



Interior of St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church at the wedding of Fred and Loreen (McRae) Amann in 1954.

United Church

submitted by Marjorie Hay

Early records reveal that on November 4, 1887 a few Presbyterians, recent immigrants to Canada, gathered together from Austin and surrounding districts for the purpose of forming a mission. In 1889 Rev. Stalker of Gladstone organized a congregation with Mr. David Hall ordained as Elder and Messrs. High, Hall, William and John Duncan ordained as managers. The church was built during the year of 1889 and opened for public service December 29, 1889. At this time, Austin was made a part of the MacGregor mission field. In 1892 after Mr. MacDonald resigned due to ill health, Austin became a separate mission field with Rosehill, Sidney and Arizona attached. For the next five years different student ministers were in charge of worship. At the request of the managers at Sidney, Arizona, Austin and Elk Park, Rev. Joseph Hunt Jarvis became pastor in 1897. At this time the manse was built on a lot on the south side of the church.

Rev. George Faryon ministered from 1900 to 1907 to a congregation of thirty-nine families. During this time, Sunday School was organized with an

enrollment of seventy-three with J.M. Dick as superintendent. A Women's Missionary Society (W.M.S.) was formed with Miss M. Hall as president. The women played a very large roll in the fundraising for the church as well as for the mission through a Ladies Aid Group.

Throughout the early years changes took place in the Charge, with Emmeline, Pine Creek and Melvin being included. On February 17, 1917 discussions were held with the Methodists regarding Church Union. In anticipation of the joining of the churches, which took place across Canada in 1925, the Austin Methodists and Presbyterians became the Union Church of Austin in 1917.

Over the next thirty years the ministers Reverends J. Fleming, W.R. Wood, F. Samis, Dr. G. Dickson, W.M. Reeves, D. Muir, Bruce Johnson, Jack Shaver and Wes Harland carried on the work of the church.

During the time the original church building was being demolished and the construction of the new church building took place in 1957, services were held in the hall. The first service to be held in the newly erected sanctuary was a C.G.I.T. Vesper Service in December 1957 and on June 19, 1960 the