

YOUTH WITH VISION

HOME MISSIONS PAYS DIVIDENDS

Digby, Nova Scotia
Mrs. Hazen Ricker.

The Young Peoples' Society organized September 23, 1963 with nine young people. Mrs. Ricker was elected president and Gloria Cook was elected Sect.-Treasurer.

A contest for more young people was held immediately and gradually the society increased to twenty teen-agers. This was accomplished by personal work and much prayer on the part of the young people, themselves.

The young people are an unusual group to work with and they always seem to prefer their meeting rather than an occasional party. Perhaps the reason they get so much out of their church life is because they put so much into it.

Each young person at one time or another has given a sermonette, acted in plays, skits, and taken part in debates. They have taken on financial project to aid our Home Mission work.

It has been amazing how they have learned to find the books of the Bible through sword drills. They have become better acquainted with our hymn book through music quizzes. They love to write their testimony occasionally in the form of poetry and this has been most effective. Each young person is endeavouring to read the Bible through in a year.

The young people are most co-operative. I have never had a young person refuse to take part in a service.

The young people are accustomed to praying and testifying in young peoples' and prayer meeting as well. This is most important in their Christian development.

It has been a time of joy and blessing for me as their leader because I have to work hard to prepare a service for them but it is most rewarding, because young people have been saved and sanctified and

others have developed into strong Christians with a real witness to the people of the town of Digby.

"TO SERVE THE PRESENT AGE"

Many special days occur throughout the year. Just recently we have celebrated Thanksgiving. We are all grateful to God for His goodness to us and the bountiful blessings He has bestowed upon us. We have said from our hearts "Praise God from all blessings flow."

A day is just before us when many of us will pause to remember the tragedy and bitterness of the wars of this century.

To those of us who are younger, the wars are memories and not realities, and we glamourize the wars. Many men fought bravely and fought until their lifeblood flowed no more.

The youth of our nations may be called on to serve their flags again, and many will serve bravely and be willing to give their life for the cause. Wars will come and go until Christ comes again.

We are in a battle. Paul said "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places".

We battle the wicked ideas of the world, the pressures of worldly friends and acquaintances, the pressure to conform, the pressure of the devil to tarnish our witness.

We follow a high standard. We cannot accept defeat and need not be defeated by the world. Jesus has said "In this world ye shall have tribulation but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world".

If most of us are willing to put forth the sacrifice to live and die in the service of our country, should we not be more willing to live and die in the service of our Heavenly King?

So many are so needy and front line soldiers for Christ; soul-winners, earnest prayer warriors, aggressive and tactful Christians, seem to be so few.

Young people, we have a whole life time before us, "to serve the present age, our calling to fulfill." What a wonderful challenge and what a wonderful opportunity!

HISTORY OF THE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH FORT FAIRFIELD, MAINE

Several years before our church was organized in Fort Fairfield, a group of people were teaching the doctrine of Holiness in this area. One of our pastors, Rev. S. A. Baker, came to pastor this group from 1902-1903. Then with no regular pastor for more than two years, the faith was propagated by Mrs. Cuthbert Clark and others.

Then on October 29, 1905, after a series of meetings held in what was known as Elm Hall, on Main Street, conducted by Revs. G. B. Trafton, (of Marysville); Miles S. Trafton (St. John); and Percy J. Trafton (Woodstock). Following the afternoon service, a meeting was called for the purpose of organizing a Reformed Baptist Church, under the charter of the R.B. Alliance of Canada.

As a result of this organizing, a goodly number of folk were baptized, and given the right hand of fellowship, making a total of 68 members. (A list of charter members is not available).

A few days after organizing, a unanimous vote was given to Rev. P. J. Trafton to become pastor, and he remained to become the first pastor on November 1905.

Now that the church was officially organized, the group immediately began to con-

sider purchasing a lot on which to erect a church. It was finally agreed to buy a lot on Main Street, centrally located, and is now the site of our present church building in which we worship.

Situated on this lot was a building, (known as E. O. Powers Studio) which was fitted up as a prayer room for the newly organized group. In speaking of these prayer services the clerk writes "Our meeting room is crowded at nearly all our prayer meetings, held on Tuesday and Friday evenings, frequently running over the 100 mark".

On January 23, 1906, a motion was passed and the group became incorporated as the R.B. Church of Fort Fairfield, in connection with the R.B. Alliance of Canada.

The faith and vision of this newly formed group, now took another step forward, and started plans for erecting a church building on their lot. The first move was to sell the present building on the lot and take pledges for money on the new church.

The spiritual condition and determination of the group was described in a unique way in the first letter to the Alliance, and I quote "We are but an infant organization even yet, we may say, in our swaddling clothes, but fast developing into sturdy manhood. The organizing of this church marked an epoch in the religious history of Fort Fairfield. Not in that a R.B. Church was organized, but that an interest has been awakened in the welfare of the souls of

men; that has led to the conversion of many hardened sinners; the sanctification of earnest believers, and will through God be the means of stirring the town to greater depths of conviction of sin".

On June 12, 1906 another phase of the work was started. The first Missionary Society was organized with a large membership. Rev. and Mrs. S. A. Baker were present and gave encouraging talks and information about the missionary work. Mrs. Baker being the Field Secretary of the Missionary work.

The following month, July 24, 1906, the Church Building Committee submitted a plan from which the United Baptist church in Andover, N. B., had been erected. This plan was accepted and built to best suit the lot and surroundings. The clerk writes "In August the grounds were staked off and ground broken. The brethren who had teams dug the cellar and hauled the rock."

By Spring of 1907 the outside had been completed and while preparing the outside for painting, a near tragedy occurred. Part of the staging broke and seriously hurt two of the men, causing near fatal injuries to one of them. However, the work was carried on and a beautiful church building was dedicated on May 19, 1907.

The town paper reporting this dedication, has this to say about the building — "interior, "The church is finished in hard pine, with cypress doors, and corrugated steel walls and ceiling. The windows are a particularly beautiful lot, with many variations in coloring and many different patterns. The pews are circular ones, of oak, of a fine dark finish. The main church is lighted by a 22-light electrolier, one of the most beautiful in this part of the country."

The first Communion service of this new church was held on June 9, 1907.

During the early years of the work, a parsonage was purchased and served our pastors until 1964. Then due to the need of extensive repairs on it, the church decided to sell it and buy a newer home.

Consequently, in November 1964, under the leadership of their pastor, Rev. A. L. Stairs, a lovely home was bought in a fine residential section of town, and is a real asset to our work here.

There have been several from the Fort Fairfield church that have been licenced and ordained to preach the gospel, and are as follows:

Minot Blaisdell	Hollis Kimball
Burrell Kimball	Sewall Hilyard
Earl Forman	Ella Slipp
Fred Wright	Gene Kimball

The following is a list of the Pastors that have served the Fort Fairfield church:

Rev. P. J. Trafton	1905—1909
Rev. M. S. Trafton	1909—1914
Rev. H. C. Archer	1914—1916
Rev. C. S. Hilyard	1916—1919
Rev. H. S. Dow	1919—
Rev. F. Wright	
Rev. C. S. Hilyard	1924—1927
Rev. P. W. Briggs	1927—1932
Rev. G. A. Rogers	1932—1936
Rev. H. E. Mullen	1936—1942
Rev. H. S. Dow	1942—1948
Rev. G. A. Delong	1948—1954
Rev. L. H. Hicks	1954—1962
Rev. A. L. Stairs	1962—?

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Arnold Stairs.

BORN

To Rev. and Mrs. Jack Dow at Quincy City Hospital. A daughter, Heather Dawn, September 20th. Congratulations.