



Two of the oldest members of the congregation of St. John's United Church in Georgetown celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church building by helping cut the anniversary cake. Mrs. Alice A. Dobson and Miss Lyla Armstrong attended the anniversary service and the reception afterwards.

St. John's congregation celebrates 100-year history

Members past and present of the congregation of St. John's United Church in Georgetown and Glen Williams gathered Sunday to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the present church building on Guelph Street.

Dr. Hal Llewellyn led the congregation in a celebratory service, highlighted by a concert featuring the joint choirs of St. John's and St. Andrew's.

After the service, the congregation gathered in the hall for a reception which provided sandwiches and cake, as well as a chance to examine photographs and other historic items from the church's past.

The anniversary cake was decorated with candles which were lit by board chairman Kathryn Latimer and extinguished by Dr. Llewellyn's two daughters. The cake was cut by Alice Dobson and Lyla Armstrong, two of the oldest members of the congregation.

The afternoon continued with a sing song of favorite hymns, and at 3 p.m., the Cantante Singers performed in concert in the church under the direction of Dale Wood.

The present building St. John's Church building was constructed between May and

October of 1880. The church was dedicated on November 21.

Since the building was built, there have been some changes in the form of renovations and repairs. One of the two towers on the church originally had a spire on the top, but the spire was struck by lightning in 1927 and the tower was squared off during the repair work.

In 1944, the church underwent major renovations. A new central entrance was built, and the side entrances were closed. The interior was redesigned and new carpets and lighting was installed.



Sharon McDonald seems more interested in the cake itself than in the reason for the cake, which was the 100th anniversary of the St. John's United Church building. The cake put the finishing touch on a reception following the service which celebrated the anniversary and looked back on the church's past.

Maple Baptist celebrates 25th on May 25th

By R.C. (BOB) OLLIVIER
Maple Avenue Baptist Church in Georgetown has reached a landmark in its ministry.

In July, 1953, several families started a Church in Georgetown as a Sunday afternoon club for children, and attendance had reached 27 by the onset of winter. This formed the nucleus of a Sunday School, moving from the lawn of Bill Ganton's home on John Street to the basement of W. Hill next door. This group reached 50 persons, meeting in the basement, and set the pattern for the future: crowding.

In February of 1954, the group called itself GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH and plans were made to rent facilities. The Odd Fellows Hall in Georgetown was rented May 15, 1955, (Easter Sunday) and Bruce Penny ministered to the needs of a growing congregation.

The official, organizational meeting for Grace Baptist Church was held in December of that year. Pastor Penny was still taking courses at Central Baptist Seminary and preaching Sunday and Wednesday evenings. With the encouragement of Rev. Glen Wardell of Brampton, Pastor Penny laid a firm foundation to an effort that had gone through two building programs.

EASTER SUNRISE
Six years after the start of what was then Grace Baptist Church, on another Easter Sunday, 40 people took part in an Easter Sunrise Service in their new building, and 175 turned up for Sunday School. With the encouragement of the new Pastor, Rev. B. Woods, the Church had bought a lot, and pastor and people were involved in a building program.

Maple Avenue Baptist Church was the new name chosen to concur with the new location. Mayor Ernie Hyde officiated at the ground-breaking ceremony, driving a bulldozer rather than using the usual spade.

Every church history has a great many highlights, and Maple Avenue Baptist is no exception. Who could forget 900 children attending one series of meetings held for a full week. Another year, over 500 persons in Sunday School.

Maple Avenue Baptist Church is growing and anniversary services will be held May 25, 1980, with Rev. Edwin Mitchell and members set to welcome back all past members and the many friends.

Dr. J. Balyo of Florida has been booked to speak at both services. There are 500 plus seats in Maple Avenue Baptist and the auditorium is air-conditioned.

A full week of activities is planned for the week starting May 20 to celebrate the Silver Anniversary, with speakers such as Dr. Roy Lawson, the well-known youth speaker, Dr. Balyo, Rev. Roland Smith and others with musical specials. In a step of faith, the members of Maple Avenue Baptist are working toward an offering on that Sunday of \$25,000, giving a goal for their 25th on the 25th of May. This is just one more evidence of the working of God while some other church groups are declining. Make plans now for the 25th of May and join with them.



Former Georgetown Mayor Ern Hyde manned the controls of a Caterpillar bulldozer 25 years ago to break ground for the new Baptist Church on Maple Avenue. Joining the mayor for the historic ride were (left to right) Rev. B. Woods, W. Hill, H. Slenko, Georgetown Coun. Cass, W. Ganton and H. Page. The church marks its silver anniversary next month with a week of festive celebration.

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