

MR. JOE & MRS. VERA STARK

MRS. BESSIE HAMALOCK

(Sea Island United Church)

MRS. MARGUERITE WENSINK

INTERVIEWED:

February 13, 1975

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Came to Sea Island - 1946
- 1946
- 1945

No other church on Sea Island. First religious instruction given at home of Mr. & Mrs. Bowman as a Sunday School by residents of Sea Island School - 1947-53. Parents of these children met in the Community Hall to discuss having a church. 1952 - 1954 student ministers, beginning with Mr. Austin McTaggart, held evening services in the Community Hall. Congregation officially formed June 21, 1953, under supervising pastorate of Reverend E.L. Bishop of Marpole United Church.

Student Ministers:-

- Carroll Lee	Sept. 54 - Oct. 55
- James Manley	Oct. 55 - Sept. 56
- Kermit Eutin	Sept. 56 - Sept. 57
- Donald Lewis	Oct. 57 - July 58

1956 - Pastorate became Reverend Rupert Evans of Richmond United Church.

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Survey taken of Island to see if they wanted a church. Committees formed - Building Committee January 1958 - names of members. Dan McIvor, test pilot of MacMillan Bloedel, supervising committee. Hall & Harrison - Architects.

Loan from Metropolitan Council - \$25,000. Pledges around Island enabled a bank loan of \$15,000. Members of Building Committee:-

S. Robertson	C. Sloan
G. Kitchen	D. Gardner
P. Wolanski	A. Lloyd
D. McIvor	L. Glibbery
J. Stark	Mrs. D. McIvor
R. McDonald	F. Le Goff

Work started May, 1958.

Volunteer labour built the church. Phoning committee, men coming after work, ladies nailing flooring and making shakes. Ladies supervised feeding.

Church looked like a cross - heated by two furnaces, one for sanctuary and other heating hall. Floor - wood (hailed up the beach from Mill across the river).

Congregation: Communities arriving from mainly Saskatchewan and Alberta - veterans and trades people. Veterans in Cora Brown subdivision Burkeville - Boeing aircraft workers - Air Force personnel in permanent married quarters. Poem by Mrs. Stark about the tile laying. Minister at Opening Ceremony from Richmond, their first ordained minister, Reverend Archibald Carmichael.

Church Organizations

Mission Band, C.G.I.T., Baby Band, Explorers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides. Women ran a well Baby Clinic. Ladies did the cleaning. Very active choir. Christmas Eve candlelight service

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very beautiful. United Church Women and Junior Congregation very active. Description of form of building using shape of a cross. Congregation young, hoping to have children carry on church.

Decline of Congregation

- Airport expansion - no licenses for new homes
- Air Force Base closed
- Expropriation of homes.

Congregation dropped from 90 to about 1966-67 to 40 to 12 in 1968-69. Congregation made to Metropolitan Council, Reverend Mundy minister at the time.

Rev. Alvin Adams	64 - 67
Rev. Arthur Mundy	67 - closing

Inability to meet expenses, too few people to do work. Sunday School numbers had dropped but Ladies Groups tried fund-raising.

Many of furnishings went to St. John's United Church - formerly Strawberry Hill United - pews sold. List of property disbursements. Land - 29 June 1970 - Board of Trustees transferred property \$1.00 to B.C. Council Church Extension. Later sold to Department of Transport. Buildings still there as of this date, February 13/75. Bell donated by Mr. Fred Hall from B. C. Electric Interurban - no idea where it went - (story of installing this).

Last service - March 15, 1970. Very sad memories of U.C.W.

- Disbursement of money
- Congregation went to either Richmond United or Brighthouse United Church.

M. NOBLE