

The Baptist Church --- Fort Erie Central Ave. 1943.

The first meeting of the Baptist Church in Fort Erie was held in the Presbyterian Church, with fourteen people present.

These meetings were conducted by laymen until Oct. 11th., when Mc.Master University sent students to preach each Sunday. On Nov. 1, 1942 the Legion Hall was rented and the morning services as well as Sunday School was started.

With a loan of \$2,000 from the Church Edifice Board, a store building was purchased and moved to Central Ave., in April, 1943. This building was remodelled and opened for services in August of 1943. Sunday was a happy event (Sept. 26th.) when Dr. C.H. Schutt was present for the service dedication of the new building to God's service.

On Friday evening, December 31st., 1943; a special meeting was called to organize us formally as a Baptist Church. At this meeting twenty two people signed as charter members.

The Recognition Services were held on Sept. 26th, 1944 and we were joyfully admitted to the Niagara-Hamilton Association and the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec on Oct. 24th, 1944.

The basement was built under the church in 1946 and the side addition was built in 1949. Seeing that the expansion was inevitable, the four lots on which the new church is built were purchased in 1949. The last major addition to this first church was made in 1952, when the Baptistry was added.

* Above information from the bulletin put out for the "Service Of Dedication" for the new church on Bertie St.

First Baptist Church Fort Erie Ontario.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH---- Bertie St. Fort Erie.

April 10th., 1960

Seeing that expansion was inevitable, four lots were purchased on the corner of Bertie and Central Ave.

An increasing sense of the need of a new building led to a visit by the Rev. H. Bridge, Director of the Church Extension, in June, of 1958.

Subsequently, the Methodist Association led us in our financial canvass commencing in N. V. of that same year. Twenty-seven thousand dollars was pledged over a three year period.

In April of 1959, the members of the congregation unanimously voted to proceed with the new programme of building a new church at a cost of approximately \$63,000 without the furnishings. This was to be accomplished by means of a bank loan of \$32,000, with a gift of \$10,000 promised by the Niagara-Hamilton Association. The assurance of a loan by the Church Extension Board was given to the amount of \$15,000, and this sum was later raised to \$20,000.

Mr. Donald G. Hallford of Toronto was appointed as our architect and in July the contract was awarded to Stewart-Hinan Corporation, to begin building the new church immediately. The completion of much of the work was to be left to the members of the church.

The building itself has cost approximately sixty-three thousand dollars to date. Untold hours of devoted labour has gone into preparing for this great day.

Now, on Sunday, April 10th., 1960, we approach with rejoicing, the dedication of this lovely new church.

" From the bulletin put out at the Service of Dedication"
First Baptist Church--Fort Erie.

There will be a cornerstone laying service at the new First Baptist Church, Fort Erie, corner of Central Avenue, and Bertie Street, Sunday, October 25th at three-fifteen in the afternoon.