

# A WORD OF WELCOME

This '30 Year History' connects the present with the past and implies a great future. I want to express thanks to the archival committee for their diligent work in collecting, preserving and promoting the history and accomplishments of our church, on this, the 30th anniversary year of our existence. Truly, "He has done great things!" but our hope and anticipation is for the continual unfolding of His divine will and purpose for CPC in years to come as we minister to Orleans, to Canada and to the nations of the world! I count it a privilege to be part of this church's history at "such a time as this". I am thankful for the years we have had as a congregation and for the years to come in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Darren Godfrey

## FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: A 30 YEAR HISTORY OF COMMUNITY PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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**make the following acknowledgments:** contributed through interviews.

In addition, the committee wishes to thank all of the pastors, staff and congregants of Community Pentecostal Church, past and present, who contributed to this "story" over the past 30 years and to those who will continue to write the upcoming chapters in the years to come (we can hardly wait to read them).

*CPC History Committee 2008*

# A Brief History Leading To the Birth of CPC

## PENTECOSTALISM IN CANADA: CPC'S PROVENANCE

In 1906, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit came upon Los Angeles. The Azusa St. revival, which lasted till 1909, is known as the cradle of Pentecostalism, which fanned out from there around the globe, including Canada.

A man from Cobden named R.E. McAlister was one of the first Canadians to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit at Azusa St. In 1908, he held Pentecostal services in Ottawa which eventually led to the establishment of the Ottawa Pentecostal Church in 1911.

In 1938, on the occasion of dedicating a new building on Waverly St., the Ottawa church was renamed to be Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle. The assembly moved to a new site on Sunnyside Ave. in 1964, at which time it was renamed Bethel Pentecostal Church.

In 1973, under the leadership of Rev. James McKnight, Bethel looked to the Orleans area to begin a new work and set up an Eastern Development Committee to go forth. The assembly contributed \$15,000 toward the purchase of a 2.5 acre property in Orleans and established a committee to get the new work started.

By 1986, Bethel was celebrating its 75th anniversary in a new building at its present site on Viewmount Drive in Ottawa.

## BETHEL- EASTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Eastern Development Committee, with Gordon Wood as Chair and Wayne Tosh, Howard Moyer, Bill Reid and Ted Whyte as members, produced its report in April 1977. The report, brimming with anticipation and a pragmatic approach to church-planting, begins with: "Given the 'lateness of the hour' both in the spiritual sense and the degree of build-up in the area already it seems prudent to maintain a high profile from the start." The committee went on to recommend that morning and evening services, along with Sunday School classes, be held in rented facilities, with a week-night meeting to be held in a home.

A work of this scope "would require a full-time pastor to be brought in...fairly mature and, if possible, have experience in the 'pioneering' field." External support would be required until the fledgling congregation became self-sufficient.

The most opportune time for start-up was deemed to be September 1977, to allow sufficient time for the new pastor to get settled and for an August blitz to be done by an advance team. For facilities, the Convent Glen Public School was chosen because of its close proximity to the future church site as well as its gymnasium, piano stacking chairs and classrooms for Sunday School would make it most suitable.



A typical morning service of the new congregation.



Community's first worship team.

## FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: COMMUNITY'S FIRST SUNDAY

Things were quickly falling into place to get the new work started. In February 1978, the first Steering Committee meeting took place at the residence of Wayne and Marlene Tosh. In attendance were Jack and Carol Funk and the Liiras with their two daughters, Lori and Mary-Louise. Over lasagne, the group got down to discussing the roles that each would play. Wayne recalls, "There needed to be a secretary and a treasurer. Since there was only Jack and myself, and I didn't enjoy taking minutes, I convinced Jack that I should be treasurer and he became secretary." So Wayne became the first treasurer, a position he was to hold for 17 years.

Getting closer to opening day, the Steering Committee, made up of Pastor Liira, Wayne Tosh and Jack Funk and their wives met for the second time on April 7, 1978, again at the Tosh residence. The agenda included the introduction of a new hymn book, storage of church furniture while using the school, the development of letterhead and logo designs, as well as formalizing the name of the new assembly: "Community Pentecostal Church".

Community was to hit the ground running, with the immediate start-up of Sunday School. Four classrooms and the auditorium were to be used to teach the Bible at five levels: Adult-Pastor Liira, Teen-Mrs. Shirley Liira, Junior-Carol Funk, Primary-Marlene Tosh and Nursery and Beginner-Barbara Giles and Hope Galloway.

Marlene Tosh Sr. recalls the mix of anticipation and uncertainty leading up to the first service. "We had no idea how many people would show up." Planning had

to account for all eventualities, including ministering to each other.

It's easy to imagine the excitement and celebration that took place on that opening day. All was ready: the guest book and visitor's cards, the bulletins, the greeter (Carol Funk), ushers, Sunday School and special music by the Liira family featuring vocals by the two girls.

The attendance for that first day – April 9, 1978 - may have exceeded expectations in the natural, but not in the faith of the organizers. 100 chairs had been

# The First Decade: 1978-1988 Possessing the Land



Pastor Bert Liira, wife Shirley, and daughters Lori and Mary-Louise

## DEDICATED PIONEERS

Pastor Bert Liira and his wife Shirley were called to lead the new work in Orleans. As Pastor Liira recalls, "Our District Superintendent, Rev. Gordon Upton

asked me if we (Shirley and I) would be willing to go to Orleans in the spring of 1978 and begin a new church there. After several weeks of concerted prayer, we felt this was God's will for us. We left a thriving, established church (King Street Pentecostal) in Oshawa, and our family moved to Orleans to pioneer Community Pentecostal Church in April 1978, under District appointment.

"We had no building and no congregation. We ran newspaper ads, rented a public school on Sundays – prayed a lot and did door to door visitation. God gave us a very dedicated 'core-group' of about 40 people, including children, who became the 'nucleus' of this new church. Thank God!! They were dedicated pioneers."



Carol Funk teaching Sunday School.

placed in the school auditorium. The attendance figures became a direct reflection of the Lord's faithfulness in directing the Bethel assembly to begin a new work in Orleans: 49 in attendance for Sunday School, 72 for the morning service and 73 for the evening service.

Wayne Tosh recalls: "There was a strong sense of the Lord's presence. We all felt in our hearts that this was the right thing, that Community was here to stay."

Appropriately, Pastor's Liira's sermon for the evening service was titled "For Such A Time As This!" It captured the essence of opportunity and time of harvest that would challenge and inspire the pioneers of this 3rd Pentecostal church in Ottawa. "I believe CPC was established in God's timing and will," Pastor Liira said many years later.



Marlene Tosh (Sr.) teaching Sunday School.

### CONGREGATION BORN

*Pentecostal church*  
**Congregation born**

By Ian MacLeod  
*Citizen special correspondent*

The third congregation of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada has been established in Ottawa-Carleton.

"At our first service last Sunday more than 70 people attended," says Rev. Burt Liira. "If that's any indication then we're off to a good start."

Liira, a Finland native who came to Ottawa from a charge in Oshawa, is the pastor of the new congregation, located in Orleans.

A \$140,000 building site has been acquired at the corner of Jeanne d'Arc and St. Joseph Drive. Liira says no timetable for construction of Community Pentecostal Church has been drawn up.

The Pentecostal Assemblies, a strongly evangelical Protestant denomination, began in Canada in 1917.

The church stresses on two main themes: Salvation by faith and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Liira says the new church will have a distinctive youth outlook.

"We have a crusaders program for children 7 to 14 years old and a youth development program for 17 and up.

"The emphasis in the crusader program is on religion as well as outdoor recreation and music. I call it the whole-person outlook."

The congregation is meets at Convent Glen elementary school. Liira hopes the congregation will build a church building capable of serving 300 followers.

*The Ottawa Citizen heralded the arrival of this new spiritual enterprise in eastern Ottawa with the headline "Congregation Born." The opening paragraph read, "The third congregation of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada has been established in Ottawa-Carleton."*

**"I believe CPC was established in God's timing and will."**



**"Our vision was that Community become an 'outreach' church bringing in the 'nations' of our fast-growing, multi-cultural community of Orleans."**

## Community at Convent Glen: April 1978-December 1979

The early years of Community were characterized by rapid growth, financial blessing and spiritual vitality. Because they only had limited use of the school, early weekly services and prayer meetings were held in congregants' homes. While not the most convenient, this arrangement fostered a strong sense of community and family. The ministry of hospitality became one of the first ministries and a tradition of meeting in homes after the Sunday evening service was also established.

Founding members recall feeling a sense of missing out if ever they could not attend church on Sunday. Many people were coming to the Lord and the presence of the Holy Spirit was very evident.

The business side of establishing a full Gospel

presence in Orleans continued throughout the remainder of that first year. The minutes of the early Steering Committee meetings reflect ceaseless activity to sustain and grow the church. A pulpit needed to be built, bills paid, midweek services organized, music arranged, advertising procured, a filing cabinet purchased, identity material developed, etc., etc., etc!

### AN EARLY CHALLENGE

The new church dealt with an early challenge with the Lord's provision. Pastor Liira was contacted by the Carleton School Board and asked to cancel the Sunday evening services for the summer of 1978 as the school custodians would be on vacation. However, the minutes of a Steering Committee meeting reports the passing of the storm. "Some confusion existed, but the situation is now clear. We will have the use of the school all summer, with the help of Earl Galloway." Earl, who was an employee of the School Board, had agreed to look after the custodial duties for the summer, thereby ensuring that services could continue uninterrupted.

### MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY

Pastor Liira reflects on the early days: "Our vision was that Community become an 'outreach' church, bringing in the 'nations' of our fast-growing, multi-cultural community of Orleans. From the beginning, we developed the church with strong children's, youth and



Hope Galloway (l) and Barbara Giles (r) looking after the nursery.

music ministries. Very early on, we began to establish building plans for our new church. By the fall of 1978, we assumed full responsibility for our own financial commitments as a church."

These early results were in no small measure attributable to a core group of 18 families from Bethel who were now attending Community in Orleans. In a letter addressed to Rev. James McKnight, dated June 22, 1978, Pastor Liira took the opportunity "to express our heartfelt appreciation to you brethren for your vision, foresight and considerable involvement in the opening of our new church. We also appreciate the number of very fine families from Bethel who, with your blessing, have come out and helped to form the nucleus of our new congregation."

The music ministry was established early on under the direction of Mrs. Liira. Before the second Sunday had dawned, 6-8 players had been identified for the orchestra and a number of involvement sheets indicated "choir." Because of the mix of ages in the orchestra, Mrs. Liira hand-wrote the arrangements for each piece according to the level of each of the players.

## "...literally carried Community around in the trunk of his car."

While at the Convent Glen School, chairs had to

be set up and taken down for every service. Due to limited storage availability at the school, the church items used in the service such as the hymnals, offering plates, communion trays and sound system had to be taken home and brought back for each service. This fell to Jack Funk who, Pastor Liira joked, "literally carried Community around in the trunk of his car."

By late spring, a significant increase in Sunday School attendance (77 on Sunday May 14) was prompting the creation of more Sunday School classes. Occasionally, Rev. Neville Ally led services when the Liiras were away.

### HERE TO STAY

In August 1978, a large lawn sign was planted on a newly-acquired plot of land to herald the building of a new church facility. It announced, "Future Site of Community Pentecostal Church" in bold letters, confirming the permanence of this new creation. A church report of the time records some of the exhilaration: "With the help of a number of men from the congregation, our sign was erected on the property. The help was much appreciated, and the sign looks very good! Praise the Lord - we're here to stay!"

By September 1978, attendance at Sunday School was averaging 86 and the morning service 100 congregants. The initial concern over an empty church had given way to anxiety over accommodating all those who were adding to the new ministry. A school gym was also not the ideal setting for a worship service - for instance, the

fan in the auditorium was so loud that it often drowned out prayers and music, although heaven still heard the congregation.

There was clearly a need for a building fund and one was kick-started with a \$1000 donation from King Street Pentecostal Church of Oshawa. A committee to oversee the building program was established under the direction of Pastor Liira, who had previous experience in this area. The members of the committee were David Cork, Jack Funk, Gerry Organ, Wayne Tosh and Bill Wright. The building program would last 16 months.

The first annual Pastor's Report for 1978 reflected the joy and blessing that marked the birth of Community Pentecostal Church: "We have seen many souls saved and also filled with the Holy Spirit. Numerical growth has been most encouraging. Financially, the offerings have been increasing consistently. God has brought us together for such a time as this. The doors of opportunity are open. The harvest is ripe."

### "ENTER INTO HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE" COMMUNITY MOVES INTO ITS NEW HOME

The sod-turning ceremony took place on the church property in May 1979. Construction of the new church building began in June 1979. The plan was to build in two stages: the first to accommodate 400 people with an overflow area; the second would be an expansion to

approximately 750-800 people.

Construction of the new building at 1963 St. Joseph Blvd. was completed in December 1979. The first services were held there in January 1980. Apparently, Community had sustained continued growth during the building phase, as the first service in the new building was packed, even into the overflow!

An article in the local newspaper reporting on the event was titled "Pentecostal church building set for worship." It stated that "This 21 month-old congregation,

## Pentecostal church building set for worship

The third congregation of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada in Ottawa-Carleton recently completed new church facilities at the corner of St. Joseph Blvd. and Jeanne D'Arc Blvd., in Orleans.

This 21-month-old congregation, which began in April, 1978, with approximately 40 members, has been holding two Sunday services at the Convent Glen School and its youth and children's activities at Queenswood School in Orleans.

A full slate of church activities for every age and a regular music program have been an integral part of Community Church from the beginning, despite lack of permanent facilities.

Recently, attendance has grown to almost 200. This growth gave strong impetus for construction plans to be drawn up in the fall of 1978.

Community Pentecostal Church is located on a 2½-acre corner lot in the heart of residential Orleans. The building is on two floors, with a total area of 13,000 square feet. The sanctuary seats more than 400, with additional overflow space built into the complex. Other



Community Pentecostal Church

facilities include church offices, modern nurseries, and large Christian education areas.

The lower fellowship auditorium with an antique brick fireplace will be a focal point for future church and youth activities. The whole structure was constructed with the future in mind. In a second building phase, the sanctuary can be expanded to seat about 750.

Sunday will mark the beginning of a full schedule of services in the new church. The official dedication will be March 9.

which began in April 1978 with approximately 40 members, has been holding two services at the Convent Glen School and its youth and children's activities at Queenswood School in Orleans. The article added, "Recently, attendance has grown to almost 200. This growth gave strong impetus for construction plans to be drawn up in the fall of 1978."

To have financed and constructed a church building in less than two years from start-up was considered a major achievement, virtually unprecedented. Pastor Liira noted that while this had been "a great undertaking for such a new assembly, we believe that we are moving ahead in the will of God." He thanked the building committee "for their untiring efforts" and "the many other men and women who have gladly volunteered their time and talents to complete a multitude of responsibilities

## "God has brought us together for such a time as this. The doors of opportunity are open. The harvest is ripe."

relating to our new building."

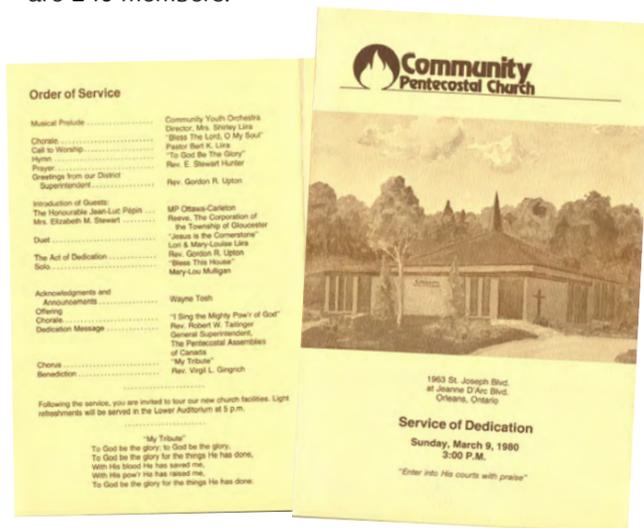
The building dedication took place on Sunday, March 9, 1980 at 3:00 PM. The order of service acknowledged the builder, Martens Construction Ltd. of Wellandport Ontario. The guest speaker was Rev. Robert Taitinger, General Superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Rev. E. Stewart Hunter, Pastor of Bethel Tabernacle, prayed and Rev. Gordon Upton, the District Superintendent, issued greetings and read the Vows of Dedication. Rev. Virgil L. Gingrich, Pastor of Woodvale



Men of CPC raising future Church location sign. Left-right are: Jack Funk, Bert Liira, John Carson, Bill Wright and Wayne Tosh (man bending over, unknown)

Pentecostal Church, gave the Benediction. The list of guests also included the MP for Ottawa Carleton, Jean-Luc Pepin and the Reeve of Gloucester, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Stewart.

The event was reported in the local newspaper, The Courier on April 3, 1980, under the headline "Orleans Pentecostal Church Opens." The article began: "About 400 people attended the official opening of the Community Pentecostal Church in Orleans March 9. The Church began in the community about two years ago and there are 240 members."



Dedication bulletin for the first building - March 9, 1980

## A BRIEF HISTORY

The bulletin for Dedication Sunday included a Brief History of Community Pentecostal Church. Some facts of interest were noted:

*"OUR CONGREGATION at present is comprised of approximately 240 adherents. Of these, about one-fourth have come to us from Bethel Pentecostal Church. One third of our congregation is comprised of new Christians who have known Christ as Saviour for less than two years. The remaining adherents are evangelical Christians from East Ottawa and those who have moved to this area from other cities.*

*OUR CHURCH BUILDING is located on a 2.5 acre corner lot in Orleans. The 13,000 square foot*

*building is on two floors. The sanctuary seats about 400, with additional overflow space which can be opened for future use. The Lower Fellowship Auditorium, with an antique brick fireplace, is a focal point for various church and youth activities. In the second building phase, the sanctuary can be expanded to seat about 750-800."*

The Pastor's Report for 1980 declares "We have seen a great number of people saved this past year. Fifty-seven believers were baptized in water. The attendance chart will indicate a most encouraging pattern of numerical growth. The financial reports speak clearly of your faithful support through your tithes and offerings. Truly, the Lord has been 'confirming His Word with signs following'. His rich blessing has been evident upon every area of our church life and ministry throughout 1980."

## SET-IN-ORDER

In January 1981, Community was "Set-in-order" and became a totally self-governing assembly with its own Constitution and an elected Board of Deacons while maintaining an affiliation with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, a fellowship of almost 1000 churches across Canada. In addition to Pastor Liira, the Church Board was represented by Jack Funk, Wayne Tosh, David Cork, Gerry Organ, William Wright and Hugh Fraser.

In September 1981, Pastor Steve Kohls, with his wife Ann, came on board as pastor of Youth and Christian Education. He became directly responsible for Children's Church, Sunday School, Bible Club, Keen Teens, Youth Ministries, College and Careers and Young Marrieds. Pastor Steve also became known for the odd tongue



A typical scene in inside the first building on the corner of Jeanne D'arc and St. Joseph Blvd.

twister. Carol Funk recalls one time when, "Pastor Steve asked the congregation if anyone had any 'un-special spoken requests,' and also addressed a group that no one had ever heard of before: "children with small parents!"

The next few years saw consistent growth in all areas as the Lord "added to the Church such as should be saved." An interior wall was removed at the back of the sanctuary and replaced with folding doors which opened two overflow areas to accommodate growing numbers. In the 1982 Annual Report, Pastor Liira remarked that "last year was our best year financially, which in turn has enabled us to keep pace with our growing ministry. To God be the Glory!"

## NEIGHBOURHOOD BIBLE STUDIES

In October 1982, Community embarked on a new venture: Neighbourhood Bible Studies. The venture was modeled after the house church movement in South Korea and a similar initiative had been established across the city at Woodvale Pentecostal Church. The bi-weekly meetings were held in leaders' homes in the main neighbourhoods in the east end and included a French Bible Study at the home of Andre and Jacqueline Drouin. The intent was to foster fellowship and spiritual growth in a smaller setting. One of the groups that was started in Queenswood Heights, under the leadership of Gordon and Linda Wood, is still going strong after 26 years.

## STAFF CHANGES - 1982

In October 1982, to help alleviate the administrative burden on the Liiras, Community hired its first part-time Church Secretary in the person of Mrs. Jessie MacLean. Jessie became known for her cheerful and efficient service and her artistic layout of the weekly bulletin.

Further staff changes took place at Community during

## "...with a good "problem" of having a packed house every Sunday."

1983. Steve and Ann Kohls were fare welled in August after two years of faithful ministry. In September, Pastor Terry Grimes and his wife Judy, were welcomed to take on the portfolio of Youth and Christian Education.

1983 saw yet another year of strong, consistent growth in the assembly, so much so, that Community was now "FULL!" in terms of attendance on Sunday mornings. Not only that, but people were seen leaving



Terry Grimes and family is welcomed to Community by the Liira's.

the church parking lot prior to services because of inadequate space for parking. Pastor Liira hinted at the necessity of making "some important decisions in the near future, to address this exciting 'problem'" as there was "more land to be possessed."

## 5TH ANNIVERSARY - APRIL 1983

April 10, 1983 was the 5th Anniversary Sunday for Community. The guest speaker for the occasion was Rev. Robert Taitinger, President of Eastern Pentecostal Bible College. A church photo directory was produced which included the portraits of 102 families and a brief history, where it was noted that "Community Pentecostal Church has grown to substantially over 300 members and adherents with attendances on special occasions exceeding 400. To God Be the Glory! It is our prayer that we may always be known as a Friendly Family Church."

Indeed, despite the growing numbers, Community had retained its special sense of family during the first stage of its life - the neighbourhood Bible studies had gone a long way to assuring that. The congregation was now at the better end of a period of transition from infant assembly to well-established congregation, with a good "problem" of having a packed house every Sunday. From every angle, Community was a success story that far exceeded even the most faith-based expectations.

Community's leadership team was now ready to lead the assembly to the next stage in CPC's history, a period of expansion and adjustment that would test the mettle of the congregation during trying times and prove the Lord's faithfulness as He continued to fulfil His purposes for the work started in the east end of Ottawa 5 years ago.

## THE NEXT STAGE: EXPANSION PLANS

In March of 1984, a Task Force was appointed to investigate and study options regarding expansion. In the first section of the report, Pastor Liira outlined the challenge: "It is almost 5 years since we concluded the construction of our present facilities. This building has served us well. However, as we face 1985, we face a space shortage. In our Sunday morning services we are filled to capacity. Our Christian Education facilities are taxed to the limit. Our parking lot is no longer adequate. In brief, this consistent strong growth has brought a sense of urgency."

The Task force came up with 4 options for consideration. The recommended option was "Relocation". The 1984 Pastor's Report summarizes the outcome as follows: "The ongoing growth at COMMUNITY PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

**"...we are filled to capacity Our Christian Education facilities are taxed to the limit. Our parking lot is no longer adequate. In brief, this consistent strong growth has brought a sense of urgency."**

has necessitated plans of expansion. On November 21, 1984, at a Special congregational Meeting, the members voted 99% in favour of purchasing 4.8 acres of land on St. Joseph Blvd., about one-quarter mile west of our current location, for the purpose of building a new church."

Further staff changes took place in 1984. In September, Pastor and Mrs. Grimes moved to reopen the PAOC church in Prescott, Ontario. Pastor Jeff Hall and his wife Lorraine came on as their replacements for the Youth and Christian education portfolio soon after. Doug Stringer also joined the team as student intern responsible for overseeing the Youth ministry.

Community had begun showing movies from time to time during the Sunday evening New-Life Services. One of the movies shown in 1984 was The Cross and the Switchblade.

The Missions Committee was first established in September 1984. It was chaired by Pastor Liira and had 10 members. The highlights that year were putting regular Missions inserts in the bulletin; putting up a missionary bulletin board; implementing the Faith Promise Pledge Plan, which raised \$11,000; and conducting a one-week Missions Convention in October, which included an International Dinner and Youth Night.

A four-day Prophecy Conference was held at the

church from September 30 – October 3, 1984. The speaker was Rev. Jeffreys Williamson from the UK. Topics included the: "The Second Advent"; "Signs of the Times"; and "The Sequence of Events after the Second Advent".

Also in 1984, after the PAOC had urged their member churches to get involved in the area of social issues, the Social Concerns Council was created at Community. The intent was to provide a forum to discuss matters of local concern such as pornographic literature, Sunday shopping and to establish a point of liaison with local and civil authorities to effect change. Activities in 1985 included making contact with social agencies such as the Salvation Army, the Union Mission and the Ottawa Food Bank; arranging a presentation from the Gloucester Police Department on Street-Proofing; and preparing a report on Sunday shopping to assist the Evangelical

Fellowship of Canada in the battle against Sunday shopping.

In 1985, despite major obstacles, further progress was made towards the construction of the new church. On May 21, re-zoning of the new land allowing for church construction was approved by Gloucester City Council. In a Special Congregational Business Meeting on May 22, the membership passed a resolution with a 95% vote to sell the present property for \$1.5 million and to appoint a building committee to proceed with building plans.

There were some spiritual victories taking place as well. A major highlight was the performance of Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames which took place on three nights in September 1985, when there were 90 recorded decisions for Christ. Many others during the year were saved, healed and filled with the Holy Spirit as well.

In June 1985, Pastor Doug Stringer, with his wife Kim, came on staff as the Minister of Youth and College and Careers. The following year, Pastor Liira reported that "Pastor and Mrs Keith (Sheila) Schwindt joined us in March of 1986 and very quickly began to make an impact on our Christian Education Ministry."



Last service in the first building.



Service being held in the auditorium of Gloucester High School.

## COMMUNITY GOES BACK TO SCHOOL - 1986

1986 was a year of transition and progress. Transition, in that CPC had to vacate the church at 1963 St. Joseph Blvd. after the sale was completed in September. Services were moved to Gloucester High School with seating for 600 and 13 classrooms that same month. Progress, in that construction was begun on the new church.

The sod-turning ceremony on the new church property took place on Sunday August 10, 1986. A parade permit was issued for a procession with police escort from the existing facility, due to close shortly, to the new location on St. Joseph Blvd and back. Approximately 200 people took part in the procession. Guests for the occasion were Gloucester Mayor Harry Allen, Aldermen Cantin and Hunter, Harry Hesp, Contractor and Mary Payne of the Orleans Express. The turning of sod was a single, joint effort by Pastor Liira and Building Committee Chairman, Bert Bell; and one other by a representative young boy

and girl. Pastor Liira brought the shovel.

Community's final services in the first church were held on August 31, 1986. Gospel singer Marilyn Edgely joined for the evening service. First services at Gloucester High School were held the following week on September 7, 1986. Community vacated the premises of its first church at 1963 St. Joseph Blvd on September 8, 1978. Many of the church assets had to be either stored or disposed of, including the pews which were sold to the Listowell assembly for \$8,000 and the old piano in the basement was sold for \$75.

Some heartache came when the first church building was demolished overnight soon after the sale. Marlene Tosh remembers this sad event as if it were yesterday, "I was heartbroken the day I drove by the first church building after we had sold it and realized that the new owners had absolutely demolished it overnight and the building was no more!!"



A parade down St. Joseph Blvd. to the sod turning of CPC's current site.



Pastor Liira turns the sod.

The move back to school was not a setback in the spiritual realm, as noted in the 1986 Pastor's Report: "The 'Church' is truly people not buildings. The Lord has richly blessed our services at the high school. New people are in attendance, souls are being saved, believers are being filled with the Holy Spirit. A real spirit of optimism and victory has prevailed."

**"The 'Church' is truly people not buildings. The Lord has richly blessed our services..."**

### SOCIAL CONCERNS

Meanwhile, the Social Concerns Council, chaired by Dick Lewis in 1986, reported a year of both failures and successes to the Christian heritage of the nation. The group engaged in activities such as a written submission to the Ottawa-Carleton Task Force on Sunday Shopping, investigating the use of "Disclaimers" by television networks when airing religious programs and organizing a city-wide group of concerned parents to confront the Carleton Board of Education over their plans to replace the Lord's Prayer in school opening exercises with readings and prayers from several religions and cults.

### 2ND BUILDING PHASE

The building of the second church commenced in October 1986. There would be many challenges to overcome before victory could be claimed.

In the meantime, Community stayed the course in 1987, despite the "inconvenience" of not having its own building. A deep sense of unity and commitment

### 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - APRIL 1988

1988 was a banner year for important events. The congregation moved into its new building on Feb 21, 1988, after 18 months at Gloucester High School. Community also celebrated its 10th anniversary that year. By this point in time, there were close to 500 members and adherents of the congregation.

The 10th Anniversary Banquet was held on Saturday June 11, 1988. The Service of Dedication took place on Sunday June 12, 1988. Rev. Don Feltmate was present to open in prayer. There were representatives from all levels of government and Contractor Harry Hesp was on hand to do the Presentation of Keys. Rev. Gordon Upton gave the Dedication Message and Rev. Stewart Hunter conducted the Act of Dedication. A musical entitled *We Are the Church* was performed in the evening.

The event was covered in the local newspaper, *The Star*, under the headline "Community Pentecostal Church Celebrates Dedication." The story opened with "Hundreds of parishioners and special guests attended

the official dedication services at Community Pentecostal Church in Orleans Sunday afternoon." It went on to say that the "new \$2.3 million structure, three times larger than its predecessor, can accommodate about 1,200 people...Pastor Liira welcomed Acting Mayor Ed Campbell, who told the congregation the importance of the spiritual element in a city cannot be denied." A commemorative plaque was presented by Pastor Liira to Bert Bell, who oversaw the building project as chair of the Building Committee.

As part of the 10th year commemoration, a Church Photo Directory was produced with 157 family portraits.

### HEAVEN'S GATES

The Pastor's Report of 1988 reports another year of growth. In September, a rerun of the presentation of Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames (previously staged in 1985) resulted in 110 people making decisions of salvation and recommitment, with many of these becoming a part of the church family.



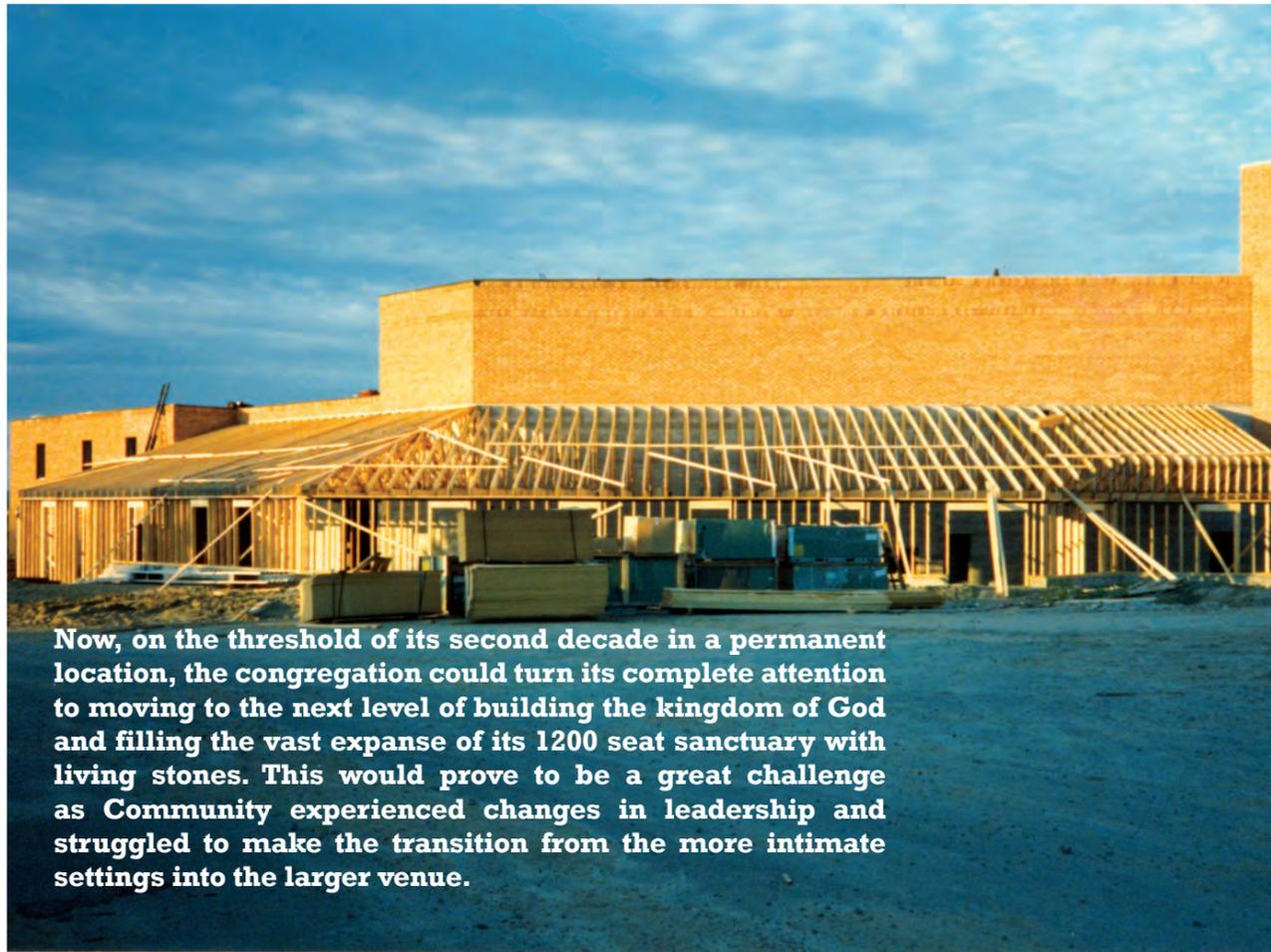
prevailed, even as 25 families transferred out of the Ottawa area while many new people came in to "fill the gap." Attendance and finances remained strong throughout the year.

1987 was kicked off with a Special Congregational Meeting on January 28 to vote on the proposed revised Church Constitution. Changes included provision for not fewer than 8 Board members, use of a Nominating Committee, terms of office and authority for the Board to institute departments.

The Board minutes of March 30, 1987 provide details on the work of a Computer Search Committee. The recommendation was to purchase two IBMXT-compatible machines (each with 20MB Hard disk), two printers and appropriate word-processing and accounting software at a cost of \$6000. Pastor Liira thanked Wayne Tosh and Robert Bell for their diligent efforts in "bringing Community into the computer age".



Construction in process for the building standing at 1825 St. Joseph Blvd. It was completed in 1988.



**Now, on the threshold of its second decade in a permanent location, the congregation could turn its complete attention to moving to the next level of building the kingdom of God and filling the vast expanse of its 1200 seat sanctuary with living stones. This would prove to be a great challenge as Community experienced changes in leadership and struggled to make the transition from the more intimate settings into the larger venue.**

*The build continues.*

## Second Decade: 1989-1998, Settling In and Reaching Out

### DECADE OF DESTINY

1989 marked the first full year that CPC held services in its new facilities. The additional space was put to good use. Pastor Schwindt was particularly appreciative of the newly constructed classrooms for Sunday School that now afforded "distinct areas of learning" for all levels. Attendance figures were averaging 220 during the January to June and September to December periods.

One of the highlights of 1989 was the "Outreach Week with Sam Farina," held in July. This event resulted in 93 decisions and recommitments for Christ and challenged the congregation to a more consistent life of prayer in the upcoming "Decade of Destiny" of the 90s.

In June 1990, a Board Retreat took place at the church. The report reflects the challenges associated with growth from "small" to "large" and notes "spiritual

stagnation and lack of direction since the building programme was completed." CPC had experienced growth, but not as quickly as expected. This was, in part, brought on by other denominations opening churches in the area.

The Board also reviewed a report from the Rockland Community Bible Study Group concerning the opening of a new church in Rockland. As there did not appear to be adequate commitment from the core group of members, the Board agreed to defer direct involvement in establishing a church in Rockland at that time.

### CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

1990 became another year of transition when the church was confronted with its first upheaval in senior

leadership since its inception. In August, Pastor Liira tendered his resignation to the Church Board to accept a call to be Senior Pastor of Bethel Pentecostal Church in Sarnia.

The October 28, 1990 service became the farewell service to the Liiras. As is often the case in church history, emotion co-resides with faith as a congregation reflects on the years of faithful servant hood with heavy hearts at the loss; and yet looks forward with joy to the new calling awaiting those departing and the ones to be their replacements.

In an interview for the CPC 30 Year History, Pastor Liira recounted his time in Orleans:

"I believe CPC was established in God's timing and will. Shirley and I were privileged to be a part of it in its "Formative" years. We made every effort to develop CPC into a Pentecostal Church which was balanced, authentic, caring, and loving which had a heart for God, a heart for people and a passion for missions. I believe CPC has been all of those things over these past 30 years. CPC is a church that has lived out its calling and fulfilled its vision by the grace of God for 3 decades. To God be the glory!"

In September 1990, Pastor Keith Schwindt also tendered his resignation to respond to a ministry opportunity in Dunnville, Ontario. The farewell service for the Schwindts was held on November 4, 1990.



*Pastor Roger White*

### PASTOR WHITE IS CALLED TO CPC

The Church Board established a Pulpit Committee to begin the search for a new senior pastor. The search culminated with the calling of Pastor Roger White and his wife Karen to CPC. The Whites began their ministry in January 1991.

In describing his calling to Orleans, Pastor White recalled that after seven years in London, Ontario, where the church was thriving, he felt he was ready for the challenge of a new pastoral opportunity. During a vacation visit to Ottawa about five years earlier, he had felt a spiritual nudge that he would be in Ottawa someday. Hence, when the call came from the CPC Pulpit Committee to consider letting his name stand, he felt a release to proceed.

### A NEW TEAM

As is often the case, a new senior pastor brings additional staff changes and Pastor White's appointment was no exception. Two new positions were created: Minister of Church Ministries, which Pastor Doug Stringer moved into; and Pastor Kevin Bodaly was appointed as the Minister of Outreach and Evangelism.

Pastor Roger Malcolm joined the team in October 1991 as the Minister of Youth and Young Adults. Pastor Malcolm looked ahead to 1992 as a time for the youth to "Arise and Go Forth!" and anticipated the 40th Biennial Conference of the PAOC in Ottawa in August as a time "to expand the Kingdom of God with young people and their families."



*Youth Pastor Roger Macloclm and family.*

## THE WHITE YEARS - 1991-1995

Under Pastor White's leadership, CPC's ministry continued to build upon the solid foundation that had been established in the preceding years. During this period, a number of new initiatives and ministries were started, highlighted by expanded outreach and missions efforts, a new church plant and a new college-level program of study for those wishing to deepen their understanding of the Word.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH - HITTING THE STREETS

Outreach activities in 1991 included the launch of a monthly Prayer Walk in September, with over 150 people walking the streets of Orleans to "soften the defences of the enemy." Others went door-to-door speaking to people at front doors of the need for salvation.

But the major outreach came in December, in the form of the Christmas Cantata, entitled *He Left Everything*. More than 1700 people attended, and more than 50 people received salvation and came forward to publicly confess their faith.

There were some other new forms of outreach activity in 1992. At the Sunday morning service on April 12th, there was a special emphasis on national and spiritual reconciliation called "Let Us Be One Voice". Over 600 people attended and there were several decisions made for Christ.

A church newspaper, called Community Connection, was launched in July. Through this vehicle, CPC was "able to put the gospel in each Orleans home (approximately 22,000)."



Hitting the streets: One of many floats that CPC has entered into Santa's Parade of lights over the years

The Annual Report for 1992 included a report on the 1992 *Daily Vacation Bible School* (DVBS), submitted by Tom Lockett, Coordinator. That year saw DVBS move from a church-centred program to one whose goal was to reach out to the community. There were over 300 different children in attendance and the closing event was attended by over 400 people.

The D.R.I.V.E. Ministry was begun in September, to ask volunteers to give rides for people to church, who were otherwise unable to come. Jake Boot was the coordinator.

In November 1992, the Orleans Christmas Parade provided a new, excellent opportunity for community involvement. CPC entered a float, which was well received by the 40,000 spectators; about 7,000 invitations to the Christmas Cantata were handed out along the parade route as the youth sang Christmas carols.

There was one major outreach campaign in 1993, called the "Jesus Video Saturation Campaign." In April, 35 CPC volunteers went door to door asking people if they would like to receive a free copy of the video Jesus. In return, they were asked to answer a brief survey of 6 questions on their thoughts of the video. The acceptance rate was greater than anticipated and extra copies had to be purchased.

In 1994, Community cooperated with other believers from other congregations. Stan Kwapisz led a team of people as part of the Christian Outreach initiative at four local fairs in Richmond, Gloucester, Metcalfe and at the Ottawa Exhibition.

The size of CPC's auditorium began to draw some interest from outside entities, including Gloucester High School which first used the church for their annual Christmas concert in December 1994. It was the first occasion that Gloucester High School shared a concert with two of their feeder schools, Emily Carr Middle School and Glen Ogilvie Public School, something that would not have been possible at Gloucester. The arrangement continued thereafter and seemed fitting, given Gloucester's rental to CPC during the church building phase from 1986-1988.

Community got a facelift on its

property with the erection of a new sign and the paving of its parking lot in 1994. These improvements were funded in part by a land transaction with the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton when the church sold 4,217 sq. feet of property bordering on St. Joseph Blvd. for \$55,100.

## MISSIONS-MINDED CHURCH

From local outreach to global missions, Community was making its presence felt on an increasing scale during the nineties. The Missions Committee reported that "we have taken great steps towards achieving our goals as a 'missions-minded' congregation. Once again, our assembly has been challenged by the fine reports brought from the mission field by our missionaries."

Each year in the fall, a Missions Convention was held. One of the highlights was the International Dinner, "an exciting evening of fellowship and testimonies of our missionaries and a sampling of various food recipes from around the world." Also, flags were purchased representing the various countries that were being highlighted by missionary guests.

These guests included Rev. Bill Connelius sharing his firsthand experiences of his trip to the Soviet Union in 1991, "where the door was once closed." Also that year, Community was able to "share in a tangible way in the extension of God's kingdom in Turkana, Kenya, where Debbie Sirjoosingh was labouring under extremely adverse conditions."

## CHURCH MINISTRIES

The Samaritan Ministry became an official ministry at CPC in May 1992. That year, over \$8,400 was received to reach at least 100 families through three types of programs: Crisis Response, Christmas Baskets and Adopt-A-Family. It was expanded in 1993, under the leadership of Greg Pennoyer, to include the Food Cupboard to provide needy families with an emergency supply of groceries; and the Clothing Exchange held in the spring and the fall, which that year assisted about 200 people.

A new ministry for Junior High Youth, for the 11 to 13 year-olds (grades 6-8) began in 1992. Russ Paquette was the leader with help from Cathy Bodaly, Celine Carkner and Diane Froeber. Each Wednesday evening, "an average of 30 young people met for a time of praise, prayer, Bible Study and just the right amount of high energy silliness."

## A NEW SCHOOL AND LIBRARY

Community School of the Bible, under the leadership of Dr. Gordon Wood, began to offer courses in 1992. The program is comprised of 20 courses which follow the curriculum of the Lay Leadership Diploma Course of the Canadian Pentecostal Correspondence College (CPCC) and is open to students for either credit or audit purposes.

1993 was the first full year of operation for the CPC Library. The response to "this new ministry was outstanding, both in the use of this facility and in the donation of library materials." In the Church Annual Report that year, Robert Bell, Church Board, also extended special thanks to "Morris Mason who has given excellent leadership, and Suzanne Savoie, Randy VanDommelen, Pat Paquette, Bob Martinson and Pat Eburne for their dedication and hard work in cataloguing, organizing and staffing the library."

## YOUTH AND NEW HOPE

At the end of 1993, Pastor Roger Malcolm and his wife, Ingrid, moved on to a new ministry at Kingston Gospel Temple. Just a few weeks later, CPC welcomed Richard and Jennifer Keating to oversee the Youth and Young Adults ministry.

Pastor White's Report for 1994 mentions a number of "new highlights for our church. In June, we began services in our newly developed work, New Hope Community Church, in south Ottawa shepherded by Pastor Doug Stringer. In October, that work was officially opened and dedicated to the Lord. It is a growing self-sufficient work today. Praise the Lord! The average attendance for Sunday now numbers in the 60s."

With the departure of Pastor Stringer to New Hope, Pastor Harry and Darlene Mosley were engaged to oversee the Ministry of Visitation and Seniors. In 1994, Pastor Mosley reported that there were "a total of 207 telephone contacts (from prayer requests); 71 hospital visits, 67 home visits; and several office counselling sessions."



Pastor Harry and Darlene Mosley-Visitation

## PASTOR WHITE'S DEPARTURE

Pastor White tendered his resignation to the Board in April 1995. He advised the congregation that his resignation would take effect the end of July 1995.

In meeting with the Pulpit Committee, Pastor White encouraged the Board to "establish very clearly what the philosophical direction of the church will be, what ministries will be prioritized and the style of worship." He also advised to "establish a clear and open ear to the needs and concerns of the congregation."

Pastor Mosley also tendered his resignation in May 1995, believing that "all pastoral staff should resign when the senior pastor resigns". Pastor Keating also resigned around the same time, citing a return to university.

Pastor Bodaly was fare-welled in October 1995. In his last meeting with the Board in September, a vote of thanks was given for his leadership during the interim period.



Pastor Phil Spoelstra, Music Minister, doing what he loved; to lead worship.

Pastor White, Pastor Harry and Darlene Mosley "were blessed when Pastor Atkinson asked us to return to the pastoral staff as Ministers of Visitation and Seniors." Despite the time of transition in 1995, Pastor Harry reported "271 telephone contacts resulting from your prayer requests, 72 hospital visits, 45 home visits and 7

**"...We will continue to reach into our community with the gospel of Christ, even to the uttermost parts of the world. We want to be truly a missions church."**

## PASTOR ATKINSON'S CALLING

The pulpit committee search culminated in the calling of Rev. George Atkinson to be the third Senior Pastor at CPC. Pastor Atkinson and his wife Telva as Minister for Women began their ministry at CPC in October 1995.

## PASTOR'S "A" TEAM

Subsequent to his resignation with the departure of

office counselling sessions."

In February 1996, Pastor Brian Egert was engaged to be the Assistant Pastor, with responsibility for the Youth and Young Adults departments, as well as Outreach and Evangelism. In his first report Pastor Egert wrote, "We are looking ahead to 1997. Our plans are to continue to disciple and establish a strong foundation in the lives of our youth. We will continue to reach into our community with the gospel of Christ, even to the uttermost parts of the world. We want to be truly a missions church."

Pastor Phil Spoelstra joined the staff in September 1996 to be the Minister of Music. In his inaugural report, Pastor Phil mentioned that involvement in the Christmas presentation "counted over 75 volunteers." He added that "we hope to continue to see the arts – both music and drama – develop and grow throughout the year."

In the fall of 1997, Pastor Phil was pleased to introduce "Ottawa's newest music academy" - the *Community School of Music*, headed up by his wife Chrissy.



Fallingbrook open-air service. Brass ensemble: l-r Brian Egert, Gordon Wood, Doug Wood & Marlene Tosh



Watoto Children's Choir

## OUTREACH, MISSIONS AND CHURCH MINISTRIES

Pastor Atkinson reported significant outreach efforts in 1996 "to refocus our attention at CPC on the lost and on our community. Open air services in July, Heritage Sunday at the Cumberland Historical Society grounds, August drive-in films on Sunday evening helped to remind our area that CPC is here to minister."

Pastor Atkinson's report for 1997 highlighted outreach activities that had taken place that year. In addition to continuing the July open air services and drive-in films started the year before, the choir and vocalists "testified in song at the Fallingbrook Community Canada Day celebrations," and at Christmas "the choir and band clearly shared the 'reason for the season' with shoppers at Place D'Orléans shopping centre."

The Missions Committee Report for 1996 provided a taste of the activities underway to support global outreach from Canadian shores. Visiting missionaries were received from Asia, Europe, Africa and Israel. "A memorable highlight was in March when the African Children's Choir gave an unforgettable performance for us."

Women's Ministry was renewed in 1997 under Telva Atkinson's leadership and a new name: *Community Women's Connection*. In addition to *Prayer & Share* and events held throughout the year, two new ministries were started that year: the *Dorcas Ministry*, which is a group of "ladies skilled in the

area of sewing" who "bless the Ottawa street people with the work of their hands, specifically with blankets, scarves, mitts and socks." started by Margarete Froelich; and, *MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers)* an outreach to young mothers at a time of great need, started up by Lorraine Bastien.

*Community Kids in Worship* began in the summer of 1997, under the leadership of Sue Reid, to minister to children between the ages of four to twelve. Each service was begun with a time of praise for all

children, who were then dismissed to their own classes.

An important ministry for any growing church (in age that is) is the ministry targeted to "seniors" aged 50 or older. At CPC, *Prime Time* was, and continues to be, the vehicle to provide activities for seniors (it was previously called *Belles & Beaus*). Led by Henning Lind, the main event of 1997 was hosting the *Fifty Plus Rally*, Capital Seaway Section in April. This event was sponsored by the *Church Ministries Department of the Eastern Ontario and Quebec District*. Other *Prime Time* activities that year were the Valentines Dinner and Walk with the Winners.



A Prime Time outing. One of many that have occurred over the years. This was a picnic.



Women's Ministries 2006 which was headed by Telva Atkinson. (Telva at right in grey jacket).

The *Tape Ministry* saw a change in leadership in 1997. Instituted at the inception of CPC in 1978, this ministry was established to provide the congregation with the



Guy Desroches manning the sound board, for the "Tape Ministry".

recorded sermons they may have missed or wished to hear again. It was also an opportunity for members to reach out to others outside the congregation with the Word of God. After 19 years of faithful service in this capacity, Jack Funk resigned as Head of the Sound/Tape Ministry and handed over the reins to Guy Desroches.

The Youth Ministry hit the road in 1997. The first part of the year began with a retreat at Lowville, New York, a sectional rally in Brockville and a convention in Ottawa where they joined a Prayerwalk that started off in Majors Hill Park. Closer to home in April, they officially opened the new youth room at CPC with a prestigious ribbon-cutting ceremony. In May, it was off again to another convention in Kingston and inner city ministry in Toronto. Youth Camp took place at Ottawa Valley Camp in July; and in August the Youth were Kingdom Bound to Darien Lake, New York. In October, they travelled to Smiths Falls for a District Sectional rally; and

Brockville to hear Sam Farina.

In November, they travelled to Belleville for leadership training at Firehouse 1997. In December, they went carolling at nursing homes and CHEO. Finally, on New Year's Eve, after an outing at Laser Quest, the youth returned to the church for pizza and games until morning. Travel agents that year (Youth Executive) were Allison and Kathy Watcher, Laura Waggott, Evelyn Mason, Gabe Bastien and Margaret-Anne L'Ecuyer.

### BILLY GRAHAM CRUSADE

The year 1998 began with CPC's involvement in one of the largest city-wide Christian events ever to be held in Ottawa: the Billy Graham Crusade. Along with over 400 other churches in the Ottawa area, CPC supported preparations by being one of the host churches for the four-week long Christian Life and Witness training for volunteer workers during April and May, leading up to the crusade which took place at Scotiabank Place in June 1998. Many CPC members took part and volunteered in various capacities as ushers, altar workers, prayer team members and as vocalists in the huge massed choir.



Some of the Youth Group circa 1997. l-r Ricky L'Ecuyer, Jennifer Froeber (now Topping), Gabriel Bastien, Unknown, Jason Topping, (married Jennifer) Casey Tosh, Amy Tosh, (now Porteous), Marlene Simon, Joanna Xavier, Evelyn Mason, David Bell

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY - APRIL 1998

CPC celebrated its 20th anniversary in grand fashion in April 1998. The theme was God is Faithful and the week-long schedule of events included the return of both former senior pastors, Liira and White, to be the bookend speakers on either side of the anniversary week from Sunday April 19 to Sunday April 26. Rev. Bill Morrow, General Superintendent of the PAOC spoke at the Sunday evening service on the first Sunday. Evangelist Sam Farina returned to CPC for the Wednesday evening service. Worship leader Randy Rothwell led Worship on Friday evening and at the concluding service on the second Sunday. Other events held were a Men's Ministries Breakfast and Victorian Tea sponsored by Women's Ministries. The founding Senior Pastor Rev. Bert Liira spoke at both morning and evening services on the final Sunday. A catered Family Reunion Dinner was held in the church gymnasium following the morning service.

A church photo directory was also produced to mark CPC's 20 year existence.



Celebrating CPC's 20th Anniversary



Various Pastors, Wives and Family join the 20th Anniversary Celebrations

**CPC's third decade was one of staying the course set out before hand, both abroad and at home. Changes in the PAOC funding model resulted in a stronger bond between missionaries and the congregation and CPC teams were regularly being sent out to work with those in the field. Within the community, CPC's presence was being extended through increased outreach activities, particularly in the form of musical events and sports camps. And hardly a day would pass when the building was not put to good use, not only by inner church ministries, but increasingly by outside groups, something envisaged by the founding members many years earlier.**



Armenia trip.



Pastor Brian Egert and Youth missions team to Winnipeg Pan-Am Games, 1999

Various missions trips in the third decade. Above - Cuba Trip

## Third Decade: 1998-2008 - Staying the Course

### OUTREACH & MISSIONS

Building on the momentum from the Billy Graham Crusade, outreach continued through the balance of 1998 in a number of ways. According to Pastor Atkinson's year-end report, "the skateboard outreach, VBS, Drive-in films in August and Christmas witness using the Choir cantata, Christmas parade float and tract distribution and the choir night at Orleans Mall gave testimony to the Gospel."

Pastor Egert's report built on Pastor Atkinson's with regard to other outreach activities, namely The Gate drop-in centre and summer day camps, as "we continued to go to our immediate community with the gospel." He also spoke with anticipation of the upcoming new millennium as a time "to mobilize and evangelize. We have started the School of Missions and

are excited about what God is doing and will do through this ministry."

1999 was the first year for the Community School of Missions with 23 participants. The school, which ran from January to August, consisted of 3 parts: (1) Intensive Discipleship Training; (2) Intensive Evangelism Training; (3) Short Terms Missions Experience. The school produced two teams who were sent out to the Pan Am games in Winnipeg and Cuba respectively.

That same year, CPC experienced and participated in many missions-centered activities. Pastor Atkinson and Tom Goss reported on their April teaching trip to Yalta in the Ukraine, which culminated in raising \$2,000 to support a new church building through Jack Hunka's Ukraine ministries. Rev. Gerald and Ruth Morrison reported on

## Decade Two - Cultural Shifts

**The second decade of life for CPC represented a time of transition in many respects, not only in leadership, but also culturally. Secularization and societal changes in the traditional family were putting pressure on many churches to modernize their ministries to keep up with their ever-changing clientele. New styles of praise & worship were now competing with the traditional hymns for air time. But Community's emphases on congregational involvement and outreach would be mainstays through the changing times leading up to the new millennium.**

The final product? Since being built, the building has been under constant modifications. From acoustical treatments, to stage renovations to repairs from the "New Years Deluge" (see 3rd decade), The building, though it contains "Living Stones", it too has a life of its own.

the Lord's exciting works in Africa. The annual CPC Missions Week in October featured testimonies from Debbie Sirjoosingh (Ethiopia), Ron Pierce (World Serve), Gaetan Gauthier (Africa), along with Peter and Pat De Wit (Thailand). Over \$15,000 was raised to support five projects.

### ALPHA

1999 was also year one for ALPHA at CPC. Two courses were sponsored: the first from April to June; and the second from September to December. Billed as a practical introduction to the Christian faith, each ALPHA session began with a meal followed by a video and discussion period of 45-60 minutes. There were a total of 15 participants in 1999. The ALPHA Director, Tom Goss, thanked Trevor Archer and Linda Wood for their co-leadership, Bob and Anne-Marie Fontaine and Lisete Belchior for their wonderful meal ministry, Andy Lapointe for organizing and logistics and Guy Desroches for video and sound in this successful first year of many for ALPHA at CPC.

### THE MESSAGE IN SONG



Singing, as always, to a packed house, one of the many choirs of Choir Fest..

Christmas never sounds better than when local choirs congregate together to herald the arrival of the Christ Child. The Orleans Choir Fest began using the CPC facility as its venue in 1999. This annual event to usher in the season of Advent in late November is a gathering of 10-12 choirs from Orleans area churches, including CPC's own choir and orchestra. Always playing to a packed house, this popular event has become

a mainstay at CPC due to its capacity to hold up to 1,200 people, the largest church auditorium in the area. The event has been recorded and televised by Rogers Television. All would agree that this is truly a blessed time of hearing a wide variety of music dedicated to Christ's birth, in the true Spirit of the season. This partnership began in 1999 and continues on under the inspirational leadership of organizer Lynn Stacey of Queenswood United Church. The event is used to raise money for Ottawa and Gloucester Food Banks.

Continuing on in the Christmas tradition, the Samaritan Ministry sponsored its seventh annual Christmas Day dinner at the Union Mission for Men in downtown Ottawa in 2000. The Annual Report captures the spirit of the occasion: "Approximately 250 women and men were treated to a sit-down dinner with all the trimmings. Whole families came and offered their services as waiters and waitresses, busboys/girls. As music filled the air, the volunteers found their richest Christmas blessings in sharing Jesus with the homeless."

Earlier in the year 2000, CPC hosted a Worship Conference featuring recording artist Paul Baloche. The highlight was a Saturday evening concert that

was attended by well over 1,000 people. Two previous worship conferences had been held at CPC: in 1996 with Bob Fitts; and 1999 with Billy Funk. The intent was to provide practical and spiritual instruction in the areas of praise and worship, featuring various Christian artists leading concerts and workshops. The conferences were open to registrants from other congregations.



Youth Pastor Tim Crooks surrounded by Youth Group. (Tim top center with gotee.)

### TEAM CHANGES - 2001-2002

In the summer of 2000, CPC welcomed a new Youth & CE pastor in the person of Pastor Tim Crooks. Pastor Tim, with wife Heather and their children Gillian and Ethan, had been ministering at the Owen Sound Assembly prior to coming to CPC. Also joining the CE team that year was Christopher Van Herten to lead and coordinate the Sunday morning kids program, Community Kids in Worship.

In 2001, Pastor Phil Spoelstra and his family moved

### KINGDOM BUSINESS

CPC extended its arms in 2002 to the business community by hosting a Maximum Impact Simulcast with John Maxwell. It was an excellent opportunity to see business people introduced to Christ and the church. Other outreach events that year included the Ottawa Exhibition Outreach, led by John Van Vlaanderen, Operation Christmas Child, with over 450 boxes filled for needy children and the Gloucester Christmas Parade float, led by Al and Kathy van Benthem.



Boxes being dedicated fo Operation Christmas Child.



Children playing soccer at one of CPC's Sports Camps done in conjunction with Athletes In Action

## SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

2001 was the first year for the East End Christian Softball League, for mixed adults. The league was made up of six teams fielded by local churches. CPC's team, led by Mark Michael, was well-stocked with a 24 player roster, the league's largest. Mark said, "I had to close the roster once we reached this amount. I feel we can have two teams next year to accommodate all." CPC lost only one game in the regular season but lost in the championship by one run.

**Footnote:** To better its chances at winning the title, CPC did field two teams in 2002. Both teams made it to the final, which CPC won.

In the summer of 2002, CPC partnered with Athletes in Action to conduct four sports camps in the East Ottawa area. Three of the camps were for soccer and one for softball and volleyball. There were 97 participants in these four camps, with 15 attending the soccer camp in Rockland. Statistics compiled show that 40% of the



Group shot for a Basketball Sports Camps.

participants were unchurched. Each camp week has capped off with a BBQ, which was attended by parents and where staff would share testimonies. A follow-up event was held on Sunday September 8, 2002 when the Assistant Coach of the Ottawa Senators, Roger Nielson, came to speak at CPC.

## 2003 - CPC TURNS 25

CPC celebrated its 25th anniversary in May 2003. The theme of this special anniversary was "Faithful Then Now and Always". The weekend of celebration began with the anniversary banquet at Algonquin College on Saturday evening. The speaker was founding Pastor Bert Liira. This was followed by a continental breakfast Sunday morning at CPC. Anniversary Sunday was May 4, with Rev. David Hazzard speaking at both the morning service and the *Service of Commitment* in the evening. The special anniversary offering raised \$15,000 that was dedicated towards outreach activities in Rockland.

## ROCKLAND OUTREACH

The Pastors' Reports on Rockland summarize the activities of Prayer, Presence and Proclamation of the Word of God in Rockland/Clarence Creek.

Prayer had started back in 2001, when several prayer and intercessory teams began to walk the community of Rockland/Clarence Creek, street by street. On the heels of the prayer walks, presence was established in 2002 with the help of a young adult outreach team

from Hamilton-Bethel which assisted in the area of prayer walks, servant evangelism and helping to conduct a soccer camp. Proclamation was begun in May 2003, when CPC's summer intern, Eric Tremblay, researched the area and made contact with many local people and businesses. In August 2003, a second soccer camp was held with 18 children and drive-in movies were held at the local arena for Saturday nights, with 30-45 cars present.

The outreach continued in October 2003 when the ALPHA course was held in the upper room of the arena for ten Wednesday nights, averaging 10-12 in attendance. And on a "blustery and freezing night in December," the Young Adults, Choir and Orchestra presented a Christmas production called *While Shepherds Watched*, with 40 in attendance.

## FRENCH LESSONS

CPC's own School of the Bible expanded its territory in September 2003 by offering a French Bible course to meet the needs of the Francophone population in the Orleans area. The course offered was *Les Evangiles* (The Gospels) and was presented on video by a Faculty Member of from L'Institut Biblique du Québec. Anne-Marie Fontaine provided leadership.

CPC held their eighth and ninth ALPHA courses in 2003 with a total of 35 participants. The fall course (September - December) was held in conjunction with the



A meal being shared during the Alpha course.

Invitation to the Nation campaign throughout Canada, when over 2000 courses were hosted across the country. CPC hosted one of the largest groups since it started and also launched the first breakout group in the French language, with leadership from Henri Savoie.

## PAOC MISSIONS

CPC's partnership with missionary to Spain Rev. Alister Belbin of the Assemblies of God continued in May 2003 when a second team of six people went to help encourage new believers in a church plant in Pamplona. The first team had been there in 2001 "in the infant stages of the work" when "there were no converts or buildings, just the missionary and his wife." In other activity later that year, Pastor Atkinson and Tom Goss went to Armenia on a Bible-teaching outreach to 24 students of the Ararat School of the Bible, hosted by Mark and Kim Steinfield.

The PAOC began a two-year transition in 2004 towards a shared-finding model for missionary support, in which missionaries would be required to raise their own funds from local churches. At CPC, the Missions Committee, now chaired by Steven Harrison, established three guidelines to support missionaries who were involved in: "reaching those who have not heard the Gospel; equipping teachers/local leadership in the early development of Bible education; and supporting church planting." The missionaries supported by CPC in 2004 were Alister and Lindy Belbin (Spain-



Community School of the Bible.



Missions trip to Spain in support of Alister and Lindy Belbin. (Alister second from right)

\$12,000), David and Lina Boyd (Israel/Eurasia-\$12,000), Brian and Val Rutten (Ethiopia-\$6,000), and Mark and Kim Steinfeld (Armenia-\$6,000).

CPC played a key role in fulfilling biblical prophecy, when in November 2004, it commissioned a Short Term Missions (STM) team of four to Israel to support the ministry of the Ebenezer Emergency Fund (EEF) based in Jerusalem. The EEF helps Jewish emigrants (Olim) from former Soviet Union states to relocate to Israel (Aliyah). The STM team worked with the Olim in the areas of worship, folk dance lessons, children's ministry and orientation to Israeli culture. During the last three days, the team spent time in the land of the Scriptures and walked where Jesus had walked. The phenomenon of worldwide Jews returning to Israel was foretold in the Book of Isaiah (43:5-6).

### INCORPORATION

In May 2004, CPC held a special membership meeting to vote on a resolution "Regarding the Incorporation of Community Pentecostal Church." The motion would authorize the CPC Board to proceed with incorporation of CPC according

to an Application and By-Law No. 1 prepared for that purpose by the CPC Incorporation Committee, comprised of Gordon Wood (Chair), Bert Bell, Victor Fowler and Jamie Hum, who was instrumental on the legal aspects of the process. The congregation voted in favour of the resolution to proceed, and on August 31, 2004, CPC officially became the incorporated Community Pentecostal Church of Ottawa.

### TEAM CHANGES - 2004-2005

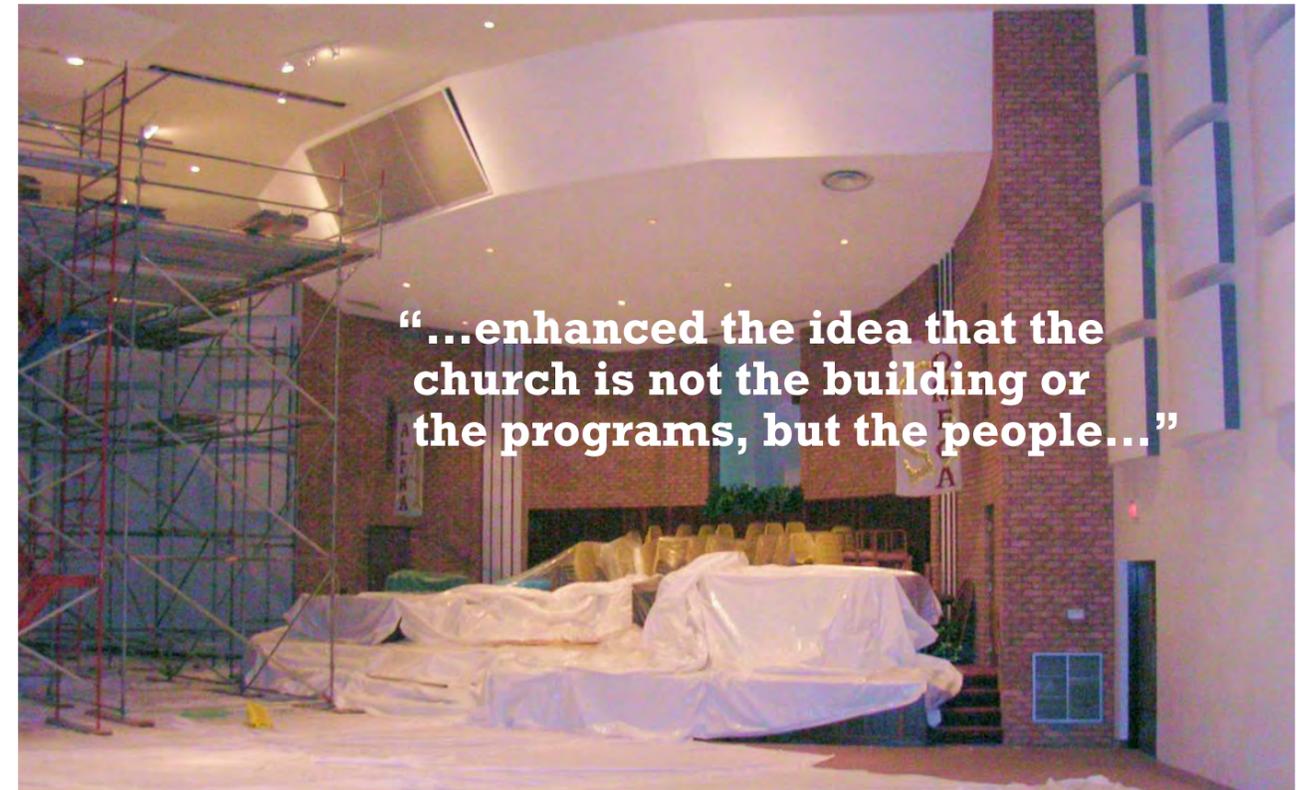
Pastor Tim Crooks, Minister of Youth and Christian Education left CPC at the end of 2004 to

respond to a call to Queensway Cathedral in Etobicoke, Ontario. In his entry in the 2004 Annual Report, Pastor Tim wrote, "It has truly been a great privilege to serve with many incredible people at Community; both church family and pastoral staff. We hope and pray that in some way our lives have challenged you to a greater walk with the One who calls you to take your stand."

About mid-way through 2005, Brian and Teo de Viveiros joined the staff at CPC. Pastor Brian as Minister of Youth and Christian Education and Teo as Office and Facilities Administrator.



Pastor Brian de Viveiros surrounded by Youth Group. (Brian is the one with gotee on the right)



"...enhanced the idea that the church is not the building or the programs, but the people..."

Results of the New Years' Deluge.

### NEW YEAR'S DELUGE

New Year's Eve activities to usher in 2005 (the Parker Trio had been scheduled to make a return engagement) were cancelled when the church roof failed and a flood of water poured into various parts of the building, including the sanctuary which was the area worst hit. The leaks were precipitated by a build up of ice dams that led to improper drainage of melting snow brought on by unseasonably warm weather. In his entry in the 2005 Annual Report, Pastor Atkinson described the year as an unusual and challenging time for Community Pentecostal Church," when "a 'deluge' affected our ministries for some nine months." During this time, services were moved into the gymnasium, while repairs were made to the sanctuary which required a completely new ceiling. Pastor Atkinson added that "it was a trying and testing time which in the end worked in most of us a 'good work'. Thank you for those who "cheerfully continued to serve the Lord, His Body and our community in spite of real limitations."

The roof repairs required a "Motion to Increase the Mortgage" at the Annual Business Meeting in February 2005. The resolution was carried "to borrow funds necessary to replace all flat roof surfaces of the church

building, the amount borrowed to be the lesser of \$150,000 or the actual cost of replacement."

Ironically, the interior renovations curtailed outreach activities, due to limited access to the sanctuary and gym. Nevertheless, this "enhanced the idea that the church is not the building or the programs, but the people," as Pastor Egert so aptly put it in his report as Associate Pastor. "As summer came we teamed with Athletes In Action and conducted the fifth year of the East Ottawa Sports Camp (Sasha Hart / Alan Ellis / Amy Tosh). It was a great success with over 100 children participating in two soccer camps, a basketball camp and a revisit of the soccer camp ministry into the city of Rockland. Over half of the families that attended were from non-churched backgrounds."

Other activities in 2005 included the drive-in films in August, the CCN broadcast of The Great Resurrection Debate, the Ottawa Exhibition Outreach (Steven and Sharon Abboud), Operation Christmas Child (Cathy Lambert) and CPC's entry in the Orleans Christmas Parade of Lights, which won the James B. Anderson Award as best overall float for the second year in a row (Al and Kathy Van Benthem).

## THE BEAT GOES ON

CPC's Music Ministry held a worship conference in May 2006. Marlene Tosh Jr. reported that "Worship Team musicians assisted with hosting the concert, and several of our musicians, as well as those from neighbouring churches took advantage of the free worship training seminar." Seminar topics included Worship Leading, Bass and Drums in Worship, Song Writing, and Sound Issues. The highlight of the weekend was the Saturday night concert with major Christian recording artists Paul Baloche and Robin Mark each taking their turn to lead worship to a packed house in attendance.

The ALPHA Ministry was expanded at CPC in the fall of 2006 to include the ALPHA Marriage Course which ran from October to December. This eight-week course featured a candle-lit dinner for the nine couples who attended, followed by a video that addressed a variety of topics. Midway through the lesson, the couples discussed the subject over some dessert and coffee.

Facilitators for the course were Jim and Lynne Waggott and Dan and Kathy Vezina. In 2007, the Marriage Preparation Course was added to the ALPHA repertoire for couples who are engaged.

Men's Ministries kicked off the year 2006 in September with a weekend event using a sports theme called Inside the Locker Room. Wes Moore, the representative for *Athletes In Action* at Ottawa University, was the guest speaker. He shared with the men, young and old alike, the importance of offence, defence and special teams from a football and spiritual perspective. He was joined by football players from the Ottawa University Gee Gees, who shared their faith and football experiences. A special guest, Mr. Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin also joined the meeting and shared some of his experiences as a Christian MP in Parliament.



The ever insightful Pastor Atkinson.

## PASTOR ATKINSON'S DEPARTURE

In November 2006, after 11 years of faithful ministry, Pastor Atkinson resigned as Senior Pastor of CPC. The farewell service was held on November 26. Both Pastor and Mrs. Atkinson left behind a legacy of strong, Pentecostal preaching and teaching and diligence in keeping "occupied till He comes", while instilling this in every aspect of their ministry.

Until a search for a new Senior Pastor could be completed, Rev. Douglas Stiller, along with his wife Beverley, stepped in as Interim Senior Pastor over the course of an eight month period and served in a very personable, challenging and encouraging manner.

## PASTOR GODFREY'S CALLING

In June 2007, Pastor Darren Godfrey responded to the call and became CPC's fourth Senior Pastor. He was joined by his wife Linda and two of their four children, James and Jessi. Pastor Godfrey had previously served on staff at Queensway Cathedral in Toronto, Southside Assembly in Edmonton and Scarborough Gospel Temple in Toronto. He served as Senior pastor in Cornerstone Church in Aurora and Trinity Pentecostal Church in Oshawa.

In his first report as Senior Pastor, Pastor Godfrey writes, "Our first nine months since coming to Orleans



Pastor Godfrey and family receiving sage advice from Joel Desroches.

have been very fast-paced and eventful. God has been gracious and kind in helping us to adjust and find our way in a new community and has afforded us plenty of opportunity to get to know people. Thank you for the warm way that you have received us. We rejoice that God has brought us together for such a time as this."

Having been previously involved in music ministry, Pastor Godfrey was instrumental in making arrangements for a presentation of Handel's Young Messiah in November by the Jubilance Singers and Orchestra, led by Director Manne Idestrom. Other events that year included a presentation

## "We rejoice that God has brought us together for such a time as this."

of the Easter Story, a concert by the Watoto Children's Choir in June, a *Prime Time Gospel Night* and of course the Annual Orleans Choirfest.

Pastor Brian Egert, who continued on as Associate Pastor, reported a full slate of Outreach events in 2007, including sports camps (one held in Rockland), the outdoor films in August, and the Ottawa Exhibition Outreach led by Steven and Sharon Abboud. Other activities included Operation Christmas Child (over 400 boxes sent), and the Orleans Christmas Parade of Lights. The float construction, led by Al & Kathy van Benthem

and Mike & Peggy Crosier, "was done with excellence and helped us proclaim Christ. For the fourth year in a row, we were awarded the James B. Anderson Award as the parade Grand Champions for best overall float." Over 100,000 spectators lined the parade route down St. Joseph Blvd.

## CEPHAS HOUSE

On the short-term missions' front, in March 2008 a team of 17 went to construct a classroom for a school in the Watoto Children's Village in Uganda. The classroom was called Cephas House and was dedicated to the memory of Peter Seguin, who had faithfully served in Christian Education ministry for many years. Planning was also in the works to send an all-ladies team in July to partner with Terry and Heather Burns in Kiev, Ukraine.

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY - APRIL 2008

In April 2008, CPC celebrated its 30th anniversary. The theme was Conquering New Frontiers and featured a revival of Dinners for Eight and a gathering of favourite recipes into a cookbook. A luncheon was held after the morning service in the gymnasium. The evening worship took place in the "Upper Room" at the Cultural Centre in Rockland, led by the *Terry Posthumus Band*. For the Anniversary Offering, a goal of \$30,000 was set to support three special projects: Church Mortgage, Sound System and the Rockland Outreach.



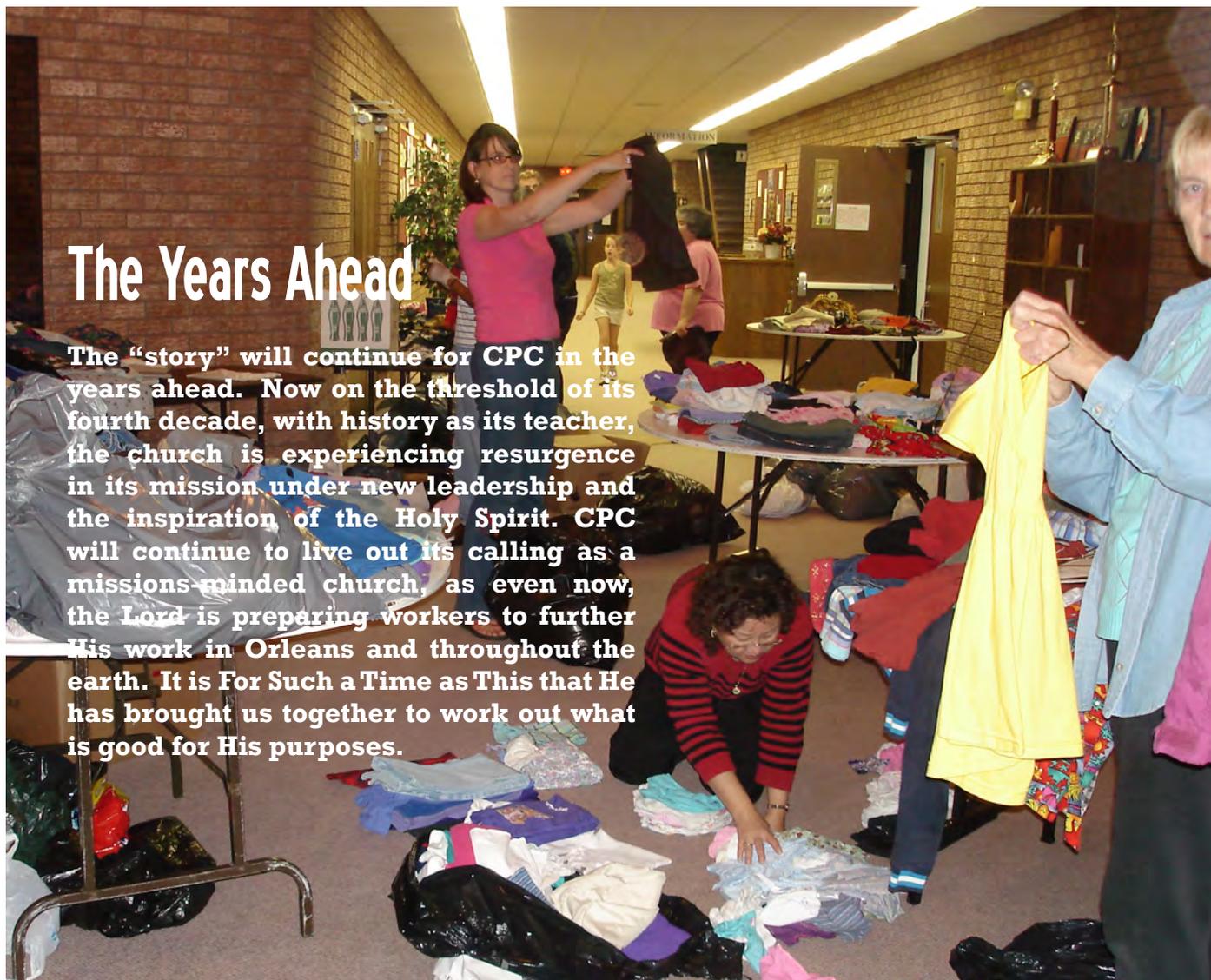
Cephas House: a Short Term Mission Project for the Watoto Children's Village in Uganda, which was dedicated to the memory of Peter Seguin, March, 2008.

# 30 Years in Review - This is our Story

Though many drastic changes occurred in the world during the 30 year period from 1978-2008, especially fallout from the September 11, 2001 attacks in America, the Lord's faithfulness in continuing the work He began in Orleans never wavered. The infant congregation of 1978 experienced heady growth in its early years – the harvest was truly ripe. Through some "growing pains", the size of the congregation reached a plateau in its second decade; but gains were made in both inner and outer ministries as new families mingled with more "seasoned" members. The third decade solidified CPC's presence in the community and further extended the fellowship's resolve and commitment to the Great Commission both at home and abroad.



One of the many activities at CPC. Children's Spring Cantata.



## The Years Ahead

The "story" will continue for CPC in the years ahead. Now on the threshold of its fourth decade, with history as its teacher, the church is experiencing resurgence in its mission under new leadership and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. CPC will continue to live out its calling as a missions-minded church, as even now, the Lord is preparing workers to further His work in Orleans and throughout the earth. It is For Such a Time as This that He has brought us together to work out what is good for His purposes.

The women of the church setting up for one of our many clothing exchanges..