

Central Baptist Church Celebrating our 75th Anniversary

“Flashback” Highlights from Decade Five (1967-1977)

- 1968** January – Pastor John Moore came to preach for a call.
June – John & Esther and two small children arrived to take up residence in the “Clark House” and to begin ministry in Central. Pastor Moore was musical and he introduced the “*Hymn of the Month*” which was much enjoyed by the congregation. In October of 1968, the first recorded Sunday services began. Rev. Ivan Allbutt was asked to assist in visitation.
- 1969** The Hammond Organ was replaced by a Conn organ
Saturday night Youth Rallies were conducted during the winter months.
Norman Harrison, home on furlough from Ethiopia, became assistant to the Pastor for six months.
- 1971** As a City of Victoria Centennial Project, the gospel of Mark was distributed to all homes in BC. Central participated in this. The first Christian Education Committee was formed.
Central began participating in the summer Beacon Hill Park services.
After three years of ministry at Central, Pastor Moore resigned and returned to Scotland.
In July, Pastor Holmes was asked to consider returning to Central. This time they returned with five children. A reception was held following the evening service early in November.
- 1972** Cecil Eno who had been church clerk for many years joined the staff to become Pastor’s Assistant, especially in the area of administration. Cecil and his little black book were a continuous source of information.
April – John Moore returned at the invitation of the Northwest Baptist Bible College to be granted an honorary degree.
The Moores became our missionaries to Scotland for two years. They were in charge of the Carrubber’s Close Mission in Edinburgh.
The Missions Map in the Fellowship Hall was made and mounted by Murray Padgett.
June – A special city wide evangelistic campaign was held with the Sutura Twins.
- 1973** Don Richardson, our missionary to Irian Jaya, launched the printing of his book, Peace Child. One thousand copies were made available to our church.
Dr. Rowell was called home to be with his Lord on June 23rd. Mrs. Rowell followed him in December of that same year. A memorial bursary was established in their memory and has been presented each year to assist a student training for the Lord’s service. A second morning service was commenced on Sundays at 8:45 a.m. Mr. Waldy Krahn assisted at that time.
The choir loft was moved from the corner to the center of the platform. It was designed and constructed by Fred Holm.
- 1973** Miss Verne Scott became a staff member assuming the role of Associate in Christian Education (was fondly called ACE.)
The first Church Family Christmas Card began, providing money for the annual Christmas project. The largest offering was \$10,000 with which Sooke Baptist Church was purchased.
- 1975** Pastor Alex Shook joined the staff as an Associate Pastor and began the “Share” programme of which he was author.
Pastor Shook commenced Bible Studies in the Carey Road district and resigned from Central in 1977 to become the first pastor of Saanich Baptist Church.
The Car Wash property adjoining our auditorium became available to purchase for the sum of \$260,000 covering three and a half city lots. It was renovated to become a Youth Centre and was well used.
The Yamaha grand piano which we presently use was bought and used for the first time for a special musical evening with Bev Shea, soloist, and Ted Smith, pianist.
- 1976** The Harrisons returned from Ethiopia because of Betty’s near fatal illness and joined staff again as Visitation coordinator.
The Undershepherd programme was introduced under Norm’s leadership and the “Here’s Life-Canada” campaign had many of Central’s people involved. Ian Rendle was the campaign manager.
- 1977** October was our big 50th Jubilee Celebration with a gala banquet held in the University of Victoria Conference Centre. Dr. Bill Sloan, one of our former young people and pastor of a large Baptist church in Yucaipa, California was guest speaker.