

HISTORY OF WEMBLEY UNITED CHURCH



In 1910 Rev. C Hopkins, a Methodist minister, established a mission at Lake Saskatoon and in 1915 a church was built. Rev. G. Kettys arrived in 1919 and Rev. R.E. Finlay came in 1921. Rev. Finlay and his team of horses covered more than 10,000 miles in the four years he served the vast area. Services were often held in homes and schools. The coming of the railway through the new town of Wembley meant the end of the village of Lake Saskatoon. In 1925 a pool hall was moved from Lake Saskatoon into Wembley to serve as a church. A house was also purchased as a manse and was moved by a team of 32 horses. In 1956 the original Methodist Church was moved into Wembley for a church hall and Sunday School room.

From 1926 to the 1950's an annual open air Church Service was held at Lake Saskatoon for all in the 5-point Wembley Pastoral Charge. Annual fall suppers were held in Wembley for many years.

By the 1980's the congregation had outgrown their home and were able to obtain the former Forbes Presbyterian Church in Grande Prairie which was built in the 1920's. The building was moved, added onto and placed on a new foundation in 1983.

Ministers and lay leaders from 1926 to the present: Robert Symons; L.A. Carr; W.G. Houston; Newman Traux; Don Clougston; H.A. Whaley; Milton Swaren; Art Boorman; Roy Chubb; William Kranendonk; Larry Lees; Robert Windrum; James Nicholas; Mark Bedford; Barry Thomas; George Rumbolt; Gwen Symington; Clinton Swallow; Thomas Harding; Randy Hedeman; Mike Cochrane; Irene Greenwood; Chris Donnelly; Blake Field; Piotr Strzelecki; and Neal Palmer

Wembley United Church continues to be a presence in the community with a food bank, community thrift store, and a community garden. The church is part of the Beaverlodge-Wembley-Hythe Pastoral Charge.