



Rev. J. Sheridan Bole

The Rev. J. Sheridan Bole came to the Bethesda-Dixie United Church from Grace United Church in Hamilton, in July 1966.

A graduate of the University of Toronto, and of Knox Theological College, Toronto, he also pursued studies at Union Theological Seminary, New York, and New College, Edinburgh. He has held pastorates in Melfort, Saskatchewan, Smithville, St. Catharines and Hamilton, serving as Chairman of Presbytery in Niagara and Hamilton Presbyteries.

In his ministry Mr. Bole has

been active in young people's work, being Dean for many years of Ryerson Beach Summer School, a training school for young people, situated on Lake Erie.

RURAL PROBLEMS

His interests have also included the church in the rural areas, and by workshops and addressess he has done much to find solutions for problems presented to the rural church by rural de-population and changed farming methods.

He is well known as a writer and columnist for the United Church Observer, writing for many years the column known as "Caistor Corners".

In November of 1966 his story for children, The Church Mice, was published by Thomas Nelson and Sons and is having a fine sale. Another book by him for children is being considered by Thomas Nelson and Sons.

HISTORIC

The Bethesda-Dixie church which Mr. Bole now serves is one of the historic pastoral charges in the area, celebrating its 103rd Anniversary on January 22, 1967, on which occasion the women's organization of the church carried on the historic tradition of the congregation, serving a dinner to the many old friends of the church who returned for the occasion.

The area was known in the early days as Sydenham, where at the corner of Dixie Road and Dundas Street a toll gate existed. One of the early families of the district by the name of Watson, produced the author of the well known hymn, "Lord of the Lands", whose great-grandfather led the singing in the early church.

In 1875 an organ was introduced. In 1893 the envelope system of giving was begun. The old driving shed, now removed, was built from timber on the grounds of the church, and the work accomplished by an old-fashioned building "Bee."

LOCATING

Bethesda-Dixie is locating anew in a residential area rapidly developing to the north, between Burnhamthorpe Road and Dundas Street, known as the Forest Glen area. New and adjacent churches, as well as the industrialization of the present area has made the move north an opportunity and challenge to the congregation. The name will continue and the congregation looks forward to great achievements in its second location under the leadership of Mr. Bole.