

This Historical Moment of the Okotoks United Church begins in 1918 after the departure of Rev. Kerr.

Rev. William J. Kidd received a unanimous call to come to Okotoks. His induction service was held Thursday Aug. 15, 1918 at 8:30 pm. He served the congregation for 14 years.

Rev. Kidd was born in Ontario in 1877 and began his ministry in the Loggers Mission on the B.C. Coast.

Mrs. Kidd, Beulah Alice, was born in Chesley, Ont. Her family later moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where she and Rev. Kidd were married. They went to Prince Rupert where Mr. Kidd built the first Presbyterian Church there, Mrs. Kidd being the first bride to arrive in that community.

From there they went to Nicola and then to Victoria. In 1915 they came to Alberta and settled in Claresholm and after three years, Mr. Kidd accepted the charge of the United Church here and the family moved to Okotoks.

The Kidds lived in the manse at 102 McRae Street which is still standing today when the population of the Town was only 760 people.

Rev. Kidd was a past master of the Masonic Lodge as well as vice chancellor of the Oil City Lodge of the Knights of Pythias. He taught marksmanship to the Cadet Corps at the High School and was also a Boy Scout master. He was also a skip at the local curling club. He was an active and well loved pastor.

Okotoks United had many groups during the time Rev. Kidd was here: Trail Rangers, Mission Band, Young People's Union, C.G.I.T., Ladies Aid and the Women's Missionary Society.

We believe that our first Thanksgiving Supper was held in 1921 raising \$88.70 for the general funds of the church. Aldersyde was added to the pastoral charge in 1920. On the national stage union was fully realized in 1925 – 8 years after the United Church of Okotoks was formed!

At the time of the Presbyterian and Methodist union in 1917, there was a balance of \$1,000 owing on the Mortgage on the church building but on the fifth anniversary of the Union – in 1922 – this paper was burned, the liability having been paid in full. The honour of applying the match fell to Mr. R.L. Saunders who was the oldest living member of the uniting congregations and had been associated with the cause from its earliest beginnings.

One historical event that should not be overlooked during Rev. Kidd's time was The Great depression which began on Black Tuesday Oct 29, 1929 ending in 1939. Those were hard times for many people to live through.

In 1924 Mrs. Kidd passed away at the early age of forty-three – a short time after giving birth to their 4th child.

The Okotoks Review reported that seldom had the death of any person been more truly regretted than that of Mrs. Kidd. People hardly realized how well she was liked or how much her presence meant to them till the word passed around the village that there was no hope.

In spite of having very firm opinions, the late Mrs. Kidd was never known to hurt the feelings of another, either in word or deed whether she agreed with them or not; neither was she ever known to speak unkindly of others in their absence but consistently practised in both word and deed one of the greatest of human virtues – charity. She was a sincere and devout Christian, a devoted wife and mother, and took a keen interest in every movement tending towards the public good.

The funeral was held on a Friday afternoon and was without a doubt one of the largest ever seen at the time. At the request of the Mayor, as a token of respect for the lady and her bereaved family, all places of business were closed from 1 to 3 and the school was also closed for the afternoon. The church was filled – with people standing in the aisles and at the back 5 and 6 deep.

Rev. Kidd moved to Clover Bar in 1932 and passed away at his daughter, Alice's home in Edmonton in 1942. He and Mrs. Kidd are buried in Burn's Cemetery, Calgary, beside her parents Mr. and Mrs. George Paulin.

We should all greatly appreciate the stability that Rev. Kidd and members of session brought to our church through those first few years of Union.