

# Churches By The Sea

## X ST. ANDREW'S, NEW BRUNSWICK

St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea lies near the end of a hilly spit that runs from the foot of Chamcook Mountain out into Passamaquoddy Bay. It is a storied town, with roots firmly imbedded in the past. At the same time, it is a progressive community in which past has combined with present to give the town a gracious quality that is all its own.

The story of Baptist work in St. Andrew's is difficult to recover for the records give only occasional glimpses of that work and not a full picture. However, it appears that there were Baptists among the early comers to the vicinity; possibly some of the Loyalists who settled there were Baptist in their convictions. In any event, when the first session of the New Brunswick Western Association met in 1846 a Church was reported at St. Andrew's which had been organized in 1806. Benedict, writing in 1813, spoke of a Baptist Church being there at that time. But, on the other hand, there is no mention made of a Church at St. Andrew's at the time of the New Brunswick Association in 1821. When the Association met in 1838 they admitted to their fellowship seven Churches among which were First St. Andrew's and Second St. Andrew's. The records are far from complete but they indicate that there was considerable Baptist work in the area during the first half of the nineteenth century. Rev. Thomas Ansley, a Father of the Denomination, preached at St. Andrew's and died there in 1831. In 1843 the Association met with the Church at St. Andrew's. The New Brunswick Western Association met at St. Andrew's in 1864 and the following year received Second St. Andrew's into their fellowship. When the Convention met that year, 1865, the formation of a Church at St. Andrew's was recorded and also the fact that a new meeting house had been opened there. Although these references to Baptist work in St. Andrew's lack continuity, they do indicate that Baptist interest was very much alive in the district during those early years.

The present Church at St. Andrew's dates its organization from 1865. The membership is not large but under the faithful ministry of Rev. W. H. Johnson they are continuing in the tradition that has kept Baptist witness alive in their community for nearly a century and a half.