

SYDNEY PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
Church Summary

Sydney Pentecostal Church **Sydney, Nova Scotia**

Church facility located at
20 Victoria Road
Sydney, NS

Church and Community Summary

Affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada



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Church Summary

Sydney Pentecostal Church is a traditional Pentecostal Church that started in Sydney in the early 1930's.

The church facility is located in the heart of Sydney at Ashby Corner and is a vital part of the Spiritual life of our community. Sydney Pentecostal has been founded and built upon strong Biblically sound doctrine. It is strong in Pentecostal doctrine and believes in the power and moving of the Holy Spirit.

The church has been and continues to be strong in missions. We believe a mission minded church is a growing church and will have an impact on the world. Our missions are locally, nationally and internationally based.

We have had several young people over the years attend Bible college and become active in full time ministry.

It has been and is a church grounded in the Word of God.

Sydney Pentecostal is a church that cares for one another and for the community they serve. We have fed the hungry, ministered to the sick, helped those in need. The people of Sydney Pentecostal Church have a heart for people. We want to succeed and grow in their faith and become productive and fruitful in the place we live.

HISTORY OF SYDNEY PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Sometime prior to the year 1931, Rev. TA Strong arrived from Ireland and held evangelistic services in the Ashby area of Sydney in the Steelworker's Hall, sowing the seeds which would later bear fruit. God met with them in a marvelous way and thus was born the infant church which has grown to the present Sydney Pentecostal Church.

In 1931, a hall above the Moraff Store at the Pier was obtained for services and in 1937, an old building was torn down by members and was rebuilt at 759 Victoria Road. The present building in Ashby was erected in 1961 and has served as a church home for a growing congregation.

The following pastors served over the past years:

Rev. TA Strong	1931-1933
Rev. Mabin Esler	1933-1942
Rev. Claude Jones	1942-1955
Rev. V. Jackson	1955-1956
Rev. Jim Blakey	1957-1959
Rev. P. Melinchuk	1959-1963
Rev. Norman Pyle	1963-1967
Rev. JA McEwen	1967-1972
Rev. Cyril Clark	1972-1974
Rev. C.N. Siauwhite	1974-1975
Rev. S.C. Lewis	1976-1986
Rev. Gordon O'Coin	1986-1991
Rev. M. O'Hagan	1991-1993

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Rev. C. Clark	1993-1994
Rev. Robert Cross	1994-1997
Rev. T. Carew	1997-2002
Rev. Burt Hooper	2002-2007
Rev. Ron Coole	2007-2018

Sydney Pentecostal Church is affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. The official constitution was adopted by the adherents in 1957. It is a missionary church giving assistance and support to over 200 missionaries in 17 different countries around the world.

HISTORY OF SYDNEY PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

by Vivian Tarr & Jack Marshall

1931 - 1933

Sydney Pentecostal church was organized in 1931 under the leadership of *Rev. Thomas Alexander Strong*. Sometime prior to 1931, Rev. Strong arrived from Ireland and held evangelistic services in the Ashby area of Sydney in the Steelworkers Hall, sowing seeds which would later bear fruit. God met them in a marvelous way and thus was born the infant church which has grown to the present Sydney Pentecostal Church.

There was a close relationship between the other fledgling congregation which were established around the same time (Glace Bay in 1929 and North Sydney in 1933), suggested by the fact that Rev. Strong's name also appears in the early records of the Pentecostal Church in Glace Bay.

Rev Strong served as the first pastor of Sydney Pentecostal church for the years **1931-1933** along with his wife and their two children. The founding fathers and first board members were: *Eli Howell (Vivian Tarr's father), Joseph Best, Harold Penn v, John Howell*. They leased a hall above Moraff's store on Victoria Rd. in Whitney Pier.

The meetings were well attended but the collections were very poor. As noted in old records, the pastor's allowance from 1933 to 1937 was \$5.26 per week. A similar amount was set aside for the operating expenses of the church. If the church required more, the pastor's income suffered! It must have been a day of general thanksgiving when it was found that the minister's salary could be increased without defaulting the building fund!!

It should be noted here that *Freda Newbury* (Norma's mom) was the first pianist for the church and served faithfully in that capacity for many years.

1933 -1942

Rev. Maabin Esler and his wife served as pastors from 1933-42. In 1937, an old house from down around the coke ovens district was purchased, it was cut in two and the two pieces were hauled by church members and was rebuilt at 759 Victoria Rd., directly across the street from Moraff's. The parsonage for the pastor and family was upstairs.

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Pastor Esler held meetings at night and in the day time, he took his lunch can and worked at different jobs make ends meet. The church was heated by a coal stove at the back of the church, Eventually, a hot air furnace was installed with a big grate in the middle of the church.

1942 - 1955

Rev. Claude Jones, his wife and four children served as pastors from 1942-55, the longest pastorate in the history of the congregation. He came from British Columbia in 1933. He organized the congregation in North Sydney and was pastor at Glace Bay for a time as well, as his name appears in stories of other pentecostal churches in Cape Breton. He was a fine carpenter and during the day worked with a contractor and held services in the evening.

There was a good congregation during this period. Children's meetings were held. WMC group was started (60 yrs ago). Lucy Howell (Vivian's mom) was president for 25 yrs, and Vivian Tarr was Secretary/treasurer for 20 yrs.

1955 -1956

Rev. Victor Jackson and his wife served as pastor's for a year following Rev Jones.

1957-1959

Rev Jim Blakey and his wife and daughter served during the years 1957-59. He held regular services but in the days was a manual training instructor at the Coxheath Highschool. We had a good group of young people at this time and had good times at Sunday School picnics, etc.

1959-1963

Rev Paul Melinchuk was pastor from 1959-63. It was during this time that the plans were set in motion to build a new church at Ashby corner. We prevailed with the lord's help and proceeded to build the church, which is the present one at 20 Victoria Road. Percy Henderson was foreman for the project. The building was dedicated on Nov 28, 1961 by Rev. Walter McAlister, general superintendent. (Fifteen years later, on Nov 26/76, a special service was held during which the mortgage on the building was ceremoniously burned).

Mrs. Maclaughlin, the school nurse for Sydney, lived in the present parsonage, and she went around gathering names for a petition to prevent the building of the church. She claimed that all the hallelujah songs and glory marches kept her awake at night!

1963-1967

Rev. Normal Pyle and his wife Lorena were pastors during the period 1963-67. They were very caring pastors and services were well attended. Lorena Pyle was formerly from Louisbourg (daughter of Percy & Alice Wilson) and her parents also attended the church.

1967-1972

Rev John McEwan and his wife served from 1967-72. He was a very fine, dedicated pastor who liked quite "lively" services. Services were well attended and during his pastorate, the open air services were started along with a radio broadcast on CJCB radio, which ran for quite a few years every Sunday morning.

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A big white bus was purchased and Melvin Walker drove it for many years picking up people to bring them to worship.

In the beginning, they were done "live", with usually Pastor McEwen, Frank Tarr, Audrey (Tarr) Dollimount, and Irene (Walker) Ellefsen providing the music. As a side note, Irene and Audrey, who were in high-school at the time, would spend Friday evenings on the corner of Charlotte St. (where the old TO bank used to be), singing and playing our accordions, along with Pastor McEwen and Frank Tarr usually, for a Friday night street service. Pastor McEwen preached and could be heard all the way down Charolotte Street - without a microphone!!

1972-1974

Rev. C. Clark and his wife Mary served as pastors during 1972-74. Both he and she were very good preachers, and she also played the organ and had a beautiful singing voice.

1974-1975

Rev. Clyde Slauenwhite and his wife served during the year 1974-75. He was an excellent speaker and loved to be very organized! He began printing a weekly Sunday bulletin and some were many pages long, like a little booklet! We also began taping the Sunday morning radio broadcast at Betty & Eddy Gregory's home, and some of those times of taping are very memorable! We also started having our annual Christmas banquet during this time.

1976-1986

Rev Stewart Lewis and his wife were pastors from 1976-86, the second longest serving pastors. The church services were well attended and it was during this time that renovations were made to the interior of the church by paneling the walls and installing wall-to-wall carpet (no more scrubbing the tiled floor!!).

1986-1991

Rev. Gordon O'Coin, his wife Verna and their three children, served as pastors from 1986-91. During this period, a house was purchased in Howie Center as the new parsonage, and the present parsonage was purchased next to the church and rented out as two apartments. There was a large group of teenagers at this period of time and services were well attended. Also, Della and Bob Innes were assistant pastors at this time and helped with the youth group.

1991-1993

Rev. M. O'Hagan and his wife and family were pastors from 1991-93 and resigned due to ill health. During this time, a grant was obtained and the basement was renovated which was a great improvement.

1993-1994

Rev. Cyril Clark and his wife filled in during this time while we were looking for a new pastor.

1994-1997

Rev. Robert Cross and his wife served as pastors during 1994-97. We had good services during this time and pastor Cross has returned several times to fill in for vacations, etc since leaving.

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1997 - 2002

Rev. T. Carew, with his wife Roxan and three children served as pastors during 1997 - 2002. He was a very dedicated pastor at the time and spent much time in prayer for the church and congregation. The church purchased a van at this time and were able to pick up many who otherwise had no way to get to church.

2001 - 2007

Rev. Burton Hooper and his wife Marilyn came from Port Hawkesbury to pastor our church in Nov. 2002 and continued to minister effectively until 2007.

2007 - 2018

Rev. Ron Coole and Patti began their ministry here in Dec. 2007. It has been a privilege to have had them as our Pastors. Under his ministry, prayer meetings were started in North Sydney, services held weekly in several senior citizen homes in Sydney and surrounding areas, and a real support for missions grew. Rev Coole travelled to Africa several times to teach and preach and the church has supported the outreach in Arusha for the past several years. Patti has also been involved in Womens' Ministries, even though going through several health issues. She has been very involved in planning WM yearly Women's Retreats which have been a great blessing to all who have attended. We are going to miss them immensely!

Now in our 87th year, Sydney Pentecostal Church has experienced changes in pastors and places of worship and is an established part of the spiritual life of Sydney, and God has been good to us!

Description of the town of Sydney:

According to Guinness World Book of Records, Cape Breton Island is the most beautiful Island in the world. It boasts incredible scenery, wonderful culture, and friendly people. If you love the outdoors, hiking and opportunities to explore abound in all seasons. Sydney being the historic capital of Cape Breton and largest urban center on the island. From the harbor front boardwalk complete with buskers and visiting cruise ships to the world's largest fiddle, Sydney is a unique community that is both welcoming and friendly! Sydney is very conveniently located to all major attractions on Cape Breton Island like the world famous Cabot Trail, Fortress of Louisbourg, the Alexander Graham Bell Museum in the beautiful village of Baddeck.

Sydney's tourism draw is increasingly linked to its cultural asset as being the urban heart of Cape Breton Island. Its population is a diverse mixture of nationalities which contributes to various Scottish, Acadian, African Canadian and eastern European cultural events being held throughout the year. Sydney is very conveniently located to all major attractions on Cape Breton Island, for example, Louisbourg (home of the Fortress of Louisbourg), Glace Bay (home of the Glace Bay Miners Museum), Baddeck (home of the Alexander Graham Bell Museum), as well as popular touring destinations such as the Cabot Trail, Cape Breton Highlands National Park, and Bras d'Or Lake.

Education

Sydney is home to two public secondary schools: Sydney Academy, and Holy Angels High School and a third, Riverview Rural High School is located in the suburb of Coxheath. A French

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language school, Centre Communautaire Étoile de l'Acadie is also located in Sydney. Cape Breton University and the Nova Scotia Community College's Marconi Campus are located several miles east of Sydney along Trunk 4.

New Developments in Area (potential to attract growth)

- Donkin Coal Mine
- Second cruise ship berth in Sydney
- Proposed container shipping pier near Sydney

Thank you for taking time to prayerfully consider the opportunity to serve and lead Sydney Pentecostal Church. If you sense God prompting you to pursue this ministry further, please feel free to submit your resume and pastoral information form to Rev. Gregory Bland and these will be passed along to the search team for prayerful consideration and followup.

Expectations of a new Lead Pastor

The basic qualifications expected of a Pastor do not vary, but the gifts a Pastor needs to serve a church will be different to every church.

They must have credentials with the P.O.A.C. And be in good standing.

They must be born again of the spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues.

They must believe in the entire word of god, and the entire bible, and not just parts that please the people and to titillate their ears and mislead them

They must be a good teacher , They must be Christ like and be devoted to God.

The Pastor if married must be in control of their family, they must be well balanced and in control of their character.

We are a missions oriented church, and a Pastor should be evangelistic and have a heart for missions.

A Pastor should be very outgoing, and willing to be a visiting Pastor to homes and hospital visitation.

We need youth in our assembly so they must be youth oriented, and a heart for evangelism.