

installed during the pastorate of Rev. H.D. Moore, and the front of the church altered somewhat. The choir loft was lowered to the same level as the platform, and plans were submitted by different firms for a new front. However, they failed to suit the committee, and the minister made drawings more suitable to the interior of the church, which were used.

One hundred years of change and progress have seen the old plank road and the stagecoach from Ingersoll to Port Burwell, with taverns at certain points only two or three miles apart; later days when the roads were deep with sand in the summer and snow in the winter. Picnics in the summer were usually held at Port Burwell, when wagons loaded with happy children took two or three hours to reach the lake. Probably the highlight of the year was the Christmas concert with its tableaux, drills and cantatas. Those concerts were much more elaborate than those of today, with a rivalry existing between the Methodist young people and the Baptist young people as to which would have the better program. Those were days of the old Literary Society with its debates, charades and spelling bees, when singing schools were in vogue, all healthy educational outlets for the youth of that day.

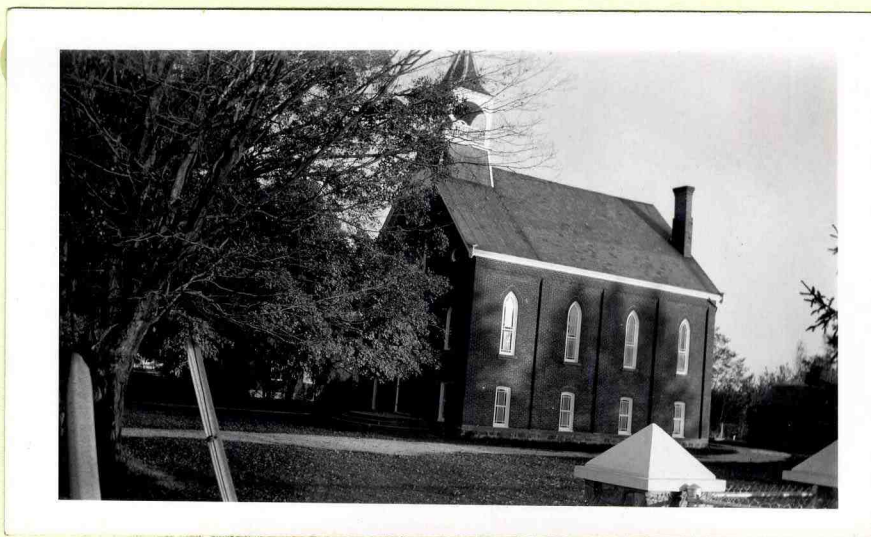
The old time Ladies' Aid meetings were held in the members' homes at high noon, with full course dinners served at long tables to 30 or more men and women. Those tables would be loaded with an abundance of home-cured meats, snowy mashed potatoes, high, fluffy cakes, tarts and pies oozing syrupy goodness, ginger cookies and lemon squares to melt in your mouth, and later in the afternoon great bowls of rosy-cheeked apples were passed. All this was for the price of 10 cents. The men were made very welcome because they usually gave 25 cents for their dinner and that swelled the coffers of the Ladies' Aid.

The ministers, of necessity, were made of sturdy stock to stand the cold winters, with bad roads, and three charges on the field, Goshen, Courtland and Eden, and salaries as low as \$300.00, plus donations of food for their tables, grain and hay for their horses. The ministers buried the dead, performed marriages, and baptized converts. At the funerals the pulpit was draped in black for adults and white for children and the church bell tolled once for every year of the deceased's age. Baptisms were held at the river either east, west or south of the village, sometimes held in the winter when a hole had to be cut in the ice for the immersion. In the 1880s the old church building was equipped with a baptistry, so that the applicant for baptism had a choice of the river or the baptistry.

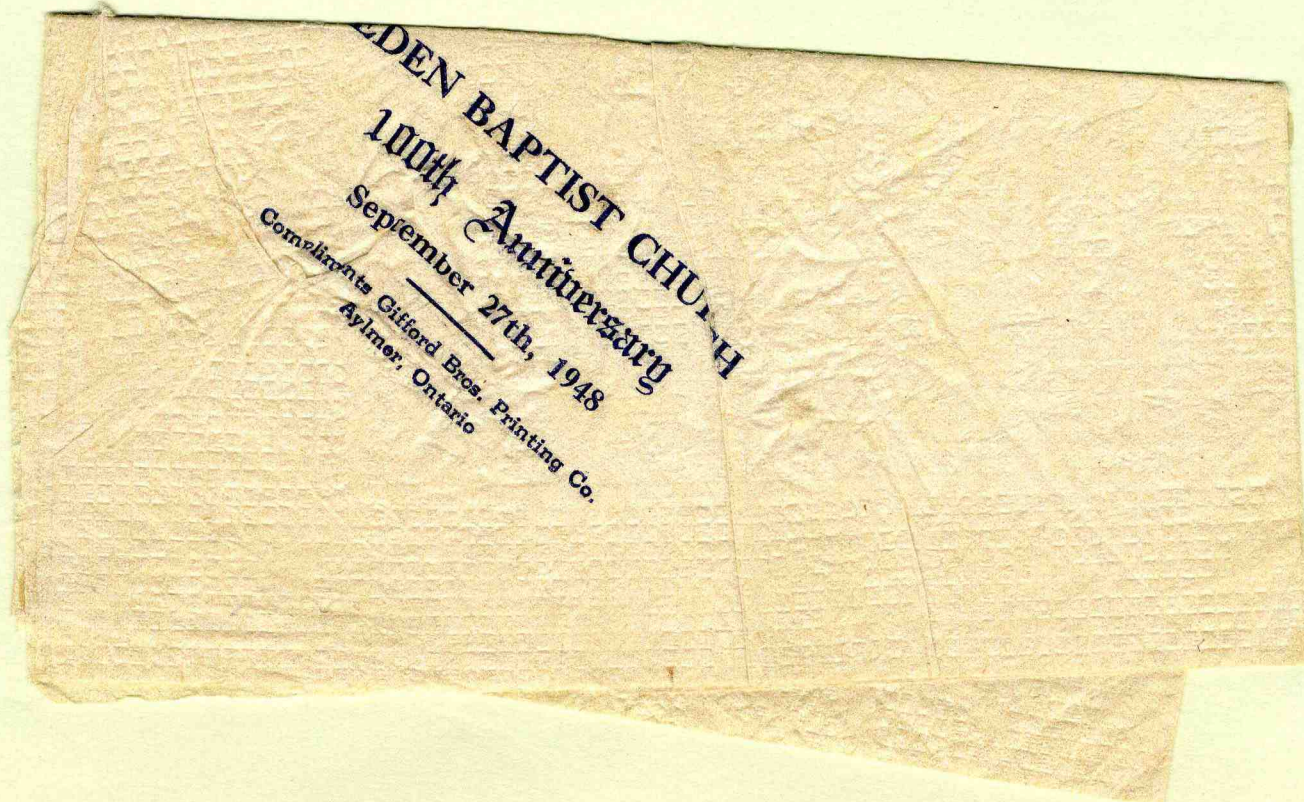
Those were the days of the covenant meeting held Saturday afternoon, services of song, prayer and testimony, in preparation for the communion on the following day.

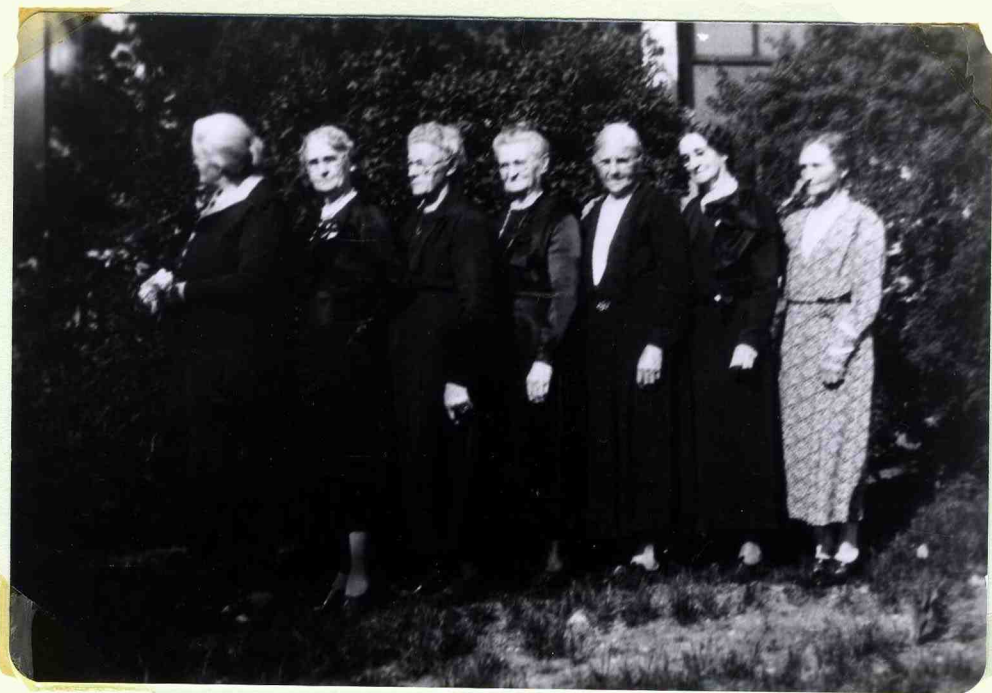
Times have changed through the years, and the details of the church program have changed with the times. Nevertheless, in its essential points the church functions just as it always has. The keynote of its life and work is evangelism, winning individuals to commit themselves to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. All organizations of the church recognize that as their primary object and chief goal. It is this fact that led to the celebration of the 100th anniversary by the holding of a week of gospel services.

Much is owed to those men and women of 100 years ago. They pioneered in their churches, homes and schools, meeting the old-age problems of drink, gambling and delinquency as best they knew how, wringing from their land enough money for their families, their ministers, and their teachers. They built their churches with their own hands, and left a heritage of which to be proud.



EDEN BAPTIST CHURCH AS IT WAS IN 1954
PRIOR TO ADDITION





MRS. REV. H. D. MOORE
 MRS. IRA STILWELL (NETTIE)
 MRS. D. D. HEALY
 MRS. C. WILSON (EMMELINE)
 MRS. STILWELL (CHRISTY)
 MRS. JOHN ALTON
 MRS. J. SAUNDERS (SARAH)

EDEN
 LADIES ACTIVE IN BOTH
 CHURCH + RED CROSS WORK.



MRS. MILDRED IDA BURWELL
 MRS. WILFAID GLADYS CHANDLER
 MRS. VERA MARJORIE NELSON
 MRS. MABEE KETCHABAW KENNEDY
 MRS. HATTIE ALICE WILSON
 MRS. KENNEDY
 REV. H. D. MOORE
 MRS. MAE BACKUS



REV. + MRS P. D. AUGUSTINE



12
9

FIRST PRIZE WINNER

in Young People's Weekly Contest

The Golden Circle Class of the Eden Baptist Sunday School of Eden, Ontario, was organized seven years ago last September. It is a class for young married people. So often the Adult Bible Class is composed of those who have been married for a number of years, and the young people when newly married do not like attending a class of older people and therefore stay home.

This problem has been discussed at Sunday-school conventions; "How to get the Young Married People to Sunday School." The Golden Circle Class was organized to solve that problem. When you get the young people who are married to Sunday School you also get their children and the attendance of any Sunday School is assured.

When first organized the attendance was six. The largest attendance was forty on Mother's Day in 1932.

The class has had two different contests. For the one class was divided into two groups and marks were given for attendance, the study of the lesson, teaching for the lesson and for new members. The losing group had to treat the other group.

The other contest was between the class and another class of the Sunday school. Marks were given the same as before and marks were also given to those attending the evening church service. This was a help to the evening service.

The class has found that these contests help for the time, but do not have the permanent results. The best results are obtained through continued prayer and personal invitations of the members of the class.

Social evenings are held once a month. All the young people who are married are invited. When young married people move into the community they are visited by some member or members of the class, and invited to Sunday-school. A reception is held at one of the homes so they can become acquainted with the members of the class.

A flower committee looks after the sick. Upon the arrival of any new baby in the community, whether the parents are members of the class or not, the committee sends a gift to the small newcomer.

The Cradle Roll Department of the Sunday-school is looked after by this class. Thus through the social evenings, the flower committee and the Cradle Roll dept. the work of the class is continually being brought to the attention of the young married people.

No special means for raising money have been used. Each member of the class is supposed to pay ten cents a month class dues, but during the depression this rule has not been strictly adhered to. When extra money is needed a collection is taken at a social evening and a sufficient amount has always been raised.

At Christmas time the class provides one hundred sacks for the children of the Sunday school and community. These are given out at the Christmas entertainment.

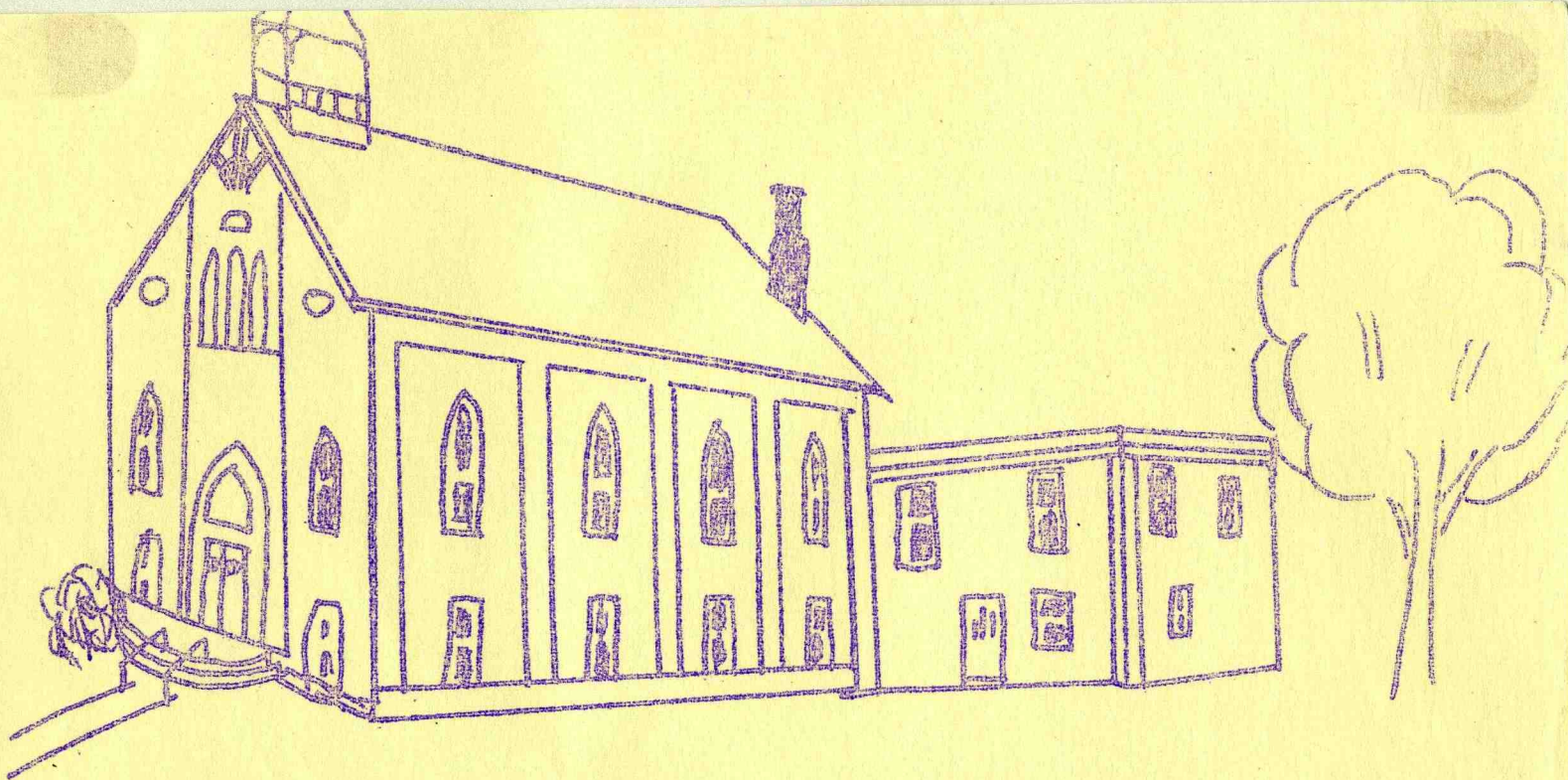
Fourteen young married people have been baptized and added to the church since the class was organized.

The class is very proud that it has two offsprings. Two families who used to be members of the class moved away and have been the means of starting two new Golden Circle classes. The one class is at Tillsonburg, Ontario, Canada, five miles away and the other is at St. George, Ontario, Canada, about sixty miles away. Both of these classes are growing and doing good work.

The Mother Class at Eden was entertained by the new class at Tillsonburg in October and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The three classes hope to be able to get together during the summer.

Mrs. Lorne Alton, Eden, Ontario, Canada.
(Organizer and Teacher for many years to this class)

(Originally printed in the Young People's Weekly, in February 24, 1934.)



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

THE
DEDICATION SERVICE

OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL ADDITION

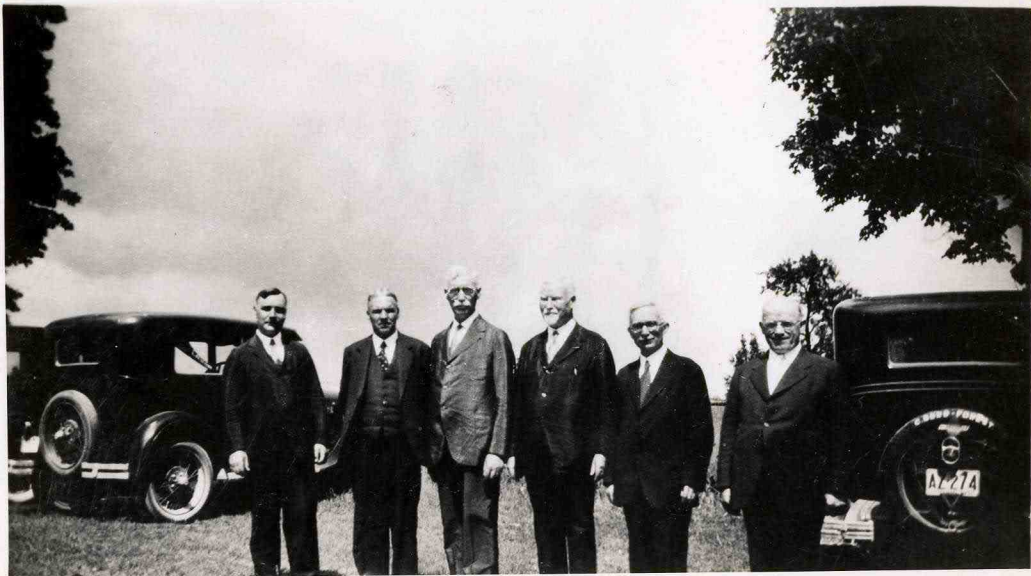
AT

EDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 11th

10:00 a.m.

SPEAKER: _____ REV. ROBERT HENDERSON, B.A., B.D. /-----?
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH EXTENSION



THOS DOBBIN JAMES WATT BEN BRADFORD RBT. MCCOY JAMES LYON
T. W. MUIR

GOSPEL HALL
50th ANNIVERSARY



GOSPEL HALL JULY 1930

MR MR
MUIR MCKELLAR

In June 1875, Mr. Thomas D.W. Muir of Hamilton, Ontario, came to the Township of Bayham in Elgin County to preach the gospel. At that time he was twenty years of age. He came to the Culver home on the north half of Lot 7, in the third Concession of Bayham, 1½ miles east of Calton, at the invitation of the Culver family. Earlier in 1875, Mrs. Culver had become ill, and was not able to do her housework. She wrote to her niece, who lived in Hamilton, asking if she would come and help her. When the niece arrived, she found a community in great need of the gospel. She wrote to the assembly in Hamilton to ask if Mr. Donald Munro, and Mr. John Smith could come and preach the gospel. They were unable to come but Mr. Muir was persuaded to come. His first gospel meetings were held in the Grange Hall, 1¼ miles east of Calton.

In the community, an infidel club had been formed, and these professed infidels decided they would oppose the gospel. In the midst of all this persecution, people started coming for miles to hear this young preacher, with his simple way of presenting the gospel, and many were saved.

Mr. Muir wrote a letter to the assembly in Hamilton, asking them to send Mr. John Smith to help him. Mr. Smith left immediately to join Mr. Muir. These meetings of Muir and Smith were also held in the Grange Hall. Many were saved, and were baptized in the Holcombe Mill Pond, which was just across the road from the hall.

Among the first converts were such names as Holcombe, Arnold, McQuiggan, Cartwright, Tomkins, Dennis, Kemp, and Cook. Ten were baptized on Christmas Day, 1875. The weather had turned cold, and the ponds were covered with ice, but by Christmas the weather had become warm and "spring-like". Mr. Salathiel McQuiggan drove his horses and wagon, and wore neither coat nor vest, to the baptism that day. Another baptism was held on January 1st, 1876.

In the fall of 1875, an assembly, meeting in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, was formed in the home of Mr. John Arnold, near Calton. On January 16, 1876, a similar assembly was formed in the home of Mr. Charles Arn, 1 mile south of Straffordville. The Calton assembly continued until November 1878, when a number of the believers moved

to Northern Ontario, and the remaining Christians joined with the assembly meeting in Mr. Arn's home.

Mr. Muir continued to preach the gospel in several locations in the district, e.g. in the Brick School House on the 4th Concession of Bayham, in the Smuck School House on the 5th Concession of Bayham, and in several homes. The entry in Mr. Muir's diary for Monday, January 3rd, 1876, states-"Preaching still in Smuck's School House. Large meetings and good attention. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16."

Tuesday, January 4th, -"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." Preaching still in Smuck's School House. Large crowds are coming out nightly. Some are trusting Jesus."

On Sunday, January 16th, 1876, Mr. Muir noted in his diary, "Beautiful weather today. Nine met to break bread in Arn's house this morning. Preached in the Brick School House, Bayham: a large number out. Preached at night in the Smuck's School House: the house was crammed to overflowing."

The Straffordville assembly continued to hold meetings in Mr. Arn's house until 1880, when the Straffordville Gospel Hall was built. Mr. Muir gave a twenty dollar gold piece "as a start", and all the Christians contributed labour and material for the building. Mr. W.B. Dennis donated the property on which the hall was built. This property was directly across the road from the Arn house. Mr. Thomas Dennis donated the shingles for the building. Mr. Salathiel McQuiggan, a ship's carpenter, not only did a large share of the carpenter work but also sold twenty acres of his land to obtain money. He bought the first stove for the building, and cut trees from his own farm for the lumber for the floor and sheeting.

The Straffordville Gospel Hall was opened on July 1st, 1880, with meetings in the morning, afternoon, and evening. Mr. Muir, Mr. John Smith, and Mr. H.A. Ironside were the speakers. Two of the first converts in the hall were Mr. Chancy Millard and Mr. Moses Stratton.

In 1913, a desire was expressed to have an all-day meeting on the first of July, similar to the one held on July 1st, 1880. Mr. Smith