

## A BRIEF HISTORY

On March 10, 1968, Rev. and Mrs. Gerald Baker, missionaries with Baptist Mid-Missions, began Sunday services without a prospect in the Shelburne Town Hall. On that first Sunday there were four people in attendance along with the Baker family of four.

A full schedule of services was immediately conducted with the group operating as a "fellowship" until August 23, 1970 when they organized as an independent, Baptist church. There were sixty-seven present at the organizational meeting. Twenty of these became charter members. A unanimous call was extended by the church to Rev. Baker to become the church's first pastor. The church was later incorporated on October 1 of the same year.

In October of 1971, the church purchased 5.5 acres of land on Webster Road and began construction on a church building. The church building program was under the supervision of Rev. David Selden, Building Consultant with Baptist Mid-Missions. The entire building program was a cooperative effort on the part of the church family.

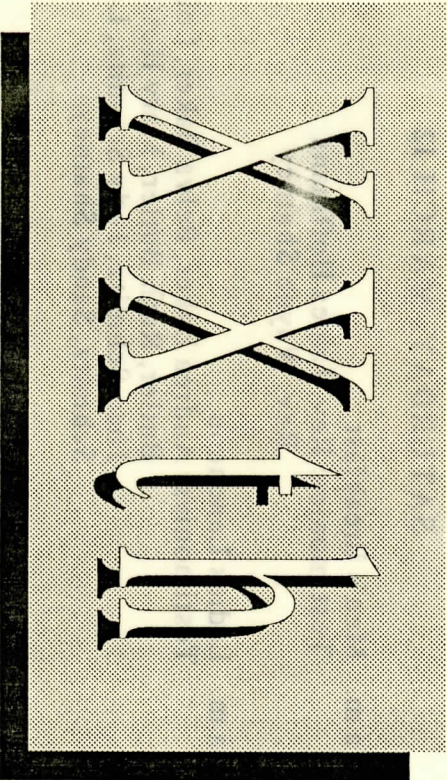
During those early years, the church experienced continual growth. Its total church program included Sunday School, morning and evening meetings, training union, mid-week prayer and Bible study, youth programs, a campus ministry at UVM, a weekly radio program "Timely Bible Truth" over WJOY, and Rev. Baker served as religious editor for the Vermont Sunday News, writing a weekly column, "Thus saith the Lord."

In 1974, the church added a wing to the original L-shaped building to house the Greater Burlington Christian School with grades 1 through 12. Incoming Pastor Bruce Clark became Director of the new school. Under Rev. Clark's leadership the church constructed a lovely parsonage in the summer of 1975. The church continued to enjoy numeric growth during Rev. Clark's ministry.

Under the leadership of Rev. Walter Caldwell (1978-1983) and Rev. Michael Hare (1984-1986), the church has been able to expand its growing missionary program until presently they aid in the support of eleven missionaries and two Christian organizations. Nearly forty young people have gone from the church to Christian colleges, many of whom are now engaged in full-time, Christian ministries.

The church has had a total of four dedicated pastors during its twenty year history, Rev. Gerald Baker (1968-1974), Rev. Bruce Clark (1974-1978), Rev. Walter Caldwell (1978-1983), and Rev. Michael Hare (1984-1986). Kirk Smith, a product of the church, served as interim pastor and provided leadership for the church during a six month period in 1984. Rev. Baker recently returned to pastor the church. He believes that the future holds bright prospect for God's continued blessing and it is his prayer that the God of all grace may make it so.

## TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 1968-1988



# XXth

## March 11-13, 1988

First Baptist Church  
12 Webster Road  
Shelburne, VT