

**First Baptist Church Simcoe
175th Anniversary History Update
1987– 2011**



As a Christian church, we exist to honour God by helping local people worship God, grow spiritually, serve others, and reach their communities and the world with the message and love of Jesus Christ.

175th Anniversary History Update

1987– 2011

Rev. Norman Hovland served as our minister, 1980 - 1988. In 1988 Rev. Hovland accepted a call to Middleton, Nova Scotia.



Norman Hovland

Rev. Hovland was instrumental in moving the church along with the vision of a new Sunday School addition. Committees were established and fund-raising began. Over \$943,765 was raised before the shovel went into the ground, in 1989.



Bruce Lacey

Mr. Bruce Lacey, accepted the position as our Assistant Minister in 1983. We bade farewell to Assistant Pastor Bruce Lacey and his family at the end of December 1987. Bruce went to the University of Waterloo to complete his B.A. and then found leadership in another church. (1983-1987).

In 1988, the church asked Rev. Gordon Allen to serve as our interim minister, while the search committee searched for a new minister.



Gordon Allen



Bruce Coombe

In 1989, Rev. Bruce Coombe accepted a call to come serve Simcoe First Baptist. Rev. Coombe helped to guide the church through a new church school building addition.



Previous Sunday School

In 1989 the old Sunday School building was torn down to make way for the new church school addition. The new \$1,220,300.00 church school building addition was officially opened in early 1990.



New Church Addition



Entrance to Gym

The church secured loans from a number of church families to cover the balance owing of \$276,500.00.

In 1993 the Miller/Mabee estate of over \$665,000.00 was left to the church. A fair portion of that money was used to pay off the balance of the loans outstanding on the new addition.



Previous meeting area



New library area



Donna Chapman

In 1989, Donna Chapman accepted a call to become our Christian Education Director. While serving as our Education Director, Donna was ordained. In 1997, Rev. Chapman accepted a call to serve at the Baptist Leadership Education Centre, (BLEC) Whitby, Ontario.

In 1998 Elaine Poproski, answered a call to First Baptist as our Associate-Family Ministries. In 2000 Elaine Poproski was ordained.



Elaine Poproski



The Refurbished Organ

In 2000, The organ was refurbished at a cost of \$254,660.00. The work was done by Guilbault-Therien Inc., of Montreal, Quebec. Along with fund-raising, funds from the Matthew's and Shower's estates assisted greatly in covering the costs.

In 2005, Rev. Bruce Coombe retired after more than thirty years in ministry.

In 2005, the search committee recommended the calling of Elaine Poproski as our Senior Pastor. Elaine was called as our Minister August 1, 2005

In 2007, the church replaced its old 1,200,000 BTU hot water furnace with two new 45,000BTU hot water furnaces. This resulted in considerable savings in our heating costs. Cost of the replacement furnaces was \$30,033.00. Money from the Stuart and Schuyler estates was used to cover the cost.

The church constitution was up-dated. The major change was the inclusion of “voting member”, for those members of First Baptist who continued to support the church. This revision resulted in a more realistic listing of “members of First Baptist Church”.

In 2008, the church under took the replacement of the tower louvers, soffits, and eaves troughs, at a cost of \$38,718.00. The church is indebted to those whose ongoing support for the church, through their estates, have allowed the church to meet all of its capital expenses over the years. Even in death, God provides for His church.



Tower Repairs

In 2009, Sue Baldock, Shawn Broughton, Crystal Brandon, Eva Dixon, Sue Gill, Julie Forde, Ann Reid and Vicky Grondin from



Ecuador Mission Team 2009

our church family participated in a Mission Trip to Ecuador



Mission Circle 60th Anniversary

In 2010 the Muriel Harrington Mission Circle celebrated their 60th Anniversary. The whole church participated in their 60th Anniversary celebrations with a meal and anniversary cake.



Shirley Cookson



Diane Dowling



Jim Carroll

Shirley Cookson has celebrated thirty-five years of service as our Secretary.

We are indebted to Diane Dowling, our organist and Jim Carroll, our Music Director for their many years of service.

We have enjoyed our association with the Norfolk Association for Community Living, who have used our church basement area for the past twenty years.



Vacation Bible School

We continue to offer a Vacation Bible School, each year, for one week in August. As a community outreach endeavor, it has grown from fifty to over one hundred children. More than thirty support people are involved to make it such a great success.

Since 1996, Janet Dickson has led our Mother's Day celebrations with a "Junior Choir Musical" involving our church young people as well as other children from the community. These Musicals are in their fifteenth year. In the summer a week of Music Camp takes place and the young people present two performances for the church family and the community. Both of these musicals have been well received by all.



Mother's Day Musical 2010 "David and Goliath"

Since 2007 families from our church have gathered at Pinehurst Campground on the long weekend of August. This three day event has had up to 55 people participating and is looked forward to by many.

Special Anniversary Events !

CHOIR CONCERT

Friday, May 27

This event features
local church choirs
performing
together !



ANNIVERSARY

BANQUET

Saturday, May 28

Good food, pictures,
speeches and discussion
on the past 175 years !

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE



On Anniversary **Sunday May 29**, the **Honourable David C. Onley**, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, will be our guest speaker. Her Honour, Mrs. Ruth Ann Onley (the former Ruth Ann Wallace) will be here as well, as this was her home church.

A **light lunch** will be provided along with the cutting of the **Anniversary cake**.

**Thank you to those that have contributed
to the preparations for
the 175th Anniversary Celebrations.**

John & Lana Wallace, Grant & Marianne Irvin,
Muriel Ilton, Pam Almon, Shirley Grummett,
Vicky Grondin, Jay Hoover, Janet Dickson,
Steve Brightman, Gerald Freeman.