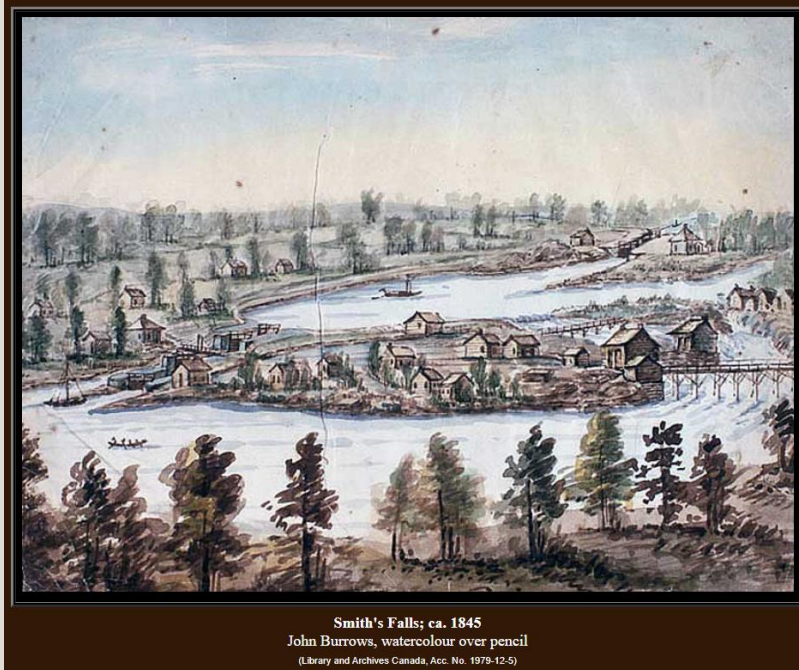


The History of Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls

1792 – The History of Trinity United Church dates back across the years to the early days of the saddle bag preachers, who rode across the bush trails to carry the message of the gospel to the sparsely settled areas. It is during this time that Methodism began in Smiths Falls. Rev. C. D. Baldwin, D. D., Archivist of the Montreal Conference stated that the Smiths Falls circuit originally formed part of the old Oswegotchie circuit, the second circuit formed in Canada West in 1792. The saddlebag preacher was a familiar figure in those days, gathering the people together for preaching services, teaching children and circulating good literature. William Loses and Darius Dunham, Methodist preachers, journeyed through Smiths Falls. The services in the rural Hamlet were held in cottages.



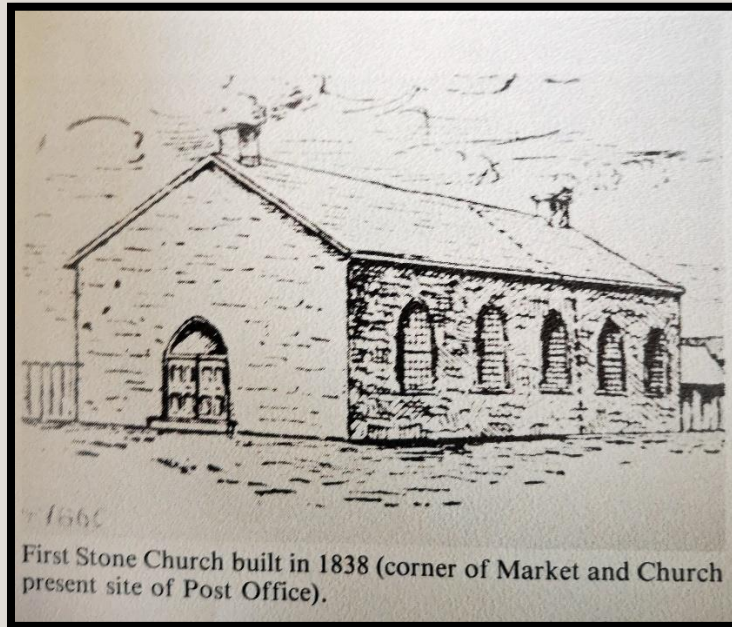
1808 – The Oswegotchie Circuit was divided and the Augusta Circuit formed. With the increase in population, because of the work on the canal, it was further divided into the Rideau Circuit of which Smiths Falls became the head.

1832 - 1833 – It is believed that the first sermon preached in Smiths Falls by an ordained Minister, Rev. H Shaler, a Methodist, took place over a store in the Beckwith Street area. Rev. L. Warner came at regular intervals to Smiths Falls from the Wolford Circuit and held services in a Schoolhouse on Beckwith Street near the present Royal Bank.

1836 – To accommodate the increasing size of the congregation, the meeting place was changed to a storehouse on what is now Chambers Street, called the “Government House”. But it wasn’t very long before the congregation moved again to a larger location above a local store.

1838 – Rev. Mr. McFadden was leading the services when First Stone Church, a Methodist Church was built on the corner of Market and Church St in Smiths Falls. The site is currently the post office. At this time, there were about 50 families called this their Church home. The congregation worshipped in this

building for 47 years and the church building later became an Opera House.



1846-1847 – The Minister was Rev. William A. Williams

1848-1849 – The Minister was Rev. John Lever

1850-1851 – The Minister was Rev. Benjamin Nankerville

1852-1853 – The Minister was Rev. William Coleman

1854-1855 – The Minister was Rev. Sylvester Hurlburt

1856-1857 – The Minister was Rev. Vincent Howard

1858-1860 – The Minister was Rev. Silas Huntingdon and Rev. Thos. H. Walker

1861-1862 – The Minister was Rev. Robert Brewster and Rev. Wm. Adams

1862- – The Minister was Rev. Robert Brewster and Rev. Rd. N. Adams

1863- – The Minister was Rev. Robert Brewster and Rev. John Holmes

1864- – The Minister was Rev. Jas Gray and Rev. Wm. Scholefield

1864- – The Minister was Rev. Jas Gray and Rev. William Shaw

1867- – The Minister was Rev. Francis Coleman and Rev. Jos. H. Chant

1868- – The Minister was Rev. Francis Coleman and Rev. J. J. Hare

1869- – The Minister was Rev. David C. McDowell and Rev. J.J. Hare

1870- – The Minister was Rev. David C. McDowell and Rev. James McFarlane

1871- – The Minister was Rev. David C. McDowell and Rev. Edwin Chown

1872- – The Minister was Rev. James Salter and Rev. Robt. Lohead

1873- – The Minister was Rev. James Salter and Rev. Ben Franklin

1874- – The Minister was Rev. William Scott and Rev. Joseph Ward

1875- – The Minister was Rev. William Scott

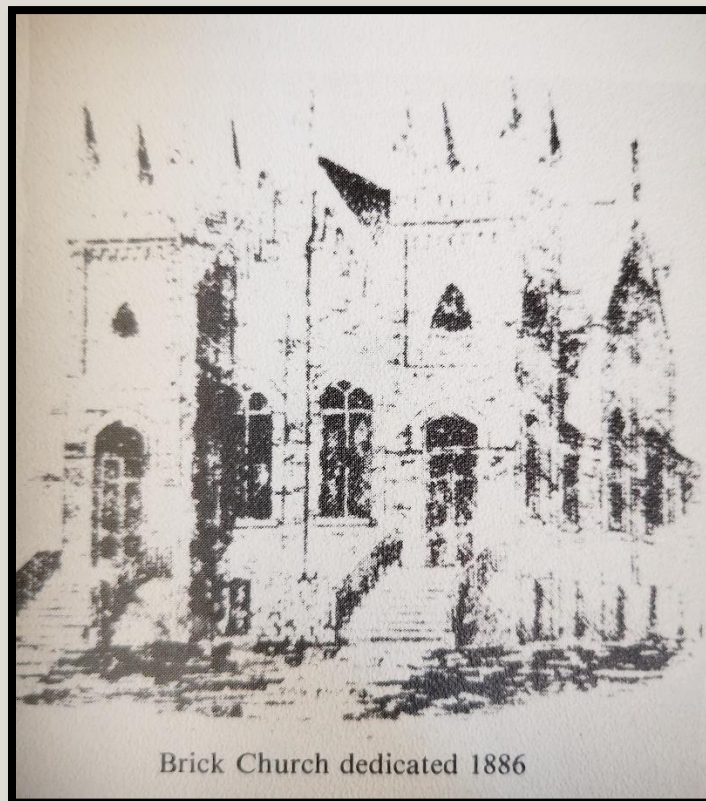
1876-1878 – The Minister was Rev. William McGill

1879-1881 – The Minister was Rev. George H. Davis

1882-1884 – The Minister was Rev. Richard Wilson

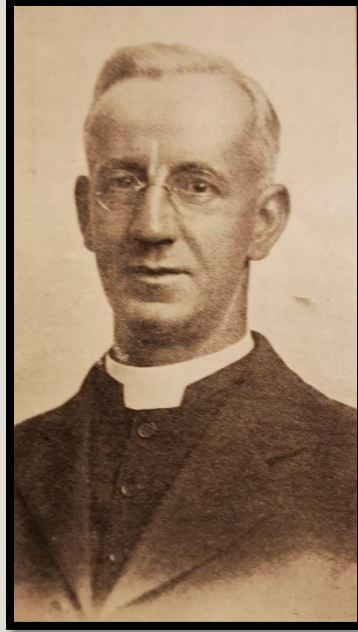
1885-1887 – The Minister was Rev. Alfred McCann

1885 - The first portion of the present building was built to accommodate the ever-growing congregation under the leadership of Rev. R. Wilson and Rev. A. McCann.



1888-1890 – The Minister was Rev. William Blair, M.A.

1891-1892 – The Minister was Rev. G. G. Huxtable



1893-1895 – The Minister was Rev. T. C. Brown

1894 – The church was enlarged and the addition that was added forms the main part of our present sanctuary. The Methodist Church at this time had a membership of over 600 people and a congregation of 1,000.

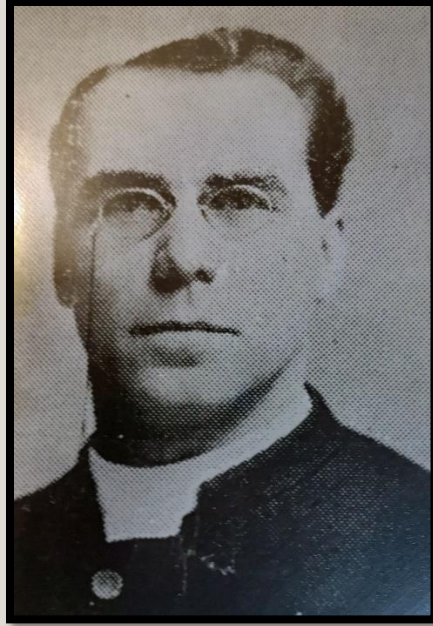
1895-1910 – Organist - Mrs. W.A. Lavell

1895-1912 - Choir Director – Harry A. Lavell

1896-1897 – The Minister was Rev. H. F. Bland and Rev. Sal. G. Bland, B.A.

1898-1899 – The Minister was Rev. Salem G. Bland, B.A.

1900-1903 – The Minister was Rev. J. Tallman Pitcher



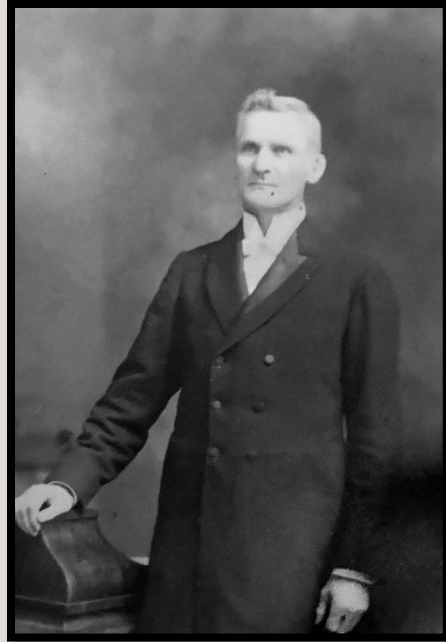
1904-1905 – The Minister was Rev. Charles A. Sykes, B.D.



1906-1909 – The Minister was Rev. W. J. Wood, B.D.

1908- – Miss Ethel Sproule (Deaconess)

1910-1920 – Organist – Miss D. Earl



1910-1911 – The Minister was Rev. Francis G. Lett, B.D.

1910 – Mrs. W.A. Lavell retired as organist and Miss D. Earl took over the duties.

1910 – Mrs. R. Lewis and Mrs. J. McMillan who were doing relief work for the Women's Christian Temperance Union found that a number of children living in the east end of town – Atironto, were not attending Sunday School or Church. This was the beginning of what would become Wesley Hall.

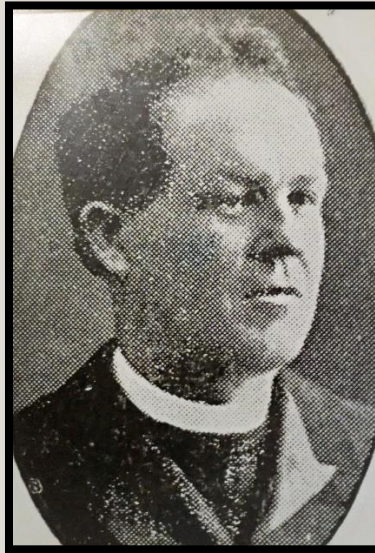


Mrs. Evelyn McMillan



Mrs. Robert Lewis

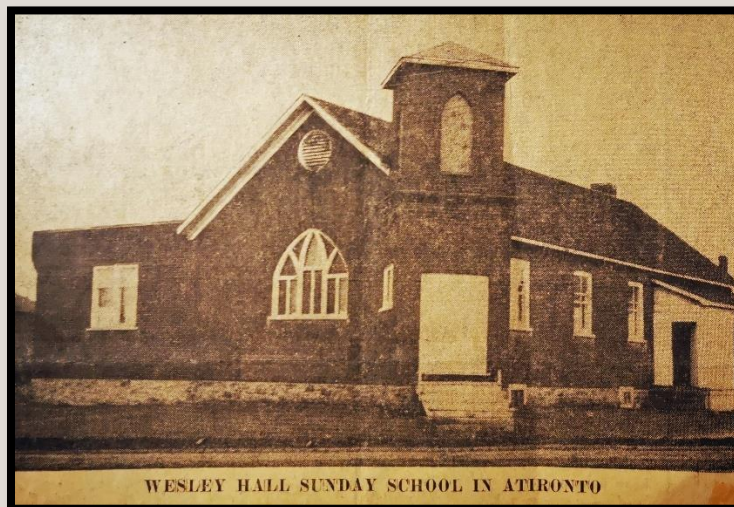
1911 – A vacant bake shop in the Atironto area was secured so the children in that area of town would have somewhere to attend Sunday School. The first Sunday School was operated by Mr. Church and Miss Evelyn McMillan. Sixty children registered on opening day.

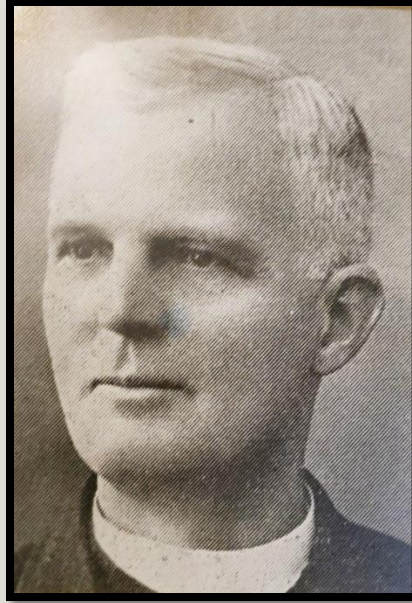


1912-1915 – The Minister was Rev. Duncan T. Cummins, B.D.

1913 – The Sunday School formerly in the old bake shop moved to a double house on Robina Ave and then into the home of Mrs. Minnie Running on Running Ave. During this period, the attendance climbed to over 100 children.

1914 – Mr. C.B. Taggart of Ottawa donated two lots of land in the corner of King and Empress Ave. This is the site of Wesley Hall, named after the founder of the Methodist Church, John Wesley, to be used as a Sunday School Building. It was dedicated by Rev. C.W. Wood.

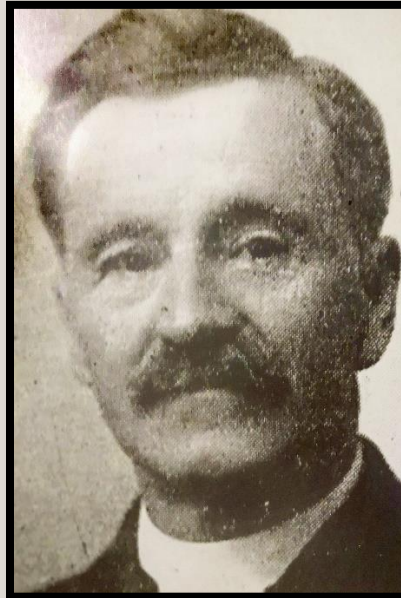




1916-1919 – The Minister was Rev. George W. McCall, B.D.

1917 – Three rooms were added to Wesley Hall because the attendance continued to rise and by 1925 the attendance was over 180 children.

1920-1953 – Organist – Miss Hazel Allen



1920-1923 – The Minister was Rev. John D. Ellis, B.A., B.D.

1922-1953 – Choir Director – Miss Helene Allen

1924-1926 – The Minister was Rev. Thomas Brown, B.D., Th. D.

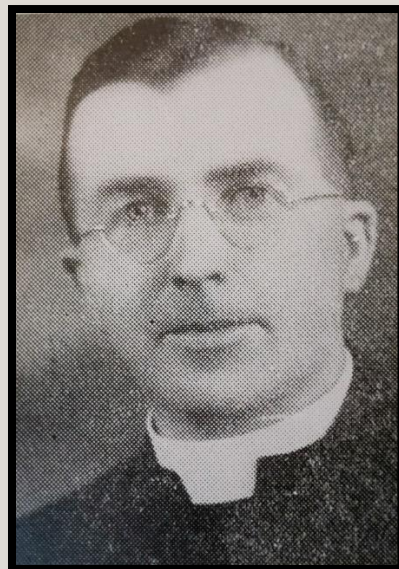
1925 – During the ministry of Rev. Thomas Brown, the Methodist Church became a part of the newly formed United Church of Canada joining with a portion of Westminster Presbyterian church (90 Families).



1926-1927 – The Minister was Rev. C. M. Currie, M.A., B.D., Ph.D.

1927 – The installation of a new pipe organ was completed, made possible largely due to the liberal bequest by the late Ida Chalmers.

1927 – Much loved Rev. Thomas Brown passed away suddenly and assistant pastor Rev. C.M. Currie took over the duties of pastor.



1927-1932 – The Minister was Rev. James Semple, B.S., S.T.D.

1928-1934 – The Minister was Rev. McNabb (Visiting Minister). The work of the church as a whole was well maintained during the depression due to the determined group of workers under the leadership of Rev. McNabb.



1933-1939 – The Minister was Rev. A. D. Cornett, M.A., B.D.

1939 – The basement of the church was renovated and a new heating system installed.

1939 – During the beginning of WW2, many local young men left to join the fighting forces and many of the young women left to take positions in the cities. Trinity rallied to help the war effort. The War Services Committee met each week to sew, quilt and to pack boxes of food and other useful items to be shipped to local service men. Seven young men of Trinity gave their lives in active service during WW2.



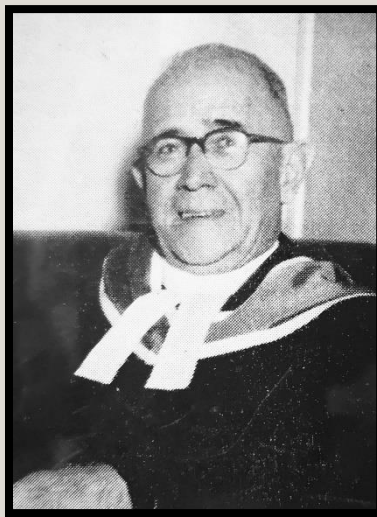
1940-1946 – The Minister was Rev. W. R. Tanton, B.D.

1941 – The congregation decided that the church should henceforth be called Trinity United Church.

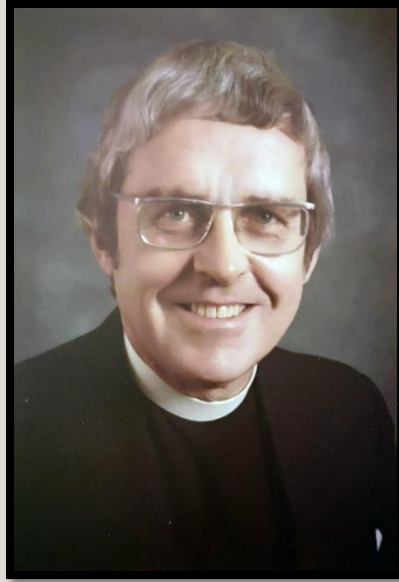


1946-1954 – The Minister was Rev. C. E. Armstrong, B.A., B.D.

1954-1958 – Interim Organists – Catharine Bell, Ethel Scobie, Mr. Yeo and Mr. Potter



1955-1964 – The Minister was Rev. J.A. Pue-Gilchrist, B.A., B.D



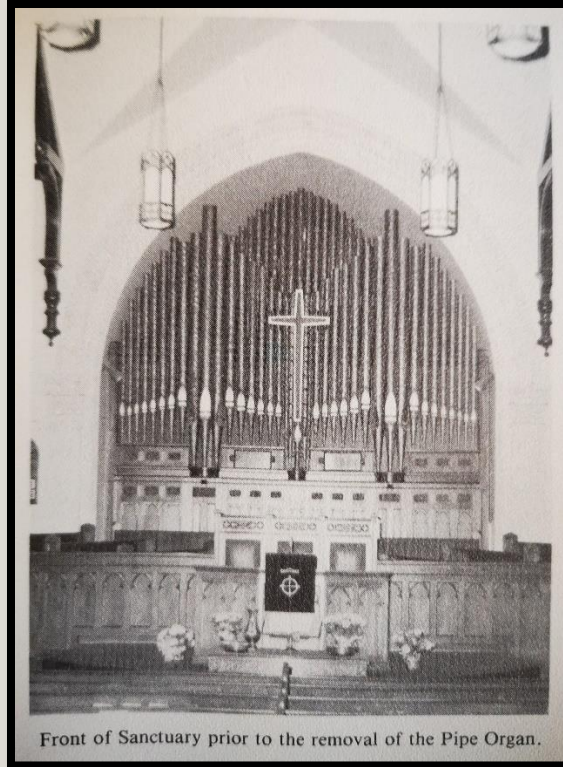
1958-1963 – The Minister was Rev. Hugh A. Rose, B.A., B.D.



962 Families made up the congregation in 1963

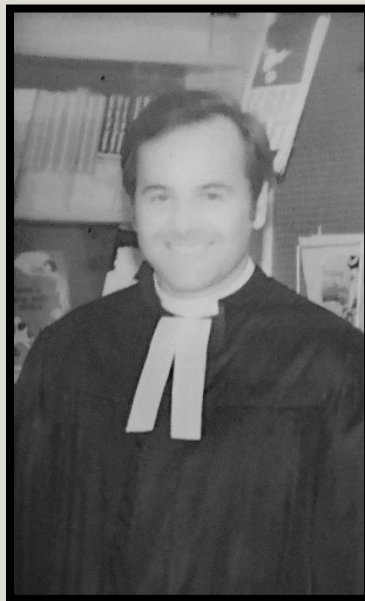
1959 – A second floor was added to the church Hall that includes the gym, the church offices the nursery and the Upper Room.

1959 – The pipe organ that had been used since 1926 was removed and a new electronic organ was installed under the direction of director Mr. Ron Bingley who served as organist from 1959 to 1979.



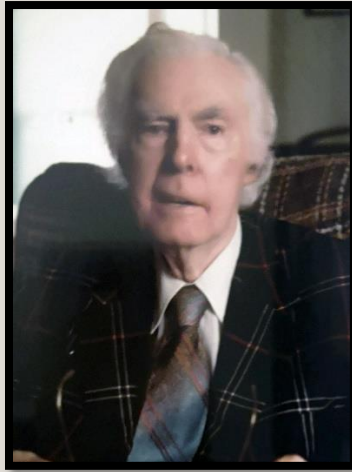
1962 – The General Council of the United Church of Canada made the decision to amalgamate the Women’s Missionary Society and the Ladies’ Auxiliary to form the United Church Women. It is still going strong and doing wonderful things.

1963-1966 – The Minister was Rev. W. W. Patterson, B.A., B.D. Th.M



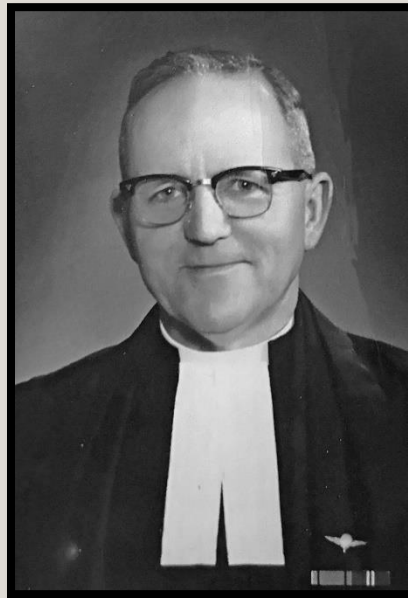
1966-1972 – The Minister was Rev. G. B. Black, B.A., B.D.

1968-1972 – The Minister was Rev. A. McKinley-Rose, B.Th. (Visiting Minister)



1969 – Eleanor Beaton (Deaconess)

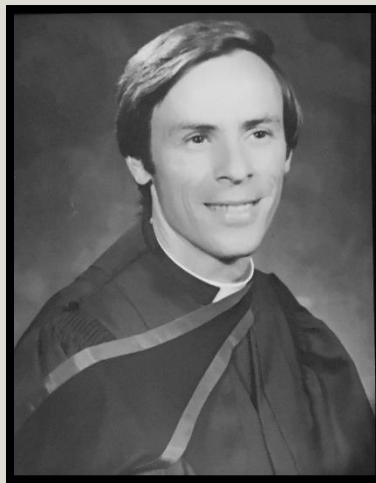
1969-1971 – Katharine Sargent, A.R.C.T. (Deaconess)



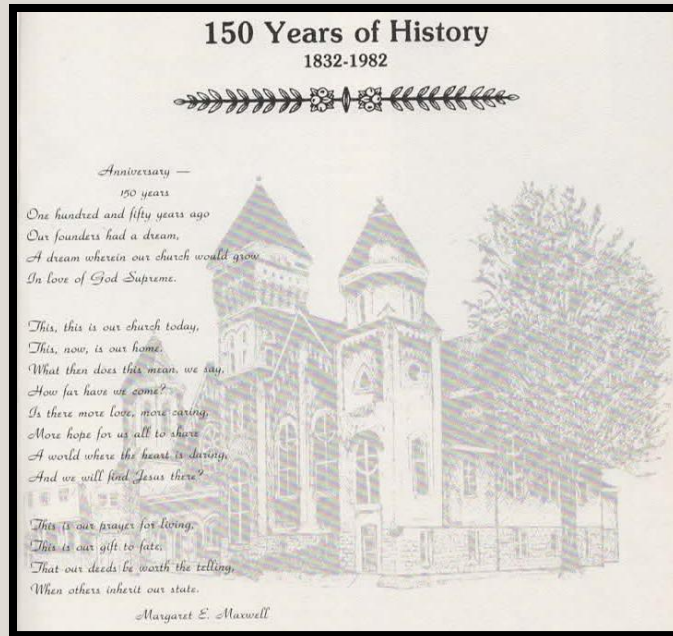
1972-1973 – The Minister was Rev. Geoffrey Joycey and Rev. David Bauman



1974-1980 – The Minister was Rev. R.A. Milley, B.A., M.Div. and Rev. E.S. Royle, B.A., B.D.



1980-*** – The Minister was Rev. Barry L. Joynt, B.A., M.Div.



1977 – The historical room was dedicated by Rev. Charles R. Wood. Since 1975, Miss Esther Lewis and Mrs. Minnie Soper took on the task of preparing Trinity’s history, the first done since the very early years of Trinity’s history.

1982-1981 – Interim Organists Hugh Johnson, Donald Timmins and Eleanor Daley

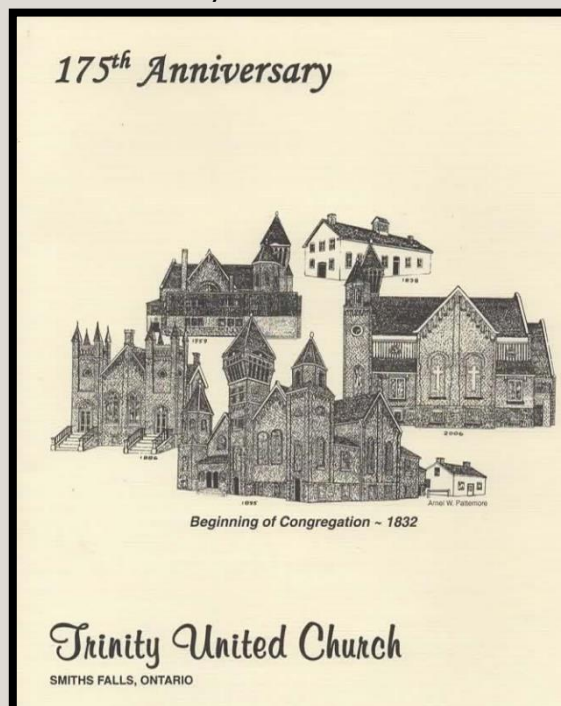
1982 – Trinity’s 150th anniversary.

1994 – Major renovations done to the kitchen funded by the United Church Women

1998 – New Organ was purchased

2001 – Renovations to the Parlour and the Choir Loft were funded by the UCW

2007 – Trinity celebrated its 175th anniversary



Drawing

by Arnel Pattemore

2009 – 2011 – Major renovations and restoration undertaken during this time. The foundation was repaired, the main entrance was changed to remove the stairs and a lift was put in for accessibility, window upgrades were completed, the church roof and sanctuary ceiling were repaired, the heating system was upgraded and a new boiler was installed. the church hall was renovated with accessible bathrooms in both the hall and the sanctuary area.



Rev. Peter Woods

Rev. Arlyce Schiebout

Rev. Christopher Ryan

We at Trinity United Church in Smiths Fall have journeyed a long way since our pioneer forefathers walked many miles to attend the Sunday Preaching Services and weekly meetings in that First Stone Church. They have inspired us, who have taken their places in the pews, choir loft and Sunday School rooms of Trinity. The building as it stands today is finished and complete, but it remains our task to continue the labor of the men and women who first took up the work of spreading the message of God's love in the community of Smiths Falls.