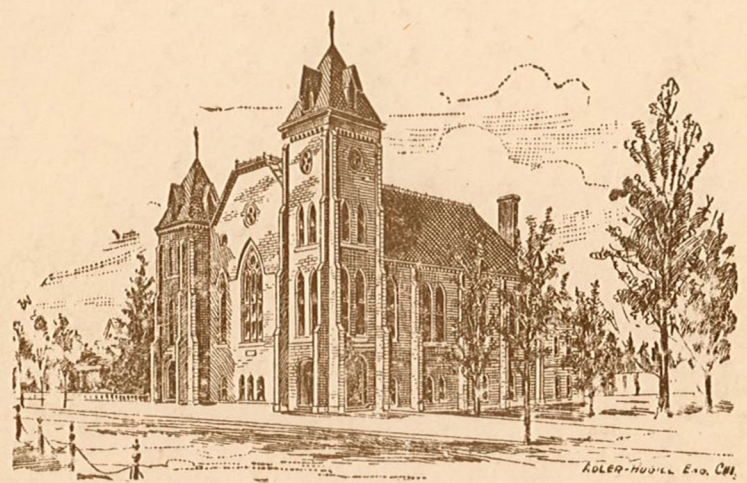




*Centennial
Celebration*

May 4th to 11th, 1958



1858 - 1958

First Baptist Church

INGERSOLL - ONTARIO

One Hundred Years of Christian Witness

3-12
Churches

Dedication

This booklet, commemorating the Centennial Anniversary of the First Baptist Church in Ingersoll, Ontario, is dedicated to the men and women who have worshipped here through ten decades, and whose sacrifices have helped to establish this congregation in the service of God.

Programme

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 1958—

A.M.—Dr. F. W. Waters, Ph.D., McMaster University,
Hamilton.
Communion Service.

1.00 P.M.—Dinner.

P.M.—Rev. Frank Swackhammer, B.A., Toronto.

MONDAY, MAY 5—

Young People's Night. (B.Y.P.U.)
Speaker—Rev. Frank Swackhammer, B.A.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7—

Denominational Night. (Deacons' Board)
Smorgasbord "At Home" for present and former
members.

7.30 P.M.—Brief addresses by former pastors.
Speaker, Rev. S. R. McLung, B.A., B.Th., Sarnia,
President of Convention of Ontario and Quebec.

FRIDAY, MAY 9—

Missionary Rally—(Mission Circles and Band).
Drama—"Ingersoll, 1867.

Speaker—Dr. H. S. Hillyer, D.D., General Secre-
tary Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

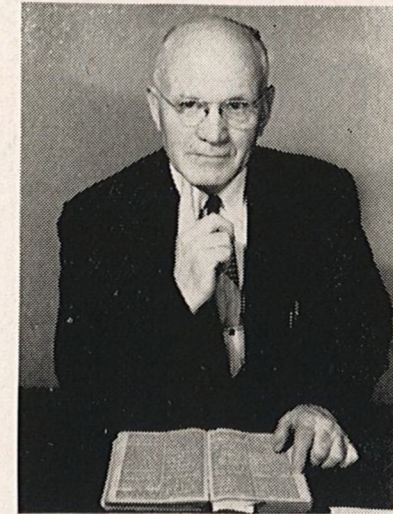
SUNDAY, MAY 11—

A.M.—Rev. Dr. Emlyn Davies, D.D., Toronto.

P.M.—"The Challenge of the Second Century of Chris-
tian Witness."

Special music at all services.

Pastor's Message



We acknowledge with thanksgiving the goodness of God who led our fathers one hundred years ago to establish a Christian church here. Through the years it can be truly said, "This man and that man was born in her". We are keenly conscious of our responsibility to the future generations, that we build on the one Foundation beside which there is no other. Our prayer is that we may never lose sight of Him in whose Name they built, nor the Power that made their work to endure. We press on in faith and in hope sowing the Word of God here, and joining with others in our great Missionary task throughout the world till:

Thy kingdom come, on bended knee
The passing ages pray;
And faithful souls have yearned to see
On earth that kingdom day.

When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,
Shall walk the earth abroad - -
The day of perfect righteousness
The promised day of God.

—Frederick Lucian Hosmer.

We are thankful to God our Heavenly Father, and to you our friends to-day, for being permitted a part in the continuing ministry of Jesus Christ and His Church as we begin the second century of Christian Witness in this place.

- - - Rev. James Ross Simpson, B.A., B.Th.

Pastors who have served This Church

Elder George Wilson	- - - -	1858
Rev. Thomas Baldwin	- - - -	1864
Rev. John Dempsey	- - - -	1870
Rev. S. C. Keiche	- - - -	1880
Rev. David Hutcheson	- - - -	1880
Rev. Thomas Trotter	- - - -	1882
Rev. H. C. Speller	- - - -	1883
Rev. J. M. Munro	- - - -	1887
Rev. J. F. Barker	- - - -	1889
Rev. James Grant	- - - -	1895
Rev. S. E. Grigg	- - - -	1903
Rev. M. C. MacLean	- - - -	1905
Rev. C. J. McLean	- - - -	1910
Rev. Joseph Janes	- - - -	1915
Rev. Donald McIntyre	- - - -	1919
Rev. A. J. McDonald	- - - -	1925
Rev. Don Cameron	- - - -	1932
Rev. G. A. McLean	- - - -	1937
Rev. Murray Simmons	- - - -	1946
Rev. J. M. Ward	- - - -	1947
Rev. James R. Simpson	- - - -	1954

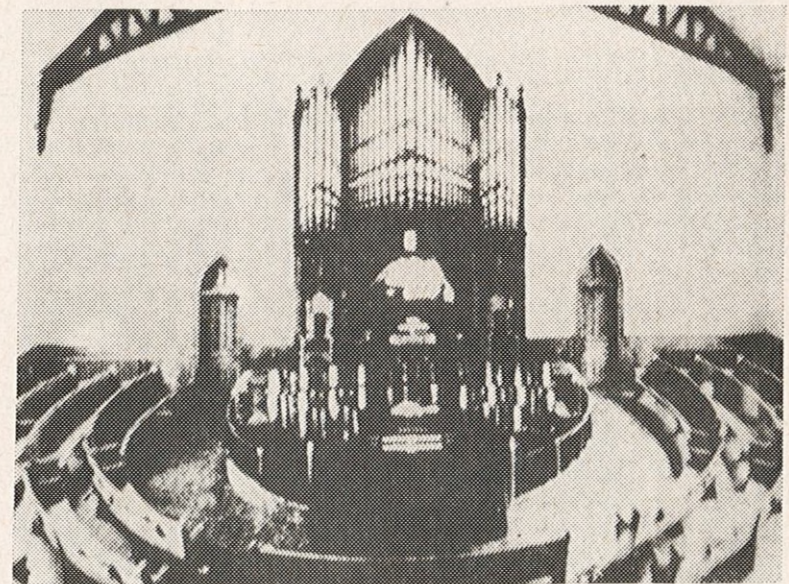
A Century of Christian Witness

Where does a church begin? It begins first of all in the hearts of believers who desire earnestly to claim the promise that "where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there I am in the midst of them."

The little village of Ingersoll was but nine years old, when in 1858 a small number of members of the Harris Street Church began to hold regular meetings each Sabbath morning in the town hall. The first pastor was Elder George Wilson. An early account in the Ingersoll Chronicle reports that Baptist work in this area began between 1820 and 1830, when a Baptist Church was formed over which Elder Mabee presided. This church united with a second church in the area to become the West Oxford Church. A site was selected on Harris Street, about two miles from Ingersoll, and a meeting house erected in which the members worshipped for many years. It is interesting to note that descendants of two of the first families are still connected with our church today, the Edwards and the Mabees; and heartwarming to realize that there have been five generations of Edwards who have served this church continuously and devotedly since its inception.

In 1859, the church in Ingersoll applied to the Grand River Association for membership, and was accepted. The Association report of that year lists the membership at 191 members.

In the year 1861 it was voted to build a chapel. Before the new chapel was completed Elder Wilson resigned and Elder Thomas Baldwin called in his



place. The minutes record the decision to extend the call "with a two-thirds majority". The salary was set at \$500 yearly to be raised in the following manner:—25 cents per quarter from each sister, 50 cents per quarter from each male member, the remainder to be raised from property equity. It was decided to rent the pews for an amount not specified, reserving the first single pew next to the family pews on the north side of the chapel for the pastor's family, rent free.

In 1864 the new white brick chapel was completed on the site of our present church at a cost of \$4000. The September 8th, 1864, issue of the Canadian Baptist has this interesting description of the building:—

"The site selected for the church is one of commanding position overlooking both town and country. The building is capable of holding 400 people, and is described as being an ornament to the town. The interior arrangements are exceedingly tasteful and pleasing to the eye. The platform is constructed with a view to meeting the requirements of the lecturer, and a space of 12 ft. in front of the gallery is set aside exclusively for the accommodation of the choir. The pews are open, surmounted by a black walnut scroll. In the erection of the building the advantages of ventilation have not been overlooked, and during the oppressive heat of the summer months the congregation can enjoy the benefits of fresh air simply by pressing a spring attached to each of the lower windows."

A letter from Mrs. J. Edmonds, dated November 26, 1957, until her death in January of this year, the oldest member of our church gives this interesting description:—

"If I were an artist I could draw it better as I can see it so plainly in my mind's eye. It was a little plain white brick. One story and a basement which was the Sunday School room. There was a gallery over the front part of the church where the choir sat, when I first went there. Later a platform was built at the side of the pulpit which the choir occupied when I was in it. Mr. Speller was the pastor then.

I would like to tell you about the baptistry which was vastly different to what they have now. There was a large platform in front of the pulpit and when there was to be a baptism, the boards were lifted and there was a big tank of water, ice cold in the winter. I was baptised in December and the cold water took my breath away. We went up several steps and then down several more to the tank. A deacon stood at the top of the steps to help us down and up again, then we went down a long passage and down a long flight of stairs to the class room where we changed our clothes. It was certainly a public profession of our faith in those days as we were right in front of the congregation".

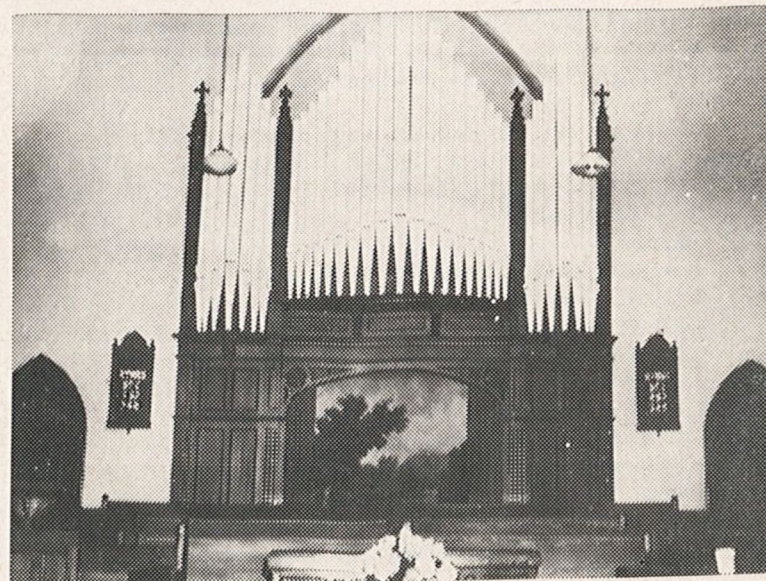
Scanning the early minute books of the church has been both stimulating and profitable. The following items are worthy of note:—May 26, 1865: "It was voted to use a melodian for all religious purposes connected with the church." January 22, 1867: "The name was changed from the Regular Baptist Church of West Oxford to Thames Street Baptist Chapel".

The interest in the missionary outreach of the Christian Church has long been evidenced in Ingersoll. As early as 1862 the Canadian Baptist records a missionary tour through the Grand River Association with the Rev. James Cooper, which found in Ingersoll a "congregation not as large as in some places, but with more missionary spirit revealed and the offering the largest in any place visited".

It was in the Ingersoll Church that the memorable mission meeting of the denomination was held on October 17, 1867. The Convention was in session and the spirit was high, for Canada had recently taken her place in the line-up of missionary forces in India. A young Ontario minister, Rev. A. V. Timpany and his bride, Annie Bates Timpany, daughter of Rev. John Bates of Woodstock, were soon to leave for the foreign field, the first from the Convention. Ever since their appointment the churches had been experiencing a new interest in missions beyond the seas, and as the delegates gathered that enthusiasm increased.

On that great evening, the Ingersoll Church was crowded to the doors. It was the last session, and the new recruit who was to sail from New York a month later, was to give his farewell address. The chairman was T. S. Shensstone of Brantford. The Rev. Wm. Stewart recalled the progress of preparations for the task made in the past year. As Mr. Timpany was to serve under the American Baptist Board of Boston, the secretary of that body, Dr. Murdock, gave the charge to the young man and his bride. His message was solemn, searching, stern in turn. The air was electric with intense anticipation when Timpany rose to speak. He told the story of his call to the East and what the response had cost him. Then turning to his classmates from Woodstock College, who were present in large numbers he said: "I charge you before God and in the presence of these witnesses that you do not allow our college to lack a man among the heathen. It is a blessed privilege that I am the first fruits offered by our college and by Ontario Baptists to our foreign mission work. When time is to be no more, and we are all gathered at our Father's hearthstone at home will we be sorry that we did what we could? Never! How can I say good-bye? I will not say it. I shall, if I am spared, hear from you. If not spared, remember, young brethren, you are to fill the vacancy." And with a parting blessing he was done.

They sang the hymn, "Go, spread the Saviour's Name, go tell His matchless Grace", which raised the spirit of the meeting even higher. Then Dr. Davidson assured the young missionaries that the churches would stand firmly behind



them in their endeavour. The collection was announced and the pent-up wave of emotion broke all barriers in a tidal wave of giving. When it was received it was announced that only \$50.00 more was needed to complete the missionaries' outfit, and that it was hoped that the amount might be made up before they departed. The secretary was soon overwhelmed and swept off his feet by the voluntary gifts that poured in faster than he could record them. They stopped for a few minutes to listen while Dr. Murdock, by request, gave a short account of the Telugus and their country. Rev. John Bates whose loving heart was filled to overflowing that night, then offered up a solemn dedicatory prayer, commending his daughter and her husband to the watchful care and blessing of God. As he prayed many were moved to tears; and when he closed the people broke out again, they must give, they would not be denied. The old, yellowed time-worn Supplement to the Canadian Baptist says it was next to impossible to describe the "scenes of holy enthusiasm and earnest liberality" which prevailed. "Stop, dear brethren, stop!" cried Dr. Fyfe from the platform. "It is nearly midnight and we must have rest. We will meet again and take your gifts in the morning. Let us be dismissed". It was in vain, as soon as he stopped talking they began again. God was having His way with them. In a little over an hour the \$50.00 that was needed had been lost sight of in the grand total of \$1152.00 which the people gave. The meeting did not break up until long past midnight, and before the people left they crowded around the young missionary and his gentle sweet-faced bride to look into their earnest faces, give them a warm hand clasp, a promise of their steadfast prayerful support, and a last "God be with you till we meet again". This meeting actually marked the beginning of our Ontario and Quebec Foreign Mission Enterprise.

An early history of Baptist work in Western Canada records a dedication to the Rev. Thomas Baldwin of Ingersoll "whose interest and prayers helped inspire the opening of our cause in Western Canada." Following the resignation of Rev. Thomas Baldwin in 1869, a call was extended to Rev. John Dempsey. As early as 1875 plans were made to enlarge the church and add Sunday School accommodation. In 1879 shortly before the resignation of Rev. Dempsey, the system of pew rents for current expenses was set aside in favour of a weekly offering system. Then came a time of short pastorates during which the work remained steady.

Rev. S. Keiche served the church for six months until ill health forced him to resign. He was succeeded by David Hutchison who was ordained during his pastorate here, the only man to be ordained in our church. He was followed in 1882 by the Rev. Thomas Trotter. In that same year the first Canadian Baptist Hymnal was dedicated, and the local church set aside the first Thursday of each month for prayer for the poor. In 1883 the Rev. Speller became pastor. In the four years of his pastorate many were baptised and the church showed continued progress. The church roll gave the membership then as 161.

In 1887 the Rev. J. M. Munro was called, the Church Covenant was accepted and the original constitution amended. It is interesting to note that in the minutes of the annual meeting of that year that "a plan was adopted for systematic beneficence. The town was divided into districts, and the country into neighbourhoods, and sisters and brothers of experience were chosen and trained as canvassers for these districts, to lay before all members and adherents the claims of the different funds of the church and to solicit subscriptions from each of them at so much per week to be paid monthly, weekly, quarterly,

or half-yearly as the donor determined. A list of contributors with the amount of each promise and the manner of payment was handed to the superintendent that a record could be kept of such." (Could this be the original "Sector Plan" so recently tried in our churches?)

In September 1888, the Rev. Munro resigned and Rev. J. F. Barker was called. The minutes record his salary at \$900. It was not until 1890 that the old church building was demolished and construction begun on a new one. Until completed, the congregation worshipped in the Presbyterian Church.

On January 4th, 1891, the new church was formally opened. The name was changed to the Baptist Tabernacle of Ingersoll. The membership was 278. "The new building built on the site of the old, was constructed of red brick with stone foundation and cut stone caps. The bricks were manufactured in Norwich, and were laid in red mortar which gave it a massive appearance. The building measured 58' x 70' with two stories and a gallery, and two towers extending five feet beyond the main walls both at the sides and end. The windows were gothic style with cathedral glass and stained glass borders. The pulpit was placed at the centre of the rear of the auditorium with the choir platform circling immediately in front. The baptistry was placed behind the platform in a recess in the rear wall. Upon the wall at the rear of the baptistry a most elaborate and finely executed oil painting representing a stream of water which appears to flow down into the baptistry. In the same arch was the loft for the pipe organ, furnished by the Bell Organ Company of Guelph. Two former pastors officiated at the opening, the Rev. John Dempsey, for nearly ten years pastor of the church, offered the prayer of dedication; and Rev. A. David Hutchison, who had been ordained in this church, preached the morning message. In the afternoon a mass meeting of children and workers connected with the Sunday School was held, presided over by Hon. John Dryden, M.P.P., Minister of Agriculture, who delivered a most impressive address." (Quoted from the Ingersoll Chronicle).

In 1895 Rev. Barker resigned and the Rev. James Grant was called. The old minute book chronicles the following items:—

"A resolution was passed that ushers were to deny hymn books to members until all strangers were supplied first."

"It was decided to cut down on announcements not concerned with church affairs being made from the pulpit. Plans were made to use a printed form to contain church announcements.

1897: "Lighting system was changed to gas. A free will offering system was urged."

A study of old minute books and other records have increased our admiration for the efficiency and the dedication of those men and women of the past century. Their devotion to the faith, their stern insistence on the straight and narrow walk, their earnest labouring with an erring member are a wonderful heritage from the past. The printed leaflets, the letters of dismissal or acceptance, the meticulously-kept records, the yearly reports remind us that our much vaunted modern methods are but adaptations of old ones, after all.

On May 19, 1898, disaster overtook our church. In the midst of a great storm, lightning struck the building which was soon engulfed in flames. The interior was completely gutted, leaving only the outside walls standing. Expressions of sympathy poured in from every side, many in tangible form from sister churches across the convention. Plans were made immediately to rebuild. The church was fortunate to have in its membership two men, Justus and Roger

Miller, Contractors and Builders, who gave their services freely to supervise the rebuilding. Through the hard work and sacrificial giving of the members the church rose again, similar in design to the burned building, and was ready for use and dedication.

Quoting from the minutes of February 19, 1899: "The church assembling in the tabernacle building desires to record their deep gratitude to Almighty God, for the successful re-building of their place of worship. The building was totally destroyed by fire on the morning of the 19th of May, 1898. At the time the blow was felt irreparable and our hearts sank within us. But God our Heavenly Father, who is the true and only Succorer of His people, came to our relief and in ways most wonderful deepened our faith, in His wisdom and goodness, by enabling us to begin and finish a practically new structure. For some months the Church assembled in the town hall, and then for about two months with the Presbyterians in St. Paul's Church. In the month of October a portion of our building was available and for nearly the whole of the winter our gatherings were held in our very comfortable Sunday School rooms. On February 19, 1899, the main Audience Room was finished and dedicated. The day was a beautiful one, the one fine Lord's Day of several stormy ones preceding and following. The sermons were preached in the morning and evening by Rev. A. D. Hutchinson of Brantford and Rev. R. R. McKay of Woodstock in the afternoon."

To usher in the twentieth century, a joint Communion Service was held with the Beachville Church. During that year additions were made to the Constitution. In 1903, the church marked the burning of the mortgage with a social evening. That same year Rev. Grant resigned and Rev. S. E. Grigg was called. He remained for two years. In 1906 Rev. M. C. McLean became pastor. In 1906 a new pipe organ was installed by Karn-Warren Company of Woodstock and dedicated at the 48th Anniversary. A significant motion appears on the minute book dated 1911 when the Rev. C. J. McLean was called: "That each member be asked to contribute the equivalent of one day's pay as a Thank-offering to the Lord." In 1912 a parsonage was purchased on Ann Street which was later sold, and in 1920 a more spacious one was purchased on Oxford Street. In 1914 electricity was planned for in the church building. Individual Communion sets were adopted and the Communion service was a gift of the Ladies Aid, whose faithful and willing support have added so much to the efficiency and beauty of our house of worship through the years.

In 1915 Rev. Joseph Janes became minister, and shepherded the flock through the difficult days of the first World War. His ministry is remembered happily by many of the older members of the congregation to-day and it was with deep regret that his resignation was accepted in 1919. That same year the Rev. Donald MacIntyre commenced a pastorate that was marked by a large number of baptisms. In spite of the severe controversy which rocked the Convention at this time Rev. MacIntyre proved himself a strong leader. Many needed improvements were added to the church and the interior of the church redecorated.

In 1925 Rev. MacIntyre resigned and the church called Rev. A. P. MacDonald. During the depression years his leadership and wise counsel encouraged and strengthened members and church alike. The church courageously undertook the installation of a much-needed steam heating system. Rev. MacDonald resigned in 1932 to be followed by Rev. Don Cameron. Under his leadership the church auditorium was redecorated by the men of the church

and other improvements added. Following a pastorate of five years the church extended a call to Rev. G. A. McLean in 1937. The nine years of Rev. McLean's ministry were busy ones and many were added to the membership. The new hymnary was dedicated at the 80th anniversary of the church, with Dr. Gilmour, chairman of the Convention Committee which edited the hymnary as the guest speaker. In 1940 a happy occasion brought together the members of the choir 25 years previous with the former organist and choir director, and a most enjoyable re-union was held. Rev. McLean's steadfast leadership through the dark days of World War II was an example to all. 1946 saw many changes in the appearance of our sanctuary, when the entire front was re-arranged, and members and relatives of former members gave gifts in memory of loved ones.

In March, 1946, the Rev. McLean resigned and a call was extended to Rev. R. M. Simmons. Mr. Simmons' pastorate was of short duration as he resigned the following June to accept a position at Brandon College. In October 1947, Rev. J. M. Ward was inducted in the ministry of the Ingersoll Church and there followed a happy and fruitful pastorate of seven years. Always busy, Rev. Ward could be found, when not engaged in pastoral duties, making some needed repair to church property or parsonage.

In 1954, Rev. Ward resigned, and the Rev. J. R. Simpson was called. Under his guidance the church entered into the first "Sector Project" and this Stewardship programme has resulted in a deepened spiritual life, a largely increased giving in all departments of the church especially in world missions, and an enlarged Young People's Union. On the material side, we have re-decorated the entire church, added a new electric sign, made needed repairs to roof and organ. The membership now numbers 280.

The growth of the First Baptist Church has never been great. It is the role of smaller churches to train and feed the larger city churches. We are proud and happy that so many of our young people have gone on to wider fields. Perhaps one reason for the lack of growth has been the sharp differences of opinion which resulted in a split membership on two occasions. Wounds were made that were slow in healing, but the grace of God was sufficient for our needs and now we are one in Him.

Through the years three men from our church have given their lives to full time Christian service: Dr. F. W. Waters, Professor of Philosophy at McMaster University, Rev. Frank Swackhammer of Temple Baptist Church, Toronto, and Capt. Rev. Albert McCreery. Rev. McCreery's career was a brief but telling one, and he died in 1944 while in the service of his country true to the last to his high calling.

These men, and all those other countless men and women, who having found the Lord here in our humble house of worship are the fruits of those families who first felt the leading of the Holy Spirit to begin a work here in Ingersoll. For those who have loved and laboured here we lift hearts of thankful praise for the heritage they have left us of consistent Christian witness, and for our children and our children's children we pray that they will hold high the lamp of the faith of their fathers through all the years of the second century which is to come.

List of Organizations and Officers as of May, 1958

Pastor - Rev. J. R. Simpson, B.A., B.D.

Clerk - V. R. Harrison

Trustee Board—

Buford Learn
Albert Langford
Thomas Turton
Carl Heeney
Thomas Markham

Deacons Board—

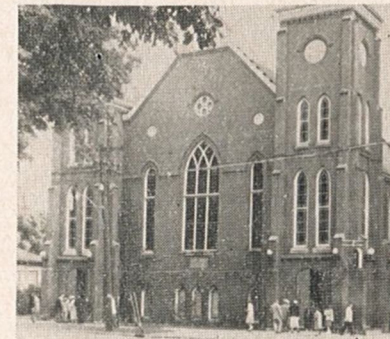
Dane Learn
Keith Geddie
Carl Heeney
James Hamilton
Leonard Hunt
Albert Hunt
Samuel Hamilton
Victor Harrison
Thomas Turton

Finance Board—

Hazel Edwards
Margaret Gould
Glen Topham
Douglas Moggach
Stanley Whiteford
Clarence Woodman
Clifford Strathdee

Treasurer-Accountant	-	-	-	-	Miss Hazel Edwards
Missions Treasurer	-	-	-	-	Mrs. E. Langford
Organist and Choir Leader	-	-	-	-	Mrs. W. R. Allison
Junior Choir Leader	-	-	-	-	Mrs. D. B. Coyle
Junior Congregation Leader	-	-	-	-	Miss Donna Whiteford
Women's Association	-	-	-	-	Mrs. Carl Hugill, President
Sunday School	-	-	-	-	S. B. Hamilton, Superintendent
B. Y. P. U.	-	-	-	-	Ted Hunt, President
Explorers	-	-	-	-	Ted Hunt, Leader
Couples' Club	-	-	-	-	Mr. and Mrs. Buford Learn
Timpany Mission Circle	-	-	-	-	Mrs. S. R. Galpin, President
Ruth Troyer Mission Circle	-	-	-	-	Mrs. R. J. Clifford, President
Kay Rowe Mission Circle	-	-	-	-	Miss Helen Pollard, President
Reekie Mission Band	-	-	-	-	Mrs. John Gill, Mrs. Buford Learn, Leaders

This history of our church has been compiled by Mrs. Lloyd Phillips, Miss Hazel Edwards and Mrs. R. J. Clifford and written by Mrs. R. C. Kilgour. Our grateful thanks go to the many people who have helped us. We have tried to give a true picture of the founding and growth of our church, and if we have erred, we will regret it deeply, for we have tried to check our sources closely, and our mistakes were unintentional. It is impossible to mention the many men and women by name who have, through the years, served our congregation in so many ways. Each has in his own way helped to make our church a living witness in the community. Those names which are not recorded here, are known to God, and recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life.



Centennial Committee

Chairman - - - - - V. R. Harrison
Secretary - - - - - Mrs. R. C. Kilgour

General Committee—

Rev. J. R. Simpson
Mrs. R. C. Clifford
S. B. Hamilton
Miss Hazel Edwards
Mrs. W. R. Allison
Ted Hunt
Earl Clark

Publicity—

John Wardell
Sam Hamilton
Mrs. Dane Learn
Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Woodman

Contact and Invitation—

Margaret Gould
Mrs. Cecil Smith
Mrs. Martin Sissing
Mrs. Fred Smith

Historical—

Mrs. R. C. Kilgour
Mrs. R. J. Clifford
Mrs. Lloyd Phillips
Miss Hazel Edwards

Programme—

General Committee

Autographs