



belonging, believing,  
*becoming in Christ*  
 Pertencer, Crer,  
*Tornar-se em Cristo*

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## From the Editor

### Sixtieth anniversary

“If you do not know where you are coming from you do not know where you are going”. This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of Central Baptist Church. Plans for celebrations later in the year are in process and even in this issue, there are updates on our fund raising to finance projects to commemorate this landmark.

It seems appropriate to look back at our origins in this and subsequent issues of our Newsletter. We will start by looking through the recollections of some of our Charter members and our long time members, and later delve into the archives and look at the recorded history, at special landmarks and at some of our outstanding leaders – spiritual leaders and organizational ones.

In subsequent issues I hope to tap into the memory banks of Grace Collett and Winnie Spencer and Dorothy Barnard and many others. Much of our story is known by some, maybe even many, but I think it is worth recording in this significant year of our existence as a congregation.

In this issue we start with Don Hallford. I had a very pleasant visit with Don and Marianne this week and we chatted about the family’s first visit to Central. Don is a professional Architect and he is the inspiration for our current house of worship - my words, Don is too modest to say that! He practiced in Toronto at Bloor and Jane Streets, but soon moved to Oakville, delighted at being able to work and live and worship in the same community. Don has served on Town Council and has served in many capacities in our church, including Chair of Finance Committee and Chair of Church Council, a capacity in which his son Ian now serves. Marianne breezed in, as pleasant and as happy as ever, before she left for World Day of Prayer conference, but she confused me with a man called Peter Mansbridge!

I am also very pleased at Jocelyn Geisler’s contribution to our newsletter. Her article was youthful, refreshing and so articulate. I am optimistic that Jocelyn kick started our young people’s involvement in our newsletter!

*Yours in Christ!*  
 Errol Anderson



## March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday, March 24</b> Annual Meeting					1	2
			6	7	8	9
			<b>Friday, March 29</b> Good Friday Service 10:00 a.m.			
			<b>Friday, March 29</b> Portuguese Easter Conference 3:00 p.m.		15	16
			<b>April 26-28, May 3-5</b> Camp Kwasind work weekend. If you are interested in participating (of which we would be very grateful for) please contact Artur Simoes, Dave Laing, Pastor Michel or Dine.		22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

## To our visitors

**Welcome to the joy of worship and the warmth of our congregation!**

If you are searching for a local church home, we invite you to make your home with us. If you are a newcomer, please include your name, address, e-mail address and telephone number on the Contact Cards. We’re glad you’re here! We encourage you to feel free to participate in any church activities you read about in this bulletin. If you have any questions, please speak with an usher.

## Launching Primary Source

Starting Wednesday, March 6, 2013, we will be launching a new study group called **Primary Source**. Now, when I was in school and had to write essays, I was often reminded that I needed to go back to the “primary sources.” In other



**michel's musings**

words, I couldn't simply quote the people who had read the primary/original source; I needed to examine the original text for myself. I think it's a good habit to get into when studying the Bible as well. All too often, in this age of quick quotes and twitter one-liners,

we come to rely on others to tell us what the Bible says rather than struggling with the text ourselves. This group, **Primary Source**, will serve as a place where we can converse together and argue with the biblical text (the primary source) in efforts to better understand what the text is telling us. This will not be a Christian indoctrination class nor an academic lecture, but rather an honest struggle to find meaning in the biblical texts we choose to study and discuss.

The first book we will sink our teeth into is the the Gospel of Mark, the very first of the four gospels. I trust you will join us as, together, we seek to discover what the Bible as a primary source is able to speak into our lives.

We will meet in the Anderson Room, at Central Oakville, on the first and third Wednesday of each month, from 7-8:30 p.m.

Peace

*Pastor Michel*



## Portuguese Ministry

O Ministério em Língua Portuguesa da Central Baptist Church em Oakville realizou num Hotel em Niagara Falls o seu primeiro Retiro de Casais. Nos dias 22 a 24 de Fevereiro 20 casais e 19 crianças se reuniram sob o tema “A Chama que não se apaga”.

Fomos abençoados com as Palestras proferidas pelos Pastores Paulo Pascoal e Diego Lopes. Sandra Dias trabalhou com as crianças em várias atividades. O Pastor Diné liderou o culto de encerramento do Retiro.

Registramos nossa gratidão à equipe de planejou todas as atividades do Retiro: Ana Paula Gueiros, Carminha Soares, Helen Cunha, Luciana Braz, Valquíria Pinto e Vera Tong. Agradecemos também à Sara Rebelo por todo o trabalho de contatos com o Hotel.

The Portuguese Language Ministry of Central Baptist Church in Oakville held its first Couples Retreat from February 22 to 24 in a hotel in Niagara Falls. Twenty couples and nineteen children gathered under the theme “The Flame that is not quenched.” We were blessed with our guest speakers, Rev. Paulo Pascoal and Rev. Diego Lopes. Sandra Dias worked with children in several activities. Pastor Diné Lóta led the special closing worship.

We would like to demonstrate our gratitude to the planning group: Ana Paula Gueiros, Carminha Soares, Helen Cunha, Luciana Braz, Valkiria Pinto and Vera Tong. We also thank Sara Rebelo for all the work done with the Hotel.

May God bless you!

*Diné Lóta*

## FINANCE BOARD UPDATE

*Two Months to end of February 2013*

	Actual	Budget	Better/(Worse)
General Offerings	\$42,435	\$52,850	(\$10,415)
Other Income (Rentals)	\$ 7,343	\$ 5,500	\$ 1,843
Total Revenue	\$49,778	\$58,350	(\$ 8,572)
REVENUE REQUIRED monthly to reach budget			\$ 29,174
AVERAGE MONTHLY REVENUE first 2 months of 2013			<u>\$ 24,899</u>
AVERAGE MONTHLY SHORTFALL			<u>\$ 4,275</u>
AVERAGE WEEKLY SHORTFALL			<u>\$ 987</u>

At this time last year, we had received \$53,900 toward a revenue budget of \$56,400, for an unfavourable variance of \$2,500 (4.4% of budget). This year, we have received \$49,778 toward a revenue budget of \$58,350 resulting in an unfavourable variance of \$8,572 (14.7% of budget). General offerings are \$11,000 less than last year at this time.

**Folks; we have work to do here; we need to pick-up the slack.**

*Your Finance Board.*

### *Highlights from*

## **Board of Ministry and Outreach**

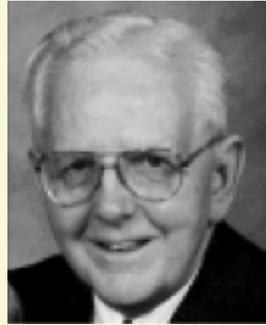
- The 60th Anniversary Committee will consist of Moe Anderson, Murray and Joan Wilson, Winnie Spencer, Warren and June McBurney, Marilyn Turney, Joan and Keith Doyle, George and Audrey Caldwell, Joao and Lucimar Garcia, Paulo and Adriana Rebelo and Marcy Scott. Audrey, as a member of the Board agreed to arrange for the committee's initial meeting.
- The Board decided not to hold the September Block Party this year and will look at other opportunities for community outreach.
- Pastor Michel will be meeting with our young people who have been baptized but not formally received into membership.
- The Board, at Pastor Michel's suggestion, looked at ways to work more effectively by dividing its members into 3 teams: English Language Ministry Team, Portuguese Language Ministry Team and Family and Youth Ministry Team. In order to allow for these teams to plan for their ministries, the Board as a whole will meet less frequently.

*Pat Nowlan*

## **Central Humour**

- There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is it's still out there in your pockets."
- A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."
- A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

*Remembering:*  
**Rev. Dr.  
 Ronald  
 Francis  
 Watts**



**Another tribute from Ron Watt's Memorial Service**

Good afternoon. To all who do not know me, my name is Edwin Zelaya. I came here, to Canada, 26 years ago with my family.

After all these years, I finally have the opportunity to stand before you and give my thanks to you, all the wonderful members of the Central Baptist Church, for the help we received throughout the years. You were all so kind and generous in helping our family establish roots in this beautiful country. We will forever be in debt to you all. Thank you so much.

Mr. Ron Watts and his wife Fanshan were very good friends of ours. My wife, my three sons, and I, are all very thankful to Mrs. Wieler to have contacted us about the service honouring the life of Mr. Watts. Mr. Watts was like a father to me. He was always there when we needed him and was always willing to hear us out about our complaints and struggles while settling in Canada. Without any expectations, he would then guide us and help us. He treated us as one of his own. We would often see Mr. Watts and spend time with him, discussing family, friends and the changing world around us. I very much enjoyed his company and his spiritual guidance. He was the father that allowed my family to be born again in this great country of ours. I do not know where or how things would have turned out without having Mr. Watts in our lives, but what I do know is that my family and I are eternally grateful for his company, friendship, guidance and help. He shaped and changed our lives forever. He will always be in our minds and our hearts. We'll miss you greatly.

Thank you.  
*Celia Zelaya*

**Hello Central Baptist Church!** Errol

Anderson asked me to do a small write up for this month's News Letter and I thought I would write about my weekend up at Blizzard. The trip we planned was not exactly the trip that the Senior High Youth Group experienced. It began on the Friday when we expected to gather at the church at 5pm for a pizza supper. Instead, school was cancelled on



that day because of the worst storm of the winter season. It also meant that as the day wore on Steve, who had gone up to Blizzard on Thursday, began to send us email updates about the bus plans. By mid-morning on Friday, he confirmed the bus for Friday night was cancelled and would instead leave Saturday morning at 7:30 am. Not being able to go up to Blizzard at Muskoka Woods when we had planned to was a big disappointment but we were determined that we would still have a great time and we all signed on to the early wake up calls from our parents

When we finally arrived at Blizzard on Saturday it was around 12:00pm and we were all very tired because we got up at 6:00am and had been on the road for many hours. But we were very happy to be at the camp. It was good to know that even though God didn't have us up there on time; we all knew he wanted us to be there for a reason.

Over the 24 hours that we were at Blizzard I think that we all got to know our God better and became closer to each other both spiritually and as friends. During our sessions I learned that even though things may not have worked the way I wanted them to, God still let me have fun while I was there and grow in my relationship with him. He showed me that even when things look bad I can change the situation to be good with his help and guidance. After the disappointment of the delay and the shortened time at Blizzard, it turned out to be a very good weekend. I can't wait to go back to Blizzard next year and experience what God may have in store for me next.

*Jocelyn Geisler.*

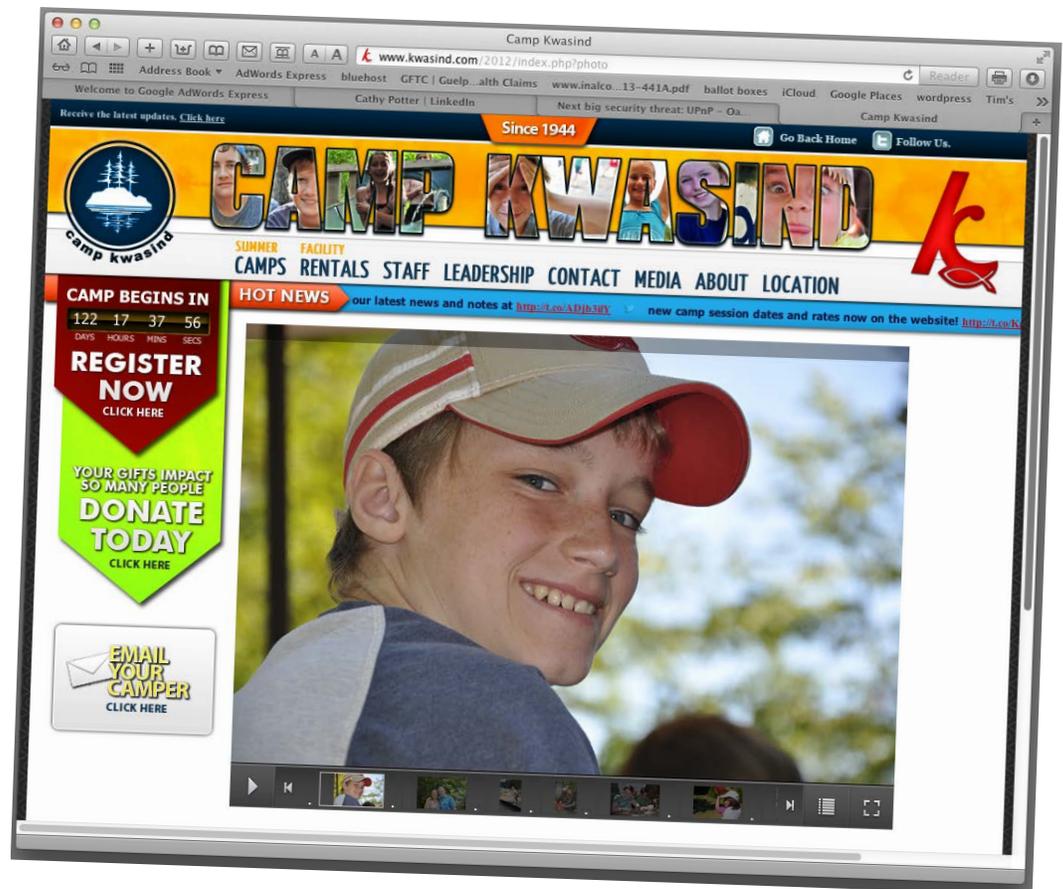
## Camp Kwasind

Did you know that the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec have a jewel?

The jewel is Camp Kwasind, a beautiful camp located in the heart of Muskoka on Skeleton Lake. Over the years, many additions and improvements to the camp have allowed us to host up to 140 campers a week during the warmer months and up to 55 in the off-season. Three generations of my family have been blessed by the experiences of Kwasind so when I was approached by members of the Kwasind Committee to join the Management Team, (not mentioning Dave and Christy Laing's name) I couldn't say no. We are excited to be offering fantastic camps this year with excellent programs and engaging speakers and leaders. During the off-season Kwasind is available for groups of 15-140 people, offering wonderful facilities for retreats and conferences.

This year, I'm excited to be on the promotions and marketing team. We know that children who have the opportunity to go to camp also have the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ and to experience God in a very profound way through the natural beauty of God's creation and wonderful caring staff. One week of camp is like a whole year of Sunday School. Not only do children grow spiritually but they develop new friendships, learn important skills such as swimming, boating and archery as well as develop new interests while being in an environment that is fun. The opportunity to go to camp is even more important for children who have challenging home lives due to illnesses, poverty, substance abuse and mental health issues. Transplanting a child into the environment of Kwasind gives them opportunities that they don't have back in the city and offers them hope.

The challenge that we have now is that we have spaces at Camp Kwasind for children and we have children that would like to go to Camp and we would like to raise enough funds to ensure that every camp is filled to capacity.



We will be doing some fundraisers in the near future and hope that though these funds we can offer even more spaces back to churches and community groups so that these children have a connection to a church in their communities as well. To this end, God has put on my heart to raise \$50,000.00 this year so we can send more kids to camp! How am I going to do this you might ask? That's EXACTLY what I asked God and God sent me a new job that freed up my weekends so I can go "on the road" to our Baptist churches. If you are reading this and would like to support my insanity, I'm looking for "Friends of Kwasind." I'm hoping to find a group of people who would be willing to make a monthly donation through your credit card to support the work of Kwasind. When you think of all the things you put on your credit card in a month, would you be willing to make a difference in the life of a child? If you would like to speak to me about this, please e-mail me at dynamoe@cogeco.ca. You can find more information about Camp Kwasind at <http://www.kwasind.com>. Registration is open and camps can fill up quickly!

Hope to see you at Kwasind this year!! Don't miss this Baptist jewel in the Muskokas!

*Mo Anderson*

## On being a Christian

“Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car”. This is another email “forward” that I received recently: it is an old one and I am sure you have heard it before. I wondered who authored this line and the motive to write and circulate it, or if it is part of an exhortation taken out of context. Is it a shot at church goers or is it an exhortation to live the life of a Christian? Does identifying one’s self a Christian merely distinguish one from say Judaism or Islam, or atheism or agnosticism? Or better, is one a follower of Christ? I should hope the latter – one who practices the teachings of Christ.

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”.*

Did you know the person sitting next to you in church may be a non-believer? Many non-believers go to church for the sense of community, or just because they like the choir and the liturgy. It has been suggested that some church goers don’t believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour or even in any creator God at all. So why do they attend church? For the sense of community, shared social values, the ritual—or even the choir—despite holding religious convictions that are wavering, non-traditional or completely absent?

We have heard several sermons these past weeks on “believing” and on “belonging”, and we will hear more on “becoming”. We have been exhorted as Christians to live our lives in such a way that others will so admire us as to want to become like us.

*Errol Anderson*



**Camp Kwasind Work Weekend, April 26-28, May 3-5** If you are interested in participating (of which we would be very grateful for) please contact Artur Simoes, Dave Laing, Pastor Michel or Dine. This is a great opportunity to prepare for short term mission and we are convinced that the fellowship and relationships built will be a blessing to all involved. With this project we are helping our children as we improve the quality of their experience.



### SPECIAL PRAYERS

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours”

Mark 11:24

Let us remember our brothers & sisters in our prayers especially:

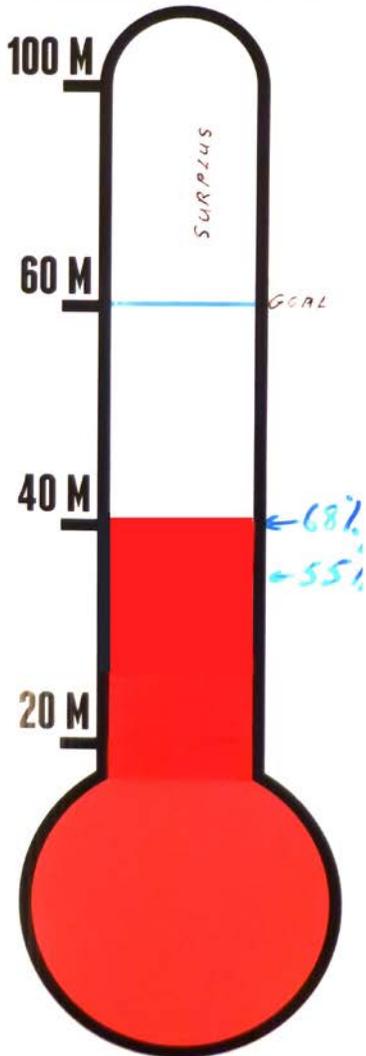
- **Pray for Kathy Waldron, and family, as they continue to deal with Kathy’s health issues.**
- **Please pray for Edward & Marion Austin as Edward is in hospital recovering from surgery.**
- **Please pray for Suzanne Houser as she recovers from surgery.**
- **Please pray for Kerr Street Ministries.**
- **Pray for Shut-ins even give them a call or visit.**

## MISSION moment

The trauma from the 1994 genocide in Rwanda still defines life for its survivors. Other countries in the region also continue to struggle with bouts of violence and civil unrest. Pray that our Canadian constituency will support peace and reconciliation ministries through CBM. Help us to train pastors, teachers and development workers to deal with trauma, and promote peace and reconciliation within local communities, with a special emphasis on youth through sports and the arts.



## 60th ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER (English Congregation), and 25th ANIVERSARY FUNDRAISER (Portuguese Congregation)



One year ago, at our Annual Meeting two Significant Motions dealing with the life of Central Baptist Church were moved and approved dealing with:-

- 1) Common Anniversary Fund Raising Celebrations for \$60,000
- 2) Capital Expenditure Renovation and Improvement Projects; also for \$60,000.

At that time Dwight Nowlan, Chair of Board of Finance made a detailed proposal for new Capital Projects as follows:-

1. Recovering 215 chairs in the sanctuary
2. Replacing 3 sets of Entrance Doors to the Church
3. Renovating and refurbishing the Church Foyer and Vestibule
4. Replacing 8 windows in the basement (original windows in 1953).
5. Create a Welcome Centre for the Church

Dwight Nowlan moved “that the Church enter into a Common Anniversary, \$60,000 or more, “Fund Raising Campaign” to raise funds to finance the five Capital Expenditure Projects outlined above. As at this date, the first two projects have been completed at a “Capital Cost” of just under \$41,000; but over original cost estimates of \$30,000; did anything ever come in on budget??!!

The Phase three, and major project, will be the redecorating/refurbishing of the Foyer/Vestibule area; we originally expected costs to approximate \$23,000 and we are still hopefully to contain costs within this figure. We are just now moving ahead on this project, and as with the other two, it will not proceed until funds have been raised, via the “Fundraiser”. *Let the Lord shine His light upon it.*

We are currently developing a small “project” team for this phase of “revitalizing” our Vestibule/Foyer area; Mary Ellen Belzile is our current “Lead Hand; others will be added to ensure the final product is truly representative of how we want the Church to look for the next 60 years.!!?? If you are interested in participating on this Team, please speak to Dwight Nowlan or Mary-Ellen Belzile.

As at February 28th, 2013; of our “Fundraiser” goal of \$60,000; \$42,330 has been raised and/or pledged, (72%) and we are quite optimistic the remaining \$18,000 (hopefully more) can be raised by the end of May. We would like to see this project commenced in early June, with a goal to see it completed by the end of Summer, in time for our formal “KICK OFF” Anniversary celebrations. What a “Glorious” way to commence our Anniversary Celebrations, a “new look” and a “Fresh Outlook”. Let’s make this a celebration to be proud of.

Your Finance Committee members extend a sincere “Thank You” to those of you who have participated so generously, to date, in this “Fundraiser” project. Much remains to be accomplished and we know that as needs dictate, you will remain supportive of our common endeavour, to “Keep God’s House” in “Good Repair”.

God Bless!! To His Praise and Glory!

*Your Finance Committee and the 60th Anniversary Fundraising Committee*

## Whence We Came – A conversation with Don Hallford

We came in December of '53, for the first time to visit, when we were looking for a lot to build on, when they used to meet at Morden Public School. They had just moved in there. The people I think of are Gordon and Mary Snyder (Snyder Hall) who were very instrumental in getting it going. They used to meet over a store on Lakeshore Road: There weren't too many services then. Then they moved to the Salvation Army facilities, and then to Morden Public School. I think that was in '53. I am having trouble keeping track of all these years!

The first time we went we were curious because we had gone to another Baptist Church out here when we were living in Richmond Hill to try out where we wanted to go and we were not at ease with the service so Marianne said "well I am United so why don't we go to the United Church and I said I'm Baptist so let's give it one more try, and that's when we wandered into Central Baptist at Morden. We had our son Steve, Ian's older brother who was three months old in a basket. The first person that greeted us was John Anderson; the Anderson Room is named after him! – Jolly John; he was one of those happy, jolly fellows, he loved children. He took Steve away from Marianne, and said "here I'll look after the baby for you". Those early memories are pretty nice! We've never departed since.

I think the cornerstone of this building was laid in '57; that's when Morden and Rebecca was almost country. Rebecca was a gravel street with great water trenches on each side. There was at that time no cross town drainage system. When we dug the foundation we hit quicksand at about four feet. Jim Snow



was the contractor at that time. As a result we had to raise the church up a little bit and put a reinforced concrete around the basement. Never leaked since! . There was a lot of sand north of Rebecca that is why the orchards did so well – all that area was "fruity"! And that was the first stage!

We went through three building stages. That was the first one was Snyder Hall and then we made a major one in '74 or '76. That's where we are now - the current sanctuary. Then we made a major contract in '82 when Bob Rae was our Premier. He introduced a program to make buildings more accessible to the public. We got a grant to put in that chair lift and the washroom on the main floor. There have been three stages so far and now we are ready to start a fourth.

I have seen all the Pastors come and go, from McWhinney on, there must have been a dozen or so including the interim ones, some of whom we were very good, we very sorry to see them leave. We watched the church grow very quickly at first. I have charts upstairs of our attendance in those days. Membership went up to 160 to 180; at one point we had up to 150 in Sunday school. And we crammed them into that room upstairs: we had a lot of optimism then.

There were all new houses around and everybody had children – three and four children and they would walk to Sunday school; no body walks to Sunday school today. Nobody walks to church anymore except for Winnie Spencer and Jean Hunter. Times have changed.

I love it here at Central I wouldn't want to go to any other church. I always look forward to coming to church. We seem to be stuck in the same place for 40 years in terms of growth. I suppose Baptists is not the most popular denomination, but other traditional churches have the same problem. Yet other "free thinking" churches seem to be growing by leaps and bounds, for example Harvest.

Growth would be comforting, but it is easy to be impressed with numbers; numbers are not what we need, we need quality and experience. I hope we get our choir back. I am glad to see the congregation participating in scripture, and the prayers and announcements and the Minister s are willing to share the pulpit with others, in fact they seem to encourage it. I would like to see the men's club revived, and the breakfast club. The ladies circle seems to be shrinking, ladies are coming in, but now they have to work - not able to come out and socialize.