

The History:

You Are Part Of An Incredible Story

Years ago, on the night before the down-payment was due, Pastor Montgomery was up pacing around the house praying earnestly for God to provide a miracle – the keys to their new building were at stake. They were \$100 short, and the whole deal would fall through if he didn't have the money by morning. His wife, rather annoyed by his commotion told him to take his hat and coat and go for a walk. Pastor Montgomery left the house and took a walk toward the church. Along that dark road he was approached by a stranger who stopped to ask him if he was Pastor Montgomery. Upon replying yes, the man gave him an envelope then disappeared into the night. Pastor Montgomery furiously opened the envelope to find ten, crisp \$10 bills - enough for the down-payment that would secure the keys to their new church home. Countless people have been impacted since then, all because of the faith of a group of people who decided to trust God and purchase a building they didn't yet have the money for.

Whether it was Mabel Cunningham opening her home to begin this church in the early 1920's (after her daughter was miraculously healed from diphtheria) or that time we purchased our first church on Queenston Street with no money, a looming deadline, and a pastor who was so anxious he couldn't sleep. We've been through this before - moments like the one we're in today have been a part of our history.

Elim Tabernacle, the first building we purchased:

<https://www.centralcc.ca/app/uploads/2018/12/central1.jpg>

The Peach Orchard On The Edge Of Town

1967 Was another crossroads year in the story of our church.

After many years in downtown St. Catharines, God had another faith test in store for a new generation of people at Central. Like those that had gone before them, the church knew that they were at a crossroads, and they knew that they needed to trust God for their future. Even though God had supernaturally provided their church building in downtown St. Catharines, He was clearly leading them into a new future that required another test of their faith. They took a big risk and purchased a peach orchard out on the edge of town. In the end, our current property cost us between \$3.5-4.5M to build and renovate to what you see today.

The Peach Orchard We Purchased At 240 Scott St. (Circa 1967):

<https://www.centralcc.ca/app/uploads/2018/12/central-3.jpg>

Thinking Big Has Always Been In Our DNA

There have been several defining moments in the history of Central, and we are living in the middle of another one of those seasons today. What happens through this building project will directly affect Central for decades to come, just as the decisions made generations ago proved to do. In the late 1970's and early 1980's, twenty Central busses would hit the road to pick up kids for Sunday school. We had a fleet of buses and volunteers dedicated to sharing Jesus with kids all over Niagara, and 30 years later we are still experiencing the effects of that bold vision.

Our prayer through this campaign is that thirty years from now another generation of people will experience the effects of our faith.

This new building campaign continues our heritage of wanting to boldly follow God's vision for Central.

<https://www.centralcc.ca/app/uploads/2018/12/central2.jpg>

We're Standing On The Edge Of Another Defining Moment

Today we find ourselves at another crossroads. On this peach orchard we call home, we've seen thousands of kids and adults come to faith in Jesus, thousands of people baptized, and scores of people have had their practical needs met through the church.

We have grown from a single family with a vision to see God change their friends and neighbours, to a large family, over 2,000 strong, committed to seeing God transform an entire region. God has used us on this peach orchard, but just as God called us from downtown St. Catharines to a piece of land surrounded by orchards, we are being called to move again. This time it is our turn to impact the generations to come, it is our turn to exercise bold faith and put our complete trust in God. The leadership, along with over 450 individuals and families have been praying earnestly about this decision for two years. Time and time-again God has confirmed this direction clearly. Now it is up to us to move with the same courage our fore bearers did. It is time to go.

Baptism Experience In 2018:

https://www.centralcc.ca/app/uploads/2018/08/Baptism_2.jpg

It's Our Turn To Walk In Faith

Like those who have gone before us, we are standing on the precipice of something great. We have the same fear they had, but even more than the fear, we have the same faith in the same great God!

The entire leadership of the church and over 540 families and individuals are walking forward in unity, believing whole-heartedly that this is the direction God is calling us to go.

We are the church – a community of faith, united in mission through acts of service, to bring restoration to the Niagara Region. And we believe that this new building will be the ideal place to see this mission come to pass.

Breaking Ground on Our York Road Property:

<https://www.centralcc.ca/app/uploads/2018/08/CentralGroundBreakingSundayForWeb-263-e1544027838684.jpg>