

History of St. Barnabas', Chapter II

St. Barnabas of Roxboro - Rev. W. McCarthy

By Rosemary Bauchman

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In October 1959, a General Vestry Meeting was held at which supporting members of the Roxboro Protestant Community Church cast votes in the matter of having the Trustees approach the Anglican Diocese of Montreal with a request that the Church become affiliate4d with the Anglican Communion. A heavy majority was in favor.

The Bishop and Diocese of Montreal approved the request and the inaugural Vestry Meeting of the Anglican Congregation of Roxboro was held November 16th, 1959, at which the Bishop named the church, 'St. Barnabas' of Roxboro', and appointed the Reverend A.M. Reid incumbent. (Rev. Reid was Priest-in-Charge at the Church of The Good Shepherd in Cartierville. St. Barnabas, thus, had the status of a Mission Church in the beginning.)

On Sunday, November 29th, 1959, the people attended their first service as members of the Anglican Church of St. Barnabas. This service was conducted by the Rev. Reid. For the next six months Mr. Reid was assisted by Mr. Ian Stuchbery, an exchange student from England.

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On June 1st, 1960, the Bishop appointed the newly ordained Rev. J.W. McCarthy as Assistant to Rev. Reid. Mr. McCarthy was born in Montreal in the early 1930s and had been educated in Montreal North. He was an enthusiastic athlete, his main interests being football and boxing during his school and college years. Before entering Holy Orders he had seen active service in Korea with the Royal Canadian Regiment. When he left the army he joined the C.N.R. and worked as a brakeman until 1956, when he enrolled as a day student at Sir George Williams University. He also studied at McGill and emerged from there with a L.Th. degree in 1960. Bill McCarthy was also recently married; with his new wife he became resident in Roxboro and immediately set out to become acquainted with his parishioners. There were now almost three hundred families for him to contact. Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer Services were held daily throughout the week at 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. In 1960 a total of 6,203 people attended the Anglican services at St. Barnabas.

The Presbyterian members of the former Community Church continued to use the Church for worship every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. until their own Westminster Presbyterian Church was built a couple of miles to the west on Gouin Boulevard, in accordance with an agreement made between the elders of their Church and the Bishop at the time of the Anglican takeover.

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The first Anglican organization at St. Barnabas consisted of the following officers:

Priest-in-Charge	Rev. A.M. Reid
Assistant	Rev. J.W. McCarthy
Rector's Warden	Mr. C. Howes
People's Warden	Mr. C.T. Amberley
Chairman of Sidesmen	Mr. D. Fewkes
Treasurer	Mr. G.A. Heaven
Envelope Secretary	Mr. R.A. Denman
Altar Guild	Mrs. T.F. Holmes
Organist & Choir Director	Mrs. C. Howes
Sunday School Superintendent	Mr. G. Cawker
Women's Auxiliary	Mrs. A.M. Dahlgren
Couples' Club	Mr. & Mrs. D. French
Wolf cubs	Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Sargent
Boy Scouts	Mr. W. Brown
Teenage Club	Mrs. M.J. Griffin
Server's Guild	Mr. C. Saunders
Junior Choir	Mrs. J.N. Dobbins

There was a great upsurge of activity; in addition to the many newly formed groups, adult Confirmation classes were conducted and the first service of Confirmation took place on December 7th, 1960. The first Christmas Pageant (which was to become a highly popular annual event) was also staged that year, by members of the Sunday School and Junior Choir. A car pool was organized to convey residents of Cloverdale to and from Church services. All in all, the Church of St. Barnabas became a social as well as a religious centre, the hub around which the life of the Parish revolved.

In addition to the launching of many active groups, 1960 saw a number of changes and improvements in the actual building, improvements made possible by gifts of money, articles, time and physical labor on the part of the congregation.

Financial support in the form of gifts and loans came in from the Synod of the Diocese of Montreal, and other churches of the Diocese gave furnishings, choir gowns and various other items.

The wall behind the Altar and the window above it were completed as a gift from the Bishop. The W.S. presented the Church with a Missal, the4 Choir held two Military Whists and used the proceeds to purchase gowns for the Junior Choir. Other members of the congregation presented a desk for the Minister's use, a Processional Cross and a fire door for the furnace room.

The urgent work on the basement ceiling and the floor of the church was completed, the kitchen had cupboards installed and the basement hall was painted.....a considerable amount of the actual work being done by volunteers.....

Items purchased by the Church included new Prayer and Hymn Books, a Chalice, Patten and Cruets for use at Holy Eucharist; a new hot water tank and exterior oil tank and emergency ladders for the basement. The major expenditure approved by the Vestry was the purchase of a Hammond Electric Organ, the original one – the same one which was temporarily put out of commission by the fire – was no longer adequate. It is interesting to note that two men of parish carried out the janitor duties for a year, the money thus saved helping to defray the cost of the Organ.

In November 1960 the first 'Every Member Visit' campaign was undertaken, the first census of Anglicans in the area. Mr. W.J. Flynn and Mr. D.N. Fewkes were the organizers of this project. It was a prodigious but worthwhile task, as upon completion an up-to-date list of three hundred and nineteen Anglican families living in the parish was compiled, and many Anglicans who had held back from joining the Community Church were now happy to become members of the Anglican Church of St. Barnabas. The membership grew and grew.

At the end of one year, an active group of fifty-four sidesmen were operating in support of the wardens with members on duty at every service.

The Senior Choir provided a very important element of each service, while boys and girls between the ages of eight and fourteen were trained as choristers, being featured at the 5:00 p.m. Sunday Evensong.

The Altar Guild, a small group of women dedicated to keeping the Sanctuary clean and beautiful, and the Women's Auxiliary, to unite4 women and girls in a fellowship of prayer, work and service, were both vital organizations involving the ladies. The W.A. sponsored the Little Helpers, a baby band of children from baptism up to the age of six, and the Junior Auxiliary, a

weekly programme for girls between the ages of seven and twelve; it provided recreation, handicraft, worship and missionary instruction to these young people.

The Teenage Club catered to boys and girls between the ages of thirteen and nineteen. They met in the Hall every Friday evening.

A Couples' Club was formed to promote fellowship among married couples through social, educational and service activities. They held monthly meetings.

The Server's Guild composed of young men and boys assisted at Holy Communion Services. All ages found something of interest, something to call forth their particular talents in the new St. Barnabas Church.

Perhaps the greatest challenge of all was the Sunday School. Attendance at Sunday services in 1961 doubled that of 1960, and this was most apparent in the burgeoning Sunday School classes which at once began to overflow the space available, so that the pre-Confirmation class had to meet at the Roxboro Town Hall as early as 1961. "More space and more teachers!" – This was the unceasing need, the urgent appeal issued by each succeeding Sunday School Superintendent as ever more children, from what was primarily a community of young married people, came to St. Barnabas for their Christian education. As the months rolled on, the main hall of Roxboro Elementary School was rented on Sunday mornings, in addition to the hall and passageways of the Protestant School in Cloverdale. It was not a satisfactory arrangement, especially for parents who had children in various age groups with Sunday School classes in three different places. There was hardly a time for them to attend the morning service between dropping and picking up their offspring, and the Sunday School Superintendent was in perpetual motion between classrooms.

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A Sunday School Superintendent has to be a man of many parts; - Doug Fewkes found this out when he held the office, and among other things was once called upon to effect repairs to the badly ripped crinoline of a sobbing four-year old.....Neither safety pins nor stapler were to be had, so Doug resourcefully fixed the tear with scotch tape!.....He recalled another occasion, when, transferring the collection from the Sunday School offertory plates to his pockets for later counting, he heard a small voice demand....."Where are you going with that money.....YOU CROOK?"

A six-year-old boy and two little girls were following his movements with undisguised suspicion.....Doug explained....."I'm taking it to be counted, and then I'll put it in the bank."

He met an instant rebuttal from one of the small girls...."Oh, no, you're not – My Daddy does that!"\The vigilant youngsters turned out to be the children of the Rector's Warden and the

People's Warden.....Under their cold scrutiny, Doug silently withdrew.....as he put it....."a beaten man!"

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In May of 1961, two plans for the completion and extension of the church came under study. Both called for a large financial outlay, or course, but the more ambitious plan of erecting a new church building without a basement, and the conversion of the existing structure to a Parish Hall – Education Centre, was dropped in favor of the less expensive plan of making essential improvements to the existing building.

In the ensuing months a front stairwell and fire exits were added. Folding doors, new windows stone steps to the front entrance and front beam supports and foundations for the choir loft and bell tower (which were added later) were all completed. The cost of all these improvements was close to \$12,000, with a large proportion of the work being undertaken, as always, by volunteers.

Up until this time, the seating arrangements in the church consisted of three rows of ancient pews inherited from another parish, and a motley collection of chairs, most of which had also been handed down from other congregations and various donors. New oak pews were installed in the autumn of 1961 at the cost of \$3,350.

The parish and its needs was constantly growing and expanding, with revenue rarely keeping pace with the demands made upon it. But St. Barnabas was always especially blessed with dedicated workers, none more faithful than Mr. Henry Horseley, who took over the position of caretaker in May, 1962, stipulating that he was only interested in a few weeks of temporary employment until a more permanent man could be found.....That few weeks stretched into months and years, and in May of 1972, Henry Horseley celebrated the end of a very active decade in the service of St. Barnabas. His innumerable duties were always performed with unflinching good humor and such devotion that he and the Church seemed inseparable in the minds of most parishioners.

Also, in 1962, the parish purchased a house for use as a Rectory at 7 Raimbault Drive in Dollard des Ormeaux, at a cost of \$21,000. (Additional costs were assumed by Synod.) The Rev. and Mrs. Bill McCarthy were happy to move in to the Rectory in the autumn.

This year closed with about five hundred families on the church roster. The ever-expanding Sunday School classes were now being held at four locations, the parish hall in the basement of the church, the Roxboro Town Hall, the Canadian Legion Hall and Stonecroft School, at both 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. There was an average attendance of three hundred and ten students requiring forty-three teachers each Sunday. Perfect attendance medals were instituted and awarded during 1962 and bus services to and from Cloverdale were provided. Three separate Christmas Pageants were held that year. A Girls' Auxiliary had been formed to continue the work commenced with J.A., and a Rover Crew Troop was started for those boys graduated from

Scouts. The Senior Choir now numbered twenty, eleven women and nine men. The Junior Choir which sang at the 9:15 service had twenty-six members. The attendance at Evensong had dwindled so much that this Service was discontinued. The Couples' Club was popular and active and a Men's Discussion Group was started.

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In 1963 Select Vestry began meeting on the first Monday in each month and the system of Area Representatives was then instituted. Two representatives from each area in addition to the Chairman of various groups, the Incumbent and Wardens formed the Select Vestry. Mrs. Grace McCarthy made a good case for the inclusion of two women representatives, and this was agreed upon.

Another Parish Visitation took place in March 1963, and a questionnaire was drawn up for the use of Visitors as they attempted to make an up-to-date census of Anglicans in the area and sought commitment to the church from them.

In an attempt to meet the financial demands of the parish, Select Vestry appointed a committee to organize a mammoth Carnival in September of 1963. This project involved the time and energies of a large percentage of the congregation as all church organizations participated to make the event an outstanding success. It was held on two successive days and grossed over \$2,500, which was close to its objective, the money being earmarked towards building an extension to the church hall.

In May, 1963, a Church Expansion Committee was formed. It was directed to look into the question of adequate church and hall facilities, to study possible future needs, estimate costs, provide sketches, plans and other details, and to report back to Select Vestry by December 1st with their findings. The following points were suggested for their consideration:

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A new hall.

A new church, with present structure converted to a hall for Sunday School classes and other parish activities.

A new church hall and extension of present structure to be increased in size and capacity as a church.

Provision of a proper church office and adequate storage space.

Relocation.

Adequate parking facilities.

In August of 1963, parishioners were saddened to receive the news of the resignation of the Rev. Bill McCarthy who had accepted an appointment as Supervisor to the Old Brewery Mission.

Bill McCarthy's first appointment as a clergyman had been to the fledgling St. Barnabas, a newly formed parish of unknown potential and many challenges. In his three years of service he rose to the challenges and developed many of the potentials. He shaped and strengthened the new church with vigor and devotion. From the start he also immersed himself in community affairs, acting as chaplain to the Roxboro Volunteer Fire Department. In addition he organized and managed a softball team and ran regular dances for teenagers in the parish hall. However, by the end of 1962, the volume of his pastoral duties had so increased, he was no longer able to devote the time to these other commitments.

Many residents of the area joined the congregation in a farewell gathering on September 27th, 1963. It was crowded with well-wishers and friends anxious to wish Bill and Phyllis Godspeed and every blessing in their new endeavors.