

# Goodwood Baptist Church

1876 - 1976

The story of the first century of the Goodwood Baptist Church is one of vision, faith, sacrifice, and hard labour. There was a good witness of true love for the Master and His work in a village with a growing population and a good farming area surrounding it.

Rev. J. B. Moore, pastor of Stouffville Baptist Church, began evangelistic meetings in a building in the Goodwood cemetery in January, 1876, continuing there for only a week. The next week, he secured the use of the newly built township hall. He preached every night of the week except Saturdays until April 1st. During the day, he visited from house to house, carrying the good news of the Gospel to many homes where no minister had ever been before. Mr. Moore, being a very earnest and forceful speaker, drew the people from every direction to hear the message of free salvation through Jesus Christ. The people were so interested, they came to meetings in sleigh loads. The hall was filled night after night.

Pastor Moore wrote a note to the Baptist paper regarding the work of grace at one of his outstations: "The readers will rejoice to hear of God's gracious doings in Goodwood - a village seven miles from Stouffville, on the Nippissing Rail Road, and about the same distance from Uxbridge."

Mr. Moore states that as many as fifty would rise at a meeting, asking for prayer, and half professed to be saved. The prospects were that a strong church could be formed in the place when ten people were baptized.

## Church Organization

A meeting was held in the Township Hall on March 10th, 1876, with Pastor J. B. Moore leading the singing and prayer. The New Hampshire confession of faith was read and it was decided that the group organize themselves into a regular Baptist Church, and to accept this declaration as the basis for their religious faith. The first pastor called to this newly formed church was Rev. F. Bosworth of Whitevale Baptist Church. He served both churches.

The first deacons of the church were:

Brother Avery Hamilton, Brother David VanHorne, Brother James Hamilton was elected Church Clerk, and Brother Isaac Wagg was elected Church Treasurer.

Charter Members of the Church: James Hamilton, Avery Hamilton, Phoebe Hamilton, Robert Hamilton, David VanHorne, Hannah Van Horne, George Besse, Mary Ann Besse, Esther Besse, John Stover, Mary Wagg, Mary Stover, Isaac Wagg, Phoebe Wagg, Simon Stover, Nancy Stover, Hannah Stover, Rachel Badgerow, Joseph Badgerow.

The following applied for baptism and church membership: Margaret Wagg, Emiline Ellis, Susan Wagg, and Anne Meyers.

Each Sunday there were several candidates applying for baptism and church membership, and the group of interested people grew.

Mr. Isaac Wagg was the last Charter Member of the church to die. This was on December 10th, 1937.

In 1889, Mr. Price Pugh was elected Church Clerk, and held the office for 30 years. Mr. Dan Wagg took over in 1919 and carried on until Mr. Harry Woodland accepted the responsibility in 1965, and he is still carrying on.

Mrs. Gordon Jones has been treasurer since 1970.

The Officers of the Church for this Centennial Year are as follows:

Honorary Deacon - Dan Wagg

Deacons - Harry Woodland, Gordon Jones, Ken Hockley, John May

Treasurer - Mrs. Gordon Jones

Clerk - Harry Woodland

Ushers - Gordon Jones, Bob James, Mike May, Arnold May

Auditors - Mr. & Mrs. K. Hockley

Trustees - Gordon Jones, Ken Hockley, John May

Envelope Tellers - Beatrice Hockley, Arnold May, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Jones

Advertising - Mrs. Reuben May, Mr. Arnold May

Benevolent Committee - Miss Olive May, Mrs. Ola Forsyth

Pianist - Mrs. Edna May

Organists - Mrs. Marjorie Woodland, Mrs. Grace McDowell, Miss Penny Dawson

Wedding Bibles - Mrs. Arnold May

Centennial Committee - Mrs. Harold Hoover, Mrs. Reuben May, Mr. Harry Woodland, Mrs. Ken Hockley, Mrs. R. Dawson, Mr. Gordon Jones, Rev. T. J. McDowell

Music Committee - Mrs. Marjorie Woodland, Mrs. Edna May, May, Rev. T. J. McDowell, Mrs. Grace McDowell

Building Committee - Gordon Jones, Ken Hockley (with power to add)

Finance Committee - Bob James, Mrs. Alderson, Harry Woodland, Mrs. Gordon Jones

Baptismal Committee - Pastor and Deacons

Nominating Committee - Kathleen May, Olive May, Ken Hockley, Mike May  
Communion Committee - Miss Olive May, Mrs. Marjorie Woodland

## Church Building

At the inauguration of the church on March 10th, 1876, it was decided to proceed immediately to find suitable land and erect a building for religious services. A subscription list was circulated for the purpose of ascertaining what amount might be collected in this neighbourhood in order to build. On April 20th, 1876, the committee for the erection of the church recommended that a lot on the south side of Stouffville Road be purchased from Mr. James McGuckin for \$50, and a church to be erected on said lot.

The plan for the building was to be the same size and style as the Union Church at Altona, with slight modifications. Advertisements were made for the erection of the church. The size of the church was to be 32 feet by 50 feet, and the cost was \$1,600.

Adequate sheds were built along the south and west sides of the property for horses, sleighs, or buggies. A shed was also erected for the storage of wood. The church was heated with a large box stove with a pipe up from the stove, then a tee-pipe and two rows of pipe running the length of the building to separate chimneys at the south end of the building.

Lighting was by bracket oil lamps and hanging lamps suspended from ornate plaster decorations on the ceiling. Electricity was installed in 1937.

The pine plank floor was kept white for approximately eighty years by the vigorous scrubbing of the ladies. It is now varnished.

The Dedication of the new church was held on December 21st, 1876, led by Rev. J. B. Moore. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. T. L. Davidson. A soiree was held in the evening, which proved a great success. What a glorious Christmas that must have been for those newly dedicated Children of God, who had performed an almost insurmountable amount of work to build a church which has been a witness in the village of Goodwood for one hundred years.

The final payment of \$400 was made on the neat and commodious House of Worship in March of 1886.

In 1915, it was suggested to try to arrange for an extra building at the rear of the present building for Sunday School use. In 1922, a committee was appointed to bring in an estimate for this addition. There are no record of results recorded in the minutes. This was again being considered by the Deacons Board in 1975, and it is hoped that a small addition will be built and dedicated on December 19th, 1976 -the date of the Anniversary occasion of the Dedication of the original building.

A well was dug in 1964, and water was found at 131 feet, at a cost of \$5 per foot. This is the water supply for the church and the Ottowell house next door, which the church purchased in 1960 for a parsonage. and added parking facilities. This house was completely renovated in 1975 at a cost of over \$6,000.



Under the pastoral guidance of Rev. George Gorman, during the winter of 1950-51 a basement was put under the church. Most of this work was done by the members of the church, using their teams of horses to help with the excavation. Dedication service was held in the spring of 1951. Installation of a furnace in the basement meant the end of the faithful old box stove, and all those lengths of stove pipe!

In 1967, the interior of the sanctuary was completely renovated, with new plaster walls, lowered ceiling, insulation, aluminum windows, new lighting and a large illuminated wooden cross. The church is now a very attractive Building for worship.

### The Pastoral Ministry

Several pastors were shared with Whitevale Baptist Church until January, 1879, when satisfactory arrangements were made with Uxbridge Baptist Church for joint pastoral support. Rev. John II. Best was called to the pastorate. During the two years Brother Best was pastor, fifty persons were baptized and others received by letter.

Apart from an eight month break in 1910, the two churches continued to work together for 85 years.

On May 31st, 1964, the churches separated. Goodwood continued with student pastors for a few years with financial assistance from Church House.

At the Annual Business Meeting of the church on February 5th, 1975, it was decided to forego any assistance from Church House, and support a part time pastor on their own.

### Ministers who served in Goodwood

Rev. J. B. Moore, who led in the organization of the church, June 8th, 1876, and the dedication of the chapel on December 21st, 1876.

Then followed:

Rev .E. Bosworth	John Finch	J.H. Bent	W. McGregor
T.J. Carey	A. Chandler	J.H. Best	D. Reddick
E.D. Sherman	J.W. Millard	H.J. Haviland	J.W. Silcox
O.E. Kendall	J. Ross	A. White	C.H. Schutt
T. Cowan	E.J. McEwen	O.C. Gray	C. Hariss
A. Hall	G.H. Thomas	A.G. Bentley	G.P. Boddy
J.H. Olmstead	J. McIntosh	J.R. Baldwin	A. Homer
J.E. Ostrom	J. Taylor	G.F. Gorman	A. England
R.D. Filyer	J.E. Tetley	Meryle Dolan	

In 1964, Goodwood separated from Uxbridge because of growth. Leonard Ferber was the first student pastor of a number. Several of these men lived with their families in the church house bought from the Ottowell family. Messrs. R. Sandiford, L. Hurley, J. Postma, I. McPhee, Mr. Gooderham and Mr. Davies brought excellent leadership to the church.

Rev. George Gorman came again in 1971, and was with us until 1974, when he retired in his own home in Blind River. Rev. T. J. McDowell, a member of our church, became our pastor upon Mr. Gorman's retirement.

Excerpts from The Canadian Baptist - May 17th, 1900 - page 4, column 3

GOODWOOD - One month's special work in Goodwood Baptist Church resulted in much blessing to both regenerate and unregenerate. Some Christians who had wandered came back into "the narrow way" and about fifteen were brought to a knowledge of the Saviour. In this work we were assisted respectively by Rev. McFarlane, Rev. Pollock, Rev. Imrie, and Rev. White. We very cordially thank these brethren for their kind and excellent co-operation. We can truly recommend this system of joint labour in evangelistic work. Eight have already been received for baptism, and others are thinking about it. We expect much blessing in the coming year. As a church we are at present studying Chancellor Wallace's "Life of Christ" in conjunction with a Harmony of the Gospels, and find it very profitable.

June 8th, 1905 - page 9, column 1

GOODWOOD - On Tuesday night at the close of the prayer meeting seven candidates followed their Lord in baptism - four young men and three young women.

June 11th, 1908 - page 9, column 1

GOODWOOD - Rev. O. C. Gray, B.A. - On Sunday May 31, successful Anniversary Services were held in the Goodwood Baptist Church. The preacher for the occasion was Rev. F. R. Fitch, B.A., Th. of Toronto, who delivered two very powerful sermons in the afternoon and evening. On Monday evening, Rev. Fitch gave an eloquent lecture on "'The Individual' his relation to the Nation." On Sunday the Claremont Male Quartette rendered appropriate music; while on Monday evening, Miss A. Nix, of Uxbridge, soloist, and Miss N. Myers of Unionville, elocutionist, aided in the programme. A liberal offering was presented by the people.

June 17th, 1909 - page 9, column 3

GOODWOOD - Rev. O. C. Gray, B.A. - Thirteen were given the right hand of fellowship last Lord's Day, all of whom were baptized a short time ago. With the exception of one, who was a mother, all were young men and women between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five. These young people are looked upon as being the choice of the vicinity. To a membership of fifty, these thirteen will be a marked strength to the Church. We are praying for others who we hope will, in a short time, follow their Lord in baptism.

Music has always been an important part of the Worship Services of the church. In 1889, the Calvary Selection of Hymns was bought and used for some years.

In 1917, Mrs. Lewis donated \$100 for the purchase of a new organ. This organ remained in use until sold to Mr. & Mrs. Harold Hoover in 1972. In 1933, Mrs. Clarence Naylor and Miss Maude Lewis donated a piano to the church. In 1972, a second hand Wurlitzer organ and piano were purchased. The cost of \$2,400 was raised in a few weeks. These instruments have added considerably to the services.

Church Organists over the years include

Miss Etta MacGuckin    Miss Edna Brignall    Miss Zella Miller    Miss Grace Wagg    Miss Mary Todd  
Mrs. Edna Brian        Mrs. Elizabeth Carey    Mrs. Barry Woodland    Mrs. Henry White  
Mrs. Grace McDowell

In 1974, the new Canadian Baptist Hymnal was purchased.

### Sunday School and Young People

The Sunday School has always been of high priority in the activity of the church. It has never been a large school, but we believe a good work has been done in the lives of many boys and girls, and only eternity will reveal the results. Many fine and dedicated teachers and workers have served, and their reward will be eternal.

Records show only one Sunday School pupil was led to enter the ministry, and he is a successful pastor of a Baptist Church in British Columbia - the Rev. Benny Jones.

### Sunday School Superintendents in the years:

Mr. Price Pugh, Mr. Fred Woodland, Mr. Isaac Wagg, Mr. Harry Woodland, Mr. Dan Wagg, Mr. Arnold May, Mr. Gordon Jones

The Sunday School has maintained a missionary project every year since 1917, when they began supporting a boy in a boarding school in India. In 1950, they added the support of a girl in Bolivia, and in 1957 they began to support a student pastor in Bolivia.

The young people of the church have had very active groups at times, and at other times there was none. The encouragement and support came largely from teen class teachers in the Sunday School and interested young workers. The group today numbers about 8 or 9 young people.

A very active boys' group is now in existence and it is hoped that a similar group for girls will soon be activated.



### Sunday School and Young People - continued

Goodwood has the same problem with Young People as other rural churches have in that as soon as they are through school they are away in order to obtain higher education, or to find work. We believe a good foundation has been laid in their lives by their attendance at Sunday School and Church Services.

### Ladies' Aid and Mission Circle

Ladies interested in the betterment of Church and Community gathered in the Church in June, for the purpose of forming a ladies' group. This group either dissolved after a very short time, or there were two groups - Ladies' Aid, and Mission Circle.

In June, 1921, a Ladies' Aid was formed to hold meetings once a month for the purpose of fellowship, prayer, aid to church needs, and aid to missions. This group has carried on continually through the years.

In 1955, the name was changed to "Mission Circle" so that we were of the same name as ladies' group in the Trent Valley Association. Mrs. Willard Slack is the only charter member of the 1921 group now living.

Mission aid in money and White Cross sewing have always been uppermost in the ladies' work. Many quilts have been made for mission help, or burned-out families.

A "Happy Workers" group carried on for several years, as did a "Married Couples" group. Mission Band, or Children's Meetings, have come and gone. A girls' group called "Blue Birds" carried on through the 1950's and 1960's.

The "Mission Circle" continues to meet monthly, to study the Baptist Mission program at home and abroad, to contribute money for missionary causes, and to decide on ways and means by which to bring comfort and happiness to others.

### MISSIONS

The church has always been a church with a vision of the needs of the world - especially the spiritual needs. The cause of Worldwide Missions of our own denomination has always received wholehearted support. A warm welcome has always been given to missionary speakers.

For many years, the Bible Society has had strong support. Along with help from the Goodwood United Church, the area has been canvassed yearly for the benefit of the Society.

The Bible Club Movement, led by Rev. C. R. Nelson, has always had Food support from Goodwood Baptist Church. We, in return, are thankful for the Bible teaching in the schools of the area, and their help in Daily Vacation Bible School each year.

Gideon speakers are welcomed annually, and for many years, speakers from the Ontario Temperance Federation.

Christmas White Gift Donations of food, clothes, toys, and money are always a part of Christmas at the church.

In 1975, the church raised \$314.00 to purchase two cows in Kenya for some needy farmer. This was done through the Baptist World Alliance. The project for 1976 is to raise \$350.00 to feed hungry children somewhere in the world - also through the Alliance.

### AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR

On December 31st, 1975, at 11 pm, there was a time of fellowship, worship and dedication as we awaited the coming of this special year.

The program for the service was as follows:

Organ Prelude - an arrangement of the hymn "God of our Fathers."

Congregational Hymns - 290 - "For Thy Mercy and Thy Grace"

- 295 - "Now thank we all our God"

Invocation

Scripture - 1 Corinthians 13

Dedication of Sign and Banner -

A New Sign was donated to the church by Mr. & Mrs. K. Hockley. This is a beautiful, large sign, which will readily be seen by all who pass our church.

A 100th ANNIVERSARY BANNER hanging from the ceiling, donated by Rev. & Mrs. T.J. McDowell

After a few appropriate words regarding these gifts, Mr. McDowell led the congregation in prayer as these new appointments for our church were dedicated.

Hymn #305 - "Standing at the portal of the opening year"

Short Message

Prayer Hymn #313 - "Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord to Thee".

Benediction