



**Home of Elder Duncan McNab  
(On Hwy 43 to Perth, left side just before  
Port Elmsley-chimney remains)  
North Elmsley Baptist Church  
Our Congregation was  
Organized in 1833**



**Brick parsonage on corner  
built following the fire of 1895.  
Drive sheds rebuilt behind.  
It is interesting to note the tree  
down the left hand side where the  
post office street is now.**



**Educational Wing built in 1960**

**Note the changes to the steeple  
Throughout the years**

**Originally it had striped wooden shingles  
with little pointed decorations around it  
and little windows. (Pigeon haven)  
Then it lost the stripes and points  
but kept the windows.  
Prior to 1970 it was coppered.**

**Many historians use the pictures  
of the steeple of the Baptist church  
to date town pictures.**

**It is also interesting to note the change  
in the street lights as time progressed.  
Electricity came to town in 1885  
and was installed in the church  
that same year.**



**Stone structure built 1872, 73  
The frame Parsonage beside  
And drive sheds behind  
burned in 1895**



**The Educational wing was  
built behind the parsonage in 1960.  
The parsonage was  
demolished in 1965**

## A Brief History

The congregation of FBC organized in 1833 as the North Elmsley Baptist Church. Their services were held in the home of Elder Duncan McNab, situated on Hwy 43 near Port Elmsley. The original stone fireplace is still standing where the McNab home was located and can be seen when you travel to Perth.

The church moved into Smiths Falls in 1862 when the Rideau Canal opened up and the railway was being built from Brockville to Ottawa. Renaming it the First Baptist Church, the congregation built a frame chapel in 1867 which was replaced by the present stone structure in 1872-3. Stone was quarried near Portland, and drawn by horse and wagon as was the sand and water. Much of the labour was supplied by the men of the congregation, although they did hire a stone mason from Ottawa for the construction of the building. The total construction cost was a mere \$9,000.

In the new stone structure, the baptismal tank was located beneath the pulpit on the platform, and coal heated the building. In 1885 the first little pump organ was purchased and electricity was installed. The east wall of the structure had been left as a temporary wall, anticipating the extension of a Sunday School Hall which was constructed in 1889 and incandescent lights were added in 1890. The Timpany Room, the Pastor's office and the church office on the first floor and the nursery and beginners room on the second floor are located in the building which was the first Sunday School Hall. The room which is presently the pastor's study was the location of the first kitchen.

A frame parsonage had been built in 1870 beside the spot where the stone church now stands, but when it burned in 1895, it was replaced with a brick house on the corner. The drive sheds also burned and were replaced on the back of the lot. Water was installed in the parsonage in 1906 and rooms in the house were used for meetings and additional Sunday classes.

Around 1892 a pipe organ was installed in the sanctuary. This organ, with its magnificent pipes, remained until the renovations in 1968.

The Educational Wing was added in 1960 with a large hall on the ground floor (now named the Ward Hall after Rev. Frank Ward pastor at the time of renovations) a kitchen which was envied by our sister churches and classrooms and a smaller hall on the second story.

In 1968 the sanctuary was renovated, the pipe organ was replaced with an electric organ, and the baptismal tank was raised in the area behind the communion table. There was a pulpit on one side and a lectern on the other, the communion table was set near the back of the platform away from the congregation and the choir seats faced the communion table.

In 2001, another major renovation was completed with the addition of a balcony and the change of the direction of the sanctuary. There is a movable pulpit to one side, the choir sits facing the congregation, and the baptismal tank is once again under the floor, beneath the communion table. (The pulpit and table are the ones that were used before the 1968 renovations)

We look forward to continued ministry for our Lord in coming years.



## A Look Back At

**First Baptist Church  
Smiths Falls  
Organized in 1833**

**(Above: The Present Stone Structure  
Built in 1873)**



**Picture taken in 2010**