



It's all about the people and the music at St. Paul's United Church, Metz.



St. Paul's is located in the heart of farm country, in the hamlet of Metz, at the corner of the Third Line and 25 Sideroad. We like to say we straddle two townships, as the church building is in Wellington North, and most parking is in Centre Wellington.

It's the people who make a church. That was the recurring theme of the memories shared by members of St. Paul's during our 100th anniversary celebrations, held in 2006. We've made it to 100 years and beyond because of the dedication of the people who

came before us and our current members. Acts of kindness, warm welcomes, heartfelt thank you's, commitment and hard work keep our church alive.

The biggest event held to celebrate St. Paul's centennial, was the Old Fashioned Garden Party held on the lawns of the church. Church garden parties date back many years, to when admission was 25 cents. They were initially held at members' homes and farms – that is until a barn burned after one particular party. After that, they were held on the church lawn, or in poor weather, inside the shed. The shed saw lots of activity, as it was used for musical entertainment during garden parties, and often flooded in the winter for use as a community skating rink.



Pumpkins have become synonymous with St. Paul's. Several years ago, members started Pumpkin Fest and invited friends, neighbours and local politicians to try their hand at growing giant pumpkins. Come rain or shine, pumpkin growing enthusiasts cart their pumpkins to Metz in September, to be weighed. The prize ? A trophy and bragging rights for the year! Music, food, pumpkin canons, train rides, and face painting now make up the many activities at Pumpkin Fest.

A group of talented musicians, both members of the church and friends, regularly get together to do what they love best. They can be heard at informal coffee houses, during Sunday morning services, at Remembrance Day and St. Patrick Day events, at St. Paul's outdoor summer services, and any other time they just feel like making a joyful noise. One member has even written and composed a song about St. Paul's, Metz.



Metz began as a Presbyterian church, with services held in members' homes. Then in 1885, the Orange Lodge was built and used for lodge activities, community events and church services for all denominations. St. Paul's was placed with Dracon in 1887, as a Mission field. This continued for 54 years. Members of St. Paul's eventually decided that a permanent home was needed, and so raised \$2,600 to build the current stone church. A major fundraiser was a pieced quilt made by the congregants and then raffled off. It contains the signatures of all those who purchased space on it.

When union occurred in 1925, St. Paul's became a member of the United Church of Canada. In 1941, St. Paul's formed a Pastoral Charge with Kenilworth and Bethel.

Since 1967, St. John's and St. Paul's have worked together as the Belwood-Metz Pastoral Charge. Rev. Shelley Smith ministers to both congregations. At St. Paul's two musicians alternate in providing music for our Sunday services. These services are held at 9:30 a.m.

One of St. Paul's members is often heard to say that "we're the little church that does". Whether it's the Christmas auction, Easter morning brunch, cookie making workshop, grass cutting, children's Sunday school picnic, building maintenance, making and serving chili for a new barn opening, or visiting members in need, all these things and more are possible because of the members who make them happen.