

*File - Churches*

# Centennial

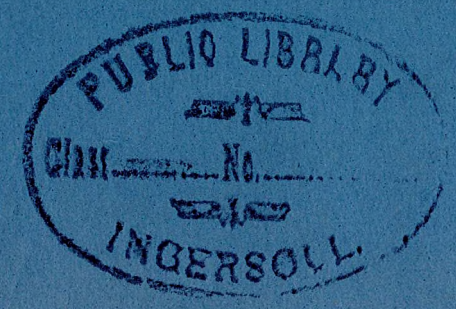
1857



1957

**Banner**  
**United Church**

3-9  
Churches



**North Oxford  
Wesleyan Methodist  
1857 - - 1902**



**Banner Methodist  
1902 - - 1925**



**Banner United  
1925**





REV. DOUGLAS G. CRAIG

ANNE CRAIG

MRS. D. G. CRAIG

## FOREWARD

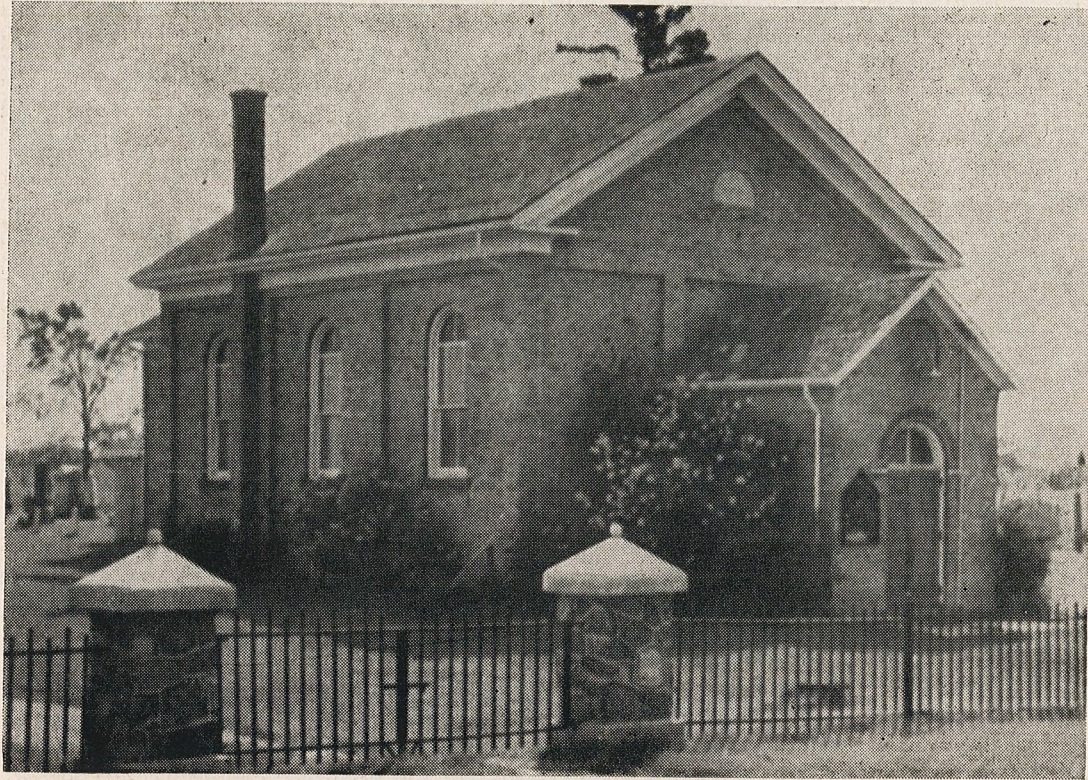
This Christian Edifice has served the community of Banner, formerly known as Spearman's Corners, for one hundred glorious years.

The following pages contain a very detailed memory of the past; a reflection in the mirror of the present; and a telescopic view of the years ahead. In all of this historical account, one sees the Hand of Almighty God directing the events as each year is added unto another.

Thanks be to God for a Glorious Past; Praise be unto His Holy Name for the Opportunity of the Present; May He continue to bless this church in the days that lie ahead, that it may prove worthy of the rich blessings so freely bestowed upon it.

"And the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:7).

Rev. Douglas Craig.



## THE CHURCH

A century ago tall, whispering pine trees sheltered the new North Oxford Wesleyan Methodist Church at Spearman's Corners. We used to sing an old hymn, "Beautiful for Situation, Is Zion," which might well have been written of our church. It stands on a lovely knoll on the fourth concession of North Oxford Township, five miles west of Ingersoll. Now known as the Banner United Church, the congregation will celebrate the hundredth anniversary on June 16 and June 23, 1957.

## Early Days

It has been most difficult to find any information about the early days of this congregation. From the beginning it seems to have been part of a self-supporting circuit, consequently no comment as to the progress of the work appeared in the Missionary Reports. Tracing back over the years the names of subscribers to the mission funds of the church, as listed in the Missionary Reports just mentioned, it appears that the settlers in the area were receiving attention from the Wesleyan Methodist Church at least from 1839 and probably earlier.

This was the era of the saddlebag preachers, who travelled through Western Ontario on horseback, bringing the Word of God to the isolated settlers. There were no churches but the preachers followed routes and organized circuits. There had been a Westminster Circuit from 1816, a London Circuit from 1823 and an Oxford Circuit from 1832.

The centenary of Methodism was celebrated in 1839 and special subscriptions were solicited. Among the subscribers to this fund from the Oxford Circuit, as listed in the Christian Guardian, appear the names of John Connor, John and Fanny Mathews, Jeremiah Minkler and Joseph Spearman. These are family names which consistently appear as members of the North Oxford Congregation of later years. At the 1839 centennial there were twelve preaching places on the Oxford Circuit. The Missionary Reports continually give evidence of a congregation although it was not designated by name.

In 1848-49 the family names of Falconer, Chapman, Mathews, Minkler, Armstrong, Connor, Oliver, Hyde, and Dundas are listed. In 1851 the congregation is called Spearman's Branch, Oxford Circuit. The names recorded were Hyde, Armon Clark, Irwin, Minkler, Fletcher, Hedges, Connor, Simpson, Dundas, Spearman, Ford, McFarlin, Armstrong, and Mathews.

Even yet there were few churches. People met in the homes, barns or outdoors and often walked many miles to attend services. Meetings were held frequently in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Hyde. One of the local preachers was their son-in-law, Mr. Harris. His son, A. G. Harris, lived with the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Hyde, and attended the neighbourhood school. He studied for the ministry and later became the Rev. A. G. Harris, a beloved member of the London Conference. The Rev. George Young of Ingersoll also preached in the Hyde home.

In 1848, when David Dundas and his family came to this district, it took them a week to make the journey from Port Hope to their home on the third concession of North Oxford, which is now owned by their great-great-grandson, James Dundas. The home of David Dundas was opened for religious services and Methodist preachers of the New Connexion frequently came from London, conducted services and ministered to the needs of the people.

A school was built on the south-west corner of the Spearman Farm and religious services were held there. In 1854 the congregation became known as the North Oxford Branch and was part of the Ingersoll Circuit which had been formed in 1849.

In 1856 the Rev. George Kennedy was the minister in Ingersoll. The planning of the new church for North Oxford was one of his many responsibilities. The land for the church and cemetery was given by David and

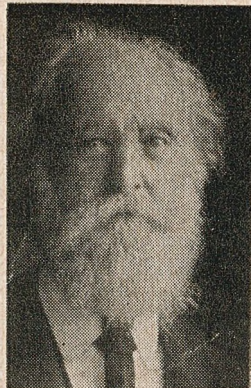
Esther Doty for the consideration of "five shillings of lawful money of Canada." This small charge was necessary to make the transaction legal. The first trustees were Armon Clark, William McFadden, Jeremiah Minkler, Asa Hyde, Robert Dundas, Stephen Irwin, and Joseph Spearman.

**MINISTERS  
AND  
FIRST TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
CHURCH**

— 1857 —



The Rev.  
J. H. Robinson



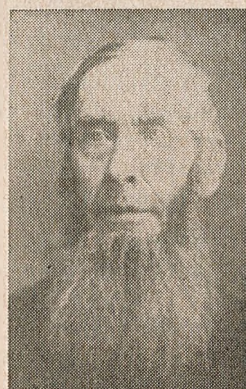
The Rev.  
Timothy Edwards



Stephen Irwin



Asa Hyde



Robert Dundas



William McFadden



Jeremiah Minkler



Mr. and Mrs.  
Joseph Spearman

The church was built in 1856 but, owing to some differences with the contractor was not dedicated until 1857. The Rev. J. H. Robinson of London preached the dedication sermon. The day was fine and the congregation was so large as to tax the capacity of the church.

The church had a wide wooden platform which was entirely across the front of the building and extended slightly beyond the west wall, in order that a horse and buggy might drive up and the occupants step conveniently on the porch. The double doors were placed centrally and on entering the church to the right and also to the left were large stoves necessary for heating. Directly in front of these stoves was a platform for the choir and organ which was raised above the floor level and reached by mounting three steps. The seats for the congregation were in front and on either side of this. The pulpit, communion table, and altar were much as they are today. Probably the most interesting and unusual features were the "stalls" at the front in both corners shaped in the form of a letter E, used by dignitaries and also for Sunday School classes; the ornamental coal-oil lighting system, which consisted of three pairs of hanging lamps, suspended from the ceiling, made accessible by a fine rope which when drawn lowered one lamp and raised the other. Glass lamps were provided on the side walls, in metal holders, at each window to provide extra light. The ceilings and walls were plastered and marked to resemble blocks. There were three windows on each side and to the east of the altar was a door for a back entrance.

In 1857 the Rev. George Kennedy's assistant was Timothy Edwards, whose home was one mile west of the church. It is interesting that a local boy should serve the first year in the new church. Seventy-five years later, in reply to an invitation to attend the seventy-fifth anniversary of the church, this same Timothy Edwards, now an old man in his ninety-ninth year, dictated the following letter:

Washington, Michigan,  
October 31, 1932.

Mr. T. J. Leslie, Chairman,  
Members of the Committee and Friends:

I regard with infinite satisfaction the honor done me by your invitation to the Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Banner United Church. They and the members of the Class at Spearman's Corners are among my dearest and most valued friends; the Spearman's, Irwins, Clarks, Dundas, Connors, Mercers, Kneeshaw, and others whose names won't come to me, how they all tried to make me happy and comfortable on the work.

It was there I received the fall from the horse which made it impossible to continue in the work. When a famous doctor at Brantford said "Young man you must go home to carry out the doctor's instructions with a dependable nurse." Caroline Batson said, "If you must have a nurse I am going to be that nurse." I replied, "Caroline, if that means anything it means we are to be married." She meekly replied, "I thought of that too." That was our courtship and in a few weeks we were married and I brought her to Spearman's Corners. Dear old Mrs. Hyde gave us a welcome boarding place and there I taught school for a year and a half because I had violated the Discipline by marrying before completing my Conference Studies. I remember with more than thankfulness, the people said, "You can be our Preacher whether the Conference appoints you or not." And with you we spent some of the happiest years of our lives.

If I was only rich enough to own or hire an Aviation Car I and my dear present wife would drop from the skies, to share your joy at the Celebration at Banner Church.

As you know, my dear mother and my sister, Emma Douglas, and her husband, Charley Douglas, lie side by side in the cemetery by the church, where my wife and I with the community sang the praises of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I cannot single out the ones who helped to make us useful and happy, and my old head in my 99th year is so confused with pleasant memories that I must beg of you all to accept thanks for your joint kindnesses and subscribe with my own hand this short but grateful acknowledgement.

Timothy Edwards.

To all Banner residents the following news item will be of interest:

"On Easter Sunday, April 1, 1934, the Rev. Timothy Edwards celebrated his hundredth birthday by preaching a sermon in the Washington Methodist Church, Washington, Michigan."

This wonderful man passed away on March 21, 1935 and we feel highly honoured that the beginning of our church and the beginning of his career as a minister shared history together.

## North Oxford Wesleyan Methodist

In 1867 the Circuit of Dorchester Station was formed. It was composed of Dorchester Station, Oliver's (Baileys), North Oxford (Banner), Putnamville (Putnam), and Longfield's (Crampton) appointments with the Rev. William Galbraith as minister. During these years the names of Hyde, Minkler, Armon Clark, Irwin, Spearman, Mathews, and Dundas appear again and again with the addition of Simpson, Gray, Nellan, Johnson, Neeley, Foster, Evans, Scoffin, Edwards and Sifton as contributors in the North Oxford Reports.

We have the record of the first meeting of the Official Board of the new circuit:

A special meeting of the officials was called by the superintendent of the circuit which met in the North Oxford Church at 10 a.m. on this second day of July, 1867.

The superintendent occupied the chair and the following was transacted:

1. Arrangements made respecting the preaching appointments.
2. The following appointed stewards, Richard Shaw for Dorchester Station, George Wilson for North Oxford, John Dundas for Putnamville, and William Crosby for Oliver's.

Robert Jones of Dorchester Station, Marshall Minkler of North Oxford, and George Longfield of Longfield's were stewards and of course retained their office. George Wilson was appointed recording steward.

The finances of the circuit were taken into consideration and the following appropriation made:

Children's Fund .....	\$ 55.65
Moving Expenses .....	5.00
Travelling .....	10.00
Board .....	110.00
Horsekeep .....	50.00
Salary .....	180.00
Incidentals .....	2.96

The amount required to meet the expenses of the circuit was distributed amongst the classes as follows:

Dorchester Station .....	\$ 80.00
North Oxford .....	100.00
Putnamville .....	80.00
Longfield's .....	80.00
Oliver's .....	55.65
Quarterly Collections .....	20.00
	\$410.65

In the early days a New Connexion Methodist Church was built across the road from where the school now stands, and though no records are available we know that services were held here for some years. Then in 1874 the Wesleyan and New Connexion Methodist united to form the Methodist Church and worshipped in the former Wesleyan Methodist Church, while John Spearman bought the New Connexion Church and used it as a drive-shed for several years. It was often emptied, tables set up and tea meetings held.

In 1876 the Rev. Thomas Crews, superintendent at Dorchester, with J. G. Kerr as assistant and Miss Minnie Minkler as organist conducted special services at North Oxford. Thirty-seven new members were added to the church. Later Miss Minkler and the Rev. J. G. Kerr were married and theirs was the first wedding in the church.

The Pulpit Bible was a gift from one of the first trustees and is inscribed:

"PRESENTED BY  
MR. AND MRS. ARMON CLARK  
TO THE NORTH OXFORD CHURCH  
AS A NEW YEAR'S GIFT  
JANUARY 1, 1883."

The following is an interesting item of business passed at the Quarterly Board, February 4, 1884. "Moved by J. B. Lane, seconded by Brother Parsons, that the matter of oats promised to the junior minister as additional salary be apportioned as follows: Dorchester 30 bushels, Longfield's 25 bushels, North Oxford, Putnam and Oliver's 20 bushels each; Hamilton Road whatever amount they can get; the price to be one cent per pound and the amount given credited to each member." A change of circuit boundaries in 1884-5 put Mossley in place of Longfield's.

In 1893 the choir was moved from the back to the southwest corner of the church. The stall seats were taken from the front and arranged with the others.



**THE CHOIR, 1898**

**Front Row—Left to Right: William Clark, T. J. Leslie,  
Ed. Clark, William Routledge.**

**Back Row—Left to Right: Bertha Spearman, Nellie Bartindale,  
Millie Dundas, Annie Dundas, Jennie Calvert,  
Mayne Dundas, Rose Bartindale.**

In 1893 the New Connexion Church which John Spearman had bought in 1874 and used as a driveshed, was purchased by a group of men of the district called the "Shareholders of Oxford Hall" and moved to its present site west of the church. A platform was built and the hall was used for meetings and concerts. The shares were gradually acquired by Court Banner No. 750 of the Canadian Order of Foresters, and it is now known as Banner Foresters' Hall, which serves as a community centre. In the "Forester", the C.O.F. magazine, Banner Hall is always referred to as the "Little Hall by the Side of the Road."

From the minutes of February 4, 1895—"Moved by Thomas Neely, seconded by Ben Minkler, that Mrs. Pack takes care of the church at the salary of twenty dollars per year. She to find the oil, light the lamps, make the fires, do the sweeping, dusting and to scrub the church twice during the year."

In 1898 an organ, offered by W. Berry of Ingersoll for \$85 cash and the old organ, was purchased. Mr. Berry did not take the old organ, so it was sold to the Rev. R. Redmond for \$10.

The post office was named Banner in January, 1893, but it was not until August 5, 1902, that the name Banner appeared in place of North Oxford in the records of the church.

## Record of Trustees

- 1868—Marshall Minkler in place of Jeremiah Minkler, deceased.
- 1868—Thomas Neeley in place of William McFadden, moved to U.S.A.
- 1868—Geo. Wilson in place of Asa Hyde, moved to U.S.A.
- 1879—John Spearman in place of Joseph Spearman, deceased.
- 1881—Ben Minkler in place of Marshall Minkler, moved away.
- 1891—Moses Dundas in place of Robert Dundas, deceased.
- 1881—Daniel Buchanan in place of George Wilson, moved to U.S.A.
- 1892—Benajah Leslie in place of Armon Clark, moved to U.S.A.
- 1892—Thomas Caddey in place of Stephen Irwin, deceased.
- 1898—G. E. Elliott in place of Benjamin Minkler, deceased.
- 1898—John Spearman appointed secretary-treasurer of the Trustee Board.

## Banner Methodist

In 1904, Putnam circuit was formed with three appointments, Putnam, Mossley and Banner. The Rev. A. E. Moorehouse was the new minister. We quote from a recent letter:

"I was appointed pastor of the newly-formed Putnam circuit July 1, 1904. We were discussing the holding of our next communion service in the church in October. Mr. John Spearman said 'We must have a new stove and we should do some repairing. The church is cold and draughty; a new porch would help.'

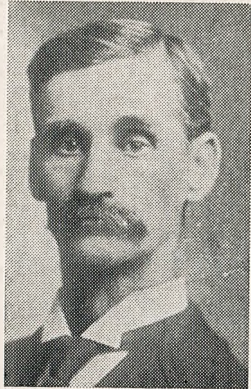
"We went outside, found there was a crack in the wall and the window sills were beginning to rot. Result: something must be done. We planned to take the ornaments off the ceiling, lath and plaster the walls, and put in a new stove. One suggestion led to another. It was decided that the long wooden platform and steps be removed and a porch be built.

"With that we started. After a beginning was made, it was suggested we put a basement under the church and install a furnace. I can assure you the men put in some busy days getting through the thick stone wall and clearing space for windows. A new chimney had to be built from the basement.

"I drove over one afternoon to see how the work was progressing. Mr. William Clark was putting the cement inside the brick wall and a few feet deeper. Just as I arrived, the sand, which had been left under the wall, began to cave in. The stone foundation was very thick and heavy. Mr. Spearman, Mr. Clark and I worked furiously until we had the cement in place and all seemed safe.

"Upstairs we lathed and plastered the walls, put in new windows, wainscoting, and a southern pine ceiling. Next we could not put the old seats

## TRUSTEES, 1904



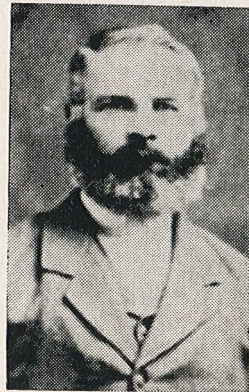
John Spearman



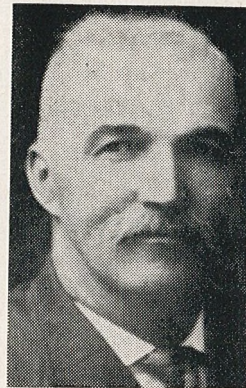
Rev. A. E. Moorehouse



Moses Dundas



Benajah Leslie



G. E. Elliott



Thomas Caddey

back; so we contacted the seating company. As a result, new seats, pulpit, altar rail, and communion table were purchased. Finances did not seem to bother us thus far. Still we wanted chairs for the new Sunday School room. It would never do to put the old oil lamps up again, so we ordered the latest form of acetylene gas lighting. The seats and lighting were costly. Some said it would never be paid for. Except for the solid brick walls we had an entirely new church.

"Due to the fact that the seats were not delivered when they were expected, the opening services were planned for February 19, 1905. That Sunday the roads were blocked with snow. My twin brother, the Rev. Clayton Moorehouse, was the preacher for the day. He stayed over until the next Sunday. It was a good day and the restored church was crowded morning and evening.

"The tea meeting was held on Monday night. An enthusiastic crowd of over four hundred people enjoyed the bountiful supper, served in the new basement. A delightful programme of quartettes, solos, readings and phonograph selections followed. A thousand name autograph quilt, made by the Ladies' Aid, was presented to me by Miss Grace Dundas (Mrs. Henry Bobier). Mr. William Ovens read an address. We made our appeal for help with the expenses and soon had enough money to meet the entire indebtedness. Many

members from the other appointments gave generously. With heartfelt gratitude all joined in singing 'Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow.'

"On Tuesday morning I took the five hundred dollars to the bank in Ingersoll and redeemed the note the men had signed. The church was free of debt."

The ladies had contributed so generously to the tea meeting, they decided to have a social on Tuesday evening to use the extra provisions. A charge of 10 cents was made and the proceeds were \$14.60. Another programme of music, readings and an address by the Rev. A. E. Moorehouse was enjoyed. This concluded the festivities.

An interesting note: The total cost of the new porch, basement, furnace, lighting, plastering painting, southern pine ceilings, pulpit, communion table, seats, carpet, and chairs for the Sunday School was \$1,602.26. Today it would be thousands of dollars. The wisdom and foresight of these people in providing such a spacious and beautiful place for worship has been a blessing to all succeeding generations.

"The anniversary services held in the Banner Methodist Church on Sunday, December 10, 1905, were very successful. At the morning service the Rev. A. W. Barker of Camlachie held the audience spellbound with his eloquent discourse. The theme of which was "The Power of Pentecost" taken from Acts 1:8. In the afternoon a large audience listened attentively to the earnest remarks of Rev. John Holmes of Dorchester. The central thought of which was "Prayer" taken from Isaiah 56:7. Mr. Holmes was assisted by Rev. Mr. Millyard of Embro, and Pring of Avon. In the evening the seating capacity was not sufficient and chairs had to be brought into requisition to seat the large assembly who were again entertained in the same efficient manner by the Rev. Mr. Barker upon the text taken from 2 Chron. 17:7 on the life and character of David. During the services the choir furnished music consisting of solos by Mrs. J. Carson and Miss Nellie Bartindale of Banner and Mrs. Hazen of Dorchester, and also choruses.

"On Monday evening the tea-meeting was held, which proved an unqualified success. An excellent fowl supper was provided by the ladies. The tables looked beautiful and were under the supervision of four ladies as follows: Table No. 1, Mrs. C. Bartindale; 2, Mrs. E. Elliott; 3, Mrs. M. Dundas; 4, Mrs. R. Ovens, assisted by Misses Calvert, Bartindale, Augustine, Breen, Ovens, Rodenhurst, Hemsford, Spearman, Richardson and Mrs. D. Calvert. After the inner man was satisfied the audience repaired to the auditorium, where an excellent programme was given contributed by Miss McKim's orchestra of Ingersoll, Miss Hart of Appin, Rev. Mr. Millyard of Embro and Rev. Mr. Barker of Camlachie. The Rev. A. E. Moorehouse, pastor, occupied the chair in his usual genial manner. Standing room was at a premium."

The first meeting of the Quarterly Board of the Putnam Circuit was held August 8, 1904. Members from Banner were Bro. John Spearman; Society Representative, Bro. Richard Ovens; Trustee Board Representative, Moses Dundas; Stewards, Bro. T. J. Leslie and Bro. G. E. Elliott. The minister's salary was \$600 and Banner's share was \$165.

Building and furnishing Putnam parsonage was the first big project. The cost of the house and lot was not to exceed \$2,500. The parsonage was completed and furnished ready for the minister, the Rev. A. E. Moorehouse, and his bride on October 27, 1906.



The Quarterly Meetings, which today are called the Communion Services, received careful consideration. By 1907 it was decided that the Quarterly Meetings in August and February would be held at Putnam, in May at Mossley and in November at Banner. There was to be only the one service on the circuit, but a later motion permitted Sunday School and League to be held. A silver communion service was purchased. The whole circuit meeting together for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper united the congregations in a special way. Since it meant a long drive with a horse and buggy, it was the custom to invite members from the other appointments to dinner and an afternoon visit.

In 1906 Banner had thirty-four members and by 1907 there were forty-eight, an increase of forty-one per cent. Two new trustees, Thomas Pirie and George Leslie, were appointed in place of Daniel Buchanan, who had died, and Thomas Neeley, who had left the community some years earlier.

In 1907 Mossley had all morning services and Putnam and Banner alternated the other services. In 1911 Putnam had three evening services and one in the afternoon, and Banner had three afternoon services and one in the evening each month.

In 1907, the Jubilee Year of the church was celebrated with anniversary services held November 24, with the Rev. A. G. Harris as preacher for the day. He wrote: "The church was crowded, collections large. On the Monday evening the tea meeting was a perfect jam."

One lady, who attended this tea meeting as a small girl, tells how vividly she remembers a little roast pig with a cob of corn in its mouth. It was the centre of interest until taken away to be sliced and served.

Following the death of John Spearman in January, 1912, Robert Gordon was appointed secretary-treasurer and trustee and T. J. Leslie trustee in place of his father, Benajah Leslie. At the Quarterly Board meeting February 6 it was moved by R. Clifford, seconded by W. J. Coates, that "We the members of the Quarterly Official Board of the Putnam Circuit desire to put on record our sense of the great loss sustained in the death of our lately departed brother, John Spearman. We appreciate the faithful service he rendered for so many years in the Sunday School and on the Quarterly Board. His life was guided by a high and holy purpose. He realized his responsibilities and was faithful to his trust. He rests from his labours and his works follow him. We direct that a copy of this resolution be sent to Miss Spearman with the assurance of our sincere sympathy."

It was on May 6, 1912, the question of union with the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches was voted upon, with the following results: Those over 18 years of age, there were 74 for union and six members opposed. Those voting under the age of 18, six were in favour with and three against the proposition. Eight adherents voted for the union and one against it. The Quarterly Board was unanimously in favour of the union.

"August 5, 1914, a motion was passed that Peter Pirie be licensed as an Exhorter in the Methodist Church."

On November 13, 1918, an individual communion service was purchased and the silver service bought in 1905 was sent to a Mission Field in Northern Ontario.

"May 5, 1919, the minister's vacation was changed from two Sundays to three and the salary which had been \$1,000 in 1917 was raised to \$1,350."

In 1914 George Leslie had been appointed steward in place of T. J. Leslie, who resigned when he became Sunday School Superintendent; in 1916 B. B. Crawford in place of G. E. Elliott, and in 1920 James Hutcheson replaced B. B. Crawford, who had moved away.

In June, 1920, during the Methodist National Campaign the Rev. E. DeWitt Johnson conducted evangelistic services with Miss Hazel Belle Younger as soloist. A large tent was rented and placed beside Putnam Church to accommodate the enthusiastic crowds from the three appointments and the surrounding districts. Many new members joined the churches.

"November 7, 1921, a vote was taken on the yeas and nays of women having the right to become ministers of the Methodist Church. Vote standing, yeas 5, nays 8."

"February 7, 1923, a motion was passed that Charles Leslie be recommender as a suitable person to be a local preacher and that a certificate be granted for same."

"August 30, 1923, after some discussion regarding the method of paying the minister's salary whether we would use the envelope system and endeavour to pay our minister by cheque either monthly or quarterly, it was moved that we continue the present system of collecting by the stewards and paying the salary each quarter for the balance of the present church year."

In 1923, a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Dallas Cameron, preached the anniversary services. The church and entry were crowded and many had to sit in the basement to hear the service. The Rev. Dallas Cameron had taught school at Banner and was warmly welcomed by his former pupils and friends. He stayed for the tea-meeting and his witty stories of former school days added much to the occasion.

Children from Anglican and Presbyterian families in the neighbourhood have always attended Banner Sunday School. As they grew older some taught Sunday School classes, a number sang in the choir and one even played the church organ. Several of the ministers considered this congregation unique, in that different denominations worked together so harmoniously. At the meeting of the Quarterly Board, April 29, 1925, the following resolution was passed:

"Whereas the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Methodist Church and the Congregational Churches of Canada have decided to enter into Church Union, thus constituting the 'United Church of Canada,' the same to be consummated on June 10, 1925, we most heartily recommend the following:

"1. That our people give thanks to Almighty God for the hour set for the consummation of this great United Church.

"2. That we pledge ourselves to render every possible service to help make the United Church a rich blessing to all our people.

"3. That we cordially invite all people living on the Putnam Circuit who desire to become members of the United Church, thus identifying themselves with God's people and by so doing find a church home among us.

"4. That members of other churches who desire to unite with the Putnam Circuit will be assured of a cordial reception into the church fellowship and service of God."

Very little change was noticeable in the Banner Church except for a few

changes in the church management, as for example when the Rev. A. J. Love explained "that the Budget Plan of the United Church was four million dollars and our share on the Putnam Circuit thirteen hundred and ninety-six dollars it was moved we accept our share and do our best to try to raise it."

On August 6, 1924, at a Trustee Board meeting it was decided to increase the number of members to ten. Thomas Pirie, who had served from 1907, and G. E. Elliott from 1898, had moved away. The Board included Moses Dundas, appointed 1891; Thomas Caddey, 1892; George Leslie, 1907; T. J. Leslie, 1912, and Robert Gordon, 1912. New members appointed were E. H. Thornton, S. J. Dundas, Charles Robbins, Ed. Clark, and Andrew Hutcheson.

## Banner United

### NEW CHOIR LOFT AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS

On September 14, 1925, the new pastor, the Rev. A. J. Love, and the Trustee Board held a planning meeting. They decided to put a new roof on the church, paint the exterior and redecorate the interior and basement. A number of new members had joined the choir. Every chair, that could be crowded into the space allotted to the choir, was occupied for the annual Foresters' Service. Almost jokingly someone said, "We should have a new choir loft."

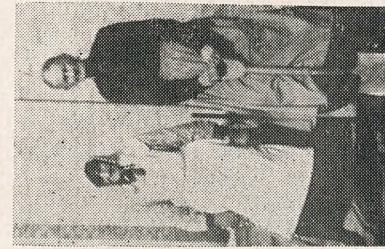
The idea of having two extra Sunday School rooms in a basement under the choir loft was suggested. The Adult Bible Class had been meeting in the auditorium of the church and still the basement was overcrowded. There were twenty-two in the Beginners' Class and a separate room was needed.

On October 9, the Trustee Board called another meeting. They decided to let the contract for building the choir loft to William McKay of Ingersoll. The following Monday morning the Rev. A. J. Love conducted a short service. The two oldest members of the church, Mrs. Sarah Clark and Mrs. Mary Ann Ovens, turned the first sods.

Immediately the men started to prepare for the contractors. The bricks were taken from the south wall of the church to make the opening for the choir loft. The acetylene gas lighting plant installed in 1904 was removed. Using picks and shovels, the excavation for the basement was made. Each day a group of ladies prepared dinner in the Foresters' Hall for the workers. The weather was warm and sunny and by October 16 the preliminary work was finished. The contractors began work at once. As soon as possible the painters started. New gasoline lamps were bought to replace the acetylene lighting. The total cost of the new choir loft, Sunday School rooms, painting, etc., was \$2,016.

December 6 was the date set for the reopening services and the sixty-eighth anniversary. A former pastor, the Rev. Dr. G. N. Hazen of London, was the guest speaker. There were large congregations morning and evening. A generous thank-offering was received.

The tea-meeting on Monday evening was a splendid success. Once again the objective of the congregation had been attained by their enthusiasm and untiring efforts.



Mrs. Ovens  
Mrs. Clark  
Ladies who turned  
the first sod



E. H. Thornton



George Leslie



Andrew Hutcheson



Robert Gordon



Ed. Clark



T. J. Leslie



S. J. Dundas



Rev. A. J. Love  
Minister 1925



Charles Robbins

### TRUSTEES 1925

On January 10, 1927, at the Quarterly Board meeting it was moved "that we as a Board organize our work in keeping with the United Church Rules." On May 7 the Banner congregational meeting was held with fifty members present. For the first time a Board of Session was appointed, with the following members as elders, T. J. Leslie, S. J. Dundas, Ed. Clark, Andrew Hutcheson. The Stewards were James Hutcheson, Clifton Robbins, Harold Dundas and George Leslie, secretary-treasurer.

In July, 1928, it was moved "that each appointment have its own communion service three times a year with the union meeting at Putnam in July." This ended the era of circuit Quarterly meetings when there was only one communion service each quarter on the whole charge.

The name of the Maintenance and Extension Fund, which had combined the missionary and other funds of the church, was changed to Missionary and Maintenance Fund because it seemed that mission work was not receiving enough attention. In 1929 the Duplex Envelope System of giving a definite sum each Sunday for the local expenses and for the M. and M. Fund was adopted. This ended the era of quarterly collections by the stewards for the minister's salary.

In the fall of 1930 the Rev. J. W. Button, assisted by soloist Reginald Hudson of London, conducted evangelistic services, and at the January Quarterly Board meeting a motion, "expressing the appreciation of the Banner appointment for the labour of the Rev. J. W. Button in the special services and the large number of new converts received into the church," was carried unanimously. This meeting was held at the parsonage; the ladies were guests of Mrs. Button; and after the business period, the balance of the evening was spent in games and contests. Refreshments were served, concluding a very pleasant social time.

In 1931 the church was wired for electricity for the sum of \$89. In 1932, owing to the depression, the minister's salary was reduced to \$1,500, and in 1933 the use of the Duplex Envelope System was discontinued and small plain envelopes were used for local expenses. The treasurer of the Missionary and Maintenance Fund went back to the old system of collecting the money.



## Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

The message of the evening anthem, "I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me, Let Us Go Into the House of the Lord," must have been in the hearts of many people on the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary held November 6, 1932. The Rev. Dr. G. N. Hazen, of Centennial Church, London, conducted the services. He was assisted by Charles Leslie, who was soon to be ordained to the ministry. The church was beautifully decorated with white and gold chrysanthemums. Former choir members were invited to lead the morning service of praise. Mrs. D. W. Calvert was the organist and the following were in the choir: Mrs. (Dr.) Waring, Mrs. B. B. Crawford, Miss Helen Waring, Mrs. Nora Gall, Mrs. M. Breen, of Ingersoll; Mrs. I. Carson of London, Mrs. Emma Edmonds of Petrolia, Mrs. Frank McCorquodale of Holiday, Mrs. E. Entwhistle of Woodstock, Mesdames Robert Gordon, Frank Pirie, Joe Bobier, Albert Capstick, Melbourne Bartindale, of Banner; Ed. McClelland of Beachville, Albert George and King Clendinning of Dorchester, Dallas Sutherland of Putnam, Ed. Clark, William Clark, T. J. Leslie. Their anthem, "Rejoice," expressed the thought of the day. Mrs. M. Breen and Mrs. E. Entwhistle sang a duet, "The Church by the Side of the Road," and a quartette, Mrs. I. Carson, Mrs. M. Breen, Edward Clark and King Clendinning, sang "The Old Rugged Cross." The Rev. Dr. Hazen chose the text John 4:37-38, "One soweth and another reapeth," and emphasized that we were reaping the harvest sown by our forefathers and we must sow good seed today or the next generation will suffer. The Rev. Dr. Hazen, who was our pastor forty-four years ago, briefly reviewed the history of the church.

The following was the music for the evening service: Anthem, "I Was Glad"; solo, "The Twenty-Third Psalm," by Mrs. R. R. Jelly of Dorchester; quartette, "Lean Upon the Saviour," by Calvin Sutherland, Charles Leslie, Edward Clark and Dallas Sutherland; violin music by Charles Waring. At this service the Rev. Dr. Hazen chose his text from Judges 7:7, "And by these three hundred will I save Israel." He stressed the need of the world today for Christ-like qualities.

On Monday evening the Ladies' Aid served a fowl supper, which was attended by a large crowd, and since these ladies were famous for their culinary art this year's supper was of the same high quality.

The Rev. H. E. Livingstone, the popular pastor, was chairman for the following programme: Music by the Empress Avenue Sunday School Orchestra; baritone solos by Mr. Rossiter; readings by Miss Hazel Taylor, and addresses by former pastors, the Rev. J. W. Button of Fordwich and the Rev. A. J. Love of Woodstock. The History of Banner Church was read by the Rev. H. E. Livingstone.

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In 1934 Harley Hammond was appointed elder, in place of Ed. Clark, who died in 1933, and Ed. Couch was appointed steward in place of Harley Hammond. E. H. Thornton had been a steward since 1928. At this meeting offering stewards were appointed for the first time. They were Harold Dundas, Austin Thornton, Joel Leslie and Murray Hutcheson.

In 1935 the first Missionary and Maintenance committee, composed of T. J. Leslie, treasurer; Fred Hutcheson, Austin Thornton, James Dundas and Ben Leslie, was appointed. J. E. Bobier was steward in place of Ed. Couch,

who resigned; and Svend Christofferson was offering steward in place of Murray Hutcheson, who moved away.

In 1936 the congregational meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Bobier. A delicious dinner, served by the hostess and W.A. members, preceded the meeting. Owing to the death of James Hutcheson, who had served as a steward since 1920, his son, Fred Hutcheson, was appointed steward; and Ed. Couch was appointed trustee. Andrew Hutcheson had moved from the community and Charles Waring was appointed elder; and Harold Dundas, trustee in his place.

In the 1937 meeting it was moved that S. J. Dundas and Harley Hammond be a committee to canvass for a subscription from the community to eliminate the debt on the church. They were so successful that at the conclusion of the 1938 congregational meeting "an impressive ceremony of burning the note against the church" was held, with Mrs. D. W. Calvert, treasurer of the Woman's Association, and S. J. Dundas holding the tray carrying the note, and T. J. Leslie igniting it, after which "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" was sung. The Rev. J. L. Blair reported that eight new members had joined the church, bringing the membership to ninety.

In 1945, since T. J. Leslie, George Leslie and Clifton Robbins had moved away, there were several changes. The officials for 1945 were Elders S. J. Dundas, Fred Hutcheson, Harley Hammond and Ben Leslie; stewards, Frank Clark, E. H. Thornton, James Dundas, Wallis Hammond, George Clendinning and Ben Leslie, secretary-treasurer, in place of his father, George Leslie, who held this office for many years; trustees, S. J. Dundas, Joel Leslie, Ed. Ovens, Stanley Hammond, E. H. Thornton, Harley Hammond; Missionary and Maintenance committee, Eugene Clendinning, treasurer; Ray Hutcheson, Bob Clark and Erwin Brown; offering stewards, Bob Clark, Charlie Hutcheson, Wallis Hammond, Eugene Clendinning; parsonage committee, S. J. Dundas and Harley Hammond. A motion of appreciation was extended to Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Leslie and Mr. and Mrs. George Leslie for their services to Banner Church. Mrs. Robbins and Clifton were not present. However, their services to the church were much appreciated.

By 1945 the minister's salary was \$1,700 with three Sundays holidays. In 1946 a motion was passed that Mossley have morning, Banner afternoon and Putnam evening services. In 1947 a parsonage fund of \$100 a year for regular expenses was established. In 1948 the minister was given four Sundays holidays and this custom has been followed.

In 1950 a generous gift of \$500 from the estate of W. T. Ovens was received with gratitude, and later a new furnace was installed. Wallis Hammond was appointed recording steward in 1950, and the minister's salary had been increased to \$2,400.

On August 26, 1951, the new steel fence with handsome stone posts, erected along the front of the church and cemetery, was dedicated in special services conducted by the Rev. P. E. James, with the Rev. T. G. Husser of Aylmer as guest minister. The beautiful fence, a gift from the late W. T. Ovens, was officially opened by Edward Lovell, who cut the ribbon across the gateway. A more fitting memorial to the pioneers of this community could not have been chosen than this fence with its enduring beauty.

In 1952 James Dundas was appointed elder in place of his father, S. J.

Dundas, who had died. Fred Hutcheson became a trustee and Ted Richardson was appointed to the Parsonage Board.

April 18, 1955, it was reported by the Rev. P. E. James that Morley Hammond was received as a candidate for the ministry of the United Church of Canada.

In 1956 the Duplex Envelope System of giving a definite sum each Sunday for the local expenses and for the M. and M. Fund, which had been used from 1929 to 1933 and discontinued because of the depression, was again adopted.

At the 1957 congregational meeting a letter pertaining to the increase in the minister's salary to \$3,200 a year plus \$500 for transportation was read. It was agreed that this recommendation be presented to the Quarterly Board.

It was moved that a vote of thanks be extended to Mrs. S. J. Dundas for her faithful service, preparing the communion table for a number of years and suggested that a letter of appreciation be sent.



# Organization of Our Church



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

A Sunday School was started with David Dundas as superintendent and Miss Martha Minkler and Miss Matilda Hyde as teachers. It was held for a time in the Dundas home and then in the first school house.

David Doty, who gave the land for the church and cemetery, also gave a library to the Sunday School. It takes no great imagination to realize what a tremendous asset this was to the community in those far off austere days.

The old records are gone but Mrs. Emma George Edmonds tells us that William Dundas was superintendent in 1878 and William Irwin was his successor.

John Spearman served about thirty years as superintendent and Bible Class teacher. From 1893 to 1896 while Mr. Spearman lived in Ingersoll, Thomas Caddey and Joseph Pack were superintendents. When Mr. Spearman returned he again took office and continued until his death in 1912.

B. B. Crawford, the assistant, carried on until T. J. Leslie was appointed. Mr. Leslie served for twenty-seven years and his successor, Harley Hammond, for twelve years.

For many years the Sunday School gave the first collection of each month to missions. Generally, the parents come to Sunday School and bring their children so there has always been an enthusiastic adult class.

We remember with gratitude to God the many faithful devoted teachers who have served in our Sunday School. By their influence countless numbers of girls and boys have gone out into the world with a deeper understanding of God's purpose for their lives.

### OFFICERS AND TEACHERS FOR 1957

Superintendents	- - - - -	Ben Leslie, Harley Hammond
Secretaries	- - - - -	Mrs. Chas. Hutcheson, Robert Leslie
Treasurers	- - - - -	Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Clendinning
Pianists	- - - - -	Mrs. Albert Harris, Mrs. Ben Leslie
Missionary Superintendent	- - - - -	Mrs. Ted Richardson
Temperance Superintendent	- - - - -	Mrs. Wallis Baigent
Cradle Roll Superintendent	- - - - -	Mrs. George Baigent

CLASSES	TEACHERS
Adult	- - - - - Wallis Hammond, Mrs. Ed. Ovens
Knights of the Round Table	- - - - - Ted Richardson, Ben Leslie
Happy Hearts	- - - - - Mrs. Roy Gordon, Mrs. Wallis Baigent
Junior Workers	- - - - - Mrs. Albert Harris, Mrs. Erwin Brown
Willing Workers	- - - - - Mrs. Eugene Clendinning, Mrs. Ben Leslie
Busy Bees	- - - - - Mrs. Harley Hammond, Mrs. George Baigent
Nursery	- - - - - Miss Isobel Sutherland, Miss Bonnie Hansen



### SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHOLARS

Front Row—Left to Right: Kay Knox, Janice Baigent, Ronney Hammond, David Hammond, Barbara Hutcheson, Jerry Thornton, Larry Thornton, Tommy Brown, Betty Mason, Shirley Mason.  
 Second Row—Left to Right: Betty Hammond, Bobby Richardson, Joe Jones, George Mason, Judy Thornton, Margaret Thornton, Kathy Baigent, Vickie Baigent, Bryan Hutcheson, Rickey Hammond.  
 Third Row—Left to Right: Ruth Baigent, Diane Baigent, Janet Leslie, Jean Richardson, Anne Brown, Linda Leslie, Anne Pirie, Shiela Pirie, Jimmy Thornton, David Thornton.  
 Fourth Row—Left to Right: (Tyro Boys in Uniform): John Knox, David Leslie, Robbie Baigent, Carl Doan, Tom Gordon, Ken Baigent, Tom Mason, Donald Pirie, Billy Newman, Donald Knox.  
 Back Row—Left to Right: Jack Hammond, Millie Caddey, Gwen Jones, Bonnie Hansen, Ruth Knox, Doreen Hammond, Isobel Sutherland, Elizabeth Pirie.

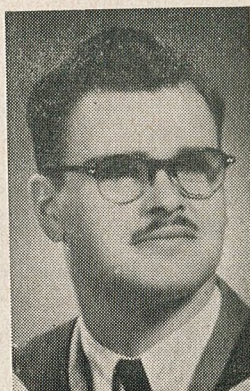
## IN THE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH



Beatrice Leslie, Reg.N.



Dr. Charles Leslie



Morley Hammond



Nelson Hutcheson

Beatrice May Leslie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Leslie, was born at Banner. She attended Banner Public School, Dorchester Continuation School and Ingersoll Collegiate Institute. She graduated from Victoria Hospital, London, in 1934 and from United Church Training School in 1940. Beatrice served as a Missionary Nurse for three years in Battle River Hospital in Northern Alberta. She is now Mrs. (Dr.) A. M. Doidge and lives in Barrie, Ont.

Charles W. Leslie, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Leslie, was born near Dorchester and educated at Banner Public School, Ingersoll Collegiate Institute, Victoria College, University of Toronto (B.A. 1930), Emmanuel College (Diploma 1933 and B.D. 1939), University of Toronto (M.A. in Philosophy 1933). He was ordained to the ministry of the United Church of Canada in the London Conference in 1933, and served in Elgin and Essex Presbyteries.

In 1938 he joined the staff of Victoria College and later of Emmanuel College, where he was Professor of Systematic Theology and Philosophy of Religion until 1954. Harvard University granted him the Ph.D. in 1945 for his thesis, "The Religious Philosophy of William James." He is now living at Bracebridge, Ontario.

Nelson Andrew Hutcheson, son of Mr. Andrew Hutcheson and the late Mrs. Hutcheson, was born in North Dorchester Township. He attended Routledge's Public School and Dorchester Continuation School. Nelson attended Banner Church and Sunday School until 1935, when he left this district. He joined the army October 3, 1939, and served in England, Sicily and Italy, and was discharged in 1946. Nelson was interested in Young People's Union work and decided he wanted to be a minister. He went to Albert College, Belleville, in 1952 and graduated in 1954. He served one summer at Belmont Lakes Mission Field, Ontario, and two at Starview Mission Field in Saskatchewan. Nelson has completed his first year at Queen's Theological College, Kingston, Ontario, and will spend the summer of 1957 at Madawaska Mission Field.

Morley George Hammond, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Hammond, was born on a farm near Banner. He attended Dickson's Public School and Ingersoll Collegiate Institute. Following his graduation from London

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Normal School in 1950 he taught public school at Banner for five years. The school year 1955-56 found him attending the University of Western Ontario, from which he graduated in May 1956 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. During the summer he worked on a mission field at Orville in the Parry Sound district. Morley is now completing his first year in Theology at Emmanuel College, University of Toronto.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION

In 1896 the Rev. R. Redmond and the Rev. A. Barker held revival meetings and a large number of young people joined the church. The Rev. A. Barber organized an Epworth League. No records are available but one former member summed it up in these words, "We had good meetings."

In 1921 the Rev. F. W. Craik organized "The Progressive Society." Charles Leslie was the first president. The officers were young people but in reality it was a family society. People of all ages, who were young at heart, attended and were welcomed.

The programs were planned at the beginning of the season. Three people were named to be responsible for each one. Music always had an important place on the programme. One minister said, "I have seen many communities where they had more talent, but I have never seen one make better use of the talent available." Games and contests concluded the evenings. Frequently bountiful lunches were served.

In 1928 everyone in the community was invited to join and become a member of a group. An attendance contest was carried on through the entire season. In the spring one hundred and fifteen members enjoyed a banquet in Banner Hall. The president, Gordon Walker, was chairman and the Rev. Elliott was the guest speaker.

1938 was another banner year in the life of the Progressive Society. This time the membership was divided into four groups, Christian Fellowship, Missionary, Citizenship, and Literary Society. A contest was held to see which group could have the best meetings. Judges were appointed and marks were given for quality, suitability and presentation of the programme material and attendance of members of the groups. At the end of the season the judges said "All the meetings were so good we could not decide which one was best." However, the contest had stimulated interest, improved the programmes and increased the attendance.

Later so many young people left the community that there were not enough to carry on the society and in 1940 it ceased. For a number of years the Banner young folk joined the Putnam Young People's Union. In 1955, with the encouragement of the Rev. Douglas Craig, the leadership of Morley Hammond and the enthusiasm of one dozen young people the present Union was formed. They meet every second Sunday evening in the Sunday School auditorium. Their purpose is "To lead young people into Christian fellowship and active church membership, and help each to know, love and serve God as revealed in Jesus Christ." Their work is divided into five Commissions with a leader for each, who this year are:

Faith and Evangelism: Ruth Knox.  
 Stewardship and Training: Millie Caddey.  
 Citizenship and Community Service: Elaine Thornton.  
 Missions and World Outreach: Gwen Jones.  
 Recreational and Culture: Bob Newman.

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This year the Young People have Mrs. Harley Hammond as their leader, Miss Isobel Sutherland is president, Tom Caddey is vice-president and Miss Janette Brown is treasurer.

## WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

The history of this church would not be complete without special mention being made of the work of the women. They have made a worthy contribution to the finances and continual maintenance of the church. Their part in the social and spiritual life is too great to be measured.

There has always been a Ladies' Aid whether organized or not. Early records are lost but there was an organized Ladies' Aid in 1904 with Mrs. Dick Ovens as president. This society still continues, now under the name of Woman's Association.

One of the first projects of the Ladies' Aid was an autograph quilt with one thousand names. The ladies charged for each name and \$149 was realized. The quilt was presented to the Rev. A. E. Moorehouse.

Banner Ladies' Aid tea meetings and strawberry festivals were always famous. Large crowds came many miles to enjoy the sumptuous meals, delightful programmes and friendly social times.

In 1926, after the new choir loft was built, the ladies decided to help with the expense by presenting a play, "Strictly Business." A group of young men formed the "Banner Orchestra" to provide old time music between the acts. It was an instant success. A multitude of invitations came from groups in neighbouring communities. The effect on the treasury may well be imagined.

In 1934 the name Ladies' Aid was changed to Woman's Association. The first bazaar was held in 1935.

In 1950 the ladies published the Banner Woman's Association Cook Book." All five hundred copies were sold in a few months. The cook book has proved its worth and there is still a demand for it.

Although the ladies had sent bales for many years and contributed generously to missionary funds there was never a Women's Missionary Society. In 1950 the W.A. affiliated with the W.M.S. Their thank-offering meetings have been highly inspirational.

In 1952 the W.A. held an "Old Girls' Reunion." There were one hundred and forty-six present. Guests came from as far as Sarnia and Niagara Falls. A very enjoyable programme was presented by former residents, who had contributed to programs when they lived at Banner. The proceeds helped to pay for the new projector and screen which the ladies bought for the congregation.

In 1953 a committee was appointed to supervise the junior congregation. A large number of small children now attend church regularly. Their happy, smiling faces as they go up the aisles to hear the minister say a special prayer of blessing for them, testifies to the value of this work.

In 1954 the W.A. financed the building of a new stairway and door into the basement. To celebrate the completion of this project a strawberry tea was held. The Rev. P. E. James gave a brief history of the church building

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CAST OF PLAY "STRICTLY BUSINESS"

**Bottom Row:** Left to Right: Gordon Bruce, Bill Bruce, Calvin Sutherland, Margaret Leslie, George Bruce, Gordon Walker, Earl Brown.  
**Second Row:** Ed. Clark, Mrs. Charles Waring, Mrs. George Leslie, Mrs. George Sutherland, Mrs. C. Ingram, Mrs. S. Clark, Mrs. J. Knox, Charles Waring.  
**Third Row:** Mrs. S. J. Dundas, Mrs. T. J. Leslie, Mrs. Charles Robbins, Mrs. Earl Brown, Little Miss Evelyn Couch, Dallas Sutherland, Mrs. E. H. Thornton, Miss Nellie Leslie, Mrs. Ed. Cou Couch, Mrs. Fred Rodenhurst.

and Mrs. Ed. Ovens, an enthusiastic worker, cut the ribbon across the doorway.

In 1956 Hasti-notes and Christmas cards with a beautiful coloured photo of the church brought many compliments.

A special centennial Royal Winton cake plate with a sepia etching of the church is the newest project. The plates promise to be an item as popular as they are novel.

The W.A. members are working and planning for the centennial observances.

### OFFICERS FOR 1957

Past President	- - - - -	Mrs. George Bruce
President	- - - - -	Mrs. Albert Harris
Vice-President	- - - - -	Mrs. Roy Gordon
Vice-President	- - - - -	Mrs. Charles Waring
Secretary	- - - - -	Mrs. Robert Doan
Treasurer	- - - - -	Mrs. Ted Richardson
Pianist	- - - - -	Mrs. Joel Leslie
Auditors	- - - - -	Mrs. William Baigent Mrs. Frank Clark
Junior Congregation Leaders	- - - - -	Mrs. Wallis Hammond Mrs. Wallace Baigent
W.M.S. Leaders	- - - - -	Mrs. Charles Waring Mrs. Ed. Ovens
Baby Band Leaders	- - - - -	Mrs. Charles Hutcheson Mrs. Ted Richardson
Rainbow Mission Band Leaders	- - - - -	Mrs. Ben Leslie Mrs. Eugene Clendinning
Parsonage Committee	- - - - -	Mrs. S. J. Dundas Mrs. Robert Doan
Flower Committee	- - - - -	Mrs. J. E. Bobier Mrs. Roy Newman Mrs. Roy Gordon
Buying Committee	- - - - -	Mrs. Roy Newman Mrs. Charles Hutcheson Mrs. William Hutcheson
Visiting Committee	- - - - -	Mrs. S. J. Dundas Mrs. Ed. Ovens Mrs. Robert Doan Mrs. Roy Newman Mrs. Ben Leslie
Convenors Group One	- - - - -	Mrs. Charles Hutcheson Mrs. Fred Hutcheson
Convenors Group Two	- - - - -	Mrs. Joel Leslie Mrs. E. H. Thornton
Convenors Group Three	- - - - -	Mrs. Wallis Hammond Mrs. Robert Doan
Press Reporter	- - - - -	Mrs. Harley Hammond



### WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

**Front Row, Left to Right:** Mrs. Robert Gordon, Mrs. Joseph Bobier, Mrs. David Calvert, Mrs. William Hammond, Mrs. Steve Dundas, Mrs. Frank Pirie, Mrs. Frank Clark, Mrs. Roy Gordon.

**Second Row, Left to Right:** Baby Grant Hammond, Mrs. Wallis Hammond, Mrs. Harley Hammond, Mrs. Joel Leslie, Mrs. Kenneth Mason, Mrs. George Bruce, Mrs. Roy Newman, Mrs. Ed. Ovens, Mrs. Eugene Clendinning and Master Douglas Clendinning.

**Back Row, Left to Right:** Mrs. Charles Waring, Mrs. Albert Harris, Mrs. Ted Richardson, Mrs. Erwin Brown, Mrs. Douglas Craig, Mrs. Wallace Baigent, Mrs. Ben Leslie, Mrs. Calvin Sutherland, Mrs. Charles Hutcheson, Mrs. H. Hansen, Mrs. Bill Baigent.

### BABY BAND

As a result of the affiliation with the W.M.S. a Baby Band was started. Mrs. George Baigent and Mrs. Ralph Thornton were the first leaders. There were 27 members in this band. Now Mrs. Charles Hutcheson and Mrs. Ted Richardson have charge of this work. Each year the leaders endeavour to entertain these tiny folk and their mothers, usually in the form of a picnic during the summer and a party in the winter months. Even this youngest group of children share in the missionary work of our church by dropping their pennies into their own little mite boxes.

### MISSION BAND

Mrs. Roy Newman and Mrs. Joe Jones were the first leaders of the Mission Band formed in 1952, which had an enrollment of twenty members. In 1955 the group was divided into a boys' and girls' band. Mrs. Ben Leslie and Mrs. Robert Doan were leaders. Only a few months later the boys under eight joined the girls in the Rainbow Mission Band with Mrs. Ben Leslie as leader. In the fall of 1956 Mrs. Eugene Clendinning was asked to assist Mrs. Leslie. This group meet on the third Thursday of each month. They have



fine programmes and carry out numerous interesting projects to raise money for missionary work. At each meeting the children repeat their purpose:

"I will love my Heavenly Father  
And follow Jesus too,  
For He has shown me clearly  
What God wants me to do.  
I will help God's other children,  
Both here and o'er the sea,  
Jesus to know and God to love  
That world friends we may be."

Present Executive:	Ruth Knox	-	-	-	-	-	Past President
	Janet Leslie	-	-	-	-	-	President
	Linda Leslie	-	-	-	-	-	Secretary
	Margaret Brown	-	-	-	-	-	Treasurer

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### COUPLES CLUB

The Couples Club is one of the newer organizations of the United Church, having its origin only a few years ago. Banner's club was started just two years ago under the Rev. Douglas Craig's pastorate. This organization's aim is to keep young married couples worshipping and working together in our church. The monthly meetings of this young adult fellowship include an exceptionally fine devotional period as well as excellent speakers from various fields, recreation and lunch. The first presidents were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hutcheson. The present presidents are Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Clendinning and the treasurer and secretary are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hutcheson.

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### THE HAPPY HEARTS

The Happy Hearts Sunday School Class was organized in 1952 by their teacher, Mrs. Roy Gordon, with Miss Anne Clark as the first president. The class, consisting of teen-age girls, have the last Saturday of each month as their meeting day. The members prepare the worship services and programmes in turn. They are specially interested in missionary work. Doreen Brown is the president, Gwen Jones the secretary and Ruth Knox the treasurer.

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### TYRO GROUP

In 1948 a new program of special interest was started in the United Church for junior boys. Tyro, which means learner, was the name chosen. The Tyro aim is "Stand firm in the Faith." This programme is a three-year course in religious education. For each project successfully completed a flash is given. The Rev. Douglas Craig organized the Banner Tyro Group for boys eight to twelve years of age in 1955. The meetings are held weekly on Thursday evening, start promptly at seven and are over at eight-thirty. The capable and devoted leader of this enthusiastic group of eleven boys is Mrs. Kenneth Mason.

### JUNIOR CONGREGATION

Since 1952, when the Junior Congregation was first formed, there has been an increasing number of small children attending church regularly. The first leaders were Mrs. Wallis Hammond, Mrs. Wallace Baigent and Mrs. Ted Richardson. The children, between the ages of three and eight, share the first part of the church service with their parents. Following the second hymn they go forward to the altar with their leader and with bowed heads hear their prayer by the Rev. Douglas Craig. Mrs. Wallis Hammond, their capable leader, each Sunday has a carefully planned programme for them.

The Bible Lessons she teaches are often accompanied by films, stories, Scripture and always handwork. Every mother whose child benefits from the Junior Congregation has taken her turn assisting the leader. While these children are being taught in the simple manner which they love their mothers and fathers are left to fully concentrate on and enjoy the sermons of their minister.

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### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our first Vacation Bible School was held in July, 1956, with the Rev. Douglas Craig as leader. The theme of the school was "Our Living Bible." The classes held between nine and twelve in the morning lasted for one week. The volunteer workers were; Beginners, Mrs. Harley Hammond, Miss Ruth Knox; Primary, Mrs. Charles Hutcheson, Miss Bonnie Hansen; junior, Mrs. Kenneth Mason. The school concluded with a special programme on Friday evening, when the parents were invited to see a display of the week's work and to enjoy hearing the children recite Scripture they had learned, sing hymns and watch a sample class. The Vacation School proved a wonderful success and the attendance was excellent.

## The Officials of the Church—1957

Elders—Harley Hammond, Fred Hutcheson, James Dundas, Robert Doan.

Stewards—Joel Leslie (C), Ben Leslie (T), Wallis Hammond, Eugene Clendinning, Ted Richardson, Frank Clark, James Dundas, George Clendinning.

Missionary and Maintenance Committee—Wallis Hammond (T), William Caddey, Eugene Clendinning, Bob Newman.

Trustees—Fred Hutcheson (C), Joel Leslie, E. H. Thornton, Harley Hammond, Ed. Ovens, Ben Leslie, James Dundas.

Offering Stewards—James Dundas, Wallis Hammond, Tom Caddey, Robert Leslie, Jim Harris, Bob Newman, Aubrey Thornton.

Parsonage Trustees—Harley Hammond, Ted Richardson.

## Ministers Who Have Served The Banner Congregation

- 1839—The Rev. Thomas Fawcett.  
 1840—The Rev. Peter Kerr.  
     The Rev. Henry Byers.  
     The Rev. Isaac Howard.  
 1841—The Rev. William Coleman.  
     The Rev. Matthias Holtby.  
 1842—The Rev. Samuel C. Philip.  
     The Rev. George Young.  
 1843—The Rev. Samuel Philip.  
     The Rev. William Dixon.  
 1844—The Rev. Rowley Heyland.  
     The Rev. George Kennedy.  
 1845—The Rev. Matthias Holtby.  
     The Rev. Joseph Ryerson.  
 1846—The Rev. Matthias Holtby.  
     The Rev. James Gray.  
 1847—The Rev. Thomas Fawcett.  
     The Rev. John Cawthorne.  
 1848—The Rev. Kennedy Creighton.  
     The Rev. Francis Chapman.  
 1849—The Rev. Joseph Sheply.  
 1851—The Rev. Charles W. M. Gilbert.  
 1853—The Rev. Ozias Barber.  
 1854—The Rev. Ozias Barber.  
     The Rev. John Wakefield.  
 1855—The Rev. Ozias Barber.  
     The Rev. William Williams.  
 1856—The Rev. George Kennedy.  
     The Rev. James Morgan.  
 1857—The Rev. George Kennedy.  
     The Rev. Timothy Edwards.  
 1858—The Rev. George Kennedy.  
     The Rev. John N. Lake.  
 1858—The Rev. Joseph Sheply.  
     The Rev. Hall Christopherson.  
     The Rev. Madison A. Rice.  
 1860—The Rev. Joseph Sheply.  
     The Rev. William T. Campbell.  
 1862—The Rev. Thomas Cleghorn.  
     The Rev. Ezra A. Stafford.  
 1863—The Rev. Thomas Cleghorn.  
     The Rev. George Sexsmith.  
 1864—The Rev. Lewis Warner.  
     The Rev. Reginald Starr.  
 1865—The Rev. Lewis Warner.  
     The Rev. William Winans.  
 1866—The Rev. Lewis Warner.  
     The Rev. William Musgrove.  
 1867—The Rev. William Galbraith.  
 1868—The Rev. Thomas Hadwin.  
 1871—The Rev. James Kennedy.  
 1874—The Rev. Thomas Crews.  
 1876—The Rev. Thomas Crews.  
     The Rev. George Kerr.  
 1877—The Rev. Benjamin Sherlock.  
     The Rev. William Lund.  
     The Rev. James Foote.  
 1878—The Rev. William Lund.  
     The Rev. James Foote.  
 1879—The Rev. William Lund.  
     The Rev. William Wilson.  
 1880—The Rev. John Kerr.  
     The Rev. John Pring.  
 1881—The Rev. John Kerr.  
     The Rev. John Henderson.  
 1882—The Rev. John Kerr.  
     The Rev. Richard Scanton.  
 1883—The Rev. Thomas Crews.  
     The Rev. Heber Crews.  
 1884—The Rev. Thomas Crews.  
     The Rev. S. T. Bartlett.  
 1885—The Rev. Thomas Crews.  
     The Rev. Emmanuel Medd.  
 1886—The Rev. William Edwards.  
     The Rev. Richard Whiting.  
 1888—The Rev. William Edwards.  
     The Rev. G. N. Hazen.  
 1889—The Rev. J. E. Moore.  
     The Rev. G. N. Hazen.  
 1890—The Rev. J. E. Moore.  
     The Rev. J. A. Ayearst.  
 1891—The Rev. J. E. Moore.  
     The Rev. A. Fowler.  
 1892—The Rev. William Quance.  
 1893—The Rev. William Quance.  
     The Rev. J. A. Jackson.  
 1894—The Rev. William Quance.  
 1895—The Rev. R. Redmond.  
     The Rev. Joseph Coulter.  
 1896—The Rev. R. Redmond.  
     The Rev. A. Barker.  
 1897—The Rev. R. Redmond.  
     The Rev. Fletcher Sutcliffe.  
 1898—The Rev. John Mahan.  
     The Rev. A. Rapson.  
 1899—The Rev. John Mahan.  
     The Rev. Ralph Steele.



### OFFICIALS OF THE CHURCH

**Front Row, Left to Right:** Jim Dundas, Harley Hammond, Joel Leslie, E. H. Thornton, George Clendinning, Frank Clark, Ed. Ovens.

**Back Row, Left to Right:** Ben Leslie, Ted Richardson, Wallis Hammond, Fred Hutcheson, Eugene Clendinning, Rev. Douglas Craig, Bill Caddey, Bob Newman (back), Aubrey Thornton (front), Robert Leslie, Jim Harris.

1901—The Rev. John Veale.  
The Rev. Clayton Moorehouse.  
1902—The Rev. John Veale.  
The Rev. William Hiles.  
1904—The Rev. Anson Moorehouse.  
1907—The Rev. A. Thibaudeau.  
1910—The Rev. A. R. Kellam.  
1913—The Rev. E. A. Shaw.  
1917—The Rev. J. W. Herbert.  
1921—The Rev. F. W. Craik.

1925—The Rev. A. J. Love.  
1928—The Rev. J. W. Button.  
1931—The Rev. H. E. Livingstone.  
1935—The Rev. J. Blair.  
1939—The Rev. J. G. Barnard.  
1940—The Rev. T. G. Husser.  
1945—The Rev. R. J. Merriam.  
1948—The Rev. M. C. Gandier.  
1951—The Rev. P. E. James.  
1955—The Rev. Douglas Craig.

Etched forever in the fond memories of our church are the names of the numerous ministers listed. These devout men of God, who so faithfully supplied the spiritual needs of their people, counselling, ministering and befriending them, have left a living testimony to the power and love of God. It is with humble hearts and deepest reverence that we pay tribute to them and express our sincere appreciation of their untiring labour in our church life.

Lives of great men still remind us  
We should make our lives sublime,  
And departing leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.

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## Organists

1878—Miss Minnie Minkler (Mrs. (Rev.) J. G. Kerr).  
Miss Etta Fenton (Mrs. T. Buchanan).  
Miss Lizzie Connor (Mrs. Len. Buchanan).  
Miss Victoria Spearman.  
Miss Linnie Spearman.  
1893—Miss Eppie Weaver (Mrs. E. Entwhistle).  
1895—Miss Annie Leslie (Mrs. A. Capstick).  
1895—Miss Annie Dundas (Mrs. D. Calvert).  
1903—Miss Linnie Spearman.  
1912—Miss Grace Clendinning (Mrs. (Dr.) A. Waring).  
1923—Miss Helen Gordon (Mrs. George Bruce).  
1925—Miss Margaret Leslie (Mrs. Roy Gordon).  
1934—Mrs. George Bruce.  
1940—Mrs. Albert Harris.

Music has been an important part of our religious worship throughout the years. The oldest residents of the community believe that there has been an organ in the church from the beginning. In the early days singing classes were held once a week in the school. During one hundred years many men, women and young people have given their talent to the choir for the praise of God. We have listed for you the names of our faithful organists and with pride we would have you note the length of service of our present organist, Mrs. Albert Harris.

## Memorials

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On Mother's Day, May 9, 1952, a beautiful pedestal baptismal font inscribed

"IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
STEPHEN J. DUNDAS  
A DEAR HUSBAND AND FATHER  
1952"

was dedicated by the Rev. P. E. James. Baptism services followed and Elizabeth Marie Hammond, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wallis Hammond, and Robert Edward, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Richardson, were baptized.

On Saturday, November 3, 1956, a beautiful picture of "Christ at Heart's Door," by Warner Sallman, was placed in the church in loving memory of Wallace Brown.

Trees and shrubs were planted on April 20, 1957, in front of the church, a living Memorial to the Clark Family.

A fond hope of the late S. J. Dundas, that a park be planned on the site of the old shed, which was removed in 1956, is gradually taking shape. A lovely rose arbour has been placed at the entrance of this park, over which silver lace vines will grow. Beautiful shrubs and evergreens make an excellent show, while a weeping birch stands centrally in the park. This place of beauty beside our church is made possible by the gift of the late S. J. Dundas.

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The committee entrusted with the preparation of this booklet wish to thank all those who shared in the work. We have been handicapped by the loss of records and gratefully acknowledge the help of the United Church Archives. Though we have endeavoured to name the officials and executives of each period, we realize fully that lack of space prevents the mentioning of countless earnest and devout men and women, who, though holding no special office, have contributed unsparingly of their time and talents to the development of our church. We hope this booklet will not only meet with your approval but that it will help keep alive the memory of the pioneers of the Banner congregation.

**Historical Committee:** Mrs. Roy Gordon (Chairman); Mrs. Robert Gordon, Mrs. Harley Hammond, The Rev. Douglas Craig.

**Centennial Committee:** Chairman, Wallis Hammond; Secretary, Mrs. Wallace Baigent; Treasurer, Ben Leslie; Publicity and Invitations: Mrs. Ed Ovens, Mrs. M. Bartindale, Mrs. R. Gordon, Mrs. D. Calvert, Mrs. E. H. Thornton, Mrs. R. Newman, Mrs. J. Bobier, Mrs. S. Dundas; Programme and Music, Mrs. Albert Harris; Finance Committee, Board of Stewards; Registration, Mrs. Roy Gordon, Mrs. Wallace Baigent; Reception Committee, Invitation Committee, Elders.

## CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

### Guest Ministers

Sunday, June 16, 1957.

11:00 a.m.—The Rev. A. J. Love.

7:30 p.m.—The Rev. A. E. Duffield.

Sunday, June 23, 1957.

11:00 a.m.—The Rev. A. E. Moorehouse.

7:30 p.m.—The Rev. T. G. Husser.

Reception after the morning services.

Wednesday, June 19, 1957.

2:30 p.m.—Open W.A. Meeting.

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The faithful workers, both lay and ministerial, who during the past hundred years have contributed their part towards the spiritual influence of Banner Church, we hold in grateful remembrance. These workers challenge us, who have come into this rich heritage, to make our centennial anniversary a time of heartfelt gratitude for the past and wholehearted dedication to the opportunities of the present and future.

“Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
We will be true to thee till death.”

