

Maple Avenue Baptists Trace History to 1953

Officially the Maple Avenue Baptist Church began seven years ago in the Odd Fellows on Easter Sunday, but its history can be traced further than this. In the summer of 1953, in the home of William Ganton, 93 John Street, a Bible Club was conducted for a few weeks during the summer months. Many of the children who attended these meetings did not attend any Sunday school, it was decided that a day afternoon Bible School would be held at the home of William Hill, 91 John Street. The Sunday School carried on throughout the winter of 1953-54 in Mr. Hill's home then moved to the Odd Fellows Hall on Easter Sunday, April 12, 1954. The Grace Baptist Sunday School was the name given to the new school. During this time, Rev. Wardell of the Calvary Baptist Church in Brantford gave leadership and guidance to the Sunday School which continued to meet in the afternoon. In May of 1955, Rev. Bruce Penny was called to be the pastor of the little group which was still a Sunday school. Rev. Penny is presently pastor of the Burford Baptist Church near Brantford. Under his ministry the fledgling church grew to a membership of 40 with a Sunday School average in the 90's. During his ministry, two important steps were taken, the organization of the church and the purchasing of a parsonage at 137 Prince Charles Drive. The Grace Baptist Sunday School became the Grace Baptist Church on December 14th, 1955, when the church congregation became affiliated with the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Canada. Dr. Morley Hall who officiated at that important meeting will be on hand this week to bring greetings from the Fellowship to the Maple Avenue Baptist Church on Tuesday night, April 18th. In July 1960, Rev. Bruce Woods of Waterloo, Ontario, was called to be the pastor of the Grace Baptist Church. Simultaneously with the call of Rev. Woods, a spacious lot was purchased on Maple Avenue, and plans for the present church were begun. In view of the new location, it was decided that the name for the new church would be the Maple Avenue Baptist Church. Completion of the new edifice marks the end of the church mission stage, with its attending hardships and the beginning of a new responsibility.



At the right is Mr. Ken Gould who is pointing out a verse of the Bible to one of the pupils. Looking on with approval is Mr. William Ganton, the Sunday School superintendent.

Typical Sunday School Classroom Features

Sunday School is an important feature in the new Maple Avenue Baptist Church. Every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. the boys and girls that go to this Sunday school will have at their disposal the very best of facilities. Usually, there will be three Sunday Schools carried on simultaneously, one for the beginners, one for the older pupils and one for the young people and adults. Each Sunday School will have its own opening exercises and its own teachers trained to their own age level. The beginner department is up to the age of five and equipped with foldaway classrooms and foldaway tables. The structure above features the partitions bringing the number of separate Sunday School divisions to five.

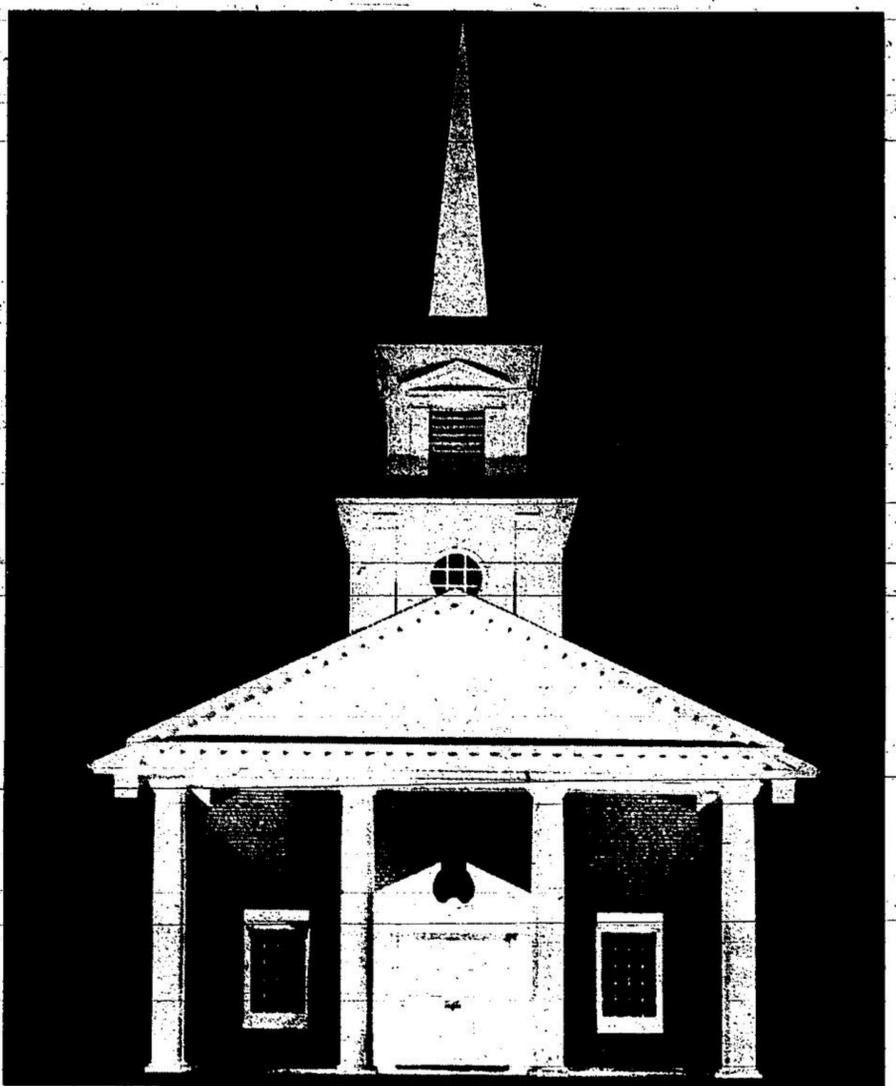
Broadcaster Can Be Heard Locally



Rev. R. D. Guthrie is best known for his weekly radio broadcast from the auditorium of Bethel Baptist Church in Orillia. Every Sunday evening and every second Sunday morning Rev. Guthrie can be heard over CFOR even as far as Georgetown. Rev. Guthrie has served on the executive council of the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Canada for many years and is presently chairman of the home missions committee.

Opening Service Brings Maple Baptist Visitors

Exceeding the expectations of the congregation, the opening day of the Maple Avenue Baptist Church was well attended. The Sunday School reached an all time high of 175 and the morning and evening services saw many visitors. Dedication Sunday will not be for another Sunday, since the congregation wanted to become oriented in their new building first. Over \$500 A special thanksgiving offering was taken and a goal of \$500 was exceeded over and above the regular giving. Total offerings for the day amounted to \$680. Sunrise Service A Sunrise service in the morning marked the first official service in the new church. In the evening service, Rev. Frank Wellington gave a sample of the type of program that he provides for the children in his week-day programs. Appreciation The congregation experienced a real sense of appreciation for their lovely new building and expressed their satisfaction by their sacrificial giving for the day.



NEW CHURCH AT NIGHT — Peter Jones, Georgetown
ILLUMINATION OF Maple Avenue Baptist Church gives a striking effect, bringing out the Southern Colonial architecture. The church was formerly Grace Baptist and met in the IOOF Hall before erecting this attractive building.

Colonial Architecture For New \$50,000 Structure

The new Maple Avenue Baptist Church, located near the intersection of Maple Avenue and Guelph Street has become a landmark in Georgetown. The building including the furnishings will cost approximately \$50,000 and features southern colonial architecture.

Varied Program For Church Young People

The young people's society of the Maple Avenue Baptist Church has been enjoying a year of many important events, and special activities. Early last summer a group from the church attended a summer camp which included swimming, boating, golf, volleyball and a sing-a-long under the stars. A chicken barbecue was the social event for September in which over twenty young people paid a visit to the Alton Baptist Young People's Society. That evening a missionary from Central America told of church building in Latin America at Christmas time the Maple Avenue Baptist Young People entered a float in the Santa Claus parade and were rewarded a week later by a Young People's Christmas banquet. Visitors from the York Road Baptist Church put on the program and enjoyed the traditional Christmas turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The Annual Young People's convention in Toronto was the next important event on the calendar. Held in Toronto, it was attended by young people from Baptist Churches all over Ontario. The convention gave ample opportunity for young people to mix with dedicated youth from other churches and to see them at work. The program included two three act plays, a musical panorama around the world, a banquet and inspiring messages from Dr. John Baljo of Cleveland. The theme for the convention was "Canadian Baptist Young People—Going Places." Beautifully displayed on a twenty foot banner, the giant streamer fell into the hands of the young people of Maple Avenue Baptist Church and will be on display for Monday night's young people rally. Maple Avenue Baptist Young People are looking forward to another big year for 1961 and already plans are underway for a rally in Niagara Falls this 24th of May.

Family Participation Stressed for Meetings

There will be no opportunity for adults to become lonely in the Maple Avenue Baptist Church. Once a month on Friday night the adults and the entire family will be able to get together for "Family Nite." So often church responsibilities have tended to divide the family with separate meetings for men, women, girls, and boys. Family nite will do just the opposite! Family nite is designed to bring the family together for a time of spiritual refreshing. Special speakers will be brought in to provide the message after a sing-a-long. Following the speaker there will be games and a time for fellowship around sandwiches and coffee. The children will not be overlooked in this important night and there will be games that they can play. As usual, a nursery will be provided so that families can come together instead of leaving the husband or wife behind. There will be something for everyone at the monthly "Family Nite" in Maple Avenue Baptist Church.

Five Hundred Fascinated



FIVE HUNDRED FASCINATED
DURING EASTER WEEK the attendance at the Maple Ave. Baptist Church Bible School reached a high of 550 children. They were entertained by the Musical Story Man with illuminated flannelgraph and puppets.

Rev. B. A. Woods Called To Church Last Summer

Rev. B. A. Woods was called to the Maple Avenue Baptist Church last summer while the church was still meeting in the Odd Fellows Hall. Rev. Woods is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and holds the degree of Bachelor of Arts from that institution. He also is a graduate of the Dallas Technological Seminary, Dallas, Texas, from which school he holds the Master of Theology degree. While in Texas, Rev. Woods was the pastor of the Pleasant Grove Bible Church. In addition to these responsibilities he worked with the Public Relations Department of the Goodwill Industries, a charitable organization that specializes in the employment and training of handicapped persons. Before going to the United States, Rev. Woods was the pastor of the Arthur Baptist Church for three years. Rev. and Mrs. Woods reside at 137 Prince Charles Drive and have three children, Mark, age 8; Deborah, age 5; and David, who is 3.



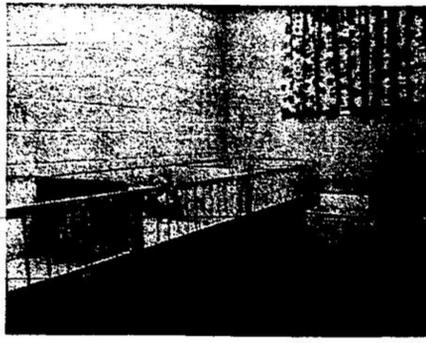
REV. B. A. WOODS

Week of Meetings Planned for Opening

The dedication of Maple Avenue Baptist Church will be followed by a special week of meetings. On Sunday the new church edifice will be dedicated as a part of the community of Georgetown. On Tuesday, the church will be dedicated as a member church of the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Canada. Rev. Guthrie from Orillia will be the speaker. From Wednesday through to Friday Rev. H. Hindry of Heseler, Rev. J. Boyd of Guelph, and Rev. Martin Wedge of London will speak in this order. Monday evening will feature a special rally for young people and will be concluded with a time of fellowship around doughnuts and chocolate milk.

Missionary Society

Meeting twice a month and filling a special place in the Maple Avenue Baptist W.M.S. Last year the W.M.S. gave over \$100 to missions, redecorated the parsonage, and gave a special gift to the building fund, over and above their sewing activities. Mrs. Gordon Garner, 18 Chipper Court is the president of this group. Throughout the year a number of missionaries have been brought in to tell of their work. This year Nigeria has been in special focus with Miss Ines Penny representing Sudan Interior Mission. Also from this mission Mrs. Cyril Forth, and Mrs. Jack Phillips told of their work with the Moslems of the North, and the Kent Academy schools. The work of the Congo was given a fine report by Miss Bertha Belch.



Cribs, play cupboards and toys are included in the nursery where parents can leave their youngsters during all services in the church.

Toddlers, Babies Are Cared For in Nursery

A two stage nursery has been provided in the Maple Avenue Baptist Church. Three spacious cribs with airfoam mattresses are available for older babies and space is available for two baskets for infants. Handy to the nursery are the kitchen facilities which are separated from the cribs by only a door. The nursery for toddlers has built in play cupboards, play stove and frig. Blocks and toys will also make the nursery an interesting place for wee totos who are not old enough for church. The nursery is open for both morning and evening services and makes it possible for parents to attend all church services at any time of the year. A nursery attendant will be on hand with an assistant to make sure that order is kept and the children properly supervised.

Rev. Frank Wellington Rev. L. Roblin The Musical Storyman Dedication Speaker

During Easter week the attendance to the Maple Avenue Baptist Easter Vacation Bible School reached a high of 550 children. Beginning with 303 the first day, the attendance climbed to 380 on Tuesday and to 480 on Wednesday. Thursday was the high day with 550 and on Friday 535 turned out to climax the week. Friday evening was a special program for adults and many townspeople came out to see for themselves how Rev. Wellington could attract so many children. Once again the auditorium was filled to capacity as Rev. Wellington fascinated his audience with the illuminated flannelgraph and the multicolored lights. The talking dummies sang a duet and invited all the boys and girls to attend Sunday School. Response to the meetings was so favorable that Rev. Wellington has been invited to return next Easter for a new series of children's meetings.



REV. L. ROBLIN