

### **Earle and Madge Clarke**

Both have been actively involved in the activities of First Baptist Church over the years.

Earle's parents, Mildred and Ottie Clarke, had held various positions in the church both in Lethbridge and at First Baptist Church, Calgary.

Earle was active in Young People's and the Entre Nous Young Men's class. He was in a male quartet whose accompanist was an attractive and talented musician, Madge Thomas, who in July of 1952 became his wife.



Mildred and Ottie Clarke.

Earle has served his church as: Church Clerk, Chairman of the Diaconate, Chairman Board of Management, Moderator of the Church Council, a member of the sanctuary choir, participating in young adults Sunday School class and involvement in Baptist Union committees.



Seated: Madge and Earle Clarke. Standing: Barbara and David.

Madge, at the age of 18, was baptized by Dr. J. Gordon Jones. Her distinguished career as a musician began when she began studying the organ in her teen years along with vocal studies. She became active as a soprano soloist, organist for the weekly "Back To The Bible Hour" with Ernest C. Manning (then Premier of Alberta), organist and then later choir director as well at First Baptist; then at St. Paul's United Church. After eleven years as organist at Central United Church, Madge returned to First Baptist as Music Director which position she held until her retirement in 1987.

Madge and Earle became very involved with the Calgary Association for the Mentally Handicapped. Earle was Chairman of the committee which brought into operation the Lincoln Lane handicapped residential complex in south west Calgary. They have a son, David, and a daughter, Barbara, both of whom live and work in Calgary.



Madge Clarke - 1982 in recital for Cecelian organ concerts series.