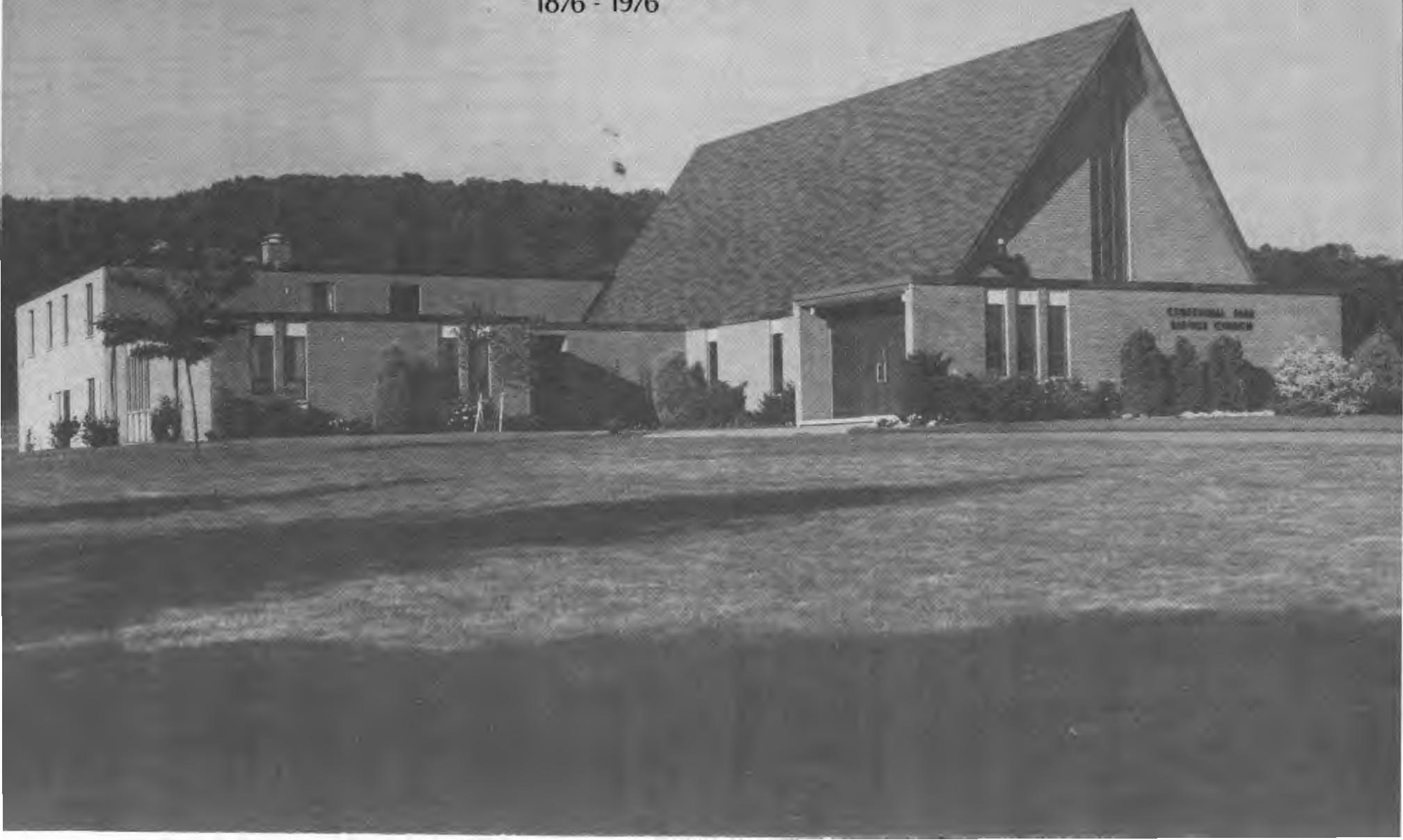


"ONE - HUNDRED YEARS FOR CHRIST"

The History of The Centennial Park Baptist Church

in Grimsby - Ontario

1876 - 1976



Produced by The Centennial Park Baptist Church

Kennedy Road, Grimsby, Ontario

1977

O My People, listen to my teaching.
Open your ears to what I am saying.
For I will show you lessons from our history,
Stories handed down to us from former generations.
I will reveal these truths to you,
So that you can describe these glorious deeds of Jehovah
To your children,
And tell them about the mighty miracles He did.

Psalm 78

The Living Bible

It was a magnificent year, truly a 'year of jubilee'. Now it lives— in the memories of all who shared it, in the hearts of those who were drawn near to the Saviour, and now aided by pictures and the printed word in this Souvenir Book.

I know that you will treasure this collection. It will bring a mixture of mirth, memories, perhaps some tears. I hope it will cause a mood of meaningful thanksgiving as well. We are grateful to Almighty God for our rich heritage, set in the ninety-nine years before our Centennial Year dawned. History is filled with events and facts, but studded with the personalities of God's people.

Thank you for celebrating with us in this monumental year. Thank you all who had a share in making the event so outstanding. I trust that the inspiration it provided will be one of our reasons for devoted discipleship in this second century under the mighty arm of God and in the Kingdom of his Son, Jesus Christ. It was to honour him that these 100 years have been dedicated to his service by the "great cloud of witnesses" and by those of us who remain.

Happy reminiscing!

R. M. Strachan

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The First Baptist Church on Adelaide Street.

The Grimsby Baptist Church at the corner of Elm and Mountain Street.



Decades one to eight inclusive were prepared by Miriam Cline from Church minute books and first presented by her at the "Family Get-together" at the Church on Wednesday, November 14th, 1956. This material is reprinted with her kind permission. The remaining decades were prepared by the Historical Committee of the Centennial Committee.

NINETY-NINE YEARS

HISTORY OF THE GRIMSBY BAPTIST CHURCH

1876 – 1976

THE FIRST DECADE – 1876 to 1886

“November 5, 1876—a meeting was held after Sunday School in which the first action was taken toward the organization of a Baptist church in Grimsby.” So reads the first entry in the minutes of the Grimsby Baptist church.

At this meeting it was decided to ask the Beamsville church for letters of dismissal for those of their members living in Grimsby. On December 28 the organization took place with 18 constituent members, these officers being elected: C. E. Woolverton and Lewis King deacons, Linus Woolverton clerk, Albert Berryman treasurer. On January 4, 1877 the church was recognized and received into the Niagara Association by a council of which Dr. J. W. A. Stewart of Hamilton was moderator and Rev. E. Hooper of Beamsville clerk. The report published in the Canadian Baptist closes in this way: “In the evening the pastor of the Beamsville church preached to a crowded congregation and at the close of the sermon baptized five believers, two others received the right hand of fellowship, making the total membership 25. A very encouraging incident in the day’s proceedings was that Bro. C. E. Woolverton most nobly and generously promised to deed the Bible Hall to the Grimsby Baptist Church. We commend this earnest little band to God’s blessing, praying that He may lead them on to great triumphs in His cause.”

The Bible Hall referred to was built for a Sunday School in 1872 by Mr. C. E. Woolverton at his own expense. It is reported that when he was only eighteen he used to gather together the children of Grimsby for religious instruction during his vacations from college. When he brought home his wife and settled down on his fruit farm at the conclusion of his college courses this Sunday School work was his chief delight. At one time Charles Woolverton planned to become a minister; he attended Montreal Baptist College where he was associated with Robert A. Fyfe and other prominent Baptist leaders. He decided, however, that he could serve God best in the work so near his heart, the teaching of children and youth in Sunday School. At first his school was a community Sunday School but gradually as other churches were organized the children went to the schools of their own denominations and the Sunday School on Adelaide Street became a Baptist school in name and in fact.

Rev. E. Hooper, minister at Beamsville, showed great interest in the infant church at Grimsby, coming each Thursday night and one Sunday afternoon a month for preaching and the conducting of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. The church members themselves met on Sunday morning for Bible study and in the evening held a prayer meeting. During the first three years 59 were added by baptism, "all baptized", so reads the record, "by our beloved pastor Rev. E. Hooper." Sometimes the baptisms were in the lake "before large assemblies." In May 1880 Mr. C. C. Willett came to Grimsby, was ordained as an evangelist and worked as co-pastor with Mr. Hooper until November.

Soon the hall on Adelaide Street proved inadequate for the growing church and Mr. Woolverton offered to contribute \$500 for the purchase of a lot at the corner of Elm and Mountain Streets if the church would proceed to put up a building. This generous offer was accepted and a building was erected at a cost of approximately \$3,300.00, the plans and specifications being prepared by Mr. Wm. Hooper of England, a brother of Rev. E. Hooper. The church edifice society loaned \$500 and the rest was contributed by the church members. The new church was dedicated on January 23, 1881. Dr. J. W. Castle, chancellor of McMaster University, preached the dedicatory sermons to congregations which filled the church to the doors. A Monday evening tea meeting was very successful realizing about \$100 toward the building fund.

A series of evangelistic services was held immediately by the Needham Brothers, evangelists, and at their conclusion Rev. William Needham became the pastor of the church remaining until August 1882. Rev. E. Hooper was then in Toronto studying medicine and he came out to Grimsby for Sunday services from August 1882 to March 1883. In July of that year Mr. Charles Owen, recently from London, England, became pastor for one year. Then various students supplied the church. Mr. R. R. McKay, student at McMaster, settled as pastor during the summer of 1885 and came on Sundays throughout the following winter. It is of interest that the father of R. R. McKay was one of the charter members, the mover of the motion which led to the organization of the church at Grimsby.

In April 1880 Mr. Woolverton presented the church with a Mason and Hamlin organ.

It is noticeable that the men of the church took the lead in all the work in the early days. All the officers were men and they took responsibility for the raising of the money needed and for the work done around the church. This item from the minutes of 1883: "A chairman of a committee for the improvement of the yard around the church was appointed, all the brethren of the church to constitute the committee. No one objected to this suggestion so it was approved."

The women, however, were not idle. A mission circle was organized in 1886 with Mrs. Wm. Forbes as president. There must also have been a Ladies' Aid, for we read this item dated July 2, 1885: "Sister Henry presented a message from the Ladies' Aid Society asking the cooperation of the church in a party on the lawn of C. E. Woolverton, the admission to be free and the Ladies' Society to have the privilege of a sale table for goods and provisions. The clerk said he could cooperate in any meeting when the object of getting money was made secondary to the good of the people, and moved that with this understanding the church cordially approve the plans of the Ladies' Aid Society. Bro. Blanchard seconding, the resolution was carried."

The young church was most zealous for the Christian character of its members and ready to oppose what they considered harmful influences in the community. Under the date April 7, 1884 is this resolution, "The members of the church desire to record their protest against the worldly pleasures of the Ball Room and Theatre as being wholly opposed to the direct teaching of God's Word (Romans 12: 1, 2) and a denial of the profession made in believers' baptism."

Committees were appointed at various times to interview persons absenting themselves from services of worship and especially the Lord's Supper.

Sometimes the privilege of church fellowship was denied a brother or sister who had departed from the orderly life and conduct of a Christian. "G. M. was heard from concerning the fight in which he was engaged; his account was unsatisfactory. After he retired and after much discussion a motion was passed that he be suspended from the privileges of church membership for six months at the end of which time he may be restored to fellowship if the church members are satisfied that he is truly a Christian."

Again, "We do extend to L. K. our Christian sympathy in his weakness and as he believes God has forgiven him his sin we also do continue toward him our brotherly love and friendship."

From the first the church members felt an obligation and an interest in giving to missions and the denominational enterprises. In addition to offerings for their own church expenses they contributed to home and foreign missions, ministerial education and the care of the poor. A little later western missions, Grande Ligne and the mission to sailors on the Welland Canal were added. From the clerk's report at the annual meeting in 1879: "The envelope system of collecting for the pastor's salary and other expenses is working well. After this year each member will get twelve missionary envelopes of various colours to be gathered up with the others on Communion Sunday each month. It is to be hoped that our little church will develop something of a missionary spirit and gladly contribute its mite toward the great and good work of preaching the gospel

whether it be in destitute places in our own land or of sending missionaries to the dark lands of heathenism or of preparing young men for such work. As to our church contributions we have reason to thank God for putting in the hearts of the members here so far to give freely as much as has been needed; we have very little surplus but we have no debt and may the latter never burden us."

Frequently in the minutes of the early years there is an expression of gratitude to Almighty God for the way in which He had led them. Many a business meeting closed with the singing of the doxology.

In the story of the first ten years written by the faithful and efficient clerk, Linus Woolverton, is this sentence, "The total number of persons who have been received into membership is 145, but owing to the many removals and other dismissals the present number of members is only 66." This was to be the experience of the church throughout its history, only a small percentage of the members received into fellowship remaining for any great length of time. Thus the church itself had not become large, but its contribution to the lives of hundreds of persons and to the kingdom of God has been a most worthy one. The clerk ends his story of the first decade by saying, "We are praying that the next ten years may be still richer in its store of blessing from our Father which is in heaven."

THE SECOND DECADE – 1886 to 1896

In October 1886 Mr. T. A. Hughes who had come from London, England became pastor and was ordained a Baptist minister at Grimsby in January 1887. When he left, the church was served for the remainder of this decade by student-pastors: C. H. Phillemore, J. Roberts, R. L. McDougall, O. G. Langford, H. E. Stillwell, Edgar Russell. The minister at Beamsville came occasionally to administer the ordinances. The students living here during summer vacations and then coming from Toronto for Sunday services through the winters did good work and the members of the church gave a commendable witness of their faith in Christ. At practically every business meeting persons were accepted for baptism and church membership.

During some of these years the Home Mission Board paid part of the salary of the Grimsby pastor. In the minutes of the annual meeting in 1888 there is this record: "Resolved that the question of uniting with Caistor for the support of a pastor be laid over." There is no further reference to this, so evidently the matter was dropped. Soon it was found possible to raise enough money to be self-supporting although paying a minister even \$500 or \$600 required sacrificial giving on the part of the members. Sometimes the salary of a caretaker was saved by the members taking turns in caring for the church themselves.

A furnace was put in the church and a parsonage was purchased on Mountain Street (No. 39 now) but evidently rented during the time the students were coming from McMaster.

More than once during these years the church arranged courses of lectures by prominent men, charging 25 cents for one lecture and 75 for the course of four. The people of the town appreciated the lectures and the church treasury profitted from them. The proceeds of one lecture fund were used to "Make the seats in the church more comfortable by sloping them backwards."

Another item in the minutes states that the church offered the village the free use of the well on the church lot on certain conditions, among them being that it be public for domestic and fire purposes only and not made a public watering place for horses.

Mr. Linus Woolverton reported at the annual meeting in 1896 that the total number of members received into the church since its organization was 252 and the present membership 113.

THE THIRD DECADE – 1896 to 1906

Rev. O. C. Elliott came as pastor for the winter months of 1896-1897 then Mr. Llewlyn Brown came in June and remained until 1901. Mr. Brown was ordained in May 1898 at Grimsby; his wife brought her letter from Woodstock, Ontario. The other ministers of this period were Rev. Albert Cohoe, Rev. Perrin Baker and Rev. T. S. Johnson, D.D.

It is interesting to note that a number of the ministers who came to Grimsby as young men later became outstanding preachers or occupied positions of high leadership in the denomination. Rev. A. Cohoe after pastorates in Ontario followed Dr. Fosdick as minister of the important Baptist church in Montclair, New Jersey. Rev. H. E. Stillwell after serving several years as missionary in India became secretary of the Foreign Mission Board. Rev. Perrin Baker became minister of education in the Alberta government.

In 1898 Mr. C. E. Woolverton was still serving devotedly as Sunday School superintendent. At a Sunday School convention in Toronto in that year this presentation was made:

“Dear Brother,

We desire to recognize your long, earnest and faithful services in the Sunday School at Grimsby. Your enthusiastic devotion to the work has materially contributed to the success of the Sunday School in which you have acted as superintendent for the unique term of 55 years. We rejoice to know that God has blessed your labours in the conversion of many scholars. On behalf of the teachers of the Baptist Sunday Schools of Ontario and Quebec we present you with Kitto’s Works which please accept as a mark of our esteem for your ‘patient continuance in well-doing.’

Signed by
Thomas McGillicuddy,
President.”

And while his father was serving so devotedly in the Sunday School and as deacon and tireless worker in the church his son Linus was the efficient clerk for nearly 25 years.

Mr. C. E. Woolverton died in September 1900 at the age of 80. He was in his place in Sunday School until two weeks before his death. Dr. Hooper came from Toronto to take part in the funeral service and to pay his tribute to the long and valued friendship with Mr. Woolverton in the Lord’s work from the beginning in Grimsby. We can understand how greatly Mr. Woolverton was missed by this church.

In 1903 another of the charter members and for years the missions treasurer of the church and the president of the Women’s Mission Circle passed away, Mrs. William Forbes. She left to the church organizations bequests amounting in all to \$2,065. And in 1905 Mrs. C. E. Woolverton left money to the Sunday School and her piano and sewing machine to the church.

Younger members were now having to assume more responsibility for the work of the church. Fortunately some strong workers were coming to Grimsby from other places.

The parsonage on Mountain Street was sold, a new furnace was put in the church and electric lights were installed.

THE FOURTH DECADE – 1906 to 1916

Rev. J. T. Priest followed Dr. Johnson and remained for almost four years, then came Rev. Thos. Ratcliffe who had the longest ministry of all the Grimsby pastors-eleven years.

It was during the pastorate of Mr. Ratcliffe that the Sunday School building was erected. The building plans were drawn up by Mr. John Ratcliffe, son of the pastor. At the same time the church auditorium was redecorated and the platform and baptistry altered. On Dec. 14, 1913 the building was dedicated. Rev. B. D. Thomas, D.D. preached in the morning and in the afternoon and evening Rev. P. K. Dayfoot, superintendent of Sunday Schools for Ontario and Quebec.

“In July 1915,” the record states, “thanks were tendered Miss Pearl Brooks for donating to the Sunday School the splendid piano won by her in the recent business contest conducted by Mr. A. F. Hawke of this town.” Miss G. Ormiston gave a helping hand in this. Mrs. B. D. Thomas kindly donated a stool to go with the piano.

In 1906 the parsonage on Mountain St. had been sold and in 1909 a lot on Livingston Avenue was bought for \$500 and a new parsonage was built. On completion of the parsonage it was found necessary to raise by mortgage the sum of \$1,700 to cover the cost of construction not provided for by subscriptions.

Although at the time of his death Mr. Linus Woolverton was not a member of the Grimsby Baptist Church he made provision in his will for a gift of \$100 to the church for a memorial to his father. The money was used to insert stained glass windows in the church on one of which Mr. Woolverton's name is embossed. When the windows were dedicated December 12, 1915 Rev. E. Hooper, M.D., always the warm friend of the church and of its pioneer member, came and preached the memorial sermon. The clerk, Dr. W. A. Brownlee read a sketch of the life of Mr. Woolverton. The Grimsby church does well to revere the memory of this man of God who did so much for the cause of Christ in this place.

THE FIFTH DECADE – 1916 to 1926

During this period Rev. Thomas Ratcliffe and Rev. T. E. Richards were the ministers. The First World War was still being waged and the young men of the church were away on active service. The Honour Roll has the names of 25 young men, three of whom paid the supreme sacrifice.

When the church celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1926 it could be stated that the mortgage on the parsonage had been paid in full and the whole church property was free of debt. Mr. John Widdicombe, a member of the church at this time, had in 1918 most generously contributed over \$2,000 which helped greatly in bringing this about. In 1919 Mr. John Hewitt deposited a Victory Bond of \$1,000 to be used in the interests of the Sunday School.

The 50th anniversary was celebrated most enthusiastically and joyously. On the Sunday, Rev. H. W. Wright then of Trinity Baptist Church, Hamilton, preached morning and evening to crowded congregations. The choir under the direction of Mr. Fred Oaks with Miss Ormiston as accompanist rendered special anthems and Miss Vera Brownlee sang solos, the evening solo having a violin obligato played by Marjorie Ofield. Mr. Richards called attention to the fact that in the choir was a member of the choir of fifty years ago, Mrs. Brodie who was still able to continue her service of praise.

“On the Monday evening,” we read from the account in the Grimsby Independent, “representatives of all denominations numbering over three hundred attended the semi-centennial dinner followed by an excellent program given by the Baptist congregation. Early in the day the ladies of the church began to prepare the dinner, the tables being set in the Sunday School basement and laden with good things for the inner man. The first table was called promptly at six at which over 110 were seated, the second and third seatings were just as large, but even this failed to deplete the supply in the kitchen. The efficient waiters brought on more roast beef, more potatoes, peas, pickles, cakes, pies, coffee, tea, etc. until everyone was filled; they even appeared to be anxious to serve more; suffice it to say that the Baptist church certainly know how to put on a real dinner.”

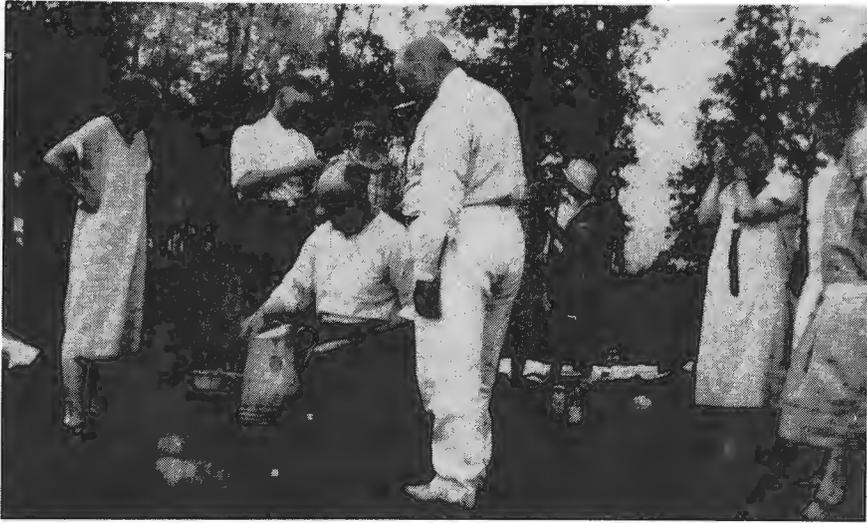
Mr. R. H. Kemp, member of parliament for West Lincoln, and a member of Beamsville Baptist church, acted as chairman for the program of music and readings given in the church. Dr. Brownlee read his history of the church for the fifty years and a letter of congratulations and Christian greeting from Rev. E. Hooper, M.D. then residing in the city of Brockville.

The Niagara-Hamilton Association met with the Grimsby church that year to help mark the fiftieth anniversary.

Dr. Brownlee in his history stated that "as near as can be gathered from the records in the hands of the clerk, there have been baptized into the fellowship of the church since its organization in 1876, 355 persons. The present membership is 156."



The Primary Class of 1914-1916.



Rev. Richards, Jim Easson, Chuck Walker and Elsie Walker among others of the choir enjoying a picnic at the Oaks' home sometime in the middle 1920's.



THE SENIOR CHOIR IN THE EARLY 1930'S

Front Row: Grace Norton, Frances Konkle, Elsie Grigg, Greta Ormiston, Bessie Easson, Elsie Walker, Edith Phipps.

Back Row: Russell Grigg, Milton Morris, Mrs. Oaks, Fred Oaks (Director), Rev. Harvey Merritt, Bert Phipps, Helen Clattenburg, Mary Phipps, Arthur Norton, Lenore Harrod.

THE SIXTH DECADE – 1926 to 1936

Rev. T. E. Richards resigned in 1927 and was succeeded by Rev. James Taylor who remained until 1930 when Rev. Harvey Merritt became the minister. His pastorate lasted for nearly eight years.

These were perhaps the most difficult years for the Grimsby church as for many other churches. The so-called "depression of the 30's" was reflected in the financial condition of the church which was in the red over and over with constant borrowings from the bank. Again a mortgage had to be placed on the Livingston Ave. parsonage.

In spite of the leanness of the church treasury and a consequent feeling of discouragement, there were baptisms during these years and in 1935 the membership is listed as 165, the highest it had yet been. Of these 25 were non-resident members. The church was ordering 100 sets of duplex envelopes and the contributions to missions were well sustained. Even when they were having difficulty in meeting the salary of pastor and other requirements of their own church the Grimsby Baptists never neglected the missionary enterprise of the denomination.

In 1927 the pipe organ was purchased from the former Methodist church which was then becoming a part of the United Church of Canada. Mr. A. Norton presented a new communion table to the church.

Through the years the Sunday School has always been an encouraging part of the church. After Mr. Wollverton's death Mr. Marlow became superintendent, then Deacon Watson, Mr. Blanchard (for 17 years), Deacon W. W. Johnson, Mr. James Konkle were superintendents. It is perhaps unique in the history of Sunday Schools to have only 7 superintendents in 80 years. In 1933 there was a Bible class of between 20 and 30 adults; this was when the Sunday School was meeting after church in the morning. For a time a mission Sunday School was held in what was known as "The Hollow", several of the teachers going each Sunday afternoon. It was discontinued in 1934.

At the annual meeting in 1935 a visitation committee was arranged for, the district being divided into zones and three visitors appointed for each zone to visit homes every quarter. It was specified that such visitors were to be men.

THE SEVENTH DECADE — 1936 to 1946

After Mr. Merritt left in 1938 the church was without a regular pastor for a time; Dr. N. Leckie and then Rev. James Harton acted as interim ministers from Feb. 1938 to Sept. 1939 when Rev. T. E. Richards agreed to serve the church from his home in Hamilton. He came for Sundays and prayer meetings and for some pastoral visitation. This arrangement continued until Sept. 1942 when he resigned and the church called Mr. J. Richardson to be student pastor. Following his pastorate of two college years Rev. R. C. Standerwick was pastor from July 1944 until April 1946. For the first of these years he was doing work at McMaster going back and forth each day.

While Mr. Merritt was still here it was decided to sell the Livingston Ave. parsonage and purchase the house next to the church on Elm St. An immediate purchaser for the Livingstone Avenue house was not found, but the Merritts moved in to the Elm St. parsonage and the other parsonage was rented. For a time each house carried a mortgage, adding to the heavy financial burden of the church which had not recovered from the depression years when the Second World War brought added difficulties. Finally the Livingstone Ave. parsonage was sold in 1941 and the Elm St. house was rented until Mr. and Mrs. Standerwick came.

In 1937 the church reported its highest membership ever—168. In 1945 the membership was reported as 149 but the next year at the annual meeting the clerk reported only 72, of whom 12 were non-resident. Presumably the church roll had received a thorough going-over, but there were removals and some deaths and the church work had suffered through not having a full-time pastor on the field during several years. During Mr. Standerwick's pastorate a number were baptized, among them Walter Johnson now on his way to Angola as the first medical missionary to Africa from a Canadian Baptist Convention.

The Honour Roll for the Second World War has the names of 19 men and women one of whom gave his life for his country and the cause of freedom. The church felt greatly the loss of the contribution these young people would have been making to the church enterprise during these years.

At the annual meeting in 1945 Fred Oaks resigned as choir leader after 38 years of service.

At the end of this decade the church indebtedness had all been paid off and the members were rejoicing in an improved plant and a chance to look ahead to new fields of endeavour.

THE EIGHTH DECADE – 1946 to 1956

Rev. G. A. McLean came as pastor in June 1946 and remained until October 1949. Rev. C. R. Duncan became the minister in February 1950 and gave the church the benefit of his long experience in the pastorate and in denominational work until his sudden death in August 1953.

He was succeeded by Rev. F. A. Jewell in November 1953.

During his ministry, church auditorium, Sunday School building and parsonage were greatly improved and many extra pieces of equipment were added making the facilities for church work much more efficient.

The Grimsby church received a measure of reflected glory when McMaster University conferred on Rev. C. R. Duncan the degree of Doctor of Divinity in May 1951. In citing him for this honour Dr. Gilmour spoke of his long service of more than forty years as an ordained minister, of his years as educational secretary for the university and of the many offices he had held in the Baptist denominational enterprise. By way of congratulating him on this honour the Grimsby church arranged a surprise presentation to Dr. Duncan at a special fellowship night at the church.

The membership of the church grew steadily and care was taken to keep the number of non-resident members at a minimum. However, in March 1955, the church passed a resolution adopting a plan for "associate membership." Total membership in 1956 was 130, of whom 9 were associate memberships and 13 non-resident.



The Junior Choir in the Middle 1950's.



Bertha Jackson with many Indian Crafts.

"Aunt Belle" was a missionary to the Hopi Indians in the southern United States. When she arrived home in Grimsby, a Mission Circle Play was put on portraying her activities among the Indians with the local members acting the parts of the natives.



Eva Cline, Elsie Walker, & Miriam Cline preparing "lunch" while Aunt Belle looked on apprehensively.



Miriam Cline, Arthur Norton, Aunt Belle Crawford, Elsie Walker, Joe Richardson, Eva Cline and a young boy pose for their formal portrait.

THE NINTH DECADE – 1956 to 1966

Mr. Jewell remained in Grimsby until his call to serve in London, Ontario, in 1958. He was succeeded by Rev. Roland H. Glendinning the following year. During this decade Mr. Glendinning served seven years. An every-member canvass was conducted and a new spirit of commitment was instilled in the hearts of many in the congregation. Once again there was a change in the location of the pastor's residence. The fourth parsonage in the church's history was purchased at 6 Brierwood Avenue, a mile west of the church.

The congregation grew under the colourful ministry of this Irish-born minister. Popularity grew for the idea of inter-church cooperation at a time when Summer Union Services with St. John's Presbyterian and Trinity United Churches were held and greater dialogue opened up between the Protestant and Roman Catholic arms of the Church. Space for both worship services and the church school became a problem which the congregation faced realistically shortly after Mr. Glendinning's departure in 1966.



A ladies luncheon gathering at the Oaks' home. Mrs. Palmer Hill, Elsie Walker, Evie Grasley, Bess Easson, Lillie Burgess.

THE TENTH DECADE – 1966 to 1976

The congregation met in the Church School Hall in May, 1967, one month after the settlement of a new minister, Rev. Robert M. Strachan. The decision was made to re-locate Baptist work in Grimsby. In quick succession a Building Committee was formed, the building and two adjoining properties owned by the church were advertised for sale and plans were drawn up for new facilities. On July 24, the church building was sold to the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada who were establishing a new work in the area. Final services were held on September 17, with a Fireside following the evening meeting when several older members did some reminiscing.

For the next year the congregation met in Trinity United Church with Church School sessions being held in St. Joseph's Parish Hall and a local funeral home, all of whom graciously opened their doors. One warm June morning found the pastor teaching his Sunday School lesson in the old Roman Catholic cemetery beside the parish hall.

1968 represented the "works" to accompany the "faith" of the year before. The senior member, Mrs. Arthur P. Norton, turned the first sod at an afternoon ceremony on a new site purchased on Kennedy Road in Grimsby's Nelles Estates area. The date: March 31. Two weeks later construction began in earnest under the watchful eye of the former interim-pastor and Building Committee chairman, Rev. Harold E. Bridge.

On May 5, following the morning service, the members voted to change the name of the church to Centennial Park, it being felt that this would more clearly identify the new location and also add significance to this milestone event in the history of Baptists in Grimsby. Three weeks later Rev. R. H. Glendinning laid the cornerstone for the new structure at a service attended by 200 people.

The day of celebration came on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 13th. The sun shone brightly on the day when Rev. Archie Goldie, Secretary of the Department of Canadian Missions, preached at dedication services. An Open House brought scores of visitors to the new premises all afternoon.

There were more than 'visitors' who came to the church over the next three or four years. Faithful stalwarts came and stayed to become valued leaders. Many generous gifts made the work more effective as new equipment was purchased. The building, with its large gymnasium soon became a popular place for a flourishing group of young people, as well as a favourite spot for Baptist Association functions because of Grimsby's central location in the peninsula.

On October 14, 1973, the church dedicated over 200 copies of the new Baptist Federation of Canada Hymnal. Members of long-standing who sat under the ministry of Rev. Richard C. Standerwick were delighted when McMaster Divinity College through the University had conferred upon him in 1974 the degree Doctor of Divinity.

In November, a Centennial Planning Committee began holding monthly meetings as the congregation started preparations for celebrating its 100th birthday in 1976. A great deal of work was done throughout 1975 so that when the year ended the people looked with great expectation toward a time of glad rejoicing and thanksgiving to God.



The sod-turning ceremony for the new Centennial Park Baptist Church, March 31st, 1968, with Mrs. Arthur Norton doing the honours while Hugh Merritt, Rev. Duke and Rev. R. Strachan look on.



Mr. Harold Steedman, Reverend Harold Bridge and the builder's representative during the dedication ceremony of the new church on Sunday, October 13, 1968.



Rev. A. R. Goldie, Rev. R. Strachan, Helen Hendershot, Beulah Cartner, Shirley Wells and Mary Moniz at the dedication of the new Church.



The Ladies' Potluck Supper on December 9, 1975.

At the head of the table is Greta Ormiston, then to her left is Martha Johnson, Cora Bivand, Ruth Elliott, Helen Botterill, Mary Morris, Ethelyn Johnson, Mary Marshall and Muriel Leeson serving.



Left to right: Mae Steedman, Blanche Lewis, Catharine Lewis, Evelyn Neville, Frances Konkle, Victoria Fox and Mrs. Anna Warden in the foreground.



The Youth Choir
providing the
music at the
outdoor service
at Cave Springs
Park on
September 7,
1975.



The Men of This Congregation
Who Enlisted For Service In
THE GREAT WAR
1914-1918

Major W. W. Kidd
Capt. W. W. Johnson D.S.O. M.C. 2 Bars
Capt. R. H. Kidd M.C.
Corp. H. M. Brownlee M.M.
Corp. R. Goodman

Major L. E. McLay M.C. C.deG.
Capt. F. G. Kemp D.S.O. M.C.
Staff Sgt. A. C. Phipps
Corporal L. C. Scott
L. Corp. R. W. Haist M.M.

Pte. L. W. Phipps
R. B. Smith
R. C. Walters
N. H. Blanchard
C. R. Swift
C. G. Smye

Pte. G. W. Harrod
C. H. McNinch
F. Johnson
R. G. Johnson
R. W. Norton
Gnr. G. W. O'Field

Pte. M. Sharp
Pte. L. Jefferies
L. Sgt. R. C. W. Sharp

The Men & Women of This Congregation
Who Enlisted For Service in
WORLD WAR II
1939-1945

Col. W. W. Johnson D.S.O. M.C. O.B.E.

Charles Johnson
Betty Johnson
Albert Norton
Edward Konkle
Alex Gillespie
James Konkle
Jack Laing
Blake Marlow
Norman Lunt

Anthony Mahady
John Morris
Robert Forsyth
Keith Brown
George Merritt
Morris Marlow
Shirley Hill
Douglas Parsonage

Ralph Byford

ANECDOTES FROM YEARS PAST

- 1876 Roll of Charter Members: Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Woolverton, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis King, Mr. & Mrs. Linus Woolverton, Alexander J. McKay, Mrs. Wm. Forbes, Miss Lillian Kitchen, Mrs. Henry Plain, Miss Sarah McKay, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Lawrence, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vear and Mr. George Eto. All were dismissed from Beamsville and became the constituent members of the Grimsby Baptist Church whose work was located in the Bible Hall, Adelaide Street, donated by Charles E. Woolverton.
- The first minister to serve the Grimsby church, Reverend E. Hooper, was also a medical doctor, and served here twice. He was engaged in pastoral work, preaching on Thursday evenings in the little Bible Hall (Adelaide Street), which was crowded to hear him, and once each month on Sunday afternoon after Sunday School.
- At a meeting convened for organizing the Baptist congregation in Grimsby, December 28, 1876, the Clerk was instructed to write to the churches of the then Niagara Association inviting delegates from each to recognize the new sister church. Excellent postal service and a minimum of 'red tape' permitted this to be done the following Thursday, January 4, 1877.
- 1877 On the church's first anniversary (Dec. 27, 1877) it was reported that 45 had been added to the list of 18 constituent members, making a total of 63. With 5 dismissed to other churches and one death, the membership stood at 57. The Bible Class had 50 enrolled. That day a service of Prayer and Praise was held at 2 p.m., followed by business, and at 3 o'clock Rev. I. W. A. Stewart of St. Catharines preached.
- 1881 Erected on property generously donated by Charles E. Woolverton, the Baptist Church at Mountain and Elm streets was formally opened and dedicated on January 23, 1881. Dr. Castle of Jarvis Street Church, Toronto, was guest speaker for the occasion. Two weeks later, February 6, Rev. William Needham began a pastorate lasting 1½ years.
- 1884 In the minister's report to the congregation on January 19, 1884, he observed that "the work must generally suffer until the singing can be better sustained and the comfort of the congregation more promptly considered by the church ushers."

1885 A Ladies Aid Society was in existence early in our church's history. The group sponsored a party on the lawn of Charles E. Woolverton in July, 1885. The admission was free and a sale table "for goods and provisions" was set up, with permission of the whole church body. Mrs. William Forbes became president of a Mission Circle organized the following year, making the group ninety years old.

A quarterly treasurer's report (April 1, 1885) showed expenses of 55¢ for telegraphing, \$2.20 for coal oil lampwicks, and \$1.00 for cutting wood. A caretaker was hired for that year at a salary of \$3. per month, "provided he is willing to include lifting mats once a quarter, lighting lamps for all regular meetings, building fires earlier on cold winter mornings and keeping doors closed after morning services until 2.15 p.m."

1889 It was resolved on September 11, 1889, that "we offer the Presbyterians the use of this church during the month of October for every other Sunday morning service, while their new church is being completed." The Baptists withdrew their service on the day of the Dedication of the new structure the following year.

The practice of receiving a special offering on Communion Sunday each month is of long standing. On December 6, 1885 it was donated to the Welland Church which was in great financial trouble. In May, 1889, the gifts went to the coloured church in Chatham, Ontario, in response to an appeal. In recent years a large sum has been forwarded to the B.F.C. World Relief Outreach.

1896 In 1896 a service to the village was rendered by the Baptists at Mountain and Elm streets, offering free use of a well on the church property provided it be fenced and safely planked, and a boardwalk be put down at the side of the church. It was also a condition that the well be public "for domestic and fire purposes only; and not made a public watering place for horses"!!

Some statistics presented at the Annual Business Meeting, on Jan. 8, 1896: Mission Fund report: Home Missions, \$42.00; Foreign Missions, \$51.00; Indian, \$6.00; Grande Ligne \$7.00; Ministerial Education, \$4.00; Manitoba and North West, \$4.00; Total, \$114. Total membership was 113. Average attendance was 75 in the morning 115 at the Evening Services.

1898 The fourteenth Grimsby pastor was Rev. Llewelyn Brown who was ordained in the church on May 23, 1898, before an examining council of 14 churches, including Walmer Road, Bloor Street and College Street Churches in Toronto. On June 13 it was moved that he be given the parsonage from October 1 to June 1899, free of rent, "it being understood that he pay the taxes."

- 1903 "Money's worth in the 1900's": April, 1903—Rev. Perren Baker was invited to the pastorate for one year at a salary of \$600. This was renewed one year later at the same amount. In May, 1904 the parsonage was sold for \$1350. \$500 of this was invested in the Provident Loan Co. @ 4½%. Association fees in 1909 were assessed at 2¢ for each resident member.
- 1905 Four parsonages have been owned by the church to house the ministers who have served here since 1905, the first two located at 39 Mountain Street and on Livingston Avenue respectively. The home at 21 Elm Street, located directly behind the church, was purchased in 1941 and rented until sold with the church in 1967. The present property at 6 Brierwood Avenue was bought in 1959.
- 1925 The young people who conduct worship today stand on a foundation well-laid in our history. Baptist witness in Grimsby began long before 1876 with a strong Sunday School work on Adelaide street under superintendent Charles E. Woolverton. Reports of a Baptist Young People's Union were later given regularly at annual business meetings of the church with consistently encouraging signs of growth. In 1925, 35 were enrolled in a Mission Band which contributed \$89.88 to Home and "Foreign" Missions.
- 1926 The church celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1926. Rev. H. W. Wright of Trinity Baptist Church, Hamilton preached to crowded congregations. Mrs. Brodie who had been a member of the choir for 50 years sang that day. Over 300 attended a semi-centennial dinner in three sittings since only 110 could be accommodated at one time. The Niagara Hamilton Association met that year in Grimsby.
- 1927 After the morning service of September 18, 1927, the members remained to consider purchase of the pipe organ from Central United Church (now St. George's Church, Ontario Street). A separate fund was opened at the bank for offsetting this expense. The church was re-decorated at the time of installation and at least one service was held in the Sunday School Hall while pipes and equipment were occupying the church pews.
- 1928 In the early decades of this century it was the regular practice at the annual business meetings to elect three deacons by ballot vote. Those receiving the highest number were elected for the year. When the clerk's report was given, members were designated male and female. On April 11, 1928, there were 57 male and 110 female members on the roll. All deacons were members of the Board of Management by right of their elected office.

1930 The January 14, 1930 report of the Bible School was given by Miss Evie Grasley. It indicated ten teachers and eighty-seven scholars enrolled, down from the previous year due to several moves from town and a recent scarlet fever epidemic. Marks were awarded to classes for perfect attendance, the prize being a free trip to the picnic.

1968 Using the trowel now displayed in the Narthex, Rev. R. H. Glendinning declared the cornerstone "well and truly laid" at a ceremony May 26, 1968. Contents placed in the stone compartment include church documents, orders of service for the day, copies of the Hamilton Spectator (May 25) and Grimsby Independent (May 22). Also taking part were Mr. Ken Frid, Chairman of the Deacons Board, Dr. Leland A. Gregory, General Secretary of the Baptist Convention and Mr. William Allingham, Moderator of Niagara Hamilton Association.

During construction of our present building worship was conducted in Trinity United Church. It was on May 5, 1968 that a meeting was called in that sanctuary to adopt by ballot vote a change in name. As a result, Grimsby Baptist Church became Centennial Park Baptist Church, in view of its proximity to the park opened in Canada's centennial year in a new area of Grimsby where we would begin serving five months later. Work on the site had begun three weeks earlier by employees of the H. Vandermeulen Construction Company, Burlington.

Mrs. Arthur P. Norton was the senior member of this church in 1968. On March 31, 1968, on a 2-acre site which had been an abandoned grape and fruit orchard on Kennedy Road, Mrs. Norton turned over the first sod, thus formally launching the building of Centennial Park Church. Actual construction began April 16 and was completed in 6 months. On this anniversary we salute the memory of this long-devoted and much-loved servant of God.

1976 Probably few churches can equal the record of 9 Sunday School Superintendents in more than a century. The 'Honour Roll' reads: C. E. Woolverton, Mr. Marlow, Deacon Watson, Phillip Blanchard (17 years), Deacon W. W. Johnson, Mr. James Konkle, Miss Miriam Cline, Mr. J. E. Morris, Mr. J. Lawrie. Mr. Woolverton served from an unrecorded date prior to 1876.

Ten other churches in our Convention celebrated their centennials during 1976. A Letter was sent from our congregation to each by way of congratulations: Alvinston, Brooker, Cambridge (First Baptist), Glenelg Centre, Glenelg North, Goodwood, Rodney, Walsh, West Lorne and Whitby.

THE

HUNDRETH YEAR

1976

CENTENNIAL YEAR – 1976

As a prelude to the celebrations of the church's centenary, the Senior Choir was robed in new gowns dedicated on the last Sunday of 1975. Throughout the year, the choir, under direction of Mrs. Duncan McIntosh, added depth and beauty to the worship of God in leading the congregation week by week. One of their major works was the singing of the Palm Sunday cantata, "Hallelujah! What a Saviour".

From the beginning of its Centennial Year planning, the church was fortunate to have the dedicated guidance of a co-ordinating committee who met monthly for over two years: Mr. J. E. Morris, chairman, Dr. C. L. Ricketson, vice-chairman, Rev. R. Strachan, secretary, Miss M. H. Armstrong, Mrs. H. E. Bridge, Mr. K. Frid, Mrs. D. McIntosh and Miss G. Ormiston. The Committee had power to add to its members, and records its gratitude to all those who willingly gave of time, talent and treasure.

The Planning Committee was anxious from the start to secure the services of the three former pastors still living. Their wishes were met, much to the delight of the congregation and the inspiration of the whole Year. Rev. Fred A. Jewell (1953-1958) of Kingsville preached at the services on the opening Sunday of January. Mid-way through the year, Dr. Richard C. Standerwick travelled from Vancouver. He had ministered in Grimsby from 1944 to 1946. Finally, Rev. Roland H. Glendinning of Brockville, who served from 1959 to 1966, returned for the closing Lord's Day, Anniversary Sunday, December 26. The church is indebted to these men, not only for their joining us this year, but for their unique ministries of the past which are so much a part of Centennial Park's story.

Guest choirs highlighted much of the year. Along with soloists and instrumentalists, they caused music and rejoicing to be heard within the house of God. They included the North American Baptist Choir from Kitchener and Toronto; the Ambassadors, a male chorus from Burlington; the Nelles Public School Choir; the Estonian Baptist Choir of Toronto; the Peace and Joy Choir from Vineland; Miss Jill Brierley; and the Mountview Mennonite Instrumentalists.

Special days brought special guests. February was celebrated as Denominational Month. B.F.C.-B.W.A. Sunday was observed. Dr. Ronald F. Watts, General Secretary of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, and Miss Matilda Findlay, C.B.O.M.B. missionary to Bolivia, both spoke during the month.

March was Community Month. The Women's Society for Christian Service hosted the Day of Prayer Service when Dr. Lois A. Tupper of McMaster Divinity College spoke. Other churches in the district were invited to participate in an Open House when displays depicting their own history were arranged in Woolverton Hall and well over 300 attended the afternoon event. The sanctuary was filled for a mammoth Hymnsing.

As an experiment, the annual Church Picnic was held at the back of the church property on June 26. A delicious barbecue was served, and a few games were played just before an ominous sky, then an early summer rain brought a hasty end to the proceedings.

The months of July and August gave a respite to many. A re-location of the worship service on July 11 was well supported as the congregation attended the closing service of the Baptist Federation of Canada Assembly in Hamilton Place. The annual Youth Alive retreat was also held at Elora Gorge that month.

Banners and stirring hymns were featured at the church when the Church School and Morning Worship Service were combined to mark Christian Education Sunday. The service was an expression of reflection on the past and faith in the future, as the congregation was reminded in drama and sermon that our work in Grimsby had begun as a Sunday School movement, and the young people present that day were ones whom God would be using as his witnesses in the church's second century. The Adult Class presented a skit based upon an actual meeting of the church held in the late 19th century.

The following Sunday the members and choir of First Baptist Church, Beamsville, worshipped with us, and their former minister, Rev. Dr. Roy C. Cook, preached. Another link with the past was brought before us with the reminder that it was from this historic congregation that our church had received its eighteen charter members.

October was undoubtedly the busiest and most exciting month of the centenary. Invitations had gone out weeks earlier inviting former members and friends, as well as those in the present congregation, to participate in a Homecoming Festival. The day brought all that the planners could have hoped for. The Kindergarten Room, which had been re-decorated and re-named 'Centennial Room', contained historic displays of great interest to the visitors. Woolverton Hall was aglow with oil lamps and bright cloths, tiffany shades and streamers, for the banquet at which over 250 sat. The programme held later in the sanctuary opened to the strains of Hagood Hardy's 'The Homecoming', and brought words of welcome from community and church-related bodies, reminiscing in stories, slides and movies, and joyous music, including a Centennial Hymn, the winning entry in a church-wide contest held in September and written by Mrs. Harry Cartner. Among greetings brought were those of Mr. David S. Simmonds, Past-president of the Baptist Federation of Canada who brought a challenging message the next day as we marked Baptist Men's Sunday.

One of the most successful Church School Christmas concerts ever held took place on December 12. A record crowd saw the deep spiritual meaning of the Christmas story portrayed and a specially-made birthday cake used to tie together the event of Christmas and the birthday of our church.

Throughout the Centennial Year, a large sign was in place on the outside north wall. It declared what the celebration was about: "100 Years for Christ in Grimsby: 1876-1976". From the outset of its planning, the Committee wished to maintain a high spiritual quality to the birthday. In large measure this was achieved. Plans were initiated by our church to have sponsored in Grimsby an 'Invitation to Live' crusade in the Fall of 1977. This action is testimony to the aspirations of a Christ-centred people that theirs is a continuing ministry. We believe that God planted a vision in the hearts of Charles Woolverton and his fellow yoke-bearers that we have only begun to see. As a Watchnight Service opened the Year, so a similar event closed it. Those who were present remembered that an event such as we had moved through, is not an end in itself, but a milestone to be recalled with thanksgiving and accepted with challenge.

MY CENTENNIAL POEM

There's a cause for celebration,
It's a time of jubilee
It's a time to be together
Jesus Christ and me.

Debbie May

CHURCH OFFICERS 1976

MINISTER: Mr. Robert M. Strachan

DEACONS: Mrs. H. Bridge, Mrs. F. Botterill, Mr. J. Dyck, Dr. C. L. Ricketson, Dr. R. A. Cline, Mr. G. Ruggeberg,
Mr. K. Frid, Mr. J. Moniz

TRUSTEES: Mr. A. Judd, Mr. R. McElroy, Mr. H. Steedman

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT: Mr. K. W. Leeson, Mr. J. Myers, Mr. N. Lunt, Mr. F. Botterill, Mrs. A. Elliott,
Mr. D. Morris

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Mrs. J. Johnson, Mrs. D. Judd, Mrs. A. E. Johnson, Mr. K. Frid,
Mrs. R. Strachan, Mrs. G. Arnott, Mr. J. Lawrie

MUSIC COMMITTEE: Mrs. R. A. Cline, Mrs. P. Judd, Mrs. J. Moniz, Mrs. J. E. Morris, Mrs. H. Steedman

FLOWER COMMITTEE: Mrs. W. Baker, Mrs. H. E. Bridge, Mrs. N. Lunt, Mr. D. Judd

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: Miss M. Armstrong, Mrs. H. E. Bridge, Mr. K. Frid, Mr. J. E. Morris,
Mrs. D. McIntosh, Miss G. Ormiston, Dr. C. L. Ricketson, Rev. R. Strachan, Mr. D. Judd

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Mrs. A. Dipper, Mr. D. Judd, Mrs. J. Moniz, Mrs. H. Steedman

BOARD OF USHERS: Mr. L. C. Allingham, Mr. J. Blaine, Mr. R. Brooks, Miss D. Chapman, Mr. K. Frid,
Mr. J. Lawrie, Mr. K. W. Leeson, Miss B. Lewis, Mr. N. Lunt, Miss S. Lynch, Mr. J. Myers (Chairman),
Miss N. Ricketson, Mr. T. Vandermolen, Mr. K. Wilkins, Miss S. Wilkins, Mr. G. Moniz

CHURCH TREASURER: Mrs. G. Ruggeberg

CHURCH CLERK: Mrs. R. McElroy

ENVELOPE SECRETARY: Mrs. H. Cartner

AUDITORS: Mr. J. G. Bateman, Mrs. R. W. L. Forsyth

TELLERS: Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Baker, Mr. & Mrs. A. Elliott, Mr. & Mrs. P. Judd, Mr. & Mrs. F. Botterill,
Mr. & Mrs. A. Judd, Mr. & Mrs. C. Lewis

CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. J. E. Morris

BIBLE SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES: Dr. R. A. Cline, Mr. C. Horsman, Mrs. C. Horsman

1976 CENTENNIAL EVENTS

Centennial Year was launched at a Watchnight Service, Wednesday, December 31, 1975.

- JANUARY**
- 4 — Guest: Rev. F. A. Jewell, Kingsville; Pastor, 1953-1958.
Dedication Service of Church Officers
 - 18 — Service of Prayer for Christian Unity, St. Joseph's R. C. Church
 - 28 — Annual Business Meeting
- FEBRUARY**
- 1 — Baptist Federation of Canada—Baptist World Alliance Sunday
 - 8 — Mountview Mennonite Instrumentalists
 - 15 — Guest: Dr. R. F. Watts, General Secretary, Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec and a Billy Graham movie film
 - 17 — W.S.C.S. Thankoffering; Speaker, Miss Matilda Findlay, Bolivia
 - 22 — North American Baptist Choir (Kitchener, Toronto and Buffalo)
- MARCH**
- 5 — Day of Prayer: Dr. Lois A. Tupper, Hamilton
 - 13-14 — Open House
 - 14 — Hymnsing
- APRIL**
- 3 — Association Spring Rally, Queen Street Church, St. Catharines
 - 11 — Palm Sunday: Senior Choir Cantata, "Hallelujah, What A Saviour!"
 - 18 — Easter. Guest Soloist, Miss Jill Brierley, Oakville
 - 21 — Spring Business Meeting
 - 25 — B.W.M.S. Sunday
- MAY**
- 9 — Guest: Dr. R. C. Standerwick, Vancouver; Pastor, 1944-1946
 - 16 — Youth Alive Choir, Vineland Peace and Joy Choir
- JUNE**
- 6 — Pentecost Sunday
 - 13 — 'Ambassadors', Burlington
 - 26 — Family Barbecue

- JULY** **8-11** — Baptist Federation of Canada Assembly, Hamilton Place
- AUGUST** **1** — Mr. Laurie Morris B.A.
8-15 — Mr. Terry Laing
22 — Rev. Dixon Gordon B.A. B.D.
- SEPTEMBER** **5** — Labour Day Sunday
12 — Christian Education Sunday
19 — 'Beamsville Day'. Guest: Dr. R. C. Cook, Hamilton
- OCTOBER** **10** — Thanksgiving Sunday
16 — Homecoming Festival
17 — Baptist Men's Sunday: Mr. D. Simmonds, President, Baptist Federation of
Canada, Uxbridge
- NOVEMBER** **10** — Fall Business Meeting
14 — Estonian Choir, Toronto
- DECEMBER** **12** — Christmas Concert
26 — Anniversary Sunday. Guest: Rev. Roland H. Glendinning, Brockville; Pastor,
1959-1966
28 — Centennial

Centennial Committee

Mr. J. Morris — Chairman
Dr. L. Ricketson — Assistant Chairman (Youth Functions)
Rev. R. Strachan — Recording Secretary, Historical Committee
Miss Margaret Armstrong — Corresponding Secretary, Historical Committee
Mr. K. Frid — Publicity, Art
Mrs. May Bridge — Social, Historical
Mrs. D. McIntosh — Music
Miss Greta Ormiston — Historical Committee
Mr. David Judd — Chairman Homecoming

THE CENTENNIAL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH YOUTH ALIVE CHOIR

Jim Blaine, Garry Joslin, Kathleen Wilkins, Doug Metcalfe, Carol Benson, Doug Wilkie, Gary Moniz,
Nellie Van Veldhuizen, Sue Lynch, Donna Chapman, Tina Kort, Ruth MacKenzie,
Kim White, Nancy Ricketson, Laurie Strachan.





Rev. F. A. Jewell conducting the service on January 4th, 1976.



The Mountview Mennonite Instrumentalists performing on February 8th.



Jim Blaine, Kathleen Wilkins and Gary Moniz, three members of the Youth Alive Choir.



Dr. Watts being welcomed by Dr. Lou Ricketson.



Dr. R. F. Watts, General Secretary, Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, giving the sermon on February 15th.

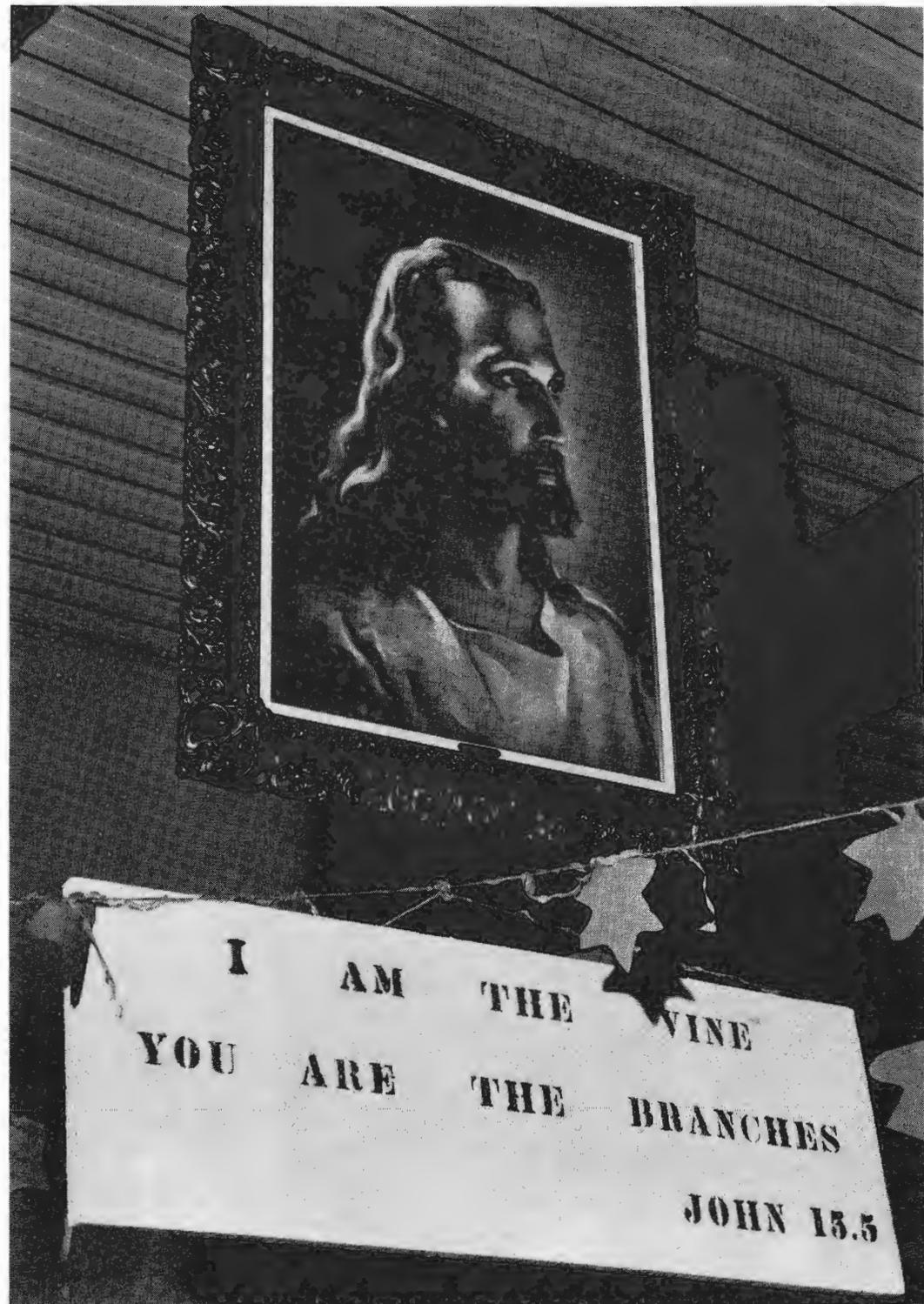


The men's monthly breakfast and fellowship meeting. Gerry Ruggeberg, Ken Frid, Bob Cline, Ross Laidlaw, Lou Ricketson, Clifford Horsman, Norm Lunt and Paul Judd.

The Cub and Scout Church Parade under the leadership of Jim Myers on February 22nd.



OPEN HOUSE — MARCH 13 - 14



The Centre Display in Woolverton Hall.



Some of the displays at the Open House.



Jack Morris, Chairman of the Centennial Committee, and Reverend Buis of St. Joseph's Catholic Church having a discussion among the displays of Open House.



Mrs. M. I. Morris signing the guest register.



Laurie and Billy Strachan enjoying old pictures.



Some of the crowd enjoying a slide show.



Rev. R. Strachan, Archdeacon H. Ferris and Miss Florence Martin

admiring some historical papers of the Church.

Mrs. L. Ricketson explaining the purpose of the Open House to some visitors.





"With Joyfulness we proclaim the Risen Christ"



Dr. R. A. Standerwick preaching on May 9th.



Mr. David S. Simmonds,
guest speaker on October 17th.



Mr. Milton Morris enjoying memories with Dr. Standerwick.



The Vineland Peace and Joy Choir giving a concert on May 16th.



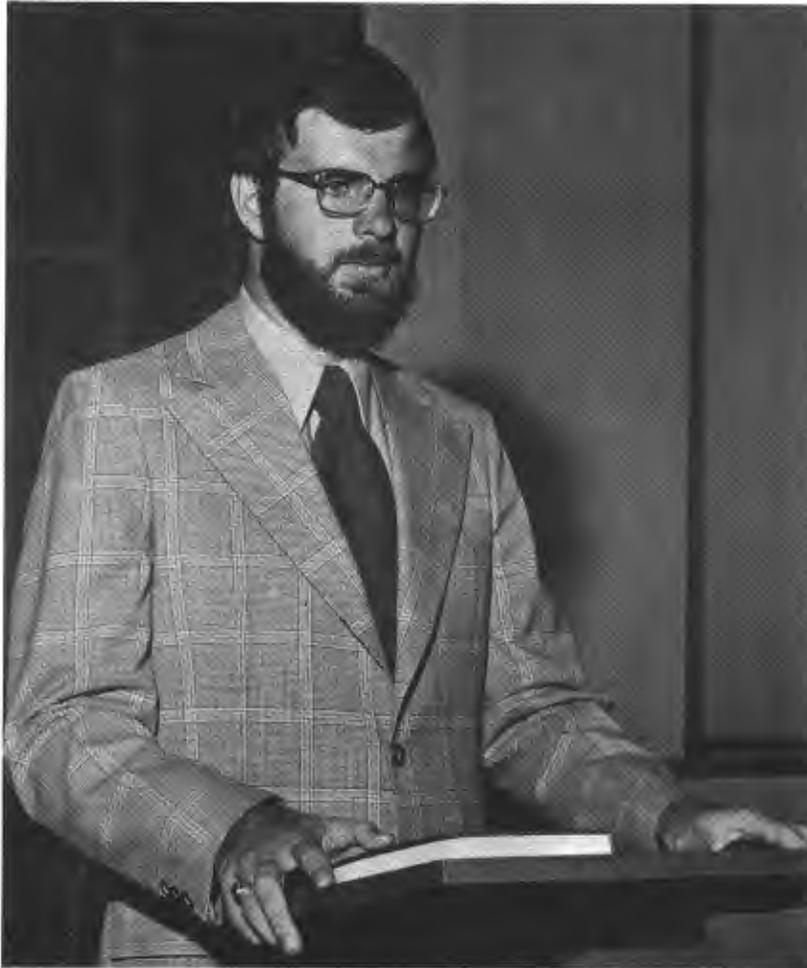
Mr. Terry Laing giving the sermon on August 8th and the 15th.



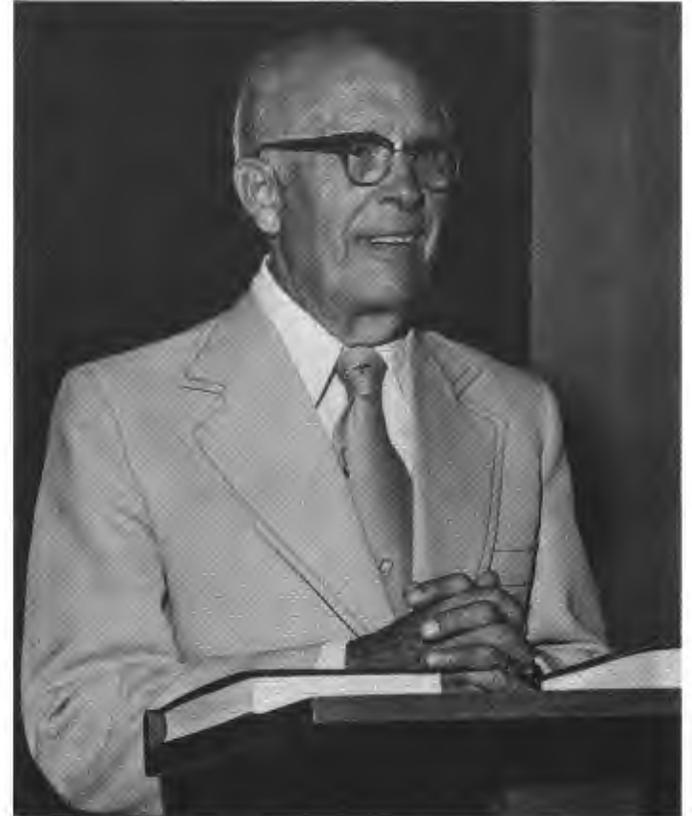
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Laing meeting Mrs. Mae Bridge.



Susan Gowans and Kathy Cline giving a concert on August 22nd.



Mr. Laurie Morris B.A. preaching on August 1st.



Rev. Dixon Gordon B.A. B.D. on August 22nd.



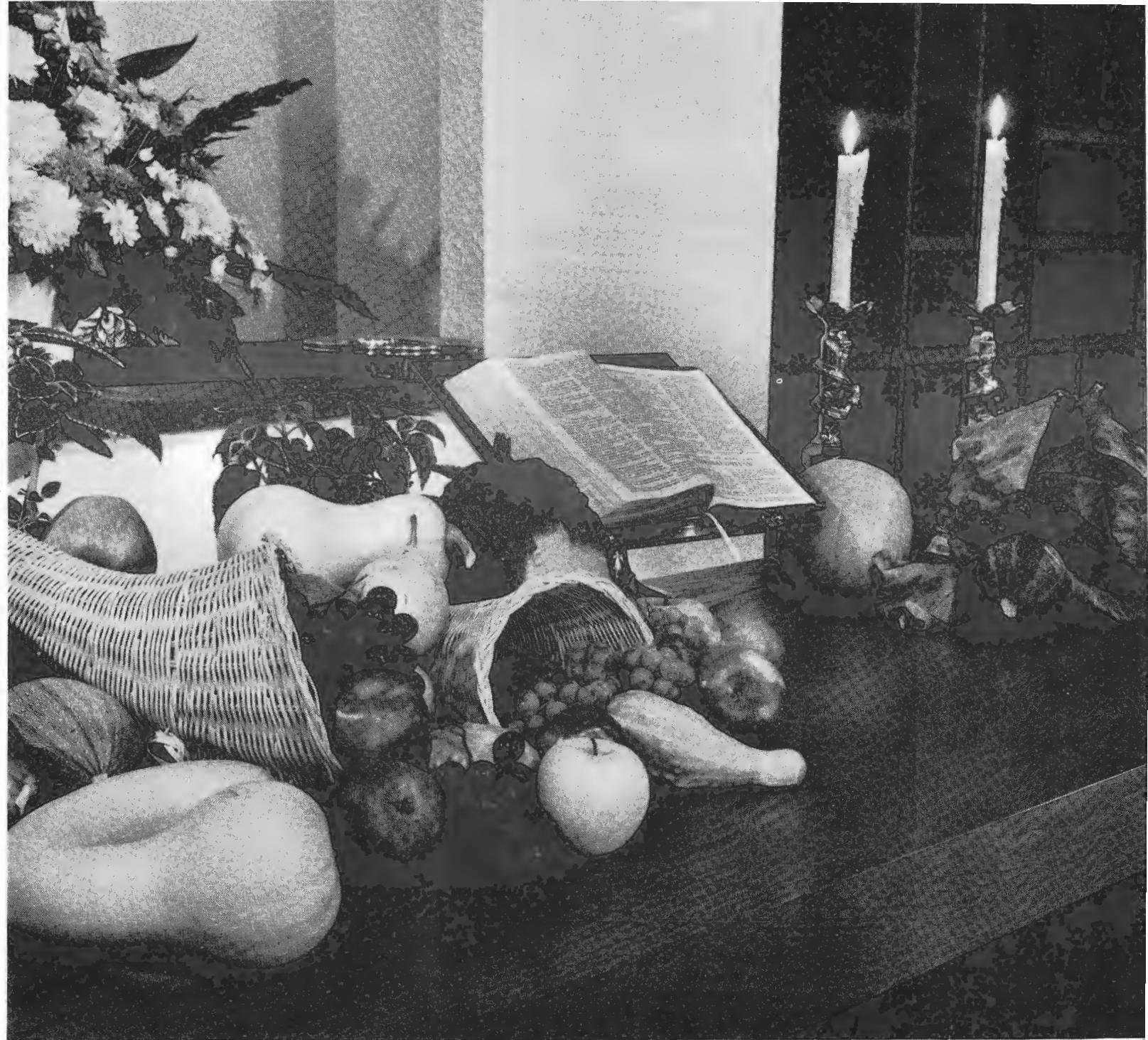
Reverend Strachan welcoming Dr. R. C. Cook and Reverend Frank Morgan.



Dr. Cook and Reverend Morgan having conversations with the morning worshippers.



"Beamsville Day." A coffee hour was held after the morning service.



"With Thanksgiving, unto Thine own have we given Thee"



Mildred and David Judd welcoming guests.



Blanche Lewis, in her Grandmother's dress, is admiring a pitcher of earlier days.



Mae Bridge and Joyce Attwell admiring a well preserved spinning wheel.



Kathleen Wilkins and Nancy Ricketson serving punch.



Woolverton Hall converted into a banquet room.



Barbara Cline is busy preparing plates of cake for the dinner.





Mae Bridge

Edred and David Judd presenting corsages in appreciation for their services during Centennial Year.



The C.G.I.T. girls from Trinity United Church helping Joe Moniz to wash dishes.

Cora Bivand



Beulah Cartner,



Donna Brooks, the girls' leader, relieved Joe from his arduous task.



Mixed generations enjoy the Homecoming Celebration.





Long before the 1927 purchase of the pipe organ, a Mason-Hamlin organ had been presented (1880) by one of the charter members of the church; Mr. McKay, whose son later became the pastor. Mrs. Kidd was organist. In November, 1918, Miss Greta Ormiston was appointed and has been active in the ministry of music in this church ever since. She is also the member of longest standing. We extend to her a Centennial Salute!



Mrs. M. I. Morris and Miss Greta Ormiston ceremoniously cutting the Centennial Cake.



The Youth Section of the Estonian Choir.



On November 14th, Mr. Peter Kaups directed the Estonian Choir.



MY CENTENNIAL POEM

There's a cause for celebration,
It's a time for jubilee,
It's our 100th Anniversary,
In Grimsby, don't you see?
We are here to live for Jesus,
And proclaim Him from sea to sea,
As did our great forefathers,
Who paved the way for thee,
Step right up and take your banner,
There is one for you and me,
There's a task set down before us,
Which will always make us free,
We must shine and hold our banners high,
And never, never flee,
For we are on Christ's side you know!
How happy we must be,
We have been here for a hundred years,
And will always, always be,
For with Jesus as our leader,
We will live eternally,
Step right up and take your banner,
Jesus said I'm here, take Me!

Ken Frid

"For
unto
you
is born
this day
in the
City
of
David
a
Saviour,
which
is
Christ
the Lord."





The Junior Class of Betty Williams finishing their act.



Bags of candies were distributed to the children after the Christmas Concert.



Mr. Paul Judd leading the congregation in singing Christmas Carols.



The Kindergarten Class and Primary Class
under the direction of Gwen Myers and Nancy Ricketson.



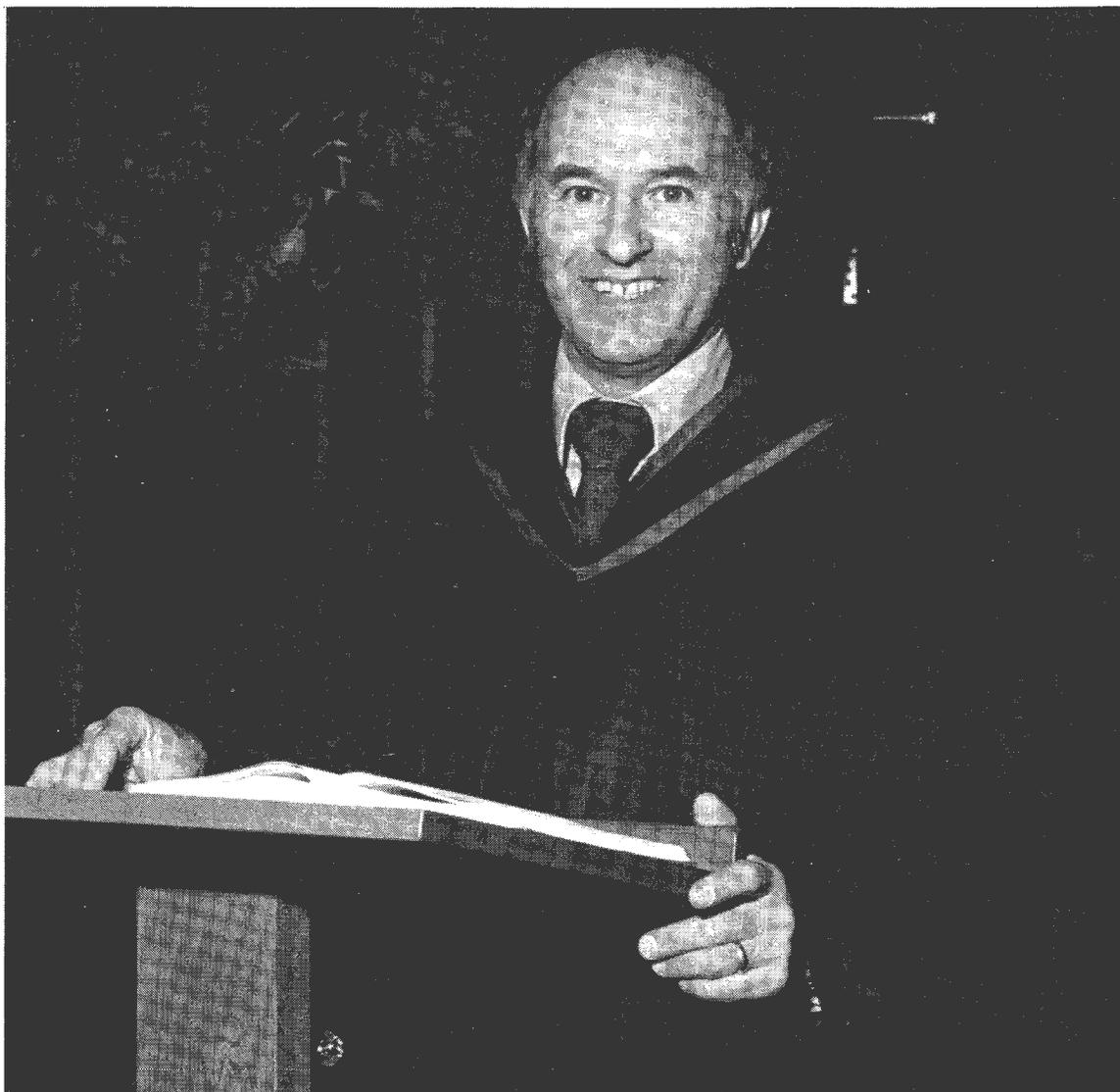
Helen Botterill's Middler Class having a good time performing.



Rev. Glendinning having a happy discussion with Joel Johnson and Muriel Leeson.



Mrs. Anna Warden reminiscing with Rev. Glendinning while Mrs. Hilda Moniz looks on.



Reverend Roland H. Glendinning, guest preacher on the Anniversary Sunday, December 26th, 1976.

CENTENNIAL HYMN

(Words by Mrs. H. Cartner;

Tune: 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic')

1. There's a cause for celebration;
It's a time for jubilee,
When the Baptist congregation
Comes to worship prayerfully,
For a hundred years have passed
Since our church was first conceived,
And grateful souls are we.
2. We do not know the hardships
That our fathers had to bear,
But we know it was their steady faith
That made them not despair.
If we follow in their footsteps
And set our sights on Thee,
Then victors we will be.

Chorus:

Thank Thee, Lord, for all Thy blessings,
Thank Thee for Thy tender love,
May we press on in Thy service
To greater things above.



CENTENNIAL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR

**Mrs. R. A. Cline, Mr. P. Judd, Mrs. P. Judd, Mr. J. Moniz, Mrs. L. Allingham, Mr. G. Moniz, Mr. D. Judd,
Mrs. A. Judd, Mrs. J. Morris, Mrs. F. Botterill, Mrs. J. Forsyth, Mrs. H. Bridge, Miss E. Judd,
Miss L. Rodgers, Mrs. P. Vandermolten, Mrs. H. Cartner, Mrs. J. Moniz, Mrs. J. Myers, Miss L. Strachan,
Mrs. I. McIntosh, Organist & Leader.**

MINISTERS

WHO HAVE SERVED IN GRIMSBY BAPTIST CHURCH

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1877 - 1880 | Rev. E. Hooper | |
| 1880 | Rev. C. C. Willett | |
| 1881 - 1883 | Rev. Wm. Needham | |
| 1883 - 1884 | Rev. Charles Owen | |
| 1885 - 1886 | Rev. R. R. McKay | |
| 1886 | Rev. T. A. Hughes | |
| | Rev. C. H. Phillemore | |
| | Rev. J. Roberts | Student Pastors, 1886 - 1896 |
| | Rev. R. L. McDougall | |
| | Rev. O. G. Langford | |
| | Rev. H. E. Stillwell | |
| | Rev. E. Russell | |
| 1896 - 1897 | Rev. O. C. Elliott | |
| 1897 - 1901 | Rev. Llewelyn Brown | |
| | Rev. A. Cohoe | |
| | Rev. Perrin Baker | |
| | Rev. Dr. T. S. Johnson | |
| 1906 - 1910 | Rev. J. T. Priest | |
| 1912 - 1923 | Rev. Thomas Ratcliffe | |
| 1923 - 1927 | Rev. T. E. Richards | |
| 1927 - 1930 | Rev. James Taylor | |
| 1930 - 1938 | Rev. Harvey Merritt | |
| 1938 - 1939 | Rev. J. L. Harton | |
| 1939 - 1942 | Rev. T. E. Richards | |
| 1942 - 1944 | Rev. J. J. Richardson | |
| 1944 - 1946 | Rev. R. C. Standerwick | |
| 1946 - 1949 | Rev. G. A. McLean | |
| 1950 - 1953 | Rev. Dr. C. R. Duncan | |
| 1953 - 1958 | Rev. Fred R. Jewell | |
| 1959 - 1966 | Rev. Roland H. Glendinning | |
| 1967 - | Rev. Robert M. Strachan | |

CENTENNIAL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

1976

(*Member. **Associate Member)

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| ALLEN, Mrs. D. | 290 – 6 Viking Court |
| ALLINGHAM, Mr. & *Mrs. G. H. | 5 John Street |
| ALLINGHAM, Mr. & *Mrs. L. C. | 11 Bartlett Avenue |
| ALLINGHAM, Mr. & Mrs. N. | Mountainview Road |
| ALLINGHAM, Mr. & Mrs. S. | 16 Orchard Parkway |
| *ARMSTRONG, Miss Margaret H. | 396A Ontario Street |
| ARNOTT, Mr. & Mrs. G. | 10 Nassau Drive |
| | |
| *BAKER, Miss D'Arcy | 27 Bedford Park Road |
| *BAKER, Mr. & Mrs. Willard G. | 27 Bedford Park Road |
| BARTKIW, Mr. & *Mrs. Peter | Green Lane |
| *BATEMAN, Mr. & Mrs. J. G. | 10 Murray Street |
| *BATEMAN, Mr. John | Apt. 603, 65 Park St. E., Mississauga |
| BEAMER, Mr. & Mrs. Robert | 408 Ontario Street |
| *BERRY, Mrs. Philip | 9 Gibson Street |
| BIVAND, Mrs. H. | 9 Oak Street |
| *BLACK, Mrs. Lillian | Apt. 614, 1 Slessor Blvd. |
| *BLAINE, Mr. James | 37 Garden Drive |
| *BOND, Mr. J. Douglas | Apt. 405, 1 Slessor Blvd. |
| *BOND, Mr. Herbert | Mississauga |
| *BOND, Mr. James | Apt. 405, 1 Slessor Blvd. |
| *BOOKER, Mrs. L. | 330 Lakeshore Drive, Burlington |
| BOTTERILL, **Mr. & *Mrs. F. | 9 Maple Avenue |
| *BRIDGE, Mrs. H. E. | 45 Lakeview Avenue |
| BRINKMAN, Mr. & Mrs. R. P. | 17 Governor's Road |
| BRUNEAU, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel | 38 Garden Drive |
| *BRUNTON, Mrs. A. | 30 Central Avenue |
| BYFORD, Mrs. Ruby | Apt. 314, 3 Slessor Blvd. |

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| *CARTNER, Mrs. H. | Apt. 2, 30 Ontario Street |
| *CHAPMAN, Miss Donna | 42 Governor's Road |
| CLIFFORD, Mr. & Mrs. J. S. | 8 Melrose Avenue |
| *CLINE, Miss Miriam | 876 The Greenway, Mississauga |
| *CLINE, Miss Kathryn | Roberts Road |
| *CLINE, Dr. & Mrs. Robert A. | Roberts Road |
| COLLETTI, Mr. & Mrs. Emanuele | 23 Elm Street |
| *COOPER, Mrs. Frank | Apt. 1405, 235 Rebecca Street, Hamilton |
| CRAIG, Mr. & Mrs. Donald | 433 Maple Avenue |
| *CROUSE, Mrs. C. | Hamilton |
| | |
| *DEAN, Mrs. T. N. | Bestview Lodge, 186 Thornton Rd. S., Oshawa |
| *DIPPER, Mrs. A. W. | 18 Elizabeth Street |
| DOLSON, *Dr. & **Mrs. E. | 4 Oriole Crescent |
| *DOVER, Mrs. C. F. B. | 250 Main Street West |
| | |
| *ELLIOTT, Mr. & Mrs. Ashley | 7 Brentwood Avenue |
| | |
| **FARRELL, Mrs. V. R. | 35 Ontario Street |
| FELVUS, Mr. & Mrs. Charles | R. R. No. 1, Grassie |
| FERRIS, Mr. & Mrs. Howard | 5 Kingsway Blvd. |
| FLETCHER, Mr. & Mrs. D. | 49 Whittaker Street |
| *FORSYTH, Mr. & Mrs. R. H. | 436 Maple Avenue |
| FORSYTH, Mr. & **Mrs. R. W. L. | 40 Garden Drive |
| FOX, Miss Victoria | 37 Livingston Avenue |
| *FREEMAN, Mrs. Charles | Apt. 325, 85 Livingston Avenue |
| *FRID, Mr. & Mrs. Ken | 41 Garden Drive |
| FRIES, Mrs. Ethel | 24 Elm Street |
| | |
| **GERMANN, Mrs. Frieda | 390 Main Street West |
| | |
| *HARRIS, Mrs. P. | 23 Mississauga Road, Oakville |
| HART, Mr. & Mrs. M. | 29 Old Orchard Avenue |
| HEASLIP, Mr. & *Mrs. Harold | 7 Nelles Blvd. |
| *HORSMAN, Mr. & Mrs. Clifford | 3 Park Avenue |
| HUTCHINGS, Mr. & Mrs. A. E. | 3 Peachwood Place |

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|----------------------------------|---|
| JACKMAN, Mr. & Mrs. E. G. | 5 Peachwood Place |
| JARVIS, Mrs. J. | 183 Main Street West |
| *JOHNSON, Mrs. A. E. | Apt. 16, 84 Livingston Avenue |
| JOHNSON, Mr. & **Mrs. Joel | 6 Cherrywood Avenue |
| **JOHNSTON, Mr. D. C. | 20 Nelles Blvd. |
| *JUDD, Mr. & Mrs. Arnold | 267 Kerman Avenue |
| *JUDD, Mrs. J. A. | Lynhave Nursing Home, Ontario St., St. Catharines |
| *JUDD, Mr. & Mrs. David | 40 Viking Drive |
| *JUDD, Mr. & Mrs. Paul | 97 Main Street East |
| *JONGERDEN, Mr. & Mrs. G. | Apt. 7, 84 Livingston Avenue |
| | |
| *KLAGER, Mrs. J. E. | Springdale Park Road, Bracebridge |
| *KONKLE, Mrs. G. | 18 Elizabeth Street |
| *KORT, Miss Tina | 3425 Bayview Avenue, Willowdale |
| *KOWTECKY, Mr. John & Mr. Milton | 39 Acadia Crescent, St. Catharines |
| *KOWTECKY, Mr. Paul | 264 Fairway Road N., Kitchener |
| KREBS, Mr. E. C. | 6 Burgess Drive |
| | |
| LAILAW, Mr. J. R. | 200 Main Street West |
| *LAWRIE, Mr. & Mrs. James | 9 Old Orchard Avenue |
| LEE, Miss Susan | 30 Kerman Avenue |
| *LEESON, Mr. & Mrs. K. W. | 28 Forest Road |
| LEPAGE, Mr. E. | 14 Rosslyn Avenue |
| *LEWIS, Miss Blanche | 30 Nelles Road South |
| *LEWIS, Mr. & Mrs. Clarke | 30 Nelles Road South |
| *LINDSAY, Mrs. Malcolm | 126 Charlton West, Hamilton |
| *LUNT, Mr. & Mrs. Norman | R. R. No.1, Ridge Road |
| | |
| MACDONALD, Mrs. J. | Apt. 5, 84 Livingston Avenue |
| **MARSHALL, Mrs. M. | Roberts Road |
| *MASON, Mrs. V. | R. R. No. 1 |
| *MATYS, Mrs. John | c/o 40 Viking Drive |
| MAY, Mr. & Mrs. G. | 19 Nelles Road North |
| *MAYER, Mrs. U. E. | West Germany |
| *MCCOY, Mrs. M. | Apt. 2, 9 Patton Street |
| *MCELROY, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph | 76 Dorchester Drive |

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| *MCELROY, Miss Jane | c/o 76 Dorchester Drive |
| MCINTOSH, Mrs. D. | 53 Livingston Avenue |
| *MONIZ, Mr. Gary | 39 Lorne Avenue |
| *MONIZ, Mr. & Mrs. J. | 39 Lorne Avenue |
| MORNINGSTAR, **Mr. & *Mrs. N. L. | 4 Robinson Street North |
| *MORRIS, Mr. Donald | 16 Lynwood Avenue |
| *MORRIS, Mr. & Mrs. J. E. | 16 Lynwood Avenue |
| MORRIS, **Mr. & *Mrs. Milton I. | 140 Main Street East |
| *MOYER, Mrs. M. | 45 Carrick Street, Apt. 5, Hamilton |
| *MYERS, Mr. & Mrs. James E. | 244 Main Street East |
| | |
| *NELMES, Mr. & Mrs. Earl | 21 Brierwood Avenue |
| *NEVILLE, Miss Evelyn | Apt. 614, 1 Slessor Blvd. |
| | |
| *ORMISTON, Miss Greta | Apt. 105, 3 Slessor Blvd. |
| *OSSICHUK, Miss K. | 25 Mountain Street |
| | |
| PARK, **Mr. & *Mrs. Ian | 3 Douglas Avenue |
| PHILLIPS, Mrs. Lillian | Chateau Gdns. Nursing Home, Niagara-on-the-Lake |
| *PIETT, Mr. & Mrs. Roy | 12 Lincoln Avenue |
| | |
| *RANSBURY, Mrs. Alice | 408 Ontario Street |
| *RICKETSON, Dr. & Mrs. C. L. | 88 Dorchester Drive |
| *RICKETSON, Mr. C., Misses C. & N. | c/o 88 Dorchester Drive |
| *RODGERS, Miss L. | 10 Bedford Park Drive |
| *RUGGEBERG, Mr. & Mrs. G. | R. R. No. 1, Mountain Street |
| | |
| SAIGEON, *Mr. & Mrs. Wayne | 24 Hazelwood Avenue |
| *SALMERS, Mrs. B. | Apt. 2512, 45 Dunfield Avenue, Toronto |
| *SARFIELD, Mr. & Mrs. C. N. | R. R. No. 1, Emsdale |
| *STEEDMAN, Mr. & Mrs. Harold | 31 Kingsway Blvd. |
| *STERLING, Mr. William | Florida |
| *STEWART, Miss Agnes | 9 Park Road North |
| *STRACHAN, Miss Laurie | 6 Brierwood Avenue |
| *STRACHAN, Rev. & Mrs. Robert M. | 6 Brierwood Avenue |
| SWEET, Mr. & Mrs. Keith | R. R. No. 3, Smithville |

VANDERMOLEN, Mr. & Mrs. S.
VANDERMOLEN, *Mr. & Mrs. T.
VANASPEREN, Mr. & Mrs. W.
*VAUGHAN, Mrs. David
VICKERS, Mrs. A.

WALKER, Mrs. F. C. J.
*WARDEN, Mrs. Anna
*WATSON, Miss Mary
*WEST, Mrs. Gary
WILKINS, Mr. & *Mrs. K. J.
*WILKINS, Miss Sandra
*WILLIAMS, Miss Betty
WILLIAMS, Mrs. Howard
*WILLIAMS, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald
WOOD, Mr. & *Mrs. A. R.
*WOOD, Mrs. Oscar

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3 Kingsway Blvd.
1 5th Street
R. R. No. 1
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Apt. 5, 84 Livingston Avenue
73 Lakeside Avenue
9 Park Road North
P.O. Box 2304, Huntsville
14 Cherrywood Avenue
14 Cherrywood Avenue
318 Main Street West
317 Main Street West
316 Main Street West
32 Governor's Road
6 Peachwood Place