AN ILLUSTRATED CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE HISTORY OF LAKEFIELD UNITED CHURCH

Compiled by
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Peterborough, Ontario 2024

1823 – An Ojibwa, Peter Jones, was converted to Christianity at a Methodist Episcopal Church camp meeting and eventually became a Methodist Minister, translator, chief and author. He was instrumental in bringing Methodism to the Peterborough area.

1825-26 – The Rice Lake Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed and included Otonabee, Monaghan, Cavan, Smith, Douro, Dummer, Ops and Emily Townships as well as Peterboro and Mud Lake.

1827 – Indigenous people residing on the borders of Mud Lake [Chemong] received the gospel as a result of preaching by Peter Jones.

1833 – The Methodist Episcopal Church and the British Wesleyan Methodists united to form the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

1834 – In 1834 the Mud Lake Mission was part of Rice Lake and its Circuit relationship changed numerous times until 1855 when its name was changed to the Bridgenorth Mission.

1837 – The first church was built at Mud Lake.

1847 – There were 38 church members at Mud Lake.

1858 – In 1858 the Wesleyan Methodist Circuit consisted of "McKees, Indian Village, McImoyls, Bridgenorth, Robinsons, Lakefield". This is the first time Lakefield is mentioned.

1859-1860 – The Wesleyan Methodist Circuit continued to include Lakefield during this period when David Hardie, a circuit rider, was minister. Early meetings occurred in homes and in the Douro 10 schoolhouse (corner of Queen and Concession streets). A published "Subscriptions and Donations" list from Lakefield for 1859-1860 listed John Sherin, Elizabeth Sherin, Samuel Sherin, George Fitzgerald, Widow Fitzgerald, B.L. Wait, Thomas Fitzgerald, and Robert Caismant as donors.

1860 – Presbyterians in the Lakefield area were first part of a congregation that had been gathered by the Rev. John M. Roger, minister of St. Paul's Church, Peterborough (Part of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada or The Free Church). They met in a church situated near the intersection of the Ninth Line of Smith and the road to Selwyn and Buckhorn. In 1860, reference

was made to this church as the Scotch Church. The first reference to the church in the Presbytery minutes is under the date October 22, 1861, where it bears the name of Smith.

1861 – The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, known as the Free Church, joined with the United Presbyterian Church of Canada to form the Canada Presbyterian Church, still often called the Free Church.

1861 – The Wesleyan Methodist Circuit name was changed to Lakefield, Mud Lake, and Warsaw Circuit.

1861 – A successful Wesleyan Methodist week long "Mud Lake Camp Meeting" was held near Bridgenorth during September, 1861.The result was the "salvation of 40 souls".

1861-1862 – For this period, David A. Johnston is listed as the Wesleyan Methodist minister. In the case of the Lakefield Church "...early meetings occurred in homes and in the Douro 10 schoolhouse (corner of Queen and Concession streets)".

1862 – The first Wesleyan Methodist church in Lakefield was built on land owned by Samuel and Sarah Sherin and opened for service on October 23rd. The press described it: "Though of wood, it is furnished with a beautiful spire, painted white, comfortably finished, fenced and furnished with sheds. Its dimensions are 40 feet by 28 ft; sixteen feet from floor to ceiling – and steeple 70 feet high – This beautiful structure, which cost $828, -- though that sum was raised by a few individuals only, is now nearly out of debt."

Fig. 1. First Wesleyan Methodist Church, Lakefield.

1862 – 1863 – The Presbyterian Church of Lakefield (Knox Presbyterian), a stone building faced with cut stone, was built in 1862 and opened for public worship on Sunday January 25, 1863. The church lot on the south east corner of Katherine and Caroline Streets was sold to the congregation for $100.00 by Colonel Strickland. Colonel Strickland also gave a site for a manse on a lot just east of the church.

Fig. 2. Knox Presbyterian Church, Lakefield.

1863 – David A. Johnston was replaced by Ephraim L. Koyl who was assigned "Lakefield, Warsaw and Mud Lake" stations in the Peterborough District for 1863 – 1864 by the Wesleyan Conference. The Lakefield church was part of the Lakefield, Mud Lake, and Warsaw Circuit from 1861 to 1874. In 1874 the Lakefield Circuit was created from the Lakefield, Mud Lake, and Warsaw Circuit. The Lakefield Circuit lasted from 1874 to 1884. During 1874 – 1875 the Lakefield Circuit consisted of at least Lakefield, Bridgenorth, McKees, Robinsons. During 1876 - 1878 it consisted of at least Lakefield, Bridgenorth, McKees, Wesley, Robinsons. During 1876 – 1879 Halls Bridge Mission was attached. In 1879 the Lakefield Circuit consisted of at least Lakefield, Bridgenorth, McKees, Wesley, Robinsons, Harvey. In 1880 Halls Bridge was detached. From 1880 to 1883 the Lakefield Circuit consisted of at least Lakefield, Selwyn, Bridgenorth, Robinsons. (In 1882 there were 4 churches, 4 preaching appointments) In 1884 the Lakefield Church became part of the Methodist Church as the Lakefield Circuit which included Lakefield and Young's Point.

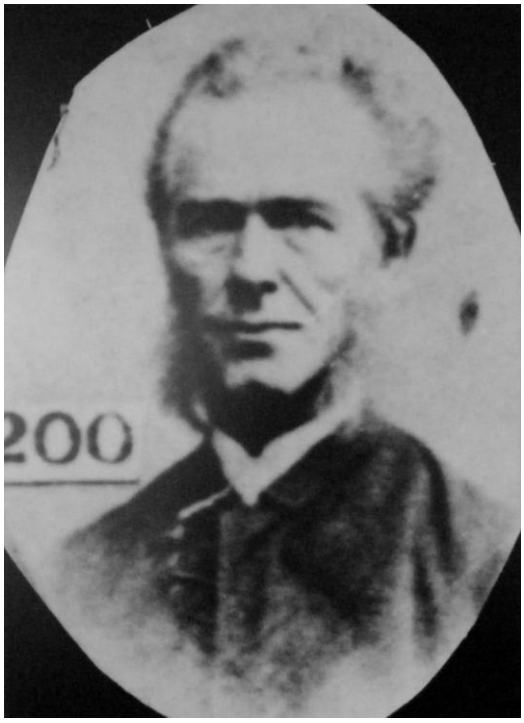

Fig. 3. Rev. Ephraim L. Koyl, 1863 – 1864. Circuit Ryder.

1864 – According to the church deed, on May 30, 1864, the property on which the Lakefield Wesleyan Methodist Church was situated was conveyed to the church by Samuel Sherin and his wife Sarah.

1865 – On May 16th, 1865, the pastoral relation between Mr. Rogers and the Presbyterian Church at Lakefield was dissolved. Lakefield was united with Warsaw.

1866 – Rev. James Thom was elected to the Presbyterian Charge. A call was signed by 51 members and 10 adherents and he was inducted on May 8th, 1866.

1866 – A new brick parsonage was built on the south side of the Lakefield Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Fig. 4. First parsonage beside the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

1867 – In January of 1867, Warsaw was disjoined from the Lakefield Presbyterian charge.

1867 – On November 7, 1867, the lot on which the parsonage was built was sold to the Lakefield Wesleyan Methodist Church for $50.00 by John C. Sherin and his wife Elizabeth.

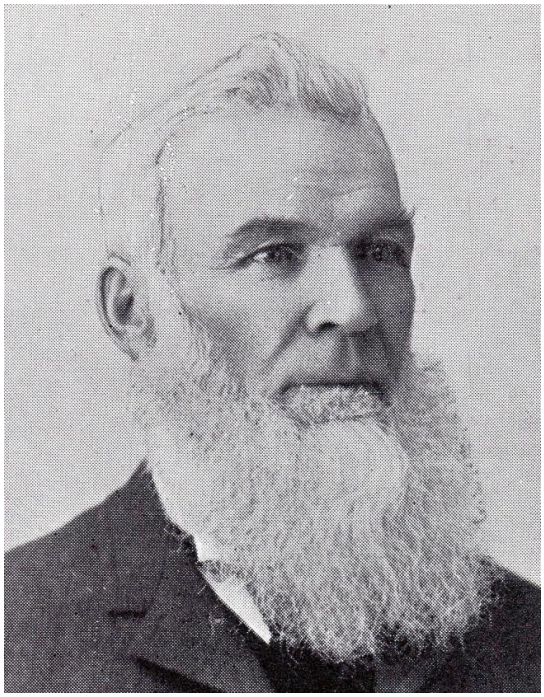

Fig. 5. John Christopher Sherin.

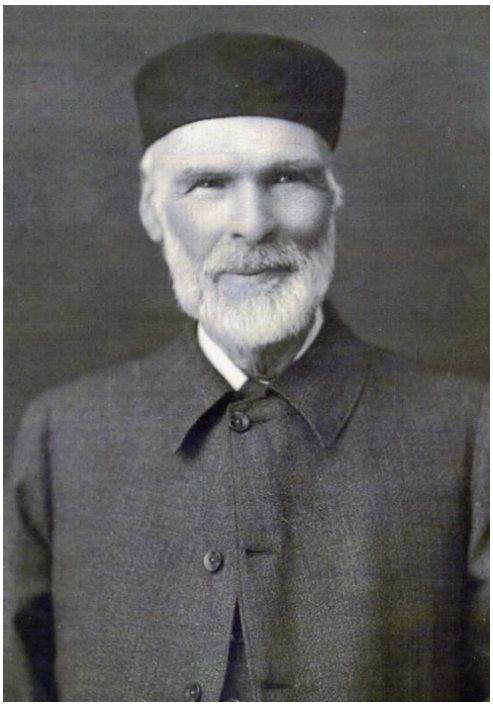

Fig. 6. Samuel Sherin

1869 – The Lakefield Wesleyan Methodist Church was enlarged when its length was increased. [Fraser Dunford records that the church was enlarged in 1867.]

1871 – On September 21, 1871 the first Bible Christian Church opened on the north east corner of Reid and Water Streets. It was a small white frame church 50 feet by 32 feet. It was part of the Bible Christian Lakefield Circuit which in 1875 – 1876 consisted of 4 churches. [Assume these churches included Lakefield, Dummer-English Line, plus two others.] By 1883 this circuit consisted of 5 churches.. [Assume these to include Lakefield, Young's Point, Dummer-English Line, Douro-Broads Chapel, plus one other.]

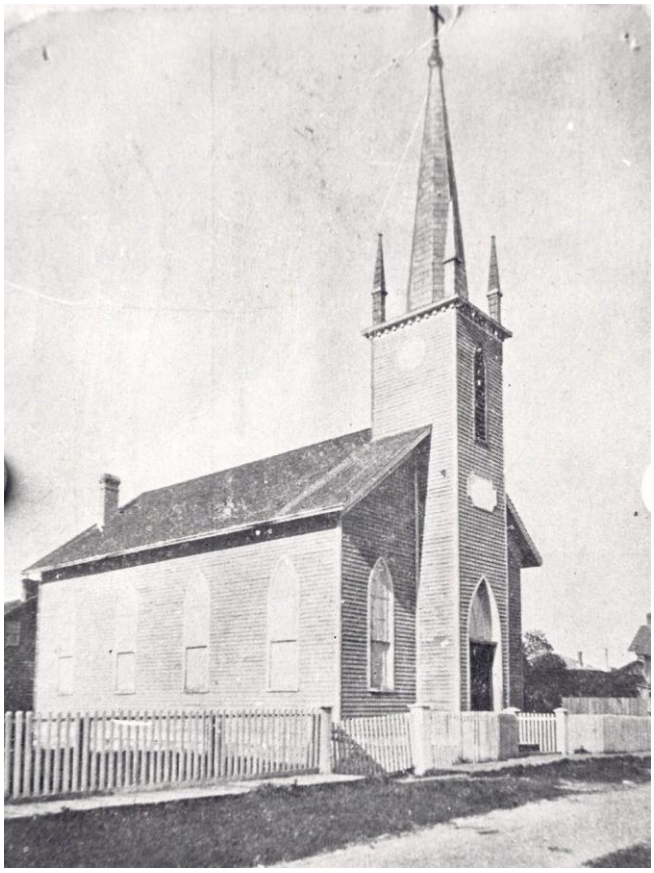

Fig. 7. The Bible Christian Church that was later sold and became St. Paul Church.

1873 – The manse for the Presbyterian Church was completed in 1873 and fundraising was so successful that the cost of $2,030.00 was liquidated on the day it was completed.

1874 – Quebec Diocese of the Church of England appointed a committee to promote church union.

1875 – On June 15, 1875, the Lakefield Field of the Canada Presbyterian Church (The Free Church) became part of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The Presbyterian Church in Canada was created by the union of different factions. In Ontario the two factions that united were the Presbyterian Church in Connection with the Church of Scotland (The Kirk) and the Canada Presbyterian Church (The Free Church).

1878 – The Ebenezer Bible Christian Church was founded at Young's Point. The first sanctuary built was a small white structure able to accommodate 150 people.

1884 – On June 1, 1884, the Methodist Church was created by the amalgamation of the Methodist Church of Canada, the Primitive Methodist, Bible Christian, and Methodist Episcopal Churches of Canada. In the case of the Bible Christian Church, the Lakefield and Young's Point Churches were conveyed to the Lakefield Circuit and Dummer-English Line and Broads Chapel to the Warsaw Circuit of the Methodist Church. The Lakefield Bible Christian Church closed and its congregation merged with the former Lakefield Wesleyan Methodist Congregation. In 1892, the

former Bible Christian Church building was sold to the Roman Catholics and became St. Paul Roman Catholic Church.

1884 – The Lakefield Methodist church's walls were extended on both sides on the occasion of the union of the Methodist and Bible Christian churches. The seating capacity of the enlarged church was recorded as about 500.

1885 – A proposal for discussion on church union in Canada originated from the Church of England (Anglican), with a conference on the subject held in 1886.

1885 – The Lakefield Circuit of the Methodist Church consisted of at least Lakefield North Ward, South Ward, Robinsons, Bridgenorth, Selwyn, Zion, Young's Point.

1886 – The Lakefield Circuit of the Methodist Church consisted of at least Lakefield, Robinsons, Bridgenorth, Selwyn, Young's Point.

1887 – 1888 – The Lakefield Circuit of the Methodist Church consisted of at least Lakefield (sometimes North Ward and South Ward), Robinsons, Bridgenorth, Selwyn, Zion, Young's Point

1889 – The Lakefield Circuit of the Methodist Church was divided, all but Lakefield and Young's Point moved to the new Bridgenorth Circuit.

1889 – 1905 – The Lakefield Circuit of the Methodist Church consisted of at least Lakefield (sometimes East and West), and Young's Point.

1895 – Knox Presbyterian Church had a membership of 171 and a Sabbath School with 90 pupils and 14 teachers, and an average attendance was seventy.

1896 – At the February, 1896 Lakefield Methodist Church Quarterly Board Meeting, the Lakefield Methodist Church Ladies' Aid was formally mentioned with thanks.

1900 – On Monday October 16, 1900, Knox Presbyterian Church celebrated the re-opening of a renovated church and the addition of a new Sunday School hall. The floor now had a slant and an alcove had been made for the choir. Comfortable pews had also been installed. A two-storied school building containing two large halls and a vestry was also added behind the church.

1902 – Formal union discussions began among Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches.

1904 – 1908 – Representatives of uniting churches worked on the Basis of Union.

1904 – At the May 23, 1904 meeting of the Lakefield Methodist Church Quarterly Board Meeting, the "Ladies Missionary Society" [Woman's Missionary Society] was first mentioned.

1906 –Several Congregational Churches form the Congregational Union of Canada.

1906 – Rev. John Bedford arrived in the Lakefield Circuit.

Fig. 8. Rev. John Bedford. 1906 – 1910.

1907 – The Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist Church, Lakefield declared itself organized on May 26, 1907 and produced a constitution and an executive of which Mrs. J. Bedford was the President.

1907 – The Lakefield Methodist Church Ladies' Aid held a bazaar in August to raise funds for a new church.

1908 – The old white frame Lakefield Methodist Church was torn down in the spring of 1908 and the new one built with hand-moulded blocks of Lakefield cement was erected. Building plans were secured from W.B. Taylor of Barrie, and the contract was let to Abel Hendren, a Lakefield builder. The corner stone was laid on Wednesday, July 22, 1908 by Senator George A. Cox.

1909 – January 17, 1909 the second Lakefield Methodist Church opened on the site of the first church. The building had cost some $12,200.00 and by the end of services on Monday, January 18, 1909, the church was free of debt! The new building was described as: "56 x 96, with splendid basement, with classrooms and parlors, etc. The auditorium has a seating capacity of 600. There are two very fine windows, in memory of the late J.C. Sherin and wife, erected by their affectionate children. Their design is the "Good Shepherd" and "Dorcas," both very rich in appearance."

Fig. 9. Senator George Albertus Cox laying the corner stone of the new Methodist Church. July 22, 1908.

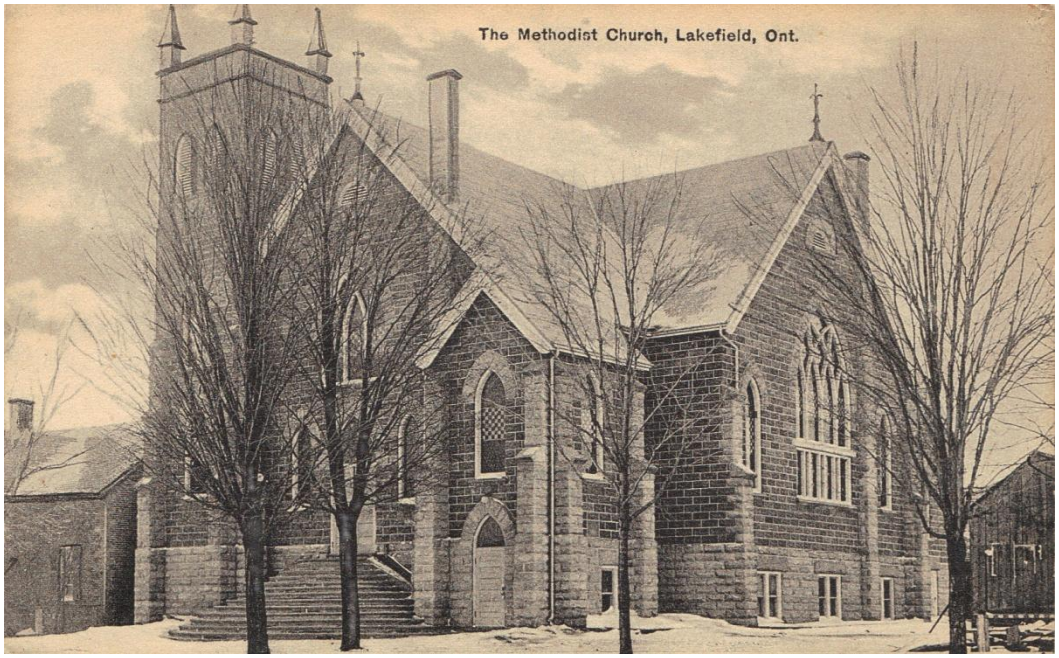

Fig. 10. The new Methodist Church, Lakefield, Ontario.

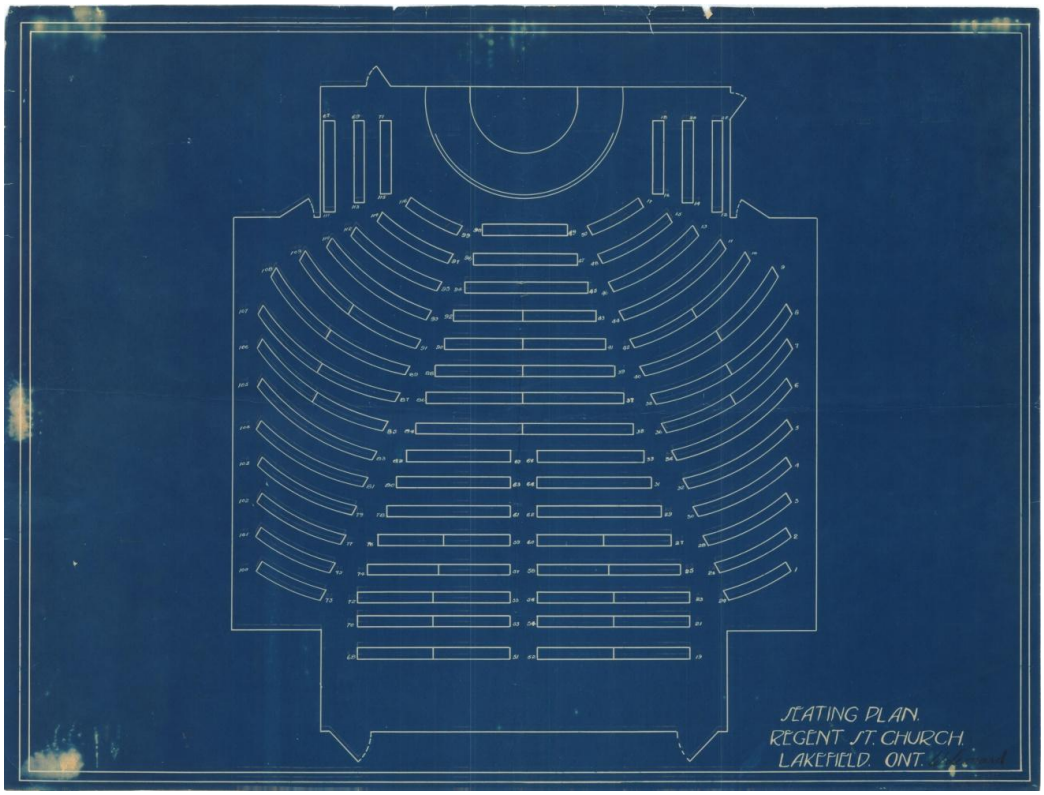

Fig. 11. The seating plan, Methodist Church, Regent Street. 1909 to 1968.

Fig. 12. The Ladies' Aid, Regent Street Methodist Church circa 1908 -1909.

1912 – Joint theological education began among Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists, and Congregationalists in Montreal.

1912 – Knox Presbyterian took a vote on church union on March 12, 1912. The results were: Elders 4, Members 55, Adherents 14 for a total of 73 FOR, and Elders 2, Members 63, Adherents 8 for a total of 73 OPPOSED. With Smith there were 17 FOR and 7 OPPOSED with a combined total of 90 FOR and 80 OPPOSED. There was no comment on the results in the *Session Minutes*.

1913 – Rev. T.B. McCorkindale wrote and published a brief history of Knox Presbyterian Church.

1914 – World War I began and church union efforts subsided.

1925 – Early in 1925 the topic of church union was discussed again at Knox Presbyterian Church. A vote was taken with the result that of the 193 enrolled members, 145 cast their ballots, 98 voting for and 45 against joining the United Church of Canada. With a majority of 53 for church union the Lakefield Presbyterian Church automatically passed into union with the United Church of Canada.

1925 – The Lakefield Methodist Church became the Lakefield Regent Street United Church as part of church union on June 10, 1925 when the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Congregation Churches of Canada and the Methodist Church, along with the General Council of the local Union churches united as one church designated as The United Church of Canada.

With regard to structures, the Woman's Missionary Society (WMS) combined the four uniting societies under one Dominion Board. The Epworth League had already been changed into the Young People's League by the Methodist Church in 1922 and in the United Church it became the Young People's Union. The Ladies' Aid became the Women's Association.

1926 – Governance of the United Church was solidified with the authorization of *The Manuel of the United Church of Canada*. Texts approved for Holy Communion, baptism, marriage, burial, ordination, setting apart, and commissioning were published in 1926 in *Forms of Service for the Office of the Church.*

1930 – *The Hymnary of the United Church of Canada*, a new hymn book, replaced the denominational hymnals.

1932 – On Sunday, June 26, 1932, Knox United Church and Regent Street United Church united to become one congregation at the Regent Street location.

1933 – On May 9, 1933, the name Lakefield United Church was officially chosen by vote. Other choices were: Regent Street United Church and Emmanuel United Church.

1933 – 1934 – In late 1933 the lot on Katherine Street and the house on it with any furnishings it contained that had been the former Knox manse were sold to Rev. W.R. Archer and his wife for $1,500.00. In 1934, Mr. Roy Bullock bought the lot where the Knox Church and Sunday School stood for $1,000.00. Approval had been sought and given by Peterborough Presbytery for the sale of all of these items so that the proceeds could be used for a "NEW PARSONAGE FUND". The church building was demolished but the Sunday School structure was retained and formed the

front portion of the Bullock home. There was now only one United Church of Canada church and congregation in Lakefield.

1934 – According to the report of the annual congregational meeting on February 5, 1934, membership was 423 and the number of families was 238.

1938 – The construction of a new parsonage was completed on the site of the old one.

1940 -- The Official Board minutes of May 5th 1940 recorded for the first time the names of two females as members present. The names were Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Yale. At the September 17th 1940 meeting Mrs. Yale and Mrs. Tanner were present and Mrs. Yale was involved in making a motion. By the March 4th 1941 meeting, Mrs. W.W. Yale, Miss Webster, and Mrs. Kelly were listed as members present and were active participants.

1945 -- At the annual congregational meeting and dinner held in January 1945, the burning of the mortgage on the manse property was celebrated.

Fig. 13. The Second manse, Lakefield United Church. Built 1937-1938. Sold 1999.

1948 – 1950 – Extensive renovations were carried out to the church which included ... *the shingling of the church roof, repairs to the windows, a new chimney, cement steps and walks, considerable electrical work, the insulation of both church and manse, a complete modern oil heating system, redecoration of the entire building, both inside and out and the installation of two washrooms. A modern kitchen with twin sinks, gas stove and steam cabinets...and new carpet laid in the auditorium.*

1950 -- The annual report for 1950, the first full year of Rev. Walter H. Tonge's ministry, reported 53 new members received into Lakefield United Church: 34 on profession of faith and 19 on transfer of membership. In addition to the Sunday School the report listed a Women's Missionary and Service Club, a Women's Missionary Society, a Women's Association, a Mission Band, a Young People's Society, a Young Adult Society and the Canadian Girls in Training (C.G.I.T.) At the end of 1950 the Report of Session indicated there were 459 members and 230 families

1951 – The shed at the rear of the church was removed.

Fig. 14. Lakefield United Church Choir, Organist George Ingham, 1953.

1957 – According to the annual report for 1957 the Sunday School reported that total enrollment was 250 and average attendance during the year had increased from 150 to 165. The same year saw the renovation of the Sunday School for 4 classrooms.

Fig. 15. CGIT Gay Nineties Tea. Oct. 26, 1959. Sunday School Rooms, Lakefield United Church.

1960 – The report of Session indicated that membership as of January 1, 1960 was 556.

1961 – On November 23, 1961, a meeting was held to form a men's club and at a dinner meeting held on March 28, 1962 an AOTS (As One That Serves) Charter #632 dated February 7, 1962 was presented to the Club with the names of 22 Charter members inscribed on it.

1962 – On Sunday, January 14, 1962 the inaugural service of the Lakefield United Church Women (U.C.W.) was conducted by Rev. Gordon Ballantyne. The U.C.W. amalgamated the Women's Association, the Missionary and Service Club and the Women's Missionary Society.

Fig. 16. Women's Association, Lakefield United Church, 1961.

1962 – On Sunday, June 24, 1962 the corner stone of the new Christian Education Centre was laid and on October 28, 1962 the new building was dedicated. A Centennial Committee also marked the 100th Anniversary of the congregation with special services each Sunday in October, 1962.

1963 – On August 30, 1963, the Church acquired the property owned by Alfred Hudson, consisting of land, house and a garage, lying directly north of the church. The house was then rented.

1964 – Electric chimes were installed in the church tower and dedicated Sunday, March 2, 1964.

1966 -- A "Crusade" was held from April 1st to April 10th, 1966 nightly at 8 p.m. in the Lakefield United Church. The services were conducted by the Rev. Marney Patterson, founder of the Kawartha College of Evangelism and one of its directors.

1968 – 'The Seekers", a new group of young women affiliated with the U.C.W. was formed in April 1968. This unique new group drew inspiration from the book of Matthew 7: 7-12. They were women at the United Church in Lakefield who desired the fellowship which meeting with other women offers but, since most were working women, they were unable to spend the time necessary to take part in the many service aspects of the church. This group soon became inter-denominational and women from many different churches in the community became members.

1968 -- On Sunday March 24, 1968, a special service of thanksgiving was held and the mortgages of the Christian Education Centre and the adjacent lot and house were burned.

Fig. 17. Lakefield United Church Chancel prior to 1968 renovations.

1968 – On Sunday, September 1968, a dedication service was held for a new Hallman pipe organ and renovated chancel.

Fig. 18. The Chancel after the 1968 renovations and before the 2011 renovations.

1969 -- At the end of 1969 church membership stood at 578 with a total of 1045 members and adherents under pastoral care.

1971 -- Shortly after the Sunday School opened in September 1971, the opening hour was changed from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. On the last Sunday of each month, the children attended church for the first half of the service. As a result attendance rose by approximately 25 per Sunday and the enrolment increased to 105.

1971 – A new hymn book: *The Hymn Book of the Anglican Church of Canada and the United Church of Canada* was produced and on September 24th 1972 five dozen copies were dedicated for the congregation's use.

1973 – At the annual congregational meeting held on Wednesday January 24, 1973, a motion passed that "...we as a congregation, accept the recommendations of the Review Committee and the report of the Nominating Committee that the Unified Board take office immediately for a trial period of two years."

1973 – A Memorial Fund to which money gifts may be made as an alternative to purchasing other specific memorials was established. The Co-ordinating Committee, after consultation with the Minister, would establish memorial projects for which these funds would be used. For accounting purposes it was listed as a separate account in 1976.

1973 – The Lakefield Co-operative Nursery School (LCNS) was established as an independent co-operative with its own Board which would rent and use the church basement.

1975 -- The new Official Board (Unified Board) or Co-ordinating Committee structure was confirmed as the new form of governance.

1976 – Following the decision of a congregational meeting the house on the former Hudson property to the north of the Christian Education Building was torn down and the lot leveled and landscaped.

1977 – During the anniversary service held on October 16, 1977, the mortgage (otherwise known as the organ fund) was burned and the new church sign dedicated.

1977 – A playground area for the LCNS was developed at the back of the vacant lot next to the Christian Education Building.

Fig. 19. Lakefield Co-operative Nursery School playground next to the church.

1981 – A gallery of pictures of many of the church's former ministers was created at the back of the Sanctuary. This was the result of an extensive research project by Bertina Beavis, assisted by Freida Blewett.

1981 -- At the annual Congregational Meeting held on January 20, 1981, it was announced that a new committee referred to as the Ministry and Personnel Committee would be formed. This committee would become a committee of the pastoral charge and include representatives from Young's Point. Lakefield representatives would still give reports to the Lakefield Board.

1981 -- At the annual Congregational Meeting of January 20, 1981, a motion passed that"...the Annual Congregational Dinner & Meeting could be changed to a Sun. morning following church service instead of the regular Tues. evening at 6:30." This change would become the new norm.

1981 – The church tower required repair and was restored at a cost of $34,000.00 rather than being demolished. By a congregational decision, historical and architectural preservation had won.

1984 – A Board of Trustees was established for Lakefield United Church and a Manse Committee was established as a Committee of the Joint Charge in accordance with the United Church *Manual.*

1985 – During the year there were extensive renovations in the Sanctuary. They involved restoration, painting, decorating and some structural improvements. During the painting process, recognition was given to the large cross pattern in the pressed metal ceiling. It was 'uncovered" by painting it and the ceiling border a brown colour to highlight the unique feature.

Fig. 20. Highlighted cross on the ceiling of the Sanctuary.

1987 – It was the occasion of the church's 125th Anniversary with the theme "Time of Renewal". An extensive year long series of celebrations included special visits by the Lieut. Gov. Lincoln Alexander and Dr. Anne Squire, Moderator of the United Church of Canada. Tangible reminders of this Anniversary year included the Logo and Banner designed by Leslie Hunter.

1987 -1992 – The Sabo Education Fund, a 125th Anniversary outreach project to train Sabo Augustine Ameh, a student from Nigeria, as a nurse at Sir Sandford Fleming College was successfully completed.

1991 – At the Lakefield Congregational Meeting held on January 6, 1991, approval was given to use what had previously been a Provisional Constitution. The Constitution would provide much needed clarity to the church's organizational structure and operation even though the document would require updating and amendments.

1992 – 1993 – An extensive renovation "Access Project" costing $102,034.90 was completed to provide the Church with barrier free access. Equipment such as a lift was installed without destroying the historical architectural character of the building.

1993 – The church secretary's office was relocated to the top of the stairs of the Christian Education Building in order to better facilitate her receptionist function. The minister's study was

moved to the south end of the hall and created out of a room originally designated "kindergarten" on the building plans.

1994 – The construction of a vestibule for the entrance to the Christian Education Centre was completed as well as the conversion of the heating system from oil to natural gas.

1995 – The kitchen was enlarged and renovated to maintain standards up to code.

1996 – A new hymn book, *Voices United*, was published in 1996 and copies were acquired for all the pews.

1999 -- On July 2nd 1999 the manse property at 51 Regent Street was sold and the proceeds invested separately with the stipulation that any investment income be used to offset the minister's housing allowance.

2002 – The Lakefield – Young's Point Pastoral Charge created its first Joint Needs Assessment Report according to new United Church guidelines. This new extensive analysis was required as part of the process to fill a ministerial vacancy.

2003 – On January 1, 2003, PAR or Pre-Authorized Remittance was instituted as a way to maintain consistent giving to the church.

2004 – The congregation agreed to support a Habitat for Humanity project that was supported by Peterborough Presbytery with a $5.000.00 donation from Trustee investment income.

2004 – On February 8, 2004 a Rejuvenation and Renewal Committee (R&R) was established to create proposals for the renovation of the church building. As a result of feedback from the congregation the findings of the committee evolved and a report was made at the Annual Congregation Meeting on February 13, 2005. The report was adopted and would provide a guideline for future projects.

2005 – The church acquired a three octave set of handbells to compliment the church's music program

2005 – On December 10, 2005, the church hosted a special program with Lakefield's Hometown Holiday and CBC Radio partnering to present a dramatic reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* by Judy Maddren.

2006 – A capital reserve fund was established to aid long range capital projects. The Narthex was also renovated as a follow-up project to the R&R Report.

2006 – 2008 – The Pastoral Charge supported an outreach project for Street Kids at San Paulo, Brazil for a total amount of $9,000.00.

2008 – 2009 – The Pastoral Charge supported the theology student internship of Erin Burns.

2011 – An extensive set of upgrades and alterations to the Sanctuary were completed prior to the 150th Anniversary celebration in 2012. The church tower was repaired and church exterior re-painted. The roofing of the Christian Education Building was also replaced. The church also

pledged $12,000.00 for the Habitat for Humanity Build Project as part of the Peterborough Presbytery's pledge of $40,000.00. Lakefield United Church eventually raised over $20,000.00 for the Build!

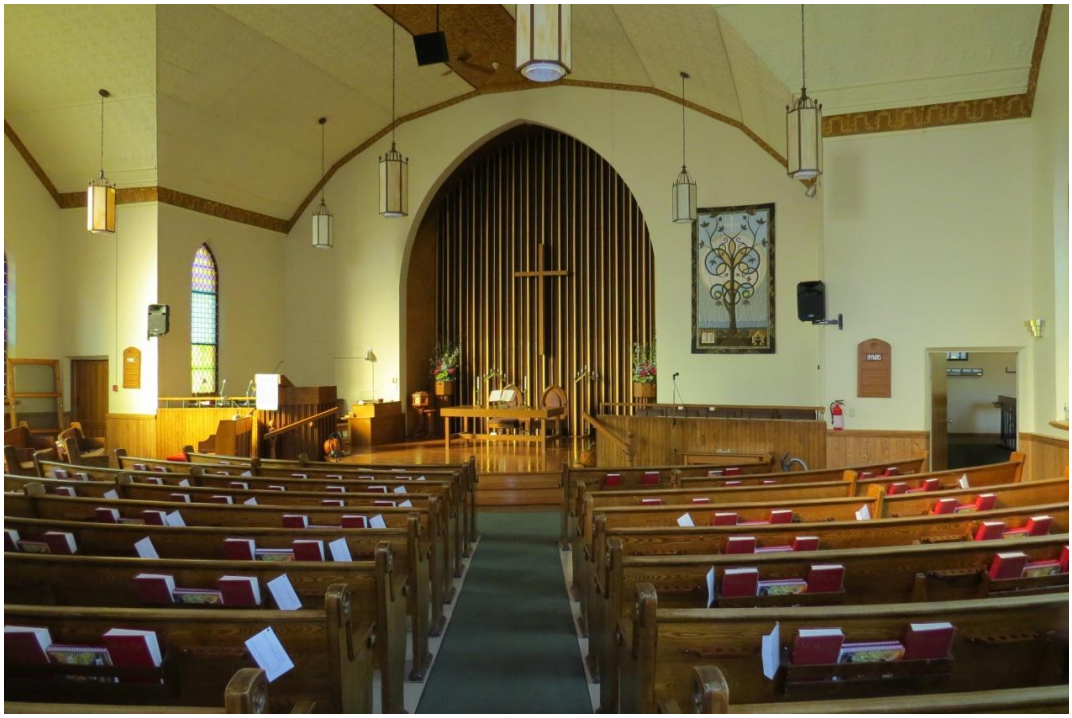

Fig. 21. Renovated Sanctuary, 2012.

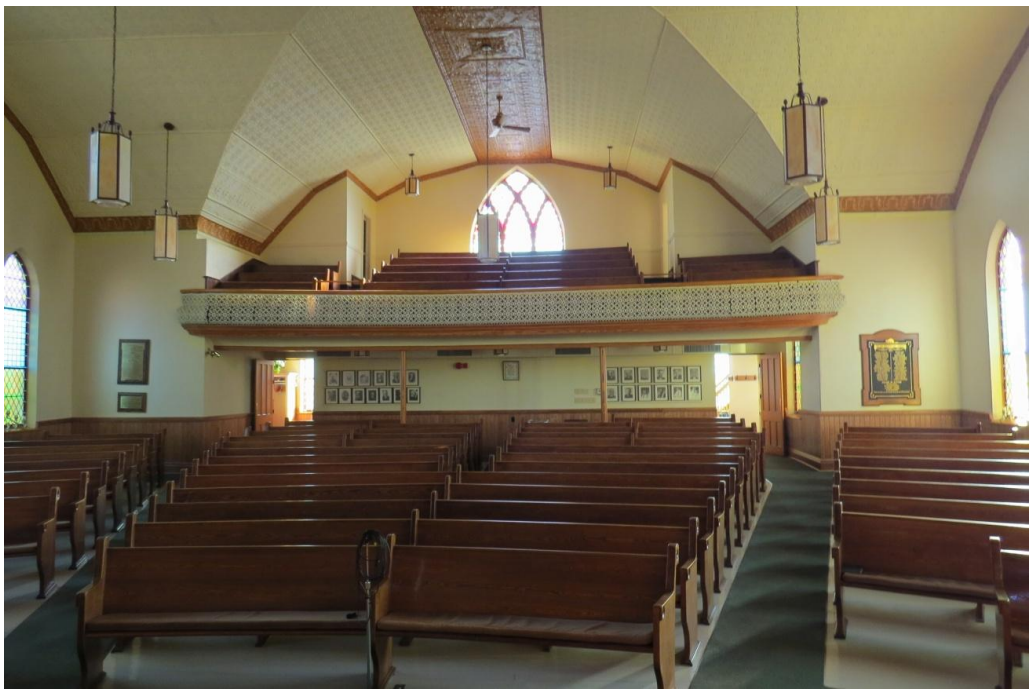

Fig. 22. Rear of renovated Sanctuary, 2012.

2012 – The church celebrated its 150th Anniversary with the theme "Honour the past, Celebrate the present, Embrace the Future". Special monthly celebration services with themes based on different decades of the church's history were held.

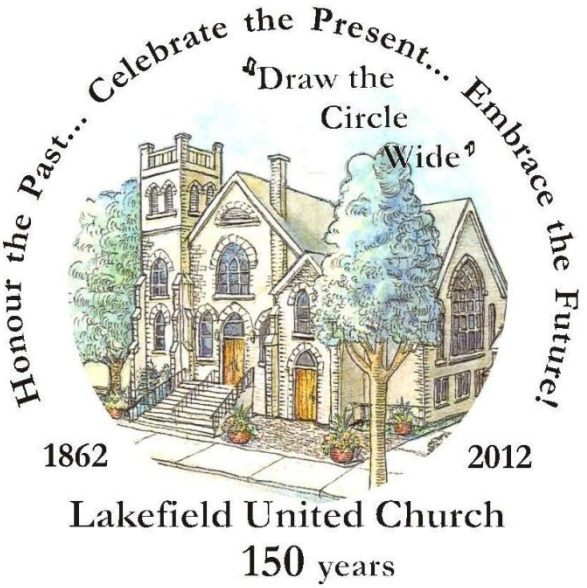

Fig. 23. Lakefield United Church 150th Anniversary Logo.

2012 – The Lakefield United Church partnered with the Lakefield Co-operative Nursery School (L.C.N.S.) to carry out a major upgrading renovation of the basement of the church. The church also replaced its commercial dishwasher.

2013 – A donation of 160 copies of the new United Church hymnbook *More Voices* was dedicated on Sunday, May 12, 2013.

2014 – On Sunday, April 6, 2014, Lakefield United Church hosted a Regional Ministry service with ministers and congregations from Fairview United Church, Keene/Hiawatha United Churches, Young's Point United Church, St. Matthew's – Donwood United Churches and Warsaw Pastoral Charge.

2014 – The church participated as a sponsor of the second Lakefield Habitat for Humanity Build and fulfilled its contribution pledge of $6,000.00.

2015 – The congregation approved the formation of a Transformation Project Team to create a plan for the church to meet the challenges and changes of the 21st Century.

2016 – On April 10th the congregation approved a TRANSFORMATION REPORT to "CHANGE what we do to become an inclusive, contemporary, spiritual centre for the community of Lakefield".

2017 – A Capital Reserve Fund was established and kicked off by a Capital Campaign Gala to raise funds for the church's capital needs.

2018 – A new sloped steel roof replaced the old flat roof on the Christian Education Building.

2019 – As a result of the REMIT process concerning the reorganization of The United Church of Canada during 2018; there were changes to come into effect on January 1, 2019. Presbyteries and Conferences would cease to exist and a Boundaries Commission would establish new geographic jurisdictions. Lakefield – Young's Point Pastoral Charge would become part of the new East Central Ontario Region (ECOR) with its new Council (ECORC).

2020 -- 2021 The COVID-19 Pandemic forced the church closure from March 14, 2020 until opening for in-person worship on September 12, 2021 with the requirement of following necessary strict pandemic protocols. During this period church governance was by a Joint Board approved Executive Committee and meetings were conducted online using Zoom technology. The church website: https://www.lakefieldunited church.ca and e-mail and social media provided important lines of communication. Internet access was extended to the Sanctuary and pre recorded services were prepared for broadcast. Lakefield's regular Coordinating Council resumed operation in September 2021. A further wave of COVID-19 led to a church closure from late 2021 to March 6, 2022.

2020 – With the help of a special "Raise the Roof Campaign" a new steel roof was placed on the Sanctuary building.

Fig. 24 Lakefield United Church with new steel roof.

2021 – Grants from the United Church's Faithful Footprints program allowed the church to complete renovations and acquire energy efficient equipment that would decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

2021 – As a result of governance and other issues at Young's Point church and the relationship with Lakefield, the Assembly of Elders from the East Central Ontario Regional Council disbanded the current Pastoral Charge creating a separate Lakefield United Pastoral Charge effective January 1, 2022.

2022 – New screens, cameras and a control centre were added to the Sanctuary to allow for projection, online streaming of services as well as recording for later viewing.

Fig. 25. Chancel with new screens, fall 2022.

2022 -- 2023 A new streamlined governance structure was reviewed and introduced to focus of the church's mission of "Gathering Community, Offering Compassion, Deepening Faith".

2023 – New facia and soffit was added to the Church.

Fig. 26. New facia and soffit. (2023)

2024 – A new grand piano “Emily” was added to the Sanctuary.

Fig. 27. New grand piano “Emily” Dedicated September 22, 2024.

Fig. 28 Interior of LUC Sanctuary featuring curved pews (2024)

2025 – Lakefield United Church celebrates 163 years as a congregation and 100 years as a member of The United Church of Canada.

Fig. 29. Poster celebrating June 10, 2025 which will mark the United Church's 100th Anniversary