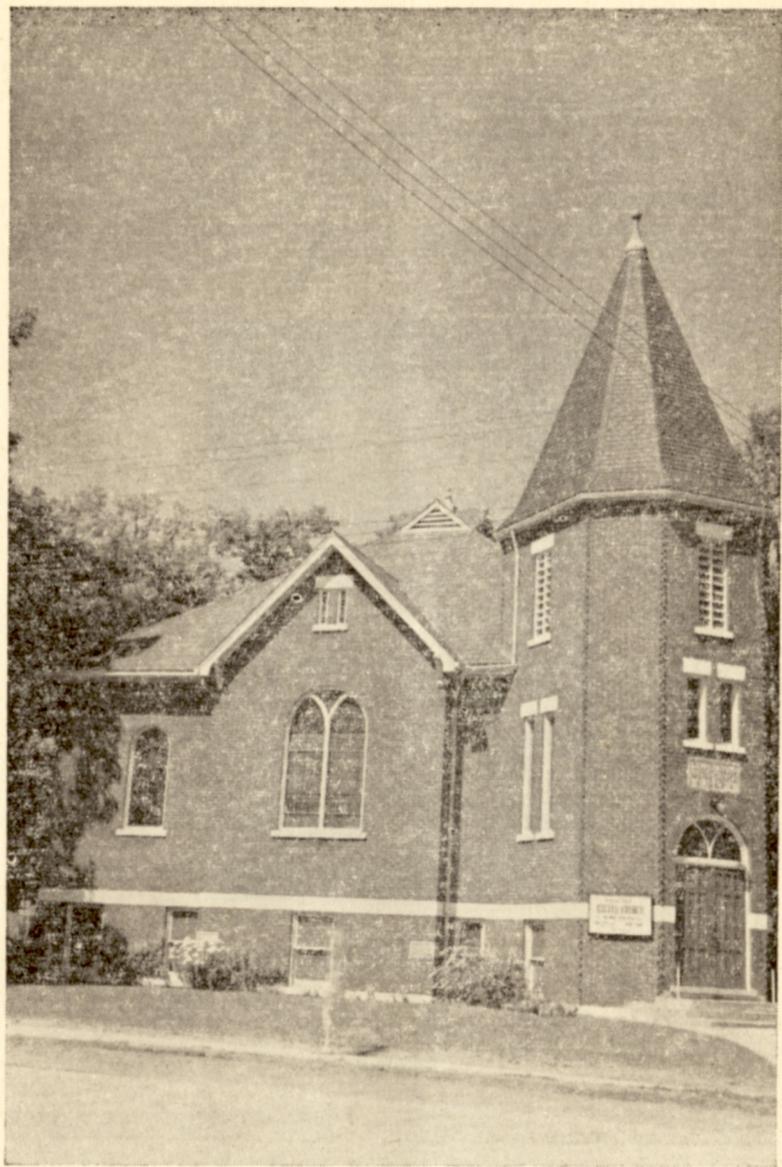


**GRAND BEND
UNITED CHURCH**

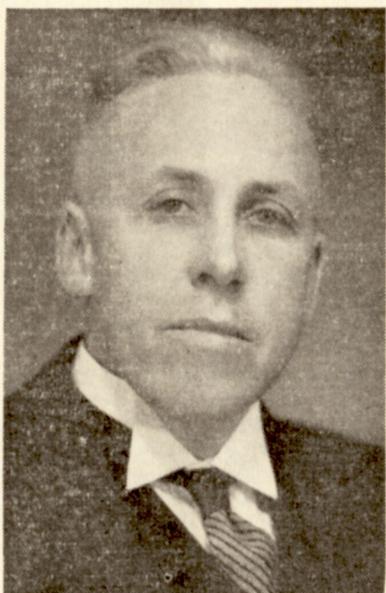


25th
Anniversary

•
1927 - 1952



GRAND BEND UNITED CHURCH



Present Minister
REV. W. C. SMITH, B.A.

The Minister's Message

Mine is a personal privilege and high honour, that of paying a brief tribute to the Church on this occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Grand Bend United Church.

Owing to the foresight of certain citizens of Grand Bend we delight in a church edifice that is worthy of the name, well constructed, carefully designed, and in a good state of preservation. The charter members living and dead have thus an enduring memorial to their own initiative and devotion.

It is a joy to recall the record of those associated with this church. First, my predecessors in the ministry — a magnificent group of men, earnest in their Christian witness — I am proud to be associated with them in some degree. However, it is of the Charter members I wish to speak. This is their Anniversary Day, and all honour to them. They have planted well and we are entering into the reward of their harvest. Since that inaugural day twenty-five years ago, each year has been marked by the high calibre of its church officials, by the quality of their Christian living. These have carried on the fine tradition of their forefathers nobly and well, with their laudable sense of responsibility.

The next twenty-five years will bring numerous changes, advantages and progress along religious and scientific lines; but we look forward with hope. There will be those willing to carry out the ideals of stewardship which actuated the early Church. We are not ashamed of the religious calibre of our present membership. They will, we hope, cause the smaller church fellowship to become a worthwhile component of the larger Church of Christ!

When we consider the fine record of this Grand Bend United Church during the twenty-five years, we say with the Psalmist: "Bless the Lord. O My Soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name." For surely the Lord has dwelt among this community of Believers, and hath directed us by His gracious providence. We pray earnestly that the future will prove to be not one degree less praiseworthy than the past. May the vision of the Crucified and Risen Christ our Saviour and Lord be ours, and "may we be strengthened with power through His Spirit in our inner nature that Christ may develop in our hearts through faith."

— CLIFFORD SMITH.

Grand Bend United Church

1927 — 1952

A historic record with a brief account of outstanding events and interesting happenings in the life of the Grand Bend United Church is presented in this little book to all those interested. But in the space allotted only brief accounts can be given.

Church Union in 1925 united at Grand Bend two churches, the former Methodist Church known as "the White Church" and the former Presbyterian Church having a history back to 1872. To meet the requirements of the two churches a new building was needed. In 1927, under the leadership of Rev. J. M. Colling, a special congregational meeting was called and an unanimous vote given for a new church building.

At Grand Bend for many years there had been an open air camp service held every Sunday during July and August. In 1927, the leaders of this group met with the officials of the United Church and offered to finance the purchasing of a site for the new church with ample space for outdoor community services during July and August. This offer was accepted and the site where now stands the United Church, the shed, and the open air lawn was purchased from George Eccleston for the sum of \$1,700.00 and deeded to the United Church.

At a congregational meeting two committees were set up: a Building Committee consisting of John Love, John Gill, Stephen Webb, Thomas Love, Thomas Webb, Andrew Turnbull; and Finance Committee consisted of Aaron Ireland, Lloyd Taylor, Isaac Bestard Jr., Wm. Baker, Edward Gill, J. H. Holt, W. E. Turnbull.

The Building Committee got estimates and blue prints and after being submitted to the congregation the present plan was accepted and a contract let to Beaver Bros., Crediton, for carpenter work and mason work to Robert Crellin. This, with slate roofing, Milton brick, cement and glass amounted to \$16,450.71.

The expense of the shed for material bought amounted to \$906.00. Labour was given free.

The Finance Committee raised the money as follows:

Subscriptions	\$ 5,774.48
Sale of Materials, Other Sources ..	1,282.23
Mortgage on Church Property	10,300.00

Total Cost\$ 17,356.71

On May 24, the corner stone of the new church was laid, a noteworthy event in the church's history, which was carried out with a very fitting ceremony. A number of outstanding church officials took part, while about 3,000 persons from district and distant points attended. The ceremony was conducted in the afternoon on the new church property and was in charge of the Rev. J. C. Clarke, president of Huron Presbytery. Unfortunately, illness prevented the pastor of the congregation, Rev. J. M. Colling from being present.

Rev. S. A. Carriere, for forty years minister of the former Presbyterian Church here, accompanied by Mrs. Carriere, came from Toronto and laid one corner stone on behalf of the Ladies' Aid. Thomas McMillan of Seaforth, M.P., for South Huron, laid the second corner stone for the Trustee Board; W. G. Medd, M.L.A. for South Huron, laid the stone for the Sunday School and H. Houston of Exeter laid the stone for the Young People's organization.

In addition addresses were given by the following: Rev. Mr. McGibbon of London, representing Rev. L. C. MacGregor, president of the London Conference; Rev. J. W. Maines of Walton; Rev. D. W. Williams, Thedford; Rev. A. M. Grant, Thedford, and Rev. Mr. Hiscox of Crediton.

The Sunset Male Quartette of London rendered appropriate selections during the service. This was followed by a concert and hot supper in the evening which was attended by 1,500.

The beautiful edifice was completed and the opening service for Divine Worship was held on November 6th. Rev. J. M. Colling, present pastor, conducted the morning service using for his subject, Psalm 48:52. He preached to a capacity audience.

The afternoon service took the form of a Dedication Service and was conducted by Rev. Robert Hicks, President of the London Conference who used as his sermon subject Zachariah 2.

The music for the three services that day were supplied by the Grand Bend choir under the leadership of Mr. Sol Pollock and with Mrs. Russell Webb as organist.

The church was erected to the Glory of God and for the salvation of man and it invites you as a Christian and a resident of the community to Divine Worship on Sunday as follows: 11:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Church School at 10:15 a.m.

This worship has been conducted under the leadership of the following ministers:

REV. J. M. COLLING, B.A.

REV. S. J. MATHERS, B.A.

REV. J. B. MOORE, B.A.

REV. C. E. BEACOM, B.A.

REV. W. T. CLEAVE, B.A.

REV. K. W. WOOD, B.A.

and the present minister —

REV. W. C. SMITH, B.A.

The Church School Superintendents have been:

JOHN GILL

WM. PATTERSON

RICHARD WEBB

EZRA WEBB

LLOYD TAYLOR

ED HENDRICK

ISAAC BESTARD

TOM LOVE

MERVYN LOVE

WELLWOOD GILL

The leader of the W.M.S. in 1927 was Mrs. John Gill. Mrs. Garnet Patterson is the present leader.

The leader of the W.A. at the time of opening in 1927 was Mrs. Thomas Webb. The present leader is Mrs. Herb Pfile.

The Choir has been under the leadership of Sol Pollock, Mrs. Mansel Mason and Douglas Gill. The organists have been Mrs. Russell Webb, Nola Desjardine (Mrs. Archie Geary), Mae Patterson and Douglas Gill.

At the opening of the new church, Wellwood Gill was president of the Young People's Union. The present president is Sheila Finnan.

The Cemetery, which belongs to the United Church, has been organized into perpetual care.

With the Years

1. One of the outstanding events was the paying off of the remaining mortgage in the year 1944, during pastorate of Rev. W. T. Cleave, B.A. The match was lighted by the oldest elder, Mr. Stephen Webb, followed by a programme and a congregational supper.

2. An electric organ and public address system was purchased and installed. This project was sponsored by a committee of young people, under the leadership of Miss Mary Yeo.

3. The church school piano was purchased by the Onaway Girls Sunday School Class, under the leadership of Mrs. Emery Desjardine.

4. The church now has a gowned choir — the gowns being purchased by the choir.

5. There are eight members still singing in the choir who took part in the opening services in 1927: Mrs. Mansel Mason, Mrs. Emery Desjardine, Mrs. Mae Holt, Emery Desjardine, Arnold Ravelle, Wellwood Gill, Ross Love and Ezra Webb.

6. Out of the thirteen men who served on Building and Finance Committees, death has removed ten of these members from our church.

7. The seats, pulpit, and communion table, were purchased by the W. A. at a cost of \$2,200.00.

8. Three memorial windows were donated: John Love's family, in memory of their daughter, Elsie; George Sherritt's family, in memory of their parents; John Taylor's family, in memory of their parents. The pulpit Bible was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Abner Mollard.

9. The Bourne family of Detroit donated two new entrance doors for the church.

10. A guest book, for listing our summer visitors, was donated by Dr. Schlutzbauer, Stratford, Ont.

11. During the months of July and August we have always had outstanding open air services on the church lawn. Inter-denominational, with outstanding speakers — among them was the Rev. G. A. Leichter then of Toronto.

12. The Willing Workers Class donated a picture of our Saviour, now hanging behind the pulpit.

13. The present church membership is 203. The Lord's Supper has been observed four times each year. The present Church School membership is 185, consisting of twelve classes. Sunday School was divided into two departments, known as Senior and Junior Departments in the year 1933.

14. A pressure system has been installed in the church.



REV. J. M. COLLING, B.A.
1927-1930



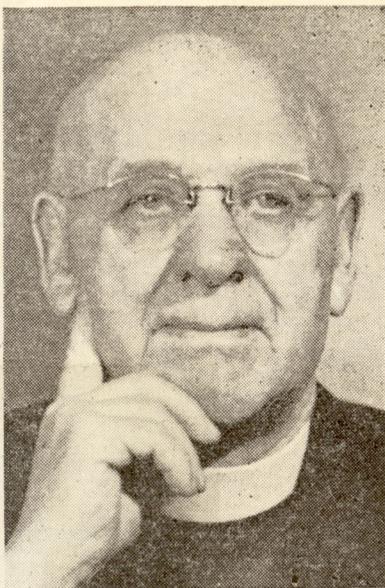
REV. S. J. MATHERS, B.A.
1930-1934



REV. J. B. MOORE, B.A.
1934-1938



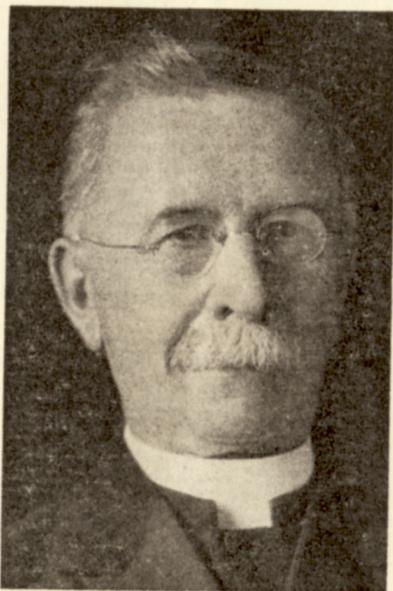
REV. C. E. BEACOM, B.A.
1938-1942



REV. W. T. CLEAVE, B.A.
1942-1947



REV. K. W. WOOD, B.A.
1947-1951



REV. S. A. CARRIERE, B.A.