

History Highlights

Of Westfort Baptist Church

Celebrating God's goodness to our church one decade at a time.

Issue #1 January 2010 1909 to 1919

From our records

- Dec 12 1909 - first gathering of the church at the home of Mr & Mrs Bishop
- Nov 27 1910 - opening and dedication of the church building with first pastor C E Scott
- Apr 5 1911 - first annual meeting - "a sumptuous repast" was followed by "a lengthy but harmonious business session"
- Apr 3 1912 - "we are encouraged as we look forward to another year of work for the Master whose we are and whom we serve, resting assured that He who guides and controls all things is saying unto us 'Go forward' "
- Apr 5 1916 - "The pastor gave a written report, commenting on the loss to our congregation of those who have gone from us to serve our Empire at the front".
- June 8 1916 - constitution adopted
- Sept 24 1916 - Pastor Scott preached his farewell sermon
- May 4 1917 - student pastor H Wilson arrived
- Dec 8 1918 - Pastor Wilson resigned



Pastor and Mrs. C. E. Scott, our first "permanent" pastor & daughter Jean

Hymns written in that period

- The Church's One Foundation (1907)
The Old Rugged Cross (1913)
Whiter Than Snow (1911)

- Wonderful Grace of Jesus (1918)
Love Lifted Me (1912)
In the Garden (1912)
Since Jesus Came Into My Heart
Make Me A Blessing
Living For Jesus (1917)



Sunday School, July 24, 1912

Community & World Events

By 1910, Fort William had become a transportation centre as goods came in by boat and then were loaded on trains for the journey west. West Fort William had its own passenger CNR station at the corner of Edward and Empire streets. The recently demolished YMCA building assisted immigrants assimilate by teaching basic life skills and simple trades. Rooms were \$10 a month.

In 1910, houses sold for \$3,000 to \$6,000. There were no paved streets in Westfort. Horses and buggies were the main transportation. You could take a street car to Port Arthur. The Governor General of Canada declared war on Germany on August 5, 1914. The war ended on November 11, 1918. Can Car built small boats for the war effort. The Great Lakes Paper Company commenced business in 1919 and employed many men returning from the war in Europe.