



Parr Memorial Baptist Church

502 Michigan Street
Petoskey, Michigan 49770

Historical Record

by

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Taken from the Petoskey Public Library under "Churches: The First Baptist Church was started in May 1881, and the full organization was completed the following August 14th with nine members.

Taken from Church Book of Records: "The first Baptist Church of the village of Petoskey having been duly organized on the 12 day of May A.D. 1881 and on the 14th day of August A.D. 1881 duly recognized by a Council of Baptist ministers convened for that purpose.

Following are articles from the weekly paper The Petoskey Record:

November 10, 1881 - "Baptist services at Bump Hall next Sunday morning at the usual hour."

November 17, 1881 - "The First Baptist Church of Petoskey will hereafter hold regular services at Bump Hall every Sunday morning at the usual hour of worship. Also Sabbath School immediately after services."

November 17, 1881 - "The Baptist people organized a Sabbath School last Sunday at Bump Hall at which place they now hold regular services with the following officers: Rev. T.S. Parmelee, Supt.; G.E. Mills, Asst. Supt.; J.A. Strickland, Secty.; Miss Retta L. Totten, Treas."

So it was that in the summer of 1881 in the small village of Petoskey a handful of people met together to worship the Lord and called themselves Baptists. At this time the main part of the village was located on Lake Street and it was here in a rented hall that they met together each Sunday for preaching services and Sunday School. There was no mention of a regular pastor at this time but speakers listed at this early date were Rev. D.E. Hill of Rockford, Rev. W.W. Smith and Rev. G.C. Shirk of Terre Haute, Indiana.

In the ensuing years the small group met in a rented building on Lake Street called Mitchell Hall. The name Mitchell

was probably taken from one of Chief Petoskey's sons. The Chief was very well-liked and held in high esteem. One of the local businessmen called him "Chief" and this name stuck. Two of his sons were Baziel and Mitchell. The main street in Petoskey was named Mitchell after the one son. Baziel had a merchandise store on the corner of Lake and Petoskey Streets.

One of the founders of the First Baptist Church was G.E. Mills. He seemed to be a man of high religious standards and well-liked business man. He owned a harness store on Lake Street where he made harnesses, upholstered buggy seats, and sold all kinds of articles pertaining to horses such as saddles, whips, horse blankets. Another man mentioned in many articles in the early 1880 papers was Clay E. Call. Mr. Call was a young attorney-at-law and a Justice of the Peace. Many times he was called upon to settle disputes in the village as well as to commit drunken Indians to "the cooler". It was sad that the many saloons of that time would allow the Indians to have access to so much "crazy water".

There were many amusing items in these early newspapers, typical of the times. One in 1881 read as follows: "Clay E. Call is charged with leaving town on the morning train in search of a wife." His name was listed many times in an official capacity in the church.

More news of the little Baptist flock taken from the Petoskey Record: December 8, 1881, "The Oyster Supper and social of our Baptist friends at Jones and Mills was a success both socially and financially. There was a good attendance although this was the first effort of this kind. The society is in its infancy and small in point of members but have pluck and are blessed with many kind well wishers not connected with their membership. Our kindly and public spirited mayor put in an appearance and made a generous donation. The attendance would doubtless have been quite large but for the rain storm."

December 1882, "At the re-organization of the Baptist Sunday School last Sunday at Bump Hall the following officers were elected. Supt. G.E. Mills, Asst. W.W. Middaugh, Secty. J.A. Strickland, Treas. Miss Retta Totten. The school is in a flourishing condition with gradually increasing members. Preaching service every Sunday A.M. at 10:30 and Sunday School immediately after."

March 28, 1883, "The Baptist Sunday School will give a concert at Mitchell Hall on Sunday evening next. Admission free."

June 5, 1883, "Everybody, including parents, children, teachers, visitors and workers enjoyed the Jug social at Mitchell Hall last night where a general good time was had. The first prize for most valuable jug was captured by Minnie Gray whose jug contained \$5.23 and the second by Jennie Browner. Of the two prizes offered the second week Stanley Herrick carried off the first and Harry Clark the second. Total receipts were \$30.00. The Cornet Band volunteered their service and added to the pleasure of the occasion by the performance of some excellent pieces. The little people of the Sunday School have done some very hard work and earnest work (which a good many of the elders might imitate to advantage) and whether they were lucky enough to get a prize or not, are one and all deserving credit for the success of the social and the respectable sum realized for the school. No formal resolution of thanks but, from many friends, by their gratuitous service, as though they had got a 'resolution' a yard long."

December 1883, "The Baptist had a Christmas ship at Mitchell Hall. The audience was very large, comprising not only children and teachers of the school but many friends gathered to witness the pleasure of the little folk and see the ship. The later was a real boat decorated and trimmed and carrying a cargo of sweet and pretty things. The Baptist Society having no settled pastor, Brother Potter who is always ready to do a kindness and has the merit of being more of a Christian than a sectarian, was on

hand to assist and made a first class Baptist preacher for the occasion. Everybody was delighted with the festival and went home to hang up their own personal and particular stocking at an early hour."

Amusing Articles regarding Petsokey found when searching for Church news.

From the Petoskey Record June 8, 1882, "If we are to have a 4th of July in Petoskey let's commence in season and plan a regular dignified, patriotic, first class number one, intellectual, high-toned, geographic, historic, pyrotechnic, oratorical affair."

June 15, 1882, "Choicest porterhouse steaks for 3 cents a pound."

July, 1882, "Put up gasoline lamps in Petoskey."

"It seems as though Petoskey has more dogs to the square rod than any town of its size in the state. Sausage ought to be cheap here."

We would like very well to see a watering trough put in some place in our village for the benefit of our citizens and the farmers who visit us. Say 8 or 10 ft. in length would be a mere trifle, and as we have an abundant supply of water, some of it could be utilized in this way to the great convenience of our granger friends and those of our citizens who are able to keep horses. A very good place for the water tank it seems to us, would be on the west side of Howard Street a short distance north or the corner of Mitchell and Howard.

August 3, 1882, "From the appearance at the dock Sunday one would take Petoskey to be quite a steamboat landing, there being as many as eight steamers there at one time."

September, 1882, "The street lamps are now lit up again after several weeks of darkness. The Council must have purchased another barrel of gasoline."

September 1882, "40,000 people registered at Petoskey Hotels this season. We do not doubt that it will be double that number next year."

January 1883, "We are informed that about \$1,400 in subscription have been raised for the purchase of building a bridge across Bear River on Mitchell Street. It is estimated that \$1,800 will do the work so that there is no doubt that the bridge will be built early in the spring or summer." Note: The only bridge prior to this was the Lake Street Bridge.

1883, "The 4th was quiet day in Petoskey. The saloons were closed and peace reigned within our borders. All the drunkards on this side of the Bay, greatly to the comfort of their relatives and friends, went to Harbor Springs to get drunk and as everybody else was drunk over there they did not shock the sense of public decency, as they would have done in Petoskey."

July 18, 1883, "Fred Miles, the lusty youngster of the Record Office, gets dreadfully tired of a steady diet of pap. The other day for the sake of having a pleasant variety, he ate up a box of Dr. Lay's pills; a single one would have made a strong man sick. Mr. Miles, Dr. Lay and the devil pumped him out and in 15 minutes he was hunting around for a paper of tacks to chew.

It was not until early in 1884 the Baptist Church had their first pastor, Rev. F.N. Barlow. Before this time they had different men come for preaching services from outlying Baptist churches. From all records it appears that the little Baptist flock had a continuous struggle. It was partially supported from missionary funds given by the Baptist Association. They suffered much from outside interference and even more from internal problems.

On April 16th 1885, the Articles of Incorporation of the village of Petoskey were adopted, drafted by their pastor, Rev. F.N. Barlow, J.H. Bohannon, G.E. Mills, L.E. Wilcox, and A.E. Founce. Trustees elected were J.H. Bohannon, G.E. Mills, James A. Shirk, Byron W Stark, David Smith, Clay E. Call, Ezra A. Faunce. L.E. Wilcox, Clerk.

It appears that the congregation was now worshipping in a building owned by G.E. Mills. In September 1885 a fire destroyed the prayer room, burning their hymn books and chairs. Meetings had to held in homes until a building could be built or rented. In November of that same year a large store room was rented for \$8.00 a month. It was fitted up at an expense of about \$75.00 making a pleasant room for worship services as well as asocial meetings. It was quite well attended and they felt that God was with them.

On June 10th, 1886, Pastor F.N. Barlow resigned because of poor health and the members reluctantly accepted his resignation.

The next few years the Association sent different pastors but they stayed only a short time. Money seemed very scarce. The Baptist Association (Convention) paid a portion of the pastor's salary. In 1887 they were paying \$100 a year for the rent of a hall. In June 1887 they voted to build a church to seat 300 at a cost of \$2,500. A small mission chapel was built on the west side. Records are unclear as to where it was located.

October 1892, was the Dedication day at the new mission Chapel. As the Baptist had no regular pastor the sermon was preached by the Presbyterian minister.

The Chapel seated about 130. They were still renting a hall on the east side of the Bear River as well as using the little West Side Chapel.

September 31, 1893, only eleven months after the dedication they voted to sell the West Side Chapel and furniture in order to pay all indebtedness.

November 28, 1893, the Baptist Congregation sold two-thirds interest in the Chapel, one-third interest to the Presbyterian Church and one-third interest to the Methodist, each paying \$200. The Baptist kept one-third share and it was planned that each church would take alternating Sundays. The Sunday School was to be conducted as a Union School, using American Tract Society material headed by Rev. George Weaver, who was in the Petoskey area at this time. The Baptist Church rented two lots of land from R. Connable so perhaps this little Chapel was located on Connable Ave.

On November 30, 1893, the clerk's records show that they were renting the little German Methodist Church for \$1.00 per week payable to a Mr. Millster. It was located on the corner of Waukazoo and Michigan Streets. Invoice of the property when they rented it was as follows:

1- organ and stool	6- chairs (loose)
1- bookcase (two Parts)	4- chairs (fast)
2- bracket lamps (complete)	1- lamp extinguisher
1- pulpit (light)	2- collection boxes
1- blackboard & frame	1- Bible
1- rolls of oilcloth	1- Psalms

They apparently did not rent the Methodist Church very long as the records show that in 1894 they were meeting in the United Brethren Church.

On May 1, 1894, the following resolution was read by Will E. Cole: "Whereas the first Baptist Church of Petoskey has been found to be improperly organized and believing that we as Baptist would be brought into a better condition for work and that the cause of Christ greatly aided by a new organization therefore:

Resolved, that the organization now known as the First Baptist Church of Petoskey is hereby and now dissolved for the purpose of organizing according to Act. No. 225 of the Session Laws of 1879, intituled 'An act to provide for the incorporation of Baptist churches of Michigan and acts amendatory thereto.' The name of the organization to be known as the Immanuel Baptist Church of Petoskey.

Pursuant to the call for the new organization, Fred Bauerle presented and read the following resolution: "Resolved that we the following named persons proceed to organize a **regular Baptist Church** to be known as the **Immanuel Baptist Church** of Petoskey and that we adopt the **Confession of Faith** commonly used among Baptist know as the **New Hampshire**."

The little German Methodist Episcopal Church, was purchased by the Baptist in September 1895. It was later purchased by the B'nai Israel Congregation.

Historical note: Mr. Andrew Porter was sent to the Petoskey area by a Presbyterian Mission Board to work amongst the Indians. He and his wife were the first white family to live here and they built their home overlooking the Bay on the hill above Porter Street. No lumber mills were here and the lumber was sailed in from Traverse City and carried up the steep embankment on the backs of the Indians whom he had befriended. Here he, also, built a Mission School to teach the Indians. To this family was born a son named Ruben, the first white child born in Petoskey. A family by the name of Jarman moved to the Petoskey area and Nathan Jarman became a very close friend of the Porters. As young Rueben grew older his desire was to become a doctor and the Porters moved back to their home in the east to raise money and have their son get the required college education.

Nathan Jarman then bought the Porter home. In this home were the two little cubicles where the mail was kept, one for outgoing and the other for in-coming making this the first post office. The mail from the Traverse City area was carried on foot by the Indians. (I spent one summer living in this home with Nathan Jarman's daughter, M.R.) These two men, Nathan Jarman and Rueben Porter were both hard workers in the little struggling Baptist Church. (Reuben returned to Petoskey as a Dentist.) both of them were deacons and for many years helped spiritually as well as financially to keep the church going. Dr. Porter was very talented in music and during this time he organized an orchestra in the church.

In December 28, 1898, they voted to call H.H. Ford as pastor, borrowing \$300 from the Association Missionary Board to pay him. The church was to raise the other \$300. Under his pastorate it seemed as though all went well and the members were faithful and harmonious in spreading the gospel. They had a mortgage of \$533.00 against their church building. Janitor services could be hired at 50 cents a week if the ladies did the sweeping. Committee reported on February 2, 1899 that they could get a boy for the janitor work for 5 cents a night if the women would do the sweeping. At the next meeting they reported they had a boy for the janitor work for 25 cents a week with the ladies doing the sweeping.

Some interesting notes taken from the minutes of the meetings in 1899:

1. Insurance of \$10.00 due on church property.
2. Ladies Aid wanted permission to paint Church bldg.
3. Ascertain the cost of blacking the stove.
4. Repairing a window.
5. Sister Bertha Hout as committee to ascertain cost of placing electric light on the front of the church reported that one could be placed they thought for \$1.50. More time was given the committee.

The pastor H.H. Ford and deacon Fred Bauerle agreed to do the janitor work for \$1.00 a month and with this \$1.00 payment to apply it to the cost of a sign for church.

In 1900 they extended the call for another year to their pastor Ford.

June 1900, report in business meeting. Communication from the city is regard to building a new side walk in front of church property was read.

Ordered 77 chairs - 31 to have book racks and envelope pockets, to be delivered on October 1, 1900.

On August 17, 1901 came the bountiful gift from Captain Daniel G. Parr of Louisville, Kentucky in memory of his deceased wife, Maria Marmaduke Parr, who had been interested in the fate of the struggling little church which she visited during the summer months while in Petoskey. Captain Parr had been Captain and owner of steamboats on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and he desired to build for his late wife a permanent memorial in the form of a beautiful building for the Immanuel Baptist Church.

The first drops of blessing came when the Captain bought the mortgage of \$533.00 against the little church on the corner of Michigan and Waukazoo, and having discharged the same, handed it to the trustees of the church. The document was destroyed at the morning service in the presence of a deeply moved congregation and thus the financial record of the church was cleared. He then executed a deed to the valuable property on the corner of Bay Street and the park which had a frontage on Bay Street of 120 feet and on the park of 160 feet, valued at \$20,000. There were many conditions to the gift such as the church to be built of brick or stone and to have a memorial window in he memory of Maria Marmaduke Parr to cost no less than \$15,00.

On September 2, 1902 there was held a meeting for the purpose to dissolve the existing corporation of the Immanuel Baptist Church and re-incorporate as the Parr Memorial Baptist Church of Petoskey under Act. No. 54 A.D. 1899 and amendment thereto, dated August 18, 1901.

September 8, 1901 Pastor H.H. Ford resigned, going to Calvary Church in Grand Rapids. On September 23, 1901 a call was extended to the Rev. R.N. McNeimer of Richmond, Indiana to become the new pastor, starting his ministry in January 1902.

A Baptist Young People's Union was organized in April 1902. September 1, 1902 it is recorded that Dr. Porter gave the church a furnace that had to be installed and a basement excavated for the same. In March 1904 a 10 by 12 addition was built on the east end of the church to serve as a dressing room and the Infant Sunday School Classroom. A baptismal tank was installed. All this was added to the little Church purchased from the German Methodist Congregation. The gift from Captain Parr stipulated that they were not to dispose of the property he had deeded to them before five years expired as the value of the property would increase.

February 8, 1906, the resignation of Pastor McNeimer was handed in and read. On motion of brother Jarman above resignation was accepted to take effect March 15, 1906. Resolutions of regret were drawn up and read before the church.

In May 1906 Dr. C.W. Chadwick from Maysville, Kentucky came as pastor.

On August 5, 1906 Robert A. Bacon (Agnes Bacon's husband) was immersed at the evening service on profession of faith. The service was conducted by brother C.W. Cadwick. Mrs. Clarence Smith was soloist. Mr. Bacon played the bass viol during the time Dr. Porter was in charge of the church orchestra. This

was before Robert and Agnes were married. Dr. Cadwick returned to Petoskey at a later date to perform their marriage rites.

November 15, 1906, at special meeting held by the church at the close of prayer meeting, the Baraca Class were given the right to excavate and build a room in the basement of the church for the purpose of holding meetings of religious and social nature. The same room was to have a entrance made from the street on Waukazoo avenue. Furthermore, the room was and is to be used by other than the regular membership of the church and class, and is to be opened every evening in the week for the benefit of any stranger who might want a place to come in and rest and read.

The pastor is living in the house just east of the church on Michigan Street.

January 1909, Dr. Chadwick resigned. He had given plans for the new church building which were unanimously adopted. The building committee consisted of Dr. R.G. Porter, F.A. Zerby, and A. Schebrat. By this time the property given to them by Captain Parr had likely been sold, as the five years he had requested, had elapsed.

September 19, 1909 Rev. C.L. Berry of Assumption Illinois came to be pastor of the church. Mr. Berry became a member of the building committee and through his suggestions the church was made much larger and more expensive than previously planned.

In 1910 the records show that the congregation bought a lot across the street from the church for \$900. (Our present location).

The building of the new church caused them to go into debt \$9,000.00 and they had to borrow considerably to complete the building. They were still having Sunday School in the little Mission Chapel on the west side with Howard Porter as superintendent.

The new church was dedicated on Sunday, July 24, 1911, followed by a congregational dinner. Members and friends were charged per plate to help meet expenses. The Jewish congregation bought the small church for their temple in August 1911.

Rev. Berry ended his pastorate on October 12, 1911. At this time the church was very low on finances and during the winter months held all meetings in the basement to save the cost of heating the whole building. Heat was necessary in the basement to protect the water pipes.

Rev. George W. Bates assumed the pastor's duties on March 1, 1912, and stayed until September 26, 1915. During this time the church grew numerically and financially. Pastor Bates had one son, George W. Bates, who later was pastor of Riverside Baptist Church of Decatur, Ill. Mrs. Mina Bellairs (at that time Mina Stradling) was clerk for a short period during his ministry.

November 1, 1915 brought Rev. L.S. Slaybough from Eaton Rapids to minister at Parr. During these years one of the devoted workers was the church clerk, J.W. Beatty. His daughter Thelma married a Petoskey man, Arlie Krussell, a Methodist minister who came many summers to speak at Bay View. Pastor Slaybough labored hard for the church trying to instill the need for prayer and faithfulness in each member. During these years Nathan Jarman was one of the steadfast members. Dr. Porter had moved from Petoskey by this time. Pastor Slaybough resigned in August, 1918.

After Pastor Slaybough left, and through 1919, there was no regular pastor, and Mrs. W.R. Irwin filled the pulpit. George Brockway, another faithful worker in the church, passed away during the year.

Rev. E.J. Parsons supplied as pastor from January, 1921, until May 1922. Rev. A.K. Scott came in October 1, 1922. In June, 1922, a motion was approved to raise \$500 to be used in a cellar and cement foundation on church property on the corner of State and Harvey, (later the parsonage). A gift to the church by Ernest Gaffney, was a silver gray fox. In later records it is stated that they sold a pair, so evidently it produced more.

August 1, 1924, Pastor Scott resigned and W.S. Ross came in October the same year. In the summer of that year, Joe J. Payne, known as the Cowboy Preacher, held a series of evangelistic meetings with large attendance's and many conversion.

In 1928 they lost Nathaniel Jarman. In the clerk's records it reads: "Deacon Jarman has been the outstanding member of our church from its very beginning. No man could do more than he has done during his life in Petoskey".

Note: In the Word it says to look after the widows of the church and Mr. Jarman truly did just that. His granddaughter tells that she remembered his coming home one day and telling them he had just bought four washing machines for the four widows in the church. After his first wife, Isobel, passed away he married one of the church widows. This happened twice more.

In the records dated April 30, 1929, it reads: "The Petoskey church has sustained several very sever losses during the past year. Six brethren, dearly beloved in the work of the Lord were taken home to be with Jesus. Two of these brethren were members of our official board. One of them, deacon August Schebrat, was a bearer of many burdens, the church had leaned very heavily upon him for guidance in both spiritual and temporal affairs.

In October 1929 Wm. Ross preached his last service for the church and his brother John Ross came as Pastor in February, 1930.

With him were his wife and three sons, Evans, Paul and David. During pastor Ross's ministry he conducted Bible Conferences, as many as eight of them in 1934, going as far as Lexington, Kentucky. Clarence Walker, who came annually in the summer months for relief of hay fever, filled the pulpit often. In May, 1935, Dr. & Mrs. Crosier, missionaries from India, came and told of their work amongst the lepers.

In the early years the choir director was called the chorister and the organist was paid for her services. The payer meeting was called the Covenant meeting of the church.

Taken from the Church Record Book of Grand Traverse Baptist Association it reads on April 30, 1929: "Suggested - the church has recently agreed to enter a parish plan suggested by Rev. Charles G. Morse, whereby it becomes associated with Boyne City, Cheboygan and Alanson. Our minister will be the pastor of the entire parish and will be given an associate pastor to assist in the pastoral work of the field."

A later report was that parish work, which was taken up May 1, 1929, proved to be very unwise and in February the church voted unanimously to discontinue the work, taking effect May 1, 1930.

In 1937 the Grand Traverse Baptist Association met at the Parr Memorial Baptist Church for their annual meeting. Three faithful servants of the Lord were called home during that year - Mrs. A. Schebrat, Mrs. William Cameron and Mr. E.C. Switzer. The following year two of the deacons passed away, John Fraser and Otto Kalmbach. Nellie Gray had been the faithful clerk for many years then Carroll Knight. Fifty six babies were reported in the cradle Roll.

On December 5, 1943, John Ross told his congregation that he had been given a call to teach in Fundamental Baptist Bible Institute in Fort Worth, Texas, thus ended his ministry at Parr Memorial.

On January 9, 1944 Oscar Welles came as pastor. He had just been released from a Prisoner of War Camp in China. He came with his wife and baby Shannon who had been born while in the Prison camp. They were very thin and had no worldly goods. The church bought them the furniture they so badly needed. He stayed only until June, 11th, of the same year. Paul Gellatt of Traverse City and Central Lake acted a interim pastor.

The church then unanimously called Reginald L. Matthews who had a church in Norwich, New York. He arrived in Petoskey with his wife, Grace and son Paul, to begin his ministry in October. The furnace in the church was not working and along with the Northern Baptist Convention, made a very cool reception for their work at Parr.

Twelve days after his arrival, the original threat came by telephone from the executive secretary of the Convention, Ralph Taylor Andem. The ultimatum was given that the church family had to be out of the church in thirty days, setting November 18th 1944 as the deadline. If they did not vacate, legal proceedings would begin at once. With Pastor Matthews guiding and with people in Baptist churches praying all over the state of Michigan the Lord gave the victory. March 9, 1945, was the day in court and about one hundred faithful Parr members stood together for whatever was to come with only seven on the opponents' side. The purpose of the court that day was not for trial but for a temporary receiver. The court convened only five to ten minutes and no receiver was appointed. It pays to stand on God's Blessed Book. It strengthened the church through the testing and trial.

While Pastor Matthews was with us, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cetas with daughter Florence, and Mrs. Matthews with daughter

Judith, started for the east to visit relatives. The car Mr. Cetas was driving skidded and turned over throwing Mrs. Cetas out. She died instantly.

You have often heard the old saying "He would give you the shirt off his back". This was true of Grace Matthews. At a missionary meeting with the Hiawatha Land missionaries, one pastor's wife needed a good warm coat very badly. Grace Matthews had just purchased a winter coat on sale, and hearing of the need, she gave the new coat to the missionary's wife and kept her old one.

In the fall of 1945 the church held a Missionary Conference with Miss Sadie Custer from China, Paul Metzler from Africa, Leola Barnum from India, Rev. Victor Barnett from China, Rev. Wm. Scherer from South America and Rev. Paul Friedrickson from the Philippines. It was the first real Missionary conference held at Parr. About this time the church became associated with the General Association of Regular Baptist Church. A radio ministry was started in 1947 with an 8:30 Sunday morning broadcast. At this time Parr was giving about fifty percent of its offerings to Missions.

In 1949 A Regular Baptist Youth Camp was purchased at Lake Ann, Michigan. Before this time our young people had attended a church camp at Brethren, an Independent Baptist Camp. In 1950 Baptist Mid-Missions had their conference at the Petoskey Church. On May 20, 1950, Pastor Matthews preached his farewell sermon. He had been instrumental in urging the members to see the need of a new parsonage. The day they left, the lot was being excavated on State Street around the corner from the old parsonage on Harvey. They had adopted little Judith Eunice during their ministry in Petoskey.

Robert J. Reynhout came in September, 1950, with his wife, Irene, and two children, Robert and Joyce. They moved into the new parsonage which had just been completed. He had been pastor of Allegan Baptist Church before coming to Petoskey. While he was pastor the church purchased two school busses and brought in many rural children for the Sunday School hour. He stayed until June of 1945. Daughter Cheryl was born while they were here.

November, 1954, brought Pastor Robert Titus, his wife Florence, and four children, Joy, Paul, James and Marjorie. He had previously pastored a church in Columbus, Ohio. Pastor Titus had many talents, such as painting and woodworking. It was Pastor Titus who built the pulpit which originally had a glass cover to it. One Sunday when Dr. Robert Ketcham was the visiting speaker, while emphasizing his message, he accidentally broke the glass. Pastor Titus was also talented in music. He had sung for five years with the male quartet at Taylor University and also in the Moody Choral. During Pastor Titus's ministry, two young men of our church were ordained, Albert (Joe) Crawford and Lyman Simpson. A license to preach was given to David Summers with the idea of his becoming ordained in the near future. In February, 1957, Parr bought a Hammond Organ which cost \$2,369, completely installed. In 1959, the entire church was rewired because of the faulty wiring. A faithful member, Mrs. Fannie Shepherd passed away and left the church considerable money which was used for the lighting fixtures in the auditorium.

Pastor Titus desired good music for the radio broadcast but this was not always available. For this reason it was decided to discontinue the broadcast in the fall of 1960.

Mrs. Titus, an excellent teacher, taught at the Middle School, and later 8th grade Community Skills at Petoskey High School. She was a very effervescent person and had many amusing stories to tell, many of them on herself.

On day while returning from Alanson where he had been called to make funeral arrangements, Pastor Titus suffered a fatal heart attack. They had many friends in Petoskey beside the church members and Dr. Benjamin B. Blum offered a cemetery plot for him to be buried in.

Fred Hinkley directed our choir throughout these years and Paul Titus was the organist. Georgia Baker played both the organ and piano the years they were in Petoskey. Her husband Harry was one of the trustees. Ida Crawford was the pianist for many years. Mrs. E.C. Chapman had been the pianist during John Ross's years at Parr.

There were many dear saints who served the Lord here at Parr that deserve to be mentioned. I remember Mr. Woodstock, a large-framed man, singing so lustily from the bottom of his hear. "Grandpa" Hinkley, who had formerly been a "Bobbie" in England, had a unique way of directing the music. Little Angie Weaver, the seamstress, and Grandma Knowlton, the quiet one, were very special. Carol Hinkley's mother, Mrs. E.C. Chapman (Caroline), raised a large family, but always had her door open for the missionaries, as did Mrs. Adolph Schaaf. There were the Garners, and how that curly-haired saint of God could pray! Mrs. A.B. Thompson, the tall stately Mrs. Cole, and little Sabra Hubbard were all faithful workers in the church. Mrs. Lottie Gray, mother of Dorothy Cetas and Marlin Gray, and Mrs. Doherty, Sr. were both Sunday School teachers for many years. How faithful Mrs. Persons was in giving out tracts!

There was Jake Sauder, Mattie's husband, who proved his ability as a trustee. The church was saddened when he was killed driving a Parker Motor truck; which jackknifed when he tried to avoid hitting a deer near Beulah, Michigan. Wood Munson was in his prime when the Lord took him home with a heart attack. He was loved by all. Carroll Knight, who had been a deacon and

church clerk for many years, was called home while doing what he loved to do - fishing. He was also a great fisher of men.

There was Adrian Hemmes who prayed so beautifully in broken English, Nelson Walker - chairman of the Deacon's Board - always available to help those in need, a godly man among us, his brother Tom, Grandpa Piehl, "Uncle" Ben Ballenger - friend of all, Louie Price who memorized Scripture so well, Lelia Hutchinson - Peterson, faithful servant, Mabel Partridge - church treasurer for twenty-eight years. We couldn't begin to name all who served faithfully with their time and talents. Parr is enriched by their memory.

Several memorials were given to the church. Mrs. Fannie Shepherd, from Walloon Lake, had the overhang above the Michigan Street door built. Mabel Partridge gave the spinet piano in the Youth Department in memory of her brother Ralph. Mrs. Adolph Schaaf was keenly interested in missions so her gift was used to build cupboards and a work area for the ladies' missionary society. Mrs. William Woodstock, in memory of her husband gave a piano for the main auditorium, a public address system, and established a well-equipped nursery. In memory of Mabel Partridge, the church kitchen was completely remodeled, and the stained glass windows were resurfaced with a protective coating. In more recent years, the Library was dedicated to memory of Mr. Charles Cetas who had served the Lord for many, many years. The blue shag carpet in the Library was given in memory of Donna Anderson-Bellmer. The Toddlers room, where Mary Dohm had faithfully taught the little folk, was redone in her memory and called the Mary Dohm Room.

The Lord led Pastor Karl Smith from Elyria, Ohio, to begin his ministry at Parr in July 1961, with his wife Claudia and daughter Karla. In February 1963, Richard and Sharon Tyson came to Parr with daughter Nancy, twenty-one months, and son Steven, nine

months. Pastor Tyson's duties were to assist the pastor and work with the choir and the young people.

In October, 1963, the church had a surprise twenty fifth wedding anniversary celebration for Pastor and Mrs. Smith. Under his ministry, a new Church Constitution was written. The Baptist Church Covenant was placed in the front of the hymnals to be read at Communion services. The church auditorium was remodeled, closing up the sliding doors and changing the appearance considerably. His daughter Karla was church pianist. It was during Pastor Smith's ministry that Nancy Crosser was called to be a missionary to Brazil.

Richard Tyson was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the church on April 21, 1964. Fifteen messengers from twelve Baptist churches were present. In 1965, Pastor Tyson was called to a Baptist Church in New York State.

Dawn VanHart came from Vestal, New York, in July, 1966, to assist with Christian Education and lead the choir.

About this time, one of our young men, Jim Weston, met with a very serious accident. He was in a coma for four weeks and much time was devoted to praying that if it were the Lord's will he would be restored to health. It is to His praise that Jim slowly recovered.

On February 3, 1967, Pastor Smith preached his last sermon as Pastor of the church, having been called to a church in Elmira, New York.

Rev. R. Eldon Brock came to us in April, 1967, from Lockport, New York. He and his wife, Gertrude, had two daughters- Eldonna, a freshman at Bible Baptist Seminary in Johnson City, New York, and fourteen-year old Carolyn.

During this time, Parr sponsored seven Joy Clubs in the different neighborhood homes with Dawn VanHart as the principal leader. They met weekly with a host and a helper for ten weeks each semester. Many neighborhood children from first through sixth grade were taught Scripture verses, Bible stories and choruses.

Mabel Partridge resigned as church treasurer after having served under six pastors for a total of twenty-eight years. The receipts increased during her term of office from \$5000.00 to \$26,400.00, with over \$8000.00 going to missions in her final year. In recognition for such faithful service, Pastor Brock presented her with a special plaque.

During Pastor Brock's ministry, Albert and Marie Luebke financed the remodeling of the choir loft, raising the floor and substituting pew-type benches for the old individual chairs. Pastor Brock was also instrumental in raising \$1,024.00 toward a new car for the Glenn Gustafson family to take to Ghana.

In September, 1969 Parr's Annual Missionary Conference featured Home Missions with Rev. Arnold Olsen, Rev. Harvey Sidel and Rev. Elzie Unroe, missionary to Sioux Indians in South Dakota.

In March, 1970, the church family lost one of its faithful members - Andrew Anderson, father of Bob, Dave, George and Joy.

September 6, 1970, Dawn VanHart left to continue her studies at Baptist Bible Seminary.

In October, 1970, our Missionary Conference featured Baptist Mid-Missions with Dr. Allan Lewis, President, Rev. & Mrs. Howard Street, serving in the Congo, and Miss Loretta Strock,

missionary to France. The same month, Parr hosted the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

Keith and Janice Gascho came from June through August of 1971. Keith, a student at Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary, served his pastoral internship here.

Pastor Brock's many abilities saved the church a great deal of money. He installed a forced-air furnace to service the men's restroom and the church office. Mrs. Brock was a real co-worker in all phases of the work. She was very energetic and loved the young people to whom their home was always open. Daughter Carolyn won first place in the State and National Talents for Christ competition in the Journalism division in 1970. She used her scholarship to attend Grand Rapids Baptist College.

On October 3, 1971, Pastor Brock resigned as pastor of Parr to become Administrator of Lake Ann Baptist Camp. A farewell party was held for them on New Year's Eve.

Again the Lord knew just the need of His flock here at Petoskey. Rev. Alfred E. Nelson was called from First Baptist Church of Willowick, Ohio, where he was serving as Associate Pastor. Pastor Nelson was born in Canada and attended London Bible College, London, Ontario. Besides the Ohio church, he served as Assistant to the Pastor in Rochester, Michigan, was Pastor of Alaska Baptist Church and Kingsley Baptist Church before coming to Parr April 19, 1972. His family followed him early in June - wife Frances, and children Judy, Dan, Ron, Steve, Paul and Sue.

Pastor Nelson had played euphonium in the Royal Canadian Air Force Band and so it was natural that his children excelled in playing musical instruments. Combined with other musical young people (and a few adults), we had an excellent church orchestra. Four of the Nelson children won scholarships in the National

Talents for Christ competition: Judy - French Horn, first place, 1970, Dan - trumpet, second place, 1972, Ron - euphonium, second place, 1973, Paul - Boy's Voice first place, 1978.

Under Pastor Nelson's leadership, an AWANA program was begun in 1974 with Nancy Crosser, our church worker, as Commander.

Our Annual Missionary conferences during these years presented ABWE, Baptist-Mid Missions, Evangelical Baptist Missions and Hiawatha Baptist Missions (now Continental Baptist Missions). Missionaries representing their various fields were Rev. & Mrs. Mel Cuthbert, Rev. Frank Hartwig, Evelyne Metzler, Cathy Bristol, Rev. David Marshall, Rev. Esper Ajaj, Rev. & Mrs. John Murr, Rev. & Mrs. Elmer Marquardt, Rev. & Mrs. James Garlow, Rev. Bill Mosher, Rev. Ward Harris, and Faith Maguire.

In October 1975, Rev. Andy Brown was asked to serve as assistant pastor, particularly heading up the AWANA program which Nancy Crosser's marriage to missionary Ray Lewis left vacant. Pastor Brown, his wife, Laurie, daughter Jan, and son Jon were already attending regularly. He served faithfully in this capacity, preaching when Pastor Nelson was absent, calling on church members, and carrying out other church responsibilities until May of 1978.

On August 25, 1976, the church family held a surprise twenty-fifth Anniversary celebration for the Nelsons with a special program. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of \$1,258.00 in silver dollars for a trip to England. Pastor Brown was instrumental in contacting friends and former churches who wished to have a part in the special project.

In 1976, Jan Brown left to serve as a short-term missionary under ABWE in Asuncion, Paraguay, where she taught in a Christian School.

Darleen Burke, who had been our church secretary for six years, resigned in 1977 after which Mrs. Nelson took over the responsibilities. In 1980, Jean Swanson assumed the secretary role.

Fran Nelson reorganized the church library, and with Carol Hinkley's help, catalogued all existing books, encouraged church members to lend their books, and purchased new ones, to provide a well-rounded source of reading material for our church family. Annual reading contests have served to introduce many casual or non-readers to the blessing of books.

Music on piano and organ during Pastor Nelson's ministry was provided by Sue Weston, George Anderson, Glenda Burke, Marilyn Sauder, Frances Nelson, Carole Gleason and Jan Brown.

Pastor Nelson began many programs in the church which helped members to get involved. Primary, Junior and Junior High young people were encouraged to use their creative abilities in making posters for our Annual Missionary Conferences. The visiting missionaries acted as judges. He also had tapes made at the Christmas season to send to our missionaries. The installing of individual mail boxes for church members and adherents has proved a real boon to communication. These are located just inside the north door (Michigan Street side) of the Junior Department. The Know-and-Grow Fellowship during the fall and winter months provided the opportunity to get to know new folk and members better. Another project that has been such a blessing is the Annual Senior Saints Day held the second Sunday of October. Folk from the local Care Centers are brought in for the morning service and dinner following, along with our Senior members.

In 1972, the women's missionary society was reorganized under the name of Parr Lights. In former days there had been two groups - Fedelis Circle and Mission Lights. Its constitution was revised and is now included in the annual program booklet. The

first president of the newly formed organization was Mrs. Barbara Carlson. Mrs. Donna Anderson then served as president from 1973 to 1975, Mrs. Mary Dohm from 1976 to her homegoing in 1978, Mrs. Norma Greiner 1978, '79, Mrs. Dorothy Crosser from 1979 to the present. The group meets twice a month, one morning and one evening meeting, making articles for our missionaries, collecting necessities for our missionary cupboard, writing to and praying for our extended Parr family throughout the world.

In our country's bicentennial year, 1976, Parr won the Grand Prize for our float in the July 4 parade. The Statue of Liberty represented 200 years of freedom while the Bible represented 2000 years of freedom. It was designed and constructed by Dan Nelson, engineered by Mike Bost, with a host of young people helping.

In the summer of 1977, a beautiful red carpet was installed in the auditorium and entrance halls.

On May 17, 1978, Bill and Carole Gleason and ten month-old Dugie came to us from Riverdale Baptist Church, Flint. Bill filled the position of Minister of Youth and Music. Carole assisted him as well as playing the piano and singing. Baby Heather was born in May of 1979. Bill resigned to return to Seminary in Grand Rapids December, 1979.

In the fall of 1977, the North Central Christian Academy at Burt Lake was organized with the area Baptist and Bible churches comprising the Association. Parr's Jim Greiner was the contractor for the attractive building on McMichael Road, just off M-68. Tom Walker, Jr. was the contractor for the addition build in 1978, when Grades 9 through 12 were added. Parr was given the oversight of the school at the end of the 1979 school year, with the Deacons Board acting as the school board, Nick Wetherington was called as administrator and the school enjoyed his two years of strong

leadership until he was called to a school in Florida. The oversight of the school was then turned back to the Association of Churches.

The church bus was sold late in the summer of 1979 and a twelve passenger van purchased. This proved to be a more economical mode of transportation, and is used for our Academy students, AWANA outings, camp, and other church activities.

In the summer of 1980, the church received a much needed face-lifting. The brick was sanded and mortar replaced. Many in the community came to view the beautiful result.

May the Lord continue to keep Parr Memorial Baptist Church a true "lighthouse" in this community.