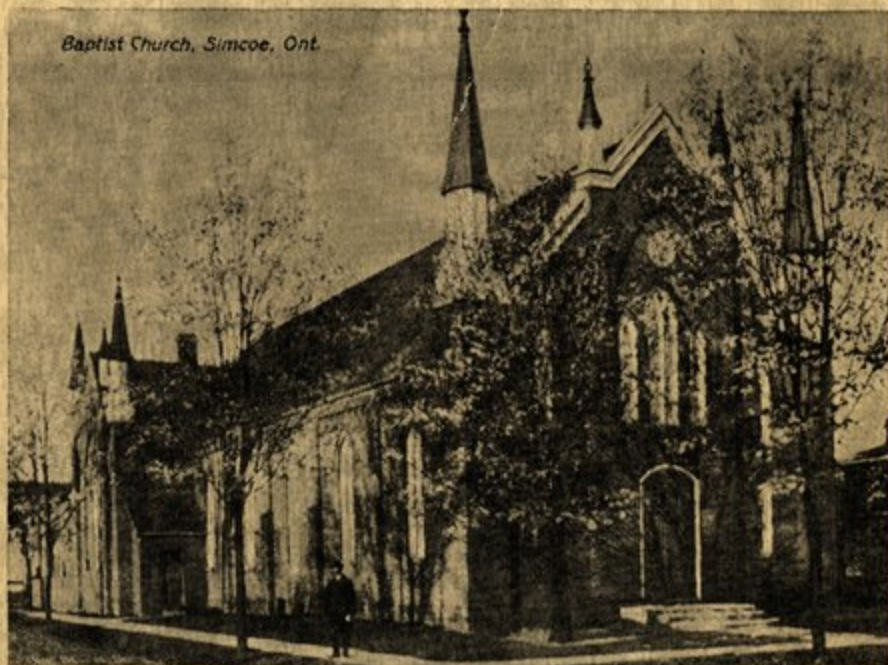


# 125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## First Baptist Church

Simcoe, Ontario



First Baptist Church, Erected 1869, Under the Pastorate of Rev. A. Scott

1836 - 1961

*"The Church Where the Whole Family Feels at Home"*

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Simcoe, Ontario

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## *A Legacy From the Past*

## *A Trust and Challenge for the Future*

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On Saturday, July 9th, 1836, a meeting of the Baptists of this district was called in response to an invitation from the Regular Baptist Church of Charlotteville, (Vittoria), and the second Regular Baptist Church of Townsend (Bloomsburg). The purpose of the gathering was to organize a Baptist Church in the growing town of Simcoe.

Council delegates gathered from Delhi, Brantford, Boston, Vittoria, Port Rowan, Hartford, Scotland, Forestville and Bloomsburg.

The names of John and Permelia Stage, Elizabeth Stage, Loving Post and William Smith of Bloomsburg church and the following from Vittoria church, Solomon Austin, Walter Downs, Deacon Alonzo Hatch, Damaris Hatch, Amanda Downs, Ephriam and Lucretia Wheeler were included in the request that they be organized as the Regular Baptist Church of Simcoe.

The Assembled Council granted the request and the following day, the organization sermon was preached by Elder Reese of Brantford. Elder Francis Pickle gave the charge and Elder George J. Ryerse gave the hand of fellowship and the concluding prayer.

The Council, after hearing the Christian experience of Bro. William Smith and further consultation, declared that Bro. Wm. Smith was a proper candidate for ordination and that on the following day, he be set apart to the work of the ministry. Accordingly, the next day the ordination sermon was preached by Elder John Harris. Elder Wm. Reese gave the charge and Elder Francis Pickle made the prayer of consecration and united with the Elder in the laying on of hands. Elder John Harris gave the hand of fellowship and the candidate gave out the concluding hymn and pronounced the benediction.

And so began the Regular Baptist Church of Simcoe, (later to be known as the First Baptist Church of Simcoe, organized under the articles of Faith of the Western Association). At first, meetings were held in the homes and in the school house but in November 1837 the decision was made to build a house of Worship, which was to be named Bethesda.

This church, built on the present site, with assistance from the Vittoria and Townsend brethren, was finished in 1838, free of debt. It was a frame building forty by sixty and was the first house of worship built in Simcoe. At times, the present site was under water and so the building was shortly moved over onto Colborne Street just north of where Abbey's store now stands. The Rev. Wm. Smith collected funds in the United States to defray necessary expenses of the move. The building remained there until 1867, when it was destroyed by fire.

By June 12th, 1841, the membership had reached a total of 41. However, about 1845 a division took place and some twenty members formed a second Baptist Church, which was in existence until 1863, when the two churches united. They then worshipped for some time in a brick building belonging to the Second church, just south of the corner of Robinson and Colborne. A building known as the old Mud Church, which stood where the late Mr. P. O. Austin conducted a marble works, was then used for worship for a time.

A new brick church was built on the present site and opened on September 9th, 1869, during the pastorate of Rev. A. Scott. At this time the following were acting deacons and were influential for a long time in the church life: Lyman Wells, Hiram Schuyler, John Winch and Henry Foster.



During these years money was scarce. Many donations of material and much work were freely given by members and also by interested citizens. A minimum annual contribution at this time was \$2.00 and for a short time pews were rented. A pastor was expected to make four pastoral calls to the home of each member during a year. Church membership was valued highly and members were required to attend regularly and contribute to the support of the church. Those failing to live up to the recognized standards of that time were excluded from fellowship. Committees were frequently appointed to visit members and give them every opportunity to change their erring ways. In many cases the results of these visits were very satisfactory. However, if they persisted in their objectionable behavior, exclusion was the result.

At this time the minutes show a real missionary spirit in the church. In 1869 the sum of \$18.10 was contributed to Foreign Missions and \$18.66 for Home Missions. Ever since, Simcoe Baptists have supported Missionary work at home and abroad.

By 1875 the pastor's salary reached a high of \$700.00. Also a new organ was purchased at \$238.50, quite a sum for that time. The ladies at this time, as always, were very successful in raising funds at the Tea Meetings. At one of these a record sum of \$600.00 was raised.

In the year 1881 all indebtedness against the church was paid off and the mortgage burned. During the early life of the church, pastorates were short. The records show that the following served as pastors up to 1871 —

Rev. Wm. Smith, Elder Wm. Reese, Elder Erith, Rev. Timothy Bailey, Rev. S. McConnell, Rev. A. Austin, Rev. T. W. Pritchard, Rev. C. G. Parrett, Rev. George Reeks, Rev. Joseph Bryning, Rev. Jos. Painter, Rev. J. E. Ryerson, Elder S. Cunningham, Rev. George Wilson, Rev. W. H. Jones, Bro. J. E. Vining, Rev. A. Scott 1867-1871.

The Rev. W. S. Walker served as pastor 1871-1874. A baptistry was installed and used for the first time on March 3rd 1872, when Charles Wilder, grandfather of Cecil Gifford, was baptized.

By 1875 the membership rose to 191, some 72 being received by baptism during that winter under the able pastorate of H. P. Fitch (1874-1878). During the winter and spring of 1884, as a result of special evangelistic services, some 35 were baptized and received into member-

ship. During these services the Pastor, Rev. P. C. Parker, was assisted by Rev. J. B. Moore. During the ministry of Rev. P. C. Parker (1883-1887) the Fiftieth Anniversary Services were held when a church history, compiled by Nathan Pegg, was read.

Pastors Alexander and J. B. McDonald acted as ministers for short periods at this time and were followed by Rev. T. Carey 1887-1890, when Rev. D. Dack began the longest pastorate up to that date (1890-1901). During his ministry there was a marked advance in the church organizations and the general work of the church. The church auditorium was redecorated and carpeted and reopened October 13th, 1889. By January 1890 the annual report showed 296 members on the roll. The work was growing.

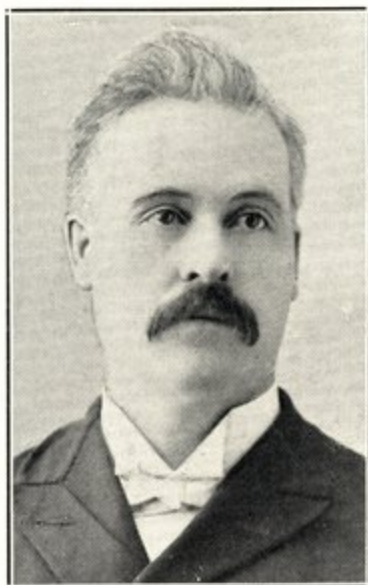
Following Rev. Dack, Dr. Andrew Murdoch served as pastor for the year 1901, being followed by Dr. Fothergill 1902-1905. Ralph E. Smith was ordained to the ministry during the latter's pastorate and went to India in 1912 as our representative on that mission field.

The Rev. P. K. Dayfoot served 1905-1910. During his stay, with the assistance of Henry Crabb, the Sunday School grew in numbers, reaching an all time attendance record of 388 on one Sunday. P. K. Dayfoot's work was foundation work. Truly, he built well. He was also active in raising funds for enlarging the Sunday School hall, which was now being crowded out.

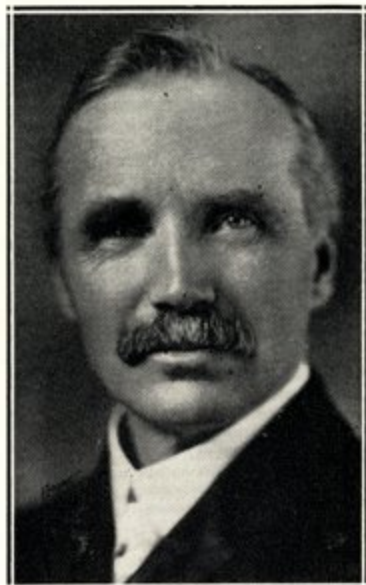
At this time an annual contribution of \$100.00 as a Poor Fund was donated to the church by Mr. W. P. Innes. This fund has been of assistance to many in times of need.

Dr. J. B. Bryan succeeded Rev. P. K. Dayfoot 1910-1913. On April 18th, 1913, the church was damaged by fire and later was burned to the ground on May 15th. The following September 7th, plans were accepted for our present Sunday School Hall. It was completed during November 1914 at a cost of \$14,234.99.

Rev. H. C. Newcombe (1913-1926) was appointed to succeed Rev. Bryan and proved to be a wonderful leader in our church for thirteen years and later upon retirement a very valuable member and pastor's assistant until his death in 1953. He was a great builder. During his stay our Sunday School Hall and present church auditorium were built. He also



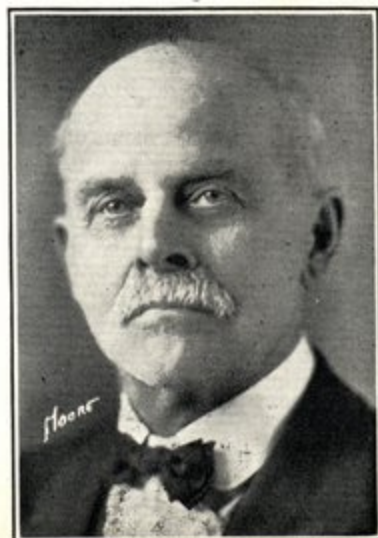
**Rev. D. Dack**



**Rev. H. C. Newcombe**



**Rev. P. K. Dayfoot**



**Deacon Newton Challen**



served as an army chaplain during part of World War 1.

By 1917 the total annual receipts had risen to \$4,502.11. By April 26th, 1921, sufficient funds were at hand to commence the building of our auditorium. The corner stone was laid by Mr. Newton Challen, a very active member of this church for 50 years. **It was dedicated on May 21st, 1922.** Total cost was \$61,000.00. The builder was Mr. D. D. Gunton, who is still an active member. The beauty and permanence of this structure is a lasting tribute to his workmanship.

The pastor's salary at this time was \$1900.00, the sexton's wage \$12.50 per month and the choir leader received \$350.00 per annum.

The Rev. H. C. Newcombe resigned September 26th, 1926 and the Rev. G. G. Pinnock acted as pastor until the appointment of Rev. F. H. Wentworth (Nov. 7th, 1926) to the pastorate 1926-1936. He did a splendid work and left the church well organized and strong spiritually. On his retirement from the ministry he returned to us and contributed a great deal to the church life and his recent passing was deeply felt by his many friends.

The Rev. R. M. Simmons was pastor 1937-43, a period of continued growth spiritually and financially.

The Rev. G. V. Crofoot served as pastor November 3rd 1943-1950, another period of growth, a fruitful pastorate.

June 2nd, 1943 was an outstanding day with the burning of the mortgage on the church, a fitting ending to 20 years of effort.

A Church budget to bring about this result was adopted in 1941 and has been continued ever since. It has resulted in the orderly management of our church finances.

By January 1947, the church rolls showed a membership of 434 and a budget of \$7,115.00.

On April 9th, 1950, the Rev. Dana Lamb was called as pastor. At this time our membership had reached 460 and our annual budget \$7,720.00. Rev. Lamb proved to be a wonderful organizer and all-round pastor. During his pastorate the Sunday School was reorganized under the Christian Education Committee, the wisdom of which is shown by the development of our work among our young people. Another new feature was the annual Retreat, held each summer during his pastorate, which proved very helpful.

The appointment of Miss Agnes Lee as Director of Religious Education in October 1953 proved a great boon to our Young People's work. Her religious zeal and untiring efforts for the past two years brought the proficiency Cup to our local B.Y.P.U.. She is being missed very greatly.

On October 24th, 1958, the Sector Plan of church financing was adopted for three years and led to substantial increases in both finances and interest in our church work.

Another important milestone was the purchase of a new parsonage, April 28, 1959 at a cost of \$23,000. The old parsonage was sold for \$10,400.00.

Rev. Dana Lamb resigned June 6th, 1960 and on June 19, the Rev. Ottis L. Davidson of Kingston was called to be our leader. His enthusiasm and Christian zeal is making itself felt. On his advice the sector plan was changed to one of Consecration to His Service, the results of which are being felt in the church life and the applications for church membership.

September 9th, 1956 saw the dedication of the Memorial Casavant Organ given in memory of the men who gave their lives in World War II., 1939-45. It was completely paid for by 1959 at a cost of \$22,000.

On June 16, 1957, a pin was presented to Mrs. Lola Schuyler commemorating continuous membership for 76 years. She is now 92 years old.

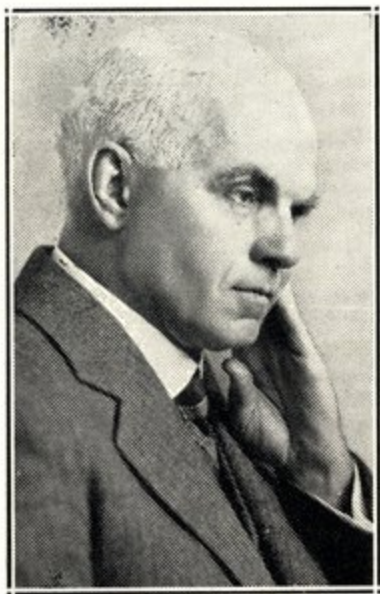
From June 24th, 1956, our pastors have given a brief radio talk each Sunday morning over Radio Station CFRS.

Teaching Leadership training is being carried on under the women's leadership training school of McMaster University. Mrs. Howard Showers has qualified for the Honour Diploma in Christian Education, Miss Sharon Judd has several certificates and Mr. Harry Judd has earned the Christian Leadership Diploma.

Special mention should now be made of the fact that the descendants of several of the church's pioneer families have continued in active membership. We might just mention a few — the Austins, descendants of Solomon Austin and J. S. Austin; the Vails as descendants of Nelson Vail; the Schuylers from Hiram and Francis Schuyler; Deacon Primus Smith, church clerk in the 1840's, the late R. E. Smith being a direct descendant.



**Rev. R. M. Simmons**



**Rev. Dr. Ralph Smith**



**Rev. O. L. Davidson**



**Deacon Henry Crabb**



Space prevents the telling of the story of all those who contributed much in both money and services to our church here. But we must mention just a few, who for length and importance of service have served their Master well as laymen.

The late Newton Challen 1869-1937, serving as deacon, trustee, clerk, Sunday School superintendent, choir member, on the Advisory Board and as Honorary deacon until his death. He was a heavy financial supporter also.

The late Henry Crabb, who was Sunday School superintendent from 1906-1946, a record indeed. He also acted as Deacon and church clerk for many years. With his "Framed Dollar Bill" donated by Mrs. Catharine Burr, he started the building Fund for our church auditorium. This fund grew to over \$20,000, as the result of carefully planned contests among the various Sunday School classes. Mr. Crabb was an inspiration to a very large number of young people, who grew up during his leadership. It would indeed be hard to estimate the value of his example and untiring work on our church and the community at large.

### Church Officials

We should mention also a few, who have so generously given their time to our church in an official capacity.

### Church Clerks

H. Judd 1934 to 1941; 1948 to 1961, (22 years); A. E. Culver 1942-1947; T. Toombs 1948-1949; H. Montrose 1952.

### Assistant Clerks

M. Crabb 1960-1961; H. Dreher 1936-1944 also 1928-1931 (10 years); G. D. Wallace 1953; F. Grigg 1957-1959.

## EARLY OFFICERS

### Clerks

George J. Ryerse, clerk to organization; A. C. Guild 1841-42; T. B. Sweet 1842-45; L. Purington 1845; John J. Cawkins 1846-50; Asa Cook 1850-55, 1860-64; Jas Tate 1855-56; John Wooten 1864; N. Challen 1879-1883; W. H. Burr 1883-1886; Robert Gunton 1886-89 and 1894-1899; C. A. Challen 1900 to 1903; H. Crabb 1905-09 and 1914-15; H. Ryerse 1916-1918; E. Green 1919 to 1927, H. Dreher 1928-1931.

## Treasurers

James Tune, (pastor fund) 1865 and 1873 to 1876; Bro. W. H. Burr 1872; C. Culver 1877 to 1879; D. B. Wallace 1892 to 1897; George Austin 1898 to 1905; H. H. Schuyler 1906-1915; J. C. Kayser 1916-1923; Ira Miller 1928-1931; E. Mark 1925-1926.

## Financial Secretaries

Dr. A. W. Smith 1900-04; Walter Gunton 1906; D. D. Gunton 1907-1908; J. A. Wallace 1909; A. E. Culver 1911-1915; Sol. Schaffer 1916; W. A. Ostrander 1917; Wm. Wark 1918-1920; Joe Bowden 1921-1927.

## RECENT OFFICERS

### Treasurers

E. Mark 1934-35; I. Miller 1936-39; H. Miller 1940-41; Wm. Bowden 1942-49; Ed. Windus 1950-51-52; H. McPherson 1953-55; Robt. Dargie 1956-57; J. A. Grummett 1958-61.

## Financial Secretaries

V. Matthews 1915-36; Miss E. McClain 37-38; Mrs. Hitchcock 1939-42; Miss Elin Schuyler 1943-61 (18 years).

## Assistant Financial Secretary

Miss Edith Steinhoff 1939-1942.

## Those Ordained

Elder Wm. Smith, Dr. Erith, Ralph Smith.

## Mission Secretary

Mrs. Carmen Farr 1946-61, 12 years.

## Organist

Mrs. Helen Matthews 1937-1961.

## Sunday School Superintendents

H. Crabb 1906-1946; H. Culver 1951-55; L. A. Fleming 1958; Harry Judd 1958-60; W. McConnell 1960-61.

## Other Workers

Rev. Ralph Wilson; Mrs. Hunt (nee Enid Newcombe) Missionary to Africa; Mrs. P. K. Hambly (nee Dora Dayfoot) Leader in Women's Mission Circles.

## Centennial

The 100th anniversary of First Baptist Church, Simcoe, was fittingly observed from July 5th to 12th, 1936, during the pastorate of the late Rev. F. H. Wentworth.



**REV. DR. EMLYN DAVIES, D.D.**

**President of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, Guest Preacher June 11.**

Special services, musical programs and other suitable ceremonies to mark the Centennial formed part of the week-long program. Among the preachers were two former pastors, Rev. H. C. Newcombe and Rev. P. K. Dayfoot, as well as the church's former missionary to India, Rev. Ralph E. Smith.

A Centennial Souvenir Booklet, prepared under supervision of the late A. E. Culver, recorded much of the Church's early history and formed a lasting record of the past.

#### **The Choir**

Looking backward into the history of the First Baptist Church Choir of Simcoe, since the year 1836, there were very few items recorded until 1917, so what I am giving you is information I have received from relatives and friends of that time.

The choir has supplied its own music nearly all of that time, except during the leadership of Mr. A. M. Barber. He was not only leader, but gave the music to



## 125th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

SUNDAY, JUNE 11th, 1961

11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship

(Broadcast CFRS)

REV. O. L. DAVIDSON, Conducting

MRS. V. MATTHEWS, Organist - Choir Leader

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Organ Prelude .....	Gloria, Mozart
Processional — Hymn 17 .....	Praise My Soul
Invocation .....	
Prayer of Confession .....	
Prayer of Thanksgiving .....	
Psalm Selection 731 .....	Psalm 107
Response .....	
The Scripture Lesson .....	Acts 2:37-47
Solo .....	Mr. Fred Lewis, Brantford
Children's Hymn and Prayer, 617 .....	Lord, This Day
The Morning Prayer .....	
The Lord's Prayer — Choral .....	
Offertory .....	Dialogue, Mozart
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings .....	
Dedication — Hymn 374, Verses 1 and 2 .....	
Anthem .....	Hallelujah Chorus (from Mt. of Olives) Beethoven
Sermon—"THE CHURCH IS BORN" .....	The Rev. Emlyn Davies, D.D.
Hymn 344 .....	O Thou Who Camest
Benediction .....	
Organ Postlude .....	Triumphal March, Grieg

## 7.00 p.m.—EVENING WORSHIP

Organ Prelude .....	Angelus, Massenet
Introit .....	
Invocation .....	
Hymn 165 .....	Lord of Our Life
The Scripture Lesson—Old Testament, Joel 2:21-32 .....	Rev. D. C. MacDonald
Solo .....	Mr. Fred Lewis, Brantford
The Evening Prayer .....	Rev. G. Leck
Offertory .....	Arioso, Handel
Dedication of Offering .....	
Hymn 155 .....	Come, Holy Ghost
Anthem .....	"Jesus Shall Reign," Poynter
The Scripture Lesson—New Testament, John 16:1-11 .....	Rev. L. Owen
Solo .....	Mr. Fred Lewis, Brantford
Sermon—"THE ABIDING MINISTRY" .....	The Rev. Emlyn Davies, D.D.
Hymn 568 .....	The Day Thou Gavest
Benediction .....	
Organ Postlude .....	Recessional, Asper

## 125th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

SUNDAY, JUNE 18th, 1961

11.00 a.m.—MORNING WORSHIP

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Organ Prelude .....	The Heavens Are Telling, Haydn
Processional — Hymn 164 .....	The Church's One Foundation
Invocation .....	
Psalm Selection 724 .....	Psalm 96
Response .....	
The Scripture Lesson .....	Rev. Dana Lamb
Anthem .....	"Jubilate Deo," Henry Clark
Children's Hymn, 608 .....	Standing in The Market Place
Children Retire .....	
The Morning Prayer .....	Rev. G. Crofoot
The Lord's Prayer—Choral .....	
Offertory .....	How Brightly Shines The Morning Star, Bach
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings .....	
Dedication .....	
Duet—"Love Divine", Stainer .....	Miss Joan Davidson, Mr. E. Fleming
Sermon .....	Rev. Dana Lamb, Windsor
Hymn 288 .....	Jesus, To Thy Table
The Lord's Supper .....	
Benediction .....	
Organ Postlude .....	O Great Is The Depth, Mendelssohn

7.00 p.m.—EVENING WORSHIP

Organ Prelude .....	Behold I Establish My Covenant, Anderson
Introit .....	
Invocation .....	
Hymn 562 .....	Day Is Dying
The Scripture Lesson .....	Rev. G. Crofoot
Double Duet—"Lift Thine Eyes" .....	Lana and June Howting, Dawn and Joan Davidson
The Evening Prayer .....	Rev. D. Lamb
Offertory .....	Toccatina, Lardelli
Dedication of Offerings .....	
Hymn 446 .....	O God of Bethel
Anthem .....	"Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee," Bach
The Sermon .....	Rev. G. Crofoot
Hymn 214 .....	Saviour, Again
Benediction .....	
Organ Postlude .....	Postlude, Rinck





**Rev. Gordon V. Crofoot**  
Guest preacher June 18



**Rev. D. H. Lamb**  
Guest preacher June 18

the church free, which surely was of great assistance.

The Choir still supports this work, by giving and sponsoring concerts. Most of the leaders and organists received little or no salary until recent years.

In 1917, the Choir, under the leadership of Mr. P. G. Marshall, organized, making their own rules, and electing their own officers. It was in that year the Choir started wearing gowns.

Some of the outstanding members of the first choir were Mrs. John Thompson, mother of Miss Bertha Thompson, who used to walk from Port Dover and back again for practice and for Church services. Also Mr. Wm. Collins, father of Mrs. James Smith, who used to walk back and forth from near Lynn Valley and carry his organ, which they used at that time, for practice and church services. Mrs. James Smith also walked that distance to help in the choir.

The following are some of the leaders and organists: Mr. Isaac Church, Mr. Wm. Collins, Mr. Joseph Coggins, Mr. David B. Wallace, Mr. Egbert Kitchen, Mr. Joseph Brook, Mr. Albert Adams, Mr. A.

M. Barber, Mrs. Thomas Little, Miss M. Kitchen, Mrs. C. H. Emerson, sister of Mr. J. A. Wallace, Mrs. John A. Collver, Professor Adams, Miss Cheeney, Mrs. Cassidy, Mrs. Brock LePan, Mrs. Archie Culver, Mrs. H. H. Schuyler, Mr. Delbert Plette, Mr. Albert Plette, Mrs. Halmshaw, Mr. P. G. Marshall, Mrs. P. F. Marshall, Mr. Raymond Williams, Mrs. Victor Matthews (Maizie) and Mrs. F. H. Wentworth.

Mrs. Victor Matthews (Helen) became organist in 1937 and has continued to the present time, with the exception of a few months in 1938, when Mr. Chas. Wilkinson was organist and choir leader.

During that time three choir leaders have served the church namely: Mr. Thomas Bryden, Mr. Stanley Bryan and Mr. Roy Lacey. Mrs. Matthews took over the leadership of the choir in September 1960.

The present officers are: president, Miss Irene Beaupre; Secretary, Mr. Ronald White Jr.; Treasurer Miss Mary Massecar. Miss Minnie Wark still remains the honorary president.

### Women's Association

In the old minutes of the Church there is no record as to the time when women were called "Ladies Aid" but from the beginning it is quite evident that they were organized into a society to raise money for Church purposes.

Going back as far as 1929 the late Mrs. Siple was our president. There were about 35 members and \$750.00 was paid to the building fund that year. Some of the Presidents through the years were: Mrs. Chester Fleming, Mrs. J. C. Kayser, Mrs. Chas. Collver, Mrs. David Gunton, the late Mrs. Frances Kuhns (6 years), Mrs. Charles Herron (5 years), Mrs. Harvey McClain, Mrs. Tom Toombs, Mrs. W. W. Weber, Mrs. Victor Matthews, Mrs. Melvin Cronkwright and our present head, Mrs. John Matthews.

The late Miss Edith Steinhoff was treasurer for a great number of years until 1939 when Mrs. Chas. Collver took office for 3 years; Mrs. J. C. Winchell (6 years), Mrs. G. G. Bauslaugh, Mrs. Stanley Bryan, Mrs. Fred Ferguson.

Mrs. J. C. Kayser was secretary for a few years and Mrs. M. L. House for 27 years, Mrs. Victor Matthews for 1960.

We held two meetings each month until 1942, afterwards meeting on the third Friday of each month. Groups were formed in 1937 later known as the North, Central and South and these meet each month at the various homes of their members. At present we have about 60 members on the roll.

Our meetings always commence with a devotional period, business and programme. Often a special speaker has been invited or at times our Pastor has given us an inspirational message.

During the early years our financial objective was to pay on our Building Fund. This indebtedness was cleared and the mortgage burned in June 1943. With part of the surplus we were able to send \$270.00 to support a Pastor and helper for the Church in India organized by the late R. E. Smith, who with his family returned to Simcoe in April 1941. During the Second World War much Red Cross, knitting and sewing at War rooms was done. Donations were made to Red Cross and Christmas boxes for the soldiers. Flags were purchased for our church.

In 1945 the Aid gave \$35.00 to each of the two Mission Circles, later a third Mission Circle was formed and in 1948 a Mission Band. \$100.00 was shared with the four organizations each year. Since

1956 we have given \$35.00 each for their mission work.

For a number of years the Ladies' Aid with other helpers from the Church served meals at the Norfolk County Fair to help clear the indebtedness, this being discontinued during the war time because of food rationing. We have always helped financially with improvements, re-decorating and new supplies for the Church and Parsonage, also hymn books and Bibles for our church and serving meals when the need arises. In 1953 the name was changed from Ladies Aid to Women's Association.

The W. A. were happy to have a share in paying for the new organ, also buying baptismal gowns and in 1956 giving \$1,100.00 to the General Fund to pay the deficit.

The Group now meets every three months with a picnic in July and a Christmas party in December.

### Won-by-One S.S. Class

The Won-by-One S. S. Class was organized about 1916. Rev. H. C. Newcombe was Chaplain of the 133rd, and Rev. Mr. Pinnock was interim minister at that time. The Bethany Class was the Adult Women's Bible Class, taught by Mr. Manus Beaupre. Five of the younger members of this Class volunteered to start a Young Couples' Class. Mrs. Pinnock was the first teacher. New members were to be gained (who were then non-attendants) so the name was "Won-by-One." The late Mrs. L. S. Ryckman was the first president, and by her indefatigable efforts, the membership increased rapidly. Her husband was the first man to join the class. A monthly meeting was held of devotional, business and a social time, thus creating good fellowship. The late Capt. Ralph Smith was the teacher for several years. The Class increased to a membership of 110, with 66 being the highest attendance, and they met in the dining hall or in the church. A class photo was taken in October 1927, just before Capt. and Mrs. Smith left for India.

In 1928 a Class hymn slide was purchased entitled "Win them one by one." Mrs. John Matthews was secretary at this time. In 1932 the Kinsmen Convention was held for the week in Simcoe. The Class with other members of the church, catered at the Armories for this—thus enabling the Class on Rally Day Sunday to give \$518.00 to the Building Fund, \$100.00 to missions. Various plans were launched whereby money could be



raised for the Building Fund, and many gave themselves whole-heartedly and with splendid co-operation. Their Christian unity was strengthened. Several accepted Christ and were received into the fellowship of the church. A faithful couple, we recall, who with five children walked nine blocks to church in the morning, and back to Sunday School at 2.45 p.m. They were usually in attendance at the evening service also.

In 1937 the Bethany Class joined the Won-by-One. There was cause for Thanksgiving when the Church building was free of debt, June 1943. Mr. Ira Miller who now resides in Vancouver, was treasurer of the building fund throughout. His wife, the late Mrs. Miller, who was one of the charter members of the class, was a very faithful worker.

Rev. Ralph Smith and family returned to Simcoe in 1941 and he again was teacher of the class for a time. Some other teachers were Dr. Harry Collins, the late Rev. H. C. Newcombe, the late Mr. Roy Osborne, the late Mrs. Frances Kuhns and the late Rev. F. H. Wentworth. In 1952 the class merged with two other Classes and changed the name to "Good Will Class." Miss Annie Miller and Mr. Loren Fleming have been very faithful and capable teachers. Dr. Sarah Cook has also assisted. At present, Mrs. W. J. Anthony is president and Mrs. Jake Moyer, secretary. The Won-by-One Class adopted the plan of sending \$100.00 each year to the Mission work, carried on by our former teacher in India. The Class has continued with this mission, and the money is sent to workers in India, through the kindness of Mrs. R. E. Smith.

Impetus was given, in the splendid leadership of the Superintendent, the late Mr. Henry R. Crabb, and Mr. Harry Culver who succeeded him.

### The Tillicum Club

The Tillicum Club was organized on March 11th, 1914, to assist the Senior ladies in raising money for a new church. The reason for the organization of the club was that so many young ladies of the Church worked during the day and some mothers of young children could not leave home to attend the meetings and assist the Ladies' Aid who always held their meetings in the afternoon.

The name Tillicum was not chosen until 1915; it is the Indian word for Friendship.

The original members at the first meeting, held at Mrs. Elgin Johnson's home, were: Mesdames Harvey Johnson, W. B. Tomlinson, Gordon Butler, T. V. Smith and H. C. Newcombe, and the Misses Tama Piette, Theresa Hocking, Mary Peachey, Gladys Misner, Lulu Leach and Ruth, Maud and Beulah Edmondson, and Ethel Pettit, who was elected president.

It was decided to have a yearly membership fee of 25 cents and to meet two evenings a month at the homes of various members, when a ten cent tea should be given, and work done in preparation for our annual bazaar.

The first contribution was in June, 1914, when 8 dozen knives were given to the dining hall of the church. Later over \$200 was contributed towards re-roofing the parsonage, and \$10 for verandah repairs.

When the new church was built, the Club supplied \$900 for the electrical fixtures, as well as each year contributing liberally toward the current and building accounts of the church.

In war time assistance was often given to the I.O.D.E. such as \$40 to the hospital ship, etc.

In 1927, \$165.00 was raised at a St. Patrick's Tea, with which office furniture was bought for the Norfolk General Hospital.

The Club was privileged in having three highly esteemed honorary members in Mesdames Helena Palmerton, Mary Siple and Lucy Miller, who have all gone on, but will ever be remembered for their faithful and generous help.

Miss Ethel Pettit held the office of President for nearly 25 years until her death.

Presidents since have been: Miss Gertrude Marshall, Mrs. Harry Culver, Mrs. S. C. Bagdon, Mrs. C. W. Ward — and at present Mrs. Bagdon who is on the second year of her second term.

During the years since its formation the Tillicum Club has contributed to the work of First Baptist Church in many ways. The members have assisted in preparing and serving at the annual church suppers; in serving meals at the Fairgrounds, sewing costumes for pag-eants, by buying materials and making new collars for all the choir gowns, mending hymn books and placing flowers in the church every year during the months of May and December.



Since the church debt was paid off we have given to more diverse causes as the following list will show, i.e., "Save the Children Fund," Chinese Fund, Manitoba Flood Relief, Scott Mission, attendance prizes for our Sunday School, Testaments for Sunday School, choir gowns, baptismal gowns, Newfoundland Baptist Church Fund, Toronto Book Room Re-modelling Fund, general and Mission funds of our Church. Our Christian Education Fund sent Dr. Sarah Cook \$25 for hospital supplies, and gives yearly donations to Dr. Sarah Cook Mission Circle.

Our largest contribution was \$1225.00 toward the cost of our present new organ.

In 1960 we changed our meetings to once a month with a monthly fee of 25 cents plus 20 cents per month for our flower fund. Our joining fee still remains at 25 cents per year—surely the only item which has not advanced in 47 years.

We have only 16 members on our roll, one of whom has been a continuous member since 1916.

We extend a most sincere welcome to any one who would care to join with us.

### Senior Mission Circle

The minutes of the Senior Mission Circle date back to 1926 when the late Mrs. Robert Gunton was president and the late Mrs. Lucy Miller, Honorary President. For quite a number of years Mrs. Robert Gunton, Mrs. Lucy Miller and Mrs. Mary Whitside were Honorary Presidents. They were considered a tower of strength to the circle. Other presidents were: the late Mrs. H. H. Schuyler, Mrs. F. H. Wentworth, 7 years; Mrs. Percy McDonald, the late Mrs. Herbert Dawes, the late Mrs. J. A. Wallace, 4 years, who was deeply interested in all phases of the work and the Temperance Leader for a great number of years.

The late Mrs. E. Mark was secretary in 1926 and continued until 1951 when ill-health forced her to resign. Her enthusiasm for Missions and the White Cross work was an inspiration to others also for faithfulness.

Mrs. Roy Wallace was in office too in 1926 as treasurer until 1947. Her sister Miss Edith Steinhoff who was her assistant was also Leader of the Mission Band at one time. The Circle has been responsible for naming Leaders for the

Mission Band, and in years past, two members of the Circle were named to assist.

In April, 1932, the Circle invited members from the Circles at Bloomsburg, Waterford, Villa Nova, Delhi, Victoria and Walsh, also the Young Women's Circle, to hear Dr. John McNeill and Mrs. McNeill.

In 1935 a reception was held for Capt. Ralph Smith, Mrs. Smith and family on their return home from the Mission field of India. The same year the Missionary Convention was held in our church, November 5, 6, 7 and 8, when the ladies catered for the meals, also supplied billets.

The meetings include devotions, business, temperance and inspirational talks; reports on white cross work; prayer periods; topics on Home and Foreign Missions.

Our average attendance is about 20.

Commencing 1945, Mrs. G. V. Crofoot was president for 3 years. Mrs. D. D. Gunton, Mrs. Bruce Snively, Mrs. Frank Shearer 7 years, and at present, Mrs. V. C. Harris.

Space will not permit naming the vice-presidents, but they took an active part in many of the meetings. Mrs. H. R. Crabb was another faithful worker, also Mrs. S. C. Bagdon.

Miss Ada Price was Link and Visitor agent for many years. The present one is Mrs. W. L. Bowden. The Link and Visitor is filled with news from the Mission fields, home and foreign, and much information is gleaned through the study books now used. The first book of study was used in 1955 written by Rev. R. M. Bennett. The reading course is also very beneficial. Mrs. J. C. Kayser is the librarian.

Dr. Sarah Cook on retirement from the Mission field came to make her home with Mrs. Ralph Smith. Due to her devotion and interest, the Senior Circle changed its name January, 1956, to the Dr. Sarah Cook Mission Circle.

Miss Mary Wark was secretary of the New Canadian work. Miss Evelyn Slack was Home Missionary for New Canadian work in Norfolk County, beginning in 1941.

Secretary since 1951 has been Mrs. M. L. House.

Mrs. Will Kidner was pianist for nearly 14 years. The late Mrs. Emma Hare, Mrs. Harvey Culver, and Mrs. F. H. Wentworth were active members.



Mrs. W. J. Anthony has helped faithfully all through the years with special interest in White Cross. Others on that committee, Mrs. D. D. Gunton and Mrs. Clarence Ward. Mrs. Ward and Mrs. J. C. Kayser have been responsible for providing transportation to the meetings. Mrs. Charles Collier has charge of the Flower Fund, remembering the sick and shut-ins. She also gives the Temperance periods. The treasurers since 1947 were Miss Mary Wark, Mrs. W. L. Bowden, Mrs. V. C. Harris. At present Mrs. Fred Ferguson acts as inspirational leader.

Contributions are now given through the envelope system and for several years this has been augmented by the generous donations from the Women's Association and the Tillicum Club each year.

\$25.00 is sufficient to give one of our members a Life Membership to either Home or Foreign and many have been honoured in this way. Our oldest member is Mrs. Lola Schuyler, now 92 years of age.

#### Mildred Smith Mission Circle

During the period from 1936 to 1943 the Young Women's Mission Circle was active in all branches of mission work of the church. About 1943 the organization was renamed the Mildred Smith Mission Circle in honor of Mrs. R. E. Smith, missionary to India, who had long been of much help and great inspiration to the members.

Presidents through the years have been: Miss Gertrude Marshall, Mrs. Thomas Toombs, Mrs. Russell Gunton, Miss Ruth Windus, Mrs. L. Liley, Miss Ada Price and Miss Olive Green, president for 1961.

In 1951, under the leadership of Miss Slack, New Canadian Missionary in Norfolk County, several members undertook to teach Basic English to New Canadians, mostly Dutch ladies.

In 1952 we held a Christian Fellowship Social for New Canadian friends, which has become an annual event.

The main purpose of our group is to help support the work of the Women's Mission Board on the Mission Fields of our denomination, which includes preparation of White Cross parcels for use in hospitals, and sending food parcels to missionaries on the field. Our financial allotment has been met each year.

Our Circle has assisted in Mission week-ends in the church, participates in the Women's World Day of Prayer, Baptist Women's Day of Prayer, and assists with C.G.I.T. work.

#### Muriel Harrington Mission Circle

In the fall of 1950, interested persons in First Baptist Church set to work to see if a Young Women's Mission Circle could be organized. Those chiefly responsible were the pastor and his wife, Rev. Dana and Mrs. Lamb, and the presidents of the two circles. Mrs. Bruce Snively was president of the Senior Circle (now Dr. Sarah Cook Circle) and Mrs. Russell Gunton was then president of the Mildred Smith Circle. All interested young people were invited to attend a meeting at the Church on September 26, 1950, for the purpose of organizing a Young Women's Mission Circle. Miss Muriel Harrington, soon to leave to serve her first term as a missionary in Bolivia, spoke to the group. She told about her call to the Mission Field, which came while she was living in Simcoe and a member of this church. Mrs. Carmen Farr acted as chairman and Mrs. Bruce Snively as advisor. That night, with twenty young women present, the Muriel Harrington Young Women's Mission Circle was formed.

Mrs. Farr was president for one year, followed by Miss Mary Massecar, Miss Shirley Casselton, Mrs. Marvyn Veale, Mrs. Robert Dalby, Mrs. Monte Kitchen and Mrs. Howard Showers who is now president (1961).

One of the early projects of the Circle was donations of Christmas gifts for the children visited by Miss Kathleen Ford and Miss Evelyn Slack, who were Home Missionaries working among the new Canadians of Norfolk County.

At one time, 1952-1955, three of our members, Mrs. Carmen Farr, Miss Elin Schuyler and Mrs. Harvey McPherson (formerly Margaret Wallace), visited new Canadians in their homes and taught them basic English.

The Affiliation with the C.G.I.T. was started in 1955. On February 4, 1960, the name of the Circle was changed to the Muriel Harrington Mission Circle, no longer being a Young Women's Circle. At present the group is busy with White Cross work.

During the past eleven years, a greater knowledge of our Mission Fields in Bolivia, India and, more recently, Angola has been acquired. The group has followed with keen interest and with prayer, the work of Muriel Harrington in Bolivia. Dr. Sarah Cook and Mrs. Ralph E. Smith have been a great help on numerous occasions in bringing the work in India closer to all. They have spoken to the group several times and also entertained in the home.

The present active membership is 30.

### Mission Band

The Mission Band was first organized in May, 1892, in connection with the Young Ladies' Mission Circle. Its first president was Miss Gertie Rattenbury. Meetings were held the second Sunday of each month after Sunday School.

For a time it was held in conjunction with the Junior Union being held on Monday evenings.

It has been named the Dr. Walter Johnston Mission Band and is held every Sunday morning.

The Mission Band leader is appointed by the Dr. Sarah Cook Mission Circle which also helps financially.

### Home Department

The Home Department was organized in 1916, by the Sunday School Superintendent, the late Mr. Henry Crabb. It consisted of a President, Secretary-Treasurer and three—or four visitors. There were only nine members the first year.

The members are visited quarterly and a book is left for them of the Sunday School lessons, with daily Bible readings. They may contribute by the envelope, to the work of the Sunday School. This is paid into the Sunday School by cheque at the end of each year.

At present there are 21 members, some of these being shut-ins. Let us remember and visit these, who were once faithful attendants, and workers in our Church, for they are always interested in the Church.

Officers now are: President, Mrs. Earle Doherty; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. M. L. House; Visitors, Mrs. W. J. Anthony Mrs. Russell Osborne, Mrs. Sidney Casselton, Mrs. Rupert Jackson.

### The Sunday School

Special mention should be made of the extremely important work done by our Sunday School throughout the years. From the time when Asa Cook walked from Vittoria through every kind of weather to act as superintendent in the early days of the church, up to the present, flowing from the Sunday School has been the life blood of our church. The frequent mention made in this brochure of our church school indicates its importance. A band of faithful workers—sometimes small but consecrated—has carried on the work throughout the years. Until to-day in keeping with progress this branch is organized as described elsewhere, under the Board of Christian Education.

We are pleased to be able to mention the appointment of Miss Martha Worthy who succeeds Miss Agnes Lee as Director of Christian Education.

### Christian Education

When Miss Agnes Lee began her work with us as Director of Christian Education, in 1954, a Committee was formed to work with her in the planning and implementing of a program of Christian Education. This Committee consisted of leaders of the various youth groups, representatives from the Sunday School, and the Official Boards of the Church, along with the Director and Minister.

The Director, with the aid of the Christian Education Committee, guides the Christian Education program throughout all age levels in the church. The week day groups included Explorers and C.G.I.T. for girls, and Tyros and Sigma-C for boys. The B.Y.P.U. has also been a very active group, having won the David Ingram Trophy twice. The Couples Club was organized in this period. The Sunday program includes Nursery-Beginner, and Junior Church activities, Mission Band, and of course, the Sunday School. There are five departments in the Sunday School, Beginners, Kindergarten, Primary, Junior-Intermediate, Senior-Adult, with an average attendance in 1960, of 226.

We were beginning to realize the scope of Christian Education in the church, when after almost 7 years of service with us, we regretfully accepted the resignation of our Director, Miss Lee,



as she left us to continue training at Hartford Seminary. As we attempted to carry on the program which had been built over these years, we realized more fully what a heavy share of the burden had been carried by Miss Lee. The Committee, therefore, carefully considered the problems, and recommended to the Church at the Annual Meeting in January, 1961, that the Committee be reconstituted as a Board of Christian Education, with members appointed as liaison with the various phases of the work. The recommendation was accepted by the Church, and this Board is now striving to maintain the present program of Christian Education, with the hope that they will be of much greater assistance to a Director in the future, and that this area of the work of the church may be expanded.

### B.Y.P.U.

About 1884 a Young People's Society was formed in the Simcoe Baptist Church by the Rev. Mr. Turnbull, who was pastor for only a short time. It was more of a literary society, meeting usually at the various homes.

On July 7-8, 1891, the first really representative gathering of Baptist Young People was held in Chicago to form a National Organization, with 1621 delegates present from the United States and Canada, eight of these from Canada. Here the B.Y.P.U. of America began.

On May 4-5, 1892, a convention was held in Bloor Street Baptist Church with 800 delegates and the B.Y.P.U. of Ontario and Quebec was organized.

As the call had gone out to all the young people to form unions, Simcoe was interested and sent as delegates the president, the late R. E. Gunton, and the secretary, the late G. R. Austin, to the second International Convention held in the Armouries at Detroit, July, 1892. As a result, in the fall of 1892 our local union was organized at the home of the pastor, Rev. D. Dack, on Culver Street.

The membership at its organization consisted of 13 charter members who were members of the church and signed their name to the B.Y.P.U. Pledge. Later an associate membership was added. These young people were regular attendants at the meetings but were not members of the church.

During the 1940s the B.Y.P.U. of First Baptist Church, Simcoe, was a thriving organization. At that time it had a membership of about sixty, some of whom were in the service, stationed at the army camp, and were thus able to attend the meetings. The young people met at the church and enjoyed fellowship together. One of their projects was to publish a monthly newspaper.

At the end of the war many of the members left the district and the work dwindled until about the early fifties. In 1950 and 1951 the membership consisted of about fifteen. The union took part in the activities of the Norfolk Association. One of their projects was the production of the drama "Joseph of Arimathea."

About two years later the attendance has reached twenty. Some of their projects were to purchase drapes for the church parlour and the presentation of a pulpit Bible to the church.

After Miss Agnes Lee became the Director of Christian Education in 1954, the work of the B.Y.P.U., as well as the other youth activities flourished.

In 1959 six delegates attended the 68th Annual Convention in Montreal where the David Ingram Memorial Trophy was presented to the union for being the most proficient union in the Convention of Ontario and Quebec. Again in 1960 the union was presented with the trophy for the second consecutive year.

Presently the B.Y.P.U. has twenty members. The group has been active in interdenominational activities such as Youth Week and Easter Sunrise Services as well as the activities of our own association and convention.

The names of some of the leaders in the past twenty-five years are: Mrs. Beth Sorenson, Mrs. Eudene Stuart, Mrs. Lucille Onderstal, Mrs. Hazel Farr, Miss Edna McPherson, Mrs. Margaret McPherson, Mrs. Muriel Ilton, Mrs. Shirley Grummett, Mr. Don Gunton, Miss Sharon Judd, Miss Margaret Mills, Miss Judy Casselton, Mr. Barry Yager, Miss Valerie Collver, and Miss Barbara Judd.

Since 1892 our union has carried on through many difficult times. To us has come the torch to carry on. Let us not fail.

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Simcoe, Ontario



THE CHURCH 1961

REV. O. L. DAVIDSON, Minister

Commemorating  
125 YEARS OF CHURCH HISTORY