

Victoria United Church Officers - 1990

- Minister: Rev. Janet Evans, B.A., M.Div.
- Session: Honourary Member - Edward Byers
Clerk of Session - Melba Boulerice
1993 Ted Jenkins, Ian Conklin, Sylvia Porter
1992 Melba Boulerice, Dale Conlin, D'Arcy St. Pierre,
Crystal Smith, Gordon Conklin, Lynda Mielke
1991 Lawrence Walker, Goldie Connell, George Jenkins
- Stewards: Edith Jenkins (Chair), Nancy Buker (Secretary), Sylvia Porter
Peter Steenwyk, Tryn Steenwyk, Egbert Fretwell, Irene Conklin
Lawrence Walker, Corinne Murdock, Bram Couperus, Lyndon Cronk,
Edwin Allaby, Allan Gibson, Betty Smith, Beth Conlin.
- Trustees: Honourary Member - Mildred Weir
Carl Durant (Chair), Leslie Dulmage (Secretary)
George Robinson, Corinne Murdock, Lyndon Cronk,
Edward Byers, Edith Jenkins, Keith Porter.
- Manse Committee: U.C.W. - Finnie Fretwell, Doris Connell
Congregation - Egbert Fretwell, Lynda Mielke,
Michael McQuaid
- Ministry and Personnel Committee: Garry Mielke (Chair) Dale Conlin,
Ross Smith, Mary-Ellen Moorhouse
- Christian Education Committee: All Sunday School Teachers,
Gerald Hough, Elizabeth McIntosh
- Decorating Committee: Nancy Buker, Laura Robinson,
Edith Jenkins, Finnie Fretwell
- Pulpit Supply Committee: Betty Smith, Ted Jenkins,
Student Committee (if necessary) Dale Conlin, Audrey Hough
- Outreach Committee: Janet Evans, Dale Conlin, Peter Steenwyk
- Presbytery Representative: Edith Jenkins
- Treasurer: Lyndon Cronk
- Mission and Service Fund: Lyndon Cronk
- Organ and Music Fund: Lyndon Cronk
- Sunday School Superintendents: George and Nora Jenkins
- Organist: Beryl McIntosh
- Assistants: Carol Morris and Beth Conlin
- Choir Director: Carol Morris
- Treasurer of Pastoral Charge: Audrey Hough
- U.C.W. President: Doris Connell
- Caretakers: Tryn and Peter Steenwyk
- Auditor: Ted Jenkins
- Recording Steward: Melba Boulerice
- Nominating Committee: Janet Evans, Dale Conlin, George Jenkins

Choir: Egbert Fretwell, Ken MacArthur
Candy Adams, Rae Morris, Marjorie Hammerli

Session Report:

Baptisms

Jason Michael Fawcett
Joshua Francis Fawcett
Nicole Alexandria Ayres
Jessica Mae VanLanen
Amber Catherine Gwendolyn Moulton
Blake Elliot William Jackson
Megan Elizabeth Jackson
Bailey Elizabeth Workman
Sheila Elizabeth McQuaid (adult)
Amy Elizabeth McQuaid

Funerals: 6

Willard Gordon Shannon
Mary Edna (May) Carson
Catherine Sherwood
John George (Jack) Harrison
Cecil Ward Empey
David Cummings

Weddings: 7

Gregory Lloyd Morris & Mary Sylvia Carol Polite
Timothy Micheal Edwards & Cynthia Diane Conklin
Timothy Allan Warren & Brenda Marie Wing
Ross Kenneth Polite & Mary Ann Newans
Douglas Milford Perrin & Heather Lynn Patterson
Richard Stephen Steenwyk & Shelley Louise Peelar
Jeremy Todd Sorbie & Laurie Jean King

Transferred In (0)

Transferred out (4)

Invitations to the Lord's Supper - 4

Meetings - 2

Melba Boulerice, Clerk of Session

Stewards Report:

The stewards met several times during the year. We held the Annual Barbeque in June, which was very successful. We hired Richard Storey to cut the grass. Peter & Tryn Steenwyk our caretakers did a very good job during the year. We also reviewed the budget for 1990 with our Treasurer and made some changes for the new year. We also have an assistant for the treasurer, when he is away on holidays. We thank the congregation for their support during the year.

Edith Jenkins, Chairperson
Nancy Buker, Secretary

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Lawrence Walker, Corinne Murdock, Bram Couperus, Lyndon Cronk,
Edwin Allaby, Allan Gibson, Betty Smith, Beth Conlin

Trustees: Honourary Member- Mildred Weir
Carl Durant (Chair), Leslie Dulmage (Secretary), George Robinson,
Corinne Murdock, Lyndon Cronk, Edward Byers, Edith Jenkins,
Keith Porter

Manse Committee: UCW- Finnie Fretwell, Doris Connell (V)
Raymonde Sadler, Evelyn Warner (B)

Congregation- "Egbert Fretwell, Lynda Mielke
Michael McQuaid (V)
Alton Lagrove (B).

Ministry and Personnel Committee: Dale Conlin, Ross Smith, Mary Moorhouse,
Allan Gibson, (V), Sarah Hough, Nada Neil,
Iris Murray (B)

Christian Education Committee: All Sunday School Teachers
Gerry Hough, Elizabeth McIntosh

Decorating Committee: Nancy Buker, Laura Robinson, Edith Jenkins, Finnie
Fretwell

Pulpit Supply Committee: Betty Smith, Ted Jenkins (V), Pat Jones (B)

Outreach Committee: Janet Evans, Dale Conlin, Peter Steenwyk

Presbytery Representative: Edith Jenkins

Treasurer: Lyndon Cronk

Mission and Service Fund: Lyndon Cronk

Organ and Music Fund: Lyndon Cronk

Sunday School Superintendents: George and Nora Jenkins

Organist: Beryl McIntosh

Assistants: Carol Morris and Beth Conlin

Choir Director: Carol Morris

Treasurer of Pastoral Charge: Richard Bennett

U.C.W. President: Doris Connell

Retakers: Tryn and Peter Steenwyk

Recording Steward: Melba Boulerice

Nominating Committee: Janet Evans, Betty Smith, George Jenkins

Secretary for Pastoral Charge (several hours per month) Barbara Cuffe

Session Report

Baptisms: Britney Irene Conklin
Brittany Ann Alguire
Melissa Lynne Jenkins
Emily Alyse Robinson
Tara Michelle Beach
Melissa Audrey Ann Hughes
Chelsea Diane Edwards

Weddings: Lesley Ann Couperus & Gregory Alex Prophet
Diana Louise Wing & George Edgar Warren
Susan Elizabeth Edwards & Victor Limbeek
Michelle Elizabeth Tomlinson & Richard Jay Polite
Susan Jean Tetreault & Charles Jeffrey Morrison

Funerals: James Gordon Conklin
Bert Ernest Poehlmann
Doris Couperus
Minerva Maude Durant
George M. Pyke

Committal Service of Hazel Arlene Jones, Hazel grew up and lived in the Maynard are for part of her life.

Transferred In - 5
Transferred Out 0
Invitations to the Lord's Supper - 4
Meetings - 2

Submitted by Melba Boulerice

Manse Report:

During the year 1990 the following repairs were done on the manse - repaired chimney

- Painted Back Porch
- Painting, nailing & Plastering
- Trees trimmed
- weather stripped around windows

Plans for 1991 - paper for 1 bedroom
- new floor for back porch
- new mailbox
- double driveway?

submitted by
Finnie Fretwell

Personalities
within our church
family.

Below: Referee Ken MacArthur tries to talk Lulu out of her impending nuptials.
Staff Photos by Ellery Edgeley



Ken MacArthur - a regular
in church choir



In any part of church
life, find Dale Conlin

Student Report

On April 23, 1990 Miss Tina Oates a student preparing for the ordained ministry arrived on the Augusta Pastoral Charge from Newfoundland. During the next sixteen weeks Tina was involved with all aspects of work on a pastoral charge. She visited in homes, lodges and hospitals. She prepared worship services and sermons. Tina had the opportunity to participate in several funerals, spring internments, weddings and baptismal education. She learned about the tremendous workload that a minister sometimes carries in times of crisis on a charge. With the supervisor, Tina attended meetings of the Brockville Ministerial Association, Seaway Valley Presbytery and Rideau Hill Camp. Through the efforts of myself and some of my colleagues she also had the change to visit such places as the Brockville Jail, Interval House and the House of Lazarus. Tina worked weekly at the St. Lawrence Lodge, under the kind direction of Ms. Marie Bachman, chaplain.

I would like to commend the members of Victoria United Church for their support and guidance of our summer intern. I feel that she was made very welcome by the congregation. I also feel that she had the opportunity to learn a great deal about day to day ministry on a "small town" charge. It is the policy of the internship programme of the United Church of Canada that every student have a trained supervisor and a lay training committee while carrying out a placement. To Joanne Bennett, Ethel Mawhinney, Dale Conlin and Audrey Hough goes my sincere thanks. As a lay training committee they were dedicated and devoted to their calling. We each discovered that the supervision of a student took many more hours of work than we thought that it would. We would also be more aware of exactly what was required another year. However, each one of us learned a great deal from the process. I commend Joanne, Ethel, Dale and Audrey for their enthusiasm, compassion and help over the summer months. Their support of myself and Tina was superb.

respectfully submitted,
Rev. Janet Evans, Supervisor

House of Lazarus



STEVE HUMMELL/THE RECORDER AND TIMES

Allen Tysick, the United Church minister who started the House of Lazarus resource centre for the rural poor of the Seaway Valley, says people like his secretary, Melba Tracey, who for years lived on mothers' allowance, are the life-blood of his efforts.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a six-part series about a small group of people fighting back against rural poverty. It's about a man who's transformed his own pain and suffering into the House of Lazarus where the poor come for food and clothing, guidance and companionship, understanding and to rediscover their own potential and self-worth.

By **STEVE HUMMELL**
Staff Writer

DUNDELA — It may be more than coincidence that just up the road from the House of Lazarus is a stone monument marking one of the most significant chapters in the history of the apple.

Dundela is famous as the place where in 1796 John McIntosh transplanted seedlings almost two centuries ago, commencing the development of the McIntosh Red apple.

Almost two centuries later, Allen Tysick is trying to build on a pride and defiance in this community to change a legacy of poverty that has remained for generations.

Tysick left his United Church congregation at nearby Brinston to start the House of Lazarus resource centre and work and live with the poor.

He helps them with housing problems, arranges legal advice, provides counselling and friendship, literacy and pre-kindergarten instruction, develops social and youth programs, does crises intervention work and solicits church and community donations of money, food and clothing.

The resource centre is run by Tysick, administrator Beth McGrath and secretary Melba Tracey, plus volunteers who sort, wash and mend donated clothing and collect, sort and give out donated food.

EARNED TRUST

During his ministry, Tysick got to know the local people, earned their trust and gradually moved in the direction of establishing the resource centre.

It now helps more than 150 poor families numbering between 700 and 800 people in the seaway valley from Brockville to the Quebec border.

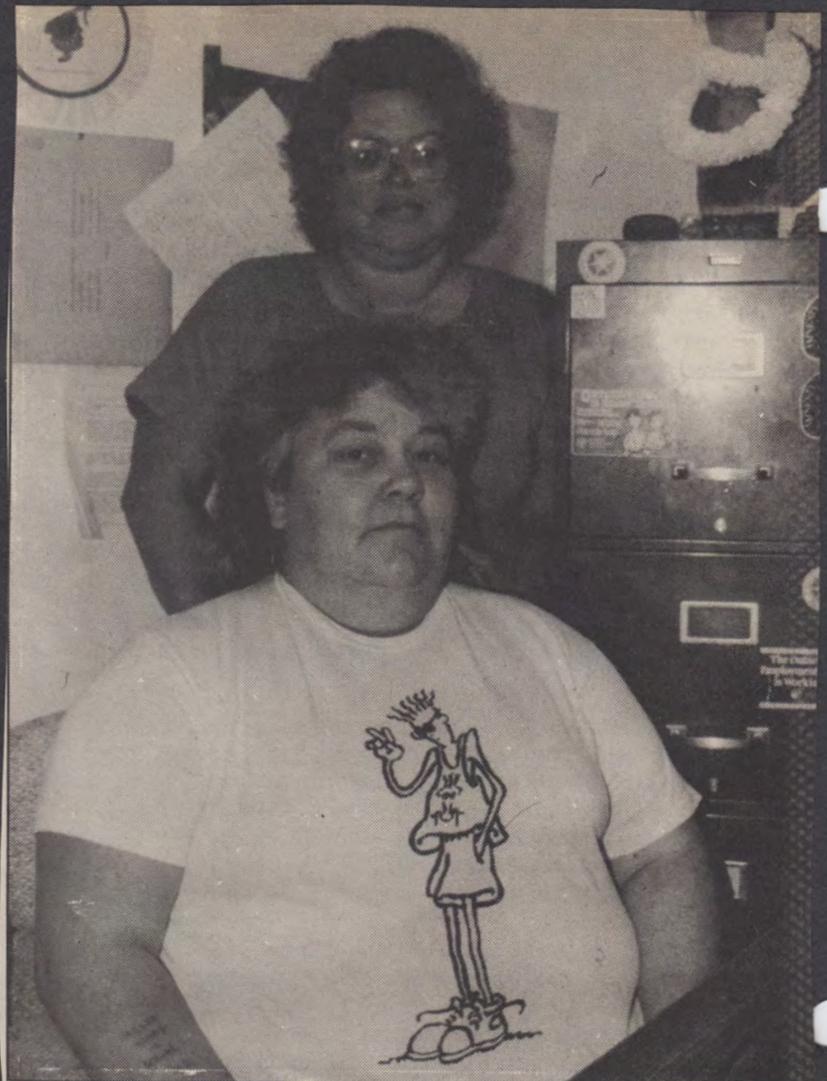
Situated on the edge of this hamlet, the House of Lazarus was an abandoned brick church that Tysick rescued from decay, a story not unlike the dwellings strung out along the country road.

It was an area of modest homes known as "stove-pipe alley" and later as "Keelerville", named after some of the inhabitants. The name was a slur and "Keeler" was a name children in nearby communities would call each other in derision.

Some of the local residents would even change their names to escape the label, recalls McGrath, who grew up in the area.

But most of today's generation wouldn't consider such a thing, she says.

"Now they say 'accept us as we are or forget it.'"



STEVE HUMMELL/THE RECORDER AND TIMES

Secretary Melba Tracey, seated, and administrator Beth McGrath are key to the success of the House of Lazarus resource centre which helps the rural poor in Matilda Township.

Rev. Tysick has been in the pulpit at Victoria a number of times.

We have contributed food and clothing to the House of Lazarus a number of times.

1990-1991

Church must hear cries of the poor:

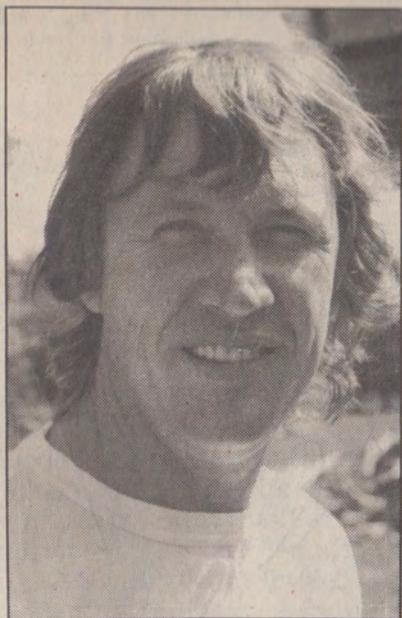
EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second article in a series about a small group of people fighting back against rural poverty. It's about a man who has turned his own pain and suffering into the House of Lazarus resource centre located in an abandoned church in Matilda Township.

By **STEVE HUMMELL**
Staff Writer

DUNDELA — United Church minister Allen Tysick's greatest challenge is to open the eyes of the church to the poor.

"Our greatest challenge is to soften the hardened hearts of the church and help the blind eyes see and the deaf ears hear the historical, biblical cry of the poor — of God's children," he said in an interview.

Tysick left his congregation in Brinston to start and run the House of Lazarus resource centre that provides food, clothing, shelter and a wide array of social programs for some 150 poor, rural families in the seaway valley from



ALLEN TYSICK: "We are part and parcel of the poverty here."

Brockville to the Quebec border.

He struggles daily to stay in the church, believing it resembles a social club too concerned with its own survival.

"But none of the churches were meant to survive. Survival is just none of our business; obedience is our business," he says.

Sitting in his cluttered little

office, Tysick is warming to the subject, his voice wavering with emotion.

One of his old leather shoes is missing laces, but somehow appears as though it belongs that way.

Tysick says he has no problem with churches starting costly building projects or purchasing expensive possessions such as organs.

NO POOR FUND

"I've gone into all these churches and seen all these charts of building funds, you know. But never ever have I gone into any church and seen a poor fund," he points out.

He says if somebody calls the centre for food and he says there's none "That means I have no food. We are part and parcel of the poverty here."

But the big difference with him, says Tysick, is he can choose to step out of poverty... the poor cannot.

Yet they're not a sad people, Tysick adds. They're family people who look after and respect their elderly much the same way natives do, shying away from sending them to nursing homes and institutions.

"I have never ever left a poor person's house without a gift. Leeks or mudpout, or berries — they give me much, much more than I give them. I'm not the hero, the heroes are the poor. I'm just fortunate enough to be ministering among them, to be with them."

Tysick says the church has a difficult time dealing with his liberal views and his criticism because it sees the poor as both the victim and the cause of the problem.

"That lets them off the hook greatly. We are supposed to love unconditionally and we don't."

His early memories are of a drunken father and a hard-working Catholic mother trying to feed and clothe him and his two younger sisters. His memories are of prayers for food which often went unanswered.

His mother would be at work, his father passed out in the house and there'd be no food in the cupboards.

PRAY FOR FOOD

Tysick recalls that he would pray for God to provide food for his sisters and fall asleep

believing it would be there in the morning.

"So my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ comes with my feet on the ground. I grew up with a God who suffered along with me, cried along with me, who was hungry when I was hungry, who taught me of the injustice of our society."

Imbued with a desire to help himself and others afflicted by poverty and suffering from a learning disability called dyslexia, Tysick had to make "the educational system work for me."

He attributes his educational success to stubbornness and a method of taking courses that required the least amount of written work.

At best, Tysick has an above-average reading comprehension. At worst, he can barely recognize his own written name.

His sermons were all painstakingly memorized the night before.

As a boy of nine or 10, Tysick often brought home street people to patch up and feed and began "crying out on behalf of the poor" when children his age were more concerned with bringing home stray dogs and cats as pets.

Tysick

Tysick understands poverty; he grew up in poverty in Ottawa. Now he works on several national agencies and church groups to improve the lot of the poor and change the misconceptions.

"I feel a heartbeat," he says about his relationship with the poor. He looks into your eyes then down at his feet.

"I feel it and I don't know how to..."

What Tysick is having difficulty explaining, what he says has been missing from articles and television documentaries about his work, perhaps cannot be communicated.

The human quality which prompts some people to reach out to those in need lies, unexplainably, like a dormant seed in the gut of others.

NO NAME

Climbing up the stairs to the House of Lazarus, you notice there's no cross or name on the front of the building; in the entrance-way heaps of garbage bags bursting with used clothing.

They're piled on the church floor, hung on racks, draped over the pool table where Tysick often played billiard games at 5 a.m. with a friend who has since committed suicide.

The church, abandoned, sagging and decrepit until two years ago, is under siege by Tysick and his workers who are repairing it.

The young men are hired under an employment and immigration program that pays their wages and Tysick directs their work.

Inside, where there are no pews or symbols, no summer dress nor suit-clad Sunday worshippers, no brass chalices nor communion cups, the soft footsteps of a God might be heard walking among the workers, some of whom are illiterate, many the third and fourth generation of their families to live in poverty.

Tysick is found in his little office whose walls are adorned with photographs of Desmond Tutu and Mother Teresa, among others.

He has shaggy, light brown hair and odd-colored eyes whose color defy description; he's wearing a maroon-checked shirt tucked into turquoise trousers hitched up by maroon suspenders — clothes perhaps taken from the garbage bags which come in over the transom.

He has no money in the bank... none in his pockets.

He's given it all away, he says, and anyway, money's of little importance to him. "When you have none, you just don't spend."

Tysick's salary is paid by the United Church and the rest of the budget is provided by public donations and grants from the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

But his life will have to change, he says, if he gets married and starts a family.

Yet now he can live this way, in the basement of the church, with his people.

He spent hours outside hotels waiting for his father and he'd just get used to an apartment when they'd move at the end of the month because they didn't have the rent.

Tysick recalls finding a drunk passed out on Bank Street in Ottawa one Christmas Eve — the only night of the year his father didn't drink.

He took him home and on Christmas Day the man read in a deep, resonant voice from the Scriptures. They learned the man was a priest who became an alcoholic and left the church.

"It was like Christ coming to us in one of His disgusting disguises," he says.

Believing isn't a born-again experience for Tysick, but he says at some point he's accepted Jesus Christ into his life.

"Yet, I can still shake my grubby little fist at Him and ask what the hell's going on here."



Party for
Hilary
Sunday,
May 26, 1991
arranged by
Nancy Baker

Janet with
Hilary
Dawn Levere
Laura
Robinson



McQUAID/EVANS - Michael and Janet give thanks to God for the safe arrival of Hilary Kathleen Diana McQuaid, born March 19th, 1991, at 9:15 p.m., weighing 8 lb., 10 oz., a new church member for the Augusta Pastoral Charge! Very first grandchild for Kathleen and Bruce Evans of Islington and another grandchild for Frank and Isabel McQuaid of Oshawa and Terzia Jones of Windsor. A godchild for Lois and Carl Durant of RR 2, Prescott. We would like to thank Dr. Joseph Cooke, nurse Sue Summerby and the wonderful maternity staff at Brockville General Hospital for their care and support.

Rebecca & Lesley Hubbard
Served the guests



HILARY KATHLEEN DIANA McQUAID
infant daughter of Michael and
Janet McQuaid, was christened
in Victoria United Church,
September 29, 1991 by
Rev. Alan Bennett, Wall Street
United Church, Brockville.
Janet's parents came for the
occasion.
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Durant were
godparents.



JOINT SERVICE, MAYNARD AND BETHEL, OCTOBER 20, 1991.

Kitchen crew - Scott Connell, Carl Buker, Bram Couperus
Dale Conlin, Egbert Fretwell.
The men did the cooking, pancakes, sausages, maple syrup
and the cleaning up after. A good response.



DALE CONLIN makes an announcement



JOINT BRUNCH October 20, 1991
Rev. Janet Evans with Hilary
Note Mr. and Mrs. H. McMann; Mr. & Mrs. Don Lake
Mr. & Mrs. Lyndon Cronk at table