

Ten Things to Remember and Celebrate about Alberton Church (November 15, 2020)

As we celebrate the 174th. Anniversary of Alberton Church I offer you ten things to remember and celebrate.

1) For 174 years the Lord has blessed the fellowship of the Alberton Church. Also, for all of those 174 years Alberton Church has been the only Christian congregation in the village of Alberton. That reality places upon us a serious responsibility. We have an obligation to reflect and share the faith in this community in which the Lord has planted us.

2) For 174 years Alberton Church has occupied the same location - though the building has been replaced and enlarged and the property has been expanded through the years,

3) Despite the fact that the Alberton congregation has never in all of those years had the exclusive full time services of an ordained minister it has continued strong and healthy.

4) For most of its history the Alberton congregation was paired with another church in a two point charge. Since 1994 the Alberton congregation has been on its own but under the leadership of an ordained minister who serves the congregation on only a part time basis.

5) For 142 of those 174 years the congregation has gathered for worship week by week in the same sanctuary. Though that sanctuary area has been expanded by the addition of other congregational space for Christian education and fellowship the sanctuary space in which we worship was constructed in 1878. The building has given us a very visible presence in the Alberton community.

6) Although as a small congregation Alberton has seldom had high profile programs in the Alberton community its members, individually and together, have always made a positive contribution to their community. In recent years the Ancaster Senior's Centre has enjoyed strong support from the people of Alberton Church.

7) Though Alberton Church people are no longer primarily farmers, the rural roots and rural community identity of the Alberton Church people continues to be reflected in the active participation of the Alberton Church people in the Ancaster Agricultural Society and the Ancaster Fair. We have not lost our heart for the land and its productivity and have sustained a commitment to maintaining a rural ethos in our church community.

8) As evidenced in these days of Covid-19 we have not lost our strong sense of community or our focus on mutual spiritual care.

9) We have not diminished our commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the sharing of the "Good News" he represents both in our own community and throughout the world.

10) The year 2020 is, to the best of my knowledge, the only time in the history of the congregation in which there has been a significant interruption to the holding of weekly worship services in Alberton Church.