

History of Bethany-Pontypool United Church

By Edwin Challice

Prior to 1872 church services were held in a barn. Joint services were in charge of Methodists and Presbyterian ministers.

A Methodist Chapel was built at Graham's Corners one mile west of Bethany. A Bible in the Bethany United Church was presented in 1860. Another inscription in the Bible states "To Bethany Chapel, December 7th, 1870". This indicates that the first Methodist Church in Bethany village was built prior to 1870.

The first Methodist church in the village was a little white frame building on the same property as the present United Church. This Church was rebuilt and enlarged in 1899-1900 during the ministry of Rev Thomas Brown.

In 1925 Church Union occurred. Hereafter this church became known as the Bethany United Church.

Ministers:

1872-1894	Rev. William Bennett
1894-1901	Rev. A.J. McMullen
1902-1905	Rev. George Yule
1906-1913	Dr. D.B. Mash

At this time, Pontypool was no longer associated with Bethany. From 1914 to 1925, Bethany was served by Rev. Archie Thompson and Rev. James Shene.

1925-1930	Alfred Poulter
1930-1934	Rev. L.W. Scott
1934-1936	Rev. R.W. Paton

From 1936 forward these ministers Edwin has known serving Bethany United Church:

1936-1941	Rev. Clarence H. Ferguson
1941-1944	Rev. A.W. Harding
1944-1948	Rev. James P. Henderson
1948-1950	Rev. W.N. Crandall
1950-1953	Rev. James Hampson
1953	Rev. Clifford Grant, who died

Year was completed by Rev. L. Norman

1954-1960	Rev. R.R. Bonsteel
1960-1963	Rev. George Rickardson, with James Somerville as student minister
1963-1969	Rev. Bill Piercy
1969-1972	Rev. David Northly
1972-1977	Rev. G.F. Ficko
1977-1978	Rev. G.R. Montgomery
1978-1979	Rev. W.J. Graham
1980-1981	Rev. J.H. Paterson

1981-1983	Rev. J.J. Bridges
1983-1985	Rev. John M. Lindsay
1985-1989	Rev. Heather Smith
1989-2003	Rev. Janet White (later remarried, now Rev. Janet Stobie)
2003-2004	Rev. Robert Ball
2004-2005	Ann Austin-Cardwell (student minister)
2005-2013	Rev. Laura Borgerson
2014-	Rev. Ann Austin-Cardwell