

1903

Morrinsville Methodist Church



Seventy-fifth Jubilee
October 21st and 22nd, 1978

"Thou Crownest the Years with Thy Goodness" —Psalm 65:11

1978

Ministers of the Morrinsville Methodist Church

Upper Thames Circuit

1881-1883 Dr J.T. Pinfold

1883-1884 G.T. Marshall

1884-1886 T. J. Wallis

1886-1887 O. Dean

1887-1890 S. Lawry

1890-1893 John Law

1893-1896 T.A. Joughin

1896-1897 S. Griffith

1897-1899 S. Griffith and J.W. Burton

1899-1900 S. Griffith, W.S. Bowie and W. Beckett

1900-1901 S. Griffith, D. Weatherall and W. Greenslade

1901-1902 C. Abernethy, C. Eaton and W. Greenslade

1902-1903 C. Abernethy, R.P. Keall and J. Belton

1903-1904 C. Abernethy, C.C. Harrison and J. Belton

1904-1905 J. Blight, C.C. Harrison and G.F. Stockwell

1905-1906 J. Blight, C.C. Harrison, E.D. Patchett, W. Dillicar (H.M.)

1906-1907 J. Blight, J. Dukes, G. Snadden, J. Richards (H.M.)

1907-1908 J. Dukes, T.W. Newbold, G. Snadden, G.H. Bridgeman (H.M.)

1908-1909 J. Dukes, J. Wrigley, A.J. Reed, G.H. Bridgeman (H.M.)

***1909 Paeroa and Waihi became a separate Circuit**

1909-1911 A.J. Reed, G.H. Bridgeman (H.M.)

1911-1912 A.J. Reed (died 1912), C.W. Brown (H.M.)

1912-1913 G.B. Hinton, C.W. Brown (H.M.)

1913-1916 P.R. Paris, T.N. Griffin

***1916 Morrinsville constituted a separate circuit**

Superintendents

1916-1918 C.W. Brown

1918-1919 T.R.B. Wollaxall

1919-1922 H. Cottom

1922-1925 F. Greenwood

1925-1930 E.E. Sage

1930-1935 F.G. Brown

1935-1939 A.A. Bensley

1939-1945 J.L. Mitchell

1945-1948 W.E.A. Can-

1948-1952 G. Thompson

1952-1959 H.K. Brown

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1959-1964 W.R. Laws

1964-1969 F.H. Parker

1969-1976 L.R.M. Gilmore

1976 I.J. Fowler

Assistant Ministers & Probationers

1920-1921 F.J. Handy (Tahuna)

1921-1922 H.W. Payne (Tahuna)

1929-1931 A.T. Kent (Waitoa)

1931-1932 G.R. Bowden (Waitoa)

1933-1936 B.M. Chrystall (Waitoa)

1936-1937 J.A. Daghish (Waitoa)

1937-1940 R.W. Mayson (Waitoa)

1940-1942 J.B. Dawson (Waitoa)

1964-1969 W. Gust, G.B.W. Bell (Waitoa)

1969-1972 R.G. Stringer

Lay Preachers

The Circuit owes a debt of gratitude to the Local Preachers who have through the years given unstintingly of their time, talents and substance to assist in maintaining the numerous services of worship and to proclaim the Gospel of Redeeming Grace.

The following list of names have been gleaned from various Circuit records:

W.S. Allen, M.A., J.C. Allen. S.S. Allen, M.A., R.C. Allen, J. Lusby, H. Gant, Mr Snow, J. Palmer, G.D. Sealey, Mr Ransom, Mrs Osborne, W.T.Evans, A.E. Thomas, A. Noble, A.T. Scrivener, A.N. Scrivener, A.J. Leach, J.P. Jensen, G.J.Johnson, H.R. Baigent, Miss E. Hetherington, H.Woolford, Lloyd Jones, P. Rushton, G. Hanna, H.E. Pain, C. Rushton, R.G. Trebilco, D. Trebilco, Mrs G.R. Thompson, Miss M. Rushton, P.P. Rushton, Mr George Bryant, Mrs Sheila Rushton, Mr Maurice Hight, Mr K. Wooderson, Mr A.C. (Lex) Johnston, Derek Chalmers.

Morrinsville Methodist Church Officers 1978

SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER

Rev I.J. Fowler

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

Messrs R.G. Eastwood and A.C. Johnston

CIRCUIT TREASURER

Mr R.G. Eastwood

TRUSTEES

Messrs T.J. Walsh; N.T. Westlake, treasurer; R.H. West; R.G. Eastwood; K.E. Wooderson; G.H. Mundell; H. McWha; G.L. Bellamy; C.J. Valler; K. Westbury; John Walsh; R. Clothier; S. Roberts; C.K. Sing; D. Chalmers; R. Teal; G. Taylor; W.F. Griffin; N.R. Westbury, secretary.

SOCIETY STEWARDS

Messrs G.L. Bellamy; R. Clothier; D. Chalmers; M. Laurence; R. Good; C.K. Sing; N. Westbury; J. Walsh; G. Taylor; B. Wallace; F. Griffin; S. Roberts; C. Valler; G. Eastwood; G. De Jong; G.H. Mundell, convenor.

LAY PREACHERS

Messrs A.C. Johnston; D. Chalmers; M.G. Hight; K.E. Wooderson.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CO.ORDINATOR

Mr R.G. Eastwood assisted by 20 willing helpers.

ORGANIST

Mrs G. Westbury assisted by Mrs E. Bennett

WOMENS AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP

President: Mrs Nancy Eastwood

Secretary: Mrs Elva Bennett

WOMENS EVENING FELLOWSHIP

President: Mrs Marion Laurence

Secretary: Mrs Iris Fowler

YOUTH CLUB LEADER

Mr R. Teal

SACRAMENTAL STEWARDS

Mesdames E. Wooderson; B. McWha; K. Hope

JUBILEE COMMITTEE

Mr G.H. Mundell, chairman; Rev I. Fowler; Mrs B. McWha, secretary; Mrs M. Walsh; G. Eastwood; A.C. Johnston; G.L. Bellamy; R.H. West; H. McWha; C.J. Valler with valued assistance from many other members of the congregation.



Present Ministers Greetings

A Jubilee is a celebration of the past and an anticipation of the future. We look back in gratitude over seventy-five years to remember the people who established and sustained the Methodist Church at Morrinsville.

In this booklet Marion Laurence has captured for us some of the history of our Church, and something about the people who served it. We warmly appreciate the work Marion has done.

Only a very small proportion of our Church's history can be recalled and written. Most of the detail must remain unrecorded and forgotten. But whether the history is remembered or forgotten, the happenings of the past have, in large measure, made our Church what it is today.

Previous generations of Morrinsville Methodists were not perfect Christians; they had their faults, as we all have faults. But those people accepted a heritage of faith from the past, lived by it in their day, and handed it on to future generations. This is the continuing task of the Church.

As we celebrate our Jubilee we will have in mind not only the past, but also the future. The happy relationships we have always enjoyed with each of our sister Churches in Morrinsville will continue to develop. Our association with the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches will be especially close as our national courts continue the negotiations for Church union. Whatever the future holds for Methodism in Morrinsville, we pray that our response to the ministry of the Living Christ will be a living and growing response.

—IRWIN J. FOWLER

Early Days

Records show that in 1881 the Upper Thames circuit was constituted and the Rev J.T. Pinfold was appointed Superintendent and stationed at Paeroa.

He had an extensive district to cover. By 1895, when the Anglican church was erected in Morrinsville, Methodists were holding regular services. A weekly service was held at the Public School by Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians.

After the Anglican church was built, Presbyterians and Methodists were granted the use of the Church for their services during a period of five years.

By 1899 the Circuit had grown so much that the Superintendent had two assistants.

There were four churches and fifteen preaching places at distances up to forty miles from the centre at Te Aroha. These three ministers were assisted by 13 local preachers. In those days the 13 miles between Te Aroha and Morrinsville frequently took 10 hours to cover.

A combined Sunday School was established, with Mrs W. Allen as Superintendent.

It became a Methodist School in 1906. Church services were held in the Anglican church week about with the Anglicans until 1902, when it was felt that the Methodist services should be weekly and that a church should be erected. It was first mentioned officially by Mr Pickett in March 1903.

Present at the first meeting were Rev C. Abernethy (chair), W.S. Allen, J. Allen, R.C. Allen, H. Gant, A. Best, W. Pickett, S. Gillies and A.J. Leach. Having made the decision, it was decided to ask the Quarterly Meeting to promote a scheme for the erection of a Methodist church in Morrinsville.

Trustees were appointed at a meeting on April 17, 1903 and a sum of 40 pounds ten shillings was promised.

The site of the present church, at the corner of Thames and Canada Streets was secured as a gift through the generosity of Mrs W.S. Allen.

During the first week, 120 pounds was promised in cash and 70 pounds in gifts of material towards the Church fund.

The church was soon erected and opened on Thursday, October 15, 1903 by Rev C. Abernethy. The first service was held on Sunday, October 18th and was conducted by Rev S. Griffith.

The church, seating 126 people, measured 30 feet by 24 feet, with a vestry and porch each 6 feet by 6 feet. The cost of the structure was about 282 pounds.

With the additional costs of architects fees, fencing, outbuildings etc, the total expenditure was 411 pounds, twelve shillings and sixpence. The debt owing was 150 pounds.

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Later in 1910 the Church was enlarged by 10 feet.

A section of half an acre in Lome Street was purchased for a Parsonage and in 1912 a house of six rooms was erected, the cost being 410 pounds. In 1913, an acre of land in Lear Street was purchased for the grazing of the Circuit horse.

Until that year, the Superintendent of the Circuit had lived in Te Aroha, the Rev T. Griffin was the first Minister to reside in Morrinsville. The assistant, the Rev Paris, lived in Te Aroha.

During the war years, little activity was reported by the Trustees, the main matters being the purchase of an organ for 57 pounds and the consideration of the enlarging of the vestry.

Many men of the Church served overseas, and some paid the Supreme Sacrifice.

The names of L.T. Lowry, J.C. Allen and J. Ireland are recorded on a memorial tablet.

The year 1919 saw the purchase for 900 pounds of the seven roomed Parsonage in Thames Street, which served until the present Parsonage was built.

The Lome Street house and half an acre of the horse paddock were sold.

An acre of land in Thames Street, opposite Park Street, was purchased for 700 pounds. It was hoped to move the church to this site and sell the corner section.

The matter was held in abeyance until 1922 when all the properties were placed under one Board of Trustees.

It was considered that the Thames Street-Canada Street site was not sufficiently large to provide room for a hall which was contemplated and to accommodate the vehicles of the country folk. It was decided to sell the section as a business site, and permission was obtained from the Church authorities in Christchurch.

The Trustees at this time were facing financial difficulties, the debit balance being 1323 pounds. The following month they reversed their former decision, deciding to retain the existing Church site and attempting to sell the one acre section in Thames Street.

In 1924 electric light was installed in the Church.

In 1926 a "Cheerio club" started a fund for the Sunday School building.

About 11 pounds was raised and deposited in the Post Office as a "nucleus for a Church Building Fund". The large Bible Class needed more room, and in 1928 the front porch was enlarged for their use, the boys raising half of the cost.

The years of the late twenties witnessed considerable activity and development in the Church life. Membership increased steadily. Trust debt and problems diminished. Circuit funds were buoyant and a second agent was employed at Waitoa.

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In 1931 the Church was reblocked and in 1935 a price was obtained for "moving the Church" (where to, exactly, is not clear!) In 1937 the Lear Street and Thames Street sections were sold.

About this time, a strip of land between the Church and Paine's Garage was purchased, thus giving sufficient land for a church and hall. The centennial appeal resulted in 400 pounds being added to the Church Building Fund.

By this time, ideas of a new Church were crystallising.

In 1940, three proposals were under consideration by the Trustees.

1. To move the church north on the section and build a new church, the old one to become the Sunday School hall.
2. Retain the church on the present site, put concrete foundations beneath and build a new Sunday School hall.
3. Alter and enlarge the present church to make it suitable for a Sunday School.

The Trustees decided on the first of the three proposals. At that time, the estimated cost of a new church was 2600 pounds. The first phase of the new scheme was carried out in 1943, when the church was moved to its present position (made possible by the earlier land purchase). A shop was purchased and added to form a small hall.

At the church Anniversary functions on October 2, 1944, the New Church Building Scheme was publicly inaugurated. Confronted by rapidly rising costs and severe building restrictions, progress halted. Concrete paths were laid around the church, and a piano fund opened.

Over the next few years, alterations were carried out at the Parsonage, including the addition of an extra bedroom, and modernising with electric stove and hot water service.

The interior of the Church was altered with the addition of a platform and communion rail and redecorations.

Mr and Mrs Johnstone presented a Baptismal font in memory of their son, Gordon, who died while on active duty in Crete.

The pulpit chair was presented by Mrs Best and family in memory of Mr A.G. Best, and a music stand and stool were presented by Mrs Fauvel.

An oil burning heater was installed, and the covering of the seats of the pews added to the comfort of the worshippers.

Working Bees in 1952 and 1953 reblocked the Parsonage, and painted the Church and Hall.

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In March 1950, the Trustees felt the time had come for a definite step towards the building of the new church. An architect was engaged, plans and specifications were approved by those concerned. 20 kauri pews were purchased from Coromandel.

In June 1952 tenders were called, but the architect and trustees considered that the only price submitted was too high. After slight modifications of the plans, negotiations were reopened and agreement finally reached, the estimated cost to be 12,500 pounds plus architects fees and furnishings.

On May 23 (day preceding Wesley day) the first sod was turned on the site of the new Church, Mr J. Palmer who had served as Secretary for 20 years was given this honour. A short service was held in the church on this occasion.

Taking part were Rev H. Brown, Rev R.B. Tinsley and Rev C.H. Olds, B.A., Rev E.W. Hames, B.A., Rev S. Werren and Mr P. Rushton.

Despite being hampered by very wet weather conditions, good progress was made and many hours of voluntary labour were given by the trustees and church members, thus keeping the cost down. Only about half of the finance was available at the commencement of the project, 6,200 pounds, but more donations came to hand as work progressed and the building advanced.

The ceremonial service of Laying the Foundation Stone was conducted on October 10 by the then President of Conference, Rev H.L. Fiebig, B.A. as part of the church's Golden Jubilee week of celebrations in 1953. The stone was laid jointly by two old grand stalwarts of our church, Messrs Percy Rushton and Forbes West.

We watched the building progress week by week, the tiles on the roof, then the steeple placed in position by the large crane. The Ladies Guild prepared the soft furnishings and a working bee tidied up the grounds for the great day — 10th April. 1954.

Mrs Best, the oldest living member, turned the key before a large congregation of more than 300 assembled outside the Church. As many as were able, entered the church and the overflow heard the service through loudspeakers in the choir Vestry, and in what is now Wesley Hall, rejoicing and praising God, that his Memorial Church had become a reality and truly a place for worship and prayer.

After the service, everyone gathered together for afternoon tea.

Truly a worthy memorial to those who served in two world wars and to those who have served Methodism in this circuit, and a witness to remind people of the Creator and Saviour of the world, by whose grace, we live.

Diamond Jubilee

The Diamond Jubilee of the Church was held during the week-end October 12-13, 1963.

A special function on Friday evening catered for about 70 children of the Sunday School. Tea was enjoyed, followed by items and films.

On Saturday the Jubilee Banquet was attended by 200. This was catered for by Mr and Mrs Jones at a cost of 12 shillings and sixpence per head.

Rev W.R. Laws, M.A., B.D., was chairman for the evening, with Majorie Clark as accompanist. The following addressed those present: Rev W. Gust, Mr W.A. Rushton (Mayor), Rev V.R. Jamieson, E.D., M.B.E., Rev W.E.A. Carr, Rev Canon Butt, L.Th., Mr C.J. Valler. Mrs H. Money, Mr P. Rushton, Rev E.E. Sage, Rev P. Rushton, B.A.B.D., Mr R.C. Forbes.

Items were given by Rev W.E.A. Carr, Ruth Mitchell and Pamela Wratt.

The evening was very successful, a happy spirit prevailing.

The Church was full for the morning service with about 60 people unable to be accommodated. Rev G.R. Thompson took the Service and items by the senior and junior Choirs were appreciated.

In the afternoon a Youth Rally was led by Rev W.E.A. Carr. A happy atmosphere prevailed, though the attendance was fairly small.

A Thanksgiving Service followed by a Fellowship hour concluded a happy week-end.

Memories of Morrinsville

1969-1976 Rev L.R.M. Gilmore, with his outstanding literary talent has kindly given us a lengthy report on his joys and sorrows during his seven year ministry in the Circuit.

This covers interesting snippets on their family life, his thanks and appreciation to many of our people, and a bright paragraph pertaining to each of the preaching places where he laboured among our people.

We regret that space does not permit the complete message to be printed in this booklet, but we will see that the typescript is available for all to peruse at our Jubilee gatherings.

1959-1963

Rev William R. and Mrs Laws laboured in Morrinsville from January 1959 to December 1963.

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It was Mr Laws' first experience of a rural circuit and he valued the contacts at firsthand with the farming community and, while at times he found the travelling tiring, he much appreciated the beauty of the countryside and the wide open spaces.

All aspects of the work of the Circuit he found rewarding and interesting but he was particularly grateful for the opportunity to lead Bible Classes at Morrinsville and Tahuna, cottage meetings at Tauhei and (in his first year) to be closely associated with the children's work at Tatuani and the Bible Class at Waitoa.

He believes that a teaching ministry bears fruit in the long run.

Property developments gave satisfaction. The erection of the Ngarua Community Church, the redesigning of the sanctuary at Tahuna, the opening of the Waitoa parsonage, the installation of the pipe organ at Morrinsville, the first steps towards the erection of the new parsonage at Morrinsville — all took place in his time and gave him joy.

The Morrinsville appointment led to Mr Laws' election as Chairman of the Waikato-Bay of Plenty District, a position he filled for four years. This gave him a detailed knowledge of the circuits in the District and of Conference Committees and Funds — experience that proved invaluable to him when he left Morrinsville to become General Secretary of the Methodist Church of New Zealand in 1964.

The Organ

A Pipe Organ is more than an instrument to make music. It is a work of art.

Months of planning and money raising by church members made the purchase and installation of the organ possible, the cost being around 2,000 pounds. It was an exhaust pneumatic instrument with 672 pipes. An electric motor below the church floor drives a compressor which fills the big bellows designed to feed air to the pipes. These are fashioned from lead, tin and antimony alloys and carefully glued woods. A screen hides the organ's pipes and mechanical features.

The organ has an interesting history. Built in London by Hill and Son, it was originally part of the main organ installed in the Christchurch Cathedral in 1889. In 1928 the old organ was taken down and made into three smaller ones. St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wellington received one section. It is this part of the old instrument which is now in Morrinsville. Midday Friday, June 1, 1962 saw the dismantled organ unload at Morrinsville. No doubt there were many who surveyed the parts taking up the entire space of the Choir Vestry, parlour and entrance porch, who wondered how the instrument could ever be put together again.

Mr George Sanders of G. Croft and Son, Auckland, began the intricate task of installation on Tuesday, June 18, assisted by many voluntary helpers and skilled tradesmen. It was finally ready for dedication on Sunday, July 22. Tuning had taken over six hours, Mr Sanders checking and re-checking until he was satisfied.

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In 1975 it became necessary for the organ to undergo a major overhaul and modernisation. This included the installation of a new wind chamber and conversion from pneumatic valve action to electro-magnetic action. A new pedal board was installed.

Several recitals have taken place with talented New Zealand organists performing.

Organists

Miss M. Pickett, Miss A. Holloway, Miss M. Gant, Miss Snell, Miss Susan Warren, Mr Rigden, Mrs D. Jones, Miss B. Jones, Mrs H. Fauvel, Miss D. Clothier, Miss L. Best, Miss V. Brayshaw, Miss M. Jones, Miss R. Jones, Mr Hankey, Miss O. Westlake, Mrs J. Buchan, Mrs K. Leach, Mrs B. Page, Mr J. Parker, Miss J. Hight, Mrs G. Westbury, Mrs C. Hart, Miss B. Clothier, Mrs R. Dunphy, Mr L.A. Wattam, Mrs R. Hart, Miss E. Mudford, Miss M. Clark

The music of the sanctuary

"Methodism was born in song"

The Church choir has had times of great strength and has been a source of inspiration in the life and worship of the church.

During the past few years, our talented singers have joined with other church groups to form a Combined Churches' Choir. This has been directed by the untiring leadership of Merle Fausett, and for the last two years by David Qualltrough of Te Aroha.

Choirmasters [up to 1953]

Mr H. Turnbull, Mr J.T. Osborne, Mr E.K. Partington, Mr L. Buchan, Mr P. Cooper, Mr L.A. Wattam, Mrs E. Mudford.

Parsonage

It was in 1964 that the decision was made to build a new Parsonage. A strong committee was appointed and spent many evenings in discussing exterior and interior plans. Meanwhile the half acre section had been subdivided and the old Parsonage moved forward thirty feet nearer to Thames Street. This left us a nicely elevated section which was admirably suitable for a large Parsonage above a spacious double garage.

Plans were drawn up and approval was given in October 1965. Mr C.J. Valler was appointed supervisor for the contract. Mr B.G. Jack's tender of 8,598 pounds was accepted.

Levels were taken in May 1966 but a wet winter delayed progress.

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The official opening took place on March 18, 1967 by the President of Conference, Rev Ashleigh Petch.

We are gratified to say that we now have a splendid home for our succeeding Ministers which will serve the needs of Methodism in Morrinsville for many years to come.

The Ladies Guild

Records of the Ladies Guild date back to 1926. The guild always showed keen interest in the life of the church. As well as raising considerable sums of money, the ladies have been responsible for attending to floral decorations, and arranging improvements such as church heating, covering seats and furnishings. At times of need, especially during the depression and war years, the ladies helped ease the burden of many people, particularly mothers and children. Since 1938, the Ladies Guild arranged the Mothers' Day service.

With the amalgamation of the Guilds and Auxiliary at local, and later, national level, the era of the guild has ended, but the work and commitments are still carried on under the name of the Morrinsville Methodist Women's Fellowship.

Officers Ladies Guild [from 1952]

Presidents

1952-1954 Mrs E.G. Hindman

1954-1957 Mrs H.K. Brown

1957-1962 Mrs G.E. Fausett

Secretaries

1952-1957 Mrs P.D. Simpson

1957-1962 Mrs I.B. Barker

Missionary Auxiliary

In July 1930, a Missionary Auxiliary was formed, for the purpose of extending the missionary spirit of Church life through prayer, practical assistance and encouragement for both Home and Overseas interests.

Gleaners groups were formed in Waitoa and Tahuna. In 1951 an evening Gleaners group was inaugurated, known as the Evening Circle. This became very popular, enabling young mothers and working women to share fellowship together.

Presidents

1951-1955 Mrs G.K. Rodda

1955-1960 Mrs S. Rushton

1960-1961 Mrs M.C. Death

Secretaries

1953-1957 Mrs A.S. Telfer

1957-1958 Mrs H. Fauvel

1958-1962 Mrs M. Walsh

Women's Fellowship

In February 1962 a special meeting of the Ladies Guild and the Women's Missionary Auxiliary was held, with the intention of combining the women's groups within the Circuit. The decision to combine was unanimous and the Morrinsville Women's Fellowship was formed.

This consisted of the afternoon group, evening circle and Tatuani. Mrs O. Barker was chairwoman of the combined executive for many years.

Missionary interest is still maintained by the appointment of convenors who keep in contact with those on active service.

The fellowship is deeply involved in the caring of the sick, needy and elderly folk, especially within our own church family. Visits are made with flowers, fruit and cakes. Personal laundry is attended to for the patients of the Geriatric Hospital. Many women assist with transport to and from the day care centre.

The Evening fellowship has the responsibility of caring for the younger mothers and children; visiting the maternity hospital regularly, organising a creche and arranging activities such as the Cradle Roll Christmas party.

The Annual Fair has been the main money raising feature of the year, with months of effort resulting in hundreds of garments and novelties for sale. Cake stalls, jumble sales, luncheons and a monthly sales table are well-supported also. Many give unstintingly to the "Bank note tree".

The Parsonage Building fund received generous support from the fellowship, as did furnishings for Wesley Hall and the Church. One of the major undertakings was the financial support of the church organ.

With our sister churches we share cordial relations, and participate in the ongoing association of the All Churches' Women's Committee.

We are affiliated to the local branch of the National Council of Women, and the Crippled Children Society. We also attend Waikato district Fellowship Quarterly meetings. At present, Nancy Eastwood, our afternoon chairwoman, serves on the National executive.

Devotions and Worship in each group has a special place and much thought is centred on this aspect. The motto "To know Christ and to make Him known" serves to remind all that we meet in the Name of the Lord.

Evening Fellowship

Presidents and Secretaries 1951-1978

Presidents

Mrs J. Fausett, Mrs K. Leach, Mrs J. Badcock, Mrs A. Ramage, Mrs E. Carter, Mrs J. Harper, Mrs N. Eastwood, Mrs P. Sealey, Mrs N. Bradburn, Mrs J. Blanchett, Mrs T. Oldham, Mrs G. O'Neill, Mrs W. Scott, Mrs G. Westbury, Mrs G. Parsons, Mrs M. Laurence

Secretaries

Mrs N. Foster, Mrs J. Lawson, Mrs O. Barker, Mrs C. Griffin, Mrs M. Hutchins, Mrs C. Johnston, Mrs T. Oldham, Mrs E. Rosser, Mrs G. Westbury, Mrs B. Taylor, Mrs E. Webster, Mrs H. Larsen, Mrs B. Ford, Mrs S. Good, Mrs I. Fowler

Afternoon Fellowship

1962-1978

Presidents

Mrs B. Forbes, Mrs J. Fausett, Mrs M. Walsh, Mrs O. Barker, Mrs K. Leach, Mrs B. Westbury, Mrs O. Barker, Mrs Nancy Eastwood

Secretaries

Mrs M. Walsh, Mrs O. Barker, Mrs A. Clothier, Mrs J. Fausett, Mrs M. Clubb, Mrs C. Griffin, Mrs M. Soper, Mrs C. Griffin, Mrs E. Bennett

Men's Fellowship

In common with other areas the fortunes of our own Men's Fellowship have continued to fluctuate.

Formed in 1934, it lapsed after a few years. A fresh start was made with a strong membership in 1951, only to go into recess in the late 1950s.

During the latter portion of Rev Law's ministry, an enthusiastic group was set going under the leadership of Vie Leach, with Laurie Cotter as Secretary.

It was refreshing to have a willing and active group of devoted churchmen to help in various cases of hardship or sickness. Vie and Laurie both moved south to Taranaki and Milton Mundell took over the Presidency, supported by Murray Hight, and later by Gordon Rosser as Secretary. During this period, Wesley Hall was filled to capacity on several occasions. Of particular interest, was an address by the late Stipendiary

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Magistrate, Steward Hardy, drawing an audience of over 70 men representing all the churches in Morrinsville.

Maurice Hight capably led the group for several years, with George Soper as Secretary.

Rev Les Gilmore spurred the fellowship into action again when sincere efforts were made to form a Combined Churches group.

Kay Sing loyally led the group for some time and several successful projects were completed.

Sunday School

Over the years, the Sunday school roll has fluctuated, but at present stands at 45. A roster system is worked by about 20 teachers, each taking a six-week session. A Family Service is held between each session.

This year, a number of Anglican children have joined our Sunday school, and we are grateful to the assistance of some Anglican parents in teaching.

We record our thanks to all who have served as teachers over the years. Some have taught for a lengthy period — Miss Joyce Watson led the Primary department for over 25 years, while Mrs Beulah Knight, Miss Olive Money, Mrs Kath Hope, Mrs Clarice Griffin and Mr Lex Johnston also taught for many years.

Superintendents who have served the Sunday School in recent years are:

Lex Johnston, Colin Brightwell, Sid Roberts, Olive Money, Graham Eastwood, Barry Parsons, Nancy Eastwood.

Bible Class

At present, the needs of the younger folk are served by the Youth Club, held on Saturday evenings, under the leadership of Mr Bob Teal. A variety of activities are enjoyed.

Full Time Service

Over the years quite a number have gone from the Morrinsville Society to spend varying periods in the full time work of our Church.

Sister Lucy Money daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Money, has spent over 31 years as a teacher and nurse in the Solomon Islands where she was appointed in May 1947.

Sister Lucy has, over the years, tackled almost every part of the mission work including responsibility for the Choiseul circuit (which includes the entire large island) for a number of years when there was no European minister.

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In 1966 Lucy was awarded the M.B.E., an honour which she likes to regard as a recognition of the work of the mission.

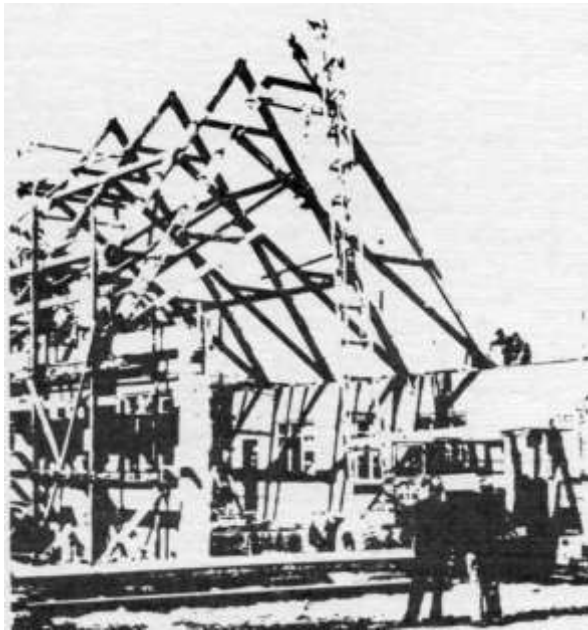
With the establishment of the United Church in the area native people have gradually taken over work previously undertaken by Europeans. Sister Lucy is now concentrating on translation work. The New Testament has been completely revised and parts of the Old Testament are being translated.

Lucy has also assisted in preparing Sunday School and Bible Class lessons and reading material for use by young people in a wide area of the Pacific Islands.

In 1954 her sister Miss Olive Money responded to an urgent appeal for a Secretary to take over the financial work of the Mission Department in the Solomon Islands. She quickly organised the administration of the district on a sound basis. When she left the Islands the office work was running smoothly. Unfortunately Sister Olive did not enjoy robust health and she had to return to New Zealand just before the completion of her three year term.

Others who have gone into the full time work from the Circuit include, Miss Pat Moodie to Foreign Missions, Revs L.G. Hanna. Henry Woolford M.A., Percy P. Rushton, David Trebiico, Lewis and Ron Major and Rev A.K. Woodley who is now General Secretary of the Methodist Church of New Zealand. Mrs May Robertson (Rushton) served as Home Missionary Probationer and Mrs Mary Te Whare (Sealey) as Deaconess Supply in Hamilton.





Trust Officers

Secretaries

1903-1910 R.C. Allen
1910-1949 J. Palmer
1949-1967 P. Westbury
1967 W.J. Bradburn
1968-1974 S.V. Leach (Minutes Secretary)
1974-1977 G. Eastwood
1977 N. Westbury

Treasurers

1903-1916 J.C. Allen
1916-1918 G.W. Brayshaw
1918-1919 W. Roberts
1919-1924 J.T. Osborne
1924-1930 E.K. Partington
1930-1934 E. Abercrombie
1934-1938 W. Timmins
1938 Forbes West, N. Westlake

Circuit Stewards

J.C. Allen, W.R. Lowry, W. Richards, Mr Stevens, A. Warren, W. Woodley, G.F. Oates, C.A. French, Forbes West, E. Crabtree, H. Clothier, Miss E. Money, P. Rushton, P.K. Hight J.P., Alex Lilley, Milton Mundell, Cyril Valler, Vie Sealey. Reece Forbes, Graham Eastwood, Les Bellamy, Lex Johnston.

