

Celebrated The 21st Anniversary

Large Congregations Present at Services Held in St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church Yesterday — Rev. Thomas Stewart, D. D. of Halifax the Preacher.

The congregation of St. Matthew's Presbyterian church yesterday celebrated the twenty-first anniversary of the opening of the church building, the preacher of the day being Rev. Thomas Stewart, D. D., of Halifax.

Large congregations were present at both morning and evening services, while listened with the closest attention to the message of Dr. Stewart.

Yesterday marked the twenty-first anniversary of the opening of the building, the congregation having been organized for nearly twenty-four years, having been created a mission of the St. John Presbytery on May 6, 1896. The church has been meeting in the state of mind Sunday school in the St. John's Hall, Main street, since time in the year 1895, by members of the St. John's Presbyterian church. Preaching services were conducted by Rev. James Ross and Rev. Mr. Irwin, the first regular minister being Rev. H. H. Morton, M. A., who was ordained and appointed to the charge of the mission on May 26, 1896. On January 1, 1897, a visiting session and board of missions was established by the Presbytery and on September 25 of the same year the first communion vest was formed. On December 18, 1898, the church was formally dedicated and opened for public worship, the preacher of the dedicatory sermon being Rev. Andrew Rogers, D. D.

Since that time the church has gone steadily up, rising from the status of a modest little band of an independent church to a strong and growing thing for the future. The congregation will tonight burn the incense against the building and start on its twenty-second year in the building with it free of debt. In the past couple of years a handsome memorial window has been placed and a new organ installed. The church now has about one hundred and twenty-five members, the choir and piano, the organ of the present building, and the provision of a modern Sunday school room on the lower floor, together with the installation of a heating plant.

The first bard of session was composed of William Draper, H. R. Rein, Thomas Hastings and G. T. G. Brewster. The first trustees were J. Fraser Gregory, James Smith, William Macmillan and McNaughton. William Brewster died in 1904.

The ministers who have served the congregation are: Rev. H. H. Morton, M. A., May 26, 1896, to April 4, 1899; Rev. A. H. Foster, B. D., October 1, 1899, to April 7, 1908; Rev. J. J. McCaskill, July 21, 1908, to December 28, 1915, when he resigned to enlist; Rev. John Hardwick, December 23, 1915, to December 1916; Rev. H. L. Elyson, December 29, 1916, to date.

Dr. Thomas Stewart delivered two most inspiring and helpful addresses.

In the morning, basing his remarks on Acts 4:12: "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved," he drew attention to the mission of Christ into the world, the marks known by the fact that he was the Father of all men, and that he was the way to accepting Christ as the Son of God men could be saved.

At the evening service he spoke on the challenge of the times to the church and the forward movement now being undertaken. He took as his text Isaiah 65: "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is upon thee."

This speech was well received.

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