

## Our Years at St Mikes

I cannot believe that St. Mike's is celebrating 50 years. Time seems to pass so quickly the older one gets.

Our family has been a part of St. Michael and All Angels church for more than 45 years. It is hard to believe that it is that long. I can honestly say that those 45 years are the best years of my life.

I guess the real reason we went to St. Mikes church is because of family. In 1971 Bishop MacGuire sent our brother in law Rev. Gerald Edmondson to St. Mikes where he remained for several years. We decided to check out the church and the rest is history. We have been there ever since.

We have some wonderful memories made at St. Mike's. I think the most wonderful memories for me was first when Glenn was baptized by Uncle Gerry, and the second memory was when I became an Anglican and was received into the Anglican church by Bishop Hollis. It was such a happy day for me. I remember asking my Mom who was Roman Catholic if she would be upset if I became an Anglican, and her words to me were "As long as you go to church, I will be happy for you". Well Mom I have not let you down.

I have been very faithful to my church by singing in the choir all those years, and helping out all that I could. We have had so many events over the years. Events that have brought our parish together. We have lost many parishoners also in this time, Parishoners that we have never forgotten. We still talk about them, and sometimes have a good laugh at some of the things that happened.

We have also had many priests who have come and gone. All different in personality but all very nice.

I have to say that Father Barry Clarke does stand out in our eyes as he eventually became Bishop of Montreal. It was Father Barry who introduced me to the Nursing Home Ministry. I have been a part of that Ministry for more than 30 years now and since Milt retired he has also been a part of it. It is such a rewarding Ministry I do not think I will retire from it soon.

Yes we have had so many happy times at St. Mike's but I have to say that we have had some difficult times as well. I think the most difficult time that we had was when Father Toope and his wife were murdered. It was difficult for everyone. I for one lost a lot of faith when that happened. I never thought it would ever come back. I wondered why God could let that happen to such nice people. I think it was a difficult time for all of us. But I guess bad things do happen to good people all over the world. God gave us a free will and I know he does not always approve of what we do with that free will.

I get up every Sunday and look forward to going to church. To singing all the wonderful hymns and seeing all the friendly faces of Rev. Michelle and our wonderful congregation.

We are so blessed at St. Michael and all Angels church. I thank God for all the blessings that I receive there.

*Bernice Hadden.*