

# History Highlights

Of Westfort Baptist Church

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

Issue #6

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1960 to 1969

## From our church records

- Oct 1960 - a banquet and a week of special meetings marked the church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Nov 1960 - the first Sunday of each month was designated as "Building Fund Sunday" in order to raise funds for the construction of the new church auditorium
- 1962 - a contract was signed with Sillman Co Ltd to build the new addition for \$60,000
- Nov 1964 - missionary Thelma Southard and young son Larry came under attack by Congolese rebels and narrowly escaped with the aid of government soldiers
- Dec 1, 1967 - a banquet was held to celebrate the opening of the new auditorium and was followed by a service of dedication. Pastor Bennett "remembered the past mercies of our God, and challenged us as a church to look for new blessings and our obligation to the lost".

## Hymns written in that period

Thou Art Worthy  
The Blood Will Never Lose it's Power  
Sweet, Sweet Spirit  
Pass It On  
Shepherd of Love



The Choir



## **Under Construction**

(hymns continued)  
Heaven Came Down  
The Longer I Serve Him

## Local History

- 1967 – Confederation College opens its doors.
- April 16, 1968 – Ontario Municipal Affairs Minister, Darcy McKeough, convened a meeting at Lakehead University to outline the procedure for amalgamating the cities of Fort William and Port Arthur and the townships of McIntyre and Neebing. He also announced that while local participation would be welcome, the Government of Ontario would make the final decision.
- May 8, 1969 – the amalgamation bill was signed into law to take effect January 1, 1970.
- June 23, 1969 – residents voted to name the new city "Thunder Bay" and Saul Laskin, mayor of Port Arthur, was elected as the first mayor. But many residents were upset because the other two options – "Lakehead" and "The Lakehead" garnered many more votes than "Thunder Bay."