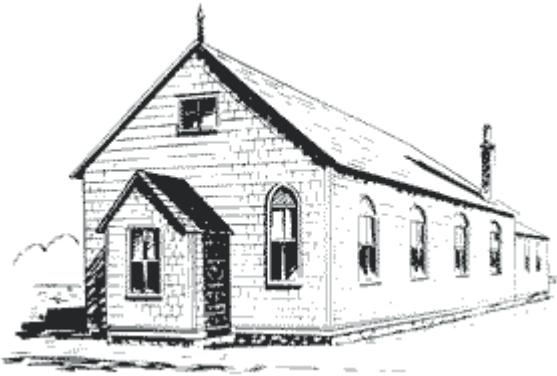


History of West End Baptist

History of the Church 1890 - 1965

For many, history is a fascinating subject. Most of us are curious especially when the object of research is something as close as our Church Home. So, for the purpose of refreshing the memories of the older members, but more particularly to establish the facts in the minds of our youth, we have again delved into the records in preparation for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of West End United Baptist Church.

In 1885., when this area formed the western extremity of the city with secondary roads and wide open spaces, the missionary spirit was active in the minds of at least two men - Mr. X. L. Wood,, founder of Wood Brothers, and a member of First Baptist Church., Halifax, and Mr. A. J. Denton of the North Baptist Church, Gottingen Street, a school principal. Largely through their efforts and those of Mr. Lou K. Payzant of Dartmouth, a mission was opened. The following year this mission erected a building on the corner across the street where the Halifax Funeral Home now stands. In 1890, the Quinpool Road Baptist Church was organized with a membership of thirty-one. Today, there are no surviving charter members. On April 9. 1891, the name was changed to West End Baptist Church and the first Record Book was presented by First Baptist Church.



CHURCH 1890-1905

The early years were a time of great financial, physical and mental strain. Because of the small membership the work fell upon the shoulders of a very few. The Home Mission Board was a regular contributor, and financial aid was frequently sought from churches in Halifax, Dartmouth., and from the District Association. Pastors remained only two to four years and the pulpit committee work was fraught with constant trials. Today, some of the recorded Items of the early days appear rather amusing in the light of modern practices: that

Rev. Stephen March arrived by the SS BRIDGWATEER from that south shore community to commence a pastorate; that on one occasion a pastor was offered a salary of \$550 -with a proviso that he take the risk of the congregation's ability to pay that sum; that only those taking envelopes were accorded full voting-privileges; that the first baptistry was installed at a cost of \$50.13 and that the average Sunday collection in 1897 was \$7.40. A Common Communion Service was purchased in 1891 and a record was kept of those who attended. Valid and satisfactory reason was expected from the absentees. It was not until 1909 that a communion Service, with individual glasses, was used. Records do not divulge the name of the donor.

Now this sturdy and courageous congregation faced a loss of \$4,000 insurance.

It must have been a heart-rending Prayer Meeting held the evening of the day of the fire. Many were discouraged and thought of disbanding. Pastor Lawson arrived at the meeting from a trip and addressed the members, inspiring them with hope and courage in the face of this calamity, to rise up and rebuild at once. A motion to do this passed unanimously and "on-the-spot" subscriptions were pledged amounting to The Halifax School Board granted the use of the Quinpool Road School Assembly Hall for the next eight months. In a short time the original site was expanded by the purchase of an additional lot to the West. - 3 July 5, 1908; is a date to remember. It marks the dedication of the splendid new building, and many present members will recall that structure as described in the records

1905-1907 CHURCH

"The new building includes the auditorium fitted with circular pews of elm and oak; a Sunday School room of two stories with a ladies' parlor and four class rooms on the second floor; the pastor's study and five class rooms on the first floor. A falling partition divides the Sunday School room from the auditorium, making it possible to double the seating capacity when attendance exceeds accommodation in the auditorium. In the basement is a large Baraca Class room for the use of young men; a kitchen and dining room. The auditorium is finished in natural wood and presents a most attractive appearance. The choir platform is to the left of the pulpit platform and the baptistry to the right. Directly back of the latter are two convenient dressing room for the use of the baptismal candidates."



Special speaker for dedication services was the Rev. Dr. P. S. Henson of Tremont Temple, Boston. He was a big man physically and intellectually, with a strong, convincing face lighted by a smile. He possessed the mellow, rich voice of the Southerner - for Dr. Henson was born in Virginia. His text was Haggai 2-7, "The Desire Of 111 Nations Shall Come". For over an hour he held the congregation spell-bound.' "Christ and Christ only, was the desire, the need, of the world, of the nation, of the individual. Only --s 'He came into human life would the problems of life be solved. Nothing! nothing in the universe can satisfy the needs of men, only Jesus Christ". These words of Dr. Henson have been ringing, and will continue to ring true, through the ages.



1908-1919 CHURCH

This structure was built by the late Mr. L. S. Dodsworth, father of our present Church Secretary, Miss Minnie Dodsworth. He also built the pulpit still in use and presented it, as a gift, to the church.

Harmony and progress continued. Early in 1910, West End Baptist Church relinquished the grant from the Home Mission Board and indeed was able to make a small contribution to the support of Cornwallis Street

Baptist Church. Attendance at the midweek prayer meeting averaged one hundred and seventy-five. During the ministry of this outstanding spiritual leader and noble man - Pastor Lawson - West End had twice built on this present site' and, at the same time, had become an independent, self-supporting body. The Rev. Mr. Lawson preached his farewell Sermon in November 1910, having accepted a call to First Baptist Church, Moncton.

In this period, as an example of the determination of Baptists to "Keep the Sabbath Day Holy", the District Committee wrote letters to Halifax churches requesting them to protest the holding of Band Concerts in the Public Gardens on Sunday afternoons. West End Baptist Church immediately took up the cudgel against what appeared to be an evil at that time.

During the pastorate of Rev. A. T. Dykemah, 1910 to 1914, West End Baptist Church acquired the Lawson home on Preston Street, as well as the Pyke property, at a total cost of \$ 3,575, -and until 1960 maintained it as a parsonage.

In May 1914, Rev. G. F. Bolster, a vigorous personality, was called from South Bedford, Massachusetts, to commence this church's longest ministry, to that date, a period of seven years. A land purchase on Pepperell Street was made at a cost of \$900, and the property thus acquired was used for a tennis court. The 25th Anniversary of West End Baptist Church was celebrated in 1916.

1919-1952 CHURCH

Also in this year, Evangelist Greenwood of Boston held meetings extending over a period of four weeks, drawing capacity congregations. A large number were baptized. Thirty-nine of these joined West End. A ten piece orchestra added much to the well attended Sunday evening services. Perhaps this was the beginning of what later developed for "West End" the title, "The Singing Church".



During World War I about seventy young men from West End offered their lives in the service of their country. After the Halifax Explosion, December 6, 1917, when so many buildings were rendered unfit for use, space in the Vestry was rented on week days to the Halifax Ladies' College, the Halifax Choral Society, the Halifax School Board and other organizations.

In 1919 the first Pipe Organ was installed at a cost of \$3,368, and a gallery built in the auditorium supplying an additions 250 seats, at a cost of \$8,000. Prior to the installation of the new organ, the late Ira G. Taylor had been organist and continued after this date with an unbroken record as church organist and choir director until 1960, when due to illness, he retired



INTERIOR OF 1919-1952 CHURCH



on pension from the church. Mr. Taylor has been taken to be with the Lord, October 10, just three weeks before the observance of our 75th anniversary. The Hall on Pepperell Street, with a seating capacity of 300 to 400 persons was completed in 1920. The following year Rev. Bolster resigned to become pastor of the Nassau Baptist Church in Winnipeg.

In the next 15 years the church continued to grow, and also weathered the economic depression.

In 1921 Rev. G. B. MacDonald became pastor and the church flourished.

He was succeeded in 1923 by Rev. H. T. Wright, whose ministry emphasized the work among boys especially.

It was in 1927 that Rev. Frank R. Doleman became pastor of the Church and led the youth in a vigorous ministry. The Young People had an active Society and reported in 1926 having held nineteen services in pastorless fields. Through a unified budget and an every member canvass, 1928 became a record year financially.

The 25 Years 1966-1990

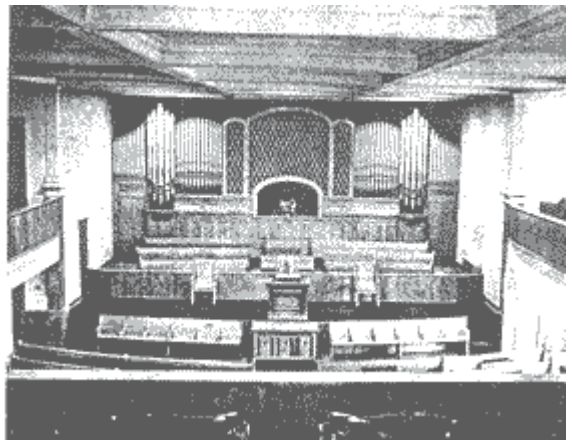
Following our 75 years, 1966 continued with many Christ centered programs. The Dial-A-Message initiated by Rev. R. C. MacCormack had three machines to accommodate the volume of 4,000 calls in each 24 hours. Attendance remained strong with a morning congregation from 376 to 460, while attendance at the evening services ranged from 165 to 214. The Mid-Week Prayer Meeting, held in the Berdi Delong room averaged 75 to 100. Sunday School had an enrolment of over 200, with the exception of July and August when Daily Vacation Bible School held a successful program with 153 children registered. Rev. MacCormack reported making 300 pastoral calls. Our assistant pastor, Rev. Gerald Steeves left to begin a course at Eastern Seminary.

THE LAST 25 YEARS 1966 - 1990 Evangelistic services were held with Rev. L.R. Atkinson and New Life Meetings were conducted by Rev. Aubrey G. Hubley of Convention staff. Gospel services were presented at Keddy's Nursing Home, Victoria Hall, and the Public Gardens.

Young people's groups enjoyed numerous activities, youth retreats, and guest speakers with as many as 80 present.

A variety of programs was carried on in other church groups such as Scouts, Cubs, Explorers, missionary societies, Men's Fellowship (Brotherhood), WE-2 Club, All Inclusive and the Florence MacCormack Auxiliary.

The Junior and Intermediate choirs led by Mrs. Gladys Bearisto, and the Sunday School Orchestra were part of the music program.



Friendly Hour after the Sunday evening service was a time for music, food and fellowship. Some of our musical guests were the Salvation Army Band and Choristers, Singers from the Moncton Baptist Training School, a choral program by Cornwallis Street Baptist Church, the Handbells Choir from Bayers Road Baptist, the Deliverance Quartet from New Minas Baptist, the North Preston African Baptist Youth Choir, and the Temple Choir directed by Ralph Willis. The year concluded with the Christmas program "Christmas is a Miracle" under the direction of Reta Cook.

After 11 years of dedicated service, Rev. R.C. MacCormack resigned in 1967 to accept the pastorate at Woodstock Baptist Church in New Brunswick. In 1968 he was honored with the D.D. degree from Trinity College in Clearwater, Florida.

A highlight for the young people in 1967 was a youth week-end with guest Canadian Middleweight Boxing Champion, Blair Richardson who was active in Christian youth work. The young people also traveled to Corner Brook, Newfoundland to participate with the Baptist youth there.

The Centennial Crusade for Christ, (a Convention program) had Rev. J. Beryl Sessions of Fairmont, West Virginia, as our guest evangelist.

REV. GERALD B. STEEVES

Ассистант Пастор

1964-



Women's missionary groups sponsored a Festival Orville Daniel and Rev. and Mrs. Rushton. Nancy Acadia and Woodstock Baptist Church was soloist.

We said "farewell" to Kingsley and Donna Gill with a time before they left for India.

An evening of sacred music in song was given by Jean Marshall, who so willingly shared her musical talent on a number of other occasions.

Of special significance in 1969 was a .n evangelistic and missions meeting, The Crusade of the Americas with speaker Dr. Ruben Lopes of the great National Baptist Campaign in Brazil. This was in cooperation with the Halifax Baptist Association and the sanctuary was filled to

capacity. Music was provided by a massed choir conducted by Dr. George Allen. This same year the distinguished preacher from Toronto, Dr. J. Gordon Jones, conducted a preaching mission. Soloist was Jean Marshall.

Our 80th Anniversary Year was a busy year. Rev. David Watt minister of Christian Education from First Baptist church in Calgary became the assistant pastor to Rev. Theo Gibson whom we had called for our senior pastor in 1968. our anniversary was observed with Rev. David Watt our speaker, and a sacred concert by our choir, arranged by organist Whitman Giffin. Soloists were Jean Marshall, Kay Dimock and Gregory Servant. A dessert party with birthday cake preceded the service.

Earlier in the year, the young people took part in a musical "Tell It Like It Is", sponsored by Rev. David Watt and directed by Mr. Edward Norman of First Baptist Church in Halifax. The singers and orchestra had 75 young people from the Halifax-Dartmouth area.

The young people also invited a Youth Team from Acadia Divinity School for a youth weekend and evening of Gospel music. Later in the same year 27 young people from Woodstock Baptist church were guests of our young people.

A farewell and fellowship time was held for Audrey Maw as she accepted for missionary service in Nepal.

Renewal and commitment services Brunswick Street Baptist church in preacher.

West End church was privileged to have our Remembrance Day service broadcast on CBC television.

A significant music event was the dedication of the Memorial Casavant organ dedicated to the glory of God and to the memory of members and adherence who lost their lives in World Wars I and II.

Whitman Giffin our organist, gave a conducted tour with comments and explanation about the

instrument. An organ recital was given by Mr. Edward Norman, of First Baptist Church, Halifax. The cost of the organ \$31,000.00 was fully paid by 1974.

In 1972 West End participated in a Twin Cities Crusade with evangelist, Barry Moore. Also, a city-wide Baptist Missionary Rally was held with Rev. and Mrs. Lynn Stairs, missionaries to Zaire.

This year marked the 20th Anniversary of our remodeled Christian Education building. Former pastor, Rev. Abner Langley, who had been involved in this labor with the men of the church at that time, was the special speaker. After a pot-luck supper in the Berdi Delong room a musical concert by the Gospelairens of Fredericton was part of this celebration.

The same year, the church sanctuary was re-decorated with much credit again due to the men of the church.

Mr. C.B. Croft was recognized for his 25 years as chairman of the Trustees.

Farewells were given to Rev. David Watt, our assistant pastor who accepted a call to Middleton Baptist church, and for our organist Whitman Giffin who resigned as he took up residence in Chester. Our 82nd Anniversary was privileged to have Mrs. Carol Gesbrecht as our guest soloist. She was choir director of First Baptist Church in Winnipeg and a member of the T.V. Hymn Sing. She introduced the New Baptist Hymnary through story and song. Speaker for the occasion was Rev. William Jones of First Baptist Church, Oshawa and publicity director for the Baptist Federation.

The musical "Love" involving a number of our young people was performed by the Bethlehem Bus Company, directed by Mrs. Kay Dimock.

The previous year, our second musical, "Natural High" was also directed by Mrs. Dimock. Rev. Theo Gibson concluded his ministry with us in November 1974. His musical talent and interests encouraged the church in the purchase of our organ. Rev. Gibson accepted a call to pastor the Ancaster Baptist Church in Ontario.

Rev. J. Earle DeLong of St. Stephen, New Brunswick was our interim pastor during the period of seeking a new pastor.

Noted Western evangelist, Dr. Terry Winter, was our guest speaker. Later in 1975, he was the evangelist at a city-wide crusade.

In 1975 we welcomed Rev. Roden Evans from Ontario to be our new pastor.

Organizing began for the Billy Graham Crusade to be held in 1979. Many West Enders trained to serve as counselors, choir members and ushers. A generous bequest of \$10,000 was received from the estate of Miss Berdi Delong. Renovations were made to the vestry and re-named the Berdi Delong Room in her honor. She was author of our 75 Year History.

1976 was a year for visitation as West End members distributed 2000 booklets "Do You Know the Answer?" throughout the neighborhood.

For the children, a highlight of the year was with Rod Sharp an extraordinary youth evangelist from Scotland. He conducted a series of children's meetings and held their interest in a captivating, fun filled manner. Also, the youth were privileged to have a youth choir from First Baptist Church in North Carolina with their pastor, Dr. Alfred Miller.

A week of evangelism was held with Dr. Robert Coleman from Kentucky and Rev. Robert Crooks from Ontario. Again in 1977, Dr. Abner Langley was speaker at the 25th Anniversary of the remodeled West End Baptist church and the opening of the Christian Education Centre including the vestry, parlor, kitchen and Sunday School class rooms.

The Baptistry painting was dedicated to the Glory of God in loving memory of their father, mother, and sister Dorothy Pearl Weston, from the family of the late Mr. Everett M. Weston and Nina Grace (Harpell) Weston.

A number of guests, noteworthy speakers were heard during the year: Dr. Ben Gullison of operation Eyesight, Rev. George Simpson, Editor of the Atlantic Baptist, Mr. Craig Cook, A.R.C.T, B. Music Executive, Director of World Radio Missionary Fellowship, H. C. J. B., Quito Ecuador; Dr. Stuart E. Murray, President of Atlantic Baptist College, Moncton; Rev. Russell Richardson, Director of Evangelism for the New England States; Mr. Noel Churchman, Executive Directory of Christian Horizons, an organization working with the mentally handicapped; Rev. Bob Saul and Rev. Ira Croft, Southern Baptist leaders in Personal Witnessing; Dr. Fred Bullen, General Secretary of the Baptist Federation of Canada was the speaker at our 87th Anniversary service. Music was provided by Mr. & Mrs. Clem Kaloyanides. Mr. A. Kleinpaste related his experiences in Indonesia.

Randy Walker our organist conducted the choir in the Christmas Cantata "Down From His Glory".

Rev. Roden Evans, due to health reasons, resigned in February 1978. Under his leadership the church grew spiritually and in numbers.

In September 1978 Rev. T. Elgar Roberts came to us as an Associate Minister and Organist.

A special music event was the presentation by Bayers Road Baptist Church "Love and Kindness", directed by Derith Colstan.

The Christian Education Committee appointed Reta Cook to establish a new library and resource centre. The church designated a room on the second floor. Along with a committee, the work of the library expanded to include a comprehensive reference division with material of interest to children, youth and adults. In addition to the Library Room, a mobile cart at the back of the Church Auditorium displays a variety of books each week for the convenience of those wishing to borrow.

A Memorial window in memory of dear Father and Mother, Mr. & Mrs. William Zinck and brother Wilfred was presented by Greta Arnold and family.

In August 1979, Rev. Tommy Gilmore from Black Mountain, North Carolina became our pastor.

Music was featured during a Music Month with a Hymn Writing Contest, having the theme "Music for God." Also, our musical guests were the Senior Handbell Choir from Bethany United Church, the Lightshine Singers from Middleton Baptist presenting their musical "Share", the Salvation Army Band, and musical selections by our former organist Randy Walker, and our own member Shawn Whynot. An outstanding musical concert was given by Bev Shea and Cliff Barrows as part of the Billy Graham Crusade preparation to meet key workers in the Crusade. Over 1000 people attended.

Anton Los was appointed organist and choir director.

A memorial window was presented to the Glory of God in loving memory of Emma M. Giffin by her husband, S. Cleveland Giffin. oldest living member in our 100th year.

At Easter of 1980 youth from the Halifax - Dartmouth area held a "Joy Explosion" rally in Arnold Hall.

The well-known Haven of Rest Quartet with their speaker Paul Evans presented an uplifting evening in message and song.

Rev. Wesley Walters, authority on the doctrines of the Mormons spoke about the errors and mission of this fastest growing religious group in North America.

Mrs. Ethel Brunt had now been a member of West End for seventy years.

Rev. Tommy Gilmore resigned his ministry here December 1, 1980 and returned to the United States.

A Leadership Training Workshop was conducted by Mrs. Mary Raymond, Director of Christian Training Commission of the Atlantic Baptist Convention.

The choir of St. David's Presbyterian Church combined with our choir held an Easter cantata on Good Friday, 1981. They presented "The Crucifixion", a meditation of the sacred passion of the Holy Redeemer by John Stainer, directed by Anton Los.

A Puppet Ministry, begun under the leadership of Jim McGowan was started during 1981, with many of our Junior and Senior High young people participating. old and young enjoyed the delightful ministry in song and narration. This ministry grew over the next 5 years and was also used to promote Sunday School, Daily Vacation Bible School and Kid's Musicals.

Mrs. Eveline Williams has given us two pianos and a gift of money which was used to decorate the church parlour.

A stained glass window at the back of the Sanctuary was dedicated to West End Baptist Church by Miss Dorothy Burns, faithful member who also donated the large cross at the front of the Sanctuary. Rev. Winston S. Clarke Jr. from Grand Bay Baptist Church, New Brunswick began his ministry with us in September 1981.

An inspiring three day Missionfest with speakers, seminars, music and films was a memorable event in 1982. Among the speakers were Dr. Samuel Escobar of I.V.C.F. International, Rev. Charles Harvey of CBOMB, Rev. R. Michael Steeves and Dr. Maurice Boillat from the Baptist Federation. The concluding meeting featured the Spanish singing group Los Talwa from South America. The Sanctuary was filled to capacity.

Happy Time for the children was an innovative program carried on for a number of years by Donna Gill and Helen Seaman during the Prayer Meeting Hour on Wednesday evenings.

The Friendship Singers from St. Catherines, Ontario were a musical group who gave a very enjoyable program of singing, puppetry and testimonies.

Easter week services were held in our church with special speaker, Rev. John Wesley White of the Billy Graham team. Fall evangelistic meetings were conducted by Rev. John Humphrey of Dandridge, Tennessee. other speakers during the year included Mr. Ian Stanley, from World Vision; Rev. and Mrs. Graham Barss, missionaries in India for 42 years; Don Collins, National Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship; Mr. Robert S. Sabeau of Latin America Mission and Gerry Fuller, our summer assistant.

A significant outreach of our church in 1983 was the organization of our West End Baptist Christian Pre-School. This was achieved through the efforts of Nancy Clarke, wife of the pastor, and the church officers. We began with 10 children and a qualified teacher from our church, Mrs. Andrea Stimson. The School with its emphasis on Christian teaching has ministered to families of various ethnic backgrounds and religious persuasions. Needy children have been sponsored by the School. Enthusiastic response from parents later increased our enrolment to 50 children, representing 47 families.

This year, after the annual inspection of our facilities and curriculum our license was renewed. Our teachers have been dedicated, qualified teachers within our own church membership. Our current teachers are Mrs. Lynn White and Mrs. Susan Collins.

Our tape ministry began in 1983 with Harvey Hendsbee and Jim McGowan recording the church services for borrowing or purchasing. This has been a special interest to the shut-ins.

A new memorial window on the Quinpool road side of the church was placed in loving memory of Marjorie Kearns by her husband Walter and family.

New choir gowns acquired from the Memorial Fund were dedicated on Easter Sunday. The choir music was their Easter Cantata, "The Cross of Christ."

A special musical event was preformed by the children under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Clarke. This children's musical "The Music Machine" was based on Galatians (the fruit of the spirit). The children later performed the musical "We Like Sheep" directed by Mrs. L. McGill Edwards accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Kathy Lai.

Another enjoyable evening of music was presented by Marie Umidi, concert soloist and recording artist from Lower Coverdale United Baptist Church in Moncton, N.B.

Al Bryant was guest soloist for Father's Day and on other occasions.

Gerry Fuller and his wife, Barbara, who together contributed much to the spiritual life of our church were recognized by a special fellowship time as they left to take up a pastorate at West Gore.

A three day missionary conference "Bread for the Nations", had missionary guests Rev. Lynn Stairs, and Miss Ada Secord. The singing group "The Potters Clay" from Grand Bay, New Brunswick provided the music.

On Baden Powell Sunday, the Anniversary of the Scout Movement Captain E. John Sampson was recognized for his 21 years of service with the Sth Halifax Scout Group Committee.

Pastor Win Clarke was instrumental in starting an airport chaplaincy at the Halifax International Airport. One of our member Al Ramsay was chairman of this ministry.

The new congregation of the Chinese Alliance Church began holding their worship and fellowship services in our Berdi Delong room.

At our 94th Anniversary Service, Dr. R.C. MacCormack was the speaker. Music was provided by the choir with Mrs. Hope Moen as organist for the occasion. A special recognition was given to miss Minnie Dodsworth, full time secretary for 25 years. The service was preceded by a well attended pot luck supper in the Berdi Delong room.

With our new organist in 1985, Mrs. Christine Cole, music continued to be emphasized in our worship services. A service of music was presented by the choirs of First Baptist Church, Dartmouth, and Stevens Road Baptist Church, Dartmouth, along with our own choir.

A memorial window was dedicated to the Glory of God in loving memory of Mrs. Edith Morton Elliott by her daughter Joyce and son Murray.

Our choir presented John Peterson's cantata "Hallelujah What a Saviour" for our special Easter music.

For our 95th Anniversary service, Mrs. Cole organized a choir reunion of present and past members. This was an inspiring musical service as our choir loft was filled with singers.

Also, for our musical inspiration the Gideons held their second annual Festival of Music in our church.

The Atlantic Baptist College of Moncton provided an evening of music.

The New Song Singers from Bayers Road Baptist Church brought us their musical "Behold Him, Saviour and Lord."

This year we received our first edition of "The West End Visitor," a newsletter to keep us informed about our people and events. Also, we had the Prayer Chain Ministry, Home Bible Groups and Precept Bible Study group.

The gospel was presented in drama by a team sponsored by Youth With a Mission from New Jersey, U.S.A.

Our church held an evangelistic rally with Western evangelist, Barry Moore and a service with evangelist Siodora, Director of Philippine Missionary Fellowship.

The combined choirs of Birch Cove Baptist Church and West End Choir presented the Easter cantata, "We Have Seen the Lord," under the direction of our organist, Mrs. Christine Cole.

A visit to the city in 1986 by the ship "Logos" was of special interest to our church. The Logos travels to ports around the world giving the gospel message. Our church had speakers from the ship, representing Australia, Spain, Indonesia and Canada.

Again, our church emphasized missions through a Faith Promise Bible Missionary Conference. Guest speakers were Dr. R.C. MacCormack and CBOMB representative, Mrs. Jessie Woelfe.

REV. RONALD C. MacCORMACK
Pastor 1956-



The Covenant Players, based in Los Angeles, California, presented a gospel ministry in drama.

Our 96th Anniversary was celebrated with a musical concert by the Gospelairees from New Brunswick. Dr. Andrew MacRae, of Acadia Divinity College was the speaker.

Mrs. Christine Cole directed the choir in a music program, "An Old Fashioned Christmas." The choir members were appropriately attired in gowns graciously loaned by the Historical Society.

In 1987 we had another memorial window presented. This was in loving memory of Lilla M. McNally, given by her daughters Mrs. Bernadean Lewin and Mrs. Winnifred Wight.

Of particular interest and enjoyment was a musical evening with John and Carol Nelson. Carol is the daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Vincent, a former pastor of West End.

Our 97th Anniversary was marked by having two former members for our guests. Rev. Kaj Binderup, Associate Pastor of New Minas Baptist Church was the speaker and his wife Joan was soloist.

An outstanding musical performance in 1983 "The Love Story" was presented by our choir under the direction of our organist Mrs. Rebecca Woods; piano accompanist was Mrs. Kathy Lai. This musical told the story of Haligonian, Bertha Allen, Sunday School teacher at Full Gospel church, who won all her class of thirteen boys to the Lord.

A number of missionary speakers came to our church from different missions - Karl Jansen, Canadian Baptist Missionary to Brazil; Hudson Taylor III, grandson of Hudson Taylor, founder of China Inland Mission, now known as Overseas missionary Fellowship; Rev. and Mrs. Lynn Stairs, from CBOMB, and Pastors Carlos Aguayo and Mario Enriquez from Guatemala City.

In the summer of 1989 we had former pastor, Rev. C. Roden Evans for our guest preacher. Our guest organist on one occasion was Mrs. Joy Ide, organist of First Church of God in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She is the sister of our organist, Mrs. Rebecca Woods. In the fall, Pastor Winston Clark Jr. moved back to the U.S.A. to accept a new church pastorate and in December Assistant Pastor Christine MacDormand began a new dimension of her ministry "Partners in Faith." The year 1990 has been a Year of Celebration to mark the 100th Anniversary of West End United Baptist Church. In January, Dr. R.C. MacCormack accepted a call to be our interim pastor. An Open House was held at the parsonage for a time of singing, fellowship and refreshments. We were honoured to have the Royal Commonwealth Society and distinguished guests for their annual church service.

Taking part were Lieutenant-Governor Lloyd Crouse, Chief Patron of the Society; Mr. Justice R. C.

MacCleve, Q.C., Chairman of the Society; His Worship, Mayor Ron Wallace, and Mr. Arthur Donahue, Q.C., Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, who represented Premier John Buchanan. Dr. MacCormack's message was "Nations Seeking the Lord." Music was provided by our choir under the direction of our organist, Mrs. Rebecca Woods. The service was followed by a reception held in the Berdi Delong room.

Holy Week Services were conducted by Rev. Ruben Davis of Hebron Baptist Church in Yarmouth. Special musical numbers were rendered each evening.

Other guest speakers were Dr. P.N. Kurien of the All India Prayer Fellowship, Rev. John Boyd of First Baptist Church, Halifax, from which West End church had its beginning; Mrs. Florence MacCormack, wife of our interim pastor; Miss Audrey Maw (one of our members) from Interserve and Intervarsity ministry to students; Rev. David Turner of Stephens Road Baptist Church in Dartmouth; Rev. Brian Keezer, former member of West End and now Halifax Hospital Chaplain, and Rev. William Campbell from Woodstock, New Brunswick representative of Interserve for the Atlantic Area.

Ministry to children in the summer was conducted by trained workers from Child Evangelism Fellowship who had Back Yard Bible Clubs at homes and at the church.

Our annual missions conference had speaker Miss Marilyn Smith of Dartmouth. Marilyn has served with CBOMB in Kenya. music was provided by the College and Career group.

A generous gift of money was received from Mrs. Jessie Taylor in memory of her husband, Carl E. Taylor, and Austin W. Taylor, Ira G. Taylor, Czermy L. Taylor and Mrs. Lillian Taylor, wife of Czermy who still resides in North Weymouth, Mass.

Our church sanctuary was filled for the occasion of a recognition service to honor the memory of Dr. Abner J. Langley, former pastor of West End from 1950 to 1956 and later Principal of the Acadia Divinity College. This was sponsored by the Halifax Area Baptist churches to help establish the Abner J. Langley Chair of Christian Ministry at Acadia Divinity College. Music was provided by a massed choir and soloists from the churches.

Our Church Anniversary Dinner was catered at Oxford Street United Church. Dr. Lou Collins, Halifax Historian, gave an interesting talk about the Quinpool area of our church in 1890 when there were farms and horse drawn carriages! we were favoured with music by Rebecca Woods, Kathy Lai and Susan Collins.

A "Snooper's Special" afforded us a tour of the excellent facilities of our church building by Roy Brunt, Bob Giffin and Gordon Ryder. Our church building, hall and parsonage have been well maintained by our trustees with willing assistance from other members. Siding, aluminum windows, new roof, carpets, painting and new furnace are some of the maintenance work that has been carried out.

West End Church has continued to be "The Singing Church" with music greatly contributing to our worship, expression of praise, and adoration to God. We have appreciated the music ministry of our organist, choir director and soloist, Mrs. Rebecca Woods. In addition, she has shared with us the talents of her musical family on many occasions. our heartfelt thanks goes to her mother, Mrs. MacHwen, an exceptional musician, her sisters, Mrs. Hope Moen, Mrs. Joy Ide, Mrs. Faith Daley and husband Robert, and her twin brother, Philip MacEwen.

At 7:00 a.m. Easter morning the Church had a Sunrise Service on Citadel Hill, after which the deacons served breakfast at the church. Easter music by the choir was the cantata "Conquering Saviour."

In May our congregation was thrilled and blessed by the outstanding musical program, "A Hundred Years of Christian Music," presented by our choir and organist.

After an evening service in November, the congregation gathered to fill the Berdi Delong room for a "Hymn Sing." It was a time of great singing, inspiration and fellowship. Roy Brunt was the capable song leader, accompanied by twin pianos with our organist, Rebecca Woods and her sisters, Hope Moen on the piano, and Faith Daley on the accordion.

Kids Praise Choir, by the children, gave a musical presentation directed by Susan Collins and Rebecca Woods, accompanied on the piano by Kathy Lai.

Additional musical highlights were the Gospel in Song with well known soloist, Jean Marshall, former member of our choir and an organ recital which showed the musical talent of our member Shawn Whynot. A reception in the Berdi Delong room followed each of these musical evenings.

In October we extended a call to Rev. Earl MacDonald of Nashwaaksis Baptist Church, New Brunswick, to become our next senior pastor. Rev. MacDonald graciously accepted our call. We look forward to Rev. and Mrs. MacDonald pastoring among us, effective January 20, 1991.

Our guest speaker, for our Anniversary Sunday on November 25th, was Dr. Jerry Barnes. Dr. Barnes is on the faculty of Acadia Divinity college.

In the evening our guest speaker was Mrs. Florence MacCormack who is widely recognized as a gifted speaker at retreats and conferences. Mrs. MacCormack is remembered with much love and appreciation for her tremendous gift in teaching the "Word" during their ministry at West End. Her Sunday School class was filled to capacity every Sunday.

Music for the service was by our choir, with a ladies musical selection and a trumpeter.

Following the evening service there was a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Berdi Delong room.

As we reflect on the past ministries of our church, we have continued our evangelistic outreach in many ways. Over 30 of our young people have gone into the Christian ministry as pastors and missionaries. Over the years we have sponsored a number of our college and career youth to attend the Urbana conferences in Chicago to inspire their missionary vision. We had a part in the establishing of a new Baptist Church in Elmsdale. Christians Concerned for Life held meetings in our sanctuary. our pastor's wife, Nancy Clarke spoke to many groups and high schools on this issue. For family enrichment, the film series by Dr. James Dobson and Dr. Charles Swindell were shown. The church continued to oppose liquor outlets and other adverse forces, such as Sunday shopping. We co-operated with other churches to assist the "Boat People", Asian refugees that came to Halifax. The kitchen food cupboard is kept stocked for the needy who come to our door. After morning services we have "Coffee and Conversation," a time for fellowship, greeting new people, honouring our graduating students and sharing special moments with one another. We who have had the interesting task of reviewing these past twenty-five years acknowledge there are many who have lovingly and faithfully given of their time and talents who have not been specifically mentioned but nevertheless deeply appreciated.

We are blessed to receive bequests and anonymous donations reflecting the love and devotion of the members to their church.

Rev. R. C. MacCormack was our pastor as we celebrated our 1175 Wonderful Years" and was quoted by Berdi delong at the conclusion. Thus, we feel it is appropriate to finish the 25 year report with an Anniversary quote of encouragement and hope from Rev. R.C. MacCormack, again pastoring among us at West End. **"Let us, at West End United Baptist Church, approach a now Century and in ten years, a new millennium, in prayer for spiritual renewal, and a new wave of soul winning and growth. one day our Lord will return. Let us be prepared to join the Heavenly throng, saying, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.... I Rev. 5:12. Do pray for the West End yet to be."**

Graciously submitted by, Ardith Canning Edna Landry Typing - Courtesy of, Audrey Peverill Edited by, The 100th Anniversary Committee

A Glimpse of "FIRSTS" at West End

Electric lights installed in building on opposite corner 1895.
First building on present site November 5., 1905.
First Women's Missionary Aid Society formed - 1908.
First License to preach granted Mr. Harry Freda 1908.
First Parsonage purchased 1912.
First Pipe Organ installed 1919 - \$3,368.
First Gowns and Hats worn by choir 1925.
First Unified Budget and Every-member-canvass 1928.
First Constitution and BY-Laws ratified 1928.
First Radio Broadcast from West End., February 1930.
First use of the word "United" in church title 1931.
First Church Secretary, Miss Jear Betts 1952.
First minister to become President of the Convention, Rev. Abner J. Langley 1951-52.
First Daily Vacation Bible School, July 1954.
First Carillovic Bells in Halifax area installed 1956.
First full-time Assistant Pastor, R. C. Cunningham 1957.
First church Dial-A-Message in N. S. 1958.
First Telecast at West End, Easter 1950.