

# Peachland United Church



1911-2011

A  
Century of Services  
in  
Peachland  
United Church  
  
1911-2011

A  
Peachland United Church  
Centennial Publication

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September 4, 2011

Peachland Pastoral Charge,  
4421 4<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Peachland, British Columbia  
V0H 1X6

Dear Friends:

I am happy to learn of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the congregation of Peachland Pastoral Charge, on September 4, 2011.

I want to convey to you on behalf of The United Church of Canada our sincere gratitude for your devotion as a congregation of worship and mission as a community of Jesus Christ. Not only do we offer congratulations and appreciation for your past but please accept my encouragement and great hope for today, and tomorrow, and the next day in the service of Jesus Christ.

I hope you have a wonderful celebration and I send you best wishes and greetings from "our House to yours".

Faithfully,

Moderator,  
Mardi Tindal  
The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada

:attachment

*The Mission and Service Fund — supporting United Church work in Canada and around the world  
Le fonds "Mission et Service" soutient le travail de l'Église Unie au Canada et à travers le monde*



## **Peachland United Church**

4421, 4<sup>th</sup> Street Peachland, BC V0H 1X6

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011

To Those who have come before us  
To those here today  
To those who will come after us

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Church building is 100 years old this year although the Congregation (originally Methodist) came into official existence four years earlier. One hundred years of worship, praise, learning, laughter, singing, sharing in each others joys and sorrows, baptisms, weddings and service and outreach to others in and from our Sanctuary.

We look back to the steadfast faith of those gone before us, but also look forward to new work as we open our lives more and more to the working of God's Spirit amongst us. The world that was at the time of building was so different from the lives we lead now, just as ours will be so different from those who come after us.

But one thing which we have learned as we have read our Bibles listened and talked is that the problems the fledgling churches wrestled with 2000 years ago are not so different from the ones of those who built our beloved Sanctuary, or from what we have today, and probably into the future.

This gives us courage and thankfulness as we too can lean into God's sustaining and steadfast love to give us courage when we struggle and to share in our joy as we celebrate achievements and momentous occasions. And this is a momentous occasion – 100 years – of faithful witness to God's love here in Peachland. We celebrate and honour the vision and faith of our ancestors who struggled, worked and sacrificed to build for themselves a place of worship, and those who came after sustaining, up-keeping and improving our church.

As we celebrate their and our commitment, joy and faith may we also think about those who will come after as we grow into the next 100 years.

Yours in Christ,

the Rev. Elaine Diggle,  
Peachland United Church.

## Birth of a Church

One of the primary objectives of any historical inquiry is the search for significant documentation. It is most fortunate therefore, that we are able to accurately document the precise circumstances under which the Peachland Methodist Church, forerunner of Peachland United Church, came into existence.

As you will see from the following document, a meeting of unattached, like-minded Methodists was held in the Orange Hall on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1907 to discuss the future of Methodism in Peachland. While we celebrate the first service in our church on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1911 as day 1 of our 100 year history, this document clearly shows that our church, at that time without a permanent home, is actually 104 years old this year.

Two points of interest. This two page photocopied document was among a large box of papers donated to the church after two long-time Peachland United Church members Jeff and Jean Todd had both passed away. It is taken from a Minute Book, pages 2 and 3, that was obviously intended to be the official record of the new Methodist church. The whereabouts of this original document is unknown.

The use of the terms “brother” and “sister” goes back to the earliest days of the Methodist Church. It was believed, and is still believed, that the use of these terms to address non family members offers the same spiritual, emotional and economic support as one would grant to family members. It is also interesting to note that while this same practice was consistently followed within Orange Lodges, the source of their usage came from an adherence to Unionism.

The transcript:

*Peachland B.C.*

*19<sup>th</sup> Aug /07*

*A general meeting of those who were interested in holding Methodist services was held tonight in the Orange Hall.*

*The meeting was opened by singing and prayer by Bros. Young and Callender.*

*On motion of Bro. Ferguson, Bro. Callender was appointed secretary of the meeting.*

*The minutes of the meeting when it was decided to hold services were given by Bro. Callender as remembered by him.*

*The committee appointed to arrange for a place of worship reported having made temporary arrangement for Union Church.*

*A letter was then read from Mr. H. Robinson as sec of Union Church stating that we could only have the use of that building for two services per month until Presbytery met and that a charge of \$1.50 per service for main part of the building and \$1.00 for service for either of the other rooms had been decided on.*

*Moved by Bro. Ferguson sec by sister J. B. Robertson that we in future hold our services in the Orange Hall. Carried.*

*Moved by Bros. Douglas and Callender that we ask the Methodist congregation at Summerland to change their order of service because as it is at present we clash with the Baptist people here, who are also using the Orange Hall. Carried.*



**Moved by Bro. Dr Lipsett sec. by Bro. Douglas that we shall be called the Peachland Methodist Church. Carried.** (Emphasis added)

The following were then appointed to be Stewards

Bros. Ferguson, Douglas, Elliott, Callender, Young, Sisters Elliott and J. B. Robertson.

Moved by Callender sec Bro Douglas that Bros. J. B. Robertson and F. Young be Society representatives on the board. Carried.

Moved by Bros Ferguson and J.B. Robertson that the treasurer be instructed to send for four doz Methodist hymn books and a tune book for the organist. Carried.

Moved by Bro. Ferguson sec by Sister Ferguson that Mrs. Douglas, Mrs. Vivian and Chas. Elliott be a committee to arrange for a choir. Carried.

Moved by Bro. Dr. Lipsett sec by Bro J. B. Robinson that the Quarterly board and Dr. Lipsett be a committee to meet the executive of the Union church to settle all outstanding matters. Carried.

Moved by Bro. Ferguson sec by Bro. F Young that we have 7 stewards. Carried.

2 Peachland N.C.  
Official Record  
Catholic and United Church  
19th Aug. 1907

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The meeting was opened by singing and prayer by Bro. Young and Callender.

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The minutes of the meeting when it was decided to hold services were given by Bro. Callender as remembered by him.

The committee appointed to arrange for a place of worship reported having made temporary arrangement for Union Church.

A letter was then read from Mr. H. Robertson, ex. sec. of Union Church stating that we could only have the use of that building for two services per month until Presbytery met and that a charge of \$1.00 per service for main part of building and \$1.00 per service for either of the other rooms had been decided on.

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Moved by Bro. Dr. Lipsett sec by Bro. J. B. Robinson that the Quarterly board and Dr. Lipsett be a committee to meet the executive of the Union church to settle all outstanding matters. Carried.

Moved by Bro. Ferguson sec by Bro. F. Young that we have 7 stewards. Carried. I should have been a steward also.

## Historical Background to the Founding of Peachland United Church

The United Church of Canada was formed on June 10<sup>th</sup> 1925 by an Act of Union, an act which amalgamated the Methodist, the Presbyterians and the Congregational Churches in Canada into a single unit. All three denominations had been brought to Canada from Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, firstly to Nova Scotia, and by the 1800's they were firmly established in Ontario and Quebec as well as Western Canada. The three Churches each have their own story to tell and each has a long and distinguished history of service lasting from these early days until the 1925 amalgamation.

There is, however, one other player whose arrival in Canada from Europe in the early 1800's has a direct link to our Peachland experience. The Orange Lodge or Orange Order is a Protestant fraternal organization founded in 1796 to commemorate the victory of William of Orange over the Catholic James II of England in 1690. It is a highly structured organization which has at the heart of its activities the Orange Hall. The first such Halls were established in Ontario and Newfoundland in the 1830's and Orangism rapidly became a very important player in the political and cultural life of countless Canadian communities large and small .... and so it was in Peachland when the Orange Hall was constructed in 1904. But we are getting a little ahead of ourselves.

During the early years of settlement in Peachland the various Protestant denominations were very loosely aligned with little organized activity other than occasional gatherings in private homes. The first organized services are reported to have been held by Rev. A. T. Robinson, a Baptist student, who in 1898 began regular communal services in his own home. This changed in 1898 with the construction of Peachland's first school which provided an ideal location for regular Sunday worship and after school meetings.



Peachland's First School

1898-1908

Shown here as St. Margaret's Church 1908-1991



Rev. Robinson left in the fall of 1900 and was replaced by Rev. C. W. Whyte, a Presbyterian, who after taking the temperature of the Protestant community in Peachland, wrote the following assessment to his superiors:

I found here a united, church-going, religiously-inclined, clean lot of people. The increase in our population will render it necessary, at an early date, to face the question of a building. Peachland has surprised us. Last Fall it was a question with the committee whether it was wise to send a student to this point. A man was appointed at a student's salary, and the result is, now we are considering the advisability of raising the field to the status of an ordained field. It is a rare thing in British Columbia, or anywhere else for that matter, to find a whole community united in a request for church services. Such we have in Peachland, and it augers well for the future of the district. It goes without saying, there is no saloon here.

The last sentence of the above quotation simply confirms the fact that all denominations preached temperance with the Methodists leading the way by embracing total abstinence. They were followed by the Baptists and Presbyterians who were less strict and then by the Anglicans and Catholics who were even less so. The population of Peachland at this time was about 300.

Guiding such a committed (and sober) flock Rev. Whyte wasted little time in creating the interdenominational Peachland Christian Union in 1901 which used both the school and private residences to organize services and meetings. In 1902 Rev. J. N. Richie, a Baptist minister from Manitoba, arrived in Peachland and he and Rev. Whyte would alternate taking Union services until a Baptist Church, the first in the Okanagan Valley, was created in 1903.

In 1904 the Presbyterians, with the assistance of the Methodists, built a Presbyterian church, commonly referred to as the Union Church on Beach Avenue at Third Street.



Presbyterian Church  
1904-1920

The year 1904 was a banner year for community buildings as it was also in this year that the Orange Hall came into being. As mentioned above, the highly structured, Protestant Orange Order attracted members of all denominations, except of course Roman Catholics, and their Halls became centres of activity for religious, educational and cultural groups. Peachland was no exception. Junior school grades were taught in this building, cultural activities thrived and in 1906 the Methodists started holding their services there followed in 1907 by the Baptists.



The Orange Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
1904-1926

The Orange Hall is the long building in the foreground. In 1926 it was moved a short distance by horses and skids to a lower location on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street where it was purchased and refitted by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #69 which received its charter that same year.

The move of the Methodists and likely the Baptists from the Union Church was the result of conflict over access to the Presbyterian/Union church. Some of the reasoning behind this conflict which rocked the community is contained in the official minutes of the Methodist Board meeting dated 19<sup>th</sup> August 1907. The Union Church advised the Methodists that they could only have use of the church for two services a month and that there would be a charge of \$1.50 per service for the main part of the church and \$1.00 for services in any other part of the church. While there was obviously more to the dispute than this, the minutes reflect that directly after this letter was read the following motion was made: "Moved by Bro(ther). Ferguson, Sec(onded) by Sister J. B. Robertson that we in future hold (all) our services in the Orange Hall. Carried." As interesting as this historical footnote is, a subsequent motion made as the result of this disagreement is of significant importance. It reads: "Moved by Bro(ther) Dr. Lipsett sec(onded) by Bro(ther) Douglas that we shall be called the Peachland Methodist Church. Carried." Thus, Peachland United Church can positively trace its lineage to 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1907. (A full transcript of this meeting is reproduced elsewhere in this booklet.)

The year that followed this redirection of Methodist affections was important in a number of ways. The 1908 construction of the much larger Peachland Primary School on Beach Avenue allowed the Anglicans to take possession of the vacant 1898 school building and name it in honour of St. Margaret. It also marked the appointment of Rev. J. J. Nixon as the first resident Methodist minister for Peachland who lost no time in striking a committee to build the first Methodist church.

This desire to have a place of their own was also shared by the Baptists who in 1910 constructed a unique 8 sided building also on Beach Avenue which was to become their church home for the next 54 years.

The Methodists finally achieved their goal in 1911 and on November 5<sup>th</sup> celebrated the dedication of their brand new church on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The service was conducted by Rev. J. J. Allen with the dedication given by Rev. J. N. White, the head of the Mission Boards of the Methodist Church.



Methodist/United Church 1911

In 1919 the church held a service to celebrate the burning of the mortgage and in the following year, old animosities long forgotten, the Presbyterians joined with the Methodists in sharing the new church. The Presbyterian congregation had dwindled to such an extent that it was not practical to go it alone so a joint venture with the Methodists involving alternating ministers became a logical solution. This jointly occupied building was generally referred to as the Union Church. The 1904 Presbyterian Church thus became redundant and was sold to the Municipality of Peachland in 1920 and used as a municipal office, a library and meeting rooms.

The term “Union” took on a much greater significance in 1925 when on June 10<sup>th</sup> in Toronto the Methodist Church, the Congregational Church and 70 percent of the Presbyterian Church joined together to form the United Church of Canada. To quote from the official United Church of Canada history – “It was the first union of churches in the world to cross historical denominational lines and hence received international acclaim. Impetus for the union arose out of a concern for serving the vast Canadian northwest and the desire for better overseas mission.”

With the new church came the requirement for a residence for the minister. Proceeds from the sale of the Presbyterian Church were used to build a manse on 6<sup>th</sup> Street.



### United Church Manse

Built by volunteer labour on four lots donated by Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Hogg in 1925 it was occupied by a succession of ministers, subsequently converted to a rental property, sold in the 1980's and demolished in 1996.

### Notes:

While 1925 marked the date of the formal creation of the United Church, the spirit of union, especially between the Methodists and the Presbyterians, was certainly not a new concept in Peachland. In fact, Methodist minutes of March 9<sup>th</sup> 1916 report that a meeting was held in the reading room of the Presbyterian Church attended by the Boards of both churches ... “to try and agree on some basis on which the two paid congregations could form one united organization.” While the minutes reflect no clear cut resolution, there was unanimous agreement to consult both congregations, to place before them a series of propositions ... “and (for) the congregations (to) take such action as in the circumstances they deem wise.” Subsequent minutes are not available but while joint usage of the Methodist Church did take place in 1920 complete union did not. However, Peachland was clearly in the vanguard of events that would transpire nine years hence.



Prior to 1907 Anglicans met in private homes and probably the Orange Hall, a situation which changed in 1908 with the appointment of Rev. Herbert Solly who had previously traveled from Summerland to conduct services. His arrival coincided with the construction of the Beach Avenue Primary School, a much needed larger building designed to accommodate Peachland's increasingly youthful population. The now vacant 1898 school building was quickly acquired by the Anglicans, consecrated as St. Margaret's and it remained the seat of Anglican worship until 1991 when they moved into their current home on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. After much trial and tribulation the 1898 school/church was by 2002 saved and transformed into a much admired and loved historical site known throughout Peachland as *The Little Schoolhouse*.

There is little historical reference to Roman Catholics in the early or even later religious life of Peachland. Protestantism was by far the largest belief system with Catholics forced to travel to Penticton, Kelowna and later Westbank in search of a Catholic church, a situation which continues to the present time.

The United Church is the largest Protestant denomination in Canada ministering to close to half a million members in over 3,200 congregations. At the time of the 1925 union about thirty percent of the Presbyterians refused to enter the merger and chose to continue as the Presbyterian Church of Canada which is the situation today. In 1930 the Synod of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Bermuda joined the United Church as did the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968.

The 1910 Baptist Church on Beach Avenue, one of three similar octagonal structures in Canada, was sold to the Municipality of Peachland in 1960 but continued to be used as a church until 1964 when the Baptists moved into their new home on Lake Avenue. It was converted into a museum in 1981 and remains as such today.

The battle against alcohol was not solely seen as a church based responsibility. The Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) which arrived in the Okanagan as early as 1898 began holding valley-wide rallies in 1910 and frequently held their meetings in the Methodist church. This was a relationship that continued with the local United Church right up until the mid 1950's. The WCTU took considerable pains to recruit young people to their cause and held regular elocution contests.

The gold medal pin shown below was awarded by the WCTU to Shirley Mae Gerrie at a poetry reading contest held in Peachland United Church in 1947 or 48.



The following document provides an interesting historical side-light on the work of the United Church Women's Association during World War II. The phrase "...enter with strength and confidence upon the new responsibilities which the post-war years will bring." was certainly a huge leap of faith especially with the state of the war in 1941.

## The United Church of Canada

### WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE

*"My Loan to My Country and My Gift to My Church"*

Chairman, J. J. GIBSON, 34 King St. W., Toronto.  
 Vice-Chairman, Mrs. G. JERNEST FORBES.  
 Chairman, Special Names, A. J. MITCHELL.  
 Chairman, Publications, JAMES FISHER.  
 Sunday Schools and Y.P.U., T.E. FLEWMAN.  
 Director, DENZIL G. RUCKLIT,  
 299 Queen St. W., Toronto.

408 WESLEY BUILDINGS,  
 299 Queen Street West,  
 TORONTO, May 7, 1941

#### Conference Directors

##### Maritimes:

THEODORE ROGGS,  
 101 Bank of Nova Scotia Bldg.,  
 Halifax, N.S.

Dear Miss Elliott:

##### Montreal and Ottawa:

J. D. McCRAIL,  
 578 Desautels Blvd.,  
 St. Lambert, Que.

##### Bay of Quinte:

J. SEMPLE,  
 100 Bridge St. E.,  
 Belleville, Ont.

##### Toronto:

P. M. MACDONALD,  
 249 Queen St. W.,  
 Toronto, Ont.  
 ALBERT JOHNSON,  
 200 Waverleigh Blvd.,  
 Toronto, Ont.

##### Hamilton:

W. FINGLAND,  
 812 Simcoe St.,  
 Niagara Falls, Ont.

##### London:

E. HART,  
 Amherstburg, Ont.

##### Manitoba:

J. E. JONES,  
 452 Greenwood Place,  
 Winnipeg, Man.  
 J. S. LEITH,  
 Smith, Man.

##### Saskatchewan:

T. H. SENDALL,  
 1111-1st Ave., N.E.,  
 Moose Jaw, Sask.

##### Alberta:

A. K. MCINN,  
 10052 Midland Drive,  
 Edmonton, Alta.

##### British Columbia:

G. A. WILSON,  
 881 Georgia St.,  
 Vancouver, B.C.

On behalf of the United Church of Canada we wish to thank your Women's Association for its recent gift, the official receipt for which is enclosed. This amount, as you know, is given to help free the Church from the debt which has been hampering the work for several years, and thus to enable her to enter with strength and confidence upon the new responsibilities which the post-war years will bring.

Your gift is being loaned to the Country for seven and a half years to help in the struggle for Christian Democracy and will then revert to the Church to make possible fuller achievement for the Kingdom of God. We believe your generosity will stimulate others to make similar gifts.

Much greater effort will need to be made if the total amount of the Deficit is to be secured by September 1942. We appreciate the enthusiasm and loyalty of the women of our Church and ask for your continued interest and support.

With every good wish for the success of your Association,

Yours sincerely,

*John Gordon Forbes*

United Church Women's Association,  
 c/o Miss Alice M. Elliott, Secretary,  
 Peachland, B.C.

---

HELP . . AND BE GLAD THAT YOU CAN!

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*p.s. A receipt in the amount of \$4.00 for the purchase of War Savings Certificates accompanied the above letter. In 2011 dollars the amount would be nearly \$58.00.*



## Windows, Banners and Plaques

Stained glass windows have held a special significance in church architecture since the Middle Ages. Each tells a story or reflects an occasion or event in either local or biblical history. The windows in our church are no less a part of that tradition. Banners created for display throughout the church year also share a long and colourful history in promoting religious themes and occasions.



Dedicated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2009 to Jean Warren 1929-2003  
and Rev. Cyril Warren 1907-1998.  
Minister, Peachland United Church 1958-1963



Vi Harper 1926-1986



Lois M. Fraser 1936-2000



Alexander James Anderson 1923-1993



Rev. Jay Won Jang Kim 1952 -2004  
Minister, Peachland United Church 2002 –2004





Gordon Stirling 1915-1986



Presented by Joe and Nell Hanna 1986



Peachland United Church 2011



The side windows on the Church's main door are in memory of Vernon Beckel 1915 - 1998 and Andrew J. Kinasewich 1917 - 1998.



This is the Pioneers Window  
Titled "Seasons" it is dedicated to all those  
who supported the church in its early years.



Peachland United Church 2011





Daniel C. Cousins d: 1993 and Beatrice (Polly). M. Topham d: 1998



Geoff and Beth Garlinge



Gordon Duncan McCallum d: 1986



"Empty Swing" Kyle Arthur 1983 – 90

### Banners by Evelyne Swanstrom









A banner by Louise Corbeil



These two plaques solidly mounted in the church narthex, both share the same top inscription: "Our Church Sunday School War Memorial Our Country". The one on the left states: "In Memory of our men who gave their lives in the World War 1914-1918. Memorial Buildings in Methodist Mission Fields". The other: "Sunday Schools Share in Forward Movement, Presbyterian Church in Canada 1918-19". There are no other names or inscriptions. A Mission Field is a pastoral charge.



This masterpiece of original artwork, attributed only to the initials AJC, lists the names of 72 men and women from Peachland who served in World War II. The four black stars indicate those who were killed and includes Rev. G. R. Pringle.



This second piece of original artwork lists the names of 60 men of Peachland who presumably served in World War I. Of those listed, 17 are indicated as being killed, one less than those shown on the Peachland war memorial.

# Church Building Developments

Unfortunately, very few details are known about the actual building of the church in 1910/11; however, we do know that, as can be expected, much of the volunteer labour was done by members of the congregation. Mr. Seaton, Mr. Needham and Mr. Alex Miller were involved as was Mr. A. D. Ferguson who did carpentry work. Roscoe Law worked on the foundation stonework. It was Alex Miller who carved the designs on the ends of the pews and built the pulpit as shown below.



No church can hold up its head without a bell or bells to call the faithful to worship and so it was in 1911 that the T. Eaton Company of Canada donated a bell that is still used today to announce Sunday services. In its early years it was reportedly used as a community fire alarm.

In 1942/3 Martin Shaw built the cement steps and railing that we still use at the church entrance replacing the original wooden set clearly visible in photographs elsewhere in this booklet. Annie Miller donated the money for the project. In August 2011 the steps were given a much needed facelift just in time for centennial celebrations.

We have to skip quite a few years ahead for the next significant milestone. In 1981 our church hall was nudged into place and although designated a temporary structure by the District of Peachland it has been “temporary” for the past 30 years..... and counting! The Ceremony of Opening and Dedication took place on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> conducted by Rev. Ben Taylor. The Service of Dedication is attached.



Our new church hall



Rev. Sid Rowles and Rev. Ben Taylor  
on opening day





Satisfied patrons leaving after inspecting the Church Hall

The next major improvement was the result of Peachland fire regulations requiring a second entrance/exit from the church basement. This requirement was met in April 1982 by volunteer labour from the congregation with Vern Bechel supervising the operation.



A great team



A great result

In August 1999 with the generosity of the congregation, a very welcome addition to the church property was initiated and organized by Milton Heater - the front and side parking lots were paved. Goodbye mud and gravel!

We now travel forward to 2003 when the most recent major alteration to the church took place – the installation of a copper-clad spire. While the story of how the spire came to be is covered in detail

elsewhere, it also deserves mention under this section. With the placement of the spire atop the church tower in the hands of the crane operator, all other aspects including design, selection of materials and construction were conducted using the volunteer talents of our congregation. Harvey Sterling and Fred Martin led the way with many other willing hands assisting as required.



An inspiring addition



Hook on!  
(Rev. Kim in full prayer mode.)



Hook off!



Peachland United Church Hall.

Ceremony of Opening and Dedication. Sunday, 18 th January, 1981.

The door will be opened by Mrs. Helen Snapp, with the words "I declare this Building now opened, to be used for the glory of God."

( the congregation will now enter, and a brief Service of Dedication will be conducted ).

Mr. Jeff Williamson (Chairman of the Board)

Miss Hazel Winters ( Convenor Christian Education Committee )

The Rev. Sid Rowles ( President of B.C. Conference ) Greetings.

A Prayer of Dedication - -

Minister - Loving Father we thank you for the joy that fills our hearts on this Sunday morning. We remember those who have worshipped and served in this congregation for the past 70 years; and we look forward with confident hope and faith to the years that lie ahead.

Response - For all who serve, O God, we give our thanks.

Minister - For boys and girls who need a place to play and learn;  
For men and women in the midst of life, seeking a faith for living;  
For the elderly seeking a rest from the strains and toil of life;  
For all who are hurting, ---

Response - May this building be sanctified to meet their needs.

Minister - For those, who in recent weeks have given their time and talents, their knowledge and their gifts, and have laboured to bring us to this happy occasion, ---

Response - We give our hearty and sincere thanks, O God.

Everybody - We commit ourselves anew to You, O Father. Help us to be living witnesses to the salvation given us by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The President - In the name of Jesus Christ the Lord and Head of the Church we dedicate this building for sacred purposes. Amen.

Hymn - 197 -

Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices;  
Who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

The Benediction. Mr. Bob Knechtel will present the Keys.

Procession to the Sanctuary for Sunday Worship.

## **To the Congregation of Peachland United Church in July 2053:**

### **The Story of How Peachland United Church Got its Steeple**

**Dearly beloved,**

Just after 10 o'clock on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2003 under a warm, early morning sun a resplendent copper clad steeple with its white cross was gently nudged into place atop the bell tower of Peachland United Church. For the dozens of church members and others who had held their collective breath while they watched the crane operator gingerly maneuver the suspended steeple higher and higher, it was a time for smiles, handshakes and spontaneous applause.

It was also a time for a dedication service conducted by the Rev. Jay Kim who in his white cassock and stole, led those present in a thanksgiving prayer ending with the singing of what has become the signature tune of Peachland United Church, "Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore". Then it was time for donuts and coffee, congratulations all round and much looking skyward at our gleaming spire.

For the first time since the church was built in 1911 it had a new and distinctive silhouette. From a flat, turreted entrance tower our church now reached upward and joined a tradition that had its origin in the early life of Christianity.

Steeple developed from single watchtowers that usually housed a bell or fire beacon designed to alert communities to important news or warn of danger. In the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> centuries this type of structure began to be incorporated into church architecture and was increasingly used to house a peal of bells to call the faithful to worship.

In the 1300's clocks appeared in steeples and church design began its long development towards the grand cathedrals of Europe with their magnificent steeples reaching heavenward. In smaller communities steeples were usually the tallest structure on the landscape and the most widely recognized. They were a visible testament of the faith of the local inhabitants and for travelers, the sure knowledge of Christian worship and fellowship. They provided landmarks by which to travel from town to town and when located near coastal areas offered a familiar reference point for sea captains.

This said, just what divine event inspired Peachland United Church to suddenly extend itself towards the heavens and at 57 feet become the tallest building in town? While no doubt there was divine inspiration, it took place in the context of a general upgrading of the church both inside and out. Richly embroidered seat cushions were installed as was new exterior off-white vinyl siding with green trim. The Bargain Bin, the church thrift shop in the lower level, was refurbished with new racks, enhanced lighting, and a renovated side entrance while the grounds surrounding the church were carefully upgraded.

All this change produced many ideas including one to install a steeple to improve the appearance of the church entrance. This particular proposal received a quick and enthusiastic endorsement from the congregation. After much design work and volunteer labour by church members the steeple was

constructed at the side of the church entrance from where it was hoisted into place. Harvey Sterling acted as project foreman and Fred Martin donated and installed the cross.

Significant events in the history of organizations or communities need to be captured for future generations and so to mark our *Steeple Raising*, a time capsule is to be placed within the tower with the hope that it will be opened in 2053. Members of the congregation have been asked to contribute items of current church interest plus local press clippings of our uplifting event. A copy of this letter will be (*was*) included.

Some final thoughts: When you read this letter 50 years hence we hope that you too will consider it a sufficiently worthy occasion to hold an informal, open air service of renewal and rededication to the ideals of our Christian heritage, to sing our favorite hymn, to think kindly of us when you glance up at your ancient steeple and then to wash it all down with plenty of good coffee and donuts.

Shalom,

Chris and Audrey Scowen  
July 2003

## The Church Bell

Regularly heard, rarely seen, our church bell was installed at the time the church was built in 1911. Donated by the T. Eaton Company of Canada as a public service, it was manufactured by the C. S. Bell Company of Hillsboro, Ohio and weighs about 765 pounds. Markings on the inside of the bell suggest it was cast on August 28, 1911. The number 34 on the yoke indicates that the bell is 34" in diameter. The C. S. Bell Company was founded by Charles S. Bell in 1856. His unique steel alloy bell formula attracted a world-wide clientele which included the British, Russian and American navies. By 1889 he was annually producing 20,000 bells of all sizes the largest being 40". The company ceased manufacturing bells in 1950.



## Ministers

The history of the Peachland United Church ministry presents a rich tapestry of men and women, ministers and lay ministers alike, who have not only led their congregations in organized religious endeavors but have also had a sizable impact on the larger Peachland community. In sheer numbers 36 ministers have called the Peachland pulpit their own beginning with Rev. J. J. Allen who was the first to preach in our current church building after it was constructed in 1911. Rev. Allen was a Methodist and his flock called themselves Methodists. They did so until June 10, 1925 when the United Church was inaugurated with the union of the Methodist Church, 70 per cent of the Presbyterian Church, the Congregational Church of Canada and the General Council of Union Churches of Western Canada.

Of our 36 ministers the longest serving member was Dr. R. D. Mitchell who served for 7 years between 1966 and 1973 with the average tenure being just under two and a half years. While the United Church was the first denomination in Canada to ordain women in 1936, our first female minister, Rev. Juanita Allen, began her service in 1989 and was followed at various times by Rev. Ria Van Holten, Lillian McLeod and our current minister Rev. Elaine Diggie.

Each minister left his or her mark on the spiritual and personal life of our church family and each can be credited with maintaining the thread that is passed from one congregation to another. On that basis it is difficult to single out individual ministers for specific mention, however, one minister, Rev. George Pringle, perhaps deserves special recognition.

In 1940 Rev. Pringle accepted the call of the congregations of both Peachland and Westbank United churches and took up his duties in July of that year. He was the son of a pioneer Presbyterian minister who served in the Yukon and who had also been a chaplain in the Canadian Army overseas in World War 1. Rev. Pringle was 26 when he arrived here bringing with him a reputation as an outstanding scholar and an elite athlete. In early 1941 he requested a leave of absence to become part of the war effort in the RCAF and in June he preached his farewell sermon to a large congregation. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 1943, Flying Officer George Pringle and his five crew members were killed in England when their Halifax bomber crashed shortly after takeoff. In 1949 George Pringle High School was opened in Westbank. The following words were part of the ceremony, "In the time he was here the people loved him for his spirituality and for being such an inspirational role model to everybody who knew him". A framed photograph of Rev. Pringle hangs in our church. Since 1950 the United Church has sponsored the George Pringle Memorial Camp on Vancouver Island which each summer treats boys and girls to a wide range of outdoor activities. Additionally, at the instigation of the Peachland Historical Society, the family of George Pringle successfully petitioned the Provincial Government to create a George Pringle Lake in the Pennask Mountain area just north of Peachland.

It should be mentioned that while the first four ministers on the following list preceded the building of our church in 1911, they nevertheless served the protestant population of Peachland, Summerland and other nearby communities. Rev. A. T. Robinson was a Baptist student, Rev. C. W. Whyte a Presbyterian, Rev. R. J. McIntyre a Methodist living in Summerland and in 1908 came Rev. J. J. Nixon who was appointed the first resident Methodist minister in Peachland.

## Ministers of the Church 1898 to 2011

1898-1900	Rev. A. T. Robinson	1952-1955	Rev. G. G. Harris
1902-1905	Rev. C. W. Whyte	1955-1957	Rev. Robert Gibson
1906-1908	Rev. R. J. McIntyre	1957-1958	Rev. Norman
1908-1910	Rev. J. J. Nixon	1958-1963	Rev. C. Warren
1910-1911	Rev. John Knox	1963-1966	Mr. Reg. Bennet
1911-1912	Rev. J. J. Allen	1966-1973	Dr. R. D. Mitchell
1912-1916	Rev. Andrew Anderson	1973-1976	Rev. Edward Dinsley
1917-1920	Rev. J. A. Rowland	1976-1979	Rev. Richard Hall
1920-1922	Rev. C. D. Clark	1980-1985	Rev Ben Taylor*
1922-1923	Mr. Coad	1985-1988	Rev. James Kirk**
1923-1929	Rev. T. A. Sadler	1989-1993	Rev. Juanita Allen
1929-1934	Rev. D. W. Scott	1993	Rev. Joe Price
1934-1936	Rev. Frank Chilton	1993-1994	Rev. Frank Chubb
1936-1939	Rev. J. D. Gillam	1994-1997	Mr. Kelly Grittner
1939-1940	Rev. W. E. G. Dovey	1998-2002	Rev. Ria Van Holten
1940-1943	Rev. George Pringle	2002-2004	Rev. Jay Kim
1943-1946	Dr. A. D. McKinnon	2003-2005	Mrs. Lillian McLeod
1946-1949	Rev. H. S. McDonald	2005-2007	Mr. Chris Haugland
1949-1950	Rev. Sydney Pike	2006-2009	Mrs. Lillian McLeod
1950-1952	Rev. H. R. McGill	2009-	Rev. Elaine Diggle

\*Rev. Taylor was the first Peachland United Church minister not required to share time with Westbank.

\*\*Revs. S. F. Chubb and B. Milton acted as temporary ministers during this period.



Rev. George Pringle 1913-1943

## Music

Since the early days of Christianity a crowning glory of the Church of God has been the place and power of spiritual song in her worship and life. The Church 'has come singing down through the ages.' Through this gracious medium her people, generation after generation, have lifted up their hearts and voices in adoring praise; have poured out their aspirations in prayer; have proclaimed the varieties of the faith; and have expressed the higher emotions of the soul.

The foregoing is the introductory paragraph of the preface in the 1930 United Church of Canada (blue) hymn book, *The Hymnary*, the first official hymn book since the Church's formation in 1925. It represented an attempt to reconcile the music and worship traditions of the founding Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregationalist Churches. In 1971 with the expectation of union with the Anglican Church a second collection *The Hymn Book* (red) was published which sought to bridge the two worship and musical traditions. In 1987, a 134 hymn supplement (green) to *The Hymn Book* titled *Songs for a Gospel People* came into use. Next, a 1078 page (red) volume titled *Voices United* was published in 1996. It was the first true "United Church" collection designed to reflect the balance between traditional music and scriptural values and address changes in society, culture and the church. It "enabled faith communities to unite in relevant and uplifting congregational song." A 225 song supplement, *Voices United*, was published in 2007. Regardless of what hymn book is used, church music, be it instrumental or choral, has always been seen as a pathway to spiritual fulfillment and inspiration.

Photographs of Peachland United Church choirs are rather few and far between. However, we do have the following picture taken in 1949.



From left: Mrs. Cameron (Organist). Gail Witt, Millie Topham, Shirley Cousins, Doris Knoblauch, Mrs. Pike, Dolores Mash, Noreen Blower, Heather Eddy, Charlotte Spence and Jean Todd, Choir Director. (Tenors and basses were obviously in short supply.)



We now skip forward to Christmas 1985 with this picture of Betty Sim inspiring her twelve member junior Sunday School choir to *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*.



The following photograph of Jean Todd was taken in May 1997. Jean's musical service to Peachland United Church is nothing short of remarkable. Jean first played as a visiting organist in 1945 and thereafter substituted occasionally as needed. In March 1954 she became the permanent church organist a position she occupied until she retired due to ill health in 1999. In later years she was joined by Betty Sim. Jean was very active within the church family and worked for many years as the town's Librarian. In 1981 she was declared Peachland's Citizen of the Year.



Our current organist/choir director, Betty Sim has, like Jean, a long and distinguished association with our church. The Church's Annual Report for 1982 contained a letter from Nan MacDougall reconfirming her resignation as Choir Director and reporting that the church was fortunate to have Mrs. Betty Sim join as Choir Director in December... "Hopefully she will be able to continue"... and continue she did except for about five years when Marta Powell took her place. Two recent choir photos:



L to R: Margaret Stephenson, Muriel Trelford, Audrey Scowen, Laureen Nuytten, Choir Director, Betty Sim, Dave Trelford, Evelyne Swanstrom, Dianne Campbell. Kneeling: Ernie Bradley, Janet Drinnan and Eileen Young. Preparing to go carol singing. 2005.



L to R: Rolanda Mailloux, Chris Scowen, Evelyne Swanstrom, Audrey Scowen, Rev. Elaine Diggle, Mary Schooff, Dianne Campbell, Choir Director Betty Sim and Ernie Bradley. 2011.

The following undated list of organists was found in the church records: Betty Buchanan, Edna Cudmore, Mrs. George Jones, Millie Topham, Jean Miller Jones, Mrs. Jack Cameron, Mr. C. C. Inglis, Marietta Witt, Mrs. Gillam, Nan McDonald, Jean Todd, Rita Thompson, May Newman, Mary Sterling, Elsie Parkinson, Marilyn Blain, Edna Briggs and Betty Sim.

## **A SNAPSHOT OF ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**

Compiled and edited by Jean Haugland

**UCW Purpose:** To unite all women of the congregation for the total Mission of the church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship & Service.

Even before there was a building, ladies came together in groups for mutual support, to strengthen their community at large and to raise funds for their new church. Most of the women's organizations began in 1901, after the arrival of Rev. C.W. Whyte, the first Presbyterian Minister. A Missionary Society was responsible for both local and overseas outreach and the Ladies Aid was formed. The Women's Christian Temperance Union was also very active at this time, stressing the need for a safe local community. There were many faithful workers in these early groups, among them Mrs. Annie Miller (nee Seaton), Mrs. Seaton Sr., Mrs. Needham, Mrs. Robert Hogg, Mrs. Lipsett, Mrs. William Elliott Sr., Miss Alice Elliott, Mrs. Huston and the ladies of Roscoe Law's family. Within the next 20 years further families arrived and the group was strengthened by others, among those were the Cousins and Gerrie families.

Belonging to the United Church Women (UCW) can forge close bonds between members. It is our shared faith, our shared experiences, our caring for each other, that enriches and strengthens our lives. Therefore, it is important that some of the voices of UCW ladies themselves are heard.

### **UCW VOICES**

#### **Mrs. Annie Miller**

It was said of her "if there was ever the need for the help of a good Christian woman she would be right there." In November 1967, the Peachland United Church Women honoured her by presenting her with a Lifetime Membership Scroll and Pin. In February 1969 a framed Scroll was given to her by the Church Board honouring her for 60 years of faithful service to the Peachland United Church!

Memories: Between 1914 and 1918 members of the church ladies groups joined with ladies from all other churches to form the Comfort Club, sending parcels to Peachland boys overseas. They also knitted and sewed for the Red Cross. The boys were very grateful for the parcels, and wrote many wonderful letters of appreciation to the ladies. (Peachland Memories, Vol I & II, 1983)

#### **Mrs. Shirley Mae Jeffrey & her mother, Mrs. Lillian Gerrie**

Quote: "It was not what they did, but that they did it together".

Memories: Mother (Mrs. Lillian Gerrie) belonged to the Missionary group in the Peachland United Church. After school, if she was not at home, she would be in Mrs. Miller's house, directly behind ours on Beach Avenue, with the Quilting Group. As a child I would be invited to sit and quilt with them. The quilts went to Africa. My mother was a staunch member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). My mother went to conventions for this group to Tokyo and Chicago in the 1960's. I have a copy of the speech my mother gave in 1962, when the WCTU merged with

the UCW. Many women in the United Church filled in whenever a minister wasn't there. I have copies of sermons mother gave.

On the social side, I remember the many pot - luck suppers, particularly the hard work of Mrs. Cameron and Mrs. Witt. By the 1950's, it had also become a tradition for the UCW to host all bridal showers in the community, always in the basement of the United Church. Gifts were always china cups and saucers. My shower was hosted by Mrs. Dorothy (Gordon) Sanderson and Mrs. Helen (Peter) Spackman. Mrs. Myrtle Ferguson arranged the flower display.

### **Mrs. Karen Martin & her mother, Mrs. Polly Cousins**

Quote: "The church ladies groups brought women of every walk of life together. It was a common denominator. Women shared their experiences and worked very hard together for a common purpose. Belonging to the Women's groups was like being part of a patchwork quilt."

Memories: I remember, as a child, that every November there would be a very special pot - luck supper to celebrate the birthday of the building of our church in Peachland. It was held in the old Legion Hall. All the men were included in the preparations. The supper was usually hams and scalloped potatoes and pies. I remember the Quilting Guild. It was under the auspices of the UC, but did have members from other denominations. In the 1940's and 1950's it was usually at Mrs. Annie Miller's house and included my mother, Mrs. Polly Cousins, Mrs. Lillian Gerrie, Mrs. Bertha Wilson, Mrs. Redstone and Mrs. Elva Long. Eventually it and the other ladies groups became the United Church Women.

### **Mrs. Jessie Verhaeghe**

Quote: "It was a good place to make friends."

Memories: I came in 1970, along with others who moved here because of Brenda Mine. Other members were Ruth Wilson, Edith Moore, Jean Todd and Eileen Young. I worked in the church thrift shop that operated one day a week. You made good friends while helping at Bazaars, lunches and funerals. The Bazaars were always held in the old community hall. I made round rugs. Mrs. Smith, who was Jean Warren's mother, wanted every rug; she would buy them all and the money went to the church. I also embroidered pillowcases to sell at the bazaar. They were always a popular shower gift. In the 1970's there were about 17 UCW members.

### **Ms. Eileen Young**

Quote: " My mother told me to go join a church and you'll make friends...I sure did!"

Memories: I joined the UCW in 1972. The president was Bill Wilson's mother, Ruth, Margaret Wilson's mother - in - law. I also remember Lila Duncan and Jessie Verhaeghe. Lois Fraser belonged and eventually became president in the 1990's. She helped us to put on fashion shows. I remember really good times with lots of fun. Important friendships were formed that last a lifetime.

### **Mrs. Lillian McLeod**

Quote: "As a new president, I couldn't have done it without the 3 ladies who were always there to advise and support, Margaret Heater, Eileen Young and Frances Lepp."



Memories: I joined the UCW in the mid 1990's. The group was a strong one. Margaret, Frances and Eileen were people who were experienced at knowing what projects our group could take on. Once the project was underway, theirs was a commitment from beginning to end. Margaret Heater and Margaret Wilson always provided the Christmas program, with Jean Todd as Mrs. Santa. Frances Lepp acquired the name of "Moneybags" because, not only did she carry around her own heavy purse, but she was the treasurer for UCW, the presenter of the cheques to the Church Board! Edna Coburn was the purchaser and Sunshine Lady. It is her bell that is used to gain our attention in the church hall today. She never missed a meeting. We held fashion shows, church dinners, yard sales, a Christmas Craft sale, sponsored coffee Sundays and the Women's World Day of Prayer. For all these ladies UCW was about community spirit and teamwork.

### **Mrs. Shirley Phillips**

Shirley took over as president from Lillian in 2002. She brought with her a wealth of experience, together with a warm, understanding and welcoming spirit. She was a lifelong dedicated UCW member who had been presented with a Lifetime Pin from her church in Brandon. The Christmas Craft Sale was included in the Christmas Sales at the Community Centre. At this time, Brenda Timm became the Treasurer. The UCW sponsored Evie Swanstrom's project for Christmas goodies for the shut - ins. This was well supported by the ladies of the church. Shirley continued with the World Day of Prayer. She made sure that a "thank you" song or skit was prepared for the inter - denominational Friendship Tea hosted by the Anglican Ladies each year. When others were unable to do a program or devotion at monthly meetings, Shirley always had something at hand. Sadly, she passed away in 2010. We miss her.

### **Mrs. Jean Haugland**

Quote: "As we shared memories when preparing for funerals of those we held dear, we knew there was nowhere else we would rather be on those days"

Memories: My introduction to Peachland United's UCW was to be included by Shirley Phillips in the entertainment for the church picnic in 2005, as a washerwoman with a scrub board singing a cheery ditty! The UCW were a group of fun loving, enthusiastic ladies, committed to not only raising funds for their church, but also raising its profile within the community. We participated in Peachland's Centennial in 2009, in the Historical Parade, as Missionary Society and WCTU, and also with an historical skit which we took to the Friendship Tea, the Wellness Centre and our own church picnic. We hosted an afternoon tea in the church Hall that we hoped would rival that of the Empress Hotel. No one will ever forget the beautiful tables of china, silver and linen prepared by Evie Swanstrom and Annegret Kruse. We felt very well supported by all the ladies of the church who provided delicious goodies. During this time Donna Cave became our treasurer, as Brenda Timm took on responsibilities at the Presbytery Resource Centre. It was also in this ladies group that a water study was suggested which led to our Water Project.

### **Mrs. Donna Cave**

Quote: "Women working together in friendship."

I was invited to join the UCW in 2004 by then president, Shirley Phillips. It was a very active group at that time. Our numbers have declined in the past few years so we have gone through some changes. We continue to raise funds for our local church, Naramata Centre and the First United

Church in Vancouver. We sponsor coffee following the Sunday service for fellowship time. The Christmas Craft Sale has grown thanks to the generous donations from the Bargain Bin, and now takes place in our hall. We participate in the Remembrance Day service and the World Day of Prayer. This year is the 50th Anniversary of the UCW and we will be contributing to the anniversary project of supporting the Morogoro Women's training Centre in Tanzania. Our meetings are held in the church hall on the first Monday of the month at 1:30pm and all women of the church are welcome.

As you can hear from these voices, in the last 100 years, women of Peachland United Church have given generously of their time and considerable talents to earn "treasure" for their church. The "treasure" they discovered however, was in the journey itself. What they all remembered was that they were together, supporting and nurturing each other and their community throughout the good and challenging times of life. What nurtured them and continues to do so is their faith in God, manifesting itself in their love and support, trust and respect for each other.

A few photos to complement Jean's snapshot:



Alexandre Rodrigues aged 3, Niteroi, Brazil. First foster child of Peachland United Church Women 1975. The foster parent was Mrs. H.J. Williamson.



UCW Picnic June 1980



20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Peachland UCW, November, 1982



Peachland UCW 1984



Mrs. Matheson, Sadi Todd, Mrs. MacDougall, Eileen Young 1985



UCW *haut couture* 1988



UCW Picnic at Todd's Tent Town 1990



Miriam Bryan, Helen Ingham, Jessie Verhaeghe, Mary Bechel, Muriel Trelford 1991





The whole crew and then some 1999



Left to Right: Evelyne Swanstrom, Donna Cave, Jean Haugland, Eileen Young, Anne Kruse. 2009



Peachland UCW recruiter in full uniform

## Church Youth Groups

Children are a barometer of church life. Family worship was at one time the norm when it came to church attendance. Children continued their religious education at Sunday School each week and many progressed into one or more of the many youth related groups either organized or sponsored by the church. One of the oldest in the United Church is the Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT), a non-denominational organization for teenaged girls which started in 1915 and which still boasts 150 clubs in Canada with about 2000 members. Its motto is: Cherish health, Seek truth, Know God and Serve others. Children could also join the Explorers - a younger CGIT for girls, Guides and Scouts and Hi-C for teenaged boys and girls. CGIT and Explorers both became part of our local youth program. It would appear from available church reports that CGIT began in 1982 with a membership of 10 under the leadership of Linda Davis and that this number increased to 12 in 1983. However, in 1984 a lack of leaders caused this group to disband. In March 1983 the Explorers group started with 7 members under the leadership of Beverly Moir and Linda Sundstrom. In June of that year it graduated three girls into CGIT but it too ceased to operate in 1984. It is also interesting to note that in 1940 Rev. George Pringle started the Trail Rangers for boys 12-14 but it also dwindled out after his departure in 1941.



CGIT Vesper Service 1982



Explorer Group with Linda Sundstrom – 1983

The granddaddy of all is of course the Sunday School. One of the earliest references is contained in Board minutes dated 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1907.

Mrs. J. B. Robinson, Mrs. Elliott and Dr. Lipsett were appointed a committee to look after new people coming to Peachland. After some discussion it was moved by Bro. Douglas, sec by Mrs. Elliott that this board proceed to organize a Sunday School in conjunction with our (Methodist) church forthwith and that the Recording Secretary notify the secretary of the (Presbyterian) Union school of our withdrawal therefrom. Carried unanimously.

Sunday School at Peachland United was a joint affair with children from St. Margaret's Church joining those from Peachland United in the lower level of the United Church. This arrangement continued throughout the 50's and 60's up until the mid 70's when the Anglicans started to meet separately. This cooperative system was the subject of a local newspaper announcement:

Sunday morning was a busy and happy occasion when the St. Margaret's and the United Church mothers and children came for registration in classes for the 1969-70 season. Mrs. Betty Sutherland and Mrs. Stella MacNeill will teach the Beginners and the other grades from Grade one to Grade seven are Mrs. Inger Hargrove, Mrs. Barbara Allan, Mrs. Joan Whitfield, Mrs. Jessie Shaw, Mrs. Delores Houghtaling, Mrs. Marta Powell and Mrs. Florence Verge. There were 48 children who registered and the mothers joined with the children for the open service which followed registration.

In the 1960's the average attendance was 50 with 5-8 teachers, the 70's saw an average of 60 with 5-9 teachers with the 1980's turning out to be a bit of a watershed. In 1981 the Sunday School was re-established and in 1982 it had membership of 75 with a weekly average attendance of 50 with 9 teachers plus a nursery. By 1985 the weekly Sunday school attendance averaged 30 with 6 teachers while for the remainder of the 80's and 90's it averaged around 20 with that number dropping to 10 after 2000. The vitality of the Sunday School in the 1970's can seen from the attached

Sunday School teachers occupy a very special place in church affairs. They often are the first real contact a child has with an adult in a religious setting. It is through this initial exposure to bible stories that are magically brought to life each Sunday that a religious attachment that will hopefully flow into adulthood is first formed. United Church records list dozens of these individuals who gave their time and energies to work on this very important aspect of church life.

### Sunday School Memories







Decorated bike display - 1981



Christmas Spelling Activities - 1985



Shepherds in Waiting - 1986





Sunday School Picnic 1989



Matthew, Derek and Carol “Peter’s Kids”\* Hannah, Matthew and Caitlin



Chelsea, Caitlin, Carol, Derek, Jimmy, (Front) Hannah, Matthew and Ben



Ben and Matthew



Derek, Carol, Hannah, Jimmy, Caitlin and Louise Corbeil



Jess, Lilly, Maya and Carol

\*Peter Price, our current Sunday School teacher. Evelyne Swanstrom acted in this capacity prior to Peter and both were occasionally assisted by Louise Corbeil.

The vitality of the Sunday School in the 1970's can be judged by this program from the 1971 Christmas concert:

PEACHLAND SUNDAY SCHOOL  
CONCERT

United Church Building      Dec. 21, 1971

Program: BETHLEHEM TREASURES

<p><u>Steps</u></p> <p>Treasure of Light Treasure of Life Treasure of Love Treasure of Liberty Treasure of Learning</p> <p><u>In order of appearance</u></p> <p>Children of the Sunday School Reader: Miss Kathleen MacKenzie Narrator: Mr. Wallace MacKenzie Organist: Mrs. J. K. Todd</p> <p>Treasures of Light: Keeper of Jewels - David Patterson Messenger: Ron Shaw Card bearer: Don Patterson</p> <p>Speakers: Lorna Cobler Marion Rice Lynne Patterson Denise Smallshaw Tanny Bodnar Cindy Baker Don Fletcher Ken Shaw Chip Walsh</p> <p><u>SOLO:</u> Treasures of Life: . . . <u>Mr. Jeff Williamson</u> Messenger: Ron Shaw Card Bearer: Denise Smallshaw</p> <p>Speakers: Ann Fletcher Cindy Humes Rachelle Leckie Sherry Johnson</p> <p><u>INTERMISSION</u> Carols by congregation - Offering.</p> <p>Treasures of Love: Messenger: Lois Cobler Card Bearer: Diana Houghtaling</p> <p>Speakers: Diana Collison Lois Cobler Erin Freeman Tracey Felker Kim Calhoun Heather Matheson Gerry Beet Stacey Langrish</p> <p>Treasures of Liberty: Messenger: Ron Shaw Card Bearer: Raymond Hargrove</p> <p>Speakers: Kathleen MacNeil, Vicki Matheson, Anne Sutherland Angel: Christine Isop</p> <p>Treasures of Learning: Messenger: Kathleen MacNeil Card Bearer: Carolyn Hargrove</p> <p><u>The Three Kings</u> Matt Houghtaling, Tina Sutherland and Michael Matheson</p> <p><u>Instrumentalists</u> David Patterson, Ronald Shaw, Greg Hendricks, Gary Walsh, Jeff Verge.</p> <p>Lighting effects: Norman and Jimmy Elliott.</p> <p>THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND TEACHERS WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS!</p> <p>There will be a small treat for each child at the door of the Church.</p> <p>Signed by teachers: Mrs. MacNeil, Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Shaw,</p>	<p><u>Songs</u></p> <p>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly There's a Song in the Air Jesus Bids us Shine This Little Light of Mine When He Cometh O Little Town of Bethlehem Away in a Manger John 3-16 (tune Silent Night) Love Divine All Love Excelling Angels We have Heard on High What Child is This Joy to the World Lord, Behold us Now Before Thee</p> <p><u>Nativity Scene:</u> Joseph - Darrel Turner Mary - Lalani Smallshaw</p> <p><u>Choir:</u> Kathleen MacNeil Anne Sutherland Vicki Matheson David Patterson Ron Shaw Lorna Cobler Christine Isop Marion Rice Donald Fletcher Don Patterson Tanny Bodnar Carolyn Hargrove Clive Sutherland Kenneth Shaw Heather Matheson Raymond Hargrove Kim Calhoun Darrel Turner</p> <p><u>Little Angels:</u> Tracey Collison Michelle Turner Sherry Johnson Donna Johnson</p> <p><u>Shepherds:</u> Tony Franzen Gerry Vellacott Darren Metcalf</p> <p><u>Kings:</u> Michael Humes Shane Lindsay Doughie Price</p> <p><u>Little Jewels:</u> Tina Vellacott, Cheryl Cousins, Gerry Lindsay, Jackie Walsh, Ann Fletcher, Carol Cousins, Cindy Humes.</p> <p><u>Speaking Choir:</u> Anne Sutherland, Vicki Matheson, Kathleen MacNeil, Marion Rice, Tanny Bodnar, Lorna Cobler, Ken Shaw, Donald Fletcher and Chip Walsh.</p>
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Mrs. Todd Mrs. Foxwell

# The Bargain Bin

With contributions from Valerie Frederiksen, Karen Martin and Truda Kennedy.

There has always been a close connection between churches and thrift shops. Outreach and fundraising go together. Thrift shops provide low cost items for those who can least afford them and at the same time generate funds for use in the wider responsibilities of the church. They also provide the wherewithal to simply donate clothing and other items when such needs arise. Forging friendships among those who volunteer their time and energies is a natural by-product of thrift shop participation. Similarly, friendly faces and a chat are always freely available to all who enter.

The first recorded Peachland United Church Thrift Shop was mentioned in the 1982 annual church report which stated that the United Church Women had opened a thrift shop in the church basement and generated a first year income of \$1637.97. A year later this figure dropped to \$279 and in 1984 the thrift shop idea was abandoned and the basement renovated ready to be rented to Busy Bee Day Care in 1985.

The recent history of the Peachland United Church thrift shop begins in the fall of 1996 when Valerie Frederiksen raised the idea with Lay Minister, Kelly Grittner. On January 30<sup>th</sup> 1997 the Bargain Bin, so named by Kelly's wife, Keitha, opened in the church hall from 1-3 pm one day a week. The first sale was made by Kelly - three warm winter jackets for three cold young men - total price: \$3.00.

The church hall, while available and free was not the most convenient sale location since on each open day tables had to be set up, everything for sale had to be brought into the hall, unpacked and displayed with the reverse procedure required at closing time. This arrangement ended in June 2001 when the Bargain Bin moved into its current quarters in the church basement, a task which required much volunteer time and effort. The reins were passed from Valerie to Karen Martin in 2003 which was the year that the Bargain Bin was completely renovated and the Monthly Manager system instituted. Subsequent years saw the drop box and outside storage sheds constructed. With large amounts of effort and energy from a whole host of church and non-church volunteers the Bargain Bin became a productive, well oiled enterprise.

Karen's tenure ended in 2006 when Truda Kennedy took over as coordinator. New floor tile was installed, open hours extended by 30 minutes and better lights illuminated the work areas. David Matthew's 2009 initiative to involve men of the congregation in regular shifts to dispose of garbage and recycling efforts continues to work well.

The Bargain Bin outreach program serves a dual purpose. On the one hand organizations such as the Salvation Army, Big Brothers, women's shelters and the Fauquier Community Thrift Shop benefit by receiving clean donations for their clientele while on the other hand the Bargain Bin is able to keep its inventory at manageable levels. Everyone benefits.

The staff of the Bargain Bin, which has collectively numbered over 50, is a dedicated family who both enjoy each others company and provide essential financial support for church programs. Each volunteer deserves individual recognition but one who perhaps deserves special mention is Edna Coburn who passed away in 2007. As an original Bargain Binner she knitted 1525 dishcloths all of which were sought after and sold in the Bargain Bin. Shirley Phillips and Betsy Robinson continued in her footsteps.





The Church Hall Bargain Bin in 1997



Edna Coburn and Valerie Frederiksen display their wares.



Ernie Bradley (barely), Bill McPherson, Garth McLeod and Fred Martin take a break during the major 2003 renovation





Anne Kruse helps a visiting family from Sri Lanka. 2005



Our Bargain Bin 2011



The tradition of service continues.....

## Weddings

The first wedding to take place in Peachland United Church (then the Methodist Church) was between Olive Ferguson and John (Jack) McLaughlan on February 28, 1919. Olive's parents (Catherine and Alex) were among the first families to settle in Peachland in 1899 while John's family (Annie and John) arrived in 1905.



A request for Peachland United Church wedding photos produced the following responses:



Jean and Jeff Todd - November 1, 1947



Gail and Herb Coleman – September 10, 1955



Shirley Mae and James Jeffrey  
July 25, 1959



Charlotte and Walter Lucy  
October 12, 1963



Deloras and Peter Schierbeck  
October 19, 1968  
Honour Guard from the BC Dragoons



Christina and Ernest Bradley  
July 13, 1996





Heather and Clint Dagasdas - July 3, 2005



Donna and Ted Cave - May 13, 2006



Pat and Harvey Sterling - April 23, 2011



# Centennial Celebrations

With November weather always a question mark, the decision was made to hold our main centennial events on the long-weekend at the beginning of September. It proved to be an inspired choice – the sun shone and daytime temperatures stayed in the low 30's.

A Centennial Committee under the gifted leadership of Shirley Mae Jeffrey came together in September 2010 and quickly confirmed that the celebration would have three parts – A Meet and Greet in the Church Hall on Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, a Centennial Dinner at the 50+ Activity Centre on Saturday and a Centennial Church Service on Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup>. Committees were formed, assignments allotted and work commenced. First to feel the impact of the committee's resolve was the Church Hall. Its interior received a welcoming new coat of sand-hued paint complemented with striking blue trim. This painting zeal continued outside and produced dazzling white railings along with steps and wood surround all becoming very *Forest Green* smart. Those mysterious cobwebs that seem to take a liking to vinyl siding were pressure washed away, the three oak tubs in front of the hall were stocked with greenery (including an imaginative number of vegetable varieties) and the flower beds made colourful and tidy.

At 7.00 pm Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup> the hall was ready. Two large cork boards displaying photographs and Sunday School mementoes were in place; a tent borrowed from the Peachland Legion provided shaded seating on the grass beside the hall; *Peachland Blend* white wine was chilled and ready to be served; food platters were on display; punch was prepared; flowers and blue and yellow balloons were everywhere; the guest book was open and our minister, Rev. Elaine Diggle, stood ready to welcome all visitors.

It was indeed an excellent evening. Much laughter, good food, good conversation, old acquaintances renewed and lots of reminiscing.



Shirley Mae Jeffrey



Harvey Sterling



Jim Jeffrey, Ken Campbell and Eileen Young



Mary Schooff and Marilyn Roth



Betsy Robinson and Marjory Gove



Betty Sim

Preparation for the Centennial Dinner at the 50+ Activity Centre on Beach Avenue began at noon the next day. Seating for about 100 guests was organized and final arrangements with our caterers were confirmed. The volunteers of the Peachland Auxiliary of the Kelowna General Hospital Foundation had prepared an excellent menu for us starting with brandied chicken and ending with, what else, peach pie. Tables were decorated with ribbons and fresh cut flowers and each place setting boasted a colorful centennial programme and a bookmark depicting one of the stained glass windows in our church. Chris Scowen acted as Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Dinner was made even more enjoyable by hearing from several enthusiastic guests who used “Edna’s Bell” to gain attention and then the microphone to share some very interesting church stories. (A very ladylike Edna Coburn, who passed away in 2007, often had great difficulty making herself heard in the church hall and had to resort to ringing a bell prior to speaking, a bell and a practice that is still warmly embraced today.)

Following our meal, three members of the Peachland Historical Society, President Barb Dionne, Vice-President Richard Smith and Don Wilson, Curator of the Peachland Museum, were introduced. Barb explained that the Society had created a program of awarding very distinctive bronze plaques to buildings in Peachland that were at least 100 years old. Tonight it was the turn of Peachland

United Church. Rev. Diggle gratefully accepted plaque No. 4 on behalf of our present congregation and all the congregations that had gone before. Richard Smith then recounted the life and extraordinary legacy of Rev. George Pringle the 11th minister of our church, 1940-1943 Betty Sim's playing and singing of *The Holy City* followed next in the evening's programme and most deservedly received a standing ovation. Betty has been our organist and choir director for the past 30 years often sharing duties with Jean Todd.

Rev. Diggle then introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Marion Best, who held the position of Moderator of the United Church of Canada from 1994 to 1997. While Dr. Best recounted the history of the United Church in some detail her address became all the more interesting when she talked about the present and gave us her opinion of just what the future may hold for United Church congregations and the church as a whole. She focused on the difficult task of finding a balance between changing social attitudes and an evolving Christian doctrine all the time adjusting to a dwindling church membership. It was a thought provoking and highly relevant presentation.

Rev. Dr. Joe Price's response to Dr. Best was vintage Joe Price - clear, witty and entertaining.

The evening ended with music. Betty Sim played, sang and led the assembled multitudes with verses displayed on the Centre's screen. The well known and much loved last selection sent everyone contentedly homeward with the words:

God be with you till we meet again,  
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherds care enfold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.



Dr. Marion Best



Rev. Dr. Joe Price



Rev. Elaine Diggle and Barb Dionne



Chris Scowen





Darlene George, Donna and Ted Cave



Ernie and Chris Bradley



Rev. Lyle and Truda Kennedy



Bill and Mary Schooff



Margaret McPherson and Valerie Fredericksen



Evelyne Swanstrom and Anne Kruse



Charlotte and Walter Lucy



Diane and Ken Campbell





Anne Wigfield and Audrey Scowen



Linda Markic and Moneca Charlyne



Kathleen Pallett and Johanne Pilon



Constance Roth and Candace McDonald



Carol Hollier



Brian McDonald



June Grant



Ollie Frederiksen, Bill McPherson and Bob Hewer

By 9.00 am the next morning many hands were busily preparing for the last of the centennial events. At 10.00 am with the church bell in full peal a considerably enhanced (14 member) choir singing *Alleluia, Praise* processed through a packed congregational seating area to begin the Centennial Church Service. The service combined solos by young Matthew Abrey (*Pie Jesu*) and Betty Sim (*How Lovely are Thy Dwellings*), an outstanding sermon by Rev. Dr. Joe Price, the choir anthem *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* and a selection of readings, hymns and prayers that produced a wonderfully appropriate and personal feeling of celebration on our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The service ended with an invitation from Rev. Diggle for all present to retire to the church hall for continued fellowship and refreshments which on this very special occasion included freshly made waffles. The Order of Service is attached.



Rev. Elaine Diggle



Rev. Dr. Joe Price



Betty Sim



Matthew Abrey

## Order of Service

*September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

**Peachland United Church**

*Proper 18*

*Minister: Rev. Elaine L. Diggle - Church Office ph. 767-2206*

**Service Celebrating 100 years of Worship in this Sanctuary**

***We Gather as People of God***

**Introit - {Choir  
          {Hymn VU 315**

Alleluia, Praise!  
Holy, Holy, Holy vv. 1,2,4

**Welcome - Congregational Celebrations, Announcements**

**Hymn VU 412** This is the day

**Lighting of Candles, Music for Centring.**

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn VU 644** I was there to hear your Morning Cry

**Prayer of Approach:** Ever-present God, this day enfolds us and surrounds us: come to us, Holy God, as we gather before you; **encircle us with your love.** Bless us with your sustaining presence; **surround us with your grace.** Be in our speaking and in our thinking; **be in our life and on our lips;** be in our hearts and in our souls, **today and forever.** Draw us around your living Word, **and bind us to one another as disciples of Christ** whose Spirit is in our midst. **Amen.**

**Anthem** Great is Thy Faithfulness

**We Listen for God's Living Word**

**Eternal God, open our minds to hear your word, our hearts to love your word, and our lives to be obedient to your word, through the power of your Spirit and the name of Jesus Christ. Amen**

**Joshua 1:1-11** God's Commission to Joshua

**Responsive Psalm 139** **VU p.861**

**Hebrews 11:8-16, 23-31, 12:1-2** The Meaning of Faith

Hear what the Spirit is saying through Scripture. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn VU 563** Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

**Sermon:** "The Unfinished Task".

Text: The Lord said to Joshua, "You are an old man and advanced in years; but very much of the land remains to be possessed." (Joshua 13:1)

**We Respond in Faith**

**Hymn VU 651** Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah

**Offering and Doxology** **MV 191 x2** What Can I Do

**Prayer of Dedication :** We give to restore life. We give to heal the broken relationships. We give as a step on the journey to renewed sharing. Use our gifts, O God, to restore, to heal, and to renew us in faith and with each other. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Solo: Matthew Abrey** **Pie Jesu**

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer** **VU p.959**

**Solo: Betty Sim** How Lovely are Thy Dwellings – Psalm 84

**We Are Sent Forth**

**Hymn VU 509** I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

**Commissioning:**

**Hymn VU 431** Sing Amen

**Benediction:** May the grace of God, deeper than our imagination; the strength of Christ, stronger than our need; and the communion of the Holy Spirit, richer than our togetherness; guide and sustain us today and in all our tomorrows. **Amen**

**Choral Blessing - Go now in Peace – in back of 'Voices United'**

**People giving Leadership in the Service today:**

**Readers:** Chris Scowen, Brenda Timm, Valerie Fredericksen

**Preacher:** the Rev. Dr. Joe Price

**Greeters:** Olive Tindale & Bob Hewer

**Soloists:** Matthew Abrey, Betty Sim

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Elaine L. Diggle

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\* **NO** UCW meeting in September. The **first meeting** will be Monday **Oct. 3 in the church hall at 1:30 pm.**

\* Church Board meets 7 pm Wed. 21<sup>st</sup> September in the Hall.

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\* "By means of all created things, without exception, the divine assails us, penetrates us, and molds us. We imagined it as distant and inaccessible, whereas in fact we live steeped in its burning layers. **"Teilhard de Chardin**

\* "Our task is to help people concentrate on the real but often hidden event of God's active presence in their lives. Hence, the question is...not how to keep people busy, but how to keep them from being so busy that they can no longer hear the voice of God who speaks in silence." - **Morton Kelsey**

- "God is love. Therefore love. Without distinction, without calculation, without procrastination, love." - **Henry Drummond**
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## Who made all this happen ?

Our Centennial Committee – President Shirley Mae Jeffrey, Donna Cave, Rev. Elaine Diggle, Margaret Grono, Doreen Hall, James Jeffrey, Rev. Joe Price, Mary Schooff, Chris Scowen, Betty Sim, Evie Swanstrom and Eileen Young .Many committee members were involved in multiple activities.

Our choir, under Betty Sim's direction, practiced mightily to perfect their craft.

Centennial Dinner tickets - Brenda Timm. Special refreshments: Louise Corbeil

Centennial Sunday morning bell ringers - Abbott (9) and Bennett (4) Messer. (Jean and Jeff Todd's great grandchildren)

Centennial Sunday morning waffles courtesy the culinary talents of Monica Skeith

Centennial Sunday morning set-up assistants - Ken Campbell, Bob Hewer, Don and Anne Wigfield

Our distinguished Centennial Dinner wine server – Klaus Mast, past President and current member, Peachland Rotary Club.

Painters –William Schooff, (sweeper) Janet Drinnan, Doreen Hall, David Matthew, Louise Corbeil, and Harvey Sterling

This is always a delicate section to complete because of the ever present possibility that someone who contributed is unintentionally omitted. If you find yourself in this position – our sincere apologies – your efforts were indeed very much appreciated.



## A Statistical Look at the United Church of Canada

The following information was taken from the official United Church website:

As of December 31, 2009 the United Church is organized into

- 13 regional Conferences
- 85 district presbyteries
- 2,240 local pastoral charges
- 3,255 individual congregations

The United Church has

- 3,719 ordained ministers: 2,435 men and 1,284 women
- 287 diaconal ministers: 21 men and 266 women
- 275 designated lay ministers: 83 men and 192 women

Additional statistical information covering the calendar year 2009::

• Local congregations	3,255
• Households served by local congregations	416,189
• Total membership in local congregations	510,672
• Sunday Schools	2,277
• Sunday School membership	68,947
• Baptisms	10,518
• Marriages	8,557
• Funerals	20,009
• Estimated number of persons under pastoral care	1,373,424
• Identifiable givers to the Church	268,076
• Average weekly attendance at Church	183,153
• Candidates for the Ministry	229
• Membership: Other Christian Education. Programs	134,789
• Membership of woman's groups (Incl UCW)	59,235
• Total funds raised by congregations	\$261,320,880.00
• Received by National Mission and Service Fund	\$28,924,169.00
• Total funds raised from all sources	\$389,524,279.00

# Acknowledgments

While this is a very modest venture with a narrow focus it is nevertheless important that it be as historically accurate as possible.

Peachland is most fortunate to have two esteemed keepers of the collective community memory both of whom are members of the Peachland Historical Society. Responding at all hours, Don Wilson, Curator of the Peachland Museum and its virtual permanent resident, was very generous with his time researching, replying and supplying commentary and photographs. Similarly, Richard Smith, whose extensive collection of Peachland memorabilia is legendary, shared leads, documents and photographs and was always ready to assist.

Congregational members also generously supplied papers, photographs and artifacts.

Several very talented local photographers kindly provided the following pictures –

Chris Byrd: Front cover, two interior church images and the majority of the stained glass windows.

Constance Roth: All of the photographs in the section titled “Centennial Celebrations” plus the Anne Kruse photo in the “Bargain Bin” chapter.

Dave Preston: The last picture in the “Bargain Bin” section.

Peter Price: All of “Peter’s Kids” photos.

Ernie Bradley: The last picture in the “Music” section.

Paul Scowen: The Church Bell. (A word of explanation. The entrance to the bell floor in the church tower is narrow and at the top of a makeshift, wall mounted ladder. Persons of a certain girth (and age) are only able to stick their heads through the opening and watch as those of a lesser girth (and age) take the photographs. Such was the case.)

To all – thank you very much. Pictures always make a huge difference.

My sincere thanks to a number of individuals including Don Wilson, Richard Smith, David Matthew, Louise Corbeil and Ann Craig who kindly read and commented on individual chapters while the entire text was read by Don and Anne Wigfield and, quite naturally, Audrey Scowen.

The emphasis on recording the church interior was a deliberate effort to capture a photographic record of our church as it is in 2011 both for the benefit of future congregations and as a pictorial reference should some tragedy befall our building.

Lastly, it is usual to state that omissions and errors are the responsibility of the compiler. It is so stated and fully accepted.

Chris Scowen  
Peachland  
November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## The United Church Crest



The oval shape of the crest is derived from the outline of a fish, which was used as a symbol of identity by early Christians.

The “X” at the center is the first letter in the Greek word for Christ.

The open Bible represents the Congregational Churches with their emphasis upon God’s truth that makes people free.

The dove is emblematic of the Holy Spirit whose transforming power has been a distinctive mark of Methodism.

The burning bush is the symbol of Presbyterianism. It refers to the bush that burned and was not consumed, and symbolizes the indestructibility of the Church.

The symbols Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet and symbolize the eternal living God in the fullness of creation.

The Latin words “ut omnes unum sint,” mean “That all may be one.”  
A reminder that we are a “united” and “uniting” church.