

Glammis Baptist Church

History Book

1874 - 1999



125th Anniversary

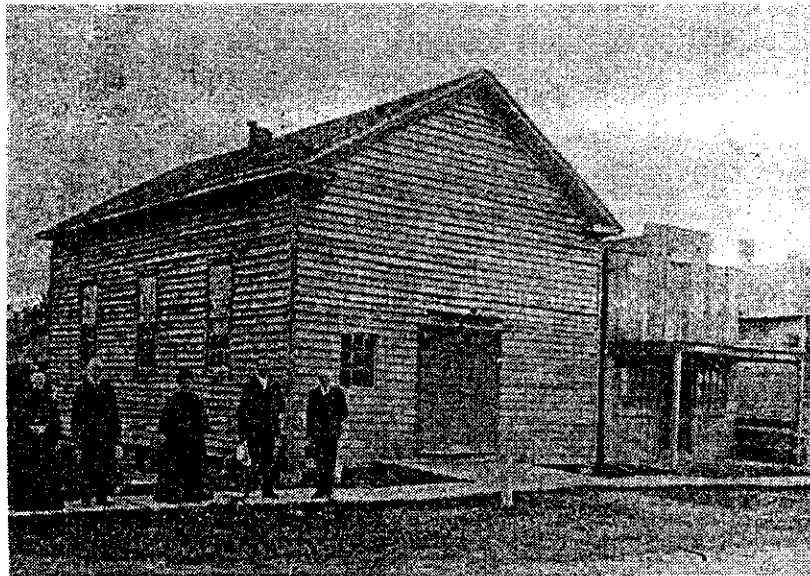
History of Glammis Baptist Church

Glammis, Ontario

1874 - 1974

The following taken from an earlier history book written by Margaret Ferris in 1974 ----

On February 26, 1874, a cold, wintry evening, Rev. James Coutts of Tiverton drove nine miles over a deeply rutted, snow-filled road to Glammis to hold a meeting of "the friends" for the purpose of forming a church, to be known as The Regular Baptist Church of Glammis. The twelve who gathered that night were to become the nucleus of a Baptist congregation of over three hundred members. The twelve people were:- Neil McFarlane, Mrs. John Cameron, Catherine Preston, John C. McIntyre, Mrs. John C. McIntyre, Margaret McIntyre, Thomas Pickard, Kenneth McLennan, James McLennan, Donald McLennan, Mrs. Malcolm McDonald and George McGregor. The first actual service was held on Sunday, March 10th with Rev. D. McNeil of Paisley as Moderator and Rev. J. Coutts as secretary.



Glammis Baptist Church - Built in 1874

Those in the picture (left to right) - Mr. And Mrs. John C. McIntyre, Mrs. Hugh McFadyen, Mr. James MacLennan and Rev. W.S. Buckberrough

Part of Lot 35, Con. 1, Kincardine Township, in the village of Glammiss, was purchased and a Baptist "Chapel" erected. Later a large shed was built to shelter the horses which had conveyed their owners and families to church service. The chapel has long since disappeared, but the shed remained until 1952 when it was sold and razed. The land is now owned by a Glammiss business man, Serafin Naczynski.

It would seem that the church attendance increased rapidly, for by 1876, a committee consisting of Hugh McFadyen, Kenneth MacLennan, John McFarlane and Thomas Pickard was instructed to purchase land on which to erect a manse, so that the church might have a resident pastor. An indenture, dated May 1, 1876, states that the above committee procured from Thomas Bill, part of Lot 35, Con. 1, Bruce Township for sixty-two dollars on which to build the manse. This manse served as a home for the pastor until 1941 when Glammiss and Tiverton united under one minister who has made his home in Tiverton and Inverhuron since that time.

The "Chapel" must have had no font for a time, as Miss Margaret Ann McLennan of Glammiss, who is in her one hundredth year tells of a baptism which took place about 1877 at her parents' home west of the village. They had just completed the basement of their new home when the spring freshets filled it with water. A service was held at the McLennan home and several candidates were baptized in the improved font.

The first pastor of the church was Rev. R. Ross, whose salary was \$500. Two years later, a sexton was appointed at a yearly salary of \$15. His duties were to scrub the floor six times a year, put up the stove-pipes, fill the font when required, keep the vestry in order, clean, trim and light the lamps, sweep the church, light the fires, etc. How much more was involved in that "etc.", one can only guess.

Tea-meetings, or "Soirees" as the minutes call them, were held occasionally, the receipts from these usually being applied to the minister's meagre salary. The annual meetings were frequently held in the afternoon, followed by a tea-meeting and a service in the evening. These must surely have been times of pleasant fellowship when members and families of the congregation enjoyed the too rare opportunity of a social get-together. The strenuous life of the pioneer did not lend itself to too many social affairs. Yet the effort to go to church was seldom neglected; on the Sabbath whole families travelled by wagon, cart, buggy or walked several miles to church with the attitude, "This is the day that the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

By 1884, the church membership had increased to the point where it was deemed necessary to build a new edifice. Across the road from the chapel was a favourable site, and a second indenture reads "that in consideration of \$125, James Campbell sold part of Lot 35, Con. 1, Bruce Township to the building committee and trustees of the Glammis Baptist Church". Steps were to be taken "forthwith to build a House for worship provided a subscription list can be got up approaching \$2000," for the building (40 feet x 60 feet with adjoining vestry), to be on a stone foundation and veneered with brick. To make certain of a firm foundation, two inner stone walls were built, running the full length of the church. These still exist.

In 1886, it was "resolved that in the opinion of this meeting, it would be to the interest of the Sunday School to have the assistance of an organ". Later that year, a motion was passed "that the organ be used for general worship on the Sabbath from this time forward".

As one studies the minutes of the first years in the life of the church, one is filled with admiration for the determined effort of the members, who laboured to overcome almost constant obstacles in both material and spiritual matters. Living in a period when money was scarce indeed, they faced the never-ending struggle of attempting to pay a minister a salary that was small at best, and at the same time of erecting and maintaining church and manse. When

money was almost non-existent, the minister was often paid in kind: meat, eggs, home-made bread, freshly churned butter, chickens for his table, wood to keep the manse warm, and hay for his horse.

Church officials took their duties seriously, and at times the responsibility must have been a heavy burden. Church discipline was enforced. When the behaviour of a member was not consistent with membership in a Baptist Church, he was interviewed by a committee, later appearing before the church body. If he declared himself guilty, but penitent, he was restored to fellowship in the church. As one pursues the accounts of church discipline, one is impressed with the charity shown by the interviewers, with their hesitancy to render judgment. Truly the wisdom of Solomon and the Grace of God were needed.

Despite the rigidity of church rules, The Glamis church continued to grow until Sunday after Sunday, it was filled to capacity. Excellent ministers gave of their best to preach the work and spread the Good News. The Baptist Choir, consisting at one time almost entirely of Pickards and McIntyres, contributed outstanding music and led in hearty congregational singing.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, two events occurred which were to affect the destiny of the congregation. Following an infiltration of Christian Science doctrine, some members withdrew from the church. But by far the more important happening was the Bruce migration. It was estimated at one point that eighty-four members with their families had gone to settle in Western Canada. Empty pews spoke eloquently of absent ones. The church however, struggled bravely on, never doubting its witness nor purpose in the community. As the years have passed, the attendance has dwindled occasionally to a discouraging low, for there has been no industry in our locality to retain the young folk once they have completed their high school education. Recently, however, the establishment of the Nuclear Plant at Douglas Point, twelve miles distant, has attracted a few young families to our locality and to the church. Once again the church is on the upsurge.

The church minutes mentioned a Sunday School almost from the start, but a Mission Band and Women's Mission Circle are not mentioned until 1891. That year, the Sunday School average attendance was eighty. The 1900 minutes read, "Resolved that the ladies of the congregation be empowered to improve the interior of the church building."

Prayer meetings were always a weekly event in the life of the church. In the early days, the young as well as the older folk attended. That they were affected by the necessity of prayer is illustrated by a story told to the writer by her late mother-in-law, Mrs. Joseph Ferris, the former Hughena McArthur:

At the time of the Michigan fire in the 1880's, the sky became so darkened in this area that the teacher of S. S. No. 4 Bruce, about a mile west of Glamis, sent the pupils home at noon. When the panic-stricken children reached the main road, they automatically got on their knees and held a prayer meeting in the middle of the road, and later proceeded to their homes.

Over the years, renovations have been made to the present church building. In 1934, the windows were freshly frosted, the platforms covered with linoleum; in 1938, the coal oil lamps were replaced by electric lights; in 1961, the ceiling was lowered and the entire building painted; shortly afterwards, the box stoves with the stove pipes which ran the length of the church were removed and an oil furnace installed; in 1972, new drapes were purchased, and the vestry was divided into classrooms. At the moment, plans are being made for further renovations, which we pray will be to the glory of God.

The Women's Mission Circle, combined with that of Tiverton, is functioning well. The Sunday School attendance is increasing and two young people's groups, Alph-teens and Omega teens, have been formed and a Good News Club composed of young children meets weekly.

The Glammis congregation has been fortunate in having had from time to time some of the most gifted ministers of the denomination, men such as Dr. John McNeil, Dr. John McLaurin, Prof. J. McCracken. It was a privilege and a joy to fellowship with men of their calibre. And the church has not been lacking in sending its quota of ministers and missionaries into service. Into the Christian ministry have gone five men:- Rev. Donald McLennan

Rev. John McFarlane

Rev. Donald McIntyre

Rev. J.P. McLennan

Rev. Wilfred McKay

To the mission field have gone four:-

Kate McFarlane to Africa

Jean Cameron, who married a missionary in the U.S.

Elizabeth Webb, who is a missionary teacher in Nigeria

Dr. Aletta Bell, who is head of the Prem Suva Hospital in Uttar
Pradesh, India

As time passes, may we look with appreciation on the efforts of those who "had a mind to work" in establishing a church and witness in the Glammis area, and may we resolve to further the cause of Christ in this corner of His vineyard!

Written and submitted by Margaret Ferris, 1974

Ministers of the
Glamis Baptist Church

- 1874 Rev. R. Ross
1877 Rev. M.E. McDonald
1878 Rev. A. Sims
1883 Rev. James Coutts
1887 Rev. G.C. Rock
1891 Rev. F. Beattie
1894 Rev. L. MacKinnon
1899 Rev. Shaw
1904 Rev. W.S. Buckberrough
1908 Supplies
1914 Rev. J.E. McAuley
1919 Rev. William Spencer
1923 Rev. T. Walker
1926 Rev. E. Ferns
1927 Mr. Twigg
1928 Rev. W.L. Palframan
1938 Mr. H.A. Crerar (enlisted in the services)
1941 Rev. C.K. Dolby
1948 Rev. John Mair
1951 No Minister
1952 Mr. Murray Richardson
1953 Rev. J. Burton
1955 Rev. T.J. McDowell

Ministers of the
Glamis Baptist Church

(continued)

- 1956 Rev. O.R. Mauhe
1958 Rev. R.E. Bonner
1959 Rev. E. Shaw
1966 Mr. L. Ferber
1970 Rev. L.E. Wilton (died on charge)
1972 Rev. L. Carson
1980 Rev. George McCarroll Thomas
1990 Rev. David Williams
1995 Rev. George McCarroll Thomas

History of Glammis Baptist Church

Glammis, Ontario

1974 - 1999

The following written and submitted by our historical committee, Joan Ferris, Janet Vaughan and Harold Alexander in 1999 ----

In 1975, the church borrowed \$6,000 to build a much needed addition. This area includes a large meeting room, classrooms, kitchen and washrooms. We had it paid off before the final due date of 1986 and an impressive mortgage-burning ceremony was conducted by Rev. George Thomas. Upon completion, an Easter sunrise breakfast and service was held. This tradition carried on for a number of years. We now hold an Easter brunch following the service.

Whirlybirds and Kids' Club along with teen groups were well attended until recent years. A Daily Vacation Bible School for children of the area proved popular through the years. We now join with the Tiverton Baptist Church.

A community choir was organized in 1978 by Elaine White. They were accompanied on the piano by Mary Heather White and Louise Neeb. Upon Mrs. White's moving, Lewis Coffman led the choir until 1998. Many of our church people belonged to this choir. Their Christmas and Easter cantatas were well received by the surrounding communities.

A beautiful, peaceful scene was painted by Irwin Lobsinger of Walkerton behind the baptismal font in 1976. This was donated by Harold and Ruby Alexander. One can see the shape of the cross in the water, sheep on the hillsides and the likeness of Christ in the clouds.

Flowerbeds were added to the front of the church and they present a pleasing scene to the church building.

Money donated on the passing of Miss Margaret MacLennan and Arthur Alexander was used to purchase a new oak pulpit in 1984.

In 1984, a beautiful electronic organ was donated in memory of Arthur and Evelyn Webb and in 1985, oak chairs were placed in memory of Edward Goudge.

A service of dedication was held in April of 1981, when Rev. George M. Thomas dedicated an oak communion table and chairs in memory of Earl and Margaret Ferris.

In 1974, Garland Foreman, Clarence Webb and Harold Alexander were deacons of our church. Arthur Webb passed away on January 28th of that year. Over the next twenty-five years, the following people also served as deacons:- Ken Godwin, Beverly Hardie, Elizabeth Webb, Ivan White, Muriel Smith, Ruby Alexander, Dan Stewart and Allan Lemont. During that time, Elizabeth Webb and Garland Foreman were appointed life-time deacons. Garland Foreman was appointed as life deacon in 1984 and remained in that capacity until he passed away in February, 1996. Elizabeth Webb was appointed a life deacon in 1986. She remained with us until 1996 when she moved to Hanover. At present, Ruby Alexander serves as deaconess; Dan Stewart and Allan Lemont are deacons-in-training.

Rev. David Williams' service of Ordination took place in November, 1990. Also, ordained into the ministry in 1998, was a former member, Nancy Webb.

A Christmas potluck supper and concert is held for the community each December and is well received.

Easter Sunday, 1998, saw Rev. George M. Thomas baptize five new members. Our current membership stands at thirty-four. There have been times of struggle for our church, but God has been faithful. At present, we have a prayer hour on Tuesday afternoon and an excellent Bible Study led by Pastor Thomas is held on Thursday evenings, with people in attendance from Southampton, Burgoyne, Paisley, Tara, Tiverton and Kincardine.

Our present organist, Muriel Gowanlock, and pianist, Aileen Wilkinson, do a marvellous job of assisting us in our singing of God's praises.

At present, Ken Godwin, a former member, has taken on the work of painting the exterior of the church in preparation for our 125th anniversary.

Nancy Webb, a member of Glamis for a number of years, is now director of Women's Ministries for the BWMS of Ontario and Quebec. Her work means extensive travelling, sometimes to far-off places.

Clarence Webb, a former member, is past Moderator of the Owen Sound Association of Baptist Churches. Both have served God in various capacities through the years.

Elizabeth Webb

Miss Webb returned from Igbaja in 1983 after thirty-eight years on the Mission Field. This much-loved lady soon became actively involved in the work of her home church teaching, Sunday School and serving as a deaconess.

In 1996, she moved to Hanover to live in an apartment in the Versa Care Retirement Village. She is in fairly good health and attends Hanover Baptist Church.

Dr. Aletta Bell

After many years as doctor at Duncan Memorial Hospital at Raxall, India, Dr. Bell saw her role changing. She then became involved in health and agricultural issues, training the nationals to take over responsibility. Many obstacles have been put in her path but she remains firm in her faith and commitment to God. Visas are becoming more difficult to obtain from the Indian government. She has a condominium in London to which she will retire in the not too distant future.

Both ladies have served God faithfully through the years and have laboured long and successfully in His work.

Seven Unforgettable Fabulous Years

November, 1980, through January, 1988, the two-point charge of Glammis and Tiverton Baptist Churches enjoyed steady spiritual, numerical and financial growth. The ministry of Rev. George M. Thomas involved morning and evening services in both churches respectively. A Wednesday evening Bible School was established for the benefit of the community, which met in the Tiverton church building.

During those golden years, Tiverton witnessed nineteen (19) baptisms and new members added to the church plus many adherents.

Glammis also saw thirty-six (36) baptisms and new members added to the church plus adherents. Pastor Thomas taught the Adult Sunday School Class, and classes for all ages were cared for by a roster of vigorous and vibrantly committed Sunday School teachers. DVBS was an annual event, welcomed and supported by the Glammis community; there was also a Kids' Club on most Wednesdays of the year after supper.

The oaken pulpit and chairs, also the electric organ furnishing the sanctuary, all bear witness to the spirit of love and generosity, characterizing the Glammis congregation throughout those happy years.

Pastor Thomas returned to Glammis as Interim Minister in 1995 and is currently ministering to the congregation.