

MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

WHO WE ARE: OUR STORY

OUR HISTORY

In 1907, Stratford Baptist Church (then known as Ontario Street Baptist) decided to expand their ministry to the south end of the city, but it wasn't until 1915 that their dream became a reality. A building was constructed and the official opening of the church was held on the second Sunday in September 1915.

On January 13, 1916, the church officially organized with 64 members. In 1917, Memorial became self-supporting and no longer needed the financial help of the founding church. Memorial continued to grow, especially in the Sunday school program and a new building was built and was opened in November 1922.

In 1953, Memorial withdrew from the Ontario and Quebec Convention and helped form the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Canada.

In 1976, the church changed locations again and built the current building on Bruce Street, where the church has striven to build up disciples and serve the surrounding community.

On September 11, 2016, we celebrated a Century of Christ and Community with a worship service, historical displays and a community picnic.

Over the decades we have had many pastors, directors, and volunteers, who have preached the Word of God through the pulpit, ministries and events, to share God's love and mercy within the church and with the Stratford community.

Ministries like Awana, Bus Ministry, Divorce Care, Evangelism Explosion, Seniors Luncheon, Alpha, Kids Company and Music in the Park are some examples of how, over the years we have reached into our community. We have always had a strong focus on worldwide missions both in financial support and in sending missionaries to the field. In approximately 1980 small group Bible studies were introduced and have been a vital part of our history. The history of this church is an example of how God uses redeemed men and women to bring honor and glory to his Wonderful Name.

OUR PRESENT

As a church in transition, LifeGroups, global and community outreach, and Divorce Care, which is in its 19th year, continue to be a major focus. We also are ministry partners with YFC and Celebrate Recovery. A new outreach ministry that started in 2016, Moms and Munchkins Drop-In, has made great strides with questions of faith now being freely asked. In addition, a Leadership Development LifeGroup has been successfully implemented relative to equipping and training our young men.

OUR FUTURE

What does the future look like? A recent church survey painted the following picture. An inter-generational church of all ages, led by a strong multi staff, loving and caring for each other, running vibrant children, youth and adult ministries by volunteers utilizing their gifts. Significantly impacting our community and world for Christ. MBC is looking to add ways to reach our community over and above our current involvement in ministries. This fall we will partner with a Community Meals ministry taking responsibility for Thursday meals. Initial discussions have taken place surrounding potential involvement in Breakfast Clubs with schools in our area, and the start of a floor hockey sporting ministry.

We will look to the future with anticipation and excitement and by faith believe that our God is a great God who will do over and above what we can imagine.

OUR CITY

Official website www.stratfordcanada.ca

Demographics <https://www.stratfordcanada.ca/en/dobusiness/demographicprofile.asp>

Tourism www.visitstratford.ca

OUR DENOMINATION

The Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada is a denomination of over 500 churches scattered across Canada. The Fellowship was born in 1953 out of a desire for a nationwide body of churches committed to the truth of God's Word and the proclamation of salvation through Jesus Christ. Over the years, several hundred churches have joined The Fellowship, either in large blocs (such as the Regular Baptist Churches of British Columbia in 1965) or individually. The dozens of church-planting projects undertaken by Fellowship churches and ministries continue to be the main source of growth. The churches of The Fellowship share a burden for reaching the world with the good news of Jesus Christ. Through the overseas mission, Fellowship International, we currently minister in more than 20 countries worldwide. For more information visit www.Fellowship.ca