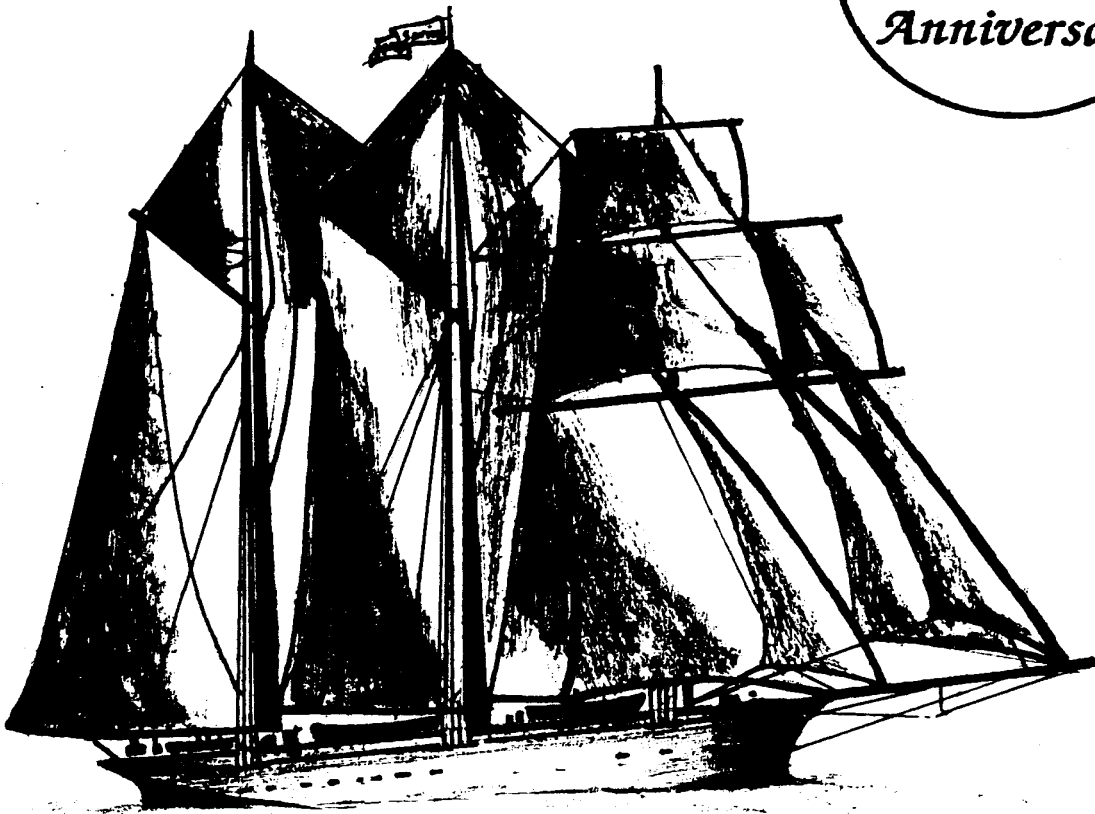


*History of  
Dayspring Presbyterian Church*

*25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary*



*June, 1969 - June, 1994*

## Foreword

The researchers and editors of The Dayspring Story have tried to produce a historical picture of the journey of our congregation. This picture was compiled from the Newsletters, Annual Reports and Minutes, Presbytery and Synod reports, and the memories and personal notes of the members of our congregation.

If we have not included people or have omitted events we apologize. It is not that our memories are failing, it is that they don't work the same way as they used to.

This picture of our congregation is incomplete as the future lays before us. With the grace of God we trust that our picture will remain incomplete. We would like to give special thanks to Edna Davis, Darleen Springstein, Mickey Johnston, Eddie Smith and all the other contributors to our historical "picture".

Dayspring Presbyterian Church,  
June, 1994

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## Roots

The task of writing a 25 year history of the Dayspring Presbyterian Church congregation is impossible without first having a look at where our members originated. We must delve back into the history of Edmonton and Strathcona to make any sense of the story to come.

By the year 1795 fur traders were clamoring for Edmonton's first resource, and that year the Hudson Bay men erected Edmonton House, a sturdy log building 60 ft x 24 ft, with a sod roof. Some weeks previously the rival Northwest company had started their Fort Augustus trading post only a short distance away. As early as 1800 Edmonton had become a depot for trans-shipment of goods to the far north. The Edmonton traders were for many years to supply and trade with settlements along the Peace River, west to the Rocky Mountains and south into Montana. The Great Saskatchewan River gave access to Hudson Bay and to Montreal.

By 1848 missionaries were located in the Edmonton area, Methodist and Roman Catholic. The first Presbyterian influence was felt in 1881 when First Presbyterian Church was established. It moved 3 times before the present building on 105 St. was built in 1911. The railway finally reached Edmonton in August of 1891. But to the surprise of the people of Edmonton, it stopped at the south side of the North Saskatchewan River where a settlement quickly grew around it. The new village was first called South Edmonton and later named Strathcona. A bitter rivalry developed between Edmonton and Strathcona. That same year, the Strathcona Hotel was built at 103 Street and Whyte Avenue (82 Ave.). It was expanded in 1912 as the need for accommodation grew. South Edmonton spurred ahead, and within a year the population was equal to that of Edmonton. The Edmonton population, still stunned by the railway stoppage at the south shore of the river fought back, and 3 days before Christmas in 1891, the first electric lighting plant was turned on and Edmontonians began paying at the following rates: for the first 16 candlepower lamp - \$1.00. If a customer had 2 lamps, they paid 85 cents each, 3 lamps 70 cents each, 4 lamps 60 cents each, etc. John Walter who had worked for the Hudson's Bay Co. developed a ferry and boat building business in 1875. Tolls for crossing the river were 20 cents for every horse and its rider, 10 cents for every horse, mule, ox or cow (not included with vehicle or rider), 10 cents for every foot passenger, 25 cents for every single vehicle loaded or unloaded, including one horse or other animal and driver, 50 cents for every double vehicle, etc.

The cities of Edmonton and Strathcona amalgamated in 1912, and the combined populations grew from 31,000 to 50,000 persons. One of the clauses in the Edmonton-Strathcona Act provided that within 18 months of amalgamation the City of Edmonton must construct a bridge at 105 Street capable of bearing a railway as well as other traffic. Another clause called for the city to extend the street car tracks in the Strathcona area. One extension was to run from Whyte Avenue and 104 Street south to 76 Avenue, and still another called for a streetcar line west on 76 Avenue to 111 Street.

From there it was either to turn north until it reached University Avenue and follow it west and finally circle back to Whyte Avenue, or it was to continue straight west from 111 Street for a distance of 2,960 feet (practically to Saskatchewan Drive). In providing for this extension west along 76 Avenue, the legislators brought into being the famous McKernan Lake street car line,

affectionately called the TOONERVILLE TROLLEY. Skating became a fun winter pastime and male and female hockey teams played on McKernan Lake.

Meanwhile other activities were taking place in Strathcona. The University of Alberta held its first classes in 1908 with 33 students and 5 professors. The first classes were held starting September 24, 1908 on the top floor of the Queen Alexandra School (106 St. and 77-78 Avenue). Dr. H.M. Tory was President of the University. The sod-turning for Athabasca Hall took place in 1909 with Premier A.C. Rutherford holding the plough and Dr. W.D. Ferris holding the reins. Athabasca Hall was finished in 1911. By 1918 enrolment was 613 students.

In the City of Edmonton the naming of the streets and avenues gave way in 1914 to a numbering system. Thoroughfares running generally north and south were renumbered with First Street becoming 101 Street. The numbers decreased as they went east, and increased as they went west. East-west thoroughfares were now called avenues, and the name Jasper Avenue was retained. Bridges were built to cross the North Saskatchewan River to join the north and south halves of Edmonton; the Low Level in 1908, the 105 Street Bridge in 1915 and the High Level in 1913. On June 2, 1913 the Edmonton Journal reported: "Prompt to scheduled time, train #33 consisting of 7 cars left the Edmonton South depot at 11 a.m. to cross the High Level Bridge. An eight column headline in the paper proclaimed, "STUPENDOUSNESS OF HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE IS AMAZING".

All of these events played a part in the establishment of the Rupert Street Presbyterian Church. During the building boom of 1911-12 a small community of houses and farms grew in the area south of 76 Avenue and west of 104 Street. These families needed a church within walking distance from their homes, and in July 1913 petitioned the Presbytery to organize their congregation. One hundred persons signed the petition.

A church building was soon built on property at Rupert Street – 105A Street between 69 and 70 Avenues. The congregation struggled along in a very small building for many years. Preaching was sometimes by ministers, sometimes by student ministers and often by lay persons. The congregation held together through two world wars and by the 1950's another building boom was well underway in Edmonton. Houses were being built on previously vacant land in the Allendale district and new families began to worship at Rupert Street Church.

By the early 1950s the congregation was overflowing the small original building, and the congregation sought approval from the Presbytery of Edmonton to build a new sanctuary which would include a kitchen, an office for the minister and washrooms. A study of the Presbytery of Edmonton minutes in the 1952-53 years reveals that the Presbytery was not in favor of the new church being built on the 105 A Street site. It was too close to Strathcona Presbyterian Church, and the city was rapidly expanding, to the south and west of the church site. The minister at that time the Rev. Douglas Crocker was persistent; and eventually the Presbytery gave permission to build on the existing site.

Each one in the congregation has contributed something to everyone else. The associations we have built up in the past change, gradually or suddenly, but we always take with The new building seated 260 persons in pews, and was built at a cost of \$55,000.00. A great amount of

the labour to building and furnish the new church was generously volunteered by the members. The women of the congregation agreed to pay for the kitchen installation, including a commercial range and vent hood. How to pay for all this grandeur was a question that was debated in the Circles. Finally it was agreed that PIE SALES and CATERING were the way to go. Everyone was enthusiastic and considered themselves good cooks so.. let's do it! And DO IT they did, and the money to repay the Building Fund was at hand within a year. This congregation had struggled along with a small membership and few resources since 1913, but had never been completely self-supporting. This goal was reached in the 1960's along with building a new manse to replace the existing one of 1913 vintage. No sooner did the congregation think they were all settled with a fairly large congregation, mortgage, new manse and new church facility when a subtle change began....

Families were moving to the new suburbs of Malmo, Lendrum, Westmount and Goldbar. The residences on 104 Street were gradually replaced by business and industrial buildings. Another factor in the overall decline in community support was the purchase of a block of property on 109 St. and 71 Avenue by the St. Basil's Ukrainian Catholic Church. They didn't actually build for a number of years, but their members began moving into the neighbourhood as property became available for sale. The decline in membership and financial support didn't happen overnight but instead was a subtle eroding away of resources. By 1966 the decline had become an avalanche. After standing in that location for 55 years, Rupert Street Presbyterian Church was soon to become just a memory. Annual congregational meetings became endurance tests as members and adherents debated how to make ends meet, and how to draw in new support. Many of these meetings did not end the same day that they had begun!!

The April 1969 NEWSLETTER of Rupert Street Presbyterian Church tells the whole story:

#### AT THE CROSSROADS

Rupert Street Congregation has made a decision. It was not easy to make, or lightly considered. Closing the doors of a church where hours of work, love inestimable, thousands of dollars have been expended, is one of the hardest actions of life.

The reasons are primarily that: 1. There seems to be no let-up in the difficulties we have experienced over many years; and 2. We are joining a work that can only expand.

Occasionally we hear the feeling expressed that we have failed here. If we think just in terms of numbers of people or finances that may be true. These, however, are the world's standards of success or failure, and we can never be limited to these. The greatest failure in history was the cross. Because of what happened afterward it was soon seen to be God's triumph, and it must be a reminder to us that from the worst possible event can arise a thing beyond our dreams.

Each one in the congregation has contributed something to everyone else. The associations we have built up in the past change, gradually or suddenly, but we always take with us what we have gained from others. We have achieved something very wonderful here, the measure of success or failure is in terms of: What has been contributed to my life? How have I grown? What have I contributed to others? The Gospel reminds us that we who believe are one in Christ. We do not leave here to go with strangers, but to others in our family.

The word Easter (Old English Eastre, the Spring-goddess) comes from the pagan celebration of spring, the dead earth coming to life again. Our Christian celebration is of the resurrection of Christ. Change and decay do not mean the end; they are the means of transformation into

something far more wonderful, as when the seed changes into the flower. We must continue in the resurrection faith in new life ahead.

(from a sermon preached in Rupert Street Church, March 30)

#### What the Congregation Decided

At a meeting of the congregation on Sunday, March 23, 1969, the following resolutions were presented and approved.

1. That the Rupert Street Congregation join with the Presbyterian Mission in the southwest area of the city.
2. That a committee be appointed at the meeting and empowered to proceed with the actual disposal of the church property.
3. That representation be made to Presbytery to have any net sale proceeds (after payment of all liabilities on Rupert Street property) made available to the proposed new congregation. (It is our understanding that in establishing the said congregation, the name Rupert Street would not be used).
4. That representation be made to Presbytery to have our minister, Ralph MacDonald work with the minister in the southwest area, the Rev. Alex MacDonald, for a period of one year, the cost to be paid from net proceeds of the sale of the church property.
5. That after arrangements for the disposal of the property have been made, a congregational meeting be held to establish an actual date for cessation of activities at Rupert Street Presbyterian Church.

Members of the committee appointed at the meeting are: RG. Adin, A.M. Anderson, A. Davis, Roy Duncan, and J.A. Engelhart. Ex-officio members: R.F. Tait, A.G. Bramley-Moore, Rev. A.S.MacDonald and the Rev. D.R. MacDonald.

The committee of Rupert Street Presbyterian Church to dispose of the property met weekly in April 1969 to arrange for the sale of the property. An offer of \$85,000.00 was received from Mr.Ivan Carlson of Graham Realty on behalf of Kutney Construction. Mr. Kutney proposed to build several apartments on the site, containing 34 suites. No other offers to purchase were received.

On April 23, 1969, it was moved by J.A. Engelhart, seconded by A. Davis that the Chairman and Secretary be authorized to sign an interim offer form for the sale of the property at \$87,000.00 subject to a commission of \$4,000.00. Carried. The offer must be approved by the Presbytery of Edmonton. Possession date was agreed to be February 1, 1970. Presbytery agreed to approve the sale, and in due time the building was dismantled and the roof trusses used in the erection of another church in north-east Edmonton. The furnishings of the church were disbursed to various places. The commercial stove was donated to the kitchen at Camp Kannawin. The grey metal stacking chairs were stored at First Presbyterian church along with the folding tables. The pulpit was too large to move or store, but the lectern was stored and then used at the new Dayspring building, along with the communion table and chairs. Dishes were carefully packed away and now are used in the Dayspring kitchen, and, believe it or not the 80 cup percolator is still used every Sunday for coffee time.

The large cross is used in the Dayspring building, but it did a little travelling before coming to

its new home. The Knox Presbyterian Church in Lloydminster used the cross in their building until the Dayspring building was completed in 1973. The piano and organ were stored and then used at Dayspring.

### **The Branch That Became Dayspring Presbyterian Church**

In the mid to late 1960's, while Rupert Street Presbyterian Church was debating how to restore its membership and fortunes to the 1950's level, there were those among the congregation who were eager to branch out into the south-west of Edmonton. The Kirk Session agreed and Rupert Street became involved in extension work in the Malmo community. The Presbytery was consulted and oversaw the infant beginnings. Services began in April 1966 at the Malmo School. The Rev. Ralph MacDonald, Rupert Street minister would preach at 9:30 a.m. at Malmo School and then again at 11:00 a.m. at Rupert Street Church.

Excerpt from 1966 Annual Report:

#### **“REPORT OF THE EXTENSION COMMITTEE**

In March of 1966 the Rupert Street Kirk Session commenced exploratory work in the south-west area of Edmonton, as to the potential for a Presbyterian congregation.

Services were commenced in the spring of 1966 in the Malmo Plains Elementary School. Attendance has improved very slowly. However, the Church School was established and in September three classes were organized. Church School classes are held during the period of the Church Service, which commences at 10:00 a.m.

To date 72 families have been contacted in the area, of which approximately 70 are of Presbyterian background. Rev. Ralph MacDonald has personally visited most of the families himself, and a visitation has been carried out by elders and by laymen in the area.

During the summer the area was visited by the student deaconess, Miss Karen Chitteck.

Thirty-one families have shown interest in the development of a church in the area. However, to date only 16 families have shown active interest by attendance. From September 1st to the end of the year 10 families were re-visited by two men in the community who are interested in the development of a Presbyterian Church, namely, Mr. Dave Dobie and Mr. Larry Branter.

Plans have been developed to have a fellowship dinner in order to provide an opportunity for those people who have shown interest to meet and become acquainted, and at the same time express their views with regard to the development of the church in the community.

Eleven boxes of envelopes have been distributed to families so far for 1967.

The average attendance is 9 adults, and registration in Church School amounts to approximately 25 children. Visitations are continuing in the hopes that greater participation may be developed.

Respectfully submitted,  
R.F. Tait, Clerk of Session,  
Rupert Street Presbyterian Church

RUPERT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - MALMO EXTENSION -  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM  
MARCH 6, 1966 to DECEMBER 31, 1966

RECEIPTS:

|                         |                 |               |                 |          |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| Offerings               | Envelopes       |               | \$282.55        |          |
|                         | Loose           |               | <u>\$126.11</u> | \$408.66 |
| General Assembly Budget | \$ 9314         |               |                 |          |
| Less Transferred        | <u>\$ 95.44</u> | ( \$ 1.70)    |                 |          |
| Sunday School Offerings |                 | \$ 5.23       |                 |          |
| Bank Interest           |                 | <u>\$ .88</u> |                 | \$413.07 |

DISBURSEMENTS;

|                            |                 |  |  |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--|--|-----------------|
| Malmo School Rental        | <u>\$240.00</u> |  |  |                 |
| Bank Balance Dec. 31, 1966 |                 |  |  | <u>\$173.07</u> |

Increase in envelope offerings - \$2.00

The above statement of Receipts and Disbursements is in accordance with the books of the Rupert Street Presbyterian Church - Malmo Extension, and presents fairly the cash receipts and disbursements for the period from March 6, 1966 to December 31, 1966.

Respectfully submitted, A.M. ANDERSON"

Congregations who hold services in schools soon find out that gyms tend to echo and singing vanishes into the rafters. The children feel right at home but most of the adults wonder if they really made the right decision. A small number of families from Rupert Street formed the nucleus of the new Southwest Extension. Among them were Tait, MacCalders, Lunns, Branters, Frasers, and Springsteins.

The General Board of Missions - later to be called the Board of World Mission - had seen the potential in the southwest area of Edmonton, and in 1967 purchased the land where Dayspring is now located. The purchase price was \$27,500. Originally the land was located along 40th Avenue only, but some lots were traded with the contractor who built the duplexes, and our property became a square instead of a rectangle.

In late 1967 the Presbytery Missions Committee asked to have an Ordained Minister appointed to the Extension work in southwest Edmonton. This request was granted, and the Rev. Alex MacDonald arrived in January 1968, and took up residence at the new manse at 3815 - 111B Street. Alex and Ruth and their family stayed with the extension work until June 1970.

An Assessor Session was named by the Presbytery to work with the ordained minister. The ruling elders named were Russell F. Tait and John D. Fraser. There was also a committee

which acted as a management committee - not too onerous a committee to be on, as there was no property to manage, not many bills to pay, and not many weighty decisions to make, unless you consider the fact that the school had no storage space for us to use. As a result the hymn books and anything else used in the Sunday Service had to be brought on Sunday, then packed into a car and taken home until next Sunday.

The manse became the meeting place for midweek activities and meetings, as did the homes of most of those attending Malmo services.

The Southwest Extension was fortunate in its early years to have an abundance of ordained ministers and their families among the membership. Gordon and Priscilla MacWillie and Ron and Pauline Con were all deeply involved with the life and work of the Extension congregation. A while later Richard and Eddie Smith joined us when they moved from the United States.

Another problem arises when a congregation meets in schools - they close for the summer months. We were fortunate because there were churches nearby willing to share their space with us. The first several summers the Extension shared with Rupert Street church until that building disappeared. Momentum is lost during the summer months and you feel as though you must start again when September begins. Summer services were also shared with Strathcona Presbyterian Church, and we were always grateful for the times that First Presbyterian made space available for us to hold annual meetings, dinners and youth events.

The Southwest Extension decided in early 1969 that the time to become a congregation was now! This decision had been delayed as we waited to see the outcome of the Rupert Street Church proposed dissolution. At the Presbytery meeting of April 29, 1969, a petition was introduced to organize in southwest Edmonton a CONGREGATION of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to be known as DAYSPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

PETITION: to the Reverend, the Presbytery of Edmonton

At a meeting of the congregation of Dayspring Presbyterian Church held on Sunday, June 15, 1969, the following motion was passed:

It was moved by Mr. R.F. Tait, seconded by Mr. J.D. Fraser, and AGREED, that the Dayspring Congregation approve of the proposed amalgamation with the congregation of Rupert Street Presbyterian Church, under the following terms:

- a) the date of amalgamation to be effective as of July 1, 1969;
- b) the Sunday worship services to be held in Rupert Street church between July 1 and September 8, 1969;
- c) the relocation of Rupert Street congregation to be marked by a special service of worship to be conducted by the Presbytery as soon as possible after September 8, 1969;
- d) the Kirk Session of Rupert Street congregation and the Assessor-Session of Dayspring congregation to function as a joint Session until a date as soon as possible after the date of relocation, when additional Elders will be elected and a single Kirk Session formed (it being understood that additional Elders will be elected from those connected with the former Southwest Edmonton Extension Charge);
- e) the Boards of Managers of Rupert Street congregation and Dayspring congregation to function as a joint Board until the first Annual Meeting of the amalgamated congregation, when

a single Board of Managers will be elected;  
f) the assets, liabilities, and records of Rupert Street congregation and Dayspring congregation to be held by the amalgamated congregation;  
g) the amalgamated congregation to seek incorporation under the terms of the Constitution of Rupert Street congregation.

THEREFORE WE,, the members of the congregation of Dayspring Presbyterian Church, PETITION the Reverend, the Presbytery of Edmonton, to sanction and assist in the amalgamation and relocation, in terms of the above resolution, or to make such other disposition as in the wisdom of Presbytery may seem best.

At a MEETING held on June 15, 1969, it was AGREED by the Assessor-Session of Dayspring Presbyterian Church to APPROVE the above petition and to forward it for the favorable consideration of the Presbytery of Edmonton.

Alex MacDonald, Moderator  
R~F. Tait, Clerk  
John D. Fraser, Member94

Many of you will ask why Dayspring? The name for the new congregation came from LUKE Chapter 1 verse 78 (King James translation) where Christ is referred to as “the Dayspring”  
78. Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,  
79. To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death to guide our feet into the way of peace.

It also recalls one of the first outreach ventures of the Canadian Church, the building in Pictou, Nova Scotia, of a sailing ship, the “Dayspring” for mission work in the New Hebrides.

Another Dayspring reference that moves many is the final verse of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”  
O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

### **The Early Years – 1969-1972**

One of the first acts of the new congregation known now as Dayspring, was to petition the Presbytery to approve the amalgamation of the new congregation with Rupert Street Church. The June meeting of the Presbytery approved the amalgamation and it became effective July 1, 1969.

The Assessor Session of Alex MacDonald, Moderator and Russ Tait and Jack Fraser were joined by the Elders from Rupert Street Church: Alex Engelhart, William Watt, Archie Heffel,

Al Davis, Robert Adin and Charles Kingham, along with Ralph MacDonald minister of Rupert Street church when the amalgamation took place. The MacDonalds, Alex and Ralph shared the preaching and other duties of operating a new congregation. The Presbyteiy had made provision that Rev. Ralph MacDonald would be provided stipend and expenses by the Dayspring Church for a period of one year, (Presbytery minutes April 29, 1969) after the amalgamation July 1. The Moderator of the Presbytery, the Rev. David Paterson, wrote an inspiring letter to Dayspring for the amalgamation of the congregations.

From David, by God's Will an agent of Jesus Christ,

To God's fellowship at Dayspring in Edmonton

Peace and goodwill to you from our Father-God and from our Lord Jesus Christ. And hail to the Father-God of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of kindness and God of all helpfulness.

I rejoice, as we all do in the congregations of the committed throughout the Presbytery of Edmonton, with you for the wonderful thing the Father has done for you in giving you Christ Jesus and uniting you all in His name. He is the all-sufficient enricher of life as you already know. As a matter of fact, the Christian testimony has been thoroughly implanted in you so that you might not lack any spiritual gift and may be really eager for a clearer view of our Lord Jesus Christ. Indeed, He will stand by you, come what may. You can truly rely upon God who has called you together into the community of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

It is truly a marvellous thing to witness the birth of a new baby. What began as invisible seed, develop and then come forth as a human being with aims, legs, and head, to be born with heart, mind and soul. it is equally thrilling to realize that the Body of Christ is born the same way. Invisible seed expressed as vision, hope, need; conceived at the right time in the right place, can grow, develop, and then come forth as a congregation of the committed - with hands to do His work, feet to walk His way, a head to discern His will. And not these alone - but also having heart, to share His love, mind and soul to grow up in every way to be Christ and Christlike, to be His living embodiment in the place where you are, in the community you live.

We throughout the Presbytery are glad you are born. We are living in an age when many talk about new forms and new ministries. Grandiose visions of unstructured institutionalism may sound grand. Patterns of new ministries may need to be developed. New approaches and methods must always be attempted and tried. If you can't catch a fish with one hook, always try another. But remember, there is always the fisherman, there is always the boat, there is always the rod and reel - and there is always the fish. To be unstructured is still the decision to be structured unstructurally. We rejoice that you were influenced by the Spirit to be constituted as a congregation. My only sorrow was that I could not be with you to celebrate the occasion.

My brothers and sisters, now that you are organized I trust you will not forget what you are organized for. Do not forget you are a covenanted people, expensively paid for. Blood at no time is cheap. Remember who you were - your sinfulness, stark or subtle as it may have been, expressed in self-centredness, self-ambition, self-importance. But you are born freshly now - born into the family of God at Dayspring -where everyone is important but no one more

important than another. Centredness, ambition and importance still remain in you as you remain in Christ Jesus but self is gone. Keep it that way for then you will know the power of Christ in your fellowship.

Remember the congregation must always work hard at the education of the membership, starting with the adults. If the parents and adults do not wish to study God's Word weekly, you might as well not bother opening the Sunday School. Your time will be for the most part in vain. When parents, however, take their own Christian Education seriously they usually insist and are keen to see that their children receive an adequate spiritual foundation for their lives too. Also keep in mind Outreach is the second aspect in the Trinitarian foundation for strong congregational support. Dayspring, like every other congregation, is a missionary group, gathered to give praise and gratitude to God the Father, Creator and Redeemer of the world we live in gathered weekly to find perspective for life and mission, both corporately and individually - yet dispersed to be a light in this dark world, to be leavens of influence for good, justice, honour; to be salt to flavour and preserve life in all its dimensions.

There is nothing the Lord loves more than calloused forefingers gained from ringing the doorbells of the heathens and hedonists, inviting and encouraging them to belong to the same covenanted community as you, giving up their two-dimensional lives for the third dimension which comes in knowing Christ personally as a Friend. The Lord equally loves consecrated shoe leather worn out in calling on the sick, the lonely, and the disenchanting. Also dedicated automobiles, not the bright and shiny baptized with soap and polish, and only look nice - but those truly committed to calling on the elderly and bringing them out to the services of worship and occasions of fellowship and celebration are truly endeared by the Lord.

This is Outreach. This is the business of the church. People in need are the business of the church and thus your responsibility if you would be Christ-like in serving your community. Hunger, poverty, bad housing, discrimination, prejudice, unjust laws, high interest rates, guaranteed annual wages, answers to protest and violence in our society are your concern and responsibility too - the church's and rightly so. But don't overlook the stranger at your door in straining to help the poor devils on Boyle Street.

Lastly never neglect Worship. Build strong, interesting, lively worship services. Worship is always an experience. To be such it must be fresh, blending old and new forms. Be strong on praise and thanksgiving and always expect to meet the Lord. Never deliberately absentee yourself from weekly attendance; it develops sloth and that is a cardinal sin. Be generous in your offering as it reflects your love to share and demonstrates your concern and seal of the advancement of the gospel and extension of God's kingdom throughout the country and world.

Yes, Education, Outreach, and Worship - these three are the pivotal pillars of your service and witness. You have a good beginning - keep up the good work and God bless you all.

David Paterson, Moderator of Presbytery of Edmonton  
Presbyterian Church in Canada"

## **Election of Elders**

The first election of Elders of Dayspring Presbyterian Church took place in December 1969, with the following being elected: Roger Small, Darleen Springstein, Jack Fraser, Russell Tait and the Rev. Ronald Con. The new Elders joined those from the amalgamation with Rupert Street church to form the first Session. The new elders were ordained in January 1970, with Alex Engelhart being the named representative to the Presbytery. Early in 1970 Darleen Springstein was named alternate representative to the Presbytery. This was a momentous occasion as women had just been approved for Ordination by the 1966 General Assembly. It was with trepidation that Darleen attended the first meeting of Presbytery, the only woman among 30 clergy and representative elders. The welcome was fairly warm, but tinged with a bit of regret as the males saw one of their last fortresses invaded by a female. Quite a few years went by before other women joined the ranks of Presbytery. Darleen can recount being at General Assembly in Halifax in 1970 when there were 6 women commissioners and 500+ male commissioners.

One of the first attempts to “organize” the new congregation came when the women decided they needed a structure to carry out fellowship activities. Mary DeArmond remembers that the first organizational meeting of the Women’s Fellowship was held at her house. Marge MacCalder was elected President with Margaret Stuart Treasurer. As the meeting came to a close the group realized that they were without funds. Maria Tait (Russ Tait’s mother) drew five dollars from her pocket and offered it as a beginning balance.

Early in the life of Dayspring congregation we travelled to Camp Kannawin’s old dining hall, unheated cabins and glorious view of Sylvan Lake. It happened to be Ralph & Sara Jean MacDonald’s anniversary - and impish Alex Engelhart set up a skit to celebrate the event. Carrying a nosegay of dandelions and dressed (or should we say undressed) in a black, glamorous bathing suit, he played the part of the shy blushing bride. We have the snapshot to prove it! This was only one of Alex’s many unpredictable and happy contributions to our life at Dayspring.

The departure of Alex MacDonald and Ralph MacDonald in July 1970 left us “vacant” for the first time. The Presbytery Missions Committee worked very hard to find a replacement. We were fortunate again. Because of our ministers within the congregation, services proceeded and things were accomplished while we were anxiously awaiting word from Toronto that an appointment of an Ordained Missionary would be made soon. Several ministers in Alberta were interested in coming to Dayspring, but the choice of the General Board of Missions was the Rev. Harry A. Crawford. The following information regarding Mr. Crawford has been forwarded by the Rev. Jack Cooper, Director of Extension Work for Canada (taken from NEWSLETTER of January 1971)

Harry Alan Crawford is presently minister in the Presbyterian Church in St. Laurent, a suburb of Montreal. He is married with two children, a son Andrew 7 years, and a daughter Catherine 4 years.

Degrees held:

M.A. from Glasgow University

Diploma from Trinity College, Glasgow University

B.D. from Presbyterian College, Montreal  
Presently doing Post Graduate work at Sir George Williams University.  
Rev. Crawford is bi-lingual, and has been very active in community and church affairs in his various appointments. Some of these are:  
Founding President of the St. Laurent “Meals on Wheels”  
Founder and first President of North Sydney N.S. Victorian Order of Nurses  
Director of Bairn Croft Orphanage, Sydney, N.S.  
Organizer of many special welfare appeals  
Past member of Board of Managers of Presbyterian College, Montreal  
Presently, member Board of Managers of Knox College, Toronto  
Convener of General Assembly Committee on French Work  
Convener of the Extension Committee, Presbytery of Montreal  
Interested in COMMUNICATIONS, experienced in Radio and T.V. work”  
Harry and Anne and the two children arrived in Edmonton in early March 1971 to begin their short ministry with Dayspring.

Since the amalgamation with Rupert Street church, members of the congregation became eager to begin plans for building on the 40th Avenue site. Financing of the project was being discussed with the Presbytery and the National Church from mid-1969 onward. so Harry and Anne Crawford arrived at a time when everyone’s efforts needed to be coordinated. Harry’s specialty was “Communication”. And no one could communicate better than Harry!! Meetings were held at the Southgate Shopping Centre Community Room and at First Presbyterian Church to explain the finances and how we would be able to afford a building that would cost \$90,000.00 - \$100,000.00. Presbytery instructed the congregation to seek a partner congregation who might be willing to build a joint use building. Several congregations were approached, but the discussions did not come to any firm conclusion.

The report of the Kirk Session for 1971 recounts that “at the end of October, Mr. R.E. Tait submitted his resignation as Clerk and Mrs. W. Springstein was appointed to that position.” “The Session wishes to record on behalf of the whole congregation, their sincere appreciation for the faithful work and fine leadership that Mr. Tait has given over many years as Clerk of Rupert Street Session and latterly of Dayspring Session.

The Annual Meeting of the congregation held on January 31, 1972 adopted the following resolutions unanimously:

1. That Dayspring congregation build a Presbyterian Church on the lot at 40th Avenue.
2. That the Session take responsibility of leading in this move by seeking the permission of Presbytery to approach at least three architects, and report back to the congregation with something tangible by April 30, 1972.

Implicit in these decisions was that Presbytery’s authorization to engage an architect, and proceed with the preparation of specific building plans, was to be sought as well as some definite indication of financial support that might be expected from Presbytery, with an assurance of Presbytery’s willingness to apply to the Board of Missions for the appropriate grants and loans. The congregation, through the Session, have explored a number of alternatives as directed by the Presbytery and can report as requested. These have for the most

part not seemed feasible, and so it is the intention of the congregation to build facilities for worship, the various activities of the congregation, and programs that will be appropriate to the present and changing needs of the community, at a cost of approximately \$100,000.00.

On behalf of Session and Congregation

Harry A. Crawford”

At this stage of its development, Dayspring Church had 65 children in the Church School, a proposed budget for 1972 of \$12,000.00 and 53,000.00 in the Building Fund (the net proceeds after the sale of the Rupert Street property).

In April 1972 Joe Donahue was chosen as Architect for the project by the sub-building committee of Harry Crawford, Jack Fraser and Morley MacCalder. Harry Crawford had announced to the congregation that he was leaving us to accept the position of Communications Consultant at head office in Toronto. From the March 1972 NEWSLETTER a message from Rev. H.A. Crawford:

*Dear Friends:*

*I know that you are all aware of my great interest in the field of Audio - Visuals and communications and my conviction that the Church must recognize the opportunities and the challenges that are presented to her, and find and use the ways and means most appropriate to the communication of the Gospel in our World. In fact, my acceptance of the appointment to Dayspring was on the understanding that I would continue my studies in this field in order to prepare myself to serve the Church. The opportunity to work full time seemed unlikely to come for two or three years. However, our Church has moved with an encouraging rapidity, and the General Assembly authorized the Committee on Audio - Visual Services to appoint a full time Communications Consultant. They have invited me to accept the appointment and I have agreed to do so. The Presbytery of Edmonton have concurred but have asked that the appointment be made effective not earlier than January 1, 1973 in order to give time to find a new minister for Dayspring and avoid a long vacancy.*

*This eventuality need not and ought not to stand in the way of our plans for building, nor in the development of the life and work of this congregation. We enjoy a high calibre of leadership in Session, on the committees and in our membership. If we all work with spirit and determination not only will we accomplish and further that which we have begun, but this will also serve to attract the similarly high calibre of ministry that Dayspring so richly deserves.*

*It is far too early for farewells and we have much still to do before that time.*

*Yours Sincerely,  
Harry A. Crawford*

The Lord was watching over us at this time as a new appointee was found who would start his ministry with us in August 1972.

From the June-July 1972 NEWSLETTER a message from Rev. Harry A. Crawford:

*Dear Friends:*

*This will be my last opportunity to write to you as your minister. May I say thank you for all the support, kindness and friendship that you have shown to me, and to my family. It has been a pleasure and a fine experience to serve you. And yet in my new position I will continue to serve you and also I trust the whole of our Church. In fact my knowledge of you will assist me to understand the needs of similar congregations, and the resources and assistance of the Committee on Audio Visual Services in which I will work, exist to serve and assist you. I am sure that I will be back in Edmonton from time to time for this reason.*

*The closer the time comes when we must leave the harder it becomes. Of course I am enthusiastic to get started in the new job, but I am also sorry to miss the exciting things that are happening here and to leave what has become our home.*

*The question I have been asked most often has been “Why are you going? and why so soon?” That last one of course is just not of my choosing. The Church decided to make an appointment of a Communications Consultant and selected me. I had anticipated this happening a few years in the future, but for once the Church moved more quickly than expected. The decision to go is one of priorities. I have been studying in the field of audio visuals and communications for a few years and am now probably the most qualified person in this field in the active ministry of our Church. Thus it becomes a question of whether to continue to serve one congregation (Dayspring) or to give leadership to the whole Church in this very important field. Money has in no way been a factor. We must provide our own housing in Toronto and the very high costs there will mean almost the same if not a slight reduction in income for us.*

*I am glad that arrangements have been made so that there will be no vacancy at this important stage in the life of the congregation.*

*To your new minister, Mr. Kendall and his family, and to all of you as individuals, as families and as a congregation, my family join me in wishing you God’s richest blessings.*

*Sincerely,  
Hany A. Crawford*

Jack Ross, who had been organist for 2 years, was named by the Presbytery of Edmonton to oversee “Men’s work in the Presbytery” along with Fred Jones of Strathcona Church. Jack resigned as organist in August 1972 to be replaced by Winnie Lloyd.

The manse purchased by the Board of World Missions for the congregation in 1969 was not large enough and we began to search for another house in the area. The Board was willing to arrange for another house, but declined to advance any more money toward down payment. The current manse at 3503 - 112 Street was purchased with Dayspring paying the difference for the initial down payment and the Board transferring their equity from one house to the other.

## **The Building Years 1972 – 1974**

The new appointee to Dayspring Church was be the Rev. Ralph Kendall who was an experienced person when it came to building having been minister at two other charges when buildings were constructed.

Ralph and Sheila arrived in Edmonton late in July 1972 along with their four children Stephen, Jennifer, Marilyn and Douglas. Assorted cats and dogs arrived soon after. Dougie (4 years old) was charmed by the huge back yard at the manse, especially the banana tree which had been suitably decorated by the Clerk of Session (D. Springstein) in anticipation of the Kendall's arrival! Ralph Kendall grew up in Winnipeg and was educated at Carleton University and Knox College. He and Sheila have served in congregations in British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario. Ralph is bilingual, and has always worked with congregations that were on the verge of entering building programs. Sheila is an accomplished pianist and enjoys singing in choirs.

### Little Lambs and Angel Knees

In December, 1972 we were holding worship services in the library at Cartier McGee School. Sunday School classes were called upon to present the Christmas pageant. Carols were practiced, memory work and readings prepared; angel costumes, wings and halos were made; shepherds commandeered their parents' striped housecoats and towels for their head coverings; teachers and mothers produced costumes for the animals. One little mouse costume was converted into a little grey lamb by rolling up the tail into a knot with the hope it would stay in position for the duration. A table covered with straw provided a place for the crèche tableau. Dressed in their costumes the children filed in. The angels and shepherds were to stand behind the table. The angels all a sparkle were followed by the shepherds who thumped their padded crooks along the aisle and plodded forward. Positioning themselves, the angels' elbows prodded shepherds to make room. The shepherds cast looks at them and threatened to take off some halos with their crooks. The animals followed, full of boundless energy. The sheep played their part as on all fours they frolicked and zigzagged their way down the aisle. Little grey lamb was nudged from behind by a little white lamb and soon a tail began to unwind. Murmurs of mirth rippled along as they passed. We hoped they'd come to the spot beneath the table to 'settle in'. Such was not to be - the straw looked good enough to nibble and as the angels and shepherds joined in song, the little lambs discovered the angels' knees and used the straw to tickle them.

Little Dougie Kendall was one of the lambs and we think his sister Jennifer was an angel. We wonder how ninny of our children can remember their part in that pageant. We adults will never forget. I thought Marge MacCalder would roll on the floor as her sides ached with laughter. Personally at that moment, I was more concerned with keeping peace among the angels and shepherds." - Edna Davis

Building Committee: Although an architect had been named and work begun on plans for the Dayspring building, a committee had not been named. That was done by the session in September 1972. The following were the new Building Committee:

Jack Fraser                      Session

Morley MacCalder     Finance & Maintenance  
C.E. DeArmond        Mission & Outreach Chairman  
Charles Cockrell      Worship and Nurture  
Edna Davis             Congregational Representative

The architect Joe Donahue presented the first set of plans in September 1972, and we loved them, but the estimated cost of the building was \$150,000.00; just about \$50,000.00 more than our ceiling price. Although there were several alternatives that could have been considered, the Session agreed to reject the first plan and ask the Architect to draw an alternative plan that would meet our ceiling price of \$100,00.00 exclusive of furnishing, and still allow the flexibility of space required. By December new plans had been drawn and Miss Lloyd agreed to deliver a set to the Architecture Committee in Toronto during the Christmas vacation period.

The Dayspring land was much sought after at this time as the area around 40th Avenue and south began to be developed. An offer was received from Western Realty who wished to purchase part of the property to extend the parking lot of Petrolia Shopping Center, another offer in January from Imperial Oil for the staggering amount of \$225,000.00, and in April an offer by the Alberta Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled young adults. The A.R.C.D. proposal was seriously considered by the congregation, but permission to sell was denied by Head Office in Toronto.

The official Sod Turning for the new Dayspring Church took place May 27, 1973 at 10:00 am., with the congregation proceeding to the school later for the regular worship service. Mr. Russ Tait was invited to turn the sod. After the Sod Turning Ceremony, we were all very confident about our plans finally becoming reality, and in June invited the Presbytery to meet at Dayspring in January 1974 and the Synod of Alberta to meet in October 1973. Excerpts from the October 1973 NEWSLETTER tell of the progress of the building:

Over the next few months, there is going to be a great deal of excitement for us of Dayspring Church. The new building is so close to reality that **it** hardly seems possible that our time left in the school can be numbered in weeks instead of months or years. Yet our new church home must be something more than a goal achieved. It would be most unhealthy for us as a congregation to become 'settled' in our new church. Instead, it can be for us just the beginning of a new chapter of service, of witness, of outreach to South West Edmonton. So may it be!

F. Ralph Kendall

Message from the Building Committee:

*The windows were delivered a day earlier than had been optimistically forecast, and the drywall is nearly all installed, with taping to begin early next week.*

*Furnace start-up has been delayed until installation of the heavy wiring which is anticipated very soon.*

*Some furnishings are on order, and are expected to be delivered in time for occupancy. It is hoped that much of the existing sanctuary items and some of the Rupert St. Church furnishings will be available and used in our early settling-in time. The building committee feels that it*

*would be advantageous to use the equipment on hand until experience dictates that a change is necessary.*

*The Contractor is not making any predictions on the date of completion, as he is now at the mercy of the sub-trades. The Chairman is still optimistic of a mid-November occupancy date.*  
*C.E. DeArmond, Chairman*

Invitations to the Service of Dedication went out to local government members, City of Edmonton Mayor, and Clergy from the surrounding area, also invited were former ministers the Rev. Ralph MacDonald, the Rev. Alex MacDonald, and the Rev. Harry Crawford, H.D.C. Construction, and the architect Joe Donahue. December 3, 1973 was the first service held in the new sanctuary, with the Service of Dedication being held at 3:00 p.m. on December 9th, 1973.

Those Taking Part in the Service

Mrs. W.W. Springstein, *Clerk of Session, Dayspring Church*

The Rev. W. Howard McIlveen, B.A., B.D, *Moderator, The Presbytery of Edmonton, conducting the service, Minister, Eastminster Church, Edmonton*

The Rev. D. Ralph MacDonald, B.A., B.D, *Former Minister of Rupert Street Church and Dayspring Church*

The Rev. James A. Crabb, M.A., *Chairman, Board of World Mission, Presbyterian Church in Canada, Minister, Albion Gardens Church, Toronto*

Mr. C.E DeArmond, *Chairman, Dayspring Church Building Committee*

The Rev. Harry A. Crawford, M.A., B.D. *Former Minister of Dayspring Church, Communications Consultant, Audio-Visual Dept., Presbyterian Church in Canada*

The Rev. F. Ralph Kendall, B.A., B.D., *Minister, Dayspring Church, Edmonton*

### **The In-Between Years 1974 – 1982**

A Congregational Dinner was held at the Church in the evening following the Dedication Service. Approximately 100 persons attended. At the December 11, 1973 Session meeting, members agreed that the southwest corner of the lounge would be a suitable place for the Mary Lunn Library. Mary Lunn was the first Church School Superintendent. The memorial fund in her name was started by her husband Fraser Lunn, and has been added to by Fraser and members of the congregation in the last several years. The library shelving area was designed by Arthur Arnold.

It was also reported at that same December 11 meeting that Mrs. Charles Brine of First Presbyterian Church had offered a gift of \$500.00 to be used for furnishings, or as we see fit. It was agreed to use this gift of money to purchase a piano and dividers for the Church School.

From the newsletter of December, 1973:

Message from the minister:

*I wonder how many of us really believed the announcement last Christmas, in Louis St. Laurent School, that in 1973 we would hold our Christmas services in our own church? Up to that point there had been so many setbacks in our plans. We were almost back at the beginning, and with the rising building costs, innumerable approvals required, and the amount of work to be done,*

*it seemed pointless to build up our hopes.*

*Or maybe we lacked faith! Look what has happened in 1973. We will be worshipping in a church so attractive and usable that it is the envy of other congregations. Our one choir of seven or eight has become two choirs of twenty-four. The congregation is, in the words of one of our guests on Dedication Sunday, a people who are alive, enthusiastic, willing to tackle anything. Perhaps we have reached a new high point in our life as Dayspring Presbyterian Church. Perhaps we are just on the threshold of a future that will mean unparalleled growth in faith and service to Christ here in Edmonton. And if we face the privilege of being Christ's church with the same cooperation and determination as we have shown in the building of our first unit, there is no telling how far we may go.*

*I would like to add several personal notes. First, a word of appreciation to all who made last Sunday the memorable day it was. To mention each person who contributed to it by name would involve the whole congregational list! Maybe it was such a good day for that very reason. Then I would like to thank you for the fine tribute paid to be at the morning service. I have seen the set of the Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible in other ministers' libraries, and coveted them. You have delivered me from covetousness! And then, on behalf of the six Kendalls, I would wish for you and your families a joyous Christmas.*

*Sincerely,  
Ralph Kendall*

In January a letter of appreciation for use of the Celtic Cross was received from Rev. David Paterson on behalf of the Knox, Lloydminster congregation who had been displaying the cross in their building since Rupert Street Church was sold. Subsequently, after much discussion, the Cross was hung on the north side of the east wall of the sanctuary area.

Requests for use of our building were many and varied from Brownies, Rangers, Daycare, and Southminster United Church wishing to hold a meeting. Session also decided in February 1974:

1. to serve both wine and grape juice for Communion
2. to include the Lord's Prayer in the worship service;
- 3 .that we continue to sing hymns without "AMENS".

The second election of Elders took place in February, and C.E. deArmond, W.R. Stuart, D. Ballantyne and Morley MacCalder were Ordained and Inducted on May 5, 1974. C.G.I.T. girls from Southminster United Church joined prospective Dayspring C.G.I.T. girls for a sleep-in at Dayspring on April 6th. It was a successful event, and a group was formed at Dayspring.

Summer services up to this year have been held jointly with another church, usually Strathcona Church. This year they have declined to participate, so we are seeking another church to share summer responsibilities with us. Elder Rev. Ron Con announced he and his family would be moving to Winnipeg in July as his appointment by the Federal Government has been confirmed. Dr. Jock Lees, chairman of the Worship and Nurture Committee announced that the Dayspring Junior Choir had received 80 out of 100 on their performance at the Kiwanis Music Festival, and were awarded FIRST place in their category. Southminster United Church has willingly agreed to share summer services with Dayspring, as their school will be closed during

July and August. This arrangement continued for a number of years.

In May 1974 a letter of resignation from Session was received from Jack Fraser. The resignation was accepted with regret, and Session expressed their appreciation for his faithfulness and service to Dayspring congregation. The Synod meeting arrangements committee was named in June, to handle meal planning, billets for out of the city members, and registration. Duncan Ballantyne was named Chairman, assisted by Darleen Springstein and Dr. Jock Lees. The Synod meeting was a success due to the total cooperation of the whole congregation.

In August 1974 a very dark cloud was sighted on the horizon when the Rev. Ralph Kendall told the Session he would be tendering his resignation to the Presbytery when it met in September. Ralph intended to leave Dayspring December 31, 1974 to move to Ottawa and join his father's business -Kendall Associates. We were stunned by this announcement but Ralph was determined to try this new venture. The Presbytery named the Rev. L. Louis deGroot as interim Moderator and also agreed that he start work with the Session to fill the vacancy. Session acted as the Vacancy Committee and agreed to seek another appointment through the Board of World Mission rather than proceeding to a Call. Ralph, Sheila and the children left for Ottawa on December 25th, 1974, and on December 8th, the congregation held a dinner and gave them a going-away present. The January 1975 NEWSLETTER published the following thank you letter from the Kendalls:

*Dear members and friends,*

*On behalf of the Kendall family, we would like to express our appreciation for the supper held on December 8th, and for the surprise gift. When we turn on our gas heater, or cook on our gas stove, or light our gas lantern, how could we help but think of Alberta!*

*For all of the family, the short time spent in Edmonton, and especially in Dayspring Church, will always be remembered as one of the happiest times of our lives. It may be two years or so until we are able to make a return visit, but should any of you have the chance to visit Ottawa, we would like you to drop in and see us at the above address. Our phone number won't be in the book for a while, and I don't know what it will be yet, so you will have to call information.*

*Once again, thank you very much,*

*Sincerely,  
The Kendalls*

A Memorial in memory of Mildred Heffel had been begun by her husband Archie Heffel after her death in British Columbia. Enough money was subscribed by members of the congregation to purchase and install a gas-burning fireplace in the lounge. A Service of Dedication was to be held in the spring when Mr. Heffel and members of his family can be present at Dayspring.

Winnie Lloyd resigned from Session at the time of her retirement from the grain company. She

left to return to the Vancouver area. We will miss her active participation in Session, the Finance and Maintenance Committee, and her participation in the Choir and playing the Organ when needed.

The Interim Moderator, Rev. L.L. deGroot informed Session that the Rev. J.J. Hibbs, currently minister at Iroquois, Ontario, was interested in an appointment to Dayspring. Arrangements were made for Mr. Hibbs to preach at Dayspring on February 23, 1975 with a view to accepting the Dayspring appointment. The Clerk agreed to coordinate arrangements for Mr. Hibbs' visit. Mr. Hibbs arrived in Edmonton, met the Dayspring people, preached on Sunday, and agreed to accept an appointment if it was offered to him. The congregation held a meeting on the next Sunday and agreed to the appointment of Mr. Hibbs for a two year period. This request was transmitted to the Home Missions Committee of the Presbytery, and they formally asked the Board to make the appointment, which they did, and John Hibbs took up his appointment at Dayspring in June 1975. J.J. Hibbs had been minister at Knox, Iroquois, Ontario, and St. Andrew's South Mountain since 1962. He received a B.A. from University of Western Ontario, B.D. from Knox College, studied for 2 years at McCormick Theological School in Chicago, and M. Th. from McGill University.

Dr. Richard Smith agreed to hold communicant classes for the teen-aged members of the congregation who were interested in church membership. Six members of the class proceeded to membership in Dayspring Church. Palm Sunday was the day that 100 plus C.G.I.T. girls met at Dayspring for a sunrise service. Members of the congregation served juice, coffee and muffins to the girls after the service.

For a second year, the Session agreed to hold joint summer services with the Southminster United Church, and these arrangements were made by the Clerk. The newly-appointed Superintendent of Missions for Alberta, the Rev. George Johnston will have his headquarters in Edmonton. It was agreed that the Johnstons would occupy the Day spring Manse and John Hibbs would be located in a suitable apartment near the Church. This arrangement saw the Board of World Mission continue to pay the mortgage and taxes on the manse, and pay apartment rental for Mr. Hibbs. It would be several years before the congregation was able to purchase the manse from the Board of World Mission. May was a busy month. The Moderator of the Nigerian Presbyterian Church, Rev. Mbila was guest preacher on May 25th, Mr. Hibbs moved into the apartment on 119th Street, and the Youth Group held a starv-a-thon to buy sports equipment for the church.

Don Ferguson, treasurer, resigned and his place was taken by Perry Baird. Bella Tait agreed to act as organist while Diane Ferguson was on sick leave.

The Service of Recognition for the Rev. John J. Hibbs was held at the church on May 29, 1975. The Service of Recognition for the Rev. George Johnston, Superintendent of Missions was held at Strathcona Presbyterian Church on September 16, 1975.

The minister announced the death of Jack Ross who had served as organist, Men's work leader, and consultant on the 'new' Book of Praise.

Thanksgiving services this year were enhanced by special music prepared by the Senior Choir and a beautifully decorated sanctuary - a special effort by the youth group. A Junior Choir had been organized and met on Wednesdays, weekly, at 4-5 p.m. Lois Engelhart was pianist, John Hibbs Director, and Edna Davis transportation coordinator. The Women's Fellowship participated in the Southgate Bazaar October 23-25, with the youth group helping on Saturday, the 25th. November 1975, the Worship and Nurture Committee reported that the Church School had an enrollment of 80 children.

The congregation was delighted to have the Moderator of the 101st General Assembly, the Rev. Dr. David Hay visit Dayspring on December 10th. The Mission and Outreach Committee arranged for a potluck supper. Entertainment consisted of Scottish dancing, folk singers, and a film strip entitled Centennial 75. Dr. Hay addressed the congregation later in the evening. The new appointee to the Mill Woods Mission, the Rev. Bob Wilson and his wife Sheila were invited guests.

Mr. Russ Tait explored with Joe Donahue, the architect who designed Dayspring, the proper materials, design, etc. for a Celtic Cross to be installed on the exterior north wall of the church.

A Church School advent programme was held on December 14th, a candlelight program on December 24th at 11:00 p.m. and a Christmas morning service December 25th, at the usual hour of 10:00 am. White gifts were offered at the Church School pageant and distributed to families in need.

1976 started out being a busy year, with the Annual General Meeting held on February 8th, and an election of new elders organized by the Clerk. In March, the Session enacted a NO SMOKING rule for its meetings! Many members of Session were overjoyed. On the other hand, a few were definitely glum about the prospect of no tobacco high to see them through the long meetings - so coffee and smoke breaks were instituted. Coffee inside, smoke outside!

The Covenant Players came to Dayspring on April 28 and presented their programme, with an honorarium of \$101.00 presented on behalf of the congregation.

Dayspring and Mill Woods had a student minister for the months of May to August. Miss Diane Theme worked half time with each congregation. Summer services were again shared with Southminster United. September saw the manse exterior get a much needed paint job, and the Outreach campaign visited 201 homes. Brochures were left at another 276 homes.

In October, Dayspring was host to the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Alberta, His Honour Ralph Steinhauer. Mr. Steinhauer took part in the service for Native Peoples Sunday. A reception was held after the service for all the congregation. Dave Ward prepared a summary of the talk given by the Lt. Governor for publication in the *Record* as follows:

A comfortable middle-class Presbyterian congregation, in one of the country's most prosperous cities, in one of the have provinces, listened with undivided attention to their Lieutenant Governor on Native Peoples Sunday (October 17).

The church is Dayspring Presbyterian, the city is Edmonton, the province is Alberta and the speaker was the Honourable Ralph Steinhauer.

*This is the land the native people belong to - Canada, a land now called home by a vast mosaic of people whose forefathers came from virtually every country on earth. Canada's native people have done their share to make this mosaic work; won't you now do your share?* Mr. Steinhauer asked the Dayspring congregation.

Mr. Steinhauer began his address to this Family Service by indicating that *those people choosing Canada as their home did so with hopes and aspirations of finding a better way of life than that they left behind, and probably did not think that they'd meet a different type of people. But they did - a people who belonged to the land.*

*Your ancestors got their land from a peaceful people* said Mr. Steinhauer. *These were a people who assisted the immigrant in many ways. The native helped the newcomer in choosing where to live, what to eat, how to live off the land and guiding them to new frontiers. Continuing, Mr. Steinhauer pointed out that our forefathers were not content to live as the natives did from the natural abundance of the land the Great Spirit created. Consequently, they turned the land upside down, cut the forests, mined for gold and began to exploit unrenewable resources.*

*As the years went by more and more newcomers arrived, and with this flood of humanity came missionaries and increased economic activity.*

*All this led to treaties as we now know them.* Mr. Steinhauer explained that *finally the government of the day realized that they needed an act to make the treaties legal. And native people accepted the treaties in the belief that they were honestly made. This acceptance was easily understood because of the natives feeling for the integrity of the Crown.*

*Native people perhaps now think differently,* Mr. Steinhauer said to the Dayspring congregation. He added that *this is in no way related to a present lack of faith in the Crown, but more so to the actions of agent for the Crown.*

The Lieutenant Governor pointed out that *in many instances native people had no understanding of the meaning of treaties, because they could neither read nor write, thus becoming wards of the government. While the native, for example, could grow grain on his reserve, he needed permission to sell it, and even needed a permit to leave his reserve.*

*It's not that the Indian did not learn something from the new ways of the white man, said Mr. Steinhauer, The Indian did learn, he added, but once the white man got things rolling, he didn't need the Indian anymore.*

*With the establishment of reserves the white man gave the Indian rights to hunt and fish on unoccupied land, and while that may have been acceptable 100 years ago, where is unoccupied land today?, the congregation was asked.*

*Even the parks are occupied ,* Mr. Steinhauer pointed out.

Continuing, he noted that *there are still white people today who proclaim that the Indian should pull himself up by his bootstraps and become educated to the way of the white man. The Indian's answer to this is, why should we become something other than Indians in our own land?*

*What would happen today, asked Mr. Steinhauer, if the white man immigrated to China to change the style of living of the natives there - to change their diets and customs - all of these things, right in their own country?*

*Regardless of colour, beliefs and customs, we've accepted all who came to our land, Mr. Steinhauer continued; someday we thought we'd be accepted too.*

The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, the Honourable Ralph Steinhauer, is a native Indian, and is the first native in the history of Canada to hold such a position.

Dave Ward

In November, more brochures were distributed, this time to all the apartments on 40 and 41 Avenues. Finance and Maintenance committee is proposing that our budget for 1977 be \$40,655.00.

A Church School Pageant was planned again this year for December 12; white gifts were presented for distribution to families in need. The pageant turned out to be the Pageant of the Green Angels -as remembered by one of the Church School teachers:

When angel costumes were not available, Luke Ravenhorst provided material and Delma Marland, a talented Sunday School teacher, created costumes. The day came for the angels to be dressed. There was much hesitation until one brave youngster said, Okay, I will. Slowly the others consented and green angels stood all in a row. Luke's business happened to be recreation room furnishings, and he provided green felt material usually used on billiard tables. You might call that year's effort the Pageant of the Green Angels.

Luke Ravenhorst, as chairperson of the Worship and Nurture committee made valiant efforts to get the service started and ended on time, not 15 minutes late beginning and ending. He fought a good battle but John Hibbs was not a man who could be hurried, and so Luke fretted and finally admitted defeat in the clock watching area!

1977 began with the planning of the Annual Meeting for February 6th, a Valentine Dance at the Convention Inn South on February 12. Mill Woods congregation shared in the event which cost \$8.00 per person, and included dancing to a live band, prizes, punch-bowl, and a buffet lunch. The \$100.00 profit was designated for Inter-Church Aid Appeal.

The Finance and Maintenance Chairman, David Burnett reported for that committee and placed the following challenge before the congregation - Self Sufficiency by 1980. Toward this end, \$1,000.00 of the 1976 subsidy was returned to the Board of World Mission.

The NEWSLETTER of the church around this time was becoming a weighty affair, and in the interests of economy - both paper and postage - the Session produced a set of Guidelines, fairly relevant today. To my knowledge, these guidelines have not been revoked by the Session.

Distribution: not to be mailed except in the case of elderly and/or shut-in members  
Size: not to exceed 4 stencils in any given month  
Dates: to be published the last week of the month  
Deadline: not later than the Friday evening preceding the week of publication  
Content: Coming events of interest. Duplication of weekly bulletins and NEWSLETTER should be avoided.  
Items to be concerned with: interests of Dayspring, Presbytery, Synod, or the National Church

The Women's Fellowship are planning another outing for the residents at the Central Park Lodge -lunch and entertainment at the church. The Explorer-Jets Youth Group collected \$260.00 from the sponsors for the wake-a-thon held at the church March 18 and 19th. The proceeds to be divided among Inter-Church Aid, sports equipment, and general sports program.

The congregation to May 1977 had offered more than \$600.00 to the Burning Bush Productions of our national church to provide intentional television programming for pre-school children.

On May 8, we bid farewell to Delma and Percy Marland who returned to Australia and to Greta and Ahamad Baksh who returned to Guyana. Both families had been a part of our fellowship for two years, and had contributed their time very heavily.

The Dayspring Youth Choir has recorded "It's a Beautiful Sunday" and "Treat Men with Care" - cost of the record is \$1.98, available from the sales coordinator Alecia Schmidt.

During September the Mission and Outreach Committee and volunteers distributed over 3700 copies of our Introduction to Dayspring Church flyers to areas of Aspen Gardens, Westbrook, Blue Quill and Ermineskin.

The building roof had created ongoing problems since the opening of the church in 1973. The leaks during rain storms were many, as well as water backing up under the shingles during warm periods in the winter. The F & M Committee proposed to fix the roof, but the congregation was required to approve the expenses. A congregational meeting was called for October 23, 1977 to remedy the roof problems. The meeting agreed that the roof must be replaced, and authorized the F & M Committee to spend the necessary funds, estimated to be approximately \$7,500.00. Extra offerings were received so that the programmes of the church did not suffer because of the extra expense.

Dayspring hosted the first service at Grandview Auxiliary Hospital for 1978 (we provided the service when a 5th Sunday occurs) on January 29th. The second Valentine Dance was held February 11th, at St. Basil's Church Hall. Mill Woods congregation again co-sponsored the event.

A special congregational meeting was held after services on February 26, 1978 for the purpose

of considering the matter of the reappointment of the Rev. John Hibbs, whose 3-year appointment expired in May 1978. The Rev. Noel Gordon was guest preacher and conducted the meeting on behalf of the Missions Committee of the Presbytery of Edmonton. The minutes of this meeting reveal that a motion to appoint Mr. Hibbs to Dayspring Church as Ordained Missionary without termination was defeated. Another motion that the Kirk Session consider a Called Minister in light of the present financial status of the congregation was carried.

The regular annual congregational meeting approved a budget of \$42,850.00 with \$35,150.00 coming from the congregation of Dayspring, and the rest from national church subsidies. David Burnett, the outgoing Chairman of the F & M Committee received a nasty shock during the meeting, which was being held in the hall when from a distance came the voice of Marlene calling Dave! Dave! Her appearance from around the corner caused David's jaw to drop in astonishment. With mop and bucket in hand, hair a bedraggled wig, cotton print housedress under a torn sweater, she tramped into the room wearing Al Davis' old garden boots and saying, where is that man? He's never around when I need him! Unfortunately no picture was taken of this event to commemorate the appearance of Marlene or should we say Carol Burnett.

A number of persons within the congregation were unhappy that the special congregational meeting did not approve the reappointment of John Hibbs, and the session received a petition and letters asking for another meeting. These letters were referred to the Presbytery, and subsequently dealt with at that April 11th meeting of the Presbytery. The Presbytery discussed the matter at length and the following was the minute in the Presbytery record:

Motion Carr/Dingman, that Presbytery return the Petition as unacceptable, with reasons, but respond to the references from the Dayspring Session in the following terms. Re return of petition: the reasons adduced are either incorrect or inadequate).

- 1 .appoint an interim-moderator and a committee to consult with him
2. appoint a congregational meeting for the purpose of determining the Dayspring congregation's mind with respect to its future ministry.
- 3 .extend the appointment of the Rev. J.J. Hibbs for a three month (3) period from the end of his present appointment.
- 4 .enjoin all parties to seek to work together in peace, and to deal with the issues at stake between them, making use of the interim-moderator and his committee when differences cannot be resolved.
- 5 .that specific complaints about the conduct of the Dayspring congregational meeting be addressed by the committee with report to the Presbytery at the earliest opportunity.

The Presbytery of Edmonton meeting of April 11, 1978 named the Rev. L. Louis deGroot as Interim-Moderator of Dayspring congregation. The Presbytery named a Committee to Consult with the Interim Moderator consisting of Rev. Peter McKague, and Elders Bill Foskett and Ben Sutherland. Another congregational meeting was held on April 30, 1978 chaired by the Rev. L.L. deGroot.

Four options were proposed by the committee:

- A. proceed to a call at this meeting
- B. to hear a candidate and then make a decision
- C. seek an interim minister for a certain period of time

D. request an O.M. appointment by the Board of World Missions  
Option A was approved by the congregation. A motion to insert the name of the Rev. J.J. Hibbs in the Call was approved with 60 votes for, and 35 votes against.

The Call was presented to the Presbytery at a meeting May 11, 1978, and after hearing reasons for and against placing the call in Mr. Hibbs hands, voted against the Call. Mr. Hibbs presented his resignation from Dayspring Charge to the Presbytery. It was approved, and was effective June 30, 1978. Other decisions were reached at this time. Rev. Dr. Jesse Bigelow of Westmount Church was an official nominee for Moderator of General Assembly, and was subsequently elected Moderator at the June meeting of Assembly. A member of Dayspring for a number of years, Mrs. Margaret Morrison, accepted an appointment by C.U.S.O. to work in Africa as a teacher of secretarial skills. The June Newsletter carried a message from the Interim Moderator which helped Dayspring people to realize that divisions in the church are not new, and can be overcome, and that healing can take place. During the vacancy, Dayspring congregation's pulpit was filled by the Rev. Dr. George Hadjiantoniou on many occasions. His wise words and caring attitude helped to heal the divisions among members.

The Mission and Outreach committee has been busy again, this time distributing the Dayspring pamphlet to Brander Gardens area, with plans for another distribution on 119 St. and 45 Avenue Milestone, 5th Anniversary

### **Milestone, 5th Anniversary**

As Advent approached this year, we realized that December 1978 is the 5th anniversary of the opening of our building. Advent services were taken by Rev. Lowell Eckert and Dr. Hadjiantoniou, with Rev. deGroot, Dr. R.C. Smith and Rev. George Johnston overseeing the 11:00 p.m. December 13th service. Communion was celebrated December 3 and 24th.

January 14, 1979, Rev. Dr. Jesse Bigelow was guest preacher. Dayspring was pleased to hear Dr. Bigelow's message and welcome him and Margaret to our service. A reception and luncheon were held for the Bigelows after the service with many of the congregation staying to meet Jesse and Margaret, and congratulate them as they proceed through the Moderatorial Year.

January 17, 1979 Louis deGroot was in the study at Dayspring, as he was every Wednesday night, to meet with the congregation or counsel those in trouble. This night was his last with us, as he suffered a massive heart attack and died on the way to the hospital. The following was written by a member of his congregation for the service following his death:

*We, a company of friends, say goodbye and remember with grateful affection our minister and friend L. Louis deGroot, who in his 67th year has fallen asleep in the Lord. Each of us will cherish our memories of Louis and each of us can share our memories of him.*

*I will share briefly with you the Louis I knew. He was a very supportive man; a man who was always there to help out when called upon; a man who fought for justice and fairness. He was a man of untiring devotion and energy who spent untold hours in being of service to others; a*

*man who has enriched my life through knowing him. He was a man who enjoyed the Creator's world to the fullest and a very joyous, happy man who would want us to be happy and joyous even as we say farewell. For the long years of able service which he rendered to the Church and to many a Christian cause, we thank God.*

*Sometimes friends must be separated by miles, but if there is a oneness in Jesus Christ, there is a heavenly tie that binds us together. This is particularly true when we spend time praying for those who are separated from us. Together, though separated, we unload our fears, hopes, aims, comforts and cares on Christ. Even when there is a permanent parting through death and we are filled with sorrow and pain, we know that because of the tie in Christ Jesus we will once again be joined with those we love.*

*So as we stand upon the shore of the sea and bid farewell to a ship that loses itself over the rim of the world, we pray. O God, give fair voyage and safe harbour. And, as we stand upon this hither shore and bid farewell, grant us faith to hear the voices which on yonder show cry, Welcome and All hail.*

*We can be strong and of good courage. We can be happy and joyous, for Christ has told us, Well done, thou good and faithful servant, Louis. I have need of thee and have called thee home.*

*Welcome, Louis, into the joys of thy Lord.*

The rev. Ian P. MacSween was named Interim-Moderator of Dayspring Church by the Presbytery of Edmonton on February 13, 1979. The March newsletter carried a message from Mr. MacSween.

*Dayspring has survived some heavy weather over recent months, but you have been served by a superbly equipped Interim Moderator, wide in experience, deep in understanding, strongly motivated in a love for the people of God, and wisely guided by firm convictions. The gift of reconciliation shared with Dayspring in the closing months of the life of Rev. Louis deGroot will doubtless remain one of the effective turning points of the lengthening history of Dayspring Church.*

*At this point we are following a plan and program for the future of the congregation devised prior to the passing of Mr. deGroot. He had been in touch with a senior minister who had indicated an interest in visiting the congregation with a view to possibly offering himself to preach for a Call. However, the minister's commitment was such that he could not make even an original visit until some time after the Board of World Missions have met to assign and appoint Ordained ministers to their several fields this spring. A request for an appointment of such a person had been approved and forwarded to the Board of World Mission earlier in 1979. This application will be dealt with at the time of the annual meeting of the B.W.M. which falls during March. We can confidently await word of a satisfactory appointment, having been accorded first priority for an appointment in the Synod of Alberta.*

Tom Leiper had been busy for months researching memorial gifts and donations made to

Dayspring and Rupert Street Churches. A book had been compiled and would be kept as a permanent record for the congregation. Members of the Session began in April to have a member in the study from 7-9 p.m. every Wednesday. The Women's fellowship has been helping WIN House and hoped to have raised \$200.00 by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Happy retirement to Duncan Ballantyne who retired from A.G.T. after 30 years. He was looking forward to not having to get up at 6 a.m. every morning!"

The May 1979 Newsletter made an appeal for funds to begin building a new facility at Camp Kannawin and most important to this congregation, an appointment has been made by the Board of World Mission to fill our vacancy. Mrs. Jean Armstrong, a recent graduate of Presbyterian College was appointed to fill the Dayspring charge. Mrs. Armstrong arrived in July and began her work with us in August. A Service of Recognition was held in Dayspring Church September 5th, 1979 at 8 p.m. A reception followed the service. The August Newsletter carried a message from Jean:

*I have been looking forward to coming to Dayspring since the Presbytery of Edmonton approved my assignment in April 1979. The big day finally arrived in early July and we have spent our time enjoying the city and the manse. We would like to thank the Session and the congregation for the welcome given us, especially those who worked so hard on the manse making it ready for our arrival.*

*My appointment commenced August 1st and I have been preaching at Strathcona Presbyterian Church, and, accompanied by the elders, visiting members and adherents of the congregation. The visiting will take some time, nevertheless, I am looking forward to meeting all of you in your homes through the late summer and early fall.*

*For the time being I can be reached at the following number: 437-4608 any morning except Friday. On that day, in case of an emergency, the Reverend Bob Smith, minister of Mill Woods Presbyterian Church will be available, his number being 462-2466. September 2nd will be my first service at Dayspring which will afford another opportunity to get to know you and your family.*

*Jean Armstrong*

The Synod of Alberta met in Grande Prairie this year, and the Rev. Mrs. Armstrong and Edna Davis attended as our representatives. Mission and Outreach are planning another Knock & Drop event, and hope to get as far south of the church as 24 Avenue.

A potluck supper was held after the event. The Kirk Session announced that Darleen Springstein resigned as Clerk of the Session on October 31, 1979. Bill McCune was elected to take over the duties of Clerk for a 2 year term beginning November 1, 1979.

Advent was coming, and plans were underway to buy Christmas hampers for families in need. A Church School pageant was held on December 16th, and a Christmas Eve Service at 10:30 p.m. C.G.L.T. girls were active in the congregation, and held a candlelight service on December

9th. Bible Study continued to be held at convenient times during the week.

1980 saw more unrest in Taiwan, and the Presbyterian Church under increasing government pressure. Dr. G.M. Kao - General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan was sentenced to 7 years in prison by the current government. His sermons and writings were confiscated. On another front, refugees were increasing in number as great risks were undertaken to flee from Vietnam. Westmount P.C. sponsored a refugee family, and now there was an opportunity for Dayspring to do the same. The paper work was completed and Dayspring was approved to sponsor two Vietnamese refugees living in a refugee camp in Korea. The two young men, ages 18 and 19 were nephews of the family being sponsored by Westmount Church.

We looked for an apartment, and furniture for it. Monetary donations were directed to the Refugee Fund. Phan Dinh Mang and Phan Treu Phong were scheduled to arrive in Edmonton in November, and would be assisted by the Dayspring congregation for about a year.

Advent this year had some different activities for the congregation. An inter-generational event was held on December 14. C.G.I.T. held a Vesper Service on December 7th, and an Advent vigil was held on three Tuesdays in the upper meeting room. This was a wonderful way to get away from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations, to a quiet time of meditation, prayer and study led by the minister. The 60 Church School children all participated in a white sock event, and brought their savings for a donation to the Christmas bureau. During December a memorial service was held in Edmonton for Archie Heffel, who died in November at Vancouver. Mr. Heffel had been an elder in the Rupert Street Presbyterian Church.

January 1981 saw Dayspring getting involved with other churches in the Presbytery when Rev. Armstrong was named Interim-Moderator at the Killam-Galahad charge, and a gift of offering plates was designated for the new congregation of Faith Presbyterian Church at Fort McMurray.

The congregation was beginning to get anxious about the arrival of the two young refugee men. The committee members were Jack Little, Publicity; Mickey Johnston, Hospitality; Chris Walker, Accommodation; and Terry McBurney and Jack Harvey, Health and Education. A real team effort!

The Junior and Senior Young Peoples Groups met weekly, were active with social events, and helped at Central Park Lodge with a Bingo and singing Christmas carols. A social get-together and reunion of people from the Rupert Street Church congregation was held at Dayspring on January 16, with thirty-seven participants. Everyone enjoyed the evening of re-union and potluck supper. The annual meeting accepted a budget for 1981 of \$41,885.00. The World Day of Prayer was held at Dayspring in March with Edna Davis, Marion Johnson, and Ruth Ballantyne in charge of the arrangements. Also in March, the Session moved to make the elders more visible in the congregation by taking turns greeting worshippers at the door, meeting for Intercessory Prayer before the worship service, wearing name tags and taking part in the worship service on a rotation basis.

In April the Finance and Maintenance chairman, George Potter, announced that a photocopier had been purchased for the church office. With this purchase the faithful Gestetner became just part of the history of Dayspring! Phan Dinh Mang and Phan Treu Phong finally arrived in Edmonton in late March and with the help of the committee and several of the youth group, soon got settled in an apartment and began learning about Canadian culture and among other things how an apartment intercom works. By May the young men were well settled in their apartment. Phong was in E.S.L. classes and Mang was working full time.

A Vacation Bible School was held in mid-July with the cooperation of both St. Margaret s and St. John's Anglican Churches. Forty-nine children between the ages of 4 and 12 years took part in the bible school. On June 21st 24 new members were admitted to the Roll of Dayspring church and we said farewell to Jim and Jody Mayo who returned to the U.S.A., and Terry and Sue McBurney left for Saskatoon.

Day spring members held a work and fellowship weekend at Camp Kannawin, April 23-25, 1982. Painting and varnishing were at the top of the job jar, with cabin ceiling insulating coming next. Old paint was scraped off some of the cabins, and carpenters were busy repairing steps and railings. Alex Engelhart directed the fun, games, and dancing that took place on Saturday night. Everyone cooked and had a great time; some work also was accomplished.

Summer services were again held at Day spring with Southminster United sharing the preaching, coffee hour, cleaning and yard work. In September, the young refugees moved to a more modest apartment, and both were working at full-time jobs.

The September meeting of the Presbytery marked another first when the Rev. Helen Smith was elected Moderator, and her husband, the Rev. Robert Smith was elected Clerk.

The Sanctuary had become very crowded and the Session agreed that an evening Service of Worship would begin in November. It was not expected that people would attend both services, but rather that the sleepy heads who didn't like getting out of bed in the early morning would come to the evening service. Jean Armstrong made the congregation very aware of the colours of the seasons of the church by always wearing an appropriately coloured stole.

There is now a DAYSPRING III as described in the Nov. 1982 issue of the Canadian Bible Society Quarterly Newsletter:

Ron and Aggie Russell, whose boat Dayspring II sank in May of last year, have now resumed their ministry of distributing Scriptures in the South Pacific Islands. A new boat, a 50-ton ketch, 74 feet long, called Dayspring III will once again make it possible to bring the Scriptures to the people of the Pacific Islands, far distant from one another and often very isolated. The Russells purchased the Dayspring III thanks in part to the insurance money from the previous boat and also with financial assistance from the Canadian Bible Society. The Russell family set up their home in Auckland, New Zealand, but Ron has been at sea on Dayspring since May.

Evening services continued with an attendance of 15 to 20 persons. The service was informal, often taking on the aspect of a Bible Study group. On March 14, 1982 the handbell choir from

Harry Ainley School presented selected classical and religious music.

A Manse Purchase Fund was set up at the annual meeting, with a view of buying the manse from the Board of World Mission, and assuming the C.M.H.A. payments - another step toward self-support!! The congregation needs to raise \$5,800.00 by year end to augment the \$7,500.00 now in the fund to pay off the B.W.M. equity in the manse. By May 1982 the financial obligation to the young refugee men was completed, but the friendship ties were still in existence. They have both been grateful for our help, and are now supporting themselves with their jobs.

In June twenty new members were welcomed to the membership of Dayspring. Summer services would be shared with the Southminster United congregation again this year. Tom Leiper reported in November that a new Korean Presbyterian congregation would be organized formally on November 27, 1982, and the Rev. Tom Cunningham had been assigned to the new work in West Jasper Place. Volunteers from Dayspring and the rest of the Presbytery helped do a visitation to a large area in the west section of the city.

Evening services began again after the summer break and were being well attended. Ian Gartshore, youth worker at Westmount and First Presbyterian Churches, led the first 3 services.

A Christmas Eve candlelight service was well attended, and George Potter announced that the Manse fund now had enough money in it for Dayspring to complete the purchase of the manse. The down side here is that we also assume the C.M.H.A. monthly mortgage payments.

### **Self Supporting 1983 -1988**

Dayspring started 1983 with plans to show the 6 films in the series His Stubborn Love narrated by Joyce Landorf. The series was well attended for the six week period. Babysitting was provided for the afternoon showings and the community supported the venture well.

History was made again at Dayspring when the Kirk Session decided that the time was right for the congregation to call a minister. The Presbytery appointed the Rev. Dr. Ron Foubister as Interim Moderator for the next several months while we went through the official process to call a minister. The Call was to the Rev. Jean Armstrong and the Presbytery concurred in this decision. A Special Induction Service was held at the church on April 12, 1983.

Camp Kannawin held an official opening service on May 15, 1983 at which time the naming of the centre also took place. The building was designated the RUBY WALKER CENTRE, and the dining hall portion is MacSWEEN HALL. The service was conducted by Rev. George Johnston, Superintendent of Missions, Synod of Alberta. Pianist for the occasion was Alecia Schmidt of Dayspring congregation.

Dayspring sent two delegates to Congress 83 -Nancy Lupton and Sioban Ford. They reported back to the congregation upon their return with glowing descriptions of the event. Mrs. Armstrong also attended Congress as a workshop leader.

Rev. Armstrong spent the summer on sick leave after surgery, and then her 5 week vacation. She reported that after being away from her work for 2 months, she needed another month to recover from the previous 2 months!

Plans were well underway for hosting the Synod in October, and also to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the church building. The celebration was a couple of months early, but October was an opportune time for the Rev. Ralph and Mrs. Sheila Kendall to be with us for this occasion.

A special person in our congregation was honoured at the Synod meeting. Dayspring congregation presented a gift to the Rev. George Johnston to mark his 35th anniversary as a minister.

Advent season this year saw Bring a Friend day on December 11. The Advent Litany during the Sundays preceding Christmas Day was looked after by the Junior Young Peoples Group, the Senior Young Peoples Group, the Choir and the Church School. December 18th, the church family enjoyed a potluck supper, carol singing and a short white gift service. The donations of money were designated for Presbyterian World Service. 1984 was ushered in by the Senior Youth Group holding a joint meeting with the Korean Presbyterian Church young people; they also planned a hay ride for February and a ski trip for March. A bottle drive at the end of January helped finance some of the fun events.

The season of Lent was an opportunity for Dayspring to again focus on a Third World mission. The congregation was required to raise \$1,350.00 to finance their share of the Tapachula project which is best described in an excerpt from a letter by the Rev. Wayne Smith of Presbyterian World Service & Development:

Presbyterian World Service and Development has agreed to include the Tapachula Project as one of the projects they assist. Tapachula, a city of 100-200,000 is in southern Mexico, 15 km from the Guatemalan border. An estimated 30,000 refugees from Guatemala and El Salvador have crossed the border and are living at present around Tapachula. Three local pastors, a Nazarene and two Lutherans, are cooperating with Presbyterians for the first time ever to assist the refugees.

I am glad that we can be involved in this project for several reasons: I met the people running it and am convinced of their commitment; there is an element of pride as a Canadian Presbyterian; and the Mexican Presbyterians are participating (there are more Presbyterians in Mexico than in Canada). There are many ways the Presbyterian World Service and Development is supporting this work. Dayspring, however, has chosen one of the projects - the Mexican-Guatemalan sheep flocks.

An imaginative way to overcome problems of integrating the new arrivals into the local milieu is through cooperation. Guatemalan and Mexican families experienced as shepherds work together tending sheep. 60 lambs and 20 sheep along with equipment and shelters will be purchased. Start-up costs for the initial family living expenses and for inoculations and registration will also be included.

Each farm is 40 hectares and has to be seeded but there is good soil and adequate rain. There are 15 to 20 families involved with 15 to 20 sheep per family. P.W.S. is supporting the project through a grant of \$1,350 and has requested \$7,125 in matching government grants.

The money was raised and reports in later years called it a successful project.

Elder Dee DeArmond was commissioned at Dayspring as an Assessor Elder for the West Jasper Place congregation, and Dayspring continued to give the new congregation support and encouragement.

Summer services were held jointly with the Southminster/Steinhauer United Church congregation as they have been for many years. The United church congregation opened an office at 11 Fairway Drive, and on September 9, 1984, inducted a new minister, the Rev. Dr. Clair Woodbury.

New communion trays were dedicated in October in memory of Molly Martland, and were a gift of her family.

The Women's Fellowship staged their annual Fall Bazaar at the church on November 10th. Elizabeth Leitz arrived at Dayspring to take responsibility for directing the choir and playing the piano and organ for services. The carpet in the building was beginning to show wear, so a plan was devised to raise money for its replacement - buy a yard of carpet for \$15.00 and watch the fund grow. It did grow and the carpet on the main floor was all replaced in 1985.

Dayspring received a letter of thanks in November from Dr. Chen, who had been teaching children of Chinese origin to speak that language. The classes began 3 years ago and had been very valuable to the participants. Just another way of reaching out to the community from Dayspring.

During December, Dayspring held 2 services each morning to try to accommodate the great number of worshippers who attended morning services. Christmas Eve services were exceptionally crowded and we felt sure that the Fire Marshall would have shut us down if he had come calling that night! The closet claustrophobes were very uncomfortable those Sundays.

The new year of 1985 brought a memo from the Session, that they would present a copy of Living Faith to each new member joining our church. And Ron and Marian Bailey organized a cross country ski event with refreshments to follow on February 2nd.

A pancake and sausage brunch preceded the Annual General meeting on February 17th, 1985. Bob McLelland and an active committee took care of the arrangements and even washed the dishes.

Mill Woods congregation was approved by the Presbytery to erect a church building to cost up to \$275,000.00. The Presbytery Future Churches fund will contribute part of the cost of this

project Another first was the Garage/Yard Sale held at the church on April 27th. Doug Meilde and Dunc Ballantyne coordinated the day, and it was successful. Proceeds were \$1,270.00. The Planning and Policy Committee presented their report in April, and the short term proposal to ease the crowding conditions at Sunday services was approved. That proposal was to install a folding door in the west wall of the sanctuary area, so that chairs could be placed in the lounge for the overflow crowds. Cost of this renovation was approximately \$5,000.00. During the summer, the manse was painted outside, and the church grounds were again kept presentable by a crew of volunteers. Chief volunteer was Jeff Conquest who managed to keep the 39 Avenue side of the property looking great all summer.

A College and Careers Group had an initial meeting on October 6th, to organize themselves for group discussion, social outings and Bible Study.

During November the Session began studying the impact of children partaking of communion on a regular basis. And another first and we might add only took place when the Session members agreed (reluctantly on the part of those who can't carry a tune) to join the choir for the Advent season of music. The White Gifts this year were designated for Presbyterian World Service and Development in Seoul, South Korea.

Everyone received a special treat this year, when Joyce Boorman told a story to the children, written by herself, called The Little Lost Star.

In January of 1986 the Mill Woods congregation opened their new building. The Dedication service was planned for May when everything would be complete.

Dayspring was still bursting at the seams most Sundays and there was discussion about setting up a Building Fund.

February brought cold weather, and a colder feeling for the Dayspring people, as it was announced that Jean Armstrong had received a Call from Glebe Presbyterian Church in Toronto. Jean accepted the Call when it was put in her hands at a meeting of the Presbytery held at Braeside Church on March 23, 1986. The Rev. Allan Young was named Interim Moderator of Dayspring church.

The Session said farewell to Jean Armstrong at their March 31st meeting when they presented her with a gift of an engraved silver tray and four silver wine goblets. The congregation held a potluck supper on April 11th, to say good bye to Jean and Grant Armstrong. They were presented with a gift of a painting by Eddie-Lee Smith. April 13th was Mrs. Armstrong's last worship service at Dayspring.

Flowers were presented by Mary Conquest, and Bill McCune presented a purse of money along with a card signed by all members of the congregation:

*It is time to say goodbye. By mid-April I will be leaving Dayspring to become the minister of Glebe Presbyterian Church in Toronto, Ontario. Why am I leaving? I have been at Dayspring for almost seven years, and I think that for both of us a change is in order. In other words it is*

*time to go.*

*Over the past years we have both grown and many changes have taken place. Deep relationships have been established and close friendships made, and so it is difficult to move from here. On the other hand, for Dayspring the future holds great promise for continuing growth and achievement. For myself, there will be new challenges and opportunities in a new and different form of ministry.*

*It is hard to say goodbye, so I am not going to, except to say that God's blessing will rest with all of us in the years to come.*

*Jean Armstrong*

The Pulpit Vacancy Committee was named on May 29, 1986 as follows: Rev. Allan Young, Chairman; D. Springstein; Doug McKinnon; Tony Kemahan; Marlene Burnett; Rosa Bidulock, Janet Johnson and Peter DeVos members. Dayspring has been through the experience of being vacant of a settled minister several times before. It was never an easy time for a congregation, but the members of Dayspring have always been very strong participants in the activities of their church. These activities continued to happen whether we were settled or not! Everyone who was able took up the slack; one example during this vacancy was Peter McKague conducting the Communicants classes, starting April 6th and going for 6 to 8 weeks.

The Yard Sale of 86 was successful, with proceeds amounting to \$1,318.00. Many people volunteered to help, and the Finance and Maintenance Committee did a great job of coordinating the gathering, pricing, and selling. The organ was replaced by a new Baldwin Howard Classical Organ at a cost of \$9,000.00. The old organ was traded in on the new one so the actual price to be paid is \$7,500.00. An organ fund was established several years ago, and at \$49.00 a key, the fund paid for 48 keys. An appeal for funds to finish paying off the organ debt was presented to the congregation, and in several months the needed funds had been offered!

The Vacancy Committee had been busy, and the Rev. Yme Woensdregt was invited to preach for the Call to Dayspring on the last Sunday in October. Subsequently, at a congregational meeting held on November 2nd, 1986, it was agreed to call Mr. Woensdregt. One hundred and twenty-one members signed the call (of a possible one hundred and thirty-nine). The various Presbyteries approved the Call and the Woensdregts arrived in January 1987. The Presbytery held a Service of Induction at Dayspring on January 23rd, 1987 for the Rev. Yme Woensdregt.

The following is part of a letter to the congregation from Yme. Woensdregt:

*This note has a simple purpose: it is, firstly to introduce myself. Let me begin by explaining that I bear an egocentric name, which is pronounced I-me, as in Me, Myself and I. Despite the burden of that name, I am a humble and modest fellow, who is married to Flora, and who is the father of Yvonne (aged 6) and Jonathan (aged 4). I graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1978 with a Bachelor of Music degree, and from the Vancouver School of Theology in May, 1982, with a Master of divinity degree. Following graduation, we moved to Geraldton, a town of 3,000 people located approximately 33 km north-east of Thunder Bay.*

On March 6, 1987, Dayspring and St. Margaret's Anglican Church teamed up to host the World Day of Prayer at Dayspring Church. Easter Sunday this year was a memorable one as fifteen persons joined the church either by transferring of certificate or profession of faith.

The Mission and Outreach Ministry Committee proposed that we fund a project in India at a school where Pauline Brown - a Presbyterian Missionary - was working. The school needs new sanitary facilities; and \$500.00 would cover the cost of the project. Dayspring congregation responded and 582.00 was donated before the summer was over. Duncan Ballantyne and Gladys Riddell organized the spring Yard Sale, held April 25, 1987. Proceeds of \$1,476.00 were designated for the Building Fund, and lots of volunteers performed the usual wheeling and dealing to make money from other people's junk.

Another year, another Moderator of the General Assembly. The Moderator this year was the Rev. Tony Plomp. He and his wife Margaret were with us on September 27, 1987. As October, November and December services came along, the squeeze was on again and seats in the sanctuary going to the early arrivals, the rest sitting behind the sliding door. It seemed that there were only two viable courses of action for the congregation to take.

- 1 .Two services or
- 2.Expand the facility.

Would you believe there are those among the more conservative members who resist doing either?

In November Yme was named Clerk of the Presbytery, and before the year was over 10 more persons had joined Dayspring Church as communicant members. This year two Christmas Eve Services were held, one at 7 p.m. for children and families, and the second at 11 p.m. when communion was served.

The Annual General Meeting in 1988 was well attended and made a very important decision - to form two new committees: a Building Committee and a Fund Raising Committee. These two committees had the responsibility of determining the readiness of our congregation to engage in a building program. The Fund Raising Committee looked at the financial end of things; the Building Committee researched our needs for more space, as well as the non-financial impact of constructing a new building.

### **Church Expansion**

In February 29, 1988 Bill McCune resigned as Clerk of the Kirk Session. Bill had served in this capacity for 8 years. Dr. Richard Smith was elected as Clerk for a one year term. In April the Session hosted a retirement party for Bill McCune as he took a rest after those 8 long years of minutes, correspondence, statistics, etc.

The committees approved at the Annual Meeting were named:

Fund Raising Committee: Dunc Ballantyne, VanceMacNichol and Peter Schmidt

The Building Committee was announced as:

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Session Representative: | Darleen Springstein  |
| Finance and Maintenance | Bob Stone  |
| Worship and Nurture     | Mickey Johnston  |
| Mission and Outreach    | Harold Conquest  |
| Women s Fellowship      | Jean Bruce   |
| Young People            | Cynthia MacNichol  |
| Congregational Reps     | Dave Burnett; Vaden House; Morley MacCalder; Margaret Potter |

Morley MacCalder had the distinction of being the only person to serve on the 1973 original Building Committee as well as the current Committee! In August 1988, the mortgage on the property was discharged, but it was decided to hold the official Burning of the Mortgage ceremony on December 11, 1988, 15 years from the opening of the facility in December 1973. Another first in 1988 was the Pictorial Directory of Dayspring Church families, produced at no cost to the congregation.

Janet Roberts reported in September that the Mission and Outreach Ministry had completed their Central America project. The committee gathered and shipped 220 kg of assorted clothing, sewing supplies and two sewing machines to Rev. Joe Reid in Nicaragua. He replied that he was particularly glad to get our shipment as one of the sewing co-ops had recently been burned.

At August 31, 1988 the Building Fund balance was \$41,457.00!! Congregational meetings were seldom enjoyed, only endured! The congregation was soon to find out just how true that statement was as we proceeded through the process of having each segment of the building process approved by the congregation.

A congregational meeting was held in October to report to the congregation the progress of both the Fund Raising Committee and the Building Committee, and at that time Jean Stricklin replaced Margaret Potter as a congregational representative. The congregation gave approval for the committee to seek an architect, and approved in principle the use of professional fund raisers to help us attain the money necessary for the project. The congregation also agreed to the suggestion that a gym/large hall be built at another time as a separate structure.

In November, Yme Woensdregt completed arrangements to begin studies at Austin, Texas, with a view to eventually earning a doctoral degree. In his spare time Yme is also secretary of the building committee!

In 1989 the Session agreed to the idea that name tags be prepared for each person in the congregation. Tags are fairly easy to do, but what do you do with them when they are not attached to a person? Various methods were tried and discarded, and eventually our present box with the swing-out sections was produced, and is still used today.

The February 1989 congregational meeting accepted a motion that we build a sanctuary to seat 300 persons, and that we at least double our space for Christian Education classes. Bill Davis was added to the Building Committee. During March a sub-building committee interviewed

architects (7) over a four day period. Each group was given 1½ to 2 hours for their presentation. Those on the subcommittee were D. Springstein, M. Johnson, Morley MacCalder and B. Stone. The committee recommended that the firm of Woolfenden, Hamilton and Brown Architectural Group Ltd. be named architects for the project. A congregational meeting on April 9, 1989 passed the motion regarding the architect, and also agreed to the spending of \$5,000.00 for preliminary drawings of our project.

Christina Thomson replaced Richard Smith as Clerk of the Kirk Session in March 1989.

Everyone was deeply into the building craze, and the committee members were attending lots of meetings. By September 1989 the Building Committee had put in a total of 764 hours, the Fund Raising Committee had put in 99 hours, and the Expand the Vision committee workers using the R.S.I. method had spent 760 hours, for a total of 1,623 hours or 203 working days! A congregational dinner at the Derrick Club was the highlight of the fund raising work. A total of \$300,500.00 was pledged to the project.

There has never been a dull moment at Dayspring. Just when we were all highly involved in the building project, we must get prepared for the taping of our worship service on the C.B.C. Meeting Place program on October 1st, 1989. The program was shown 2 weeks later, October 15, 1989, and we displayed for all the world - well Canada anyway - just how crowded our sanctuary is and how we really do need to build a larger facility!

The congregational meeting fad continued with meetings on November 19 and December 9, 1989. Plans were changed several times at the behest of members of the congregation, but eventually everyone agreed that there would be a sloping floor in the sanctuary, and doors leading from the lounge to the courtyard. The choir area was enlarged to accommodate 23 persons, and a piano and organ. The additional washroom was re-located, the kitchen enlarged and the choir room/vestry eliminated. After all this activity, the busyness of the Advent season was almost like a rest.

The Annual Congregational Meeting in 1990 dropped another bomb in the midst of the Building Committee when it passed on a recommendation that we proceed this year with the south-west portion of the building/renovation plan. This would expand our class area by one room, but would also include the building of the new furnace room, kitchen and washroom area (left unfinished until the next phase is built). Architects scrambled (and no doubt wondered why they had ever asked to get involved with us) plans were revised, estimates produced, and the building was done - not on time -but we were using the space by October.

Brenex Construction was the General Contractor, and the price paid was \$101,000.00. It was also estimated that we lost in interest approximately \$11,000.00 by building in 2 phases. However we would probably have had to rent classroom space anyway, so it was nice to get a bit of experience and be really ready for the Big One. The new and old area of the south portion of the building were carpeted with the same carpet, and were painted to match, so newcomers arriving in our midst would say what new building are you talking about? Mickey Johnston took on the responsibility of overseer of the slave labour that was used to first wash all the walls in the old hall and washroom area, then paint - 2 coats in the old area and 3 coats in the

new area. An Open House was held October 13th, for the community and friends of the congregation.

For the second year, during Advent, two services were held in the morning at 10:00 and 11:30 a.m. The Church School presented the Christmas story in song, skit and carol on December 16th, at 7 p.m. Martin & Nesta Sawdon agreed again to organize the New Years party at the church - an event for all ages.

The Annual General Meeting held February 17, 1991 approved the Building Committee recommendation that Phase II of the building/renovation program be undertaken in 1991. The committee, except for David Burnett agreed to stay and see the building completed. The final drawings were sent to tender, and the firm of Keller construction was awarded the contract. Price of the contract was \$406,568.00.

The Sod Turning Ceremony for the new sanctuary was held May 26th, 1991 at the end of the regular worship service. The service was held on the east side of the property – about where the centre aisle is now. One of the consequences of the expansion was that the poplar trees on the east side of the sanctuary will be lost. The sod-turning ceremony included a symbolic cutting of the trees - performed by Bill Davis - a member of the Building Committee. Thanks was given to God for the life of the trees and God's goodness in all of creation. Those taking part in the actual Sod Turning were:

Lois Engelhart, representing the Rupert Street Church connection and the people with long standing membership.

Andrea Thompson representing the newer church members.

Michael Montgomery representing the youth of the congregation.

Building proceeded slowly at times as windows were delayed, and when they did arrive were the wrong size! The Building Committee met every week during the construction phase from June through November, as we were determined that no one would be required to make decisions on the spot. Contractors and architects and committee members also attended weekly meetings at the site. Jean Bruce, Morley MacCalder and Yme Woensdregt attended most of these meetings and then reported to the committee the same day.

The financing of the building/renovation project was helped by a grant of \$25,000.00 from the Community Facilities Enhancement program of the Provincial Government, a grant of \$20,000 from Cook's Church Toronto, and a \$60,000.00 low interest loan from the Lending Funds of the Presbyterian Church. The Royal Bank mortgage was guaranteed by the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation. The first Worship service in the new sanctuary was held December 1, 1991 (204 people took communion) with overflow crowds of parishioners come to see the finished product - well, almost finished product. There are always a few things that require repair or re-painting. The sheer enjoyment of sitting in a cushioned pew was foremost in everyone's thoughts, as they looked around the new space, and marveled that it was actually a reality not just a dream.

The Service of Dedication for our new building/renovation was held by the Presbytery on February 9th, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. A new sign for the front entrance of the church was constructed

by Sandy Bruce - son of Jean and David - and donated to the church by the Bruce family. Word of our good acoustics had spread and the University Mixed Chorus agreed to present several musical selections to enhance the worship service on April 5, 1992. Also in April, Ted Roberts agreed to act as Volunteer Special Music coordinator.

Jean and David Bruce ordered mugs and plates depicting the new Dayspring Church, and sold them to members of the congregation. These are a lasting memory of the building, they are useful, and the project made a little money for the Building Fund!

Mark Stricklin saw an opportunity and helped organize a musical potluck evening on April 11. Many members participated and had a great time. The Fellowship Committee continued with the soup and sandwich luncheon for retired people which they had begun holding in January.

With the coming of June, came the word that Yme Woensdregt had preached for a Call to Chalmers church, London, Ontario. The two Presbyteries processed the call and on July 26, 1992 the Rev. George Johnston was named Interim Moderator. On the Woensdregt's last Sunday in Edmonton, August 9, 1992, a farewell luncheon was held in the hall. Gifts were presented to all the family including an album of photos of the congregation and its activities. A Search Committee was organized and immediately began work to determine the needs of the congregation relative to a new pastor.

The Kirk Session agreed with a recommendation from the Building Committee that the large hall and smaller new meeting room on the south end of the facility be named. It was agreed that the large hall be named the Rupert Street Church Hall and the small room, the Alex Engeihart Room in honour of Alex who was a member and session member of both Rupert Street and Dayspring Presbyterian Churches:

Those of you who have come to Dayspring since 1988 are probably asking yourselves who was Alex Engelhart and why are we naming a room in his honour? I'll try to give you a thumb-nail sketch of Alex.

Alex & Lois both came from small communities in Saskatchewan. Alex served in Europe during the Second World War. Soon after Alex's return from overseas they built a house on 71 Avenue & 107 St. There was a small Presbyterian Church only 3 blocks away, and Lois who was a Presbyterian began attending church and Alex soon after traded his Lutheran upbringing for Presbyterianism. This couple -Lois and Alex - were very active in the Rupert Street Church as were the children, Terry, Gwen and Beverley.

Alex served on the Board of Managers for many years. He participated in the men's activities, was elected an Elder and hammered more than his share of the nails when the new sanctuary was built in the 1950's.

Alex was a very hospitable man and was always saying come over for coffee tonight. He often said that his best friends were his church friends. This is also the man with a sense of humour and more than once Audrey Villetard had to sit between Alex & Bob to keep them from giggling in church.

When Rupert Street and the South West Extension amalgamated to become DAYSPRING Alex continued his involvement in the new congregation. In later years Alex was one of the Greeters. By that I mean he knew everyone!! He truly was a friend to everyone he met.

The Building Committee recommended to the Session that this room be named the ALEX ENGELHART ROOM in memory of an Elder and a Friend.

The dedication of the rooms took place on November 29, 1992. Bronze plaques were installed in each room. In November 1992 the Fellowship Committee called for all congregation members to bring out their best recipes, as they planned to publish a cookbook in the new year. The Cookbook appeared the next spring and was a hit with all who purchased a copy. A giving tree was set up in the lounge for Advent gifts which were intended for W.I.N. House, Y.E.S.S. (Youth Emergency Shelter) and Santas Anonymous. Everyone was urged to bring toys, personal care items, and articles of clothing for adults, teens and children.

The Search Committee announced that the Rev. John Dowds would be in Edmonton April 22-25, 1993 with his wife Debbie to preach for the Call to Dayspring. John and Debbie were toured around the city and the congregation in their 4 or 5 days with us. This was THE whirlwind tour that you hear about! The next Sunday, the Congregation met and voted to extend the Call to John Dowds. The Presbyteries of Edmonton-Lakeland and Barrie processed the Call. John accepted the Call and the Dowds began packing their bags and saying their goodbyes to the congregation in Barrie, Ontario. By August the Dowds were settled in a re-painted and re-furnished manse, and ready to begin work in the Dayspring congregation. The Presbytery held an Induction service for John Dowds on August 8th, 1993 at 7:30 p.m. followed by a reception.

During September, photos were taken of Dayspring people for another edition of a photo directory - of course at no cost to the congregation.

New Elders were elected in November, and their Induction was held December 12, 1993. This election was made necessary when 3 elders retired in 1993 and one in January 1994. Those retiring were Darleen Springstein (23 1/2 years) Richard Smith (22 years) Harold Conquest (10 years) and Sam Jaikaran (8 years). The Advent Season featured the Advent Litany for each week, special music and lots of poinsettias. The Christmas Eve Services were at 7 and 11:30 p.m.

The new year of 1994 brought cold weather, many feet of snow, and the chilling realization that the 25th Anniversary of the congregation would be celebrated in June 1994. Preparations up to this point had been on paper only, but now we would have to get busy and make those lists, print the invitations, do the advertising, find the pictures and assemble all the paper reports and minutes that have been collecting dust over the years.

A Talent Auction was held in January to kick off the 25th anniversary events. Hidden talent abounds in the congregation, and those attending bid on everything from embroidery, knitting, baking, and baby sitting, to catered dinners, ice fishing trips, and hockey game tickets. The

local Musical Group called ABBA presented a concert in Dayspring Church April 17, 1994. The group is composed of 35 members representing 12 churches in Leduc and area. The word ABBA is an Aramaic word meaning literally the father.

### **Dayspring Involvement in Camp Kannawin**

Camp Kannawin, the Synod camp on the north shore of Sylvan Lake, first came into operation in 1943 as a means of extending Christian education and developing Christian character. Long before Dayspring congregation was started, some of the people presently involved in Dayspring were involved with the camp, notably the Engelharts, Davises and Springsteins. However, people in the current congregation became involved in the late 1970s and especially in the 1980s.

Surprisingly, George Johnston has the longest record in the congregation for membership on the camp committee - 16 years - but that is due to his position as the Superintendent of Missions in the Synod. He participated in a number of the work bees and on sub-committees. Next to him in terms of years is Mickey Johnston with 12 years, six of which were served as Convener of the camp committee. She was heavily involved in the renovation of cabins and redevelopment on the site as well as program development and progressive training for leaders. For five years Mickey was the camp's representative on the National Camping committee and attended a camping conference in Georgia known as Passage 2000. She has also served as counsellor, cabin leader and cook.

Bill Hume is another one who did a tremendous amount of work at the camp ably assisted by his son Al. He shingled cabin roofs, renovated cabins, and with his son Al insulated underneath the floors of the cabins. Marg Hume always came with her husband and did a lot of other work - painting, cleaning, moving sand to the beach. Bill kept on the lookout for useful materials and brought loads of it to the camp. He got the camp two tractors and the committee repaid him on a rent-to-own basis. He also worked as a volunteer cook.

Al Davis was the window man who replaced many, many broken windows.

Peter Schmidt was on the camp committee for four years and rendered invaluable service when he took on responsibility for securing government grants. This required a lot of time in applying for grants, looking after payrolls, keeping records and reporting. When he gave it up Doug Robbins took on the responsibility for a couple of years.

Tom Leiper gave a great boost to the camp in 1980. He was partner in a bridge building firm and undertook to have his firm draft the plans for the building now known as the Ruby Walker Centre. In addition he donated all the structural steel for the building and had it erected. This was not only a great saving to the camp committee but a tremendous encouragement to the building committee.

Two Johnston girls were quite involved. Lynn was the Synod youth representative in 1981, a committee member for three more years, waterfront director in 1982, and in following years a counsellor, volunteer cook, kitchen support staff and an off-season volunteer in 1986. She

painted a mural over the fireplace in the renovated recreation building (Gibson Hall) and a couple of years later decided she did not like it so went and painted an entirely different one which was more appropriate for children's camps. Lynn was also responsible for camp publicity for a number of years. Susan was a counsellor for four years, summer caretaker in 1984, summer camp director in 1986 and summer administrator in 1987. This fitted in well because she was studying recreation administration at the University.

Young people in Dayspring congregation served as counsellors, cabin leaders, cooks, and went on many weekend work bees insulating cabins, sheathing the inside of cabins, painting, clearing out brush, filling gabion baskets with rocks out of the lake and farmers fields to rebuild the waterfront and planting trees. Their efforts were most helpful. Several adults also assisted on the work bees. It is impossible to name them all. On two weekend occasions during the 1980s Dayspring congregation held work bees at the camp.

Following is a list of other individuals from the Dayspring congregation who have been involved with Camp Kannawin:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Al Hume         | counsellor 3 years; cabin leader 1 year; cook   |
| Kathy Hume      | counsellor 1 year   |
| David Hume      | counsellor 1 year; dining room host 1 year  |
| Marg Hume       | committee member 3 years  |
| Crystal Mann    | counsellor 4 years; cabin leader 1 year; committee member 1 year  |
| Stuart Mann     | cabin leader 1 year   |
| Bill Davis      | director of College & Careers camp 1979; skills camp 1987; committee member 3 years; chaplain one camp; did manual labour at the camp one summer on government grant; off site canoe camp 1990. |
| Linda Eccles    | counsellor 1 year   |
| Darlene House   | volunteer chaplain 1 camp   |
| Janet Johnson   | counsellor 2 years  |
| Bev. Johnston   | counsellor 2 years; craft leader 2 years  |
| Heather Meikle  | counsellor 2 years; support staff 1 year  |
| Jennifer Meikle | counsellor 2 years; nurse 1 year; nurse on short notice   |
| Jason Meikle    | counsellor 3 years; cabin leader 2 years  |
| Doug Meikle     | committee member 5 years; present on many work weekends   |
| Bob McLellan    | off season staff 1 year; cook 1 year  |
| Mary McLellan   | off season staff 1 year; cook 1 year  |
| Colin Penman    | counsellor 3 years; committee member 2 years; program director 1990; camp director 1994   |
| Colleen Penman  | cabin leader 1 year; counsellor 2 years   |
| Mark Schmidt    | counsellor 1 year   |
| Jean Schmidt    | committee member 3 years  |
| Mike Schmidt    | support staff 2 years; cook/maintenance 2 years   |
| Lisa Schmidt    | cabin leader 3 years; counsellor 1 year.  |
| Murray Patton   | cabin leader 3 years  |
| Robert Patton   | cabin leader 1 year   |
| Doug Robbins    | committee member 3 years  |

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Mark Finlay      | cabin leader 1 year  |
| Bob Shields      | summer skills 2 years; cook 1 year; active in maintenance; continued his involvement after moving to Penhold |
| Flora Woensdregt | committee member, treasurer 2 years  |

If the above list is incomplete apologies are offered. The information has been gathered from reports made to the Synod.

The Dayspring Youth Group rented the camp for a weekend in two different years in the 1980s, namely 1983 and 1984. The Dayspring Session held a weekend retreat at the camp in 1987.

It is evident that the Dayspring congregation has been quite involved in the development and programming at Camp Kannawin and many people in the congregation feel a certain sense of ownership because of their participation.

### **Ministers at Dayspring**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Ralph MacDonald                         | April 1966-March 1968<br>June 1969-June 1970 |
| Alex MacDonald                          | March 1968-June 1970                         |
| Edwin White<br>(Interim-Moderator)      | June 1970-March 1971                         |
| Harry Crawford                          | March 1971-June 1972                         |
| Ralph Kendall                           | Aug. 1972- Dec. 1974                         |
| L. Louis deGroot<br>(Interim-Moderator) | Dec. 1974- June 1975                         |
| John Hibbs                              | June 1975- June 1978                         |
| L.Louis deGroot*<br>(Interim-Moderator) | April 1978- Jan. 1979                        |
| Ian MacSween<br>(Interim-Moderator)     | Feb. 1979- Aug. 1979                         |
| Jean Armstrong                          | Aug. 1979- April 1986                        |
| Allan Young<br>(Interim-Moderator)      | April 1986-Jan. 1987                         |
| Yme Woensdregt                          | Jan. 1987- Aug. 1992                         |
| George Johnston<br>(Interim-Moderator)  | Aug. 1992- Aug. 1993                         |
| John Dowds                              | Aug. 1993 – Aug 2006                         |

\* Died at Dayspring church January 17, 1979

### **Clerks of the Kirk Session**

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Russell Tait        | July 1969- Oct. 1971  |
| Darleen Springstein | Nov 1971- Oct. 1979   |
| William McCune      | Nov. 1979 - Feb. 1988 |
| Richard Smith       | Mar. 1988 - Mar. 1989 |
| Christina Thomson   | Apr. 1989 -           |

## **Elders**

Appointed by the Presbytery of Edmonton as Assessor Elders until the first election of Elders was held.

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Jack Fraser  | July, 1969 |
| Russell Tait | July, 1969 |

Transferred from Rupert Street Church Session at the amalgamation of Dayspring and Rupert Street Churches.

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Alex Engelhart  | July, 1969 - Jan. 1984 |
| William Watt    | July, 1969 - Dec. 1971 |
| Archie Heffel   | July, 1969 - June 1972 |
| Al Davis        | July, 1969 - Dec. 1988 |
| Robert Adin     | July, 1969 - Jan. 1970 |
| Charles Kingham | July, 1969 - June 1970 |

### **1st Election**

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Rodger Small        | Dec. 1969 - June 1970 |
| Darleen Springstein | Dec. 1969 - May 1993  |
| Jack Fraser         | Dec. 1969 - May 1974  |
| Russell Tait        | Dec. 1969 - Oct. 1978 |
| Ron Con             | Dec 1969 - Sept. 1974 |

### **2nd Election**

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Wes Baker       | May 1971 - Sept. 1972 |
| Jock L.ees      | May 1971 - Jan. 1976  |
| Richard Smith   | May 1971 - May 1993   |
| Winnifred Lloyd | May 1971 - Jan. 1974  |

### **3rd Election**

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Dee DeArmond      | Apr. 1974 - Aug. 1983 |
| William Stuart    | Apr. 1974 - Mar. 1978 |
| Duncan Ballantyne | Apr. 1974 - Dec. 1988 |
| Morley MacCalder  | Apr. 1974 - Feb. 1986 |

### **4th Election**

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Robert Shields   | Apr. 1976 - Dec. 1982 |
| Dorothy Clements | Apr. 1976 - May 1978  |
| Edna Davis       | Apr. 1976 - Dec. 1988 |
| Tom Leiper       | Apr. 1976 - Mar. 1989 |
| William McCune   | Apr. 1976 - Mar. 1990 |
| Doug Robbins     | Apr. 1976 - Mar. 1990 |

### **5th Election**

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Elsie Harvey   | Oct. 1980 - Jan. 1986 |
| Jim Mayo       | Oct. 1980 - Aug. 1981 |
| Terry McBurney | Oct. 1980 - Aug. 1981 |

### **6th Election**

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| George Potter   | Mar. 1982             |
| Harold Conquest | Mar. 1982 - Jun. 1992 |

### **7th Election**

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Ramsay Hall     | Nov. 1982 - Jan. 1986 |
| Marge MacCalder | Nov. 1982             |
| Susan MacLaren  | Nov. 1982 - Mar. 1984 |
| Vance MacNichol | Nov. 1982             |

**8th Election**

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Sam Jaikaran      | Feb. 1986 - Jan. 1994 |
| Marnie Dawson     | Feb. 1986 - Aug. 1988 |
| Dennis Riddell    | Feb. 1986 - Aug. 1988 |
| Robert McClelland | Feb. 1986 - Jun. 1988 |

**9th Election**

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Jenelle Mitchell  | June 1988 -           |
| Christina Thomson | June 1988 -           |
| Vaden House       | June 1988 – Feb. 1990 |
| Doug Meilde       | June 1988 -           |
| Gladys Riddell    | June 1988 – Aug. 1988 |

**10th Election**

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Mickey Johnston | Feb. 1989 - |
| Janet Roberts   | Feb. 1989 - |
| Martin Sawdon   | Feb. 1989 - |
| Bob Stone       | Feb. 1989 - |

**11th Election**

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Nick Nation            | Sept. 1990 - |
| Darlene (House) Eerkes | Sept. 1990 - |
| Bill Davis             | Sept. 1990 - |
| Heather Bradley        | Sept. 1990 - |
| June Montgomery        | Sept. 1990 - |

**12th Election**

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Len Bradley   | Dec. 1993 - |
| Lance Secret  | Dec. 1993 - |
| Jim Jeatt     | Dec. 1993 - |
| Judy Smith    | Dec. 1993 - |
| Robert McNeil | Dec. 1993 - |

**Finance and Maintenance Committee**

**Chair**

|      |              |
|------|--------------|
| 1969 | Winnie Lloyd |
| 1970 | Winnie Lloyd |
| 1971 | Winnie Loyd  |
| 1972 | Doug Robbins |
| 1973 | Doug Robbins |
| 1974 | Doug Robbins |
| 1975 | Bill Stuart  |
| 1976 | Dave Burnett |
| 1977 | Bill McCune  |
| 1978 | Bill McCune  |
| 1979 | Bill McCune  |

**Treasurer**

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| Richard Wallace          |
| Richard Wallace          |
| Richard Wallace          |
| Winnie Loyd              |
| Winnie Loyd              |
| Winnie Loyd              |
| Don Ferguson/Perry Baird |
| Perry Baird              |
| Perry Baird              |
| Perry Baird              |
| Perry Baird              |

|      |                               |                                |
|------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1980 | DuncBallantyne                | John Mann                      |
| 1981 | George Potter                 | Dunc Ballantyne                |
| 1982 | George Patter                 | Dunc Ballantyne                |
| 1983 | Vance McNichol                | Dunc Ballantyne                |
| 1984 | Ramsey Hall                   | Dunc Ballantyne                |
| 1985 | Mary Coome                    | Peter Schmidt                  |
| 1986 | Doug McKinnon/<br>Doug Meikle | Peter Schmidt<br>Peter Schmidt |
| 1987 | Mary Coome                    | Peter Schmidt                  |
| 1988 | George Potter                 | Peter Schmidt                  |
| 1989 | Jeff Brown                    | Peter Schmidt                  |
| 1990 | Tim Ruptash                   | Peter Schmidt                  |
| 1991 | Tim Ruptash                   | Gwen Loiselle                  |
| 1992 | Bob Burrell                   | Gwen Loiselle                  |
| 1993 | Lance Secret                  | Gwen Loiselle                  |
| 1994 | L.ance Secret/<br>Perry Baird | Gwen Loiselle                  |