

History Highlights

Of Westfort Baptist Church

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

Issue #8

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1980 to 1989

From our church records

- 1980 – Pastor Bennett retires after 44 years of ministry and assistant pastor, Ted Molyneaux, becomes the senior pastor.
- During Pastor Ted's ministry, Earl Marshall serves as summer student pastor and the church begins supporting Eugene & Elizabeth Ciria in their mission to Spain (1982).
- 1984 – Pastor Ted resigns as the senior pastor.
- April 1985 – Mrs. Bennett goes to be with the Lord.
- Summer 1985 – Mark Burger serves as the summer student pastor.
- August 4, 1985 – Pastor Al Piper begins his ministry.
- October 12 & 13 – 75th anniversary celebrations with a dinner at the Red Oak Inn. Guest speaker was Rev. Ed Mawhorter.
- January 1986 – The old auditorium is renovated into a gym for children's and youth ministry and the pews are shipped to Wildwood Baptist Church in Manitowadge.
- 1986 – Under the leadership of Pastor Don Cook of Beresford Baptist, Pastor Al and other Fellowship Baptist pastors participate in a local cable TV program, "Life in Focus."
- 1986 – Olive Klomps wins our logo contest, providing the basis for the logo that we still use today.
- Fall 1986 – 2,000 copies of an outreach "newspaper," *The Westfort Messenger* are distributed throughout our neighbourhood.
- January 1988 – Pastor Bennett is officially recognized as "Pastor Emeritus."
- Fall 1988 – Vi Van Ginkel becomes our church secretary.
- 1988 – the fellowship hall is renovated to replace the permanent partition with a folding, sound-proof curtain.
- 1989 – the kitchen is expanded and renovated with new cupboards and appliances.

- Fall 1989 – a team of 14 people phoned over 2,000 homes using an outreach tool called "The Phone's for You."

Worship songs written in that period

Majesty

Come Let us worship & Bow Down

How Majestic is Your Name

Great is the Lord

Great are You Lord

I will call Upon the Lord

We will Glorify

There Is A Redeemer



August 1985 – Pastor Al & Sandy Piper, Ben, Amy & Julie with summer student pastor, Mark Burger

Local History

- Sept. 1, 1980 – Terry Fox had to abandon his cross-country run to raise money for cancer research just east of the city, having run 5373 kilometres from Newfoundland in 143 days.
- August 9 to 22, 1981 – Thunder Bay hosted the Canada Summer Games, with several new facilities including the Canada Games Complex and the Legion Track & Field.
- October 16, 1985 – the Community Auditorium, new home of the Thunder Bay Symphony, opens its doors.