

STANDARD CHURCH, 1963 MAIN STREET, FORESTER'S FALLS

New name for FF church

Foresters Falls – A church changes its name at the start of next month.

For a number of years the leaders of the Standard Church of America, founded by the Reverend Ralph Homer, Shawville Quebec, discussed union with the leaders of The Wesleyan Church, Central Canada District, said Pastor Lloyd Reaney of Foresters Falls Standard Church..

The two denominations are essentially the same doctrinally and governmentally, he said. On Jan. 1, 2004, the Standard Church of America became part of the Wesleyan denomination. The Foresters Falls Standard Church was part of this agreement, said the Pastor. The transition to the new denomination for the Foresters Falls church has meant only minimal adjustments.

After receiving approval from Charities Canada for the change, the congregation announces that as of Dec. 1 the church will be called by its new name: Whitewater Wesleyan Community Church, said Pastor Reaney.

Members of the congregation will official recognized y the transition to the new name at its church service Sunday, Nov. 28.

The change reflects the amalgamation and also anticipates their plans for a new building on the corner of Cedar Haven Road and Foresters Falls Road in the near future, said Pastor Reaney.

Leadership and congregation are excited as they look forward to a continued ministry in the Region, he said.



This site was originally the headquarters of the area's busiest veterinarian, but in 1918 it was bought by the Standard Church (a branch of the Methodists), whose congregation called it home for 90 years. In 2007 they moved on to a bigger church, establishing the Whitewater Wesleyan Church about 15 kilometers southwest. This building became a private home.



Overview of Falls church's history

The Forester's Falls Standard Church celebrated its 80th anniversary on Sunday, September 19, with special morning and afternoon services.

In 1918, a local society was formed within the newly-formed Standard Church of America, headed by the Rev. R. C. Horner, well known in the Ottawa Valley.

In 1919, the group purchased a property at the corner of Queen and Harriet Streets in Forester's Falls, for \$400. The first board of trustees was made up of James Johnston, Samuel R. Johnston, Robert Freeland, and William Wallace.

Volunteers and professionals combined their efforts to remodel the former harness and veterinary shop into a chapel. The interior was neatly panelled with knotty pine, long before the product became popular. The old livery stables at the back sheltered the horses that transported the worshippers to church. The absence of paint and carpet, and the notoriously narrow pews did not dampen the fervour of these zealous Christians.

A sturdy brick house on a nearby lot was purchased as a parsonage. Etched in the brick, near the front entrance, are the names, "Bennett" and "Howard." These names represent the builders and first owners of the house. Nothing more is known about them.

Along with the trustees and their families, other names to be found in the attendance roll were Carson, Severin, Waite, and

Montgomery.

Early pastors served the charge under sometimes rigorous conditions. Transportation was by horse or on foot. Among them were Rev. Monahan, Rev. G. Horner, Rev. J. B. Pring, Rev. Tomlinson, Rev. Oldford, Rev. Parks, Rev. Mayhew, Rev. Lindsay, Rev. Armitage, Rev. A. A. Smith, Rev. Kelly, Rev. Hawley, Rev. Patterson, and Rev. A. E. Smith.

Out of this congregation, God called two local men to missionary service: Rev. E. H. Thompson to Egypt and Rev. John Johnston to China.

During the time of Rev. Kelly with the congregation, tent services were conducted one summer in a grove in the country, resulting in several new families joining the growing congregation.

In the early 1950s, under the leadership of Rev. H. G. Berry, the church was completely renovated. There were structural changes, new windows and doors, and a wider entrance. More comfortable pews were added to a renovated interior. New siding was added to the exterior. In February 1953, the church building was rededicated to God's glory and service.

During this extensive renovation period, the congregation worshipped in Trinity United Church, also in Forester's Falls.

In 1970, another building was initiated to accommodate families from Beachburg, where the Standard Church had been sold, and also from the Northcote area.

A new education wing was added with Sunday School rooms, a kitchen, and washroom facilities.

Again, in the mid to late 1970s, church growth made another building program necessary. A 15-foot extension was added to the church. The pulpit area was extensively renovated, a balcony was added, and the entire interior was redecorated.

Some years later, more Sunday School accommodations were provided through the use of a trailer unit, with a well-stocked library attached.

Clergymen who served during these years of growth and change were Rev. Rigby, Rev. Scott, Rev. Plaizer, and Rev. Hart.

Others who served brief periods during transition were Rev. A. J. Slater, Deaconess E. Alexander, and M. Holbrock.

Currently some of the younger church members are serving as youth pastors and teachers. Others have become spouses in leading church families, and others continue studies toward Christian work.

The present minister is the Rev. Lloyd Reaney, who serves the congregation with his wife, Doris. Members of the church board are Art Maves, Jack MacGregor, Curry Campbell, Tim Prins, and Warren Bennett.

The building is again reaching maximum capacity.

(Excerpted from *A Historical Sketch of the Forester's Falls Standard Church 1919 - 1999* by Bert Montgomery and Mac Coughlin).