

## **The 50th anniversary of the Building of Trinity United Church in Montgomery Place.**

***Written by Joey Kiss and presented by Rev. Arlene Reynolds  
on October 6, 2013.***



Joey was asked, "What are your memories of the building of this church?" Her answer follows: "I think back through the fifty years of this church building. Three events stand out in my memory.

The first is the moment we made the decision to build. We had been meeting for worship in the school auditorium. Should we take on a mortgage? Should we make the commitment? There was much discussion. There was a vote. We decided to build a church and the work proceeded. We acted in the faith that we would be able to make the payments and gradually pay off the loan. This building became a reality.

The second event is all the great memories I have great memories of the opening service and dedication.

My third well-remembered event is when, several years later, we attended the service for the "burning of the mortgage". This was a very special time for all of us.

But more about that first service, the day the church opened. Joining our congregation that day were visitors from churches all over the city, the most from our sister church, St. David's. There were many church dignitaries from presbytery and conference. We worshipped that day in joy and thanks-giving and in hope for the years ahead.

Now, let us think of the actual church building. Yes, I know the plans should have included a larger entry way, more office space and more storage rooms! But those things would have added to the over-all cost and that was an important consideration.

What about the church building itself? As you approach from the street, it is an attractive church, standing in a lovely setting, no matter what season. As you enter, you find that the sanctuary provides a place of simplicity and beauty that invites worship and prayer. Now look to the front wall behind the altar. See the pattern made by the wood panels. The church architect, Tinos Cortez, said it represented "the victory of the cross." Do you see the V in the wood behind the cross? A great reminder each time we look to the front of the church: "the victory of the cross!"

A couple of other memories come back. Did you know that after church, we gathered our children from Sunday School and went home? There was no 'after service' coffee times. We would gather up the children and go right home because the lower hall, including the kitchen, were literally filled with children meeting in their Sunday School classes. In fact, the overflow, a dozen or so teenagers and their teacher met in the room just off the sanctuary.

And, did you know, that even in the early years of our church, women were not only members of the church but served on the Board of Stewards? (While, in most churches, at the time, there were only men on the Board!)

Men, women and children make up our church family. Today we celebrate not only 50 years of our church building but 50 years of our church family. We have welcomed new members into our church family and we continue to welcome newcomers. Here we have supported one another in joyous times of celebration and sad times of illness and grief. Here we have worshipped together for many years. We know that in that time our spiritual understanding has broadened, our faith has grown stronger and our love has become deeper, our love for one another and for our God

We give thanks for this church building and for this church family.  
For all our many blessings, we give thanks.

