

A brief history of Calvary Church of the Nazarene

In the 1950's George and Marie Ayres were burdened for the children in their neighbourhood. They were driving some with them to Sunday School at the Preston Church of the Nazarene. They felt that God was leading them to start a Sunday School for the children in their neighbourhood in Galt. Beatrice and Betty Ayres and their mother also assisted in this Sunday School. Judy Cross and I were children in that neighbourhood. My Aunt Ada and Uncle Roy High and their family also lived in that neighbourhood as did Aunt Nettie Ringler as did Arva and Arden Hill and their family. We meet in a building behind the house at the corner of Elmwood Avenue and Jarvis Street that we called the "Activity House" but some refer to it as a chicken house. Rocco Caretta provided our music on the mandolin. There seemed to be a lot of children and a lot of fun, The Sunday School grew and in 1958 the Galt Church of the Nazarene was organized. The Charter members included George and Marie Ayres, Roy and Ada High, Arva and Arden Hill, and Marion Norman and Frank Ewald. Ken Heaton was our first pastor. Ken was in his early 20's and had just graduated from Emmanuel Bible College. We met in a house at 89 Norfolk Avenue. Well that is basically how the Galt Church of the Nazarene later renamed, Calvary and finally when we became Cambridge, Cambridge Calvary Church of the Nazarene started.

Our First pastor Dr. Ken Heaton, now lives in California and has retired from many years as pastor in the United Methodist church. He has returned on a few occasions and they were always very special.

Rev. Emery Cook was our pastor when our church building at 4 Norfolk Avenue was built. Perhaps the biggest growth period occurred at that time. We had a van that Rev. Cook drove to Sheffield to pick up people for Sunday School and Church. This is how Bill and Betty were introduced to the Church of the Nazarene. Rev. Emery Cook's brother had pastored Preston Church of the Nazarene before Rev. Emery Cook came to Calvary Church.

Probably some of the most exciting and fun times at Calvary Church of the Nazarene were connected with Youth activities. There were many exciting Youth Events when Rev. Cook was our pastor and Mrs. Hill was our youth leader. We had a large youth group. Who could ever forget the pie eating contests? We will always remember that lemon pie without sugar and those cherry pies with double pits, the nail pulling contests (the boards that we removed the nails from were used in constructing the basement walls of the church at 4 Norfolk), the calf rides and all those young people were part of an exciting time. Dave Stevenson, Bonnie McCreadie and Judy Cross share these memories with me.

Rev H. V. Muxworthy came to be our pastor after Rev. Cook left. I believe that having such a well know pastor come to our church was what we needed to encourage us at that time. Rev. Muxworthy had previously pastored Preston-Church of the Nazarene. I remember seeing someone helping Rev. Muxworthy installing the Angelstone facing on the parsonage at 8 Norfolk Avenue. I was very

surprised to discover that it was Mrs. Muxworthy. She was a very gracious lady and had the gift of hospitality. The Muxworthy's retired when they left Calvary Church. I remember having many interesting talks about the history of our District with Rev. Muxworthy who had served for a number of the early years as District Secretary for Canada Central District.

Rev. Ross Crowder held the distinction of being the only Pastor to pastor Calvary church twice. I remember the sacrifice he made in giving up his business to become our full time pastor. The thing I remember most about Rev. Crowder's messages was that they were always practical and encouraging. I was honoured to serve as a pallbearer at Rev. Crowder's funeral. Mrs. Crowder is a gracious lady who also has the gift of encouragement. My friend Dave Stevenson says she is also a great mother-in-law.

Another pastor who made a significant contribution to our church was Rev. H. M. Burgess. Mrs. Burgess was a fantastic pianist and organist.

Rev. Norman Sheets was the next pastor and he and Mrs. Sheets were noted for visiting people. Rev. Sheets is still pastoring in Saskatchewan.

Pastor Peter Lanigan became our pastor following Rev. Sheets. I think one of these two pastors holds the distinction of being our pastor for the longest period. Desi Lanigan demonstrated her gift of hospitality and her excellent cooking skills. The Lanigans are an important part of the Brantford Church of the Nazarene.

There are three people who did pulpit supply at Calvary Church of the Nazarene that I want to mention.

Rev. Leonard Sparks told us one Sunday that he had preached to us more than 100 times. I remember Rev. Sparks one time pointing to the wall beside him at the front of the church and saying "If God tells me to jump through that wall it is up to me to jump and up to Him to get me through the wall." Rev. Leonard Sparks had excellent handwriting and copied the entire Bible. Rev. Leonard Sparks also previously served as pastor of Preston Church of the Nazarene.

Rev. Bob Rolston preached his last Sunday Morning sermon before his death to us at Calvary Church. He loved God and us enough to be there for us.

Rev. Mark Kitzman was another of my personal favourites for pulpit supply. At District assembly this year General Superintendent J. K. Warrick told us he began preaching at 16 and asked us if we would trust a 16 year old with our pulpit. Pastor Mark and I looked at each other. I am so glad that we did because now that teen who preached to us at Cambridge Calvary is our Pastor at Cambridge-Preston Church of the Nazarene.

On March 9th, 2003 the members of Cambridge Calvary Church who chose to do so became members of Cambridge-Preston Church of the Nazarene.

This brief history was prepared by John Andrews