

# First Baptist Church Smiths Falls

October 21, 2018 - 185 Anniversary Sunday

## **History Reflection for 185 years in Smiths Falls**

Faith: Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) says: “11 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” We stand today on the faith of hundreds, thousands who have dared to dream of us meeting for our 185<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They looked out over a field, and saw a log cabin become a Church. They looked out over a rough corner lot way up on the north side of Wardsville, and saw a stone Church, its steeple proclaiming sanctuary and a promise of hope for eternity for travellers on life’s journey. The McNab family came to the road between Perth and Smiths Falls in 1818. It was not until 1833 that the fruit of 15 years worth of labour lead to the establishing of a Church. 15 years. Roads needed to be built out of mud paths. Houses needs to be erected out of forests. Barns and fields for crops needed to created while the “sun was up.”

Would we today have the faith to purchase not one lot, but two lots to build a Church here in Smiths Falls? Would we have the faith to spend thousands more dollars just 5 years later to build this beautiful limestone Church building? Would you have the faith to leave the back wall as a temporary one, awaiting the day you could build classrooms and meeting places

(which they did 16 years later)? Would you have the faith to rebuild the parsonage after it and the stables burned down one bitterly cold night in 1895, just 7 years after the building of the back of the Church, just 19 years after the building of the sanctuary? We stand on the faith of those who dared to dream, and saw their dreams become the Church that we get to gather in today, including those who, in 1960, saw a kitchen, gymnasium and classrooms on two levels, and those who dreamed of the sanctuary facing west instead of east in 2001. But I want to remind you that we too have been people of faith. Since I arrived here at FBC we have replaced a very expensive furnace 3 years ago, and updated so many areas of this Church, both inside and out.

The challenge is this: do we have the faith to continue to stand firm for Jesus Christ as we step into our 186<sup>th</sup> year today, now? Our world has changed. Politics and ethics and morality have radically changed, as has the Christian Church in Canada. Do we have the faith to stand for Jesus Christ until He returns to call us all home?

Anniversary Sundays are for us all to look back and, with appreciation, remember your relatives, your friends of the past who have been here working for Jesus in these walls. It’s a time to marvel at the faith of those who have gone before us for 185 years. But it’s also a time to be accountable for today, and resolute for

tomorrow. In a few minutes I'm going to ask those of you who are able to stand in prayer as we dedicate the future once again to the Lord.

But first we have to honour those who are here today who have been standing firm for many years of service. Your bulletin insert has a list of our long standing members. Donna Copp and Marg Hart of the Heritage Committee shall lead us in recognition of those who have been a member for more than 50 years.

**Recognition of Long Standing Membership:**

Adding Kay Fulchar. (Read list, adding Kay Fulchar).

If you are able, would you stand with me in prayer in dedicating this Church back to the Lord once again.

**Prayer:** (Stand with me, please, if you are able)

Starting with the determined calling on the heart of one man, of one family, your Church began 185 years ago in a log cabin on the road between Peth and Smiths Falls. Thank You for that call, and thank you, Lord, for 185 years of determined believers, called by You, who have dared to keep the doors of this Church open through storm and gale, in good times and in bad. We reflect on the thousands of people who have come into FBC in 185 years. We reflect on the many who entered into eternity having committed their lives to walk with You, as their eternal Lord and Saviour. 26 pastors have heard Your call to watch over the Your precious flock here at FBC, and today we stand on the knowledge and

truth they have shared. Countless teachers have lead classes, babies have been dedicated, new believers have been baptized, couples pledged their wedding vows, and committees and boards have met to rely on hearing Your direction for 185 years. For 185 years You have been so faithful here in Smiths Falls, and Lord, as our 186<sup>th</sup> year begins today, direct us on the path of life.

We dedicate FBC SF to You once again as it has been dedicated to You many times of the past 185 years. We realize that this Church is not ours to give, but it is Yours, bought with Your precious blood. But You have called us here today as stewards to care for the Church, the building and the people today, in 2018.

Lord challenge us, rebuke us where we have erred. Guide us to hear and respond to Your living Word. Give us a fresh hunger and thirst for Your truth. And bring hurting and needy people into Your building and into our lives that they might see You, find eternal life in You, and bring others to know Your truth. Thank You for the faithful who are on the membership list today, willing to take a stand for You and Your kingdom, especially those who are on our over 50 Year List. Our Lord and our God, You alone are worthy to receive glory and honour, respect and worship; for it was by Your will and Your power alone that all things were created, and it is by Your sustaining grace that all things hold together. Your deeds are great and wonderful: Your ways are just and true: Your love is

rich and overflowing. We, therefore, come to You and offer to You blessing and honour and glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Greeting one Another:**

### **Songs:**

### **Offering:**

### **Children:** Children's Story - Anniversary Sunday

- Take you back to 1833
- Are your chores done today? Barn.. Pigs, cows? Milking and cooking on wood stove?
- Dressed? Candle or oil lamp to see as you dressed this morning? What clothes did you put on?
- Mud around the farm?
- How did you get to Church? Lamborghini?
- Roads of corduroy.
- Wood fireplace at Church - Church of logs, stone fireplace
- No microphones, no pews, no PowerPoint projection; no Bible on cell phones in the log cabin
- Look at pictures on screen - dress, mud, log house
- **Facts:** McNabs arrived in 1818 - 15 year before the Church opened to establish it in the community. House to house preaching.

- 5 charter members in 1833
- Met for 20 years in the house with Mr McNab, then another 13 years until 1867 under four more pastors before buying here in Smiths Falls
- 2 lots - October 1867 a wooden framed Church was built (\$1800), membership of 30 (25 women), and then bought second lot for \$1600 (no hotel)
- 1872 - Stone Church - no back wall - look at picture from 1894 - dirt road (dust) (oil/gas lighting?)
- 1884 - first organ
- 1885 - December 27 - electricity came to the Church!
- 1930 - electricity, different parsonage

### **Scripture:**

Mark 12:28-34 (NIV)

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" 29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." 32 "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. 33 To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and

with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” 34 When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

**Congregational Prayer: “Our Father”**

Our Father, Which Art In Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come. Thy Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven. Give Us This Day, Our Daily Bread, And Forgive Us Our Trespases, As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us. And Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil. For Thine Is The Kingdom, The Power And The Glory. Forever And Ever. Amen

**Introduce: Rev. Ron Watson**

- We met each other, Call to Eden and Goshen, Man of integrity and honour,
- FBC SF from 1978-1988, then Area Minister,
- Retired. Lives in Kitchener. Marvellous wife, Margaret
- One more story - walking miracle - ask Ron about his heart surgery... God is so good

**Message: “25 Words or Less” (Rev. Ronald Watson)**