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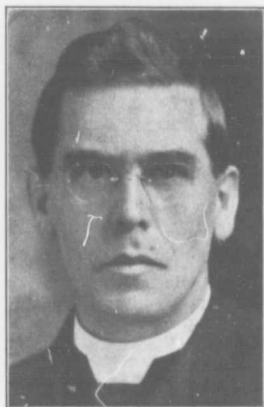
# St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Langley Fort, B. C.



34th Anniversary  
1885-1919

**St. Andrew's  
Presbyterian Church**  
Langley Fort, B. C.



REV. A. M. GRANT  
Present Minister

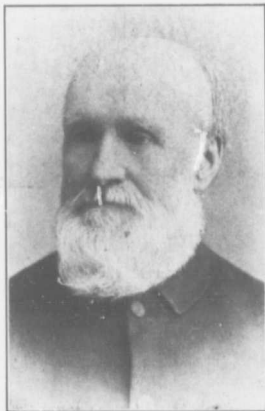
**Thirty-Fourth Anniversary**  
**1885 - 1919**

## Thirty-Fourth Anniversary

1885-1919



HE earliest religious work accomplished in the Municipality of Langley was done under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Jamieson, who came to New Westminster nearly fifty-eight years ago. Coming from Belturbet, Ireland, to Dunville, Ontario, in 1856, Mr. Jamieson moved to New Westminster in March, 1862. Here as pioneer for the Canadian Presbyterian Church, he organized St. Andrew's congregation. While in charge thereof—1862-65 and 1869-84—he travelled in all weathers up and down the Fraser river by canoe. This involved toil and exposure which contributed to his later broken health and shortened his life. In these journeys he included a visit to the community at Langley Fort. As a result of such visits there came into existence the nucleus of the present congregation, and a building that would serve as a place of worship was secured. This building was an unoccupied school-room standing on a lot in Sapperton. It was purchased, shipped in sections to Langley, and set up again on Chapel Hill in 1872. It was locally known as the "Meeting House." The devoted worshippers of the district, like Joshua and his fellows, thus realising they could not rear their temple, builded their altar. Here for nearly fourteen years, sometimes in very adverse circumstances, they met together for the help and strength they could not otherwise find.



REV. R. JAMIESON



THE OLD MEETING HOUSE

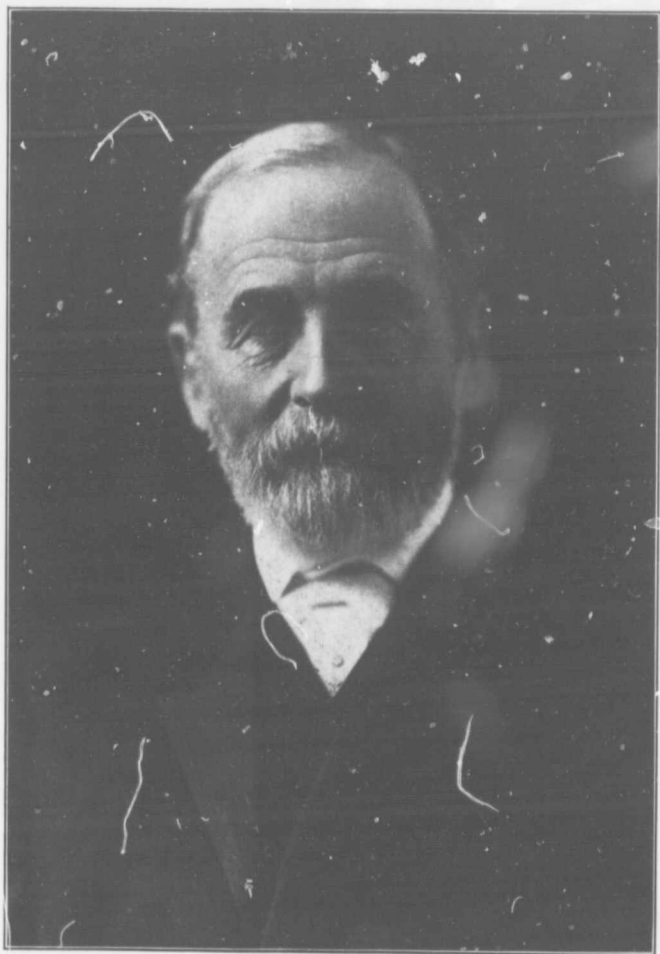
It was in the summer of 1875 that the Rev. Alex Dunn, representing the Church of Scotland, arrived in Victoria and was appointed to take up the religious work lying outside the Royal City

of New Westminster. In September of the same year he began that work which all recognized as of an arduous character. Mr. Dunn's parish extended from Yale to the mouth of the Fraser, and south to the American boundary. In so wide a region it was utterly impossible to do intensive work, not merely because of its wide area but also because of poor trails. There were no roads as we know them today. One professedly wise critic, measuring the man and his work at the very beginning, said to the Rev. Mr. Jamieson "That minister Dunn is too tender and too gentle for this rough new country. I just give him three months." Under Mr. Dunn, nevertheless, the work prospered and early in 1885 conditions were such as demanded a church. The splendid site on which the church



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH  
Langley Fort

now stands was secured from Mr. James Mackie, Langley's first reeve, or warden, as the reeve was then called. Mr. H. Hoy, of New Westminster was the architect, and Mr. Thomas Turnbull was given the contract to build. The size of the building is 22x40 and cost \$1,000. The original plan did not specify tower and belfry. These, with a bell, were added later through the generosity of Mr. Henry Wark.



REV. DR. DUNN

Of the opening and the dedicating of the church on the 26th September, 1885, Dr. Dunn writes: "The early morning was cloudy and threatening, but as the day advanced it became clear, and at 11, the hour of service, the sun shone forth with brilliancy and gave a pleasant and cheering aspect to the surroundings. As the hour approached, too, the people came pouring in from the surrounding district, and by 11 the church was filled." It was fitting that at this opening service the Rev. Mr. Janieson should conduct worship and preach the sermon, and that the Rev. Mr. Dunn, whose abundant labours were thus being crowned, should offer the prayer of dedication. Both morning and afternoon services were appropriate and impressive. The offertory for the day was \$57.00.

It will be of interest to many to know that of the Presbyterian churches built on the mainland this church ranks third in order of time: Old St. Andrew's, New Westminster, 1863; South Arm, 1881; Langley Fort, Sept. 1885; Mud Bay, Oct. 1885.

The 16th March, 1886, brought to a close Mr. Dunn's eleven years' of ministry in Langley and the congregation united with the other preaching stations in the field in expressing their appreciation in a tangible way of his strenuous toil.

The Rev. Mr. Tait was appointed by the Home Mission Committee at Toronto and began work in January, 1887. During the intervening months the field was served somewhat irregularly with occasional supply. Mr. Tait followed to some extent the lines of his predecessor. His field was, however, smaller, but still sufficiently arduous in character because of the almost impassable state of the roads, and scattered families. It comprised Mud Bay, Maple Ridge, Langley Prairie and Langley Fort. First Mud Bay was eliminated from the field; then in 1892 Maple Ridge, with Mr. Dunn in charge of the latter. The three years, 1900-03, were boom years and many families sought homes in the district. It was Mr. Tait's task to search these out in the bush throughout the municipality and associate them with the nearest preaching station. His success in this respect is still testified to by old timers and by the church he was instrumental in building at Murrayville. Now SHARON UNITED

On August 22nd, 1893, he was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Mogee. His preaching stations were: Langley Fort, Murrayville, Biggar's Prairie, Otter, Beaver, Glen Valley and Coghlan. His term of ministry among these was a difficult one. If Mr. Tait was delighted to welcome the newcomers, Mr. Mogee must have been chagrined to find these late arrivals now moving out. Following the end of the boom there came the "great flood" which overspread the whole of the prairie land in the Fraser Valley, bringing desolation and ruin in its wake. The burden of maintaining public worship now rested upon the loyal men and women who remained; but even these had little money. Then, as always, when a struggling mission is in difficulties, sister congregations throughout the church's Home Mission committee came to the rescue until such time as the field could help itself, and later perhaps be in a position

to sympathetically help others in need. It will thus be seen how difficult Mr. Mogee's task must have been. His means of transportation, where road conditions permitted, was on horseback, and where they did not, on foot. In 1894 he travelled over three thousand miles, many of which he "rode in the ditch, as the ditch was better footing than the road." In those days the Langley "roads were almost impassable for eight months of the year," and it speaks volumes for the christianity of young and old of that time that they could walk under such conditions for miles to attend public worship. "Where there's a will there's a way." Mr. Mogee left in April, 1896.

Until the close of Mr. Mogee's appointment, the Langley field was what is termed an "ordained mission." Under Mr. Dunn it included every community in the Fraser Valley, and during his first year it raised less than \$100. But in his last year it contributed \$553, and also bore half the cost of two new churches—Langley and Mud Bay—which together demanded a total expenditure of \$2,000. But such was the condition of the district in 1896 that the Home Mission Committee found it advisable to constitute it as a student mission field, with Mr. E. Leslie Pidgeon (now Dr. E. L. Pidgeon, of St. Augustine's, Winnipeg) in charge. He says of his appointment: "I was sent to Langley by the late Dr. Robertson in the spring of 1896. It was my first experience in mission work. I had three services one Sunday and four on the alternate Sundays. I may say I was just a boy at the time, through my second year in arts, and the kindness I received from these good and hospitable people has remained one of the brightest spots in my memory."

He was succeeded by Mr. Hugh J. Robertson, now the esteemed minister of Kildonan, but then contemplating beginning his university studies. He served this mission field from October, 1896, to October, 1897.

During Mr. Gold's (another student) appointment which followed immediately, there was organized for the first time "The Women's Band of Willing Workers." Its first president was Mrs. Hine, and secretary-treasurer, Mrs. MacIntosh, offices which these two ladies have filled almost uninterruptedly ever since. Mrs. Shearer was vice-president.

Mr. Gold, in referring to his work, says: "One of the great hindrances to our work was from the licensed bar, which as usual, did its worst." After such a statement it is not surprising to find Mr. Gold not only doing good congregational work, but also becoming an energetic worker as secretary of the Alberta Temperance and Moral Reform League during the Prohibition campaign of 1914-15.

Conditions in Langley were now considerably improved, both through increased population and financial conditions. Hence the field regained its former status of "Ordained Mission." The Rev. Mr. Burton was appointed and began work in the summer of 1899, at the close of Mr. Gold's services, and remained until spring 1903.

Until 1900 the various ministers and students resided in whichever house or room they could secure in and around the Fort. But in this year the lot next the church was bought from Mr. Mackie for \$50.00, and a splendid manse built thereon. The specifications were largely the work of Mr. Burton, while the building contractor was Mr. Buie. The timber was cut and milled in the neighborhood of Murrayville, then hauled to the Fort. The total cost was about \$1,000, which was contributed in cash and labor. The building was finished and occupied in August, 1900.

The Rev. J. A. Calder was appointed in succession to Mr. Burton and preached on Sunday, the 26th April, 1903. The congregation made splendid progress during the year in all its organizations. The Women's Band of Willing Workers, organized some years previously, now became "The Ladies' Aid," with Mrs. Shearer as president. On the 9th February, 1904, the congregation called Mr. Calder as their regular minister. The congregation thus for the first time became a regular charge with augmentation standing, and in receipt of a grant from Toronto of \$300. He resigned and left the congregation the 8th of September, 1906.

In October of the same year the Rev. Mr. Oswald, the minister at Mission and Mt. Lehman, was called, and remained for four years. The associated preaching stations were Murrayville, Glen Valley and Beaver. During Mr. Oswald's last year the congregation was reported as having raised the required stipend of \$800 and thus became self-sustaining.

At a congregational meeting, held on the 11th October, 1910, the Rev. C. McDiarmid was called. That year's General Assembly, in view of the cost of living then obtaining, increased the ministerial salaries throughout the Dominion. The congregation, however, was unable to meet the increased expenditure involved and were obliged to go back to augmentation. In the spring of 1914, Mr. McDiarmid, on account of his failing health, obtained leave of absence. Six months later he found it advisable to resign. For these six months the Langley Fort and Glen Valley services were conducted by a student from Westminster Hall, viz.: Mr. (now Lieut.) G. A. MacPherson.



LANGLEY MANSE



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In January, 1915, the Rev. A. McLean was inducted to the charge and remained until October, 1916, when he was called to Glen Ewen, Saskatchewan.

In the early days, when so many preaching stations had to be served, and when there were so very few children in the district, there was little or no opportunity for Sunday School work. But for several years previous to 1891 a summer Sunday school was held in St. Andrew's. Since that date the Sunday school is open, apart from holidays, throughout the year. Until 1911 Mr. Symington was superintendent. Then on his change of residence to Vancouver, Mr. McDiarmid acted in that capacity. The present devoted superintendent is Mr. John Hunter, who was elected in January, 1915.

On the 14th December, 1916, the Rev. A. M. Grant was ordained and inducted.

Previous to 1910, the main freight and passenger route to points in the municipality lay through Langley Fort. But the opening of the B. C. Electric Railway deprived the Fort of its pre-eminence and a measure of its prosperity. This, with the development of church life at Murrayville, with its morning and evening services, placed the minister resident at the Fort at a disadvantage in overtaking his work. Consequently at Mr. Grant's induction representatives of Langley and Murrayville in consultation with presbytery agreed to the transference of the minister's recognized place of residence to Murrayville.

In so brief an outline of the history of St. Andrew's church and with the scanty records at one's disposal, it is impossible to do full justice. There are still in connection with the church men and women who seek to serve as faithfully and loyally as ever. Others are near or beyond the allotted span of life, whose strength is abated, but who bore a worthy part in the past. Among those who have passed away after years of loyal service to their church and community and whose names invariably recur in the scanty records are Messrs. Jas. Mackie, John Maxwell, James Johnstone, Fairbairn, James McAdam.

The present organization is as follows:

Session—Rev. A. M. Grant, Moderator; Douglas Symington, W. F. Hine, John Blair, Elders.

Choir—Miss Alice Coulter, organist; Mrs. Dr. Marr, Mrs. Christianson, Miss Bertha Coulter, Miss Rita Lumby, Mr. T. Proven.

Board of Management—W. J. McIntosh, Chairman; J. Hunter, Secretary-Treasurer; Geo. Simpson, R. F. Fleming, R. McKee, John Blair.

Sunday School—John Hunter, Superintendent; Cyril Hine, Secretary, Mrs. Christianson, A. M. Grant.

Ladies' Aid—Mrs. Hine, President; Miss Laing, vice-president; Mrs. McIntosh, treasurer; Miss Wright, secretary.

A. H. TIMMS, PRINTER



VANCOUVER, B. C.