
A SHORT HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Congregation was small, the undertaking large and costly; was it a case of faith or of foolhardiness, of wisdom or of folly? The Church was opened in 1890 with a first mortgage of \$50,000, a second mortgage of \$16,000, and a large floating debt; it looked then as if the Congregation had assumed a burden it would not be able to carry. But eighteen men, who should be held in all honor, assumed large personal liability by becoming bondsmen, the Congregation grew quickly, members and adherents contributed generously and a sinking fund was created, which in a few years broke the back of the enormous debt. God be thanked that in that day of crisis there were men and women of far-sighted vision, of high courage and of splendid faith!

The honor of laying the corner-stone on September 4th, 1889, was accorded to Rev. Dr. MacLaren, whose wise counsel and liberal support had meant so much to the young congregation. The day was rainy, and the company who had gathered to take part in the ceremony, repaired by kind invitation to Trinity Methodist Church, where addresses of congratulation and good-will were given by Revs. A. H. Baldwin, Elmore Harris, W. R. Parker, A. F. McGregor and others.

The contractors made good progress with the work of construction. The roof of the existing building was raised so as to permit of a second story, which became the Sabbath School room, the handsome church, built of Credit Valley stone, with Ohio stone trimming, with its fine tower reaching 120 feet into the blue, gradually took shape, and at last the auditorium, with its grace of outline and its excellent acoustics, was ready for use. The dedicatory services were held on Sabbath, June 8th, 1890. The Minister offered the invocation prayer, and Rev. Dr. Reid the prayer of dedication. The special preacher for the day was Rev.