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SIXTY YEARS OF USEFULNESS FOR THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Premier Presbyterian Congregation, of West St. John, to Observe Sixtieth Anniversary Next Week—Services Commence on Sunday with Rev. T. P. Drumm, of Moncton, As Preacher—Church Has Had Successful Career.

The First Presbyterian church in West St. John will celebrate its sixtieth anniversary next week, the proceedings commencing tomorrow and continuing all week with the exception of Saturday.

The anniversary committee which was organized in 1915, has arranged for a series of services to be held in the church building, which was erected in 1844, and is held by lease in perpetuity. The first trustees were: John McLachlan, James Gault, Jarvis Wilson, William King, John Allan and Robert Low.

Old Time Meetings. As far back as 1844 a little church, erected in King street, Carleton, was for members of all denominations on that side of the harbor who thought proper to attend, but chiefly and particularly for the Presbyterians. It was at a tea meeting in the little meeting house as far back as 1844 when several ministers were present, that arrangements were made for supplying this church in Carleton. The plans were faithfully carried out and the ministers of the day connected with the different Presbyterian congregations conducted forthrightly religious services on Tuesday evenings for a length of time, until the settlement there of Rev. John Irvine, missionary from the Presbyterian church in Ireland, when visits from other clergymen became unnecessary. The ministers above referred to were: Rev. W. T. Wishart, of St. Stephen's church, in connection with the church of Scotland; Rev. Andrew Hallett, of St. Andrew's church; Rev. Robert Irvine, of St. John Presbyterian church; Rev. Mr. Galloway, of the Congregational church, and the Rev. Alex. McLeod Staveland, of the Reformed Presbyterian church.

The First Minister. At a meeting held in Bonaventure on the 8th of January, 1846, Rev. John Irvine was ordained, and it was resolved that he be located for the winter in the following stations, Carleton, Nerepis, and St. John.

The Programme. A comprehensive programme has been arranged by the anniversary committee for the coming week, which will include services every night, with the exception of Saturday night. Rev. T. P. Drumm, of Moncton, will occupy the pulpit tomorrow at both the morning and evening services, and special exercises will be held in the school room in the afternoon. On Monday evening a meeting will be held under the auspices of the Women's Missionary Society of the church. A sacred concert, given under the auspices of the choir, is the event for Tuesday evening. The concert will be conducted by Thomas Rippey and Mrs. Clarence Givrin will preside at the organ. Wednesday evening will see a Sunday school birthday party, and on Thursday evening a reception and congregational reunion will be held under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society. A short programme will be given and light refreshments served on that occasion. A preparatory service, including a reception to new members, will be held on Friday evening, and on Sunday the concluding services will be conducted by the pastor, Rev. Dr. J. A. Morrison.

Historical Sketch. This church is located in the Old Cemetery of Carleton, and being situated on about the highest elevation on the western side of the harbor, commands an excellent view of all surroundings. It was dedicated on Sunday, the 10th day of May, in the year 1857, by Rev. Nicholas Murray, D. D., of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, who preached three admirable and powerful discourses during that day. The devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Messrs Bennett, Ferrie, Alves and Baird.

The late Jarvis Wilson, a member of the First Trustees Board who had been an Elder of the Church for about forty years. He was ninety-one years of age on the fiftieth anniversary of the church.

On June 12th, 1850, a memorial from Carleton and adjoining districts was presented by Mr. McKilligan asking that the services of Rev. John Irvine be retained at Carleton and adjoining districts for the succeeding six months, with a view to permanent settlement.

At a meeting of the Presbytery held in St. Stephen, September 8th, 1852, to the deep regret of all Rev. John Irvine intimated his intention of leaving the province. From that time Carleton was supplied by Rev. William Ferrie, of St. David's Presbyterian church, St. John, until the arrival of Rev. James Baird, of the Belfast Presbytery, who was sent out to the British colonies under the auspices of the Irish General Assembly.

Rev. Mr. Baird arrived in St. John on Wednesday, April 7th, 1854, and was requested to preach on the following Sabbath in the city, and in Carleton, which was then but a mission station. An unanimous call was presented to him, he accepted, and on September 27th, 1854, was duly installed, and the congregation decided to build a church. Rev. Mr. Baird was the first permanent pastor.

First Church Built. Plans were furnished by Mr. Stead, architect, of St. John, the corner stone was laid on Friday, September 21st, 1855, by Hon. John Robertson, M. L. C. of New Brunswick. The building was completed in April, 1857, and opened and dedicated on May 10th of the same year.

The First Elders. There were no elders appointed until the year 1859, viz John Galey, Robert Low, John McAuley and James Gault, were named on probation for one year. On December 2nd, 1861, John Galey and Robert Low were set apart to the eldership.

Rev. Mr. Baird continued to minister to the congregation till the year 1857, when he removed to Patterson, N. Y., and was succeeded in 1870 by Rev. J. C. Burgess.

At a meeting of the session held in St. David's church, December 8th, 1870, it was reported that George McKilligan, Jarvis Wilson, John McIntosh and Robert S. Cowan had been elected elders. At a meeting of the congregation

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held March 24th, 1884, presided over by Rev. Dr. MacRae, the resignation of Rev. J. C. Burgess was presented. Mr. Burgess was succeeded in the pastorate by Rev. Wm. Stuart, whose induction took place May 7th, 1885. In 1889 Rev. Mr. Stuart severed his connection with the congregation, and he was succeeded in 1890 by Rev. Godfrey Shore, whose ministry was the shortest in the history of the congregation. On September 4th, 1892, he intimated that because of ill health it would be necessary for him to resign.

Rev. James Burgess was the next minister. His first meeting with the session was on April 29th, 1893, and he continued in charge until 1904, when he resigned and returned to Scotland. Mr. Burgess was succeeded by Rev. Hilbert R. Read, B. D., who was inducted December 27th, 1904. The jubilee of the congregation was celebrated May 12th, 1907, addresses being delivered by Rev. Donald McDermid, of Moncton; Rev. David Lang, B. D., of St. Andrew's church, and Rev. Gordon Dickie, M. A., of St. Stephen's church. Rev. D. McDermid conducted the service in the evening.

The Present Pastor. In November, 1912, Rev. Dr. J. A. Morrison was inducted pastor. Since that time a great deal has been quietly accomplished. In addition to many new members to the communion roll a new roof has been placed on the church; the building has been painted inside and out; new carpets have been laid throughout; a new fence has been

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At a meeting of the congregation

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built: a new organ costing \$2,800 has been installed and the manse has been renovated. These improvements costing several thousand dollars have been paid for in full.

There remains an old-time yearly debt of some \$500, which it is intended to wipe out at this anniversary. Rev. Dr. Morrison will not be present at Sunday's services, he having gone to Moncton to supply for Rev. T. P. Drumm, who will be Sunday's preacher in the First Presbyterian

H. M. S. Pinafore "Pinafore" was repeated last night at the Opera House and scored another big hit. This has been classed as one of the best amateur productions ever seen on a St. John stage and those present last night endorsed that claim. The house was well filled by the "Veterans" and their friends and they were all satisfied with the evening's entertainment.

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