

## United Church in Port Blandford



It appears that a Methodist congregation was established at Clode Sound by the early 1890's, The Evening Telegram of July 10, 1894 carried a story of "Reverend W.H. Dotchon (Methodist) left St. John's for his station at Clode Sound". At this time the congregation was part of the Musgravetown mission.

Just after the turn of the century, the congregation became part of the newly formed Port Blandford Methodist Circuit, along with Bunyan's Cove, Charlottetown, Gambo and Benton. By 1905 Gambo and Benton were removed with Thorburn Lake and Terra Nova being added. A Church was constructed between 1905 and 1908, and served the congregation until the opening of the current building, which is the Alton United in 1978. It is believed that a combined chapel school served the congregation until 1908.

At the time of the union of the churches to form the United Church of Canada in 1925, Port Blandford was still head of the mission and administering to twenty-five families. Port Blandford, at this time, had a church and a one room school. The school expanded to a two story, two room school and was replaced by the construction of a three room school in 1953. The school was managed by the Minister and volunteers from the congregation until 1966 when it became part of an integrated board operated by the province. In the late 1970's up to 1987, the building was used as a middle school with elementary students going to the former Anglican school and high school students to Clarenville.

