

## The Story of the Stained-glass Windows

### Windows 1 and 2:

Rev. Samuel Martin, along with his wife, served at Rivers Union Church from 1921-1925. Their son, Malcolm, died of diphtheria at the age of 9. After his death, the Mission Band was renamed as the Malcolm Mission Band in his memory. The window reads *Malcolm Stewart Martin August 28, 1915 – January 1, 1925*. Rev. Martin's oldest son, Wallace, died of spinal meningitis at the age of 23. His window reads *Wallace James Martin September 19, 1907 – March 12, 1930*. Both boys were buried in Rivers Cemetery. On October 23, 1932, this pair of windows was dedicated in their memories at a service that was attended by Rev. and Mrs. Martin and their younger daughter Margaret. According to the RUC history book, the windows were unveiled by Earl McFadden and Robert McKenzie. (Margaret Martin, a schoolteacher in Winnipeg, left Rivers United Church a \$3000 bequest after her death in 2006.)

A further note about Rev. Martin: Following his resignation from RUC, he became a United Church missionary-at-large in Northern Manitoba, during the construction of the Hudson's Bay Railroad and the beginning of mining development. He laboured for seven years and was responsible for the building of churches in Gillam and Churchill. His health failed, and he was forced to retire to a less strenuous charge. He died in Oregon, at the home of his eldest daughter in 1939. (Source: RUC history)

### Window #3

This window, donated by husband Thomas William Offen and family, was dedicated on November 8, 1945, in memory of his wife, Fanny Frances (Maneer) Offen. Fanny Frances was an active worker for many years with the Sunday School and the Mission Band. She was also the first president of the Ladies' Aid after the local church union in 1925. T.W. Offen (1881-1959) was a member of the Session of Rivers Union and Rivers United churches from 1920. He served as Clerk of the Session for many years and was also Superintendent of the Sunday School for 40 years, retiring from that position in 1951. (T.W. and Fanny Offen were the parents of Beth Smith, who later donated the circulating fans.) The window reads:

*I am the Good Shepherd.*

*Erected by the church members in loving memory of Fanny Frances Offen 1877-1944.*

### Window #4

This window was officially presented to the church in 1952 by Mr. R.G. Sinclair, in memory of his wife, Jean. R.G. Sinclair was secretary of Rivers Methodist Church in 1920 when local union was achieved. He also served as Sunday School Superintendent. He was a railway man, who acted as secretary-treasurer of the Town of Rivers for 25 years and later as mayor. In 1955, the baptismal font (purchased by the WA, the WMS, and the SS) was also dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Sinclair. The window reads:

*"Martha received him into her house." To the glory of God, erected by*

*R.G. Sinclair and in grateful remembrance of my dear wife Jean.*

*Born May 4, 1891 and Died December 5, 1952.*

*"She hath done what she could."*