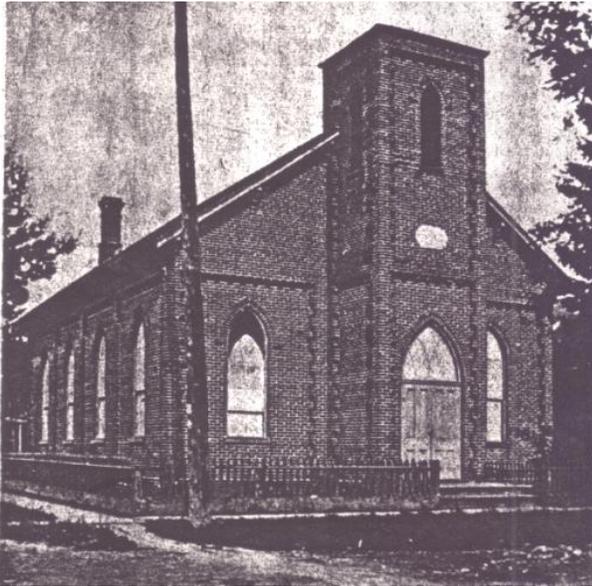


A HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Wallaceburg, Ontario



Nelson and Wall St
1872-1903



William and Wellington St
1903-1969

1866 - 2016



99 Thomas Ave

Education Centre 1969

Sanctuary 1980

The Pastor's Message

Well, we have made it to a very notable milestone in the life of First Baptist Church. We have seen the Lord bless us and sustain us now for an amazing 150 years! Though many will be joining us for our anniversary celebrations, there are many key people who will not. I am speaking of those who pioneered this church and the many who have followed in faithfulness to the calling of bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to this wonderful community of ours. As we consider their priceless contribution, I am reminded of our Lord's words in John 4:36-38:

"And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not laboured; others have laboured and you have entered into their labours."

As exciting as it is to get to this point and celebrate the accomplishment, nevertheless we must not stand still and stagnate. Much work is still waiting to be done before the great glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. With that in mind, fellow soldiers, let's press on with fresh resolve to win as many to Christ as possible and be a bright light shining in the midst of a dark and perverse generation. This is not the time to grow faint or succumb to discouragement. Instead, let us take hold of the rich promises of God's Word and march onward in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

It has been my delight to serve as your pastor these past 24 years, taking the torch thrown to me from the faithful servants of God who preceded me in this church's pulpit. Let's continue working together for the Kingdom until the Lord returns, and when He does, may He find us ever faithful!

Your fellow servant,
Rev. Brian Horrobin

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This history of First Baptist church, Wallaceburg was gleaned from a number of sources; old documents, the church Centennial booklet (so ably researched by Mr. and Mrs. Don Wilde), annual reports, minutes, church bulletins, etc.

It is by no means a complete history of our church, but rather outlines the major events in our history as a church family. There are some areas where no documents were available and we are sure some readers will recall events which should be included, but which were unknown to the researchers. If you can add important dates and events, or provide interesting information, would you WRITE out the information and pass it along to our Church Secretary. It will be kept with an original copy of our history so that future updates may be corrected or enlarged upon. Your help will be greatly appreciated in this matter.

Research material was provided by Mrs. Velma Frost, Mr. Andy Walters, Mrs. Ethel Andrus, Misses Ayleen and Evalyn Davis. The material was researched and compiled into this material by Mrs. Ethel Andrus, Miss Evalyn Davis and Mrs. Nora Wilde in the 1970's. Proofreading and final typing was done by Mrs. Barbara Myers.

A copy of this history will be sent to the Baptist Archives located at McMaster University in Hamilton.

(Written 1970)

As our church prepared to celebrate its 150th Anniversary, it became apparent that a lapse of historical documentation existed. Following the footsteps so ably set years prior, Denise Shephard, under the direction of Barb Myers, plunged into research. The documentation of this record was started from 1979 to 2015, with small edits being made to previous years' entries. The material was compiled by Denise Shephard and proofreading was done by Ruth Horrobin. The pages here can only scrape the surface of the contributions that the pastors, leaders, and congregation have made to the success of our church. It is with all praise to Our Father that we can so humbly say "Christ is our Cornerstone."

(2016)

FIRST BAPTIST MINISTERS

1866	Rev. D.D. Burtch	1866
	Rev. James Smith	Student minister
	Rev. Ira Smith	Student minister
	Mr. LeRoy	Student minister
	Rev. W.A. Rupert	Student minister
	D.S. McEwan	Student minister
1881	Rev. Corkey	May to December 1881
1882	Rev. C. H. Irvine	April to August 1882
1884	Rev. C.R. Baker	May 1884 to May 1885
1885	Rev. John Gilmore	July 1885 to September 1885
1885	Rev. Russell Baldwin	October 1885 to August 1886
1886	Rev. C.E. Lee	November 1886 to October 1887
1888	Rev. A. Dunlop	February 1888 to April 1888
1888	Rev. McColl	October 1888 to April 1889
1889	Rev. A.J. Vining	May 1889 to April 1893
1893	Rev. S.J. Farmer	May 1893 to July 1898
1898	Rev. L.W. Charlesworth	October 1898 to November 1900
1901	Rev. A. C. Baker	February 1901 to November 1902
1903	Rev. W.A. Gunton	January 1903 to August 1907
1907	Rev. W.T. Roberts	October 1907 to May 1911
1911	Rev. F. Oliver	July 1911 to May 1914
1914	Rev. S.H. Saunders	September 1914 to September 1920
1921	Rev. J.S. Leckie	January 1921 to July 1924
1924	Rev. A.C. Campbell	August 1924 to August 1928
1929	Rev. Donald Cameron	February 1929 to April 1932
1932	Rev. J.W. Duncan	May 1932 to August 1936
1937	Rev. L.M. Smith	January 1937 to July 1943
1943	Rev. John McLeod	November 1943 to August 1950
1950	Rev. Frank Smith	November 1950 to April 1953
1953	Rev. H.E. Burritt	September 1953 to August 1958
1959	Rev. G.L. Stebner	April 1959 to October 1964
1965	Rev. Frank L. Stone	April 1965 to December 1969
1969	Rev. Reginald Babbey	August 1969 to June 1992
1992	Rev. Brian Horrobin	September 1992 to

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THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS

In 1820 Mr. James McDonald was the first Baptist to settle in this district. It was at his home, on May 4, 1866, that the Baptist Church in Wallaceburg was organized. There were eight charter members led by a student Pastor. The church was recognized by the Western Association of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec on June 2, 1866.

According to the Annual report of 1930, we find this quote from the early years:

“Like most New Testament churches, it had its origin in the home. The growth of this nucleus was slow, but substantial and solid. Many obstacles delayed the development, but only tended to create moral fibre, intelligent conviction and spiritual characteristics that were essential for a sound foundation. After official organization and recognition services, the membership gathered with interested adherents in the Old Town Hall, which at the time was also used as a school.”

The decision to build a church was made in March 1872, and the brick building was located at the corner of Wall and Nelson streets. The main part of the church was lit by two clusters of oil lights and heated by a wood stove at the rear of the building. The Pastor at that time and several men of the congregation cut down enough trees in a wood lot donated to the church to heat it for three years.

This church was dedicated December 8, 1872, and though the congregation was small to begin with, the building proved a great blessing as it grew.

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There are conflicting reports concerning who was the Pastor at the time of dedication, but D. D. Burch, a charter member ministered and R. H. Yule is mentioned as a prominent Deacon and leader until 1901.

It seems that Rev. A. J. Vining who came to the church in 1889, and who was ordained while there, was the first resident Pastor. He was active in the fire department while here, as well as serving the church faithfully.

An anecdote told of him by Mrs. Wm. Johnson (and passed down in the family) is indicative of his sense of humour. Mrs. Johnson was a "practical nurse", and while she was out on a case Rev. Vining called upon her. Since in those days doors were never locked, he went in, and finding her not at home wrote that he had been there in the dust on her centre table. No doubt she was teased about her housekeeping for some time!

During his years here, prayer meetings were held at the home of William Hayes, to avoid heating the church. Church services also were started at the Booth School. He left in 1893 after four years of ministry to do missionary work in Western Canada. One might mention here, that he went on to a lifetime of missionary work, mostly in India.

Rev. S. C. Farmer came to the Wallaceburg church in May 1898. He continued the "outreach" services at Booth School, started by Rev. Vining. This school was located on the north branch of the Sydenham River. David McCreary and Simon Smith joined our fellowship through this ministry. Rev. Farmer was known as a clever preacher and the work of the church was strong and healthy when he left to be Pastor of the Petrolia church.

In a quote from the Wallaceburg News we read:

"The Annual Business Meeting of the Baptist church was held on January 5, 1898. It was well attended and the following officers were elected. Deacons: Messers Yule, Steer, McLean, Garvey, Badder, Benn and Hodges. Treasurer: Mrs. J. Howard; Treasurer of the Booth School: Miss M. Booth: Mrs. W. J. McDonald (who completed 25 years service in this capacity in March of that year). Mrs. C. B. McDougall was reappointed leader of the choir".

Rev. T. Charlesworth came from Port Burwick in October 1898 to be Pastor. He was well liked in the church and town. After two years service, he left to become Chaplain at Victoria Hospital in London.

In February **1901**, Rev. A. C. Baker was called to be Pastor. While he was here the property at the corner of William and Wellington streets was purchased for the erection of a new church building, the work to begin as soon as possible.

Rev. Baker was very enthusiastic about the work and popular with the congregation, but had to leave the ministry for health reasons.

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Before the purchase of the site for the church there seems to have been some dispute about the location and old letters found recently have proved very interesting.

Rev. W. A. Gunton had been in the ministry for sixteen years when he was called to Wallaceburg on December 28, **1902**. He came from Peterborough and was described as a strong pulpit orator. He was very musical and directed the choir in its Easter music. In March, five persons were baptized.

The first services were held in the new church November 28, 1902. The old church building on Wall and Nelson streets was sold to another congregation but unfortunately, the inside was entirely damaged by fire in December of that year. Another milestone in the life of the church was reached when the cornerstone for the new building was laid on October 15, **1903**. The honour of placing the cornerstone was given to the oldest male member of the congregation, Mr. J. McDonald, who had been Clerk of the church for 30 years. Articles placed in the stone were Canadian and American coins, copies of the Canadian Baptist, Toronto Globe, Mail and Empire; and the Detroit, London, Brantford and Wallaceburg newspapers. Also placed in the stone were the names of current officers, names of Sunday School children who had earned one dollar each for the building, and names of all who had bought bricks. (These were not real bricks, but rather a large drawing of the building had been made and divided into 'bricks'. As each one was purchased it was pasted on the drawing. Naturally, this was not to scale.)

The grand opening of the building (started two years before) was held December 11, **1904**. The first baptism service was held in March 1905 and the candidates baptized were: Roy Thompson, Charles Hodges, Edith Gunton, Mrs. Norman Zavitz, Mrs. Linn, Miss Jennie Mann, Miss Adair and Miss Mazie Anderson.

Rev. Gunton left the church in 1907 to become the Pastor of the new Chatham church. Rev. W. T. Roberts came in October 1907. He had been Pastor of the Leamington church.

During his pastorate, Mrs. Joseph Howard, the mother of Joseph, William and Omer Howard died on April 1, 1909. This left her sister Miss Ellen McDonald as the only surviving charter member. Rev. Roberts left the church in May of 1911.

In June Rev. F. Oliver came. Without any expense to the church, he issued the Baptist Monthly which was distributed free in Wallaceburg homes. The congregation grew to the largest it had ever been. It was free from debt and the greater amount needed to install a pipe organ has been promised. The mortgage on the building was burned in 1913, only 11 years after the building was begun.

A quote from the Wallaceburg News at the time reads:

"Special services will be held in the Baptist church commencing November 3rd conducted by Rev. F. Oliver. Special music will be provided by Guy Irving Waltz, harp soloist

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and musical director. A fifty voice choir has been secured for the services, which will be bright and helpful, and will continue for an indefinite period. All seats are free and hymn books will be provided."

Rev. S. H. Saunders was called, to the church from London, Ontario. He began his ministry on September 27, 1914. The church was closed in the fall of 1914 for a short time to permit the installation of the organ, a two manual Karn Warren of the pneumatic type built in Woodstock, Ontario, one of the best and finest available at the time. A new heating system was installed also, and the choir loft improved. The Anniversary and re-opening of the church were celebrated on November 22, 1914.

Rev. Saunders had studied Biblical Dramatic Literature and produced several biblical plays as well as a comedy called the "Haymow News" starring Frank Mann. He produced "Scrooge" which was given on two nights for the overflow audience. The plays were staged in the Sunday School hall, with the large doors between it and the church lifted. Seating was in the church and there was always a 'full house'. Several articles for the church were purchased from the proceeds. Rev. Saunders resigned in September 1920.

THE GROWING YEARS

Rev. J. S. Leckie was pastor for three years beginning in January **1921**. The youth group of the church was very large at this time. Lipstick had just come into use, and when the young girls of the choir were criticized for wearing it, Rev. Leckie chose this controversy as the topic for a sermon in which he said if he felt he could make his face look better for the Lord, he would certainly do so.

He appreciated the work of the choir and frequently praised it. At a special musical evening in 1923 James Fish, R. Carscallen, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Ayres, Miss Mabel Zavitz and Miss Sandra Allen were soloists with Mr. C. P. Bolt at the organ.

In August **1924**, Rev. A. C. Campbell was called to be pastor. While he was here, many auxiliary groups were begun. The first record of a New Year's Eve service appeared in the Wallaceburg News on December 31, 1925. The choir held many musical evenings. The first mention of the Sunshine Mission Band was made in February 1925. E. V. Ayres who had been choirmaster for many years resigned to take up duties in the United church, and Mrs. Bolt became the choir leader and organist.

Improvements were made to the Sunday School hall with the addition of rooms. Researchers remember these rooms as being added at the street end. In later years, these rooms were used as the "Ladies Parlor" and the Minister's Study. At the rear of the hall by the kitchen, two more class rooms and a choir room were added. The large drop doors between the hall and the church were replaced by folding doors.

The cost of these renovations was \$12,000.00 and the contractor was Mr. Chester McGregor. (We might mention here that Mr. McGregor's daughter, later Mrs. Rieta Gordon, left

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a bequest of \$60,000.00 to the church in the 1960's which was the beginning of the fund for the present sanctuary.) Former Pastor Rev. Vining delivered the dedication address at the formal opening of the new hall in May 1917. Rev. Campbell resigned in August 1928.

Rev. Donald Cameron began his ministry here in February **1929**. He was a graduate of McMaster University and had served in the Canadian Flying Corps during the first World War. He was a very popular and forceful preacher who believed in dramatic sermons. Some of his titles were "Preaching to Beat the Devil", "Merrily We Go To Hell", "Blood and Thunder", "Hell, Fire and Brimstone", "The Crossword Puzzle of Christianity", and "Don't Wait to Come to Church in a Hearse".

The senior choir began the first of many radio broadcasts over C.F.C.O. radio station in Chatham. Mr. Cameron organized the Bluebird Choir for children. The Sunday School was extremely active under the leadership of C. S. Stonehouse. The Sunday School concert featured a 15 piece orchestra and the Bluebird Choir, led by Gladys Southgate. By 1932, the Sunday School had accumulated sufficient funds to purchase a baby grand piano and new chairs for the hall.

It was Mr. Stonehouse who began the idea of the students donating a penny for each year of their age, on the Sunday nearest their birthday. Rev. Cameron accepted a call to Ingersoll August 1932.

Rev. J. W. Duncan accepted the pastorate in May 1932. He was a native of Vancouver and had studied at Louisville, Kentucky, McMaster University and Edinburgh, Scotland. While here, he was married to Miss Esther Denman of Vancouver in Yorkminster Church, Toronto. Rev. S. C. Farmer, former pastor, at that time in Owen Sound, was guest speaker at Anniversary services in 1933.

Mrs. Duncan organized a Crusade group at the church and was Mistress of Ceremonies as the leaders took their oath of office. Miss Norma Lapointe was organist for the group. Officers were: Miss Betty Zavitz, Miss Cora Beattie, Miss Eileen Shepley, Lila Lamarch and Florence Fox. A special course in hospital dietetics was given at the first meeting by Miss Nora Henderson, R.N. and Miss Velma Hess, R.N. Rev. Duncan left to accept a call to Aylmer Baptist Church in August 1936. Later, he became a Chaplain in the Armed Services and saw active service in Europe.

Rev. Milbert Smith began his ministry at the church in **1937**. The church was in debt when Mr. Smith came, and when the depression struck, little could be done to cope with it. Mr. Smith was described as an earnest and faithful worker at all times and did much visitation among his members. Over one hundred new members were added to the church roll before he left for Highland Baptist Church in Ottawa.

Rev. John McLeod, a native of Scotland, came to Wallaceburg from South Hampton in November **1942**. He reorganized the B.Y.P.U. and was affectionately known by them as "Father John". He often played selections on his bagpipes for them. Rev. McLeod was

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instrumental in starting a campaign to pay off the church debt and it was cleared in 1945. With the church free of debt, a new parsonage was built at 852 Elizabeth St. and was completely paid for in a short time. Rev. McLeod left to become the Pastor of a Toronto Baptist church in 1950.

In November **1950**, Rev. Frank Smith was called to the church and it was his suggestion to prepare a constitution for the Church. The constitution, which he helped prepare, is the basis of the one now in use. The Communion furniture in use now was purchased during his pastorate and the B.Y.P.U. continued to flourish. He resigned in April 1953.

Rev. H. E. Burritt came to Wallaceburg from Arkona in September **1953**. He also had a strong interest in youth organizations. He, his wife and their seven children were all very musical and his bass voice, very reminiscent of George Beverly Shea, was heard in solos and many song services.

The following is an excerpt from the Clerk's minutes **1954**.....

"The Quarterly Business meeting was held on October 20, 1954 in the Sunday School Hall. It was opened by a devotional period led by Rev. Burritt. The Clerk reports a membership gain of six, making the membership 276. Reports were given as follows: the report of the Treasurer by Mr. Omer Howard, report of the Financial Secretary and Building Committee by Mr. Don Harrett. He reported \$250.00 sent to the Home Mission Board leaving a balance of \$1450.00. The report of the B.Y.P.U. was given by Miss Margaret Vestrocey. The report of the Music Committee was given by Mr. Isaiah Frost. That report contained the following recommendations - in anticipation of Mrs. Jacks resignation as Choir Leader and Organist, we recommend that the church accept, with regret, her resignation, recommend that a tangible gift be presented and that we advertise for an Organist and Choir Leader.

Mr. Lou Puskas of Property Committee reported a new roof has been added to the parsonage. Report of Missions and Evangelism was given by Miss Winnie Phair. Mr. Geoffrey Clark reported, as Treasurer of the Mission Fund, on the Mission Band, Car Fund, Radio Fund and Literature Fund. He also reported that a fund of \$1000.00 had been set up by Miss Lydia Steer in memory of her brother, William Steer. This fund is to be used to assist a full time worker in the foreign field. The Deacons Board report was given by Eddie Wilde and the Flower Committee report by Mrs. Harold Frost.

Under new business the following motions were made and carried:

- 1) That the resignation of Mrs. Jacks be accepted and the affectionate regret of the church be conveyed to Mrs. Jacks by letter.
- 2) That a tangible gift be given to Mrs. Jacks.
- 3) That the Music Committee be empowered to spend \$100.00 for this gift, to be spent as they see fit.

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- 4) That Mrs. Kenneth Larabee, Mr. Harold Frost and Mrs. Tom Sherwood undertake the direction of the choir temporarily with Miss Barbara Andrus as Assistant Organist. (Miss Lois Stratton was added to the list of Choir Directors shortly afterwards).
- 5) That we advertise for an Organist and Choir Leader.
- 6) Since our church is in its 88th year, that a Historical Committee be set up to prepare for the 100th birthday.
- 7) That Mrs. Mabel Frye is appointed Chairman of the Historical Committee.
- 8) The matter of splitting the position of General Treasurer into two positions, General and Missions, is remanded for further study.

On behalf of those present, Rev. Burritt thanked the ladies for the enjoyable supper and the meeting adjourned with benediction by Rev. Burritt.

Clerk: Catherine Zavitz"

In regards to Mrs. Jacks' resignation which, as her letter indicated, was because of poor health, the researchers would like to add two anecdotes they remember. Mrs. Jacks had been a theatre organist in Detroit before coming to Wallaceburg, and so had a large repertoire of secular music as well as sacred music. One remembers her playing "Roses of Picardy", a well known World War One song for the offertory near Armistice Day, which seemed appropriate to some and displeased a few. Another researcher remembers her beginning her offertory on a Sunday near Easter and Rev. Burritt asking her to stop, which startled most of the congregation. Then he asked the congregation to stand, as it was traditional to stand for the Hallelujah Chorus (which she was playing). Mrs. Jacks began again and gave a stirring rendition. She was beloved as a Choir Leader and also by her many piano students who were taught in her Music Room next to the choir loft. One of Wallaceburg's social events each year was Mrs. Jacks' piano students' recital.

Additional excerpts from the Clerk's minutes read as follows:

"Special Meeting called December 10, 1954

The meeting was called to discuss future expansion. Mr. Alan Brander, Chairman of Finance, briefed the people attending, on the situation. The report of the architects did not recommend anything being done to the present building. It was stated that more Sunday School room was needed. The following options were made and carried:

- 1) That the Property and Sunday School Committee be empowered to find and erect suitable partitions in the Sunday School Hall.
- 2) That a Church Extension fund be set up.

The meeting adjourned with benediction by Rev. Burritt."

During Rev. Burritt's pastorate the baptistery was rebuilt by John Puskas. The property at the corner of Camp and Wellington streets was purchased with the intention of using it as a

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Christian Education building. The cost of the house and lot was \$13,000.00 and was almost paid for by the time Rev. Burritt left in January 1958.

In **1955** the Student Fund assisted Doug Sherwood, Ted Thornton and Don Thomas to attend Toronto Bible College; Dick Fox to attend London Bible Institute and Donald Stratton to attend his first year at McMaster University. In July, Miss Esther Southgate and Mr. and Mrs. A. Walters attended the Baptist World Alliance meetings in London, England.

During the year, the Glenna Knight Mission Circle sent a box of clothing to the Rev. Pryse for the Oshweken mission. They also had a shower of toys for Miss Olive Hunter's work in Sudbury. The Ladies Aid sponsored the Evening Auxiliary, a group of ladies with a membership of 45 members who planned to assist the Junior Choir, Cubs and Scouts.

Misses Marnie and Gloria Kellett were in charge of Junior Church for children ages 8 to 11 years. One hundred and seventy-one children registered for a Daily Vacation Bible School.

The Kent County Explorer Rally was held at Knox Presbyterian church with an attendance of 200, including Explorers from our own church. The B.Y.P.U. hosted the Fall Rally for Western Association.

Deaths of prominent Baptists during 1955 were: Deacon John Puskas, Miss Catherine Zavitz and Miss Maude Hucktwith. Mr. Stan Haydon was appointed to fill out the term of Deacon Puskas.

The Moderator for Western Association in 1955 was our Pastor Rev. H. E. Burritt. At the annual meeting, the Canadian Baptist magazine was put in the budget for an unstated number of copies.

The Young Adult group, with Mrs. Dave Gordon as President, supervised the nursery class. Their project for the year was cleaning, painting and furnishing the Nursery. Mrs. Don Harrett and Mrs. Robert Lee were in charge of the Cradle Roll and reported an enrollment of 83.

Mrs. Frank Nightingale was President of the Ladies Aid during this year. They purchased new blinds and drapes for the Sunday School Hall. The Evening Auxiliary provided a "Bean Feed" for the Cubs and Scouts, and an Easter party for the Senior Choir.

The first Explorer's Camp was held at Camp Kenesserie and fourteen of our girls attended, as well as leaders Misses Aileen and Evalyn Davis. The Sunshine Mission Band met their allotment of \$100.00 and 248 children attended Daily Bible Vacation School. Sunday School attendance averaged 200.

The Canadian Girls in Training (C.G.I.T.) decorated a Christmas tree at the La Pointe Fisher Nursing Home as their community project, under the leadership of Miss Barbara Andrus. They also hosted the Kent County C.G.I.T. rally with an attendance of 400. Church parade for the rally was held in Trinity United church.

The B.Y.P.U. held a Watchnight service, with Helen Butler, Hugh Burritt and Kay Andrus taking part.

A Teacher Training course was conducted by Miss Inez Watson of Church House, who was a fieldworker in Christian Education for the Baptist Convention.

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Rev. Tonks of Quebec visited us and spoke of Quebec mission work and Rev. Hillyer told us about the new Baptist overseas mission field in Africa.

Rev. H. E. Burritt resigned the pastorate of the church in 1958. He left to become Minister to Dufferin Street Baptist Church in Toronto. His death shortly thereafter in 1959 saddened the congregation of First Baptist in Wallaceburg for he was well loved by them.

The church was without a pastor for the first three months of the year in **1959**, but we were fortunate in securing the services of Rev. Glen Francis for February and March. A unanimous call was extended to Rev. G. L. Stebner who came to us from Springford, Ontario in April 1959. He was an evangelist of note, and worked very hard to build up the prayer meetings.

In 1959, the Glenna Knight Mission Circle sent a quilt to Mrs. Tonks. Sunday School attendance was 190 and they were able to raise \$100.00 for transistor radios to be sent to Bolivia. These enabled Brazilians to listen the Southern Cross Radio Station, a Christian station operated by our missionaries and the native Brazilian people.

During 1959, the Mission Band was on the Honour Roll for Western Association. The Scout Committee, under Chairman George Morrow, organized a sale of Kleenex and hot cross buns, earning enough money to send Scouts to camp.

Mr. J. L. Thompson, who was then Mayor of Wallaceburg, took the Explorer group on a tour of the new municipal building. The C.G.I.T. enjoyed a weekend camp at Ila Carroll's cottage in Port Lambton and both Explorers and G.C.I.T. took part in the Shellout effort for UNICEF at Halloween.

The B.Y.P.U. held a farewell party for Marlene Clark, Kay Andrus and Bob Campbell who were leaving for further education in London. Mrs. and Mrs. Frank Nightingale donated a picture of the Queen to the church.

In the 1959 Annual Report, Rev. G. L. Stebner said he had had a busy schedule of services. "I have preached or have been called upon to speak in one way or another on an average of four times a week. There is a large visitation program to be carried out besides hospital visitation. It has indeed been a privilege and a joy to serve in these ways."

Alan Brander, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that there was only a balance of \$2000.00 remaining to be paid on the Camp Street church house property. "As an investment in church property it will be a nest egg for future expansion." All other departments of the church were in good financial condition.

Evangelism and Missions reported on sending letters and cheques to students Dick Fox, Doug Sherwood, Les Files and Margaret Burritt. Congratulations were sent to Dick Fox who graduated from London Bible School in April. In October a farewell party was held for Don Thomas who was leaving for work at a mission field in West Africa.

The average attendance at Sunday School was 196 and Mission Band had an enrollment of 65 under the leadership of Mrs. V. Hess and helpers. Cradle Roll enrollment was 83.

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During Rev. Stebner's ministry in Wallaceburg a campaign was launched to build a more efficient Christian Education building than the Camp Street property could provide. Therefore, in **1963**, five acres of land lying at the end of Napier Street, Wallaceburg (then the northeast edge of town) was purchased at a cost of \$10,000.00.

This dynamic preacher left Wallaceburg in October of **1964** to become Pastor of the Mimico Baptist Church and later moved to North Surrey, B.C.

Our next pastor was Rev. F. L. Stone, who came to Wallaceburg in April **1965**. He had been Field Secretary for the Ontario Temperance Federation in Kitchener. The Deacons Board report states that the work under the ministry of Rev. Stone has been most gratifying. The attendance at the church services has been encouraging. The spiritual life of the church is warm.

The average weekly attendance for the Sunday School for 1965 was 207.

A large number of books and educational aids have been amassed and a formation of a Church Library is possible although no cataloging has taken place yet.

The Ladies Aid held the Christmas Tea and Bazaar in December with many members and friends working very hard. The bazaar was the most successful, financially and in every other way.

The Baptist High Fellowship, under the leadership of Gloria G. Kellett since its inception in 1962, amalgamated with the Baptist Young People's Union (B.Y.P.U.) in order to become stronger in members and more enriched in fellowship.

In the spring of 1965, the Wallaceburg Public School Board offered to purchase the parsonage. This offer was not accepted by the congregation at the annual business meeting.

WE BEGIN OUR SECOND CENTURY

1966 was our church's Centennial year, and from the Annual Report of that year we find Rev. Stone explaining that because of his work load he was unable to call on his people as often as he would have liked to. We were a busy church then, as now.

Highlights of the year were a visit from the Campbell-Reese Evangelistic Team, a visit from Dr. Burns of the Convention of Ontario and Quebec, the Gideon supper and the Centennial celebrations from November 6th to 13th.

The Centennial Committee, which consisted of Mrs. F. Nightingale, Mrs. Ed Wilde, Mrs. K. Larabee, Mrs. Harold Frost, David Vannatto, Leon Bushey, Don Harrett and Rev. F. L. Stone, worked very hard.

Mr. Harrett reported that, "During Centennial week 554 guests signed the register and a gross attendance of 2500 was shown for the nine services. Many former Pastors came from far and near to celebrate with us and to hear the two former members, now Pastors - Rev. Donald Stratton (who was ordained here) and Rev. Doug Sherwood. Other former Pastors who spoke were Rev. Wyburn Smith, Rev. Don Cameron, Rev. John McLeod and Rev. Frank Smith. Rev. H. Burritt was represented by Mrs. Burritt and her children, Barbara, Beth and Bill." The Committee also reported that the offerings received at the services more than covered the expenses of the Centennial."

During the year, the Wallaceburg and District School Board made new approaches to buy the Church Parsonage property which adjoined the W.T. Laing school on Elizabeth Street. We exceeded our missions budget by \$700.00 and there were three baptisms.

In **1967**, the Pastor's report read "As 1967 dawns, one senses a new spirit in our congregation. For some time our church has been in the doldrums. The matter of building and precisely what we should do has been one with many angles to be considered, and as a congregation we have never quite settled on a goal. However, at the church business meeting on October 18, 1967, it was overwhelmingly decided that we should proceed in the direction of erecting a new church edifice."

There were nine baptisms in 1967 and from the Deacons Report we see that, in September, Mr. Ralph McFeeter of Texas was brought to us for information on how to conduct an expansion ministry. An intense two week campaign was launched which included a Church family supper held in the C.B.D. hall, a pledge raising visitation campaign and special meetings for each age group in the church.

A great deal was done by the Building Committee which consisted of:

Mr. Ed. Wilde, Chairman	Mr. William Kerr
Mr. Don Harrett	Miss Gloria Kellett
Mrs. James Poole	Mr. Frank Welsh
Mr. Ken Larabee	Mr. Gus VanGiesen
Mr. Stanley Haydon	

They worked to carry out the instructions of the church to prepare a building which was acceptable to the church as a whole. This program, including the option to sell our William and Camp Street properties, was presented to the church on December 11, 1968 and was

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approved with one dissenting vote. Also in this year, the Deacons worked on a new Constitution.

There was some opposition to the building of a new church. This stemmed, the researchers feel, from the affection of many for the building that had been their church home for so many years and the happy memories of many, many joyous occasions and Christian celebrations experienced there. It was the Lord's home in which many who were seniors had been baptized and had seen their children baptized and married. It was almost tradition to set up the head table at a wedding reception under the large picture of Christ in Gethsemane, which had been prepared and presented to the church by Wallaceburg photographer and First Baptist church member Roy Mathany. (This picture, today, hangs in the stairwell leading to the sanctuary balcony.)

The church was a beautiful example of the architecture of its period and shortly before the change was made, had been freshly decorated by Fred Shepley. Even though there was a crack beginning over one entrance door, many felt the building seemed to be in very good shape.

The largest problem was one that was not well known except by those who worked with the children in the younger Sunday School groups and weekday groups. The basement of the church showed evidence of two bad floods when the river backed up in the sewers. The last flood had flooded the basement to a depth of three feet which scarred the cement walls and caused the loss of records, text books and materials stored in cupboards along the walls. The Fire Marshall had insisted that steps be built up from the floor to the basement windows for evacuating the children in case of fire. The kitchen was proving to be inadequate for large gatherings, and the washroom facilities for the whole church were confined to two very small outdated rooms.

The Camp Street property was used only by the Nursery Class of the Sunday School and some B.Y.P.U. meetings. Mr. Schwab, who owned the property between our two facilities, had indicated that he would not sell any of his property as long as he and his wife were living, and the town had built a parking lot right next to the church on the corner of William and James Street. This meant that there was absolutely no space for expansion.

The contract to take down the church and hall was awarded to Mr. J. L. Thompson. He did a very careful and capable job. The stained glass windows were carefully removed and stored so that they might be used in the new sanctuary. A number of pews were kept, and the grand piano (purchased by the Sunday School children in the early years of the church) was moved into the new Christian Education building. The pipe organ was professionally dismantled with the help of some of the church men, and stored in the new building until it could be placed on the platform there.

Mr. Thompson gave a gift to the church of a very large wooden cutting board for the island in the new kitchen. The cutting board had been made of wood from the floors of the old church.

The distance to the new C. E. building was a drawback to many who were centrally located and did not have cars. However, this was overcome when offers of rides were made by members who drove.

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From the Annual Report in **1969** we read from the Pastor's report: "The year behind us has seen many changes in our congregational church life. These center, for the most part, around the move to our new church home. As we lived and worked together during these past few months, many of us have sensed the convenience and uplift of a fine new building. Never during my ministry in Wallaceburg has the life of the church been as healthy or as happy. A fine spirit of Christian love and fellowship and considerable increase in attendance speaks well for the Church in the days ahead."

In the Deacons Report for 1969 we were told that "As we start this year, our contract with Mac Construction Company has just been signed." Throughout 1969 significant events followed, some of them being:

- January 24 - the building permit was issued
- February 16 - the groundbreaking and dedication ceremonies were held.
- April 16 - our Thank You supper was held.
(Could this have been the beginning of our Gift Night suppers?)
- May 25 - we unveiled our "Date Stone", officially naming the building "First Baptist Education Centre"
- Sept. 6 - last worship in the William St. church
- Sept. 21 - first service in the new church
- Oct. 5 - the official opening with guest speaker Rev. A. E. Coe
- Oct. 11 - the pipe organ was removed from the William St. church and stored in the new building
- Oct. 26 - the town took up the option to purchase the old church and property for \$50,000.00
- Nov. 2 - Rev. Stone tendered his resignation to accept a call to Bethel Baptist Church in Toronto.
- Nov. 9 - held our first anniversary service in the new building.
- Nov. 10 - the first Family supper with 150 present.

Report presented by: Don Harrett, Chairman."

At some time in early **1970**, a baptismal tank was set up in the auditorium. It was built, of a special plastic, by Mr. David Vannatto. This tank, when filled, held 2,300 gallons of water and was curtained in blue and white, forming a baptistry through which 115 people followed their Lord. The last baptisms were held in April 1980, and upon completion of our new Sanctuary, the tank was then donated to a Walpole Island Church.

Baptisms during Rev. Stone's pastorate were: David Babbitt, Doug Babbitt, Peter Harrett, Randy Harrett, Brad Heath, Gordon Heatley, Kevin Johnston, Michael VanGuiesen, Ruth Vannatto, Rita Vannatto, Pauline Larabee and Betty Pollock.

At the end of January 1970, Rev. Frank Stone left for his new Pastorate and in April, Rev. Reginald Babbey preached to us and received a unanimous call. During the six months before he could come, the Church was well led by Rev. Weyburn Smith, Rev. Frank Smith and Mr. Glen Francis.

In July 1970, Rev. Reg Babbey, his wife Marva, and sons Kevin and Terry arrived and the work took on a spirit of co-operation and Christian love that continues to this time.

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From The 1970 Annual Report our new Pastor says, "Let us be a visiting church. People are lonely. It is often true that people come to church and keep coming to church and accept Christ, not because of the sermons, but because a friend visited them."

The Deacons report of 1970 tells us that Rev. Stone terminated his ministry at the end of January. "We cannot help but be grateful to God for all that was accomplished during his time with us. For six months we were without a full time Pastor, but were led by two very capable and dedicated men - Rev. Frank Smith and Mr. Glen Francis, and we felt the Spirit in our midst during that time. **In July, Rev. Babbey and his family arrived in Wallaceburg, and took up the full time Pastorate of our church.** I believe it has been an answer to prayer and God's leading that brought him here to be our Pastor."

During 1970, the Ladies Aid reported that they had made a quilt which was presented to Mrs. Stone on her leaving for Toronto. They catered the Annual Business meeting supper and afterwards, Mrs. Bessie Nightingale and Mrs. Jean Huctwith opened the cornerstone of the old church. This cornerstone, today, holds the table for the guest register in the narthex of our present sanctuary.

A work meeting was called to clean cupboards and kitchen, and to take inventory. The ladies made and donated sandwiches for a Walkathon.

In June and in October they catered weddings. They assisted with the Induction Service lunch on September 5 and the Anniversary supper in November. They also completed three quilts. Funeral lunches served during the year were for Mr. Frost Sr., Mr. Chester Young, Mrs. Omar Howard, Mr. Tom Harris and Mrs. Grace Harrett. Mrs. Harrett had been President of the group and passed away suddenly while on holidays.

In **1971**, we were busy with a visitation program upheld by much prayer support. A budget was proposed based on a weekly offering of \$644.00. It is interesting to look ahead and see that the budget was exceeded by \$2000.00. Many gifts of furnishings were donated in this year and following years. These gifts have been recorded in a special book.

Visitation continued into **1972** under the Wallaceburg Reach-Out program. This was also the year that the women's groups; the Ladies Aid (under President Mrs. G. Shaw), the Senior Mission Circle (under President Miss Ayleen Davis), and the Glenna Knight Mission Circle (under President Mrs. Kae Bushey) amalgamated and became the Baptist Women's Fellowship. A fact-finding committee under the leadership of Mrs. Jean Huctwith drew up a constitution suitable to all three groups. The new group President was Mrs. Kae Bushey and there were 50 charter members. Other officers were:

1st Vice Pres.	Mrs. G. Shaw
2nd Vice Pres.	Mrs. Peggy Main
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Nora Wilde
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Ethel Andrus
General Treasurer	Mrs. Jean Huctwith
Missions Treasurer	Mrs. Elsie Stratton

Also in 1972 the Deacons Board asked Mr. Harold Frost to make a record of his gospel songs which have been so much appreciated over the years. Mr. Henry Schack, recording engineer of Wonderland Studios, London was engaged to record and produce the record. He brought his recording equipment to the church, and with Mrs. Barbara Myers, Church Organist

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as accompanist performing on the church pipe organ, the record "Wayfaring Songs" was made.

Although there had been some bus service, the first Sunday in **1973** saw the beginning of the organized bus ministry with Mr. Ross Shaw in charge. Ross began a program of visitation and trained bus captains. Besides bringing in children for Sunday School, the bus picked up senior citizens who needed transportation from the apartments in the vicinity of the church. Mr. Kenneth Larabee had put in many faithful years as a driver, even before the service was organized. This work was much appreciated by those who used it. It was supported by donations and there were many in our Sunday School who would not be there were it not for the bus.

In March 1973, a reception was held to bring out Mr. Frost's record, which proved very successful.

Another happy event in 1973 was the birth of a new son, named Kent, to Pastor and Mrs. Babbey.

In **1974**, the brothers Henry and Harold Frost became our first Honourary Deacons. Our missions giving rose and we were spiritually and financially blessed in many ways. Sunday School attendance was 282. A Christmas family service was held and became the forerunner of many other Family Christmas services.

Baptisms in 1974

Barbara Main	Colleen Bushey	Leslie Stratton
Patti Morgan	Murray Mc Carthy	Elizabeth McPhail
Patti Burke	Debbie Avey	Vicki Sharrow
Chrysanne Ross	Scott Zavitz	John Salisbury
Jim Wood	Wendy Dutot	Lisa Cameron
Corrine Wilson	Jennifer Myers	Kim Cameron

In **1975**, our town's Centennial year, we started a children's T.V. program for Channel 6, the local T.V. cable station. The program was called The Jericho Road and was filmed in the Junior Sunday School room before a biblical background painted on the wall by Mrs. Carmen Poole and Mrs. Betty McGaffey. Rev. and Mrs. Babbey were the leaders for the first two years, followed by Miss Ruth Thomas and Mrs. Delia Kelso. Mrs. Marnie Anderson led the fourth year.

At the end of the third year, management of the studio changed, and the program was moved to the T. V. studio. These quarters were not as suitable and at the end of the fourth year it was regretfully dropped. Bible stories were given throughout the years by Ruth and Marnie, games by Mrs. Garnet Thomas, music by Mrs. Babbey and Kevin Johnston.

During 1975, our Pastor, Rev. Babbey, was Moderator for the Western Association of Baptist churches.

We found **1976** to be a banner year, as our mortgage on the Christian Education Building was paid off six years ahead of time, through the generosity of the late Mrs. Rieta Gordon who willed \$60,000.00 to our Expansion Fund.

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Early in 1976 a Building Committee was formed for a new Sanctuary. The Building Committee consisted of:

Mr. Don Harrett, Chairman	Mrs. Dora Glousher, Secretary	
Mr. Bob Main	Mrs. Elmer Myers	Mr. Ed Wilde
Mrs. Kae Bushey	Mr. Doug Babbitt	Mr. Wayne Cornelius
Pastor Babbey	Mrs. Elaine Tapp was later added as Treasurer.	

In June of this year, our combined choirs, musical groups and orchestra gave a musical at the Goshen Baptist Church in Tillsonburg. A dress rehearsal given in our own church was much enjoyed.

On Sunday morning, July 11th, people arriving for Sunday School were met with an almost unbelievable sight. The building had been vandalized during the night and the auditorium was covered with overturned chairs and debris of Sunday School papers, song and hymn books which had been tossed over the balcony railing. This had then been sprayed with the contents of the fire extinguishers. Some of the spray had been directed into the grand piano. The organ had been broken into, but was otherwise unharmed. The upholstery in the Fellowship Room had been slashed, and a piano, from one of the Sunday School rooms upstairs, had been pushed down into the stairwell of the front stairs.

To see so much desecration in our fine new building was traumatic until the carillon began to ring, as usual, at fifteen minutes to eleven to call people to the morning church service. We recognized the words from the hymn "His Eye is on The Sparrow", and "I Know Cares for Me." While we watched the doors of the church being padlocked by the police to await insurance investigators (a sight we hope never to see again), we began to take the event in stride. It turned out that the damage was entirely covered by insurance, and in truth, the Lord had cared for us.

Two other notable events took place in 1976. Since the production of Mr. Harold Frost's first record had been so successful, he was asked to make another. This record was entitled "With God's Love" and was once again made in our own church using our pipe organ. The second event was that Ross Shaw was issued his second license to preach.

Baptisms in 1976

Joe Turner	Kevin McCarthy	Karen Ingram
Brenda Ingram	Rebecca Myers	Mrs. Dora Glousher
Mrs. Charlotte Evans	Mr. George McGaffey	Valerie Martin
Butch Cohmer	Brent Stratton	Danny Stratton

It was good in 1976 to see the Baptist Young People's group started again after a lapse of a few years. The Pastor and his wife, and several other young couples provided enthusiastic leadership. An Assistant Pastor, Rev. Norman Mathers, was called and was with us for four months when he accepted a full time pastorate at the Blenheim Baptist church.

It was a year of great accomplishment financially. The Pastor, in his report, said, "Now let's look to the future. If we ever faced an important year, this one (1977) is it. What does God want us to do about our expansion program? We soon have to make some kind of a decision. Please pray about this so that we may know God's will. Wouldn't it be wonderful to reach a

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unanimous decision? Finally, if there is one thing we need that we can provide ourselves, it is more workers. Great opportunities such as we have require many helping hands."

The Deacons Board report tells us that one of the highlights of the year was the burning of the mortgage on our Christian Education Building for which we thanked the Lord.

The Building Committee was formed into three sub-committees. The Finance Committee was advised not to accept a mortgage of more than \$75,000.000. People Survey Committee prepared a report on the projected facilities to seat 300, with space for an overflow of 50. The Accommodation Committee visited other churches and also prepared a questionnaire for the congregation to fill out and return.

The Committee hired Bob Main at \$15.00 an hour to prepare sketches for a new sanctuary and Organist Barb Myers reported receiving an estimate of \$35,000.00 for a new pipe organ similar to ours, as opposed to a bid of \$4,000.00 for relocation of the present organ. Plans for the new sanctuary were to be presented at the first business meeting in 1977.

Property Committee reported that the four acres of grass to be cut was a major problem. They thanked the volunteers who helped and hoped for assistance in the next year

Music Committee reported the arrival of 250 copies of the new Baptist hymnal. Some had been paid for by members of the congregation and donated; many other were donated in memory of a loved one.

On April 4th our Organist, Barb Myers presented an organ recital.

Baptisms in 1976

John Kelso

Mike Thompson

Heather Myers

Delia Kelso

Mary McArthur

Debbie Williams

Stephen Liddle

Tina Hagen

In his report of **1977**, the Pastor was thrilled to pass along the comment overheard by him, "My, but your church is a friendly church!" He said, "That means so much to so many people. Please, all members of our church do everything you can to help keep it that way. The Lord looks to you to be friendly, to welcome others and to make friends. May each of us endeavour to earn that comment."

Deacons Report of 1977 states: "It has been a rather trying year with the coming and going of an Assistant Pastor. Through it all, God has richly blessed us." We have attempted to run the Church a little closer to the Constitution, and an attempt was made to bring the membership list of the church up to date. We, as a church, pay dues to the Federation for each member listed. It had become costly to pay for those who, though still on our active list, no longer attended or supported our church.

Baptisms in 1977

Pearl Hetherington

Allan Ing

Randy Carron

Total membership December 31, 1977 – 404

Erin Heath

Michael Cibulka

Brett Bushy

Don Snary

Wendy Tapp

Graham Woods

In January of **1978**, the gift of a three octave set of Schulmerich handbells was given in memory of her husband, Owen Zavitz, by Mrs. Marjorie Zavitz. These wonderful musical bells

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were dedicated on Mother's Day with the newly formed bell choir performing on them for the first time.

The Pastor asked that we remember, in our prayers, the Bus Ministry, the Sunday School, the evangelistic crusades coming up, and the Shepherd Club. He added, "Finally, I look forward to the handbell choirs. They will give people who can't play a musical instrument or sing, a chance to assist in the ministry of the church."

Deacons Report included mention of the outdoor evening services held during the summer months, which were well attended and which may be continued in the new year. The Clerk reported an Inactive List of 124. Many of these people had moved to other towns or cities, and some to other churches.

Missions and Evangelism reported that they held a Family Seminar program in October with the Rev. Gerald Wilson, and were considering a Student Financial Fund to help support any of our young people who are training for the mission field or ministry.

The Sunday School reported a special presentation of "David and the Giants", a musical in which many of the students took part. Sherman Parr made an excellent Goliath. Mrs. Lois Myers and Mrs. Kae Bushey directed, with musical help from Mrs. Babbey and Organist Barb Myers.

Building Committee was instructed by the church at the Annual Meeting to proceed further with the plans of the proposed expansion. They had Bob Main develop the corner pulpit design and these plans were presented with a rough cost estimate to the church in May 1978. They were then instructed to obtain a firm bid.

Baptisms in 1978

Peter Carter

Alalia Carter

Robert Green

John Babbitt

Chris Bogaert

Tim Bogaert

Total membership December 31, 1978 – 283

Michele Heath

Julie Sherbourne

Guy Myers

Joanne Myers

Kim Myers

Larry Murdock

Cheryl Murdock

Louise Larabee

Carol Heath

Bonnie Doan

1979 was a year of special services in our Church. In the spring, we were blessed to have Dave and Sheri Teuling for evangelistic meetings, presenting the Gospel through Black Light chalk talks. Their beautiful music and Dave's artistic talent provided us with an opportunity to invite friends and neighbours to hear the Gospel in a very pleasant service. In the summer, the Sutera twins presented their revival services and later on in the year Tom Shell was our guest. Finally, there was a four day seminar about Family Living, with Rev. Gerald Wilson.

Throughout the year the building committee was working to prepare another set of plans for a new sanctuary. Plans from Mac Construction, with options, were finally ready to present to the Church for further direction and action.

This summer we were encouraged by the increase in attendance at our Drive in Church services from June 24 to September 2.

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Baptisms in 1979

Robbie Main	Tom Salisbury
Bill Hastings	Roland Reeves
Terry Babbey	Joyce Reeves

Total membership December 31, 1979 – 284

The exciting highlight for **1980** was the building of the new sanctuary. At a special meeting in January, the congregation voted to accept the plan proposed by the building committee at a total cost of \$387,091. The contract for the construction was awarded to Elric Construction and on Sunday, April 20 the contract was formally signed. Following the signing, the ceremony for the turning of the sod was conducted and construction commenced the following day.

The moving of the organ into the sanctuary was under the expert advice of M. R. Willets and Association. John Dutot was given the task of refinishing the pulpit, communion table, Pastor's chairs and organ.

The first service in the new sanctuary was held on November 16, 1980. From Pastor Babbey's report, "What had been a dream became a reality this year and the resulting building is beautiful and practical."

It was a privilege to have back with us again this year – Dave and Sherri Teuling and Gerald Wilson of Family Life Seminars and the Suteras.

Ladies Aid was disbanded but funds put aside to be used in the new sanctuary for a library.

The highlight for the C.G.I.T. was attending the jamboree at the Wildwood Conservation Area near St. Marys, Ontario. The guest speaker at their church service was Lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbon.

Baptisms in 1980

Kathy Bueckert	Sheila Harris	Emily Lindsay
John Bueckert	Bill Harris	Eileen Anderson
Pam Barnes	Ernest Dawson	Judy Watson
Lisa Richards	Kathy Hetherington	Sherry Barnes
Janet Wadsworth	Bill Hetherington	Debbie Landon
Richard Zavitz	Sandra Ross	

Total membership December 31, 1980 – 301

1981 saw an increase in givings, particularly to the building fund. We managed to reduce the loan by approximately \$37,000. There were many jobs that were completed in and around the church. A special thank you goes out to Mrs. K. Hetherington and Mr. E. Dawson for their many hours of work on the flower beds and trees around the church. Also completed throughout 1981 were the installation of a washroom stall for the handicapped, front door buzzer system, an insulation blanket made for the baptistry and many other jobs.

Sunday school attendance in 1981 showed an increase and in December the average attendance was 121 pupils compared to the 99 in December of 1980.

1981 saw many changes in our Young People's group, both in the faces of the leaders and also in the faces of the members. In June, we wished Steve and Marilyn Arnold well as

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they went to take their place in the church at Wilkesport. Marilyn's sincere dedication will be greatly missed by our Young People. Heather and Thane also withdrew their leadership.

During the fall, both Beaver and Cub groups acquired new leaders. The Cub group now has three leaders, Marie Olds, Ellen Bell and Lynn Lambier. Pat Childs resigned as Beaver leader and Fred Johnston was installed as the new leader. Wendy Tapp became an official Activity Leader in November. At present, we have 13 Cubs and 11 Beavers.

Baptisms in 1981

Garnet Thomas	Bill Webster	Carrie VanKerhoven
Douglas McCallum	Leo DeBurgher	Stephen VanKerhoven
Carol McCallum	Karen Landon	Jack Thompson
Dorothy Mahu	Linda Sinclair	Michelle Raymond
Sherman Parr	Jim Armstrong	Michael Raymond
Thane Ristau	Linda Armstrong	Andrea Goethals
Glynis Ristau	Linda Kelso	Mary Lozon
Jerry Benn	Gordon Kelso	Anne Reidstra

Total membership December 31, 1981 – 318

1982

We praise the Lord for the Evangelistic crusade conducted in our church this past year by John Bell of Chicago and for the visitation programme that was launched by John Bell. Other speakers throughout the year were Rev. Duncan from Leamington, Paul and June Vannatto from our own church and the S.I.M. Board presented a missionary challenge.

Some of the jobs completed were the projection screen for Sanctuary installed, Christian Education building floor marked for sports events, sidewalk ramp built, and a fresh air intake system installed on the Sanctuary furnaces.

This year the Sunday school department honoured 39 pupils for their perfect attendance. The average weekly attendance was 110 students.

The Young People's group was lead by Janet Hess and Kevin Babbey for 1982 and membership was built up. 1983 will see Ross and Deb Shaw as the new leaders.

Baptisms in 1982

Betty Dubuque	Shirley Turner	Jim Labadie
Tammy Dubuque	Sharon Turner	Tracey DeBurger
Mark Dawson	Marilyn Parker	
Vicky Reid	Tammy Parker	

Total membership December 31, 1982 – 319

In **1983** during the Mission Fest Festival, we experienced the ministry of Rev. R. Berry and throughout the year we had guests Rev. Bill Steeper, Muriel Harrington, Debbie Miller (representing Child Evangelism) and Dr. Rocky Freeman of the Prophetic Conference.

Janitors, Ross and Debbie Shaw, wished to retire and were replaced with Barbara and Russell Mader. Twelve banquet tables with folding legs were built to facilitate banquet preparations. The Beginner Sunday School room was insulated on the north and west walls and the room is now one of the warmest in the building.

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Baptisms in 1983

Louise Benn

Cathy Wilson

Marylyn Chilcoat

Wayne Brown

Jane Ann Johnston

Anita Boca

Mary Ann Eagleson

Total membership December 31, 1983 – 320

From the **1984** Pastor's Report, Rev. R. Babbey offers a special thanks to Wayne Cornelius and the Property Committee for their planning and organizing of the projects for our church and parking lot. There also was a small group of men who worked hard and saved our church thousands of dollars by insulating, drywalling, painting, carpeting and finishing several rooms in the Christian Education Building. This year marks the financial blessing of having the sanctuary completely paid for, including certificates.

A "joyful noise unto the Lord" was offered in praise and worship through the ministry of music. The "Celebration of Praise" program by Barbara Myers, on the organ and piano, and the Vesper Service with the three bell choirs (Harmony Belles, The Bells of Praise and Heavenly Bells-children grade 3 and up) participating, were special evenings of music to remember. The Bells of Praise handbell choir extended a sincere thanks to Mrs. Marj. Zavitz for donating the beautiful instruments. We received a letter of resignation from our choir director, Lois Myers. Lois has served as choir director for 26 years, and in her 26 years of service, has provided the church with beautiful anthems and cantatas. Mary Jean Larabee has agreed to act as choir director on a temporary basis at the present time.

Baptisms in 1984

Lynn Tarr

Heather Tarr

Jim Shaeffer

Jean Shaeffer

Total membership December 31, 1984 – 319

In February of **1985** the property committee reports that the job of insulating the Christian Education Building was completed except for the installation of a few storm windows. This was the largest single project to be undertaken by the men of this Church and we all should be very thankful to the men who gave tirelessly of their time, week after week, to see it through to a successful completion. These men: Walter Anderson, Donat Lalonde, George Morrow, Jim Stearns and Lee Riedstra, saved us about \$4,000 by donating their skills and time to this most worthy project. The savings continued when, by the end of the year, our gas usage had been reduced by 36.2%. An energy management system, which consists of a series of timers on all thermostats, was installed. In June, the project of paving the parking lot was completed at a final cost of \$52,528.15.

From the music committee went a special thanks to Mary Larabee for her capable leadership ability in directing the choir for the first eleven months of 1985. We welcome Julie Lehman as our new choir director. Some of the musical highlights during the year were "The Brass Quintette", presented by Colleen Bushey and her colleagues from Western University and "The Music Machine" – Part II" (Children's musicale) directed by Marilyn Arnold and Carolyn Parr.

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Baptisms in 1985

Jim Martin	Chris Falconer	Vanessa Bueckert
Lynn Brown	Lydia Falconer	John VanRuymbeke
Bradley Tapp	Christina Wilson	Terry VanRuymbeke
Jim Stearns	Angus Smith	Christine Cibulka
Connie Oliphant	Cindy Turner	Mary Vitek

Total membership December 31, 1985 – 256

The year **1986** was a rough year for Pastor Babbey with the surprise heart attack he suffered. He spent the year regaining strength and offered thanks to Walter Anderson and the Deacons Board for looking after the church and a special appreciation to Barbara Robertson for all she did as church secretary.

1986 was a year of change in the staff of the Young People's group. Thanks were expressed to Louise Larabee and Sue Noyle for their leadership of the past two years. We welcomed John and Terry VanRuymbeke and Mark and Fran Aarssen to the youth staff. Special thanks goes to Russ and Corrine Hazlett for continued strong leadership in guiding the young people of our church.

The Sunday School had a good and rewarding year with new members in almost every class. We have grown to average 105 students, with some Sundays having 115 attending.

The Harmony Belles Choir and the Bells of Praise had successful years and made many appearances. The Bells of Praise were pleased to perform for the gathering of our Western Association of Baptist Churches this fall.

Baptisms in 1986

Mark Aarssen	Mark Lehman	John Williams
Francine Aarssen	Debbie Wilson	Fred VanDellen
Mark Vacheresse	Evelyn Ameriault	Dorothy Goldrick

Total membership December 31, 1986 – 264

In the Pastor's Report of **1987**, Pastor Babbey expresses his gratitude for the Colossians 2:7 classes that began and were a blessing to many people this year. This year also saw the beginning of a Sunday School prayer chain. Also expressed was how "Home for Christmas" cantata, performed by the senior and junior choir, was such a blessing.

Thanks to the bequest of Mrs. Gertrude MacMurray, who passed away in 1987, we were able to install a state of the art sound system and refurbish the balcony completely. A children's "cry room" was also constructed at the north end of the balcony. Thanks to the generosity of the Meals on Wheels organization, a new eight burner, two oven, Garland commercial cook stove was installed in our kitchen – a very welcome addition to our facilities.

From the Sunday School report, we learn that during the year, they decided to adopt a child through the Compassion Canada program. They send money each month to support a girl named Fresil who lives in the Philippines. Each Sunday, many children bring a few pennies to give to support Fresil by providing food, medicine, clothes, etc. for this girl so far away.

After much prayer and consideration, a group was organized which would minister to the Senior members of our congregation as well as any other senior adult from outside our Church who would like to attend. This group was named the J.O.Y. group for "Just Older

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Youth.” They meet the fourth Thursday of each month and their first meeting was held September 24, 1987.

Baptisms in 1987 - None

Total membership December 31, 1987– 265

In **1988** David Vaughan was hired as assistant pastor. His prime responsibilities will be to encourage lay leadership in Sunday School, Christian Education, and Youth Work. With the addition of Assistant Pastor, David Vaughan, our youth groups have grown beyond all expectations. The outreach program, “Kid’s Night Out” has been a huge success with approximately fifty kids attending regularly. This children’s ministry is aimed primarily at the 10 – 14 age group and most of our regular attendees are in grades 5 – 8.

Barbara Robertson had her title changed from pastor’s secretary to church secretary, to make her services available to people who are working in the congregation and who could use secretarial assistance.

At the Easter season, the choir presented the cantata “He Lives” and at Christmas performed “Christmas For All Time.”

Towards the end of the year, the refugee family finally arrived. Lynn Brown and the Missions and Evangelism Committee and many volunteers had looked forward to this and we now have a family that has spent five years in a refugee camp in Thailand.

Baptisms in 1988

David Myers

Jim King

Ric Atchison

Scott Regis

Bridget King

Joan Atchison

Mary Lynn King

Total membership December 31, 1988 – 274

The year **1989** saw assistant pastor, David Vaughan, leave the church.

The age of our Christian Education Building began to show, with the appearance of several roof leaks and a major breakdown of the large Rezner furnace. For the time being, however, we have been trying to stall the inevitable by patching whenever a leak appears. Another break and enter of our Church in March prompted us to purchase and install an electronic security system in areas of our Church which would be subject to theft of articles or vandalism. A complete valuation was done on our Church’s assets excluding only the land and buildings. The total value of assets is \$335,350.50.

The Mission Band is composed of 35 children (ages 6 to 12 years) who join together each month. In 1989 they used the Mission Education Materials provided through the Baptist Resource Centre as their background. The year began with a study entitled, “Gifts from God.” Monthly, they looked at the gifts of love, music, knowledge, wisdom and teaching shared by our Canadian Baptist Missionaries in countries around the world.

We were able to send Barb Myers to an Organ Convention in Hamilton as a gift for her faithful service as our Church Organist for 35 years.

The Baptist Women’s Fellowship purchased and installed an automatic dishwasher in the church kitchen through their collection of Zehrs and I.G.A. tapes.

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The refugee family had arrived December 7 of 1988 and spent 1989 settling in. The father's name is Keuth and the mother's name is Bounvong. The eldest son is Bounkanong and the younger son is Bounvilay. The youngest child is the daughter, Phoxay. Keuth was hired at Libby St, Clair and then received a better paying job at Creative Machines. Everything seemed to be going smoothly, with the help of Lynn Brown and many other volunteers from the church but when October came, the family decided to leave Wallaceburg and they relocated to Kitchener.

From the Sunday School report, thanks was extended to Eva Hamilton as she left after teaching for more than 40 years and to Sharon Turner who helped in Nursery Sunday School for more than 10 years.

Baptisms in 1989

Stacey Sharrow

Sonya DeNaeyer

Total membership December 31, 1989 – 273

The pastor's report from **1990** tells of how difficult, and yet wonderful, the year had been. He couldn't remember a year when our church family had as many personal problems as we did in 1990. Some nights he wondered if he could take any more and he wondered if the people would find the burdens too much to bear. However, God was faithful, as always. 1990 was a wonderful year as well though, because we were able to become acquainted with June Callkacott, a trained Christian counselor from Sarnia and Gerhard du Toit came to minister in August.

Towards the end of 1990, Ken and Sharon Thomas and their family came to our congregation. Ken was invited to become an Assistant Pastor to our congregation.

The Deacons Board report talks of difficulties as well. As per Ross Shaw, Chairman, "I have written this to say that your Deacons Board is aware that, although we strive in our Church to be one, there is much work to be done. We must lay aside our differences and humble ourselves in the Lord Jesus Christ."

The Fellowship Room took on a new look with its paint, wallpaper, new furniture and new carpet. A new floor covering was installed in the Pioneer Room, after much hard work to remove the old carpet which was glued to the concrete floor. The games room for the Young People was completely renovated. Room dividers were built. They are to be used for small functions in the Sunday School auditorium and have proved to be very useful and also very attractive.

The goal of the 1990/1991 Christian Education Committee was the re-organization and growth of the Youth Groups. The Explorer and C.G.I.T. groups were cancelled and the Olympian program started up on September 20. This took on a new direction with our younger youth, grades 1 – 6, and has had up to 40 youth in attendance, under the supervision of Ross Shaw.

The senior choir presented the Cantata "Behold the Man" on Palm Sunday and on December 16 presented, "Meet Him at the Manger" led by choir director, Julie Lehman.

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Baptisms in 1990

Brian McCallum

Helen Jones

Kent Babbey

Lee Riedstra

Jim Jones

Total membership December 31, 1990 – 282

First Baptist Church, Wallaceburg marks its 125th anniversary in **1991**.

In 1991 Pastor Babbey and Pastor Ken Thomas decided that Pastor Thomas would oversee Missions and Evangelism, Christian Education and Music Committees.

The Property Committee reports of thanking God for the donation of a computer in the secretary's office and the donation of an air conditioner for Assistant Pastor's office and offered appreciation for the donation of a Hammond organ.

The Mission Band reported that Marilyn Arnold took over in leadership, replacing Janet Hess. The year 1991 was a difficult year for the Young People. There were weeks spent struggling over what night to have Young Peoples, and lack of unity among the leaders caused further complications. The youth in general (not in all cases) lack greatly in commitment to our Lord and prayer is asked for blessings and a better year in 1992.

The music committee reports they were able to bring to the congregation the new hymnal entitled "The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration" They were pleased to send their old hymnals to Whitby Baptist Church who expressed a need for them.

Missions and Evangelism were able to support Barb Main as a midwife in Africa, Paul and June, Nathan and Jonathon Vannatto returned to serve in new ways in Benin, Africa. In evangelism many new ideas were tried; street evangelism, door to door canvassing, the Samaritan program and a Youth Retreat. The results were mixed and some of these initiatives succeeded where others did not. Special mention should be given to the Youth Retreat that was our first ever and was a resounding success. Special thanks to Carolyn Parr who coordinated the entire event.

Ethel Andrus and Barb Myers were honored for their many years of service with Baptist Women's Fellowship and were presented with Dominion Life membership pins.

A special morning program was held in November for the Anniversary Service as we celebrated our 125 anniversary. The Sunday School invited anyone who had taught in our Sunday School in the past to join us. They had many teachers and helpers from the old church who remembered many good times. The total years of service from these teachers was well over 300 years. The choir loft was filled with several previous choir members as they joined in for the anniversary event.

For Christmas, the entire Sunday School took part in the musical "Three Wee Kings" and filled the choir loft in the sanctuary.

Baptisms in 1991

Ben Arnold

Eddie Clark

Jay Johnston

Marie Armstrong

Edward Clark

Ralph MacNally

Joe Aubie

Helen Clark

Brent Parr

Lori Bogaert

Jessie DeBurger

Jodie Shaw

Candace Brown

Fred Johnston

Pearl Southgate

Grace Vyvey

Total membership December 31, 1991– 301

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The year **1992** was turbulent and marks an upheaval within the church. Pastor Babbey and several of the congregation are no longer with First Baptist Church and our hearts are heavy. In September, Pastor Brian Horrobin was called to serve as interim pastor at First Baptist Church. From the Interim Pastor's Report, "I'm not sure what the Lord will bring to First Baptist Church in 1993. It's exciting to know, however, that as we choose to surrender to Him, to show complete forgiveness and to trust in Him, He will show Himself strong in our midst." One major area of ministry that heavily influenced Past Horrobin's decision to accept the call to come to Wallaceburg as interim pastor was the youth ministry. He met with them during the summer in the midst of all the turmoil that had gone on. He saw a group of young people pulling together, praying for their church, not forsaking the assembling of themselves together as they gathered at Wendy Tapp's house. Such perseverance under trial, such vision inspired him.

From the Finance Committee a few highlights include the sale of the parsonage and a \$15,000 legacy from Harold Frost Estate was received.

The senior choir presented the Easter cantata "Hallelujah, Praise the Lamb", with Janet Hess and Mark Aarssen serving as narrators. In September, the choir experienced another drastic drop in numbers, but continued in their commitment to the ministry in music.

Each year at Easter time, the Missions and Evangelism committee endeavour to encourage members and adherents to support a missions project. Through the 30 Pieces of Silver Collection, they were able to send \$1237 to June and Paul Vannatto. Thanks go to Elaine Tapp and also the youth for delivering the collection bags pertaining to this project.

We are extremely grateful to God for His faithfulness in leading us through some very difficult times.

Baptisms in 1992

Tyler Miller	Amy Oliphant	Wayne Roberts
Michelle Miller	Joan Rinfret	Amy Shaw
Marion Thompson	Eric Shaw	Erin Riedstra
Lauren Parr	Sean Vyvey	Karen Snary
David Tarr	Kenny Thomas	Steven Christner
Total membership December 31, 1992 – 264		

The year **1993** started with Pastor Horrobin serving as interim pastor until a permanent pastor could be called. His call to Wallaceburg was confirmed by a strong vote on April 25, 1993 and he officially began his ministry as pastor on August 1, 1993.

The finance Committee was informed that a \$16,666.67 legacy was left to the church from the Grant Stanley Dean estate and then received word that another \$8,000.00 was added to the legacy.

Carolyn Parr worked through the year to bring Bill and Libby Steeper to do a series for Missions and Evangelism on Restoration. In October, the Steepers presented a four-part series of seminars on Restoration in the Church, Friends, Family and Marriage. This was received well by members of our congregation and was also an outreach to our community.

The senior choir performed "Beyond the Cross" for the Easter cantata and was pleased to participate in Pastor Brian's induction service. The music committee gave special thanks to

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the Bell and Junior Choir who add so much and give us encouragement for the future music of the Church.

Baptisms in 1993

Melyssa Childs	Kylie Bogaert	Andrea Robertson
Susan Brown	Michael Bogaert	Shawn Thibert
Stephanie Brown	Amber Lehman	Heather Tarr
Jason Parr	Dwain Broad	Rose Swain
Char DeBurger	Corrie Vyvey	Stacey Swain
Marj Bratt		

Total membership December 31, 1993 – 213

The finance committee of **1994** reports a \$10,000 bequest was received from the Isaiah Frost estates. Additional funds from the estates of M. Brander and Ed Southgate were received, each in the amount of \$500.00.

The property committee had a great year of blessing but also a year of disappointment, with the resignation of Wayne Brown. Wayne was an eager servant of the committee for several years.

Under the leadership of Janet Hess, the Mission Band began their study in September entitled "I Live Anywhere – I Live Nowhere", a look at the children on the streets of Brazil and in the prisons in Bolivia. It has been eye-opening but also a blessing for the children. Missions are a vital part of our work in the Christian church and the Mission Band allows the children to learn to pray for and support the people of other countries who are enduring hardships. Special thanks were given to Kae Bushey for providing a craft each month for the children.

Missions and Evangelism hosted a mission conference in March with Rev. Ken Sharpe as guest speaker. In September, the Jesus Video Campaign began. The goal was to place a Jesus Video in every home in Wallaceburg. As Jesus Christ is the head of the church, missions are the cornerstone.

Baptisms in 1994

Chris VanKerkhoven	Tootie Thompson	Stephanie Swain
Mike Shirley	Ryan Hastings	Michelle Swain
Seannah Ross	Ashley Hastings	Judy Franklin
Jennefer Dionne	Courtney Hastings	Christine Marshall
Matthew Childs	Val Cooper	Jonathan Marshall
Becky Turner	Denise Chatel	Bruce Caron
Tony Caron	Jason Giles	Kim Smith
Ruby Schram	Mary Taylor	

Total membership December 31, 1994 – 222

As Pastor Brian looks back on **1995**, he can definitely see the hand of the Lord working through the ministry of First Baptist Church, Wallaceburg. He has spent a busy year, with pastoral visits at 195 and hospital calls 116 and to say the least, finds the Christian ministry an exciting vocation.

The budget committee has set a budget in the neighbourhood of \$143,000. While our revenues were under budget, the expenses were correspondingly under budget as well. The Lord was in control and expenditures were met.

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A bequest of \$1,000 from Lil Thompson Estate will be utilized towards a new Church sign. The Property Committee reports a cordless microphone was purchased for Pastor Brian and the men's washroom was renovated to make it wheelchair accessible. A new fridge donated by Meals on Wheels was installed in the kitchen and a new gas hot water heater was purchased. The cross in the sanctuary was altered to eliminate some of the shadows and mail boxes for the use of the congregation were installed in the cloak room.

The departure of Julie Lehman, our choir director, for a position at Roberts Wesleyan College in New York caused a changing of the guard for the music ministry in our church. Marilyn Arnold was voted as the new senior choir director, with Erin and Melyssa Childs taking responsibility for teaching and directing the junior choir. Due to many requests, the choir presented "The Day He Wore My Crown" a second time, performing it three nights in a row. On December 10, they presented "Meet Him at the Manger."

Baptisms in 1995

Harriet Caron

DeEtta Salisbury

Dennelle Cole

Total membership December 31, 1995 – 204

The highlight of **1996** for Pastor Brian was the Ukraine mission trip, and not just the 2 ½ weeks he was over there. It was exciting to see the planning and the preparation unfold. It was a blessing to see the congregation get behind this mission and call it their own by faithfully praying and bringing in the necessary finances.

For celebration of the Church's 130th anniversary, there was a supper with a talent night on the Saturday, and Dr. Brackstone spoke on Sunday, with Don Wilde providing the special music.

The W.A.B.Y. report tells of Wallaceburg hosting the Spring Rally. The new executive for 1996/1997 are: Past president – Melyssa Childs, President – Amanda Malott, First Vice-President – Ben Arnold, Second Vice-president – Susie Mantle, Music Director – Melyssa Childs, Secretary – Sara Watts, Treasurer – Nicole Jewell.

The Baptist Women's Fellowship had a very positive year. They are proud to report that Barb Myers is now the Second Vice-President of the Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec. Kae Bushey is the Mission Assistant for Western Association and Mary Larabee is the Children and Teen Sponsor for Western Association.

Baptisms in 1996

Shawn Fletcher

Loni Arnold

Lorna Pilon

David Hyatt

Bret Wismer

Julie Belanger

Total membership December 31, 1996 – 193

In our first Sunday morning service of **1997** we took time to shake hands and proclaim to one another, "This is going to be a great year!" God was true to His Word in Mark 11:23: "...he will have whatever he says." Several men participated in both our men's baseball banquet in February and in Promise Keepers events in May and June. There were ten decisions for Christ from these three events plus several men who rededicated their lives to the Lord.

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The alarm system which was started in 1996 was completed after hours of work just to run the electrical wiring. There was much rearranging of the offices – the Pastor’s office moved to the old library, the secretary was relocated in the Pastor’s former office and the youth director was moved from the choir room to the vacant secretary’s office. Thanks to the generous offering on Gift Night, we were able to update the auditorium sound system, install new hand rails leading to the choir loft, and also replace our out-dated copier. The youth room was also repainted by some of our youth members and a new carpet installed.

The concept of Christian Education at First Baptist took on a new look in 1997 with the acceptance of a new constitution. Rather than focusing simply on children’s programs, we began looking at programs for all age levels. The Olympians (Grades 1-6) Junior Church (ages 3-8) and Mission Band (ages 6-12) continues to be part of the regular programming.

The music committee invited Judy Paling and team to come and provide the special music for our Anniversary Services. They were enjoyed by all.

Baptisms in 1997

Paul Vanlanduyt

Kristen Dobratz

Janice Hakker

Carrie Rose

Scott Atchison

Katie Hakker

Andrew Arnold

Dave Innis

Michelle Durston

Jennifer Horton

Jim Dickson

Francis Durston

Total membership December 31, 1997– 192

The year **1998** was a year of quiet reflection, of change, of rest for some and refocusing for others.

A bequest fund of \$50,000 was received from the estate of Henry Frost.

The Mission Band for children ages 6 – 12 holds their meetings usually on the third Sunday of the month. The programs vary to include stories, games, quizzes, puzzle sheets, snacks but always include the children’s favourite activity, a craft. This year saw the passing of the torch from Janet Hess to Ruth Horrobin.

The J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth Group) meets every third Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the church. They average 35 – 40 people each meeting and encourage every older youth, 55 plus, to attend.

Rick Turnbull was our guest speaker and soloist for the morning service of our Anniversary. In the evening, “Heartsong” did a musical concert that was enjoyed by all in attendance. This year, the choir sang a Christmas Cantata called “King Forever.”

Missions and Evangelism reports the Harold Frost estate monies allowed them to send a cheque to Barbara Main in the amount of \$1,000 and to assist in the support of Amy Shaw and Pat Childs for their Youth Slovakia Trip in the amount of \$3,000.

Baptisms in 1998 – Connie Wismer

Total membership December 31, 1998 – 182

In June **1999**, John and Pat Childs went with 5 youth from First Baptist Youth group to Marysville, New Brunswick to work with other mission teams for an outreach in their community. The youth group spent the months of October through December preparing for the Christmas musical “Christmas at Hope High.”

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Eduard Klassen presented the church and community with a wonderful evening concert for our anniversary Sunday in November.

The Missions and Evangelism helped to support our CBM Partners in Mission. They sent \$250 quarterly to the McArthurs in Ukraine and the Albinets in Turkey. Mission trips by Dave Hyatt and Dave Tarr, and Barb Myers' trip to the Baptist World Alliance in Australia, received donations.

In May, twelve members from the Baptist Women's Fellowship attended the BWMS Convention in Kingston when Barb Myers was installed as President of the BWMS of Ontario and Quebec. We are very proud of Barb and will continue to support her in any areas needed, during her tenure as President.

Neil Anderson presented the seminar "Victory over the Darkness" with Neil Cole. The Pastor's Prayer Ministry was re-established and organized by Pat Davis.

The Pioneer Room project is on-going. The board room table was donated by Dow Chemical Canada Inc. and we purchased the chairs. Painting and minor renovations are still to be done.

Baptisms in 1999

Jody Emerson

Jeff Emerson

David Babbitt

Total membership December 31, 1999 – 179

In Pastor Brian's report last year he had encouraged us to believe God for some great things to happen in **2000** and then to expect it. Well our great God has been faithful. After a one year sabbatical from the Wednesday night prayer meeting, we started back up again in October. This time is found to be spiritually refreshing with a real sense of unity at each gathering. Unity has also been something the Lord has been stirring up in our midst. Some exciting things are happening with our relationships with Faith Baptist Church. Keep praying and expecting God to move in this area.

From the Finance Committee Report, the year 2000 brought a year of unforeseen expenses. The property committee was dramatically over budget during the year, largely due to non-budgeted items. In January and February we had to have our sewage system repaired and it was necessary to install a new sewer. During July we had two break-ins and we had to pay the deductible for each break-in. We updated our alarm system to try to eliminate any further break-ins by improving security. Unfortunately, this also was an unexpected expense. We had to repair the windows at the north side of the church that were damaged by vandals and the lexan for this project was quite expensive.

Rev. Kevin Babbey was our anniversary speaker and Melyssa Kerr was the guest soloist. The senior choir presented the Easter Cantata "Come to the Table."

The Christian Education committee is thankful to Amy Shaw for her vision and leadership in the Faith Factory children's program which started on Friday nights in the spring and moved to Wednesday nights in the fall. Amy also co-ordinated a children's "Fun Night" in March.

Baptisms in 2000

Samantha Swain

Ken Judson

Holly Hess

Shawna Bogaert

Alyssa Horrobin

Cory Hudson

Total membership December 31, 2000 – 164

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From Pastor Brian's report, the year **2001** was a very difficult year for the church. There was much sorrow, financial struggles and growing pains. We have seen good things happen this year and our hearts have been saddened by other things. This year our church tragically lost two young men, Jesse DeBurger and Ryan Hastings but we rejoice that they knew the Lord and that we will see them again.

During the year of 2001, we again had unexpected expenses due to repairs that were needed to the building. Miller Brothers Roofing came in and we had the roof totally repaired rather than patching it. Mr. Miller assured us the roof is now good for at least 10 years.

Faith Factory is an opportunity for children ages 5-12 to praise God through song and dance. The children meet from 6:30 to 7:30 and play games and practice a song to perform for the congregation. They finished the year practicing the song called "Captain Salvation." This group is led by Jodie Shaw.

The J.O.Y. group had another fun filled year of outings and speakers. Fellowship with the senior members (55+) of the church was enjoyed by many.

The Sunday school is made up of preschoolers, Way Cool Club, Teens and Adults. There was a pancake breakfast to introduce the Way Cool Club.

The cantata, "A Canticle of Joy" took place in December, utilizing an expanded Senior Choir, a small orchestra under the direction of David Babbitt, along with accompanists, Velma Wilbur and Barb Myers. This year, through a special donation, the organ console was replaced with a newer one. The original pipes are still in place. This gives us a more modern pipe organ system. Special thanks to the property committee for the work they did on this.

The Missions and Evangelism committee were pleased to allot Amy Shaw a lump sum donation and monthly support as she joins the Venture Team for mission service. The committee continues to support her at every opportunity with their prayers as she carries out God's work in Siberia.

Barb Myers retired from her two years as President of BWOQ and has now accepted the position of Vice Moderator for Western Association.

Baptisms in 2001

Carol Gustin

Mary Jo Arnold

Lauren Hunter

Total membership December 31, 2001– 159

Some of the special events during **2002** were Life Keys Seminar, The Gideon's, and Movie Night "The Climb".

In April, the J.O.Y. group put on a display and gave a presentation of the Church history on the church's Gift Night. This group had a great year of fellowship with so many interesting speakers and outings.

For the First Baptist Youth, it was a year of transition, as they were without a Youth Pastor or a Youth Director. There were a number of people who stepped in and helped out. Pastor Brian, Eric Shaw, Jodie Shaw, Corrie Vyvey, Bret Wismer and Tom Riedl were involved in leadership in 2002. The mission trip to Jamaica was cancelled and instead, they had a huge outreach in the summer – Monday night beach volleyball. Behind the church building a big hole was dug in the ground and filled with sand. Poles, nets, volleyballs and JB speakers were purchased. Money for this came from the money that was going to pay for the Jamaica trip. Most of it came from the generosity of the congregation gift night. Every Monday night in the

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summer we had from 40 to 50 young people come and play volleyball. We played music and had a BBQ while the youth played volleyball. During the middle of the evening we had a guest speaker for about 10 to 15 minutes. This was a very successful community outreach to the youth.

The Missions and Outreach (Note the new name change from Missions and Evangelism) agreed to send funds for Amber Lehman's mission trip to Ecuador and also to Matthew House, Windsor. During the summer months they collected items for Steve Green's prison ministry "Hand in Hand." Throughout the year they continued to support their Partners in Mission: the Albinet family in the Middle East, the Passi family in Chile and the DeNeut family in Belgium. Windsor Baptist Refugee Services – Matthew House was added to the list and the Swann family deleted.

Baptisms in 2002

Mavis Colyer

Carrie McCaughrin

Mike Hess

Tom Riedl

Nadine Smith

Marcie Lehman

Total membership December 31, 2002 – 157

In **2003**, our church took a step of faith by agreeing to be the official co-sponsor of the Northern Light Workcamp sponsored by Group Workcamps Foundation. Thanks to a strong partnership with other churches in Wallaceburg and Walpole Island, the project went well, bringing free renovations to 52 needy families.

In January, there was a special joint service with Knox Presbyterian, Christian Reformed, Walpole Island, Bethel Pentecostal and especially Faith Baptist Church.

In February 2003, the roof over the sanctuary leaked causing extensive damage in the sanctuary and the organ. The finance committee reports there were extensive repairs (not covered by insurance) done to the organ. Having had several meetings, five quotes submitted, and recommendations that the roof be replaced, we did so at a cost of approximately \$30,000. All works were completed by October 2003. These repairs amounted to \$32,500, which was taken out of the parsonage fund.

In September of 2003, we began our project from the Marnie Anderson bequest monies of revamping our sound equipment, projection equipment and new sound room. Lyle Stratton requested of the property committee to be allowed to build the new sound room and explained, "The Lord gave me the ability to do things with my hands, thus I would like to do this booth and charge for the material only." We expect in February 2004 to complete the work on the sound project and are grateful to Lyle and his group of volunteers.

The Youth Group had a kickoff in April, giving it a new name. It is now called Ignition. They moved into the old mission band room and gave the room a new floor, some counters and cupboards and a new paint job. They continue to have the beach volleyball during the summer. This outreach brings 20 – 40 youth out each Monday night.

During the year, we were blessed with many special music ministries. For our Anniversary service, John Stevenett provided the special music. The choir produced two cantatas – Easter – "No Wonder We call Him our Saviour" and Christmas – "Rejoice." Marilyn Arnold, who has led our Senior Choir for many years, tendered her resignation effective the end of the year. Barb Myers is undertaking the job until June and will re-visit the challenge at that time.

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Baptisms in 2003

Bonnie Judson

Jonathon Johnston

Brian Cartier

Total membership December 31, 2003 – 159

In **2004**, the mission trip to China, in March, was the highlight of the year. Historically, Baptists are 'people of the Book' who hold strongly to the Scripture. To have the opportunity to partner with The Bible League to place bibles into the hands of the persecuted believers in China, is the heartbeat of our mission and calling. Kae Bushey, Jennifer Black and Eric Shaw from our church made this trip.

A program of visitation has been initiated, headed by Ross Shaw. He will be seeking people willing to assist him with visits to shut-ins, hospitals and homes.

A new form of governance commenced in June, with Deacons Janet Hess, Paul VanLanduyt and Kae Bushey.

The new Board of Management met for the first time in May and has taken up the work of both the Finance and Property Committees and even some of the duties of the previous Deacons Board. One of the projects the board has tackled was to use funds from the Thompson and Anderson estates to purchase a proper fire proof safe for the use of the Historical Committee and also storage of important church records. The church safety deposit box was opened and all of the materials were given to the Historical Committee, with the box being closed. The tithe on the Martin estate bequest was chosen and given. Cameras have been installed at the back of the building and lights were purchased to be installed on both back sides of the building.

2004 was a year of transition for the Christian Education committee. It began with the blending of the Sunday School and Christian Education under one umbrella. Despite the growing pains of a new committee, our regular groups including the various levels of Sunday School, Junior Church, Discovery Club, Faith Factory, Youth and Growth Groups continued faithfully throughout the year.

Baptisms in 2004

Glen Smith

Dave Rodway

Total membership December 31, 2004 – 161

The year **2005** marks two very significant stories of healing and forgiveness. A man who broke into our church five years ago wrote to Pastor Brian from prison asking for forgiveness. This was granted to him and he responded with a letter of sincere appreciation. Also, we had the opportunity to reach out to our former pastor, Rev Reg Babbey, by petitioning the BCOQ to reinstate his ministerial credentials after 13 years. As per Pastor Brian, "That service on April 17 was without a doubt the most anointed, God-honouring service I have ever been part of in 19 years of ministry."

Our church reached out in powerful ways to our community and beyond, In April, Mike Hess was commissioned and sent out to Haiti for a time of ministry there. Then, on Mother's Day weekend, our church teamed up with Bethel Tabernacle, Living Word Assembly, and D&S Auto to provide a free oil change for 34 single moms in our community. We provided them with the oil change, a car cleaning inside and out, a barbeque, a New Testament and a small gift.

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We worked to begin the NeighbourLink program and we want to extend our thanks to Elsie Stratton for agreeing to be the Co-ordinator. Sis Lalonde will be managing the office in Chatham.

The Board of Deacons had Jason Cartier speak at a morning service about U-turn Ministry. We agreed that he would be given the use of one of our upstairs rooms for an office.

Pat Davis and Janet Hess agreed to serve as joint chairperson, with Pat representing adult ministries, and Janet, the children's areas. A workshop for leaders was held in April led by Dr. Joyce Bellous, a highly trained leader and wife of our BCOQ Executive Minister. Under the umbrella of Christian Education: the Sunday School, Way Cool Club, Junior Church, Discovery Club, P.E.R.M.I.T., Ignition Youth Ministry and Growth Groups, have ministered actively during this past year.

The Board of Management has been busy and reports the new roof on the Christian Education Building has been completed. Our new janitor, Paul Vanlandyt is doing a great job, along with his helpers Glen and Shawn. The areas behind the sound booth, the narthex and the Youth and Secretary's offices are being painted by members of the Shaw family. A plan to raise money for the repairs to the parking lot is in place, spear-headed by Doug Babbitt. After discussion with the Pastor and the Librarian, it was decided to relocate the library and change its format to a Reading Room. It is now located in the room at the top of the back stairs.

This year for our Anniversary service, our guest singer was Michele MacLean. On December 18, the choir presented music entitled "God in a Star" which was followed by a candle lighting service. During the summer, for the first time since 1993, the handbells were refurbished, with the cost being covered by a generous donor. Many thanks to our Praise and Worship teams, as well as to Kae Bushey, Bill Tarr, Betty Babbitt and others who organize and direct our hymn singing.

Baptisms in 2005

Victoria Horrobin

Frasier Smith

Jennifer Provost

Elizabeth Horrobin

Brooke Emerson

Justina Deacon

Lorraine Nap

Total membership December 31, 2005 – 140

Without a doubt, the highlight of **2006** was the special service of honour and celebration for our former pastor, Rev. Reg Babbey, which took place on March 5, 2006. We had a full house that night with many pastors in attendance. As a result of Pastor Babbey's credentials with the BCOQ being restored, our friends at North Dresden Baptist Church were able to enlist Reg's services as interim pastor, to fill a need there.

Again in 2006 we participated in the Single Mom's Oil Change on Mother's Day weekend and the Northern Lights Work Camp in late June. In addition to these excellent outreaches, we also started up another in March, the Helping Hands Café. Each month our church provides a delicious meal for free, along with a short program. Numerous bibles have been given out and a number of our guests have started attending the church.

We began hosting the DivorceCare ministry at our church, led by Kathy Regnier.

In November we celebrated our 140 anniversary of First Baptist Church in the community of Wallaceburg and Rev. Reg. Babbey heartily agreed to come and be our guest speaker for this special occasion.

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When Ignition, our F.B.C. youth group, reconvened in the fall, the group had expanded, and 20-40 young people from grades 8 to 12 meet Thursday evenings under the leadership of Eric and Jodie Shaw as well as Janine Thomas and Bill Wall. This is a challenging task and we appreciate the dedication and effort of the leaders in providing an exciting program as well as biblical instruction for the teens who attend.

2006 has also seen the development of a completely new type of ministry at First Baptist. U-Turn Ministries under the direction of Pastor Jason Cartier and First Baptist have joined forces to provide a ministry called T.H.R.I.V.E. This is a Bible-based program for children up to approximately 12 years of age and is intended to target unchurched children within the community. Presently over 50 children are registered and the average weekly attendance is 40.

The past year saw the introduction of a new feature in our music ministry that seemed to draw a great positive response. On months that have a fifth Sunday, an all-request Hymn Sing has proven to be well received. The year also featured Sure Foundation in ministering for our Anniversary Sunday and flutist Grant VanDyke featured as the guest artist for Barb Myers' Christmas Candle Lighting Service.

Baptisms in 2006

Reagan Nap

Brenda Sterling

Kathy Regnier

Sidney Nap

Gary Sterling

Total membership December 31, 2006 – 139

Pastor Brian saw several areas in **2007** that indicted the Lord doing a new thing, a fresh work among His people. Three areas stood out to him. He spent time with the deacons doing a study on leadership. He also taught a lay preaching course which 16 people took. He also held a one-day leadership retreat for our deacons and board of management members. The second area was the start-up of the Wallaceburg Noon Prayer Meeting. This weekly, hour-long prayer service was started on November 1 and continues each Thursday at noon at St James Anglican Church. This prayer meeting represents an important facet in the road to spiritual revival that our community so desperately needs. The third area where he saw fresh work of God in 2007 was the revitalization meetings for our town. This year was a very busy one and we lost some very precious saints from our Church. Thankfully, we also saw some incredible answers to prayer. Our great God and Saviour was glorified when Pat Davis, against all medical odds, was able to receive his wife's kidney and get a new lease on life.

We held a seminar led by Dr. Warwick Cooper, who led us in an Old Testament session of "Walk Thru the Bible." We were able to once again this year hold the Single Mom's Oil Change event in partnership with Bethel Tabernacle and Living Word Assembly and D&S Auto. The deacons supported Past Brian to attend a Pastor's Prayer Summit in Portland, Oregon in July.

From the Board of Management, this year we welcomed a new Church Treasurer to our Board. Brenda Sterling has kept us up to date each month with her fine work. Our janitor, Joe Aucoin, has completed one year of service with us. We are pleased with his service and he has fit himself right in to our church family. We also welcomed to the Board, Gary Sterling, who has brought a wealth of business experience to our work. Work managed by the Board included a large two-month events calendar, posted by the office, so everyone can keep track

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of happenings within our church. Work on the new washroom was completed. Many thanks go to Lyle Stratton and Charles Cibulka for their efforts. The tower crosses were totally re-wired and re-built, now operating on less than half the previous power. Our church hosted a Community Garden. Many thanks go to Paul Vanlanduyt and Albert Baart for their assistance.

The Baptist Women's Fellowship handled upgrades to the kitchen equipment, and decorated the washrooms, and in partnership with the Board of Management, provided funding for a new piano for the choir room. The group refurbished the Fellowship Room and offers a special thanks to Doris Richards and Deb Shaw for painting and papering and Brenda Sterling, Elsie Stratton and Kae Bushey for time spent choosing colours and accessories for the Fellowship Room.

The Christian Education Committee worked to establish a vision and goals. Four goals were set and work began towards these: 1) Leadership training; 2) Updating our ministry; 3) Improving communication and relationships with team members and those involved in our ministries; and 4) Advertising our ministries. We have many very dedicated leaders in our Sunday School as well as our other training ministries including Junior Church, P.E.R.M.I.T., T.H.R.I.V.E., Ignition and Growth Groups.

The Senior Choir report tells of how the Christmas program, featuring a tableau and candle lighting, was delayed by the big snow storm December 16, 2007. The service took place in January 2008 and proved to be a good conclusion to the Christmas season. The Bells of Praise, our handbell choir of seven women, provided music for the Christmas dinner for the Wallaceburg Community Centre Seniors.

Baptisms in 2007

Mary Upwood

Albert Baart

Jim Druer

Raymond Knowles

Darlene Hamel

Barbara Jean Hawgood

Derek Cornelius

Total membership December 31, 2007– 140

In **2008**, we opened our church up to the community by way of the Community Gardens project, Helping Hands Café and flu shot clinics, as well as allowing various community groups to use our (His) building. People notice that our pastor wants us to continue to build on the reputation that we are getting of being a church that cares for this community.

We hosted Dr. Warwick Cooper again this year, who led us in a New Testament session of a "Walk Thru the Bible" seminar. We were an active partner of the first Wallaceburg-wide worship service held Sunday morning during the WAMBO weekend in August.

The youth participated in World Vision 30 Hour Famine this year to help raise money to provide food for people around the world. During the summer they had a BBQ uptown at WAMBO and were able to raise a good amount of money. At the end of the year, the youth started a project to raise money to purchase animals for people in Asia through Gospel for Asia. They were able to raise \$2500 and provide 103 animals. The youth helped sort toys and food at the Salvation Army for their Christmas hampers and also went to Chatham to pack the Christmas shoe boxes.

Special guests in 2008 included Maxine Brochu and Central Baptist Handbells from Sarnia at the anniversary service. The Bells of Praise Handbell Choir started out the year with

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a small number of ringers and in the fall the bell choir did not start up again. There is a great need for more ringers and we hold the hope we will be able to gather a new group of people (men and women) to learn this exciting method of making music.

Baptisms in 2008

Catherine Aubie

Gordon Osborne

Total membership December 31, 2008 – 137

The year of **2009** was marked by ministering in deep water. There was the reconciliation with Rev. Ken Thomas, our former Associate Pastor. This service was years in the making and took a great step of faith. Nov 22, 2009 was the day of the service and much healing took place, both for Ken and his family and First Baptist Church. To God be all glory! We formally launched the counseling ministry in June, hiring Kathy Regnier, one of our members, as a full-time, trained Christian counselor. Finally, there was the opportunity that our church had in North Dresden Baptist Church which has been without a pastor since 2006. We were asked to cover their pulpit from October through December, as well as having Pastor Brian staff their office one day each week and provide pastoral care. Chad Cornelius and Tom Riedl helped fill the pulpit on some Sundays as well. This ministry required us to launch out into the deep in order to help out another church during our church's busiest season of the year. Once again God proved to be faithful.

In November of 2008, our secretary, Cathy Mikhaila was forced to take a leave of absence due to health problems. She returned to us in November of 2009 and has since received a clean bill of health from her doctors for which we praise the Lord. In the interim, Barb Myers took the helm and steered us through the rough seas of a busy year. We thank her greatly for all of her work during this time.

There were several things accomplished during the year. A sink hole and damage to the catch basin occurred at the north end of the parking lot. After receiving quotes, we agreed to go with Ouellette Paving who did the work at a cost of \$1055. A number of trees were planted by All Seasons Nursery. We were able to do this due to an anonymous donor to whom we are very grateful. In May, thanks to Eric Shaw and the Young People, several maple trees were planted on the east side of the parking lot. Additional monies were received from the Persyn Estate, which will be tithed. The remainder of the funds will be used for the purchase and installation of the new overhead projector in the sanctuary.

One of our greatest challenges this year has been staffing for our ministries, particularly nursery and Children's Church. God has once again been faithful in seeing these ministries continue and we thank Him for those teachers who attend faithfully in leading our Sunday School classes from preschoolers to older adults. Cherrie Roberts and Ruth Horrobin work with the children ages 6 to 10 years, Al and Nancy Rabideau lead the teen class and Janet Hess works with the preschoolers. Our need was met by providing new teachers for our preteen class as well as adults. Bob and Nicole Taylor are working with the preteens and Bonnie Turner is providing a very innovative approach to the leadership in the adult class, or "Sunday Morning Growth Group."

On Sunday, May 24, 2009 our congregation took a huge leap of faith, in the midst of one of the worst economic crises witnessed in years, to breathe life into counselling ministry. Kathy Regnier, NANC certified counsellor, moved into the newly appointed counselling office

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this past summer and is carrying a full caseload of 5-7 cases. Since taking this giant leap of faith, the Lord has been pleased to work through this congregation in ministering to the community through small groups like DivorceCare, Uncommon Vessels, and 'Disciplines of a Godly Person' classes, as well as one-on-one counselling and couples counselling.

Baptisms in 2009

Marlene Rabideau

JoDee Desangher

Total membership December 31, 2009 – 141

Pastor Brian's year **2010** brought him into contact with a number of prodigals, many seeds have been planted and he is expecting a harvest. We are believing and praying that lives be transformed and families strengthened. The ongoing battle in our town to keep our hospital reminds him of how our church is also a hospital, but a spiritual one, a place where the hurting can get healed. The Lord brings many people through the doors of First Baptist Church seeking help in various ways, be it physical, financial, emotional or spiritual. Our community is hurting and the Lord is sending many of these wounded our way.

In 2010 the Board of Management oversaw many projects. Pastor Brian is enjoying each day coming into work after the major refurbishment of his office with new shelving, furniture and laminate flooring. Painting of the gym and upper floor corridors, including the doors in the hallways and painting of the Pioneer room and painting and refurbishment of the chair/table room has taken place. A humidifier was installed in the pipe area of the organ to keep the wood hydrated. A new tremulant was installed on the organ at no charge to us as it had been included in the refurbishment quote. Many thanks to Marlene Rabideau for taking care of the gardens during the spring and summer months. Special thanks to Leo DeBurger for the many electrical jobs he does for us. Also thanks to Charlie Cibulka for answering many calls regarding our heating and cooling systems. Big thanks go to Gary Sterling, Pete Dickinson, Bill Tarr, Eric Kelly and Ric Dubuque for refurbishment of the Pastor's office and all the other painting they did throughout the church.

At the beginning of September, the plan had been to provide Sunday School classes only for children from toddler age to the end of grade eight for lack of leadership in the older classes. God, however, answered prayer in a mighty way with Kathy Regnier, Pat Davis and Nancy and Al Rabideau offering to work with the teens and adults. God's working could not have been more evident.

The youth had a full year of activities and hosted the WABY Spring Rally on Good Friday. In May they were able to have Cal Smith from Creation Ministries International come to the church and share, for a couple of nights, a few presentations about Creation. In the summer, beach volleyball outreach continued on Monday nights behind the church. Special thanks to Deb Shaw, Albert Baart and Glen Smith who helped out with the BBQ and setup throughout the summer. In September, the youth held a BBQ fundraiser at O'Neil's Farm Show on Stewart Line. This fundraiser replaces what was previously attempted at WAMBO. The youth continue to support their sponsor child with Compassion Canada and their two missionaries in India through Gospel for Asia.

Blessing us in November for our anniversary service was Soli Deo Gloria Ballet group with their production of "His Faithfulness", bringing to us a touch of culture through their original choreographed ballet dance, dramatic reading and prayer.

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The First Baptist Counselling Ministry had a busy year with 147 counselling appointments that came to our full time counsellor, Kathy Regnier. On February 19 our church welcomed just under 100 women to hear Kathy present a message titled "Being a Godly Woman in an Ungodly World." DivorceCare and Uncommon Vessels were other ministries offered by our church.

Baptisms in 2010

Shane Pollock

Jessica Roberts

Karla Berkvens

Mari Wall

Kristie Roberts

Diana Cornelis

Total membership December 31, 2010 – 138

In **2011** Pastor Brian's report starts with "If I could identify one outstanding feature in the past year, it would have to be this: the people of First Baptist Church had a mind to work. Our greatest asset here is not the wonderful building that God has blessed us with, or the money that's in the bank, or the pastor that's in the pulpit, it's YOU!" "A church works well and fulfills the mandate that God has placed on it when everyone does his or her part."

As the committee reports are reviewed for the year, it is obvious that our church is blessed with people that devote their time and energy to doing His work to make First Baptist Church a spiritual and physical refuge from some of life's stormy blasts.

The Deacons continue to serve with visitations, phone calls and cards to the congregation throughout the year. A major shift of the board's involvement came this year when they took on the responsibility of supervising the fundraising aspects of the counseling ministry. They want our pastor and Kathy Regnier to focus their energy and attention on the actual ministry end of things so that the other does not add to their burden.

Our Policy Manual was six years old and was updated. Elsie Stratton has agreed to be Kitchen Manager. Any use of the kitchen will have to be booked through the office. Our Church inventory has been completed and the rooms have been photographed. BWF purchased a new fridge for the kitchen and the old one was donated to Bibles for Missions. Our parking lot was relined. Huge thanks goes to Eric Kelly and Pete Dickinson for the work they did. Big thanks go to Bob Taylor for cleaning the carpets in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Room and the chairs in the Pioneer Room. Postma Plumbing & Heating were approved to install a new Lennox Furnace for the office area at a cost of \$2530 and they were awarded the maintenance contract for our furnace and air conditioning units for two inspections per year. We secured a loan with Southwest Credit Union for \$60,000 to pay for the first portion of our roof replacement, to Reflex Roofing. Reflex Roofing agreed to give us a three year interest free loan for the balance. Thank you to Kay Harris for taking care of our flower garden during the summer months.

First Baptist Church hosted two leadership seminars, one in March and the other in November, led by Rev. Dr. Brain Craig of CBOQ. A number of churches within the community and outlying areas joined us for these seminars with approximately 100 people being served.

In 2011 there was a time of both ups and downs for our Sunday School. In June, five of our Sunday School teachers felt they were unable to continue in their roles. We said goodbye to Cherrie Roberts, Nancy and Al Rabideau and Nichole and Bob Taylor. With small classes and so many openings to fill we began in earnest to pray for God's direction. Although we did not resume classes till early October, God confirmed the Sunday School as a needed and

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valuable ministry of First Baptist Church. Amy Prince and Tori Horrobin, Wayne Brown, Tricia and Mark Groendyk and Jodie Shaw joined our teaching team allowing us to provide classes for all age groups who join together each week.

Counselling saw the number of counselling sessions go from 147 in 2010 to 214 in 2011. They were operating with the maximum amount of cases, always with a waiting list. The ministry is beginning to be recognized and trusted within the community allowing other pastors to refer members. We held our first major women's conference on September 23 and 24 with approximately 260 women in attendance to hear Elyse Fitzpatrick deliver her message, "Because He Loves Me".

Baptisms in 2011 - none

Total membership December 31, 2011 – 134

We were presented some very challenging financial situations in **2012** as we continued to deal with the ongoing issues of our church's roof, running into obstacles that we had not anticipated. Pastor Brian shares that 2012 was a bittersweet year for him. We lost a number of great people from our midst. This was his busiest funeral year so far (tied with 2004). This brings a definite measure of sadness as it reflects the loss of "family." On the other hand, he completed 20 years of service and the congregation surprised him with a cake reception on October 21. He was overwhelmed by this gesture and the congregation is so thankful to show their gratitude to being led by this devoted, God-serving pastor and leader.

At Christmas time, we organized and were blessed by the presentation of both children and adults who took part in a program entitled "Welcome to Bethlehem – Miracles of Christmas." Our church is extremely fortunate in the fact that we have one of the few remaining traditional choirs in our community. The choir members continue to meet weekly for rehearsal and enhance our weekly Sunday service as well as take part in Barb Myers' annual Candlelight Service, the Wallaceburg Ministerial Christmas Carol Sing and the annual Spring Musical Evening. Not lost upon our congregation is the blessing to have a true organist and likely the finest accompanist in our area, Barb Myers. Without Barb's weekly efforts both in front of the congregation and choir as well as behind the scenes, the Music Ministry in our church would suffer greatly. The Music Committee is ever so grateful for Dugal Smith's willingness to jump in and cover for Barb when she broke her wrist this spring. He also covers much of the summer and it is a blessing to have his talent among us.

The Baptist Women's Fellowship serves our congregation, our community and beyond in such a steady, quiet yet gifted manner each year. We are thankful for all they do such as serving lunch for Week of Prayer service, catering funeral lunches, delivering poinsettias to our shut-ins, and their financial donations to several needy causes.

The highlight of the year for the Christian Education Committee came with the coordination and organization of the CBOQ event "T3-T-D" hosted at our church Saturday, October 20. Hosting this event was at the request of the CBOQ which speaks well of the reputation First Baptist Church has in service to the Lord.

The Young People continue to meet on Thursday and held a busy year. Their crokinole tournament helped raise money for the winter retreat. In June, the youth helped to host the movie "Courageous" in the gym. In September, they had a BBQ fundraiser at O'Neil's Farm

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Show on Stewart Line. This is their fundraiser rather than participation in WAMBO now. In November they raked leaves for some people who live near the church. Many seniors appreciated this outreach. They also continue to support their sponsored child with Compassion Canada and two missionaries in India through Gospel for Asia. This year the youth group also supported Teen Challenge.

Counselling saw a busy year with almost 100 more counselling sessions in 2012 than in the previous year. The number of sessions for 2012 was 308, compared to 214 in 2011.

Baptisms in 2012

Alyssa Aubie

Joe Aubie

Total membership December 31, 2012 – 126

Pastor Brain's report of **2013** emphasizes the importance of consistent time in the Scriptures as a key component to staying healthy spiritually. We launched a challenging reading through the entire New Testament calling it "70 Days of Scripture". One of his true delights this past year was to see the ways so many answered the call to ministry, such as spending time with youth, preparing meals for Helping Hands Café or doing mission work in Africa or Haiti.

The Board of Management handled building maintenance challenges. The roof has settled over the years and there is concern with water pooling on the roof. Two sink holes had to be repaired in the spring at a cost of \$1200. A new hot water heater was installed in the kitchen and a new furnace was installed by Postma that heats the front office and choir room and part of the sanctuary.

2013 has been a year of seeking God's guidance regarding children's Sunday School at First Baptist. As a result of low attendance and lack of leadership, our Sunday School ministry had to shut down but was never forgotten. Throughout the year, the adult program continued under the leadership of Pat Davis. Despite having no official children's Sunday School, a Christmas Program entitled "Come to the Manger", including both children and adults, was presented to the congregation in December.

The Christian Education Committee, in conjunction with the counselling ministry, sponsored a women's event on April 4 with Sheila Wray Gregoire, Canadian author and speaker. Sheila presented, "Girl Talk...Straight Talk About Marriage and Intimacy" to approximately 80 women. Sheila and her husband Keith returned for a couple's event, "Light My Fire, Reigniting Intimacy" on September 28, 2013 ministering to just under 50 guests.

January 2013 saw a change in our counselling ministry that instituted a suggested donation of \$40 per counselling session rather than all counselling sessions coming at no cost to the counsellee.

For our November anniversary service, we were blessed by a visit from the London based worship team "John and the Revelators." This worship team was led by former First Baptist Church member Ric Atchison. Thank-you is given to Leo DeBurger for this suggestion, a wonderful example of how church members can get involved in the music ministry in a non-performance capacity.

The Baptist Women's Fellowship extended thanks to Brenda Sterling for hosting their picnic meeting in June and to Elaine Tapp for hosting their Christmas party in December. One

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of their meetings was at Uncle Tom's Cabin in Dresden and in September they attended a meeting at Union Baptist Church.

Baptisms in 2013

Jesse Lashmore

Total membership December 31, 2013 – 127

For the first time in 22 years as pastor at First Baptist Church, Pastor Brian took a sabbatical for 12 weeks in **2014**. The Lord impressed upon him, during his time away, two areas that he was to emphasize; the Word of God and prayer.

The Board of Deacons focused on filling in Pastor Brian's roles at our church to ensure the ability for him to partake in his sabbatical. Thanks were given to Rev. Bob Taylor, from Port Lambton, for his commitment to the pulpit during this Sabbatical.

When Cathy Mikhalia announced her retirement, a committee, under the Board of Management, was formed to interview and recommend a new secretary. Mrs. Amanda Miller was then hired. A luncheon and gift were arranged for Cathy and her family. We thank her for her years of wonderful service.

A bequest came in from the McPhee estate, and the tithe was used to support replacement homes in the Philippines. The carpet in the Fellowship Room desperately needed replacing, so the Board along with the Baptist Women's Fellowship, undertook to fund the replacement. The Board gave permission to form a 150th Anniversary Committee with an initial start up fund of \$1000. A big thank you from the Board goes to the McCallums for all their work on the flower beds and new landscaping.

The Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday evening and an average of 10 men attend. Our prayer is that every man in the church will be disciplined by someone equipping them to disciple someone else. Mom's Bible Study is meeting every Tuesday morning. An average of about 8 women attend. Tot Time 2014 is the Tot Time ministry that is a break off from the mom's bible study. Moms have their bible study and we provide a God time for the children. The ministry is led by Jodie Shaw, Jane Dickinson, Deb Shaw and Carrie McCaughrin. There were also two men's conferences and one women's conference held this year. After much prayer and planning throughout the early part of 2014, a new format replaced the Junior Church program to give more time for bible teaching. This was to compensate for the loss of teaching time that Sunday School had provided. "Kids Church" began in September 2014. Children, ages three to eleven years, are divided into two classes to best accommodate the learning abilities of the children.

Music has always played a very important part in our service of worship and this very powerful medium often sets the tone for a service. This November saw the 100th birthday of the installation of our beloved church organ and in recognition of this historic occasion, Barb Myers presented a special program in late November that was well attended.

The Baptist Women's Fellowship had a busy year with their regular activities but also took on a new project titled "Love Day." Some of their members went into homes in the community and helped families with laundry, cleaning and whatever was their greatest need at the time. We invited a number of the ladies to the church to make chicken soup and apple crisp to take home with them. We also prepared "Birthday Party Bags" to be distributed by the Salvation Army food bank.

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On March 21, Kathy Brown had a phone interview with Brian Craig, Director of Leadership Development for the CBOQ to complete the last phase of her level accreditation, and on April 2 received formal acknowledgement of her completion as a “Level 1 – Accredited individual in Local Church Ministries” with the CBOQ.

The Helping Hands Café is very thankful as they received a cheque in the mail from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent representing a one-time grant for First Baptist Hot Meals/Soup Kitchen from the Community Homelessness Initiative Fund. The amount of the cheque was for \$5000. With this money they helped out one of the other churches in Wallaceburg with their community meals that didn't receive a grant. FBC has the privilege of providing this ministry free of charge to our community. God is good!

Baptisms in 2014

Paul Vanlanduyt

Ryan Babbitt

Temesha Prince

Debra Hamel

Cindy Finn

Jesse Shaw

Total membership December 31, 2014 – 115

The year **2015** was very special to Pastor Brian in a number of ways. He celebrated his 50th birthday, his 25th wedding anniversary, his 25th year of ordained ministry and he ran in the Boston Marathon. From a personal standpoint this was a year of landmark events which he enjoyed with both his family and his church family. We also saw several new people come through the doors and a number of them stayed.

The original HVAC units on the Christian Education Building needed replacing at a cost of \$28,000. The Lord is truly good because this year we could obtain a rebate on the HVAC replacement of \$12,500 and by ordering before August 1, we would save a price increase of several thousand dollars. In order to cover the difference, the congregation granted permission to cash \$21,000 of G.I.C.s. We also have paid down the roof debt to approximately \$9,500 which we hope to pay off prior to our 150th anniversary. Thanks to Gary Sterling and a “band of helpers” the entire kitchen was refurbished. The BWF ladies took a large role in the process including replacement of the butcher block cutting board. Thanks to a welcome donation from Mr. Stephen Liddle, a friend of the congregation, a new dishwasher was purchased in memory of many of his FBC “family” who have passed. Many thanks go to Carol and Doug McCallum for the beautiful landscaping around our building. Extra thanks to Carol and helpers for installing the 150 Anniversary memorial patio.

In April the men of the Men's Tuesday Night Bible Study went to the Promise Keepers Legacy conference in London. They were able to rent a bus and over 40 men from our church and nearby churches went down together. This was an amazing time of fellowship with other men and there were many workshops geared towards topics specific to men. In September the Children's Time Out for Tots saw a great boom of children coming out and we needed more volunteers. We have 24 children signed up and the ages range from 0 - 8.

Our youth group continues to take place on Thursday nights and they have between 20 - 30 teens come out from the ages of 12 -18. In December the youth had plans to go to the Salvation Army to help with Christmas toys but weren't able to due to a shortage of toys. Pastor Brian decided they should go shopping for toys with the youth and then brought them to the Salvation Army. We are all thankful to the youth leaders for their faithfulness and love

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towards the teens that come out to First Baptist Youth Group. We know that God can move a generation and that with Him all things are possible.

Amanda and Pastor Brian filled out an application form to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent's Employment and Social Services division for a request of \$2000 for our Helping Hand Café ministry and we are thrilled to report that our application was approved. Through the year the Knights of Pythias provided a lot of fresh produce for the Helping Hands meal. In October Union Gas donated \$1000 for our meal. God is good and continues to provide more than enough.

Baptisms in 2015

Ila Little

Joe Janssens

Alan Hadlock

Chesley Pottle

Heather Janssens

Elizabeth Hadlock

Jamal Prince

Total membership December 31, 2015 – 123

It is with great anticipation we look forward to the year of celebration as we share with our community the success of First Baptist Church in the town of Wallaceburg.