

# **A History of St. Barnabas Church, Pierrefonds, 1992-2008**



“How does a church begin? A church begins in the hearts of people.”

**Linden Rogers  
October, 2009**

This history is dedicated to the clergy and lay people whose faithful service to God has made the life of St. Barnabas rich and caring.

## **Chapter I. Introduction**

“How does a church begin? A church begins in the hearts of people.”  
(Rosemary Bauchman, *A History of St. Barnabas*)

### **Former Histories**

The history of St Barnabas has been very ably documented in three separate accounts written by parishioners. These three documents are available to view online at:

<http://www.montreal.anglican.org/parish/st-barnabas>.

The first is a series of seven booklets by Rosemary Rauchman and covers the beginnings of the community of several Protestant denominations in the mid-1950s who met at first in the house of Betty and Clifford Howes. It proceeds through the period of the first community church on Gouin Blvd (at the railway tracks, where Vet 911 now stands), through the building of our current church in the year 1966, to the year 1972.

To celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church building in 1991, Joan DuChêne wrote a history of the parish up to this time. Joan’s focus was on the development of the vibrant ministries in the parish.

In 1998, a Search Committee was put in place after the Revs. Dr. Roberts and Aloha Smith left for California. The Committee published a short history of the parish as a part of their document to inform and encourage prospective clergy.

The purpose of this present history is to continue the story from 1992 to the present. In May, 1989, Aloha Smith had been ordained priest, and in January 1992, she became part-time Assistant Priest at St. Barnabas and from that time their ministry was shared, until they left for California in August 1998. In September 1998, the Clergy Search Committee was set up and Rev. Bryan Peace took over as Interim Priest. The Committee was delighted that Rev. Alan Perry had agreed to come to St. Barnabas with his wife, Suyen, and two daughters, Emily and Nicola. The date of Alan’s Induction Service was in September, 1999, and he continues with us up to this day.

### **St. Barnabas Parish in 1991**

Roberts Smith had inherited a vibrant, active parish from Rev. Tom Maxwell when he took over in 1983. But the huge numbers of families and children

of the 1960s had long gone. For example, St. Barnabas' Sunday School registrations had dropped from 600 in 1965 to around 70 in 1981. During the 1980s enrollment had hovered around 60. The number of families had fallen from over 600 to just over 300.

But our parish had defied the odds in certain respects, for attendance at church and the Sunday School was still relatively high compared to other churches. After 1966, St. Barnabas was blessed with a large influx of people from other countries and cultures, particularly large groups from India and from the West Indies and they brought tremendous energy to the church.