

The First Twenty Years of Hagersville Community Christian Reformed Church

About 100 people met on April 17, 1989 for the purpose of organising a church. The Jarvis CRC had become too large, and had started two morning services. Forty-one families and four singles signed up that night.

The next question: Where do we locate? We looked at different places, but we ended up worshipping in the Hagersville Pentecostal Church, which charged a reasonable rent and gave us an option to buy.

The Pentecostal Church was in the process of building a new facility on Highway 6, so for a while we shared the Hagersville property with them. This left us with a tight schedule for the worship service. One morning our visiting pastor could not find the end of his sermon, so he kept going. When he did finish, our Pentecostal brethren were waiting on the steps.

At the December 10 congregational meeting, we voted 95.7% in favour of buying the Pentecostal church. We were blessed in receiving a generous settlement from the Jarvis CRC, in the amount of \$3395.00 per family. Pastor Bart Veldhuizen was called and later installed on July 23, 1991.

For a while we had a soup kitchen outreach.

One Sunday morning a young man on a motorbike, looking for a place to worship, came into our church, found an empty seat in the back and proceeded to listen. His name was Mark Clark. He became a member of our church and ended up marrying one of our young women. They later joined the Calvary Pentecostal Church in Simcoe. He can still sometimes be found in Port Dover where he and some likeminded bikers hold worship services in the park.

When reading the council minutes one is struck by the number of times there has been a budget shortfall, and that each time a way has been found to remedy this, which has always been gratefully acknowledged.

We held an open air service on Sunday, August 6 when we celebrated our fifth anniversary.

In August 1996 Peter Zwart became stated clerk, and ever since September 3 1996, Peter typed the minutes for council, resulting in high readability; until then the minutes had been written in longhand, including mine.

On Jan 5, 1999, it was noted with thanks that the offerings exceeded the budget by \$3383.15.

During 2002 we walked the Lynn Valley Trail as a fundraiser. This netted us \$13,000.00. On Nov. 2004 another walkathon brought in \$14,000.00.

In February 2005, Pastor Bart received a call to Scarborough which he later accepted.

At the congregational meeting of September 3, 2006, the congregation voted 95% in favour to call Pastor Trevor Payton.

On Sunday evenings in the 2009-2010 season we enjoyed the "That the World May Know" videos by Ray Vander Laan.

We continue to hold collections and in-gatherings for the local food banks.

Twenty-six people raked leaves for the neighbours in 2009. This was a very enjoyable day; we enjoyed soup and buns and dessert afterwards.

We are a singing church. In addition to the many talented musicians in our midst, we like to sing loudly and fervently. Many a visiting pastor has commented on this. On Sundays we enjoy Pastor Trevor's preaching.

We also enjoy the children's messages and the reactions of the little ones. After the children's message there is a race for the Sunday school. We pray that, as they grow, they will continue to be this eager to run the race that is set before them (Heb 12:1), and that we may be of the same mind about this.

May the Lord of the Church, who has guided us these 20 years, guide us in the years to come in all our activities.

Richard Bouwma