Club donated the money for the organ and dedicated to the men who had given their lives in two World Wars, this at a time of the Korean conflict.

The stage was also put to good use by the UCW when they put on skits after the Annual Anniversary Supper and is still used for Fashion Shows today. The Junior Choir also used the stage to good advantage.

Of course, speaking of Fashion Shows, I will never forget the Womanless Fashion Show put on by the men of the Church in Centennial year, 1967. - But that is another story for someone else to tell.....

From : William Ludlow

The 50th Anniversary of our church brings back memories of another Anniversary - the 100th Anniversary of our country which we celebrated in 1967.

Our special centennial project was the installation of panelling in our church hall as well as the enclosing of the overhead plumbing. Previously, the walls were painted concrete which showed the imprint of the foundation lumber and a few rusty leaves here and there. It was not a very smooth looking finish. The whole job, which made a tremendous difference in the look of our hall, cost \$5,000.00 - a real bargain even 30 years ago.

The work, however, was not completed in time for our 20th Anniversary Pot Luck Supper, but the contractor very kindly stacked all his materials against the walls and covered everything up. The supper was a great success.

If the supper was a success, the evening's entertainment was a smash! We had a Womanless Fashion Show!

Can you picture Stewart Lowson in a dress and wearing a wig? Sam Shirley was a beautiful bride in a red wig and the mother of the bride was Jim Hutchinson as Gemma and he also modelled a nurse's uniform in the show - wearing a wig, of course, over his bald head. The cute little flower girl was none other than Roy Gillebrand. Frank Woodley was pregnant and had to be rushed to the hospital. John Thomas was attired in a nightie and housecoat with his wig in curlers. Peter Brant, who was very reluctant to take part in this affair, appeared as a pretty glum-looking old lady - perhaps he even had his pipe! Also modelling were Murray Beasley, George Warren, Lewis Miller and David Barr. I'm sure to have omitted some of our stars, but I hope you'll forgive me. This was a long time ago.

The fashion commentator was William (Wilma) Ludlow, suitably dressed in a strapless mauve bridesmaid's dress with puffy tulle skirt and wearing Mary Lloyd's high-heeled shoes. The long cigarette holder and blonde wig were a plus. The make-up artist was Harold Grace and the piano accompaniment was graciously provided by the only woman in the show - Jean Gillebrand.

Credit must be given for the success of both the panelling and the Fashion Show to Joan Mees. Joan obtained the wigs and orchestrated the whole show. She had also given us the name of the contractor for the woodwork - Mr. Walter Wilcott.

From : Lina Ludlow

Brrr! It was cold in the church. Rev. Joanne Barr was taking the service that winter morning in 1973. I don't remember if there was a problem with the heating system or whether it was just extreme cold. I do recall it was very, very chilly. She had us all on our feet to sing "Lord of the Dance" and to warm us up she had us all clapping our hands and stamping our feet, something that I imagine was pretty much not done until then.

Pardon the pun, but my fiancé at the time and I thought this was a hip, really "cool" Minister.

When things had thawed in June of that year, she married us, same place!

From : Rubeta & Barry Ralph

Soon after Reverend Corbett arrived at Crawford Park United Church, he was asked to give the sermon at the joint Good Friday service for Chalmers, First Presbyterian, Verdun United and Crawford Park United Churches.

He chose as a text the four words "There they crucified Him". He spoke briefly about "there" - GOLGOTHA - "they" - who brought it about - "crucified" - what sort of death it was - and "Him" - who Jesus was. It was a long time ago, but it still stands as a fine example of a short, strong sermon.

From: Bill Bowker

One Sunday in the early eighties I was preaching on how to listen to God's word. This was at Crawford Park United Church. During my message I told the following story :

A Sunday School teacher was telling the children the story of Samson and she was relating how in a huge building thousands of people were gathered to celebrate victory with their Kings and Samson was led by a boy to the great pillars. She went on saying that Samson stretched out his arms to touch the pillars so that he could make them crumble. The children were fascinated and the teacher

looked at her watch and said, "sorry, it's too late, we'll
continue next week". All the children left except one who
came back and asked the teacher, "what happened to
Samson?"

Then I continued on my theme trying to communicate the need to feel
involved in the word. After the service I went as usual to greet the
parishioners at the exit and Lotie Bowes-Lyon came to me and quietly
asked, "Maurice, what did happen to Samson?" and I told her. Lotie was a
real doer, but also a good listener. That's a good memory for a Minister and
it happened at Crawford Park United Church.

From : Rev. Maurice Nerny

Our first memory of Crawford Park United Church was during our third
visit to the Sunday Service. The Rev. Nerny told a story which he had heard
from a Moderator of the United Church.

A man walked into the Church wearing a hat, sat in the pew and didn't
remove the hat from his head. This immediately caught the attention of the
Congregation who immediately decided someone should approach him. An
elder went forward and received no reply. One of the Stewards tried without
success. It was decided that the Minister approach him after the service.

The Minister asked him why he didn't remove his hat while sitting in the
pew. His reply: "I have been coming to this Church for the past ten years
and this is the first time that anyone has spoken to me.

After the service that day we were practically surrounded by the
Congregation of Crawford Park United Church who insisted that they did
not wear hats.

The warmth and sincerity of their welcome that day resulted in us becoming
members of Crawford Park United Church on June 21st, 1987.

The friendships we have made and the fellowship that we share is a large
part of our lives today.

From : Marilyn & Don Ross

My memories of the church are the Candlelight Services at Christmas.
Every year they get better, especially the one we had this past year. Also,
the Minister at my time of sorrow was very kind and helpful and it's nice to
know you can depend on him when you need it.

When I think of Crawford Park United Church I remember all the
friendships that my family and I have made over the years since joining the
Church. I remember all the years I have enjoyed being a member of the
UCW and participated in so many meetings, fund raising events and social
activities. Being part of this congregation is like being with one "happy
family".

When we first came to Crawford Park United Church the congregation was
made up almost entirely of young families. On Christmas mornings after
the initial excitement of stockings etc, families would go as a group to
Christmas Day Service - little ones bringing some favourite new toy along. I
always remember those services as special.

I think back with gratitude for the excellent Cub and Scout troops. All three
of our sons from 1957 to 1965 or so were involved. They were a great
group of boys and the leaders outstanding. With their encouragement many
in the original troop achieved the Queen Scout award. I would like to
mention leaders Shirley Lowson, Jim Lowson, Jim Jack, Jim Davidson,
Grant Sutherland, Mike Boychuk, Ron Pettes, Louise Smith and hope I
haven't forgotten anyone.

From : Louise Smith

Louise and Marvin Smith started their relationship with the Church on May
21, 1951. Marvin was raised an Anglican and would have preferred to join
All Saints. Georgina Downing (the Minister's wife) was a friend of Louise
and was therefore instrumental in the Smith family joining and becoming
members of Crawford Park United. When Louise and Marvin first joined
this Church, worship was held in the basement, while Sunday School was
held in the little school.

Marvin was secretary of the official board when the Church tower was being built. He noticed its construction resembled the leaning tower of Pisa. After consulting with the architect, he ensured the tower was taken down and rebuilt correctly. He remembers Rev. Downing as being a just, upright and of stern demeanor. The Congregation at the time, were mostly young married couples with children. Lots of children meant lots of noise and confusion.

Dr. Jones was the next Minister. He had a beautiful voice and his daughter played the organ. Dr. Jones left Crawford Park, to become the Minister of Verdun United, which was a bigger and more established congregation. Rev. Dawson Macdonald replaced Dr. Jones and his stay at Crawford Park was a long and happy relationship. During his Ministry, Marvin was the organist. Marvin remembers on one occasion Rev. Macdonald handed him the hymns for the service. Marvin mentioned he could not play one of them and requested a change. Rev. Macdonald replied, "Better we change then have to listen to you attempting something you can't play!" Marvin reflected this sort of friendly camaraderie existed with Rev. Macdonald.

In the early days, their social as well as religious life revolved around the Church. In addition to the religious aspects, there were men's and ladies groups, fashion shows and ministerial plays etc. all fond memories of a great little Church with a warm and wonderful congregation.

Over the years, Marvin felt the tug back to his Anglican roots and has since joined the congregation and choir at All Saints Church.

Interviewed by Malcolm Bennett

I've been going to Crawford Park United Church for two or three years. Every time when there has been a ticket to buy a meal, they have given me a free lunch and I have really enjoyed myself. I enjoy going to Bible study every second Tuesday. I find the minister is a very nice guy. They help me to learn about Jesus. A nice friend, Bill Rolling, drives me home every Sunday. Going to church reminds me to pay and listen to my Bible tapes, and I enjoy communion at church. I have a good time at church. I make new friends there.

From: Sammy Stone

Crawford Park United Church is the place I consider as home.

As a youth, leading the church school and confirmation class, I had the privilege of having a key to the church. I don't even think that my parents know that on many occasions, I would use that key to enter into the church - just to be alone, with God. Sometimes, in more troubled times, I would just come and sit, and have a good cry, or sing some hymns (when no one was around to hear the notes which were off key). Crawford Park United Church has been for me a refuge, and a place where I have most fully been able to experience the presence of God.

I am eternally grateful for the support and outpouring of gifts and love offered to me during my years in training for ordained ministry, that I received from the congregation of Crawford Park.

Finally, I will always live with the memory of the three stained glass windows, brilliantly depicting the depth of God's love and care, which enrich and warm the sanctuary. I believe that they tell of 50 years of love and faithful service that have passed through the church doors.

From: Rev. Cynthia Mitchell

Crawford Park United Church was my home church for 25 years. I will not name names because there would be no end. I think of my happy years in the choir - even when our organist said we sang like "martingales". I think of my associations with the Explorer group. I can close my eyes and see all the eager faces of that group. I learned from them, I hope they learned something from us and went on to be good citizens.

Most of all, I remember the UCW - the work and the good times. It was a supportive group not only for the church, but also for each other. A relative of mine used to sing the old hymns as she worked around her kitchen (who does that nowadays!!). I remember one line, "We share each others woes, each others burdens bear."

I don't want to end on a "woeful" note. We had fun and laughter too. I just mean that Crawford Park congregation really cared for each other. That's

how I remember. My prayers go to all my friends in Crawford Park.

From: Jeannette (Jan) Woodley

Memories! My memories of Crawford Park United Church are so full of heart-felt emotion that I find it very difficult to put them into words. Those years were very special to the Cuthbert family. I feel that they are best expressed in a poem by Helen Steinor Rice.

I am glad that we met

I am glad our paths crossed and I am glad that we met,
And may this brief interlude prove yet to be
Something that helped open the door
To the niche in life you were destined for,
For all that transpires, be it bitter or sweet,
Helps to make life's pattern a bit more complete.
And sometime in the future, may you look back and say
Our meeting was indeed a very lucky day.

I will close with a quotation from Helen Keller. "The best and most beautiful things in this life cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt in the heart." May God bless us all.

From: Gena Cuthbert

My parents, the late Charles Eric Humphrey and Evelyn Humphrey joined Crawford Park United in 1948 when they moved into the community. Dad was for many years on the Board of Stewards and served as Clerk of Session. He also served as Sunday School Superintendent. Mom served as a Sunday School teacher as well. I was involved in the Cubs and Scouts, and my sister Beverley was in the CGIT. Beverley married Paul Brucha and he served on the church Board as well (they now reside in Nova Scotia). I have positive memories of the friends and activities of these days.

From: Frank Humphrey

I have warm and beautiful memories of my association with Crawford Park

United Church over the years. A sincere welcome always greeted me on my arrival Sunday mornings and the fellowship of the congregation was heart-warming. Over the years, you have included me in your special activities and that was much appreciated. I have made lovely friendships among you which I cherish. May God continue his blessing on your worship and work.

From: Rev. Harold Kennedy

I would like to bring the following names forward. They were responsible for making many happy memories for me.

Lottie Bowes-Lyon: Good natured, could always find time to solve many problems, make suggestions, re knitting, cooking..... You name it.

Doris Dupuis: With her happy disposition, the laughter was her signature. How many clowns did she turn out? The sewing, of all kinds, including covering the chesterfield and chairs on the stage, the beautiful crochet pieces she made.....

Grace Ironside: She always had a lovely smile, always ready to help out where needed. Such a gentle person.

Mary Lloyd: Mary was in charge of the Bake table at bazaars, etc. She prepared a variety of items, it was unreal how much she would bring in. Her presentation, the finishing touch, was always there.

How fortunate we were to have had these lovely ladies.

From: Hazel Long

I always love recalling this story that Mrs. Cuthbert told me some years ago. I was still a toddler and my mother decided to be brave one Sunday morning and attend worship with me. I was well equipped to "make it through" an hour of sitting on the pew. My mother had me loaded down with crayons and colouring books, picture books and snacks..

Unfortunately, the person sitting behind me felt obligated to tell my mother that I was a very noisy child. I made the service very unenjoyable for this man. Mrs. Cuthbert came to our rescue, (the first of many)! If it wasn't for her intervention, my mom would have kept me out of church until my

confirmation! Gena told my mother that the church was a place for all God's children. "Let the children come to me; do not stop them.." and if my mother ever tried to keep me away from church, she'd bring me herself. That same beautiful woman was a member of the Session (some twenty years later) and passed a motion to have me received as an Intended Candidate for Ministry. I have been loved and have enjoyed many people at Crawford Park United Church through out my life. Rich blessings have been shared with my whole family as we have loved, laughed, and cried there.

From: Christine Lawson

Lowson Memories

Early 1950's and 1960's:
Friday night movies for 25 cents
Ranger Ball and Floor Hockey
Men's Club Variety Shows
Christmas Pageants

Marriages and Christenings from 1961 through 1994.

Beautiful memories created through many years of fun, friendship and love.

From: The Lawson family

As I look back over the years, I am reminded of all the happy times in Crawford United where you were always welcome and part of the Christian family. We were fortunate to have such a caring, community, having a school and church in the area. It was a happy place for the children to grow up. May Crawford Park United Church continue for many more years with its fine leadership and the blessings of Christian service.

From: Margaret Sutherland

As I complete my 28th year of teaching, I look back with fond memories of Crawford Park United Church. It is where I first received my Christian training and developed values that I hold dear today. My earliest memories are of Sunday School with Mrs. Barr and Mrs. Morgan, where we learned to

sing, "Climb, climb up Sunshine Mountain", "The B. I. B. L. E." and the boys' favourite, "I'm in the Lord's Army." Every year all the girls would get new Easter bonnets and sing "The Old Rugged Cross" with deep emotion.

When I was older, I taught Sunday School and the experience has served me well over the years. I remember being in the Junior Choir led by Mrs. Morgan and Joan Warnock. I was a member of the Explorers and the CGIT. We learned about people in other countries, did crafts and sang, "This is my Father's World." Later, we had a Hi-C group, led by Diane and Malcolm Bennett. This was a co-ed group, and we had lots of fun. One year, we sent a petition to the minister stating that we wanted to keep the Christ in Christmas.

I vividly remember when I was confirmed. I was finally able to receive communion with the congregation, who I considered my extended family. It made me feel so grown up!

I was married 23 years ago in 'our' church. Imagine my surprise when I was a picture of the Junior Choir hanging in the entrance. It certainly brought tears to my eyes!

The ministers I remember are: Rev. Jones who was a great speaker and no one fell asleep during his sermons; Rev. MacDonald was a kind and gentle man, I remember being so surprised when I heard someone call him by his first name (Dawson); Rev. Corbett was the minister who married us and he sang Scottish songs with my father at the wedding reception; Rev. Nerny always welcomes me when I get the chance to visit. It's like I never left.

Crawford Park has a very special place in my heart and I won't easily forget the time I spent there.

From: Heather Ludlow Thompson

I remember retiring from work and getting interested in the UCW, meeting every week for lunch and crafts, and getting to know all the ladies, whom I still consider my friends. It makes me very happy that I still have church news and many letters and cards. Margaret Bowker has been a terrific friend whom I appreciate very much. I would love to be coming to Montreal, but I am too old now to travel. At the end of the month I will

have my 95th birthday.

From: Ruby Muir

The warm-hearted, caring people who are Crawford Park United Church.... We remember:

That wonderful evening when best wishes were extended to us on our forthcoming marriage, with the Mitchell sisters performing Scottish dances; Joe Ackerman acting as M.C., and John Thomas presenting us with a card and cheque.

The remarkable quality and dedication of the Choir and its willingness to try something new.

The embarrassment of winning the UCW quilt, we who do not buy raffle tickets!

Is it possible that the minister could forget a wedding until one of the wedding party knocked on the manse door? Surely here is one advantage of having the manse next door to the church.

Wonderful fellowship experienced at the UCW meetings; Craft Groups; Bible Study and Congregational Suppers.

From: Ray and Irene Corbett

We have fond memories of our Ministry at CPUC, the kindness and friendship we experienced during our long stay still remain with us. We have always felt that our life at Crawford Park church was a special time for us. As we brought up our girls in the Manse, we felt we were part of the greater family of the Church there. It was a wonderful place to bring up a family and our girls made friendships that are still strong today.

From: Dawson and Margaret MacDonald and family

We have so many memories of our time as members of Crawford Park United Church. We remember Allan's christening in 1949, one of the first babies to be baptised in the "basement" before the actual edifice was built.

We treasure many friendships formed, which we are privileged to share to this day. The church suppers we prepared, the hundreds of dishes we all washed, both in the kitchen and in the hall, what fun it was to share our thoughts, and ideas for the next event.

We took part in concerts, Minstrel Shows, fashion shows, bazaars, Sunday School picnics, garage sales, and of course the auctions. We remember our wonderful auctioneer, Jack Thompson, what a gift he had, he could sell us anything, and he did! We think back to our participation in the W.A., the UCW, Scouts, Board of Trustees, Elders and the Sunday School.

Our daughter Jane's wedding was the first marriage ceremony that Rev. Nerry performed in 1980, such a happy memory.

For 37 years, Crawford Park United our Church Home, and our most treasured memories are the love and fellowship we found within its walls, it sustains us to this day. As you celebrate your 50th Anniversary, may you share many more fruitful years together, and may God's Blessing be with you always.

From: Nancy and Grant Sutherland

There are many people who have served this church faithfully over the years, people who have made a real difference in the development and evolution of the church. From the early years, we think of **F. Archer** (first elder and Clerk of Session), **J.B. Archer** (one of the initial church trustees), **Mr. Aston** (in charge of the initial building committee), and **Mr. Whitlock**, lay preacher and early Sunday School superintendent. We think of **Lil and Bob Hepworth**, whose names appeared in church records from the very beginning and who continued to participate in church life for many subsequent years. We think of **Reg and Bill Morgan**, with Reg so active in the Sunday School and Junior choir. **Gena Cuthbert** has played a role in our church life since the very early years, and we remember with fondness the multiple roles she has played as Sunday School teacher, UCW leader, Church Elder, and Clerk of Session. She remains a symbol of what Crawford Park United Church means to many of us - a warm, caring, and supportive Christian environment in which to belong. We think of **Lottie Boves-Lyons**, author of much of our church history (included herein) and a strong supporter and advocate of the church during her lifetime. **Peggy**

Lowson, the quintessential church worker, worked tirelessly in many capacities at the church, bringing a sense of serenity and spirituality to her environment. Loyal church workers over the years that we remember fondly include **Jack Thompson** (remembered by many as 'the auctioneer'), **Garth Holmes**, **Mary Lloyd** (long-time church treasurer), and **Nancy and Grant Sutherland**. We remember **Betty Peddar Haliburton** whose books of devotions and faith were read and appreciated by many, and **Cliff Gillebrand's** musicianship and wonderful sense of humour. **Arnold and Glenna MacInnis** were also special church members, with Arnold being a long-time treasurer and church trustee, and Glenna bringing a smile to everyone's face with her artwork and humorous poetry.

Although many of our friends are no longer with us, their spirit lives on in Crawford Park United Church and in what the church has accomplished and become over the years.

Anne Bowker
Diane Bennett
Malcolm Bennett

As we look to the future, we honour those who continue to serve Crawford Park United Church in 1997, with faithfulness and dedication. We thank God for Rev. Dr. Maurice Nerny, for his spiritual guidance and leadership. We thank the members of the Session, the Stewards, and the Choir for their ongoing participation in our Church life. Crawford Park United Church has been, and continues to be, well and truly blessed.

Rev. Dr. Maurice E. Nerny

To work for a living
can be quite appalling
unless of course
you answer the calling

You've given your life
to others it seems
lending an ear
and sharing in dreams.

The daily routine
is known by few
marriages, baptisms
and funerals too.

The bulletin, appointments
and meetings that vary
no wonder you need
A SECRETARY!

Then there's the visits
and phone calls to make
a day off is something
that you never take.

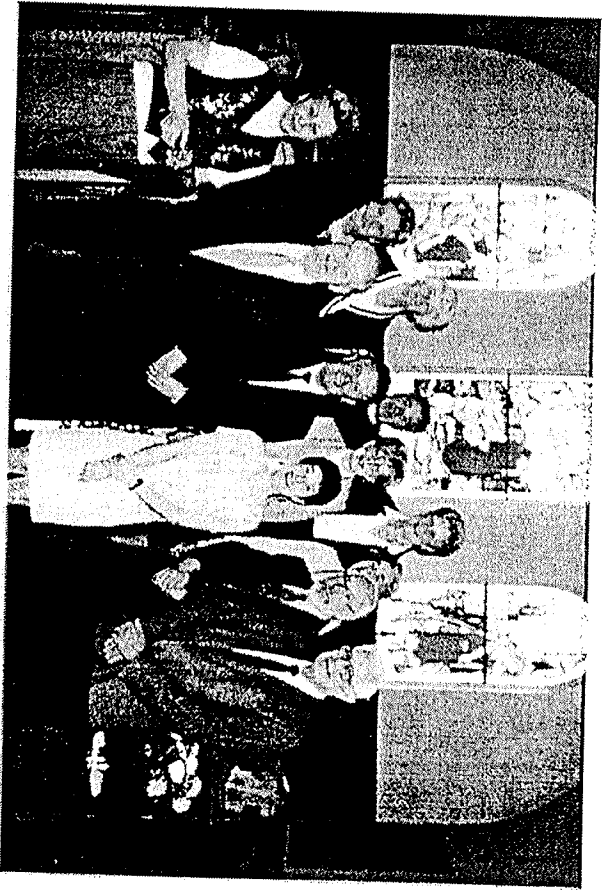
A friend and minister
oh yes "Boss" too
its truly a privilege
to work with you.

The love and affection
you give to one and all
is a blessing we cherish
As you answer the call.

Our sincere BEST WISHES
are sent from the heart
may God's richest blessing
from you never part.

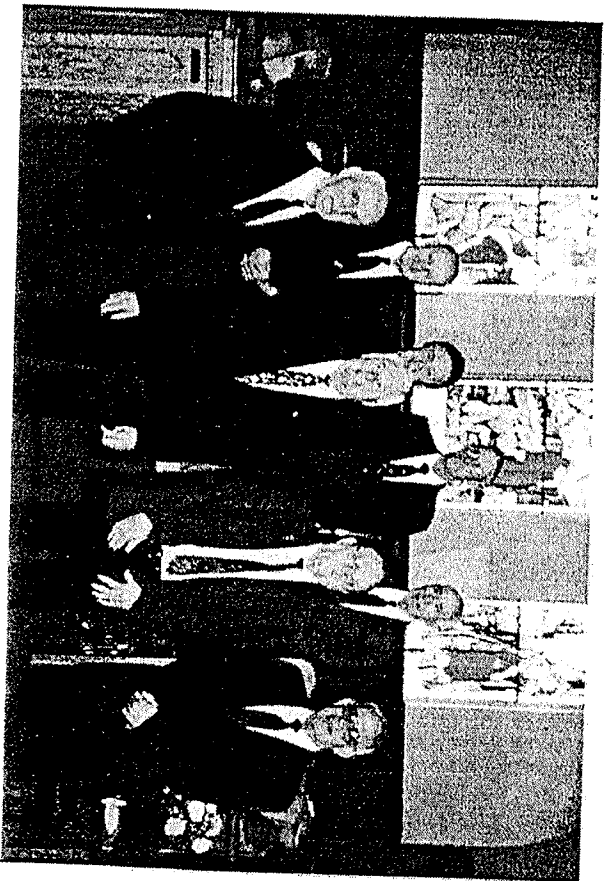
Rose Johnston
Church Secretary

Written on the occasion of Rev. Nerny receiving an honorary doctorate
from McGill University.



The Elders

From left to right: Jean Mann, Pauline Anderson, Joe Ackerman, Doris Purcell, Don Ross, Rev. Maurice Nemy, Rose Johnston, Anne Bowker, Dru MacMillan, Margaret Bowker, William Ludlow, Bud Walker. Absent: Gladys Bush, Mary MacDowall, Diane and Malcolm Bennett.



The Stewards

From left to right: Bill Allen, Ed Purcell, Don Ross, Brian MacMillan, Sandy Mackenzie, Bill Rolling, Murray Warnock, Harvey Halfyard. Absent: Stewart Lowson, Malcolm Bennett.



The Choir

From left to right: David Scott Lytle (Organist and choir director), Bill Bowker, Linda Dixon, Anne Bowker, Hazel Long, Margaret Bowker, Keith Bider, Jean Gillebrand, Gloria Cooney, Bill Rolling. Absent: Phyllis Spurrell, Alexandra Jeffrey.