

THE HISTORY OF RODNEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Peter Carry
 Rev. Gilmore
 Rev. George W. Hastings
 Rev. Oliver Carry
 Rev. E. S. Wilson
 Rev. William Pier
 Rev. H. W. Mack

During this period the first Wedding in the Church took place. When on December 30, 1885, Mr. John Crundwell and Harriot Elizabeth Hillman were united in Marriage by Rev. George W. Hastings. In the presence of Miss Minnie Jennings and Mr. Nathaniel Hillman.

Some of those who were Charter and among the first members

were: Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hillman
 Mr. and Mrs. Neil Gray
 Mr. and Mrs. John Hillman
 Mr. and Mrs. Albert Humphrey
 Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Campbell
 Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson
 Mrs. A. J. Liebner
 Mrs. Henry Starch
 Mrs. J. S. Munger
 Mrs. T. W. Kirkpatrick

From time to time members have been added to the Membership, but with deaths and removals there has never been a great increase.

During Rev. Mack's pastorate the field was changed, and West Lorne was placed with Rodney and Alborough Plains. And in the period which these Churches worked together the following were regular

pastors: Rev. M. R. Campbell
 Rev. J. Mann
 Rev. J. M. Fanjoy
 Rev. Hugh Shaw
 Rev. J. R. Wolstencroft
 Rev. McFaren
 Rev. J. W. Hisey

In was during this time under the Pastorate of Rev. J. M. Smith that a parsonage was purchased, but after five years it was sold and the cash balance used toward building a garage on Church grounds. As the Pastor was now to live in West Lorne.

There have been a number of Student Pastors from time to time.

THE HISTORY OF RODNEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Prominent among these was E. J. Bingham, during the summer of 1906. Mr. Bingham drew up an agreement between the Baptist and Disciple Churches with the purpose of the two Churches uniting, and it seemed for a time that all was settled but the idea was finally dropped for various reasons.

Since the year 1922 when the field was again changed to Rodney, West Lorne and Dutton, the Pastors have been:

Rev. J. W. Hisey
 Rev. W. E. James
 Rev. C. R. Gower
 Rev. R. P. Clark
 Rev. Frank Ward
 Rev. Bruce Jackson
 Rev. Arthur Homer
 Rev. William Glenn

Although there has never been too large a membership, still the Church has been fortunate in keeping her pioneer members for many years. A very unique party and social evening was held when the church honored those who had been continuous members for 50 years or more. Those who shared this honour were:

Mrs. Eliza Schmid
 Mr. Archie Gray
 Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson

In the year 1915 a modern Pulpit was presented to the Church by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Gilpin and daughter Beatrice, in Thanks to Almighty God for sparing their lives on the torpedoed ship Hesperian.

The old pulpit which was built by his father was given to Mr. John Jennings, who constructed two small flower stands out of material used in it and which are now in use on the platform.

In the year 1940 out of the benevolence of the late Eliza Schmid, three matching chairs were placed on the platform, also a matching Communion Table with the inscription:

THE HISTORY OF RODNEY BAPTIST CHURCH

"To the Glory of God
and
in loving memory of
ELIZA HUMPHREY SCHMID

a member of this church for 60 years."

was presented to the Church by her daughter Mrs. Olivia Tough.

In the year 1948, during the Pastorate of Rev. Bruce Jackson it was decided that the Church should be remodelled. Thus the Trustees with the support of the members started renovating. Many contributions both financially and materially were donated by Church members which of course made the project possible. The needed money however was borrowed from the Church Ediface Board. Thus the summer of 1948 saw the old Church with a Steeple completely finished inside and out.

A foundation was poured making a large basement consisting of a Furnace Room, Kitchen Room, and Sunday School Room. The entrance of the Church was changed to the opposite end, and the pews which formerly faced east, now faced west. The interior of the Church was plastered and instead of the white frosted windows, all new beautiful stained glass memorial windows were placed. All were given by different families of the Congregation.

Overlooking the Choir Loft and Pulpit is a wide stained glass window representing Christ the Good Shepherd, and was given in Grateful Memory of Joseph and Eliza Schmid by J. E. Schmid their nephew.

The Dedication services were held on June 19th, 1949, with the beautiful Church packed, and needless to say, we were very proud of our church. But still as the years have passed, it has received several improvements and gifts.

In the spring of 1950 the Kitchen was converted into a

THE HISTORY OF RODNEY BAPTIST CHURCH

beautiful modern room with cupboards, gas stove, and sink with hot and cold running water. Since then a side entrance room and wash room has been added for the convenience and appearance of the building.

In May of the year 1954, a Minshall Console Organ was presented to the Church by the late Mr. Charles A. Wray.

On Easter morning of the year 1955 a beautiful and needed Baptistery, a gift to the Church by Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Schmid, was dedicated by Rev. Arthur Homer during a very impressive Baptismal Service.

Also a modern Pulpit Bible was a Gift from Mr. and Mrs. Alex Gray and children, replacing the old and worn Bible given to the Church many years ago by Mr. Gray's uncle, Mr. Archie Gray.

The Church as a body appreciated these loving gifts from their loyal members, more than can be put into words.

On the evening of February 29th, 1956, eighty-five members and Adherents of the Church enjoyed a Turkey Supper commemorating the burning of the Mortgage on the renovation of the Church in 1948-49. The singing of the hymn 199 "We Love the Place, O God" opened the meeting which followed the Supper, and Rev. A. Homer who was chairman for the evening conducted a short devotional service.

Mrs. Alvin McLarty gave a very interesting sketch on the history of the Church, which included several humorous incidents of bygone years. Mrs. McLarty mentioned with regret the passing of Mrs. William Johnson on February 14th, the last charter member of the Church who celebrated her 97th birthday on February 8th. A minute of silence was observed in memory of

THE HISTORY OF RODNEY BAPTIST CHURCH

all those who have passed on, and had given so unselfishly of time and talent for the preservation of a Baptist witness in the community.

Mr. E. G. Lusty, a guest of the evening, told those present of his childhood recollections regarding the building of the Church in 1877. Special music for the evening consisted of a lovely piano solo by Jeannette McPhail, and a quartette number by Mrs. J. Galambos, Mrs. and Mr. Steve Urban and Mr. Alex Gray.

Congratulations were extended to the Congregation by Rev. J. N. Wettlaufer on behalf of the sister Churches in the Village, and by Mrs. A. Walters on behalf of the Dutton Baptist Church.

In keeping with traditions the Mortgage was burned by Deacons John Bateman and Joseph Schmid. Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Jackson were warmly welcomed back for the evening by their many friends. Rev. Jackson is pastor of the New Hyde Park, New York Church, and was Guest Speaker for the evening, and after congratulating the Church on its liquidation of the Mortgage, he urged the Congregation to continue witnessing for Christ in this area and to set new goals of achievement.

Hymn 203 "Dear Shepherd of Thy People," was sung and Rev. Homer closed the meeting with the benediction.

Although the congregation is not great in numbers, it has a flourishing Sunday School, B.Y.P.U. and Bible Study Class, Womens Mission Circle and Ladies Aid, Young Womens Evening Auxilary and Mission Band.

The future looks promising, but still our minds turn back to the Church Forefathers for the many sacrifices they made to establish and maintain this Church.

THE HISTORY OF RODNEY BAPTIST CHURCH

We cannot forget to mention such names as:

Mr. T. C. Campbell - Deacon and Church Clerk for many years.

Mr. Albert Humphrey - Deacon and Church Treasurer for many years.

Mr. Neil Gray - Deacon for many years.

Mr. J. B. Campbell - Church Clerk, S. S. Superintendent and President of B.Y.F.U.

Mr. John Martin - Church Secretary-Treasurer for many years.

Mr. Charles A. Wray - S. S. Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer for many years.

These men with their wives and families are just a very few of the faithful and devoted members, who paved the way with their vision, loyalty and faith for the cause for which they stood firm, and for the many blessings that we as a Church enjoy today.

Written by:

Gladys Humphrey McLarty
Rodney, Ontario.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH on MIDDLE STREET

Aldborough Township
St. Henry's Church

The land upon which this church was built was given by Mrs. Regina Ruth Schnekenburger, widow of Henry Schnekenburger. Through the efforts of her husband's brother, Wendline, the church was erected in 1869-70. Prior to this the Priest came from St. Thomas once every three weeks to officiate at services in Mrs. Schenkenburger's home, where Roman Catholic Families would gather in the meantime to offer their prayers and rosaries together. The first Priest to celebrate mass in St. Henry's Church was Rev. Father Flannery, who came from St. Thomas, October 1870.

John Pfeiffer and his sons John and Frank had the contract for building the church. Mrs. Regina Schnekenburger and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Wendline Schnekenburger, went to Buffalo to purchase the altar and statues, which were shipped to Newbury and brought in a waggon by the three sons of Regina and Henry Schnekenburger, namely: Joseph, John and Henry.

Mrs. Adam Miller Dubs donated oak timber from which Adolph Mensale made the Cross which was placed at the rear of the new church on land set aside as the cemetery.

Some years later, an Archway into the Church grounds was financed by Robert Schnekenburger of Buffalo, another son of Regina and Henry Schnekenburger. This was built by Will Schnekenburger, a nephew of Robert in Buffalo, and volunteer labour.

About the same time, Laban (son of Wendline) bequeathed money which was used to repara the church. In those early days the women sat on the left side of the church and the men on the right--a custom which still exists. The priest sang the Mass and the congregation aided him with hymns and responses.

Later, an organ was bought and the musical portion of the mass was taken care of by an organist and choir.