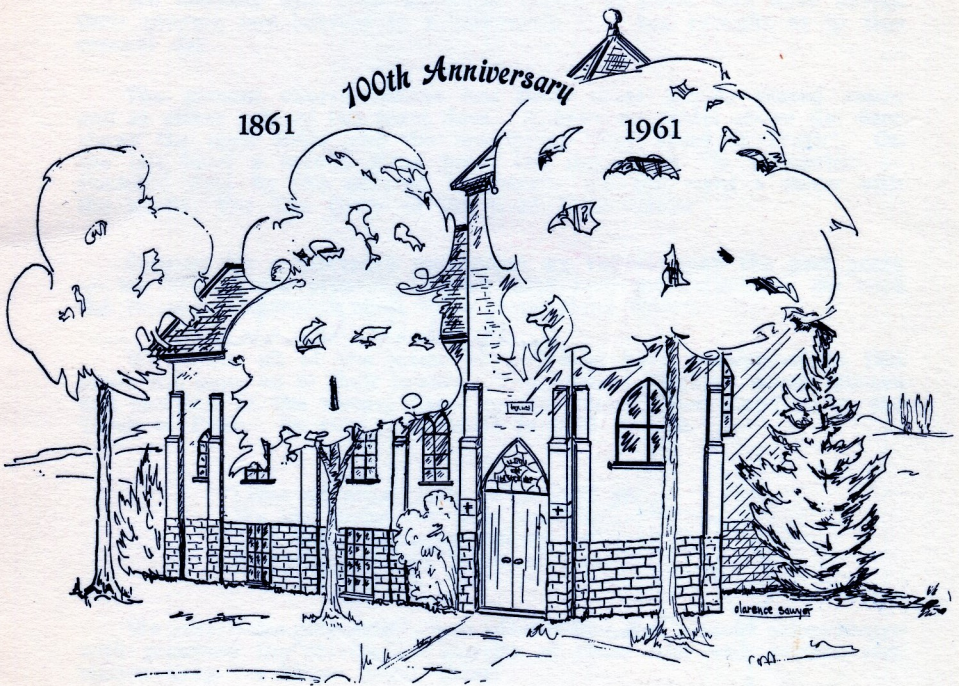


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EAST NISSOURI UNION CHURCH



SOUVENIR BOOKLET
WITH
HISTORICAL SKETCH

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Art Williams

with best wishes

James J. J. J.

Oxford Historical Society

CENTENARY YEAR - 1861 - 1961

East Nissouri Union Church

FOREWORD

It is with gratitude to Almighty God that we acknowledge one hundred years of organized Christian effort in this community.

We dedicate this brief historical sketch to those who have united their prayers and labours in a fellowship that has brought us to this present day.

The present church edifice has three stone tablets placed above and at either side of the front door. A keystone tablet above the door shows the open Bible and the inscription "Thy Word Is Truth". On the left hand a second stone bears the inscription "In Memoriam — Founded 1861 by the Beloved Pioneers". On the right a stone with the words "For The Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ".

Pausing for a moment's meditation we reflect upon the past years — we live in the present, and we gaze into the future, as we read the messages inscribed upon these three stone tablets.

We salute all of the saints of God who have worshipped in this place and gone on to their reward. The Beloved Pioneers whose labours and sacrifice lit the Gospel flame in this place. They hand to us the Torch of Faith. Be ours the resolve to hold it high.

"Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."

We revere the memory of those gone before, and also we acknowledge with gratitude the service and loyalty of those who with earnest conviction keep the flame alight today.

To the generation to come we hold before them the open Bible as a reminder that "Thy Word Is Truth", "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my Word shall abide forever."

Truly we give thanks for "The Grace wherein we stand". We sincerely covet "The Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ" to be in our midst and in our sanctuary until the end of time.

To all who worship here, and shall worship here, we say: The Lord bless Thee, and keep Thee: The Lord make his face shine upon Thee, and be gracious unto Thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon Thee, and give Thee peace. — Numbers 6: 24, 25, 26.



REV. BRYANT SMITH

Former Member,

St. Catharines, Ont.

HISTORICAL SKETCH - 1861 - 1961

The Gospel of Christ was carried to this vicinity in 1861 by itinerant ministers. On 30th of July, 1861, Rev. G. Wilson was directed by the providence of God to establish the first group consisting of forty members. Rev. Wilson was unable to exercise pastoral care because of heavy duties so Elder Salmon Vining from West Nissouri preached occasionally.

In 1867 the East Nissouri Baptist Church met in Martin's School for three months. On March 13th, 1871, the dedication of the new church was held with Rev. R. A. Fyfe, President of Woodstock College in charge. Several gave \$50 to the cause. Some borrowed money at 14% interest to contribute.

The infant church experienced difficulties from the start. In 1871 during the summer, spiritual famine overtook the church. The doors were locked and sheep were under the shed.

In the year 1872 Mr. S. H. Mitchell, a market gardener from St. Marys, was returning from Ingersoll market and noticed the locked church and the sheep beneath the building. As he looked at the desolate place his heart went up in prayer that someone would be God's instrument to revive this work.

Mr. Mitchell himself proved to be God's chosen man for the task. We make special reference to Mr. S. H. Mitchell as his sterling character, deep devotion and godliness accomplished much in the next seven years 1872-1879 that shall never be erased.

A Sunday School was organized with 15 present the first Sunday and the number doubled the next Sunday. The third Sunday ruffians disturbed the service but Mr. Mitchell graciously welcomed them and the next Sunday they returned to the services. In one year the children learned 10,500 Bible verses. When Mr. Mitchell left in 1879 there were 115 church members and he was held in high esteem by the congregation. He was a beloved pioneer who sacrificed much to establish this church. He often arose at 4.30 a.m. and when the roads were bad he had to walk. The time occupied in a return trip from St. Marys to East Nissouri was often five hours.

From 1875 to 1877 there was no minister. During this time Dr. Fyfe oversaw the work. As he was President of Woodstock College it is presumed that students from the College supplied the pulpit.

In 1877 a student minister H. A. McConnell, assisted by Rev. Dempsey of Ingersoll held a series of special services. A large number of converts were baptized in the Big Creek 4½ miles north of the church.

In 1878 J. C. Dunlop was pastor, followed in 1880 by J. D. McCaul.

Early in 1879 a church shed was built, and a fence erected around the church grounds, also a new platform and pulpit was built. During this year a delegation met with W. Nissouri Baptist Church to discuss a two-point charge with full time minister.

1880 — 1926

On March 1st, 1880, Rev. G. F. Robertson of Arthur became the first minister with a salary of four hundred dollars. During the two years of his ministry eighteen members were added. In 1883 when Rev. J. Serrill was pastor there was one thousand dollars subscribed to a parsonage fund, as Rev. Serrill resided at Thorndale.

Mr. James Speck donated one quarter of an acre of land from his farm to build a parsonage in 1884, costing approximately eight hundred dollars. In 1887 the parsonage was plastered at a cost of approximately ninety dollars. The anniversary offering of this year totalling fifty dollars was designated for parsonage improvements. The parsonage remained in the possession of the church until it was torn down in 1928.

During the pastorate of William Carey 1885-1887 the building was renovated, and twenty-four new members added to the church.

In 1887 the Ladies Aid raised \$150 to repair the church and fence the church grounds.

In 1888 the Ladies Aid put a baptistry in the church under the platform. During the same year the Society also purchased a new organ from D. W. Karn of Woodstock. This was the first musical instrument owned by the church. Until 1888 all singing was led by a person who set the pitch with a tuning fork.

From 1887-1889 Rev. W. J. Waddell was pastor and in two years twenty-nine new members were received into the church. Mr. Waddell ministered at East and West Nissouri Churches located ten miles apart.

During Rev. Davey's ministry in 1893 a vestry was built near the entrance of the church. A number of accessions by baptism were made.

Rev. W. L. Palframan was pastor from 1895 to 1899. He organized a very active Young People's Society which frequently met with other societies from Maple Grove, Browns Corners, West Nissouri and Wellburn.

In 1895 Mr. Palframan encouraged the re-organization of the Ladies Aid Society which was soon so successful as to be able to purchase and install large hanging lamps with porcelain shades for lighting the church. The Ladies Aid also supplied funds for putting a cellar beneath the parsonage.

During Mr. Palframan's ministry a choir was organized. Also, in 1897 the first Women's Mission Circle was formed.

Mr. Palframan was an ardent evangelist. During the fall of 1896 Rev. C. C. McLaurin assisted him in six weeks special services. Some twenty souls professed conversion or restoration.

1899-1902 — Rev. Segsworth.

1902-1907 — Rev. James Hamilton.

1908-1911 — Rev. Watson was pastor and also a poet of considerable ability. Often on the birth of a new baby in the congregation he would write and dedicate a poem to the infant. Rev. Watson later wrote a dedication hymn for the new Church in 1926.

During Rev. Watson's ministry two member gave their lives in full-time Christian service. Miss Etta Gourlay, a trained nurse, sailed for India on Dec. 10th, 1910. On Jan. 5th, 1911, Mr. Owen Rutledge was ordained into the Baptist ministry.

From 1911-1914 Rev. John Pettit pastored the East Nissouri Baptist Church during which time a spiritual revival took place. Rev. Pettit was a man with considerable pastoral insight. There were twenty conversions and baptisms during his ministry. In March, 1912, seventy friends gathered at the home of Mr. George Martin and Rev. Pettit was presented with a fur coat and purse of money and a complimentary address.

From 1914-1918 Rev. Bowman was pastor. Then from 1918-1920 a layman from London, Charles Geer was called to lead the East Nissouri Church. Mr. Geer was delicate in stature but strong in spirit and faith. He introduced the Forward Movement plan and raised \$300 for Missions. Mr. Geer was long remembered for his cheerful attitude and kindly care of the sick in the congregation during the severe epidemic of influenza during the days of the First Great War.

From 1920 to 1924 Rev. M. Lockhart and Rev. G. F. Tucker served the church, both during their time rendering faithful service.

On Sept. 7th, 1924, Mr. James McGinlay came as supply minister. The church asked him to remain for a month to conduct special meetings. The auditorium was filled each evening. By the conclusion of the meetings twenty-eight had confessed Christ. On Wednesday, Oct. 1st, the church was crowded to witness the ordinance of baptism conducted by Dr. T. T. Shields, of Toronto. Nineteen persons were immersed. Some of these are on the present Church Board and active in the church today.

Throughout the winter months of 1924 Messrs. McGinlay and Dolby both students of McMaster University, carried on services. Then in the summer of 1925 Mr. McGinlay became resident pastor at a salary of \$15.00 a month.

In August, 1925, Mr. McGinlay was followed by two students Mr. Dolby and Mr. Stock, both of Toronto.

NEW EDIFICE 1926

It was to be April, 1926, before another resident minister was to be secured. Despite this the East Nissouri Church pressed ahead with determination and in the autumn was able to make this announcement: "East Nissouri Baptists Re-Open Their Church. Small congregation subscribes over five thousand dollars, and will have church free of debt by the New Year. — Reunion of former pastors at inspiring opening services, held on Sunday and Monday. — Now have modern building well equipped to meet the needs of the work."

During the fall and winter of 1925-26 several members of the East Nissouri Baptist Church covenanted to meet on Wednesday afternoons for praise, prayer and Bible Study. After the prayer session on Feb. 7, 1926, the deacons discussed the possibility of erecting a new house of worship. All were convinced the old white frame structure had served its purpose, and that it was no longer a suitable meeting place, because of the growing needs of the community.

During this winter afternoon meeting \$3,675 was subscribed. Six of those subscribers are alive today and the other eight have gone to their reward. It was passed unanimously "that we all work in unity" and it was agreed that the structure should cost \$5,000.

Later a Canvassing Committee appealed to the community and received a hearty response. Before the church opened its doors, \$5,000 had been raised leaving only \$700 indebtedness which sum was cared for shortly afterwards.

To build at this particular time was a sample of the divine leading of God — this was the year 1926 — In 1929 a depression came and it would have been most difficult for the average member to have extra cash to donate to the church building.

During the early stages of this building project the church was without a resident minister, but the Rev. Ezra Thamer of Kitchener accepted a call in March, 1926 and began his ministry on April 11th.

At this time the church became associated with the Fullarton Baptist Church as well as the West Nissouri Church, thus making the field a three-point charge.

Under Mr. Thamer's enthusiastic leadership the new building was completed and ready for dedication by November, 1926.

Rev. Thamer received loyal support from the church officers who, at this time, were as follows: — The Board of Deacons: Paul Betteridge, Irwin Gleason, Wm. Smith; Church Clerk: Fred Hyde; Church Treasurer: Herman Cooper; Secretary of Building Committee: Milton Betteridge; Plans Committee: Irwin Gleason, Herman Cooper, Wm. Lang.

Those directly responsible for the building were: — Architect and Contractor: W. J. Stafford, St. Marys; Sub-Contractors: Mason work, Reid Bros., Harrington; Concrete Work, Wm. Lang, Belton; Painting, W. J. Judd, St. Marys; Plumbing and Heating, R. S. Somers, St. Marys.

In addition many people in the community offered help whenever they had a free hour. Upwards to \$1,000. worth of voluntary labour was contributed. On Dec. 17th, a church supper and program was held in honor of those who worked so strenuously and faithfully.

Dedicatory services were held on Sunday, November 14th. Those taking part were Rev. T. H. Mitchell, Rev. Stanley Stock, Rev. James Hamilton, Rev. E. H. Thamer, Rev. Thomas Watson who wrote the dedicatory hymn, Madame Jones, coloured soloist, Rev. L. T. Stones, Rev. G. L. Tucker, Rev. Chas. Geer, Rev. Dr. McDonald, Rev. James McGinlay.

The St. Marys Baptist Quartette composed of Messrs. R. J. Eades, Wm. Richards, Jack Sgariglia and Rev. L. J. Stones sang several pleasing numbers. Mr. Will Eley played some beautiful violin numbers. Addresses were also given by Rev. C. H. Green and Rev. Mr. Johnston of Wellburn.

The new church was a handsome building of Milton red pressed brick, forty feet long and thirty-one feet wide.

The auditorium was furnished with a new Sherlock-Manning organ presented by the Sunday School, also with a new individual communion set, an oak table, chairs and covering for the aisles, all presented by the ladies. Other contributions made by interested friends included the pulpit, jardiniere stands, flower baskets and grates for the fireplace.



1927 — 1934

In the six years that Rev. E. H. Thamer pastored the church, seventeen were baptized. During this period, his son Orville and Miss Muriel Weston entered Toronto Bible College. Later Orville went to the Sudan Interior Mission and Miss Weston (Mrs. William Rae) and her husband went to China. Rev. Thamer retired to Kitchener.

Mr. David Bailey followed Rev. Thamer as pastor and remained for two years. During the anniversary service in 1933 when Dr. A. J. Vining was guest speaker, Miss Alice Gleason, a member of the church, received the call to missionary work in India.

In 1934 when Mr. Bailey left the field, Rev. M. P. Lockhart returned for interim service. He continued until winter of 1935, then retired to London.

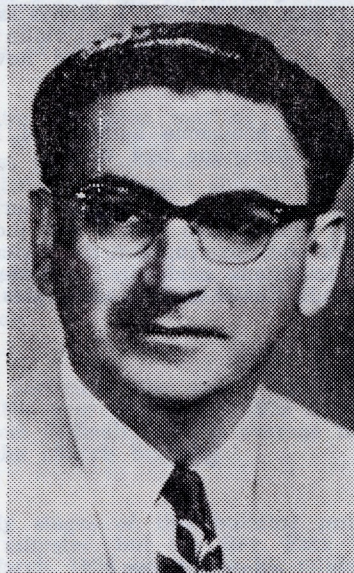
1935 — 1945

In these ten years church property was renovated and growth took place in several other aspects of church life.

In 1935 the church welcomed Mr. DeLoss Scott and his bride and presented them with a purse of money. In this same year the West Nissouri church asked permission to hold a farewell service for Dr. Aileen Vining, a missionary to India.

Mr. Scott was an excellent organizer. In the eight years of his ministry many souls had been saved and added to the church. Electric lights had been installed, new Hymnaries purchased, a new church barn built, church re-decorated throughout. A beautiful picture painted by Rev. Clarence Sawyer was placed above the baptistry. In the fall of 1942, Rev. DeLoss Scott resigned to take up full-time evangelistic work.

Rev. Leander Roblin followed Rev. Scott and remained until the spring of 1945.



REV. D. M. SCOTT
Pastor 1935-1942
Philadelphia, Pa.

1945 — 1954

In the fall of 1945, Rev. Joseph Suggitt commenced his ministry. Rev. Suggitt was a dynamic leader. Under his pastorate the young people were more active than at anytime in the church's history. They raised \$185. to help pay the passage of Miss Mary Haddow to Bolivia. In the fall of 1947 the Young People's Society set up and took charge of the "Alice Gleason Travel Fund", she being our missionary-elect to India. In 1946, Bryant Smith, another young man from the church, entered Toronto Bible College. The fall of 1948 was the time of Miss Gleason's departure for India. The church celebrated the occasion by holding two farewell services, the first by the Guelph Association on

Sept. 29th and the second Oct. 4th with Rev. Suggitt acting as chairman. That year the church, with about sixty resident members, raised almost \$1300 for missions. On Jan. 3, 1950, Miss Alice Gleason married the Rev. Russell Self, a Presbyterian missionary in India.

A highlight of 1950 was the seventieth birthday of Mr. Irwin Gleason. A picnic was held at Lakeside park in honour of his faithful and devoted service to his church and Sunday School over the years, and a beautiful Bible was presented to him as a permanent reminder of the people's affection.

In Jan., 1952, Rev. Suggitt resigned from his two-point charge at East Nissouri and St. Marys. He was succeeded by Rev. Nial Eastman who stayed with the church less than a year. Rev. Eastman was the last regular pastor of the East Nissouri Baptist Church. In the final months of the Baptist Church the main supplies were Rev. W. McDonald, Galt; Rev. Joseph Janes, London; and the Brotherhood, Ontario Baptist Church, Stratford.

On Jan. 17, 1954 the Baptist members at East Nissouri voted to become a "Community Church" without official affiliation.

The following resolution was drafted and accepted: — "That the East Nissouri Baptist Church members lend the church building and property to the community for a Community Church, and for this privilege keep the said building in repair, pay insurance policies and all overheads. But if at any time the Community Church should cease to operate as a Community Church then the church and property to revert back to the Baptist members of this community."

On Feb. 5, 1954 the Community Church met and appointed a temporary committee to look after the church business.

On March 31, 1954, a meeting was held in the church and a full slate of officers were elected. The name "East Nissouri Union Church" was suggested and unanimously chosen.

Several students and ministers supplied the pulpit until Mr. Mel Capener, a student from Huron College, London, began his ministry on May 9, 1954.

The outstanding event of Mr. Capener's ministry was the Sunday evening service Sept. 19, 1954, when the East Nissouri Membership Service was held. The visiting ministers present for this service were Rev. Joseph Suggitt (Baptist), Rev. R. D. Crosby (United Church), and Rev. Alex K. Campbell (Presbyterian). Mr. Capener extended the right hand of fellowship to 58 charter members. During Mr. Capener's ministry a new propane gas furnace and a new bathroom and running water was installed in the church basement. Early in Jan., 1955, Mr. Capener preached his farewell and was followed by another Huron College student, Mr. Kenneth Conyard.

Mr. Conyard was pastor of the Church two years. A meeting of interest was May 6, 1955 when Rev. Russell and Alice Self and family were welcomed home on their first furlough from India. A year and a half later a farewell service was held Sept. 9, 1956 to bid them good-bye and present them with the evening's collection of \$202.85.

Mr. William Rainey, Huron College, started his ministry May 5, 1957 and continued until April, 1958. During Mr. Rainey's pastorate the auditorium was re-decorated.

In May, 1958, Mr. Peter Smith, Huron College, accepted the church's call. On June 1, 1958 a special dedication service was conducted by the Rev. Clarence Sawyer, when Rev. and Mrs. Russell Self presented "Church Service" hymn books in memory of Mrs. Self's father, the late Mr. Irwin Gleason.

Mr. Richard Fox, London Bible Institute, followed Mr. Smith as minister in May, 1959 and remained with the church until March, 1961. During Mr. Fox's ministry a musical fund was started as an anniversary objective. In August, 1960, Dr. Aileen Vining showed pictures and spoke on her work in India.

Rev. Clarence Sawyer was called to the church April, 1961 as pastor. Since assuming his duties plans have been made for the Centennial celebration Sept. 17th and 24th, 1961. Due to the efforts of Rev. Sawyer and the Musical Committee, the congregation have had the opportunity to hear, select and purchase a new electronic reed Wurlitzer organ ready to be dedicated at the morning service Sept. 24, 1961.

At the present time there is a membership of 87 on the church roll.



REV. K. J. CONYARD

Student Pastor 1955-57

Now Rector of St. George's
Anglican Church, London

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS AND OFFICIALS

DEACONS, 1935-1954 — Herman Cooper, John Hutton, Paul Betteridge, Irwin Gleason, Victor Smith, Lawrence Taylor, Gerald Cook, Edward Haynes, and Joseph Hutton Sr.

ELDERS, 1954-1961 — Newton Martin, Milton Betteridge, Gordon Hutton, Harold MacKay, Fred Slater, Stanley Switzer, Ralph Betteridge, Wallace Hutton, Ray Slater, and Mac Robson.

TRUSTEES, 1935-1954 — David Tate, Joseph Hutton Sr., Milton Betteridge, Lawrence Taylor, Stanley Switzer, Wilbur Dunlop, and Lindsay Tate.

TRUSTEES, 1954-1961 — Allan Hutton, Ray Slater, Ivan Smith, Wallace Hutton, Lindsay Tate, Roy Hume, and Elmer Greason.

CHURCH CLERKS FOR LAST 50 YEARS

1911 — 1913 — Vining Gleason.
1913 — 1929 — Fred Hyde.
1929 — 1937 — Gordon Hutton.
1937 — 1938 — Mrs. Harold MacKay.
1938 — 1942 — Gerald Cook.
1942 — 1945 — Miss Hannah Martin.
1945 — 1951 — Roger Gleason.
1951 — 1952 — Stanley Switzer.
1952 — 1953 — Mrs. W. H. Dunlop.
1953 — 1954 — Mr. Joseph Hutton.
1954 — 1956 — Mrs. Fred Slater.
1956 — 1960 — Miss Freeda Conn.
1960 — 1961 — Mrs. Harold MacKay.

TREASURERS SINCE 1925

1925 — 1937 — Mr. Herman Cooper.
1937 — 1951 — Newton Martin.
1951 — 1952 — Ralph Betteridge.
1952 — 1954 — Ivan Smith.
1954 — 1955 — Oren Robinson.
1955 — 1961 — Gordon Hutton.

MINISTERS 1861 - 1961

S. Jones (1863 - 1864)	J. Pettit (1911 - 1914)
B. Freeman (1865 - 1866)	G. Bowman (1914 - 1918)
E. Sherman (1867 - 1871)	C. Geer (1918 - 1920)
W. Lambert (1871, summer)	M. Lockhart (1920 - 1922)
No Minister (1871 - 1877)	G. Tucker (1922 - 1924)
H. McConnell (Summer 1877)	McGinlay, Dolby and Stock
J. Dunlop & J. McCaul	(1924 - 1926)
(Summers 1878 - 1879)	E. Thamer (1926 - 1932)
R. Robertson (1880 - 1882)	D. Bailey (1932 - 1934)
J. Phelps (Summer 1882)	M. Lockhart (1934)
J. Sirrell (1883 - 1885)	D. Scott (1935 - 1942)
W. Carey (1885 - 1887)	L. Roblin (1943 - 1945)
J. Waddell (1888 - 1889)	J. Suggitt (1945 - 1952)
J. Phillips (1890)	N. Eastman (1952 - 1953)
C. Dewey (1890 - 1893)	M. Capener (1954 - 1955)
J. Osborne (1893 - 1894)	K. J. Conyard (1955 - 1957)
W. Palframan (1895 - 1899)	W. J. Rainey (1957 - 1958)
C. Segsworth (1899 - 1902)	P. Smith (1958 - 1959)
J. Hamilton (1902 - 1907)	R. Fox (1959 - 1961)
T. Watson (1908 - 1911)	C. Sawyer (1961 - 19—)

E. N. UNION CHURCH OFFICERS 1961

ELDERS — Stanley Switzer, Ralph Betteridge, Wallace Hutton, Ray Slater, Mac Robson.

TRUSTEES — Allan Hutton, Lindsay Tate, Elmer Greason.

CLERK — Mrs. Harold MacKay.

TREASURER — Gordon Hutton.



REV. CLARENCE SAWYER

Present Pastor

1961

"HIGHLIGHTS" — 1897 - 1947

A Historical Sketch telling the highlights in the fifty years of the East Nissouri Baptist Mission Circle.

(Reprinted from the St. Marys Journal-Argus of October 21, 1947)

It was in October in the year 1897, that Rev. Anderson, pastor of St. Marys Baptist Church, along with some of the members of the Mission Circle there, one of whom was the late Miss Martha Delmage, drove out to the East Nissouri parsonage, situated on the adjoining farms now owned by Mr. Victor Smith and Mr. Newton Martin on the 9th concession.

They came for the purpose of organizing a Women's Mission Circle. Rev. Palframan was the pastor of East Nissouri at that time. As many horses as there was room for, were put in his stable, but the others were tied to the road fence. The meeting was held in the evening with quite a large number of women present, some from Kintore.

The following are the names of those in attendance and who have since passed away: — Mrs. Palframan, the pastor's wife, who was named the first President, Mrs. John Betteridge, Mrs. Paul Betteridge, Mrs. Reuben Gleason, Mrs. Vining Gleason, Miss Lizzie Greason, Miss Etta Gourlay, Miss Emma Moore, Mrs. Jim Martin, Mrs. Daniel Martin, Anna Bell Martin, Mrs. Wm. Smith, Mrs. Samuel Switzer, Miss Carrie Speck and Miss Clarissa Wilson.

Only Charter Members

Others present at that first meeting and who are still living are Miss Hannah Routledge now Mrs. Gibson of Saskatchewan, Miss Alice Sheldon now Mrs. Wilson Lang who was the first Secretary-Treasurer, and Mrs. Wm. Slater, our only charter member. We rejoice to record that Mrs. Slater has been an interested and faithful member of our Circle during the fifty years and continues to attend every meeting; she is always the first one to finish reading the Link and Visitor and the books in the Reading Course, thus showing a live interest in the cause of Missions.

Mrs. Palframan held the office of president for three years, then the new pastor's wife, Mrs. Chas. Segsworth became president.

"Horse and Buggy Days"

Those were the "horse and buggy days" and often three and four would ride together. There were no telephones, and sometimes after arrangements had been made, unforeseen circumstances would arise, and the one who was to drive would not turn up, and so there would be the disappointment of being all ready to go to the meeting and no way provided. Quite frequently a Circle member would walk two miles in order to be present. The lunch question was brought up at one of the early meetings. It was moved and seconded that anyone who gave refreshments of any kind would pay a forfeit in money.

When the Circle was first organized, in order to be a member it was necessary to give \$1. to Home and \$1 to Foreign Missions.

The meetings were held mostly at the church and the Mission Circle prospered very well for a few years. Then for a time the regular monthly meetings were dispensed with.

In March, 1911, a meeting for re-organization was held at the home of Mrs. Wm. Smith under the leadership of Mrs. (Rev.) Thos. Watson; and Mrs. Robert Atkinson was elected President and Mrs. Irwin Gleason,

secretary-treasurer, which office she held for twenty years. Two years later, in 1913, Mrs. Paul Betteridge was appointed to the office of President, which position she held for eight years; Mrs. Betteridge was a very devout, refined Christian lady, one who loved her Lord, her Bible, and her church, and very rarely missed a meeting at God's House.

The name of Mrs. (Rev.) M. P. Lockhart is familiar to many of our women. She was vice-president for three years and president for one year. God's Word was very precious to her, and she possessed the rare gift of interpreting it to us, creating in our hearts a desire to know her Saviour and this was her testimony:

"I have seen the face of Jesus,
Tell me not of aught beside,
I have heard the voice of Jesus
And my soul is satisfied;
For He shed His blood on Calv'ry,
And He saves me by His grace,
And I find my all in Jesus
My eternal resting place."

President 22 Years

In the year 1923, Mrs. Sidney Martin was appointed President, which office she held until her death in May, 1945. During these twenty-two years our beloved and devoted president led us out into broader fields of service. There was a gradual increase in membership from ten to the present number of twenty-five. New committees were formed, e.g., Comfort Box Committee, Flower and Good Cheer Committee, Social Committee, Church Decorating Committee, White Cross Committee, Home and Foreign Mission Heralds. In this way each member was given something to do and this has increased the interest and regular attendance. Mrs. Martin had a very keen intellect, and a deep interest in the cause of Missions. No sacrifice was too great for her to make for her beloved Mission Circle. She spared neither time nor effort in preparing the monthly program. She was always much concerned about the raising of our yearly allocation which was always around \$150. Through her beautiful, consecrated life she endeared herself to us all; and it was a great loss to our Mission Circle, when God called her to be with Himself. She will live on in the lives of those who were fortunate enough to have been associated with her in the work that she loved. "She being dead yet speaketh."

Following the passing of Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Wm. Laing, vice-president, filled the office of president for the remainder of the year 1945, after which Mrs. Irwin Gleason was appointed president, and holds that office at the present time.

Another whose name deserves special mention in our sketch is Mrs. John Hutton who has been the faithful Treasurer for sixteen years, rarely missing a meeting during all that time.

In the year 1946, the envelope system was introduced into our circle, and through regular, systematic giving, the amount raised for Missions has been increased, the largest amount in any one year to be contributed was during last convention year which was one hundred and ninety-six dollars, forty dollars over and above our allocation.

We have no record of the amounts given to Missions during the early years, but during the past thirty years, the amount given to Missions is around three thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars. Since 1933 our Flower Box Committee spent around ninety dollars on flowers and fruit for the sick, and plants for the church. During the war years our War Services Committee spent around one hundred and ten dollars in boxes for our soldier boys. Several White Cross parcels have been sent to India as well as donations of money. The faithful convener of

the Comfort Box Committee, Mrs. Milton Sinkins, tells us that our donations to this work through the years would be equal in value to around \$150.

There is a fine spirit of co-operation among the 25 members of our Mission Circle, and we hope to go forward with greater zeal than ever before in the work of winning precious souls for the extension of His Kingdom at home and abroad, and for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

E. N. UNION MISSION CIRCLE 1954 - 1961

In April, 1954, the women of the community met to organize the E. N. Union Mission Circle. The president chosen to lead the group was Mrs. Lindsay Tate. Mrs. Newton Martin was elected as secretary-treasurer. Since the newly formed Union Church embodied four denominations, the Union Mission Circle chose to support three undenominational mission fields, namely: "The Sudan Interior Mission in Africa", "The Vellore Medical College and Hospital of India", and "The China Inland Mission". In addition, food parcels, packages of S. S. helps and papers are sent periodically to Mrs. Russell Self. Mrs. Self, the former Alice Gleason, went to India in October, 1958, as a Baptist missionary from the church, but since her marriage has been with the Presbyterian Mission, Jhansi, India. In January, 1961, we have undertaken to help support prayerfully and financially the Rev. M. Colemans, S.I.M. At Christmas, the missionaries' children cared for at Gowan's Home in Collingwood, Ont., are remembered with gifts or money to buy them treats. Amongst our important committees chosen each year is the Good Cheer. These women remember our sick and shut-ins with gifts and visits throughout the year and at Christmas our senior citizens of the community are given baskets of fruit and other goodies.

In the past seven years the following members have served as president: — Mrs. Lindsay Tate, Mrs. Oliver McGirr, Mrs. James Elliott, Mrs. Ray Slater, Miss Freeda Conn, and Mrs. Harold MacKay.

Our secretaries have been Mrs. Newton Martin, Mrs. Elmer Greason, Mrs. Gordon Hutton, and Mrs. Chester Greason. The treasurers have been Mrs. Newton Martin and Mrs. Ephriam Rout.

There are 37 names on our membership roll. Since May, 1954, the women have given the sum of \$1,483.45 to missions, using the monthly envelope system.

MISSION BAND

In the early 20's for a period of fifteen years, a Mission Band was organized under the capable leadership of Mrs. Irwin Gleason and Mrs. Sydney Martin. The meeting was held on Sunday afternoon. Thus many were guests at a noon meal in the leaders' homes.

Mrs. Milton Sinkins continued an outstanding Home and Foreign Leadership. During 1948-51 Alice Self and family was given support from the Baptist Mission Band under the supervision of Mrs. Fred Slater. This was followed by Nellie Mae and Woneta Smith's guidance.

The first Mission Band of the Union Church was organized by Mrs. Frank Bentley. The project was a piano for the basement. This work was completed during Mrs. William Bradley's leadership. Today, Mrs. Newton Martin is Leader. Expenditures outline Mite Boxes, Books for Mary Self, Gifts for Self Family, and Musical Fund.

E. N. BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR

In 1895 Mr. Palframan organized the first choir. This leadership added to the worshipfulness of the service and led to increased attendance. Choirs were continued throughout the years on many special occasions.

Organists and choir leaders sharing the responsibility down through the years were Mrs. Alonzo Taylor, Mrs. Walter Gleason, Misses Irene Betteridge, Verda Slater, Mary Harris, Grace Slater, Verda Cooper, Mrs. Milton Sinkins, Mrs. Ray Slater, Mrs. DeLoss Scott, Alice Gleason, Woneta Smith, and Phyllis Smith.

THE CHOIR (UNION)

Early in the year 1957 during the pastorate of Rev. Kenneth Conyard, the choir was formed with Mrs. Enos Hutton as choir leader.

The first choir to sing was a mixed group of adults. Then the Junior Boys sang at the Mother's Day Services.

At the present time the Junior Choir of boys and girls 9-14 sing more often than the adult choir.

However both choirs function as the occasion demands. The special numbers our choirs present are always a highlight of the service.

We pay special tribute to our talented organist Mrs. Ray Slater. Much credit is also due to our capable choir leader Mrs. Enos Hutton. Both are faithful in these offices and give their services freely to contribute to the worship with suitable music.

MUSIC COMMITTEE — Ray & Ethel Slater, Chester & Dorothy Greason, Enos & Eva Hutton, Rev. Clarence Sawyer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The S.S. has played an important role in the growth of the church and in the welfare of the community. The many beloved leaders and teachers have given unselfishly of their energy, vitality and enthusiasm to meet the responsibilities that guide the hopefulness and vision of youth.

The following is the list of Superintendents: — Frank Gleason 1900, Reuben Gleason 1902, Irwin Gleason and Wm. Bain carried on alternately for a short period. Irwin Gleason remained leader from 1903 until his retirement. During this time, he also taught the Adult Bible Class for a period of 50 years. For many years, Fred Hyde assisted, teaching on alternate Sundays with Mr. Gleason.

Other beloved teachers were Mrs. Irwin Gleason and Mrs. Sydney Martin. Mrs. Gleason taught a class of boys for about 40 years, and Mrs. Martin, a class of "her" girls for 25 years. Newton Martin has carried on, and has been teaching a class of boys for 25 years. Another outstanding and devoted teacher was Mrs. Milt Sinkins who taught for a number of years.

The S.S. has been influential in sending out fellow leaders to fields of greater service. Miss Etta Gourlay, a missionary nurse, left

Dec. 10th, 1910 for India. Mrs. Wm. Rae (nee Muriel Weston) served as a missionary in China previous to World War II. Mrs. P. W. Abriel (nee Jean Weston) worked on a Home Mission field in W. Canada.

Rev. Bryant Smith was ordained at Southampton and is now located in St. Catharines. Mrs. Russell Self (nee Alice Gleason) is serving her second term as missionary in India. The Y. P. Society paid \$600 toward her passage to India in 1948. Miss Alice Rowe is a missionary in North Rhodesia. The S.S. paid \$500 for the organ purchased in 1926 for the new Church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICIALS, 1961

SUPERINTENDENT — Ralph Betteridge; Assistant: Ray Slater.

SEC.-TREAS. — Maurice Hutton; Assistant: David Slater.

ORGANIST — Mrs. Jack Harkes.

TEACHERS —

Beginners: Mrs. Jack Harkes, Mrs. Glen Smith, Miss Ruth Ann Sawyer.

Juniors: Mrs. Gordon Hutton, Mrs. Harold Graser.

Primary (Boys and Girls): Mrs. Allan Hutton, Mrs. Eph Rout, and Mrs. James Elliott.

Intermediate (Boys & Girls): Mrs. Enos Hutton, Mrs. Wm. Bradley.

Senior Boys: Mr. Newton Martin, Mr. Oren Robinson.

Young People: Miss Freeda Conn.

THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY - 1954 - 1961

The W.A. is a separate organization from the Mission Circle but with the same membership. Their business sessions are held following the mission meeting. The purpose of the W.A. is the raising of money and they do this by catering to banquets, weddings, suppers and holding of bazaars, etc. Due to their untiring efforts and the lucrative results of their many projects, several pieces of necessary equipment have been bought and placed in the church building.

In the basement the W.A. has installed plywood on the walls, new kitchen cupboards and counters, a white enamelled sink, stack-up tube tables and chairs, a hot water heater, new dishes, cutlery, glassware, tablecloths and many sundry items not mentioned.

In the main auditorium on the platform at the front of the church, the chairs have been re-finished and re-upholstered, a new mat has been placed behind the pulpit and a new brass rod and velvet curtain has been put in front of the baptistry.

This year for the Centennial, new linoleum has been laid in the entrance hall, on the steps and up the aisles of the auditorium.

The inspiring and energetic presidents of this group since 1954 have been Mrs. Wallace Hutton, Mrs. Lindsay Tate and Mrs. William Bradley. Their helpful secretary-treasurers have been Mrs. Enos Hutton, Mrs. Wallace Hutton, Mrs. Allan Hutton and Mrs. James Elliott.

Since April, 1954, the W.A. has raised the sum of \$4,290.94 to date of printing.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

We couldn't conclude this history without reference to one of the most important groups in our church — our young people. We are aware that the youth of today are the church of tomorrow. Early in the summer the young people divided into groups, which are responsible for the programmes. The aim of this plan is to have each member take an active part in the meetings during the coming year. Their most recent project is the gift of new offering plates to the church.

The present officers are — President: Glen Slater; Secretary: Mary Jean Martin; Treasurer: Maurice Greason.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

FINANCE — Convener Gordon Hutton, Allan Hutton, Hugh Munro, Elmer Greason, Ephriam Rout, Roy Monteith.

PROGRAMME — Convener Ralph Betteridge, Fred Slater, Harold MacKay, Mrs. Harold Fraser, Mrs. Allan Hutton, Lindsay Tate.

PUBLICITY — Convener Newton Martin, Milton Betteridge, Mrs. Stanley Switzer, Mrs. Milton Betteridge, Allan Slater, Oren Robinson, Carl Cooper.

MUSIC — Convener Mrs. Ray Slater, Chester Greason, Mrs. Chester Greason, Enos Hutton, Mrs. Enos Hutton, Miss Marion Bradley, Mrs. Ralph Betteridge.

HISTORY — Convener Mrs. Harold MacKay, Mrs. Fred Slater, Miss Freeda Conn, Mrs. Clarence Sawyer.

HOSPITALITY — Convener Mrs. Wallace Hutton, Mrs. William Bradley, Mrs. Gordon Hutton, Mrs. Ephriam Rout, Mrs. Mac Robson, Mrs. Newton Martin, Mrs. John Harkes, Mrs. James Elliott.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Centennial History Committee gratefully acknowledge the loan of Rev. Bryant Smith's most comprehensive thesis on East Nissouri Baptist Church written in 1956. This book was a tremendous aid in the compilation of church history.

We also wish to thank all those who through the years so efficiently and faithfully recorded the church minutes. The church clerk has rather a thankless task but a most important one. This history could never have been written without our church clerk's records.

Mr. Fred Hyde had the distinction of acting as Church Clerk for sixteen consecutive years. He was a gifted scribe who had a brilliant mind and recorded the minutes with a distinguished handwriting.

To all the clerks we extend our deep appreciation for records so accurately preserved for our use as we review the past century of church history.

Errors and Omissions, if there be such, accept our humble apologies.

THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY COMMITTEE,

Convener, Mrs. Harold MacKay,

Mrs. Fred Slater, Miss Freeda Conn, Mrs. C. Sawyer.

SUMMARY

"God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform."

From an excerpt in an old book published in 1904 we quote S. H. Mitchell: — "Soon after the revival at the McKim school house in East Nissouri, heretofore described, a Union Sabbath School was organized between the Baptists and the Methodists of which I was chosen as one Superintendent and a Methodist brother called Gregory was chosen as the other one. We worked together agreeably for five years."

This incident was about 1856, just previous to the organization of East Nissouri Baptist Church in 1861. It is surmised that the members from the Methodist Church that once stood on a corner in Uniondale, moved one mile west and joined with their Baptist friends. Later the white brick Methodist Church was demolished, but many living still remember the Methodist place of worship.

Once again the Union Church welcomes members from various denominations. Recognizing that salvation is not found in creeds, doctrines or good works, we lay aside differences; and fellowship around Christ who is the Head of the Church. Each member belonging to the true church must enter through the door of repentance as pro-

claimed by John Wesley — and believe with Martin Luther that by grace alone we find salvation, not of works, lest any man should boast.

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word;
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation —
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food;
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppress,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distrest;
Yet saints their watch are keeping,
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumults of her war,
She waits for consummation
Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious,
Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won;
Oh, happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace, that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee!

Many consecrated workers have given their witness here and passed on; some to service in other communities, and some to the higher service above. We owe them all a debt of gratitude for they laboured well, laying foundations of enduring worth upon which we may build. Those who continue to carry on the work today deserve great credit for their faithfulness and zeal. Above all, we give God thanks for His continuing mercies. Proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ as our only Saviour and Redeemer, we welcome members into the true church of born again believers, having One Lord, One Faith, and One Baptism with Christ the Head of the Church.

May we press forward, ever looking unto Him — the Author and Finisher of our Faith.