

MRS. BETTY ARMSTRONG)
MRS. MARGARET HARRIS)
MR. FRED HARRIS) - (Gilmore Park United Church)
MRS. CHARLOTTE MOSKALUK)
MR. ALAN STUART)
MRS. BARBARA STUART)

MRS. DONNA BOOTH
-Recent Member

INTERVIEWED:

May 26, 1975

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Mrs. Armstrong arrived in Richmond in the No. 1 & Blundell area. Mrs. Evans, wife of Reverend Rupert Evans, was going around on her bicycle approaching people to start a church in the new Gilmore Park sub-division.

Meetings were started October 7, 1956 in the activity room of R.M. Grauer School as a Sunday School. Mrs. Armstrong was one of 4 teachers. They started with 12 children and mushroomed in size.

Mrs. Margaret Harris was one of these Sunday School teachers. Hymn books were arranged through Reverend Evans, who had the three point charge of Richmond United, Brighthouse United and Sea Island United Church. Choir gowns came from Ryerson United Church, Vancouver. Mrs. Edith Johnson, who was Miss Gilmore before marriage played the piano. Offerings were placed in a bank account.

Mr. Fred Harris was present at the 3 meetings prior to October 7, 1956 held in the manse of Richmond United prior to its move to Brighthouse. When congregation formed officially, there was a meeting October 14, 1956, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Cal Glazier on Blundell Road.

By March of 1957 there were Youth Groups & Ladies' Groups. A survey was made of the area to see if there was

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interest in building a church. The school was rented rent-free and an \$8.00 remuneration was made to the caretaker each week.

Mrs. Charlotte Moskaluk was present at meetings for fund-raising events such as rummage sales. They started a Couples Club.

Mr. Alan Stuart came to Richmond in 1961 when the Christian Education Hall was in use.

1957 - Meeting held to discuss buying land at Blundell & No. 1 Rd. for \$4,500. They rejected purchase of land in Seafair area. Bought 1.8 acres on south-east corner, then a year later purchased .91 acres containing a house for \$15,000.

1958 - Construction started in Spring of 1958 of Christian Education Centre. First unit provided main worship area plus Sunday School rooms.

Description - Entrance to the west off No. 1 Rd. L-shape, flat roof. Had to build large bridge over ditch. On a floating slab with heating system in concrete. -Description of floor plan.

Heating - Hot water heating.

Architect - William Wilding

Contractor - No firm involved, but a foreman hired along with volunteer labour (Mr. Copley).

Sept. 21

1958 - Official opening and dedication, with Dr. Melvin as their Minister, a retired Minister.

Mrs. Evans stayed until the opening months as her husband had been transferred.

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There were a few reserve ministers - Rev. Whitehouse, McPhail & A.W. Small - until 1960 when the first full-time minister, Rev. N. D. McInnes came.

Some more groups were started such as Tyros, Sigma C, Brownies & Cubs. The Sunday School had an enrollment of 400.

Mrs. Barbara Stuart was one of the Sunday School teachers, when the Sunday School used the minister's study as it had overflowed in size.

A kindergarten was started and the UCW provided teachers. Mrs. Armstrong was one of them. A pre-school replaced this two years ago.

1960 - Split-level purchased at 373 Ullsmore for a manse.
Furnished by the Ladies.

1960

1961 - Black-topped the parking area
- Had a Fellowship dinner
- Purchased a new organ
- Almost doubled membership
- First evening concert by choir
- Started fund-raising for building a Sanctuary.

Early

1965 - Building Committee (named) started planning Sanctuary.
Looked at various churches in Vancouver area.

Architect - Mr. Doug Wylie

Contractor- L.D. Boyd Construction

Sod turning - April 1968
Cornerstone - July 1968
Dedication - Sept. 1968.

Volunteers still worked with the contractors.

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Design

A-frame of 4 beams. Joined by a breeze-way to C.E. Centre. Interior of post and beam construction. At pulpit end is a large white wall from the apex to the floor set back 18 inches from back wall illuminated by windows and fluorescent light. A large dark cross hangs on this white wall.

Seats about 280.

Choir area is at the south-west side and the furnace is at the south-east side below the organ pipes.

Flooring - concrete with some carpet.

Narthex - at the north end with a mobile library.

Heating - hot air through grills set in floor.

Lighting - indirect lighting.

Bridges - Original one deteriorated and Municipality indicated they are filling No. 1 Road in and so a new bridge was put in off Blundell Road.

One of the congregation, Mr. George Horner was a great help in the construction.

Memorials

Fund set up to purchase stained glass windows.

Special Events

Reunion in 1972 of former members.

Plans for June 10, 1975 of a Square Dance Highlight Programme for the 50th celebration of Union of Methodists and Presbyterians.

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Mrs. Booth - A member of the congregation. Talks of Union between Anglican and United.

Some talks in the women's groups but not among the congregation. Outlook not favourable.

Plans for Future

Because of rapid growth of the area, there are plans for a greater involvement and outreach to the growing community.

MURIEL NOBLE