

Our History



We cannot do full justice to the story of our historical roots in this one article.

The Methodist circuit riders came to this part of Ontario in 1829. Trinity Methodist Church was first established in Penetanguishene. It was the earliest Methodist Church in North Simcoe County. Through the missionary work of Trinity Methodist it contributed to the founding of Methodist congregations in Hillsdale, Belfry's Class, Vents, Vasey, Waverley, Wyevale, Wyebridge, Clutes, Randolph, Victoria Harbour, Midland, Gibson's Hornsby's, Ebenezer and Fairview.

The first church building in Penetanguishene was built in 1835. This building was sold in 1880 and a new church was built at the corner of Peel and Simcoe Streets.

Trinity Methodist grew and expanded. They had a strong tie with the aboriginal folk on Christian Island as well.

Meanwhile St. Paul's Methodist was growing and making its mark in the Midland community. St. Paul's began in 1875 when regular Methodist services were established in Midland. At one point they met in an upstairs room at the town jail. At another time, they worshiped in the Baptist Church, and later built a church on Midland Avenue which is now an apartment building. At the turn of the century construction began on the new Methodist church on the present site on King Street. It's finished date was 1901.

In 1925 at the time of Church Union, it became known as St. Paul's United Church and its sister congregation in Penetanguishene became Trinity United Church.

In 1972 after much prayer and soul searching, Trinity which began in 1829, closed and **Trinity and St. Paul's became one** here in St. Paul's on King Street in Midland..

Amalgamation does present its challenges but today we can boast a vibrant congregation that is alive, thriving and growing. It is a happy place, a deeply spiritual community where people are nurtured through a variety of worship experiences and enriched study. We have evolved into one of the most alive communities of faith, testing many theological ideas.

We eat a lot, we play and pray, and yes, we are a singing church, singing our faith into the future.

We have a thriving congregation with a vital presence in the community. We provide significant presence and leadership at the Guest House – this organization provides housing and meals to those who are homeless. Every Monday morning year round, St. Paul's provides space, leadership, food and a place of warmth and fellowship. Up to 35 folk access this ministry. For those requiring emergency assistance St. Paul's has a very generous Benevolent Fund.

Please visit our full website for information of our many ministries.

