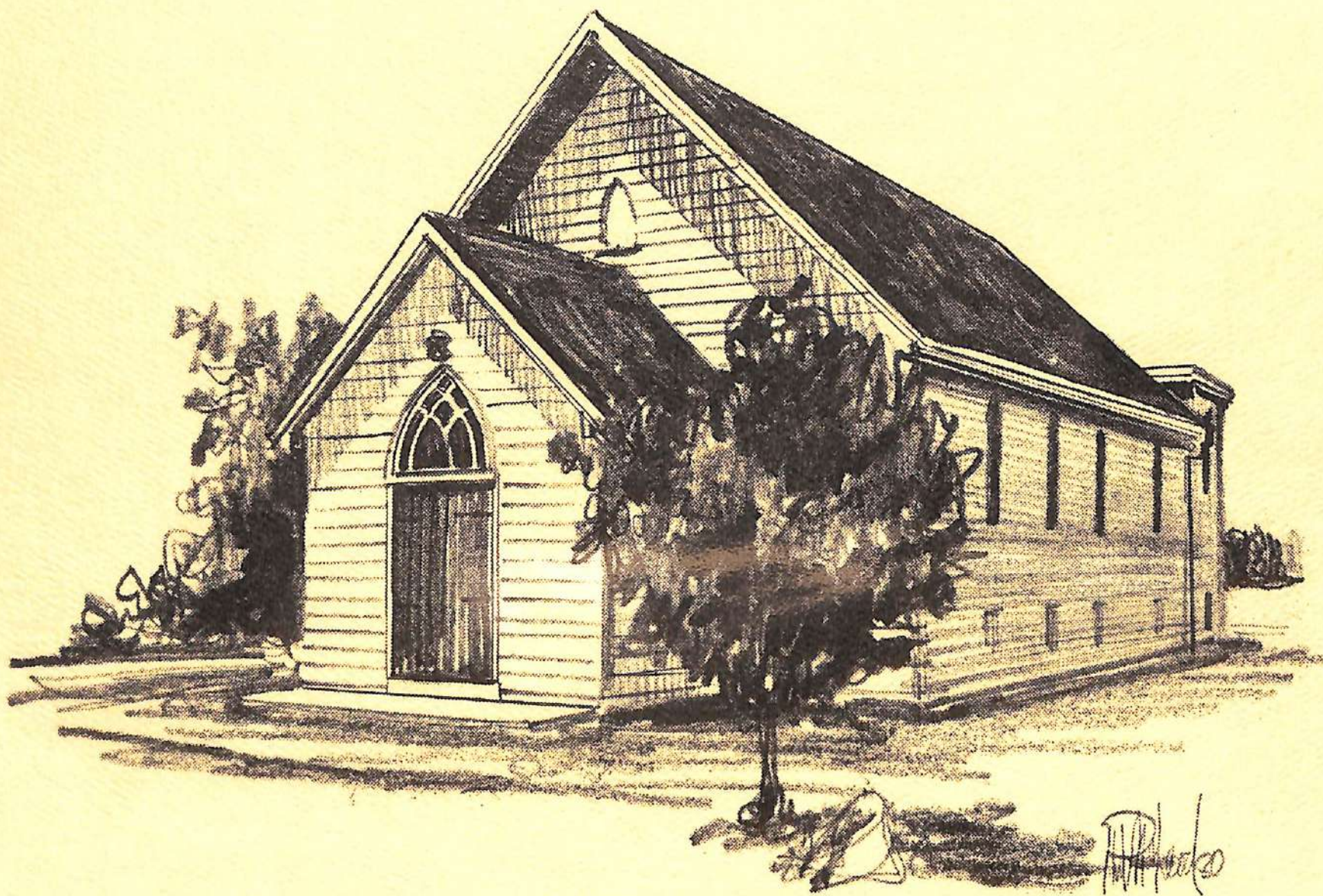


**Bethel - Maidstone
United Church**

Est. 1856





Bethel United Church

Originally formed in Sandwich South around 1856. A small group of settlers would gather in a log church on what is now County Road # 42. (# 2 Hwy).

As the congregation grew, land was purchased and a new wood frame church was built on the Baseline Road in 1888, in the Fairplay Settlement. Several additions were necessary over the years.

In 1981 Bethel joined with their neighbours in nearby Maidstone forming the Bethel - Maidstone United Church located on Hwy. # 3 near Manning Road. The former Bethel church became Baseline Pre-school.

Many Sandwich South families continue to attend services at the new location. It is an active congregation and they continue to serve the community.

BETHEL UNITED CHURCH

This church was originally built in 1888 but it was not the first house of worship in this Methodist community. As early as 1856 a little band of settlers, forefathers of many of this congregation, erected a log church on what is now No. 2 Highway. Worship was carried on here for almost a quarter of a century. On the 1st of February 1888 plans were discussed for a new church. Land was purchased and construction soon began. In 1946 a building program was undertaken to modernize and enlarge the church. In 1959 growing pains necessitated more room so another 14feet was added to the north end, enlarging the kitchen and a church parlor.

A lot of memories still linger within the walls. At present, the building is being utilized as the Baseline Pre-school, still looking much as it always has and happily retaining the sound of children's voices.

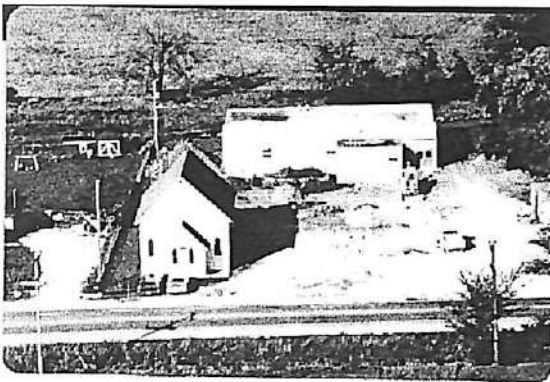
In 1981 our congregation joined with Maidstone in a new building, bringing with us pews, communion table, pulpit, and many other memories, which was now incorporated in our new church. The Baseline Pre-school closed and has returned to a church for the Bethel Romanian Pentecostal congregation.

MAIDSTONE CHURCH HISTORY

In 1928 a hall was erected, in which suppers were served. Maidstone is still well known for their annual Turkey supper. Another twenty feet was built on the back of the hall in 1941.



In 1944 the church was resided, and cathedral windows added in 1946. In 1948 property was purchased to enlarge the lot for parking. The church was resided again in 1949 with insul brick and later with a white slate like siding. In 1964 a new organ was purchased for the church.



Manse

The manse at that time was over at the Wesley Charge. Later the old Robert Little home was bought across Talbot Road from the Maidstone Church for the manse. A tornado windstorm blew one end of that home in so it was torn down and a new manse built. In 1920 or 1921 a new manse was built by Bethel Kroft. The house is of red brick construction, which was in later years covered with stucco and has a full basement. The two-story home has a kitchen with a pantry converted to a wash room, dinning room, living room, den and office on the main floor. The second floor has three bedrooms and a full bath. Some finer features are cupboards, which open on both the kitchen and dinning-room.

MAIDSTONE CHURCH HISTORY

They have beveled glass doors and underneath is a sliding door through which trays can be passed. Another interesting feature is a corner fireplace and large porch on the front and smaller one at the back. In the 1980's a carport was built with an entryway from the back porch.

Manse Occupants

The first occupant of the manse, then called a parsonage because of the church's earlier Methodist affiliation, was Rev. Fred Strider. The other ministers occupying the home were: Rev. J.B. Champion, Rev. G. Whaley, Rev. C.L.L. Cousins, Rev. James Husser, Rev. H. Creasy, Rev. J.K. Curtis, Rev. P.E. James, Rev. R. Norman Pick, Rev. M.S. Anderson, Rev. H.W. Hyland, Rev. H.W. Wonfor, Rev. Glenn Brown, Rev. Glen Ashford, husband and wife team Rev. Phil Marzec and Rev. Laura Jo Bell, Rev. Bea Ash.

More property was purchased in 1972 for future building. A new hall was built and dedicated October 5th of 1975. A new church was started in September 1980 and the first service was held on March 8th 1981 with 175 attending. A dedication service was held for BETHEL – MAIDSTONE UNITED CHURCH on May 3rd.



Bethel-Maidstone Church Dedicated

1981



Officials of the Bethel - Maidstone congregation examine the cornerstone of their new church after it was laid during dedication ceremonies Sunday. They are George Simpkins,

chairman of the building committee, and elders Ted Ure and Lonnie Jones.



That copper box held aloft by the Rev. Glenn Brown, contains the history of the Bethel-Maidstone congregations as they laid the cornerstone of their new church Sunday. The box was secured behind the cornerstone in special dedication

services. The new church was built by the Bethel United and Maidstone United congregations after they united, sold the Bethel church and demolished the Maidstone church in new beginnings.

The Essex Times

COUNTY EDITION
May 19, 1976



Maidstone United Church was the setting for the 70th Annual Meeting of the North District Womens Institute.

Time Out For Trefoil Tales



The 1st Maidstone Girl Guides will be holding registration September 9th at Maidstone United Church Hall from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. Girls 9 to 11 years age welcome. If you would like further information call 723-2295.

With summer holidays over, many packs and companies will be reopening if you would like your opening date announced in this column please call Marlene Markham 723-2295 and I'll pass the word along for you.

The 1st Maidstone Brownie Pack needs leaders if you are interested please contact Mrs. Shirley Thomas 737-6524 she will be happy to introduce you to our Division commissioner and lend a hand in any way she can to help you get started.

ESSEX FREE PRESS — Friday, October 31, 1980 — 19

Time Out For Trefoil Tales



The 1st Maidstone Girl Guides enjoyed a tour of Channel 9, television studio on Wednesday evening. The girls found it to be a very interesting and enjoyed it very much. No one realized how much work went into televising the shows we watch.

Cub registration for the area will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, October 3rd, at the Bethel-Maidstone Church Hall. Boys between the ages of 8 and 11 are invited to join. Regular meetings are held from 1:30-3 p.m. every Saturday at the hall.

The Bethel-Maidstone annual turkey dinner is a tradition serving hundreds of local families from the surrounding communities.

Bethel-Maidstone United Church

• • **Turkey Supper** • •

Wednesday, October 29, 1980

4:30 til ??

ADULTS \$5.00

CHILDREN 6 - 12 - \$2.00

**BROWN-BARNETT INSURANCE AGENCY
LTD.**

29 Talbot St. N.

ESSEX

Ph. 776-6457

Too Many Diners For Maidstone Dinner

A record-breaking crowd made the annual Maidstone turkey dinner a sell out and late-comers had to be turned away.

The posters in store windows throughout Essex had announced that serving would begin at 4:30, so some with forethought arrived sooner at Bethel-Maidstone United Church in such numbers that the women began serving early. Those who did arrive at 4:30 found themselves like the man in the song, "waiting in the church", but it gave opportunity to visit with friends and neighbours, some of whom they hadn't seen since the last turkey supper.

The weather helped. The UCW members privately decided that the Lord must want to pay for their new church. The rain and raw chill of the previous two days had vanished. All wanted to be out in the glorious Indian summer, and what better place to dine than the famous

Bethel-Maidstone turkey supper for five dollars adults, (Children under six years were served free and children up to the age of 12 were charged only two dollars) where they give you unlimited seconds of everything from the turkey and vegetables to coffee. Few pie seconds were served, although the pies were home made and delicious, simply because few diners had room for more than one piece.

Lorna Simpkins, in charge of the diningroom found she had a double task, to assist her many willing and courteous young waitresses and to keep the ticket sellers at the door informed whenever there were tables available. Dorothy Shuttleworth, head of the kitchen staff, was everywhere at once, though she said that her workers were all so familiar with the routine of keeping freshly mashed potatoes coming to the steam tables, not to mention, hot turkey and dressing to the platters, all

went well.

The crowd increased instead of diminished and new preparations had to be made. Some of the women began peeling another bag of potatoes. They had peeled four bags Tuesday evening. Others took out big pans of frozen squash from the freezer. Another member hurried home for extra supplies of cranberry sauce --- home made, of course. They had started with gallons of the ruby preserve.

The men were helping in all places, parking cars, selling tickets, pouring tea and coffee and lifting heavy kettles of hot potatoes and other vegetables in the kitchen. As Doris Izsak, convener of the whole enterprise said, the women would not have wanted to try to manage without the men.

By 6:30 the women realized they would not be able to find food for more persons than were already in the

church, so reluctantly they had to call a halt. No more tickets could be sold. By the end of the evening one thousand meals had been served. This number included 154 take-out dinners provided for elderly and shut-in persons whose relatives were attending the supper. A separate room and steam table were set up to look after these take-out dinners. It also included the dinners for the helpers, many of whom waited as late as 9:30 for a time when they were free of their duties.

Never in all its history of bountiful and well-attended suppers has Bethel-Maidstone United Church served so many. Last year they were pleased to have seven hundred, so their committee planned on food for some extra, as they always do, but did not expect such an overflowing response. The building fund will benefit.



The crowd of diners at the annual Maidstone turkey dinner broke all records when those who came after about 950 tickets were sold had to be told, sorry, sold out. Now that the two churches of Bethel and Maidstone have merged there are more to be fed and more workers to supply the

food. Pauline Farough made certain one table was well supplied and offers a laden platter of turkey to Lori McFarlane and her mother (accepting platter) Ruth of Windsor.



The popularity of the Maidstone United Church Women's turkey dinner never fails and this year it attracted 825, about 100 more than usual. Mark Dennison, Lisa Dennison and Sandy Burleigh of Windsor enjoyed their dinner at Bev Kaufman's table. Inset: Justin, 1½, son of Kevin and Sally MacKenzie of Bethel United was doing a good job of shovelling in his share. Proceeds of the dinner go to construction of the new church of the recently combined Bethel-Maidstone congregation.



Bethel - Maidstone Church News

Essex Free Press... 1980's

BETHEL-MAIDSTONE UNITED CHURCH

Rev. Glenn Brown

Sunday, November 9th -
Worship service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school 10:45 a.m. to
11:45 a.m. A nursery is
provided during the worship
hour.

The first Maidstone Cub
Pack would like to thank all
who made our Apple Day a
tremendous success.

Assistant leader (male or
female) over 18 years is
required for the 1st
Maidstone Cub Pack. For
more information call 737-
6659 or 737-6647.

United Church Calendars
are available for \$2 each from
Mrs. Lorna Simpkins.

The UCW would like to
thank everyone who helped
to make the Turkey Supper
such a great success.

Iona College is having
their annual meeting of the
Corporation (membership
fee \$1) on Tuesday, Novem-
ber 25th at 8 p.m. at 208
Sunset Ave., Windsor.

GessTwood camp annual
meeting will be held Wed-
nesday, November 19th at
6:30 p.m. at Woodslee
United Church. If you are
interested in attending,
please contact Jack Thomas
by November 15th.

The UCW is hosting a
Creative Circle Party
(needlecraft) on Tuesday,
November 11th at the hall.
All ladies are invited.

The regular meeting of the
UCW will be held Monday
evening, November 10th at 8
p.m. in the Church. Mrs.
Connie Reeb will be in
charge of devotions; Mrs.
Georgina Woltz will be
speaking on General Council.
All ladies are invited to
attend.

BETHEL-MAIDSTONE UNITED CHURCH

Rev. Glenn Brown

Sunday, January 4th -
church service at 9:30 a.m.;
church school 10:45-11:45
a.m. A nursery is provided
during the worship hour.

Flowers were placed in the
church during the Christmas
season in memory of Grace
and Wilfred Greaves by
Mary, Jim and family and by
Mrs. Orville Ellis in memory
of her husband and their
parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim
Ellis and Mr. and Mrs. Tom
Little.

The 50-50 class are spon-
soring 4 card parties with the
proceeds to go to the build-
ing fund. The first one will
be January 10th. Anyone
wishing to donate a door
prize please contact George
Simpkins.

We must prepare a time
capsule with significant
mementos of the Bethel and
Maidstone churches to be
placed in the cornerstone of
the new church. If you have
any suggestions, please
contact Connie Reeb or Linda
Fairhurst.

BETHEL-MAIDSTONE UNITED CHURCH

Rev. Glenn Brown

Sunday, October 12th -
morning worship at 9:30 a.m.
with church school from
10:45-11:45 a.m. A nursery is
provided during the worship
hour.

Donations of squash are
needed for the turkey supper
which is October 29th. If you
have squash to donated
please call Doris Iszak at
723-4642.

The Session have endorsed
to Presbytery Jane Haas as a
candidate for licensed lay
preacher. Congratulations
Jane.

On Saturday, November
1st a family Halloween
costume party and dance will
be held in the CE hall from
7-11 p.m. Adult admission
\$3 (with costume) \$3.50
(without costume), children
12 and under \$1.00.

BETHEL-MAIDSTONE UNITED CHURCH

Rev. Glenn Brown

Sunday, September 21st -
morning worship 9:30 a.m.;
church school 10:45 a.m.
until 11:45 a.m. A nursery is
provided during the worship
hour.

The 1st Maidstone Cub
Pack will be having a meet-
ing of the parents and regis-
tration on Saturday, Septem-
ber 20th at 1:30 p.m. at the
Bethel-Maidstone hall. Boys
8-11 years will be welcome to
join. For further information
call Bernard Shuttleworth at
737-6647.

Confirmation classes begin
Thursday night, September
18th, 7-8:30 p.m. at the
manse.

The M&S Committee
would like to announce that
Sunday, September 21st will
be Bible Society Sunday.
Envelopes for donations will
be available in the pews.

Anyone wishing to reserve
the following equipment for
use for a class group meeting
call Hazel Farough at 737-
6359; slide projector, movie
screen, overhead projector,
cassette projector.

Keep in mind the GessT-
wood Annual Beef Barbecue
on Sunday, September 28th
12 noon til 6 p.m. Advance
sale of tickets only. Tickets
may be obtained from Connie
Reeb and Hazel Farough.

MAIDSTONE UNITED CHURCH

REV. GLENN BROWN

Sunday, May 4th - Morn-
ing worship at 10 a.m.,
Church School at 11:05 a.m.
A nursery is provided during
the worship hour.

A Mother and Daughter
banquet will be held in the
church hall May 2nd, 6:15
p.m. Tickets may be obtain-
ed from Mary Catherine
Thomas or Hazel Farough.

The Official Board meeting
has been changed from the
18th of May to the 25th 7
p.m. at Bethel.

The pastor is on vacation
from April 28th to May 4th.
He will be available for
emergencies.

BETHEL-MAIDSTONE UNITED CHURCH

Rev. Glenn Brown

Sunday, February 8th -
Worship service 9:30 a.m.;
church school 10:45-11:45
a.m. A nursery is provided
during the worship service.

The official board meeting
time is changed to 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 8th at
Bethel-Maidstone. Please
notify the pastor if you
cannot attend.

The session are asked to
meet 7 p.m., Sunday, Feb-
ruary 8th (prior to the board
meeting) to hear requests for
baptisms and transfers.

The regular meeting of the
U.C.W. will be held Feb-
ruary 9th, 8 p.m. in the hall.
Donna Miller from Hiatus
House will be the guest
speaker, Mrs. Violet Libby
will be in charge of
devotions. All ladies are
invited to attend and if you
have samples of items that
would make good bazaar
items, please bring them
along so we may exchange
ideas.

The next card party spon-
sored by the 50-50 Class will
be Saturday, February 7th at
8 p.m. in the Bethel-Maid-
stone hall.

MAIDSTONE UNITED CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Glenn Brown
Sunday, April 13th - 10 a.m.
Morning Worship.
11:05 a.m. - Church school.
Nursery is provided during the worship hour.

The flowers placed in the church Easter Sunday were from Mr. and Mrs. Earl Beetham and family and Mrs. Laura Tofflemire and family in memory of loved ones.

A Father and Son Banquet will be held in the church hall April 17th at 6:30 p.m. Tickets may be obtained from Ruth Flood or Doris Izsak.

If anyone would like to purchase a copy of the new brown hymnal for their own use or donate one to the church as a memorial gift, please call Dorothy Shuttleworth.

MAIDSTONE UNITED CHURCH

Rev. Glenn Brown

Sunday, June 22nd - There will be a joint service to create the merger of Bethel-Maidstone congregations at 10 a.m. at Bethel. A nursery will be provided and refreshments will be served after the service.

There will be no Sunday school on June 22nd. On June 29th Sunday school promotion exercises will be held during the regular church service at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School classes will follow from 10:45 to 11:45.

Do you have some home furniture in good repair that you do not need? Would you be willing to donate it to the Halfway Homes for Mental Health Windsor-Essex? If so, please contact the pastor.

The next "New Church Committee" meeting will be held June 24th, 7:30 p.m. in the church hall.

BETHEL—MAIDSTONE UNITED CHURCH

Rev. Glenn Brown

There will be a meeting of the Committee of Stewards Sunday, March 29th 7:30 p.m. in the hall.

The Session are called to meet on Monday, March 30th at 7 p.m. in the meeting room in the hall.

The 50-50 Class will meet March 28th at 8 p.m. in the church hall. Jim and Clara Ward will be hostesses.

The flowers in the church on Sunday were given to the Glory of God and in memory of Walter and Annie Farough and R. Donald Thompson by Russell and Joyce Farough and family.

There will be a card party April 4th 8 p.m. in the hall. Proceeds to go to GessWood Camp Pool Fund. Anyone wishing to donate a door prize contact George Simpkins.

Auction Sale May 16th - If you have any household items (furniture or appliances) or farm accessories that you would like to donate, please call Ted Ure 735-6726, Moira McNeely 737-6047, Gerry Thompson 776-8539 or Gerry Farough 737-6359 and they can arrange for pick-up.

We still need unused white pillow cases for the bazaar. If you can help contact Shona Jones 737-6313, Jane Haas 776-7862 or Jean Thompson 776-8530.

The official opening of the new church will be May 3rd. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Robert Giuliano. More information later.

Winners Of 50 - 50 Class Card Party

Winners of the last card party sponsored by the 50-50 Class of the Bethel-Maidstone United Church were as follows: ladies first, Gladys Collins, second, Ola Lankin, cons. Ruth Flood; mens first, R.S. Vicary, second George Diesbourg, cons. Jim Ward.

Door prize winners were: R.S. Vicary, Madeline Diesbourg, Walter Bauer, Marjorie Shuttleworth, Phoebe Croft, Betty Martin, Scott Shuttleworth, Walter O'Neil, Raymond Hicks, James Ward, Arnold Axcell, Lonnie Jones, E.J. Clarkson, Sam Eldridge, Doris Izsak, Catherine Clarkson, Blake Cowan, Jennie Tymstra, Lorna Simpkins.

The next card party will be held on February 7th in their church hall. Prizes, door prizes and refreshments. Grand prize to be drawn for the last night. Everyone welcome.

50-50 Class Card Party Winners

Winners of the last card party sponsored by the 50-50 Class of the Bethel-Maidstone United Church were: ladies first, Marjorie Shuttleworth, second Gladys Collins and cons. Lillian Wright; mens first Lonnie Jones, second Vern McKim, and cons. Jim Ward.

Door prizes were won by Ivan Soroka, Milton Farough, Ian Ramsay, Linda Hicks, Jessie Axcell, Shirley Reeb, Don Pastorius, Freda O'Neil, Lori Farough, Don Wright, Margaret Hicks, Lloyd Little, Judy Farough, Marjorie Shuttleworth, Jack Hicks, Nelson Bloomfield, Vi Libby, Vern McKim, E.J. Clarkson, Fred Ouellette, Wayne Farough and Edith Capstick.

Winners of the grand prize which was a suntan cot was Mrs. Alex Renaud. We would like to thank all of you who supported our card parties this past two months.

Winners at the last card party sponsored by the 50-50 class of the Maidstone United Church were as follows: Ladies 1st - Mrs. Nelson Shuttleworth; 2nd - Mrs. Cathleen Clarkson; Cons. - Mrs. Russell Leach; Mens 1st - Ian Ramsay; 2nd - Wilfred Libby; Cons. - Joe Phillips.

Door prize winners were: Sis Gerard, Don Sova, Laura Tofflemire, Wayne Izsak, D. Fairbairn, Ila Farough, Doug Shuttleworth, Hazel Farough, Joe Phillips, Florence Gerard, Lottie Bondy, Wayne Farough, Sam Eldridge, Milton Farough, Lil Banwell, Thelma Widdis.

Their next card party will be held on Saturday, March 8th at 8 p.m. in the church hall. Prizes, door prizes, and lunch. Everyone welcome.

Three-point charge keeps him hopping

MAIDSTONE — One could easily mistake the man coming across the highway for a hitch-hiker or a character from a Steinbeck novel.

This sturdy-looking man, squinting at the miles of empty farmland beyond the century-old

Methodist church, wears a black rumpled raincoat and carries an inconspicuous brief case. He heads past the church to a cement block building, unlocks it and disappears inside.

This is a daily routine for Rev. Glenn Brown. He is pastor of a three-point charge taking in Maidstone United, Gesto United and Bethel United, each church seven miles from the others, all of them former Methodist denominations.

The 33-year-old former Californian (still with a trace of an American accent) is a country pastor ... with an urban personality and background.

A former salesman, university student, coffee house owner, wedding photographer, he has already made accurate calculations of how far away Windsor's movie theatres are, Devonshire Mall and the Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet down the road.

One would think this bearded pastor's day begins at 9 a.m., because that's when he ambles across the road from his white-frame manse in the Maidstone United Church Christian Education Building.

He goes directly to a small book-lined office in the back of the building in which he is alone. Drops his brief case on his desk. Then seeks out the enormous kitchen with the multi-burner gas stoves. Puts the kettle on for coffee and waits ... instant coffee in an eight-ball mug — a going away present from the fellows at Guam in the South Pacific when he was in the U.S. Air Force.

He doesn't flick on the lights, but instead stands in the early morning gloom of the kitchen waiting for the water to boil ... then, cup in hand, strolls back to the office ... flicks the portable electric heater on ... then to work.

But his day began a long time before that — long before anyone in the nearby farmhouses or the Cozy Corners coffee shop would have seen him cross the road to his office.

Up at 6:30 a.m. to work at the manse on the Sunday morning sermon ... or just to clear his mind for a forthcoming heavy day.

A country pastor's life — especially one with a three-point charge — differs from an urban minister's activity.

Rev. Brown found that out soon after he moved to Maidstone — he's eating more. People out there have hearty appetites.

The new clergyman was astounded at the team of women working together to cook up mass turkey dinners in the large church hall kitchen.



Rev. Glenn Brown in his study

City churches are accustomed to catering, but country churches handle it themselves.

"They get so many people that they have to set aside two Sunday School rooms for the pies alone. We have three turkey dinners each fall ...

"I didn't get this way without working at it," Rev. Brown says, displaying a well-fed physique. "I work it off the rest of the year playing racquetball."

In a more serious vein, the infamous blizzards of '76 and '77 cry out with another lesson — a country pastor must respond. The Christian Education Building housed, fed and cared for stranded motorists for days.

Seminary work in Chicago wasn't like that. Neither was California. Nor Detroit where he was a chaplain for the Department of Mental Health. But Essex gave him rural flavor — in touch with personalities on a different level.

Later on in the interview when he is at the Gesto Uni-

ted Church, he describes the friendly, open atmosphere of his parishioners as being "warm — a warmth almost as if you had a taken a bath."

It's not something he could have anticipated. He loves it.

But he fights the assumption that the people in his charge are country bumpkins. "No way. The farmers here you will find have university education ... they have season tickets for the Civic Light Opera and they vacation in Hawaii ...

"It keeps me from saying it's what you would think of as a typical rural community, because it isn't ... and yet they still have the turkey suppers and the father and son banquets ...

The people in his charge, he said, differ from city people by the very fact that most are related to one another here. There are generations of families which have grown up with the church. "Some remember when the lumber was drawn from the lumber mills in Essex by horse to

build this church (Maidstone) ...

At the same time, in his travels across southern Ontario with his wife, he has come to the opinion that in just about any small town "you will find a GM dealership, a United Church and a Royal Bank." Bedrock of Ontario society.

Rev. Brown is comfortable. He sits behind his desk. He is wearing one flannel shirt over top of another, looking less like a minister without a collar and more like a farmer.

But he feels much like an old-time Methodist circuit rider who rode the backroads and trails of Essex County to bring people into the fold.

He is a young minister, but has a lengthy biography. He grew up in California, graduated from the University of Southern California, attended McCormick Seminary in Chicago, was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. in 1974 and was chaplain for the Michigan Depart-



MARTY GERVAIS
ON RELIGION

ment of Mental Health.

He found out about an opening in the Essex Presbytery through a colleague and applied for the posting with the United Church of Canada.

He leans forward, elbows on the wooden desk he "picked up somewhere for \$50," and says "a minister is always like a visiting fireman."

The church session has given him a pretty clear idea of what is expected of him — preaching, counselling and visitations.

That's his session's prescription for success here. The guidelines are set out by the session which is made up of the elders of the church ... and he must follow them.

He is warned not to set his own, but to use his discretion. Rev. Brown does.

For his sermons, he finds it's necessary to put in eight to 12 hours a week. "Usually I'll go through three before I come up with one ... then I do the children's sermon."

He must do two children's sermons and three for the adults to cover his three-point charge.

Preparation happens all week, but on Saturday night, he works late to organize it ... and again up at 6:30 a.m. to meditate and clear his thoughts for the day.

"It's different here than in the city. People out here are less interested in counselling and intervention in social or personal problems than in the city."

"I'm not likely to go to court for someone who has been in jail. Any time a problem is let out of the bag here it affects a whole segment."

A divorce, for example, Rev. Brown explains, is a personal family problem. It has reverberations right down the line ... "and plays havoc with parents, grandparents and even great grandparents ... all of whom have places in the dynamism of the family."

It's not something Rev. Brown can touch ... all the time. Sometimes he tries, when it is absolutely necessary, and then it's the pastor's prerogative.

We get into my car and head out for Bethel United, another white church, looking much like its sister. But it's a frame church.

We go in the side door and down through the basement. The kitchen is smaller, cramped. There are towels hanging on a make-shift clothes line over the sink.

Everything in place.

Then up to the sanctuary with its leaded windows, the choir chairs, sunlight streaming onto the varnished floors.

Rev. Brown starts here Sunday morning with a 9 a.m. service. Forty minutes, then he's back in his car for Maidstone United for the 10 a.m. service.

Barely finished there, he's off again for Gesto arriving just in time to give the children's sermon at 11:25 a.m. and begin the 11:30 a.m. service.

The superintendents have been conducting the service in his absence.

The routine is part of his job, too, but another important task is the visitations. That means not only to hospitals, but to homes.

For that reason his days are never the same, but he insists on organizing them according to a 30-hour week. He grimaces, though, at the grim facts — the week in reality often grows beyond 50 hours.

"It used to be I planned for a 40-hour week, but I'd find myself in a crisis situation, and I was just too tired to do anything constructive when they came around."

To alter the guidelines they have set down with regard to visitations, Rev. Brown this year wants to make a concerted effort on programs rather than people.

Since he began here, Rev. Brown said, he has been making the rounds to the 194 families of his three-point charge.

Last year alone, he managed to make 203 visits to homes and 197 to hospital ... but for 1980, he wants to spend less time on the road and more time on the telephone ... organizing ... Translated into action this has meant and will mean:

— the institution of a mid-week Tuesday night service designed for couples who both work and can't make it on Sundays because of shift work. It's also a good opportunity for "dialogue" with the minister.

— a bible study group at Gesto.

— the planning for a new sanctuary at Maidstone.

— more time for sermons.

"My sermons deteriorated when I was visiting so many people ... they would tell me ... in time ... I'd get a phone call, or a letter would come commenting on it."

"You know yourself deep down when you have a lemon and you're going to bomb two more times before the day is done."

So the new emphasis is



working, and Rev. Brown is driving his car less.

Sunday to Thursday are working days for Rev. Brown. That means the following has to be accomplished: administrative work for the church, meetings of the Division of Missions in Canada, training of Sunday School teachers, meetings in London for the Presbytery, visitations to six nursing homes (Tecumseh, Woodlee, Essex and Leamington), visits to Metropolitan Hospital (Rev. Brown is also chaplain there) and Windsor Western, visits to shut-ins, private homes, counselling, baptismal and marital preparation etc. etc. etc. The list is endless. So are the days. He works from the early morning to late at night ... occasionally volunteering time for other concerns such as the Windsor Media Council ...

Fridays and Saturdays are days off for Rev. Brown, and they are moments "of doing pretty much what I want to ... but I still answer the telephone ..."

He emphasizes that although people respect that time off period, they know they can call in case of an emergency ... even when he is on holiday time.

"I had to stand up in the pulpit however and tell them this, because they wouldn't call."

"It took a while to convince them that I EXPECTED to be called in case of an emergency."

Sunday means working 14 hours. Not just the few hours of service in the morning but morning till night.

The reason? It's one of the few days of the week when Rev. Brown can get people together for meetings and counselling.

Along gravel roads to

wrote about a week in the life of a city minister. This week, he headed out of town for a rural-eye view of the ministry.

Gesto. A shortcut along the concessions. The brick church stands tall in Gesto and can be seen for miles.

Rev. Brown unlocks the front door. The interior is plain. There are stress rods running from wall to wall to prevent the church from being condemned and torn down.

Gesto United came under the Maidstone charge in 1967 when it asked to be taken in. For three years previous it had been operating with guest preachers and lay superintendents taking over the service. Gesto had refused to shut its doors when the United Church ordered some of the smaller churches to close up.

The doors to the basement hall are locked, and Rev. Brown rummages through books, shelves and hymn books to find the key ... but can't.

"I think I'm the only one who doesn't know where they keep it."

But that's the way things are with the three churches generally. Rev. Brown said he doesn't have to worry. The parishioners take care of everything — it's in their nature, and they are dependable.

"They take care of the offering ... I never know where the money goes ... but someone takes care of it ... automatically ... and I run off to the next church ... the flowers appear automatically ... everything is taken care of ..."

Back to the office, but first a stop in Essex. Rev. Brown says, "There it is on the right ..." and the sign of the Colonel's Kentucky Fried Chicken looms. It's nearly noon. Two snack boxes and cokes ... back to the Maidstone Christian Education Building.

Rev. Brown sits behind his desk, snaps open his coke, flips open the snack box of chicken and chips. He excuses himself while he returns a phone call to a lady who called him during the morning.

With drumstick in one hand, telephone in the other, he apologizes for bothering the people he is calling at their lunch hour.

