

**The History of**  
**EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**

**1959 - 1999**



# *The History of Emmanuel United Church* 1959-1999

## *Foreword*

The 40th anniversary of Emmanuel United Church seemed to be an appropriate time to update the history of our church, a record first written on the occasion of the 15th anniversary in 1974. The Anniversary Committee decided to use the core material of the original document as Chapter 1 of the updated history, with subsequent chapters written by congregational members who were in leadership roles during the term of each minister in turn. This means that you will read the first chapter knowing it was written in 1973, and the remaining chapters aware that they have been written during the past year.

The sections from the original history entitled "Highlights of Emmauel", "Who was who? at Emmanuel" and "Memorial Gifts" have been expanded to bring the lists up-to-date. The original "Foreword" and "A message from the minister" (Dr. Wilbur Howard) are included in the appendix. A new "Message from the minister" is provided by William Smith, minister at the time of the 40th anniversary.

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| Chapter 1: 1959-1974 | Anne Squire   |
| Chapter 2: 1974-1980 | Malcolm Collins                                       |
| Chapter 3: 1981-1986 | Group Effort with files from<br>Adel and Don Francis. |
| Chapter 4: 1986-1988 | Ron Squires   |

Lists prepared by Roger McCullough - Historian and  
by Bea Woods-Mitchell, Memorial Gifts.

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Computer help, Nancy Miller

Editor - Anne Squire

## *A Message From the Minister*

*Bill Smith*

Dear friends,

There is something very significant about the number forty. In the Bible, Moses sought the promised land for forty years. Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness before commencing his ministry. The forty days of Lent are to spiritually prepare us for the Good Friday and Easter events. The number forty represents a significant time of searching, of testing, of growth. On this fortieth anniversary of Emmanuel United Church, we too are able to celebrate our times of searching, testing and growth.

We are deeply indebted to Dr. Anne Squire for taking on this anniversary project, which has involved everything from a special weekend of celebrations with our first minister, The Rev. Don Bardwell, to the publication of this wonderful history. Anne has not only been the editor, but along with a number of others, she has laboured and loved this church into being.

To a six-year old, forty might seem forever, but for those whose years extend beyond the founding of this church, forty is a relatively short time. Yet read about those forty years of Christian presence in Elmvale Acres through a community called "Emmanuel - God with us.". Read of the dreams and visions, of the work and witness and of those who have made this place their spiritual home.

Emmanuel is unique in many ways. We were one of the first congregations to move in to the Council system and have been faithful at maintaining gender balance in our chairpersons. Lay leadership is evidenced in all aspects of our life together. In my twelve years here, I have yet to read scripture in a service of worship! Our church is known for its commitment to excellence in music and has offered itself and served as a learning site for a number of theological interns. We also can boast (in a humble

way) of our two Moderators, Wilbur Howard and Anne Squire who have shared their gifts not only here but throughout the United Church of Canada and the global ecumenical community. Indeed, we have been blessed over these forty years.

Emmanuel has responded to many challenges over the years, from the building of a C.E. Hall as a first priority to the twinning and involvement with our sister congregation of Emmanuel Bautista in San Salvador and from the running of a breakfast club to our recent amalgamation with Eastbrook United Church. Through it all, we have been able to celebrate Emmanuel, God with us.

Donald Postersky and Irwin Baker, in their book *Where's a Good Church* write, "we believe that life in the church is a divine-human partnership". We celebrate this 40th anniversary with joy for the way God's Spirit has moved in partnership with so many in this place. And now...let's move onto the Promised Land!

