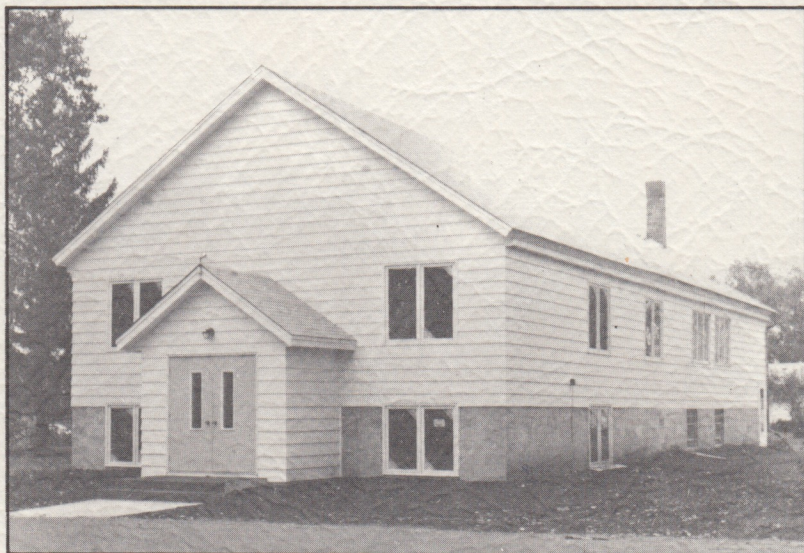


"A Century of God's Grace"
**HISTORY OF
GRASSTON
BAPTIST CHURCH**



1882

"Därför, Mina älskade bröder, varen fasta, orabbliga, öfverflödande i Herrens verk alltid, vetande, att edert arbete icke är fåfängt i Herren."

I Kor. 15:58

1982

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

I Cor. 15:58



Congregation on first Sunday of Centennial Year - October, 1981

"A Century of God's Grace"

HISTORY OF GRASSTON BAPTIST CHURCH

A Baptist Church was organized in Grass Lake Township October 15, 1882, by 10 Swedish immigrants. Present at the organizational meeting as delegates were: Olof Bodin, Andrew Paulson, J.P. Sundstrom, E. Erickson and M. Collin. The charter members of this new church were:

P.A. Gustafson
Maria C. Gustafson
John A. Nordin
Anna Nordin
Henry O. Nordin
Brigitta Nordin
Erik Wigg
John E. Wigg
Isak Anderson
Brita Anderson

P.A. Gustafson was chosen as leader and John A. Nordin as secretary. The Church decided that a monthly business meeting be held the second Saturday of every month with communion the following Sunday.

In May, 1883, it was the church's decision that an offering be taken every month and Isak Anderson was elected as treasurer. Also at this meeting, they decided that the Sunday School should continue.

In June, 1883, four people confessed their faith, were baptized and admitted as members of the church.

BOARD MEMBERS BEGINNING OF CENTENNIAL YEAR

ROW 1 - Stig Nelson, Charlotte Strelow, Violet
Anderson, Harry Sahlin;
ROW 2 - Don Wieczorek, Reuben Bjorklund,
Greg Ferrin, Rev. Danielson;
ROW 3 - Sam VanderHelm, Richard Anderson,
Bert Strelow, Russell Anderson.





Centennial Birthday Cake
January 1982

At the Church's annual meeting in July, 1885, the church officers were re-elected and the financial statement was given:

Income	\$11.79
Expenses	9.75
Balance	2.04

In March, 1886, it was decided that a weekly offering of 2 cents a week per member be taken to go to the church and its matters. In April, 1886, it was the church's decision to contribute to mission work by the selling of farm produce that they grew.

During the summer of 1886 the congregation grew steadily with the addition of 15 new members. In June of that year the church decided to incorporate. Incorporation was necessary in order for the church to receive land from the St. Paul and Duluth Railroad Company. The land consisted of ten acres in Grass Lake Township which was to be used for a meeting house. In July, 1886, two Sunday School teachers were added because of the increase in enrollment and a Sunday School picnic was scheduled for July 25, 1886.

In January, 1887, it was decided that 30% of the church treasury should go to foreign missions, 30% to church purposes, 25% to the school in Stromsbourg, and 15% to home missions. The weekly offering was raised two cents a week per member.

In June, 1887, the cemetery was divided into family plots 16½ feet square. It was during this summer that the first church building was constructed. The chapel was built on the land received from the railroad. The building and lot together were valued at \$500. In September, 1887, the church called N.J. Thornquist as its pastor. The church would contribute \$80 for Thornquist's salary and ask the Home Mission Society for added support.

At the monthly meeting in July, 1888, they moved the cemetery from west to east of the church. The cemetery was to be a distance of 4 rods from the church to the cemetery's west line with the north side of the cemetery being in a straight line with the church. Each family grave was one rod square with four foot walkways going east-west and 8 foot walkways going north-south.

One of the offices in the church which has since gone out of existence was the person in charge of buying wine to be used for communion. E.G. Olson was elected to this position at the annual meeting October 14, 1888, and given the responsibility to collect the money to pay for the wine.

On May 11, 1889, the church statistics for the year were filled out and sent to the Conference. These statistics showed six received into membership by baptism and three by letter making a total of 42 members (23 men and 19 women). In addition, \$88 was given to the support of a pastor, \$4 to Sunday School and \$7 to foreign missions. A decision was made to sink a well, pave it with stones and cover it with boards.

An extra meeting was held July 28, 1889, at which N.J. Thornquist's letter of resignation was read. The decision was made to try to get a pastor together with Brunswick to take Thornquist's place and contribute \$75 to the pastor's support.

The monthly meeting of June, 1891, saw an area of the cemetery set aside for those outside the church. This area was located south of the family lots four feet from lot #6 with each lot being one rod square. Also, P.A. Gustafson and A. Danielson were commissioned to find out from their sister churches if they were using wine or juice for communion. A. Danielson was also to contact the State Convention about a loan of \$100 to finish the church. This request for funds was turned down.



Groundbreaking Ceremony
May 1982

Pastor K.A. Lundin was given lodging at P.A. Gustafson's home for three months in lieu of \$15 compensation at the March 12, 1892 meeting.

A major decision affecting the future of the church was reached on June 18, 1892, when it was decided that the church would move to a common road at the first opportunity after the ground froze. A committee was chosen to find a place where the church could be moved. Also, every member which did not notify the church in person or in writing within six months would be put out.

The decision was made at the monthly meeting August, 1892, that a daughter church of Grass Lake would be started in Comfort township (presently the Quamba Baptist Church). A committee was also chosen to see about getting a legal road to the church and if a road could not be obtained, should the church be moved?

On December 12, 1892, a committee was chosen to find a location where the church should move to and also set a date for the moving to take place.

In January, 1893, the Grass Lake church decided to call K.A. Lundin as its pastor from May 1 to October 1, 1893.

In 1893 the church building was moved to an acre lot one mile north, on a main public road. This land was donated by Louis Dennewith. The church building was placed on two sets of heavy lumbermen sleds which was pulled by 12 oxen and moved to the new site.

In April, 1893, the church decided to hire a man to oversee the work on the church building and the church members were to do the work which they could carry out. F. Halfvarson was elected boss and was to be paid \$1.00 a day for his work. When the work was completed the church was insured against fire for a value of \$800.

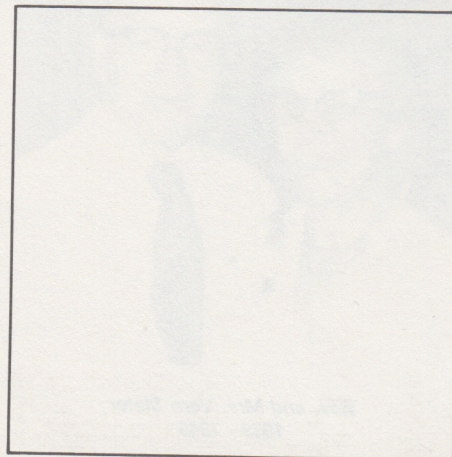
During the summer of 1893, Lundin was again called to continue as pastor, for a salary of \$270. The congregation was also concerned about their spiritual life and how to have a warmer, more lively church. After much discussion they felt the main points were: 1) persevering prayer and 2) coming together around the throne of grace and that the love within may be found.

In October, 1893, the church decided "That no strange preacher going under the name of Baptist be permitted to preach in the church if he can not show his credentials."

In 1894, the church addressed itself to the following question: "Is it with or against God's will for a Christian to buy things and not pay for them at the time and not know either how he is going to get the money?" The church decided, "It is not honest of a Christian to trade without knowing where he will get the money with which to pay. Furthermore, sometimes a Christian is in circumstances where he has to buy things when he hasn't any money, but then he or she should promise to pay for what they have bought in a certain time and then fulfill their promise."



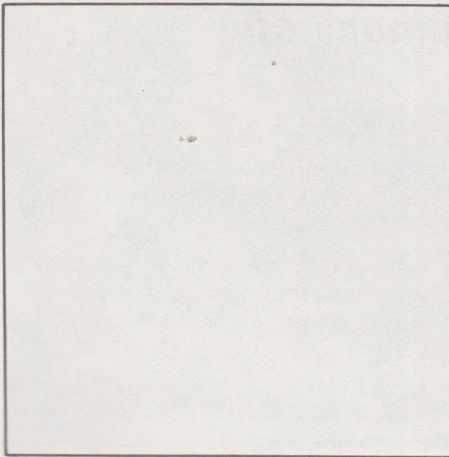
Rev. Axel Rendahl
1910 - 1911



Picture Not Available
Rev. John Franklin and family
1921 - 1925



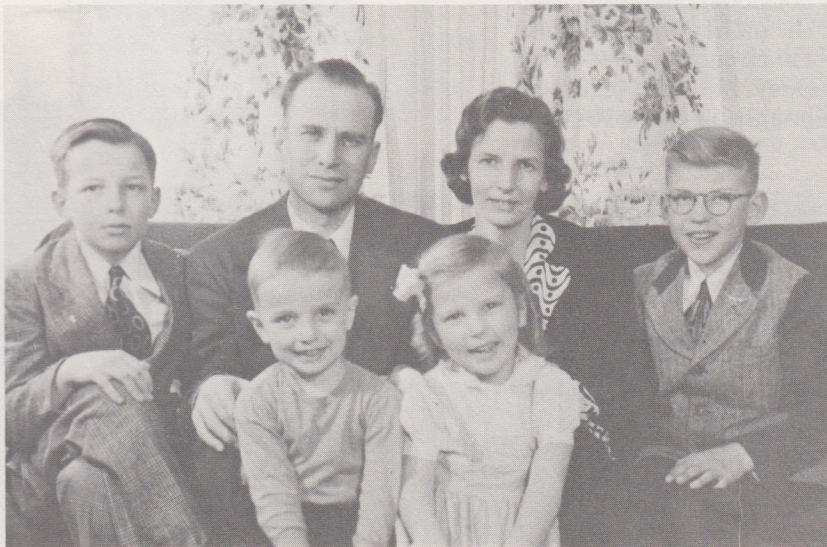
Rev. Adolph Paulson and family
1925 - 1937



Picture Not Available
Rev. Eric Sjolund and family
1937 - 1939



Rev. and Mrs. Vern Slater
1939 - 1945



Rev. R.O. Hansen and family
1945 - 1950

At the annual meeting on November 21, 1894, Pastor Lundin read a letter concerning the school in Morgan Park to collect \$2.00 for them. The church decided to collect the money at the first suitable opportunity.

In March, 1895, the congregation decided to put in a foundation under the church building. It was also decided to call L. Ekstrand as pastor and negotiate a salary.

In April, 1896, the church invited the next District meeting, which would be held the end of June. The church accepted the offer of its friends in Brunswick to help with the meal at the District meeting.

At the business meeting in August, 1896, the church decided that they should be more particular in filling out church statistics. "Nothing concerning the church's work and financial standing will be forgotten." Also, that the statistics filled out by the secretary should be read at the church meeting and approved before being sent off.

In March, 1900, H. Nordin was elected to receive funds to go to Brother Anderson's salary. It was also decided that the church should buy two dozen songbooks and every member pay for two books.

In July, 1900, a delegation of J.R. Johnson, H. Nordin and J.O. Anderson was chosen to go to Royalton to be present at their church's forming.

At the August, 1900 meeting the question was taken up if they should pay $\frac{1}{3}$ of rent on pastor's house according to the agreement when the church went together with Rush City to have a preacher. In September the discussion continued concerning paying $\frac{1}{3}$ of house rent and horse feed for pastor. The church decided that they were not responsible for $\frac{1}{3}$ because it was not part of the agreement when the church went together with Rush City on a pastor.

In November, 1900, the church made a motion to call Brother Anderson for six months if Rush City and Royalton are willing to go together on the same thing. In April, 1901, F.O. Anderson reported he would not continue as pastor.

At the annual meeting in January, 1902, a discussion was held about how to work it to have a pastor together with Royalton, Brunswick, Comfort and Sandstone. It became known that Brunswick, Comfort and Sandstone meant to share a pastor. The outlook was dark because Grass Lake and Royalton were too weak

*Rev. and Mrs. Leonard R. Turnquist
Truman and Grace
1950 - 1963*



to have a pastor together. The church then decided to do what they could with their own talents.

The question concerning a pastor was also discussed at the church meeting in February, 1902, but no decision was made. They did decide to purchase Sunday School papers and a money box for the Sunday School.

In May, 1902, E.G. Olson and A.G. Ostrom were appointed as church representatives to be present when the road to the cemetery was laid out. Also in May, 1902, E.J. Anderson became pastor of the Grass Lake Church. In March, 1903, they decided to call E.J. Anderson to continue as pastor along with the Sandstone church for six months.

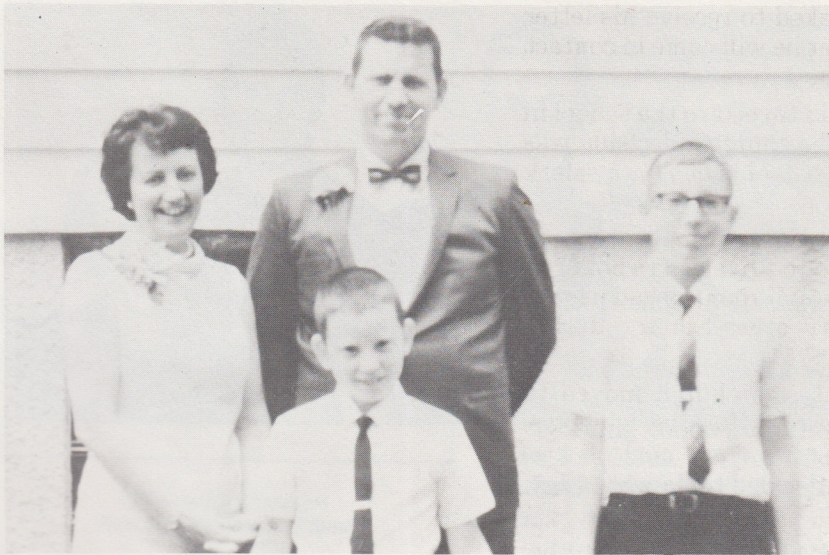
On April 10, 1903, Pastor E.J. Anderson's salary was set at \$75 for six months. Every member was to pay what he promised toward this amount; an equal part every month. The inside walls of the church were to be covered with thick paper with wallpapaper over it. Also, \$25 was needed for repairs which would probably be received from the Sewing Circle.

Further building improvements were acted upon at the June, 1903, meeting, which consisted of getting posts for the west side of the church lot, a roll of wire and staples. The fence would be put up the same time as the church repairs were made.

In July, 1903, a committee was chosen to speak to Brunswick about sharing a pastor. However, in August of the same year the voting members decided not to share Brunswick's Pastor Holstrom. Pastor E.J. Anderson was informed that he would not continue to be pastor unless he received a new call from the church.

There was discussion in early March, 1904, about calling a student pastor for the summer. In June 1904, Pastor Anderson was told he could keep on preaching Sundays until fall. At a meeting August 4, 1904, a question arose concerning a letter sent by a Mr. Wallman. The motion was made and approved to send a letter to Wallman desiring that he take up the work of preaching on Sundays.

The Grass Lake congregation moved at a meeting April 8, 1905, to call Pastor Holstrom together with Brunswick for one year at a salary of \$150. The church accepted Holstrom's motion on May 13, 1905, to come every other Sunday until October 1. Two subscription lists were to go out with J.R. Johnson and E.G. Olson to collect for Holstroms salary as per action taken on September 9, 1905. When \$50 had been collected towards his salary, the secretary would issue him a call for a year, commencing October 1, halftime with Brunswick at a salary of \$150. The meeting of November, 1905, resulted in Mrs. E.G. Olson being asked to consult with the Sewing Circle about getting some help from them towards Pastor



Rev. Clyde Dalbey and family
1963 - 1969

Holstrom's salary. J.R. Johnson was to try again to collect some toward the pastor's salary.

A regular meeting was held July 14, 1906, and the members present were forced to dispense with reading the minutes from the previous meeting because the secretary lost them. It was approved at this meeting that four men should each make one window screen to fit in four of the church windows to let the fresh air in and keep the mosquitoes out.

At a special meeting on September 19, 1906, J.R. Johnson was appointed to go to Cambridge and ask Wallman if he would be willing to accept a call from Grass Lake to be their pastor. An additional meeting was called on October 3, 1906, where it was agreed upon to see how much money could be raised before Wallman would be called. It was decided to try collect \$250 for one year and call him for that sum. Another special meeting was held in October where action was taken to accept Brunswick's offer of having Holstrom as pastor again, contribute \$100 to his salary and inform Wallman of this action.

At the final meeting of the year in December, 1906, E.G. Olson was chosen to get materials the church needed to build a stable.

Pastor Holstrom announced his resignation at the meeting in June, 1907. His reasons were sickness and physical incapacity. After discussion it was decided not to accept Holstrom's resignation if he could possibly continue for a while longer.

After Pastor Holstrom resigned the church moved to call a student from Morgan Park for the summer of 1908 at a salary of \$100 for four months.

Extra meetings were held on June 26 and June 28, 1908, where a total of 16 young people confessed their faith and were baptized before a large crowd of witnesses on the riverbank.

In November, 1908, E.G. Olson brought greetings from Pastor Lysell of Comfort and his offer to come and preach in Grass Lake. The church accepted Lysell's offer and would do its best to pay him for his work. Pastor Lysell was to come every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

In January, 1909, the church made a motion to once again call E.J. Anderson for six months, April 1 to October 1, for a salary of \$150. E.J. Anderson added one request to his salary; "That he may have hay for his horse and cow, and wood." The church decided to address itself to the issue.

On October 20, 1909, E.J. Anderson asked to receive his letter and the church accepted this with hopes that he will come in contact with other Swedish Baptist Churches in the future.

In February, 1910, the church once again turned to the school in Morgan Park to call a student preacher. The church's decision was to call Axel Rendahl for four months after school is out for a salary of \$120 and free room and board.

On June 6, 1910, Axel Rendahl was taken into the church membership and was given permission to go to Royalton to hold services every Tuesday night. After Rendahl's four months had passed the church gave him a call to come every other Sunday during school time and the winter for a salary of \$75.

At the meeting on September 4, 1911, the church moved to repair the church foundation and get curtains for the windows. Pastor Rendahl was also to receive a letter of recommendation that he may be free to preach the Gospel.

The annual meeting was held on January 1, 1912. At this meeting the church decided to remember its 30th anniversary the next fall. They also were to try to get another student from Morgan Park and that his payment include free room and board, travel expenses to and from Morgan Park and a salary of \$125. At this meeting Axel Rendahl's membership was transferred to 1st Swedish Baptist Church in Minneapolis. It was also at this meeting that the church decided they could not do anything about the issue concerning moving the church to Grasston.

At an extra meeting in March, 1912, a letter was read from Gust Sword from Morgan Park, who had accepted the church's call to be pastor during the summer months. At this meeting the church also voted on whether the school should move to the Academy. The vote was 14 in favor.

During the summer months plans continued for the church's 30th anniversary celebration. The anniversary was scheduled for October 19 and 20, 1912. They also decided to send for two dozen songbooks.

In September 1912, the congregation made a decision that church should meet every Sunday during the winter months. They also decided that if the Preaching School comes to St. Paul, they will call Sword to visit the church every other Sunday.

In January, 1913, the Grass Lake Church together with Royalton moved to issue a call to Nels Soneson to come as pastor. Grass Lake's share of the salary would be \$300 with Royalton's share being \$100. The churches also made a decision to make special



*Rev. D. Guy Wixtrom and family
1969 - 1975*



*Rev. and Mrs. Vincent Tellgren
Interim, Summer 1969, Spring 1975*

application to the State Conference for \$100 help in support of Pastor Soneson.

At an extra meeting on April 12, 1913, it was the church's unanimous decision to answer the School Committee's first question "Yes". It will say, that "the seminary will join with Bethel Academy in the same place but continue to be two departments each with their own director and teacher. Bethel Academy will perform the preparation work for the seminary."

At another extra meeting June 23, 1913, it was the church's decision to build a parsonage, the cost not to exceed \$800. A building committee was appointed consisting of Wm. Edin, J. Nordin, and J.R. Johnson.

The church's annual meeting was held January 1, 1914. At this meeting they voted to pay Emil Anderson \$22 for work done on the parsonage and also to pay the bills at the Braham Mercantile Co. and the Grasston store for materials used for the stable.

In the spring of 1915, G.A. Johnson was called as pastor. The church decided they could not help with his moving expenses because of their debt for the parsonage.

It was decided at the business meeting on November 6, 1915, that they should wallpaper the parsonage at a cost of \$16.68 with the Sewing Circle to pay the cost.

October 14-16, 1917, was set aside for the 35th Anniversary of the church. At this meeting Pastor and Mrs. F. Gust Larson were welcomed into the church and his ordination was set for the anniversary celebration. Area churches that were invited were: North Isanti, Cambridge, Rush Point, Stanchfield, Brunswick, Comfort and Knife Lake.

At an extra meeting in January, 1918, the subject of moving the church to Grasston was discussed. It was decided that the church should seek to become owner of the lots in Grasston. A committee was appointed to talk with Aurelius concerning transferring the lots to the church's name.

The meeting on October 12, 1919, was an important one concerning the church. The report of the committee in charge of finding out the cost of moving the church to Grasston was accepted. A vote was then taken. Results were: 14 - "yes" and 3 - "no", that the church



*Rev. LeRoi Danielson and family
1975 - Present*



*Vacation Bible School
1941*

would move to Grasston. It was also decided to sell the parsonage for \$1,500.

The following months were filled with much activity. On February 24, 1920, a motion was made to buy the house and two lots in Grasston which Mr. Martin had offered to the church for \$1,725. The \$1,500 from the old parsonage was used for this in addition to \$225 which was borrowed from the bank for 30 days. The kitchen from the church was sold for \$150 and the rest of the building was to be torn down and hauled to Grasston.

On May 5, 1920, a committee of E.G. Olson, O.J. Satterstrom, A.G. Ostrom and Victor Johnson was appointed to arrange for the digging of the church basement. The church was to be made 32' by 48'. In April, 1921, the church was insured for \$4,000 against cyclones.

In August, 1921, the church called John Franklin as its pastor. Pastor Franklin's salary was \$1,200 (\$500 from Grasston, \$50 from Sandstone, \$50 from Henriette and \$600 from the Conference).

The dedication of the new church was to be held Friday through Sunday, September 30 - October 1, with the following people to be invited: Dr. Hagstrom, E.R. Pope, F. Peterson, K.A. Lundin and the neighboring churches and their pastors.

The 40th anniversary of the Grasston Baptist church was observed October 13-15, 1922.

At the January, 1923, meeting of the church it was agreed that all the church documents should be kept in a box at the Grasston Bank. Also, that the financial report would appear in the Grasston newspaper.

A decision was made in April, 1923, to rent Christenson's Hall for a concert by a choir from Minneapolis. The purpose of the concert would be to raise money for the church. Ticket prices were set at \$.50 for adults and \$.25 for children. The church realized a profit of \$39.75 from the proceeds of the concert.

A special service was held in August, 1923, following the death of President Harding. In November of 1923 new chairs were pur-

chased for \$483.90 and the old church benches sold at a Sewing Circle auction.

The church moved at the monthly meeting in March, 1924, to ask the Conference for help in the amount of \$400 for the coming year. In April letters were read from the Conference concerning the church's request for help. The Conference would only grant \$200 because it felt that Grasston should go together with the Brunswick Church. However, the church decided to have its own work and the secretary was commissioned to so inform the Conference.

In June, 1924, it was decided that the evening service would be in English and Swedish every other Sunday.

One hundred new songbooks and 50 bookracks were purchased for the church in July, 1925, at a cost of \$74.

Pastor Franklin announced his resignation at the September 28, 1925, meeting of the church. Franklin's resignation, effective November 20, 1925, came as a surprise to all and an extra meeting was called to discuss the issue. After discussion concerning Pastor Franklin's resignation a vote was taken at the special meeting. The results were 13 against and 10 in favor of the resignation. Pastor Franklin announced at the regular meeting on October 25 that he would not recall his resignation and wanted to leave two weeks earlier than originally planned as he had not had any vacation and was afraid of snow and cold weather during moving.

In November, 1925, it was decided to call a student preacher for Christmas. In further action the church moved to ask Brunswick if they would go together with Grasston in calling a preacher for the coming year.

A motion was made to call Pastor Adolph Paulson from Brainerd or some other candidate which Pastor Bergfalk found suitable to serve two churches. Brunswick gave their decision to

*String Band
1945*





Sunday School Class
1946

Grasston at a special meeting on December 12, 1925. Brunswick would go in with Grasston on a pastor and pay \$600 towards his salary. Grasston also would pay \$600 as well as keep the parsonage. Grasston wanted to call Pastor Paulson and Brunswick was in favor of calling Adolph Carlson. Through a telegram, Carlson stated that he would not accept a call. Therefore, a unanimous call was made to Paulson in Brainerd.

The parsonage was remodeled and redecorated in early 1926. Curtains were bought and three rooms were wallpapered. The wallpaper was bought by the Ladies' Aid.

Pastor Paulson was received into membership from Brainerd at a meeting of the church on May 1, 1926. Mrs. Paulson and children were received into membership by letter in June, 1926.

The 45th anniversary of the Grasston Baptist Church was celebrated on October 15, 1927.

At the annual meeting in January, 1928, the Ladies' Aid reported they had paid \$200 on the church debt and met the second necessary payment. In other business, it was agreed that improvements should be made on the church foundation so water would not leak in. At a business meeting in September of the same year a decision was again made to fix up around the church to keep water away from the basement. A question of setting down a pump at the cemetery was left with no decision made.

The 1929 annual meeting was held on New Year's Day. Among the business items acted upon were the election of a committee to find out which materials would be cheapest to use in finishing the church's lower story and a vote of thanks to Robert Nelson and Victor Johnson for getting the dirt to fill in around the church.

The young people's group was thanked at the business meeting in June, 1930, for their gift of carpet for the platform. An offer was made to the church in September by the Grasston Male Chorus to give a concert in the church. A committee was appointed to set a date for the concert.

Various improvements to the church and parsonage were approved in April, 1931. Among these were: papering and painting the parsonage, making a sign for the church and making a table and shelves in the church kitchen.

A plan was adopted by many churches in the county to have revival meetings with Anton Cedarholm in a tent in Brunswick, June 17, 1931.

The church decided at its annual meeting January 1, 1932, to observe its 50th anniversary on October 15. Pastor Paulson, E.G.



Vacation Bible School
1959

Olson, Emma Erickson and J.R. Johnson were appointed to prepare a history of the church since its organization.

It was decided at the annual meeting of 1933 to hold business meetings three times a year on the first Tuesday of every fourth month.

All the older members of the Church received a special invitation to attend a Swedish service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 13, 1936, which was followed by a fellowship dinner. An English service was conducted at 2:00 p.m. at which time the mortgage against the church property was burned.

Following the Sunday morning service of November 15, 1936, Pastor Paulson read his letter of resignation. His desire was for the resignation to take effect on April 1, 1937.

A discussion at the quarterly business meeting, March 7, 1937, resulted in a motion being made to ask Paulson to stay two more months until June 1, 1937. A committee was also named to examine the parsonage foundation for repairs.

Pastor Eric Sjolund was called to the Grasston and Brunswick congregations in mid-1937. At the quarterly business meeting in October, 1937, the young people were commissioned to take care of the Sunday evening services at Grasston while Pastor Sjolund tended to the evening meetings at Brunswick.

Pastor Sjolund left the Grasston Baptist Church in the spring of 1939.

Rev. Vernon Slater was given a unanimous vote by the members present on September 9, 1939, to be called to serve as pastor temporarily through the winter.



Vacation Bible School
1959

A motion was made and seconded on February 2, 1940, to extend a call to Rev. Slater to serve as permanent pastor with the understanding that he would be able to continue his studies.

Rev. R.O. Hansen was called to serve as the next pastor and was present as the church's pastor at the annual meeting on January 1, 1945. Rev. Hansen served the Grasston and Brunswick congregations through 1949. His resignation was accepted at the annual meeting on January 2, 1950.

Discussion followed Hansen's resignation concerning calling a new pastor and it was decided that the board members from both churches meet as soon as possible to make plans for calling a pastor.

At special business meetings in April, 1950, votes were taken to extend calls to Rev. McDonald in Isle, Minnesota, and Rev. White in Russell, Minnesota.

Following action at a business meeting on June 7, 1950, Rev. and Mrs. Leonard Turnquist were asked to take charge of the two churches' Bible schools from June 19 to June 30, 1950. They were to have full use of the parsonage during this time and he would have charge of Sunday services for an indefinite time.

At a business meeting in Brunswick early in July, 1950, a vote was taken and a call extended to Rev. Turnquist to become pastor of the two churches. This call was accepted by letter on July 31, 1950. The pastor and his family took up the work on August 1, 1950.

Rev. and Mrs. Turnquist were received as members by letter at the annual meeting on January 2, 1951.

The 70th anniversary of the church was observed October 15, 1952. Services were held at 10:00 a.m. with Rev. R.O. Hansen, 2:30 p.m. with Rev. J.G. Johnson, and 8:00 p.m. with Rev. Stanley Paulson.

Cleaning of the cemetery property was discussed at a business meeting on July 28, 1954. An agreement was reached that a permanent committee be appointed with responsibility for keeping the cemetery kept up. All lot owners were to be notified and asked for a donation to a fund for the upkeep of the cemetery grounds.

A matter of church policy was made permanent by action taken at the quarterly business meeting on July 25, 1956. The pastor would be able to take a two week vacation during the summer months and the issue would not need to be acted upon each year.



*Christmas Program
1970*



*Christmas Program
1970*



*Park Sang Tai
Korean Orphan sponsored by the Sunday School*

The church observed its 75th anniversary in October, 1957. The morning service offering was designated for Bethel, afternoon offering to the Minnesota Baptist Conference, and the evening offering to the church with the exception of \$10 which went to the speaker.

Ballots were cast on March 15, 1959, on whether the Grasston Church should participate in the Home for the Aged (Grandview Christian Home). Gotfred Anderson was elected as a member of the board of the Home, representing the Grasston Church.

At the quarterly business meeting on July 18, 1962, a motion was made and seconded to make protest against any and all special planned programs to be held on Sunday by the City of Braham to attract attention from regularly planned Sunday services. A committee was appointed at the quarterly business meeting in October, 1962, to be in charge of making protest against all planned programs taking place on the Lord's Day. This was to be done in a Christian spirit.

It was discussed at the quarterly business meeting on January 30, 1963, whether or not to send a letter of protest to the Braham Commercial Club regarding their scheduling of events on Sunday. A decision was made not to send any letter unless and until it was known that they would be planning events on Sunday.

Discussion was held at a business meeting, following prayer meeting in February, 1963, concerning having a class on doctrine. Both churches were represented and it was decided to have such a course of study and that it should be especially geared for young people. The book chosen was "What Christians Believe" with supplemental material to be supplied by Pastor Turnquist.

A special business meeting was held following the Morning service Sunday, June 2, 1963. At this meeting a letter of resignation from Pastor Turnquist was read. It was his desire for this resignation to be effective on August 1, 1963. The resignation was accepted and a pulpit committee was chosen.

Pastor Clyde Dalbey came to serve the Grasston and Brunswick Baptist churches in the fall of 1963.

Pastor Dalbey presided over a short business meeting in March, 1964, to discuss and vote on the church constitution recommended to the church by the board. The constitution was adopted by unanimous vote of all members present at the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded that there be at least three copies of the church constitution. One would be kept in the church, one with the secretary, and one in the safe deposit box.

The church's cemetery was a topic of discussion in July, 1964. Letters had been sent out to those families having lots requesting \$75 a lot so that the cemetery might be put on perpetual care. Promises of money toward the cemetery upkeep amounted to over \$800.

A motion was made to have a service dedicating the remodeling of the church basement.

The possibility of making more room for Sunday School classes was discussed in July, 1965. The trustees were to go ahead and make some arrangements to go ahead with the project. Also, the suggestion was made to try and locate some good, used pews.

In December, 1965, a special business meeting was held and it was agreed that oak paneling be purchased for the front of the church and that the east window in back of the pulpit be removed. A carpet committee was commissioned to order carpeting for the platform and have it installed before the Christmas program.

Approximately 19 pews from the Stanchfield Baptist Church were purchased in April, 1966, for \$35 each. There was also discus-



*Grasston Baptist Church
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sion at this time concerning the starting time of the evening service. The choices were staying with 8:00 p.m. or moving ahead to 7:30 p.m. The feeling was to perhaps put the matter to a vote in both churches and try for a year.

New swinging doors and new piano were purchased for the church in mid-1966 to match the remodeling that had already been done.

There was some discussion in April, 1967, about the possibility of changing our Sunday School and church hours with Brunswick doing likewise.

Pastor Dalbey expressed his desire to be ordained July 26, 1967. No definite date was set but the secretary was appointed to write necessary letters and agreement was reached to organize a council of ordination.

Combined Christmas and New Year's morning services with Brunswick were voted on and approved October 4, 1967.

The church board voted January 24, 1968, to make two changes in the constitution. These were: 1) to have both a deacon and a trustee board and 2) that each board should have three members. Also in January it was decided to take "The Standard" and each member family receive a subscription.

A special business meeting was held at the Grasston Baptist Church, March 13, 1968. The vice-chairman read the notice which had been posted on the bulletin board pertaining to the purchase of the Stig Nelson property and which the church board acted on. Questions were raised about the price of the property and about the possibility of selling the old parsonage for the price of \$4,000. After some discussion a motion was made and seconded to proceed with a vote on this matter. The vote was in favor of the purchase.

The annual meeting of the members of the Grasston Baptist Church was held on April 5, 1968. There it was moved to amend the church constitution regarding membership and baptism. Any request for baptism without joining the church must first be acted upon by the membership of the church.

The possibility of having a CYF night on a Sunday night (for CYF only) was discussed in July, 1968. It was agreed to try this for a period of time if Brunswick was also willing to go along with this.

The trustees were given authority to sell the old parsonage in the fall of 1968.

Pastor Dalbey reported to the church in January, 1969, about what was discussed at a special combined board meeting. These topics were: 1) in what ways the two churches could better work together, 2) a change in the age groups of the CYF, and 3) special meetings. He stated that it was the feeling of the board that a man should be called for special meetings with the young people in mind.

Also in regard to weddings in the church, it was the feeling of the combined board that the constitution should state that any and all weddings should have the permission of the church board.

At the annual meeting of 1969 all were in favor of allowing the CYF to have one Sunday night of each month for a service of their own during the school year.

The Sunday evening offerings was voted to be discontinued. An offering plate would be available if someone would like to give. This would not apply to special meetings or special offerings.

In the spring of 1969, Pastor Dalbey announced his resignation. The two churches held a combined business meeting July 31, 1969, for the purpose of voting on a pastor. Interim pastor, Rev. Vincent Tellgren, served as moderator.

The constitution of the church was discussed in August with the feeling that it should state that all information or a biography of each person be read prior to voting and that a candidate should receive 75% of all votes cast. The proposed change was not made immediately, but referred to the combined board for its recommendation. The Sunday evening offerings were resumed at this time.

The pulpit committee was to contact pastoral candidates, inviting only one at a time, with the church to vote after the candidate's visit as quickly as the constitution allows. Also, announcements concerning a pastoral candidate would be made on Sunday before his visit to make voting on the Wednesday following the candidate's appearance possible.

Rev. Vincent Tellgren served as interim pastor throughout the last half of 1969 until Rev. D. Guy Wixtrom accepted a call to be pastor and was received into membership along with his wife, Bonnie, on December 31, 1969.

Pastor Wixtrom inquired into the progress of the Sunday School attendance and the activities and goals of the youth groups at the first quarterly business meeting he presided over in January, 1970.

A request was made and granted for Pastor Wixtrom to perform weddings according to the laws of Minnesota and the laws of God in May, 1970.

Pastor read a letter from the Minnesota Baptist Conference at the quarterly business meeting on July 21, 1972, that stated the Grasston Baptist Church was officially designated as tax exempt from federal income tax, Social Security taxes and Federal Unemployment Tax Act.

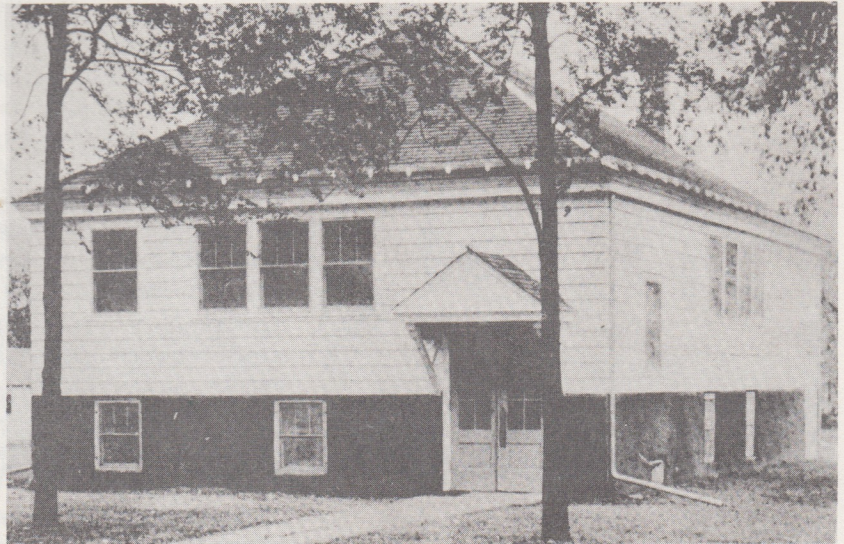
A motion was made and seconded on August 6, 1972, to participate in the Key '73 Evangelism Program as suggested by the Kanabec County Ministerium.

There was discussion at a business meeting in September, 1972, regarding changing the starting time of the morning service. Voting was held on October 15, 1972, on whether to change the starting time to 9:30 a.m. or keep it at 10:00 a.m. The results of the voting were to leave the starting time at 10:00.

The possibility of starting a benevolent fund in the church was discussed in July, 1974. The purpose of such a fund would be to help some church member or friend in a time of need. The church board was authorized to establish such a fund.

Pastor Wixtrom resigned as pastor effective March 1, 1975. A

Grasston Baptist Church
1957



combined meeting of the two churches was held in Grasston on April 15, 1975, with Rev. Vincent Tellgren as moderator.

The churches of Grasston and Brunswick met in a combined meeting at Brunswick on June 24, 1975, to vote on LeRoi Danielson, candidate for pastor. He was recommended by the pulpit committee and the members of the churches voted to extend a call to him.

Pastor Danielson accepted this call on June 28, 1975, and began his ministry with the two congregations on August 10, 1975. A reception was held on August 24, 1975, 2:30 p.m. to welcome Pastor Danielson and his family.

A letter was read on October 8, 1975, from the Minnesota Baptist Conference about historical work begun on Conference churches that were founded before 1930. The conference desired to have old records microfilmed. It was decided to have the old records of the church microfilmed and send a \$25 contribution to the Minnesota Conference to defray expenses.

Pastor and Mrs. Danielson were received into membership on January 14, 1976.

The church's name was corrected on all official courthouse documents and insurance policies to read Grasston Baptist Church rather than Swedish Baptist Church.

Wheels were set in motion in April, 1976, to call an ordination council for Pastor Danielson.

An organ was installed in the church building early in 1977. This organ was a gift to the church from Ernest Englund in memory of his wife, Viola. Steps were also taken in 1977 to purchase the land south of the parsonage.

Pastor Danielson was ordained to the ministry of the Gospel at an ordination council and service on April 24, 1977.

The 95th anniversary of the church was observed on November 20, 1977. The theme was "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." Rev. Richard Turnwall was speaker for the 10:00 a.m. service and Dr. Clifford Anderson from Bethel Seminary was guest speaker at the 2:30 p.m. service.

Several college students from the congregation volunteered for some summer projects in 1979. Pastor Danielson recommended that they help with the Sunday evening services.

Federal regulations on the heating of public buildings (65° in winter) were brought to the church's attention in October, 1979.

At the quarterly business meeting in July 1980, plans were

made to observe the 200th birthday of Sunday Schools, on October 5. A motion was also made and seconded that the church purchase two tape players and tapes to record the morning worship service for those that are shut-in or hospitalized.

A Centennial Committee was formed at the October 8, 1980 quarterly business meeting. This committee consisted of: Lucille Anderson, Marjorie Bjorklund, Violet Anderson, Harry Sahlin and Stig Nelson. Lucille Anderson was appointed the convenor. It was also reported at this meeting that a new movie projector had been donated to the churches.

In January 1981, the church decided to have an all-church Easter breakfast followed by an early Morning Worship service.

At the annual meeting in April, 1981, a report was given concerning the previous year's Daily Vacation Bible School. It was reported that 46 young people attended with a staff of 5 teachers and eight helpers. The Missions budget was reported as follows:

Baptist General Conference	\$900
Minnesota Baptist Conference	\$480
Princeton Mission Work	\$300

A motion was made and seconded that the church contribute to the support of Ruth Ann Rodenborg, who will be going overseas to work with Teen Missions.

A special meeting was held on May 6, 1981. At this meeting a building planner presented two ways of adding on to the existing church building. It was decided to build 22 feet straight out to the west and not to add on to the north of the building.

Another special meeting was held May 20, 1981, to vote on the proposed church addition. Voting results were in favor of proceeding with the proposed building plans.

In 1981, the Centennial Anniversary Committee reported on their suggestions for the Centennial year. They are as follows:

January 1982 - Morning services with former pastors speaking. A Music concert in the afternoon.

April, 1982 - Evangelism meetings.

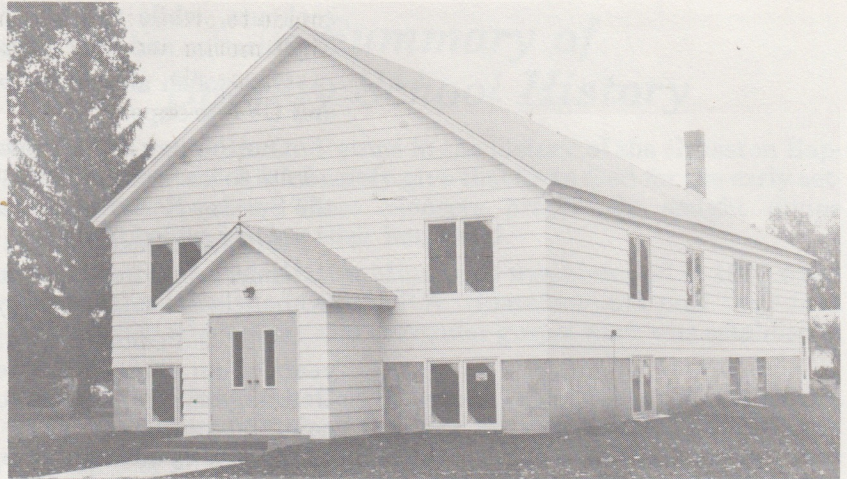
July 4, 1982 - Homecoming Weekend.

October 16, 17, 1982 - Official celebration of Centennial,
A banquet with special Sunday services.

The first Centennial event was held on January 3, 1982. Speaker at the Morning Worship service was former pastor, R.O. Hansen. The Sunday School hour was conducted by former pastor, Clyde Dalbey. An afternoon Gospel concert was given by Charlene, Craig



Grasston Baptist Church
1981



and Roger Anderson and the Strelow-Bjorklund mixed quartet. Centennial birthday cake followed the concert.

At the quarterly business meeting in January 1982, it was reported that the "Lindquist Brothers" will be holding evangelistic meetings in May as part of the Centennial celebration. The Sunday School report was given and future plans for the Sunday School include the goal of 100 pupils in attendance.

The annual meeting of the Grasston Baptist Church was held in April, 1982. A letter from Bethel College and Seminary was read regarding President Lundquist's retiring. Anyone wishing to do so can write a letter of thanks to him which would be included in a book of appreciation for his years of service.

A ground breaking ceremony was scheduled for May 9, 1982, to commence the building of our church addition. It was decided that the Pastor, Vice-Chairman and each board member will each turn a shovel full of earth. They also made a motion to meet with the Brunswick congregation during the time of our building.

The Centennial Homecoming Weekend was held on July 4, 1982. Speaker in the Morning Worship service was John Allen, formerly of Grasston, now pastor of Robbinsdale Free Church. The afternoon service consisted of a concert by Gary and Dan Dalbey. The services were held in the partially completed church building.

The Grasston Baptist Church has a rich and interesting heritage. From 10 charter members to our present membership of 72, the aim of its members has been to follow God's will and glorify His Name.

Early accounts of the church show that they were very concerned about individual lifestyle. If people did not live by God's Word, they were many times put out of church membership. Today, we still stress the application of following God's Word in our daily lives.

Dedication was one of the keys of the early church. Stories of people walking from near Quamba to the Grass Lake church for services during the winter prove this point in the past and the dedication and hard work of our present members, show that this tradition has not failed.

During recent years the church members have enjoyed various activities. The combined church choir of Grasston and Brunswick has given concerts in Becker, Milaca, Stanchfield, Braham and of course, Grasston. A popular annual church musical event has become the Fall Benevolent Fund concert.

The young adults have enjoyed various evenings of games and

cookouts, while the Baptist Conference Women have an active organization and take charge of a Sunday evening service regularly.

Our youth also enjoy various activities through our Tweeners and CYF groups.

Our Sunday School also provides a foundation for our youth and adults to learn about God's Word. Annual Sunday School events are the Sunday School picnic and the Christmas program.

Within the last year the congregation has seen a major change in its church building. The new addition provides room for Sunday School classrooms, Nursery, Pastor's study and a foyer.

With the completion of the church addition and the first 100 years of our church's existence, we are eagerly awaiting to see how God is going to work through the Grasston Baptist Church in the next 100 years.

Following is a list of Pastors who have served the church and Sunday School Superintendents, as close as we can find in the church records.

PASTORS

N.J. Thornquist	1887 - 1889
F. Wredberg	1890
K.A. Lundin	1891 - 1895
L. Ekstrand	1895
F.O. Anderson	1900 - 1901
E.J. Anderson	1902 - 1905
J. Holstrom	1905 - 1907
A. Larson	summer 1908
Lysell	1908
E.J. Anderson	1909
Axel Rendahl	1910 - 1911
Gust Sword	1912
Nels Soneson	1913 - 1915
G.A. Johnson	1915
F. Gust Larson	1917 - 1918
M. Berglund	1919 - 1920
John Franklin	1921 - 1925
Adolph Paulson	1925 - 1937
Eric Sjolund	1937 - 1939
Vern Slater	1939 - 1945
R.O. Hansen	1945 - 1950
Leonard Turnquist	1950 - 1963
Clyde Dalbey	1963 - 1969
Vincent Tellgren, Interim	summer 1969

D. Guy Wixtrom	1969 - 1975
Vincent Tellgren, Interim	spring 1975
LeRoi Danielson	1975 - present

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

O. Danielson	1886
N.J. Thornquist and I. Anderson	1888
E.G. Olson	1889
John Wigg	1892
J.R. Johnson	1892
E.G. Olson (north of river)	1892
J.R. Johnson	1893 - 1916
O.J. Satterstrom	1917
Professor Sutherland	1923 - 1924
Mrs. Dan Lovass	1924 - 1926
Mrs. Adolph Paulson	1926 - 1936
Mrs. S. Forrestad	1936 - 1954
Mrs. Helen Sahlin	1954 - 1960
Mrs. Vivian Allen	1961 - 1962
Mrs. Helen Sahlin	1962 - 1971
Mrs. Charlotte Strelow	1971 - 1978
Sam VanderHelm	1978 - 1979
Mrs. Kathy Ferrin	1979 - 1980
Mrs. Charlotte Strelow	1980 - present

Prepared for the 100th Anniversary of the Grasston Baptist Church

English Translation:

Mrs. Olive Anderson
Roger Anderson

Editing:

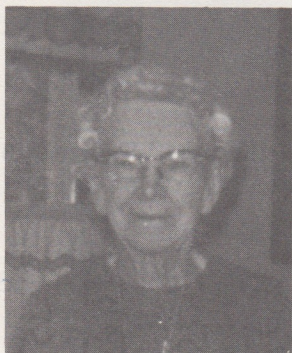
Craig Anderson
Roger Anderson
Rev. LeRoi Danielson

A Summary of Sunday School History

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS



Mrs. Paulson



Helvia Forrestad



Helen Sahlin



Vivian Allen



Charlotte Strelow



Sam Vander Helm



Kathy Ferrin

As we approach a milestone in the history of the Grasston Baptist Sunday School, we humbly give thanks to God for the early settlers from Sweden. These pioneers prayerfully sought divine guidance before leaving their homeland.

Their first Lord's Day in Minnesota was observed in 1882 when they gathered in the home of P.A. Gustafson and held their first Sunday School meeting, and so regular gospel work was established at once.

They continued meeting in homes until 1886 at which time a grant of land was obtained from the St. Paul and Duluth Railroad Co. and the first meeting house or church was built. Some years later this church was moved a few miles to Grass Lake and a parsonage was also built. This Sunday School work continued on for many years. At the time of moving the church to Grasston in 1920 no Sunday School was held.

On October 1, 1921 once again Sunday School was organized with 20 in attendance. The following Sunday the attendance was doubled with Mrs. Stener Forrestad as the first superintendent.

Rev. Franklin was the first pastor in Grasston and loved to work with children; he did much for the Sunday School.

In 1926 Pastor and Mrs. Adolph Paulson came. Mrs. Paulson became superintendent and with her energy and ability our Sunday School had many years of growing activity.

In 1936 Paulsons left Grasston and once again Mrs. Forrestad filled the superintendent's office.

Depression came and some families moved away. Other difficulties arose so one winter we had only one class. But God honored the faithful few so before long we were back to normal again.

During the 20 years Mrs. Forrestad was superintendent many boys and girls accepted the Lord and are serving Him wherever they live.

It was in 1954 that Mrs. Harry Sahlin became superintendent and with faithful teachers and help from Pastor and Mrs. Turnquist our Sunday School continued to grow spiritually and in size. Mrs. Vivian Allen faithfully served as superintendent from 1961 - 1962. Mrs. Harry Sahlin again served from 1962 - 1971.

Daily Vacation Bible School had been held for many years and the largest attendance was during Rev. Slaters pastorate with an attendance of 110.

Missionary emphasis has been an important part of the Sunday School work. For years the first Sunday of each month was used for

that purpose: helping others in need whether at home or abroad. A Korean orphan was sponsored for several years. When he reached the age of seventeen he was on his own and the Sunday School took on other projects.

Many loyalty programs and contests have been used to gain interest and growth. In 1966 our enrollment went up seventeen percent or 83 members.

Children's Meetings took the place of Daily Vacation Bible School that same year with Pastor and Mrs. Dalbey in charge. Our enrollment was 70 children, and many decisions for Christ were made.

In the past years we have enjoyed the Rose Bud Choir and the Junior Choir from our Sunday School. We also used our younger children who were taking piano lessons to give of this talent to the Sunday School work.

It has been a practice of the Sunday School to give Bibles at Christmas time to those who reach the 4th grade. The Christmas Story of Christ's birth has been presented in many different ways by the Sunday School children.

For many years the Klingberg Home has been remembered at Christmas with the money received throughout the year from our Birthday Bank.

For the last ten years we have had capable leaders taking over the work of the Sunday School. At present Mrs. Wilbert Strelow is superintendent. Over the years we have also had faithful and dedicated assistant superintendents.

The Lord has been our source of help all through the years. He has worked with us, in us and through us. We give thanks and praise to His Name.

Compiled by:
Helen Sahlin



Original Church Building - Grass Lake

