

Golden Jubilee

60



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Fort William, Ontario
1869 - 1919



St. Andrew's Fiftieth Milestone



ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE TRUE STORY of a church is contained in the lives of its members which no man can relate. St. Andrew's has steadily gone on from strength to strength, rich indeed in memories, but richer still because it has felt within its heart the life of God. A Church of the living God! What friendships have been sheltered here! What noble names treasured like gold! What communings and inspirations interwoven with its life! For some of us St. Andrew's is crowded with many of the most precious memories we know.'

This is the message of a former pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, Rev. W. L. H. Rowand, sent on the occasion of the celebration of the Golden

Jubilee of the Presbyterian congregation at Fort William, when it can look back on fifty years of development, during which the seed planted by the early missionaries by the waters of Thunder Bay has grown into a living Church, from the parent stem of which offshoots have been planted throughout the district, bearing testimony to the zeal of those who have done the work and the Grace of God Who has blessed their labors.

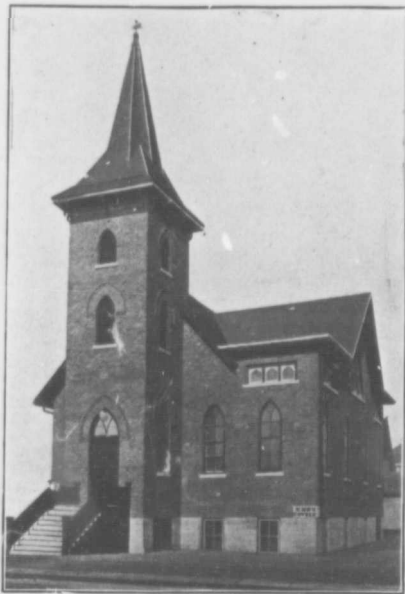
Sunday, June 1st, has been selected as the day for the fitting celebration of this Golden Jubilee, in St. Andrew's Church, Fort William, and the session and board of managers feel that, on an occasion such as this, it is appropriate to publish a short sketch covering the history of the

Presbyterian Church here, from its inception, in 1869, until the present year of grace, 1919.

In the year 1869 the white population at the point where now Fort William stands were few indeed. Four years previously the McKellars had taken up their residence at the head of the lakes, building their first home on the picturesque

years ago, Rev. Dr. Top, of Toronto, came as guest to the home of Governor McIntyre, and opportunity was afforded for the children of the little community to receive the rite of baptism.

The visiting minister recognized the needs of the little settlement and, a year later, a missionary student, named Vincent, from Knox College, arrived to take



OLD ST. ANDREW'S—NOW, KNOX CHURCH

banks of the Kaministiquia river, and here too lived the McVicars, the McLaurins, the family of Governor McIntyre, of the Hudson's Bay Company, and a scattered few of the employees of the company.

Cut off from the services and ministrations of the church, it was a boon to these families, all Presbyterians, when, fifty

charge of the spiritual needs of the community.

It was in no stately edifice that he preached the gospel. Gathered together in the office of the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort, or in one of the store buildings attached to it, the little congregation made up in zeal what it lacked in church accommodation, and the old hymns and

psalms were sung with as much fervor in the old Fort as they are today in the stately Church.

Of this singing Mr. Peter McKellar said, in the course of a sketch of the early work of the Presbyterian church here: "The



REV. D. MCKERRACHER

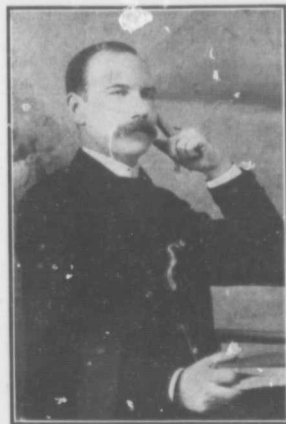
musical part of the service was conducted under difficulties and generally without instrumental assistance. We generally managed to have the four parts singing, but occasionally the tune would be pitched too high or too low and cause slight consternation and amusement among the members. The weekly choir practices were well attended and were looked forward to with much pleasure by the members available, including the minister."

Before the winter of 1870 set in Rev. Mr. McFarland, from Scotland, arrived to replace Mr. Vincent, and he ministered to the congregation during the winter, being followed in the next year by Mr. Colburn, a missionary, who took charge of the work in Fort William and among the few who lived in the surrounding district. In 1872 his place was taken by Rev. Mr. Smith, who was followed by Rev. Robert Hamil-

ton, of St. Mary's, who remained till the fall, when again the settlement spent a winter without a pastor.

Meanwhile, however, the young community was thriving and the need for a school became pressing. In those days the governments seemed far away from the head of Lake Superior, but the men were of the type who were used to doing things for themselves. In 1873 they built for themselves a school house, situated close to where the Gordon, Ironside and Fares cold storage plant now stands, and which, until quite recent years, remained in the place to which it was later moved, at the rear of the city hall site.

The building of the school house gave the now growing congregation a regular place for meeting on the Sabbath, and in



REV. K. NAIRN

the same year, Rev. Mr. McKerracher arrived and took charge of the welfare of the Presbyterian congregations here and at Silver Islet, then an active, operating mine, and at Prince Arthur's Landing.

From this date events in Canada moved more rapidly, and in 1875, when the establishment of the terminus of the Canadian

Pacific railway, then commenced, at a point higher up the river, a thriving hamlet was started where now is West Fort William, and a meeting of the Presbyterians of the settlement was held at which



REV. HUGH FRASER

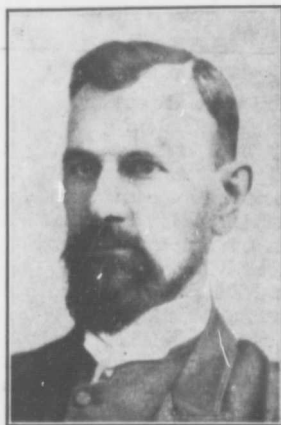
it was decided to build a church in the west end, the result being the erection of what is still known as the First Presbyterian Church, on Gore Street. Here the whole of the Presbyterian congregation worshipped until, in 1878, the removal of some of the railway works to Port Arthur from West Fort William reversed the situation and made the east end again the dominant factor.

In 1881 the Fort William congregation was strong enough to secure the services of a pastor for this field alone and for a few months Rev. Mr. McKay held the appointment, resigning on account of ill-health, and being succeeded by Rev. J. G. Shearer, who has since been made famous by his work for the Lord's Day Alliance. In 1885 Rev. Robert Nairn assumed the pastorate in Fort William, serving both east and west ends of the settlement, and during his term a new school building was

erected on the site now occupied by the Bank of Montreal, where more roomy quarters were afforded for the now growing congregation.

Mr. Nairn was followed by Rev. Hugh Fraser, who, in 1888, led in a fresh forward move by organizing for the building of a new church. Assisted by Mr. John Livingstone, he secured subscriptions, and the site on which stands the present St. Andrew's church was given for the purpose by the McKellar Brothers. Mr. Donald McKellar headed the building committee and, on January 6th, 1889, the first St. Andrew's Church was opened, addresses being given by Dr. Bryce, Rev. Messrs. Pringle, Nairn and Fraser, and by Rev. Mr. Ferrier, then Methodist minister here.

The new church cost five thousand dollars, and, when, three years later, a gallery was added, it would seat 500 people.

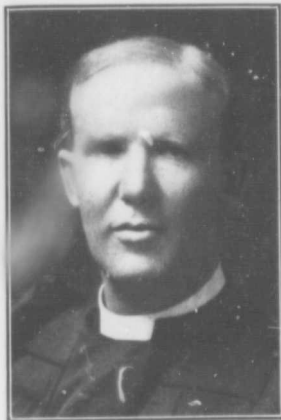


REV. J. L. SIMPSON

This church still stands in Fort William, moved from its old site to make way for the magnificent stone structure which now adorns it, to Pruden Street, where, under the name of Knox Church, it still is the

spiritual home of a large Presbyterian congregation.

Mr. Fraser was called to China as a missionary, and with the induction of Rev. J. L. Simpson, the more modern story of



REV. W. L. H. ROWAND

St. Andrew's Church and of the activities of the Presbyterian congregations in Fort William commence.

The later pastors have been asked to furnish reminiscences of their service in Fort William, and Mr. Simpson writes to the present pastor, Rev. J. A. Cranston, as follows:

Mattawa, Ont.,

May 12th, 1919.

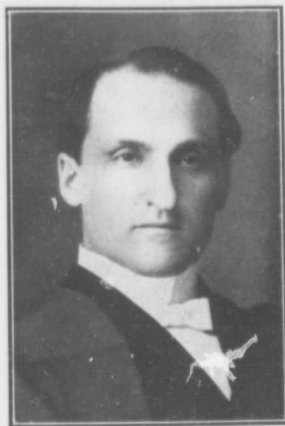
"Dear Mr. Cranston,

"In reply to yours of May 3rd, I fear I am not able to give you much of a history as I preserved no records and will have to depend upon my memory. I presume the church Records which you have would give you what data you require.

"My induction took place in West Fort William in November of 1889. Mr. Pringle of Port Arthur was the Interim Moderator of session, and the Elders were

Messrs. Livingstone, Malcolm and Logie. At first I resided in West Fort and services were conducted in West Fort on Sunday morning and in Fort William in the evening. As Fort William began to build up and the population increased, a house was rented there for a Manse and services were conducted in the church morning and evening, with Sunday School in the afternoon.

"At the time when the work was taken up fully in Fort William there was a heavy floating debt on the congregation of something like \$1,200.00. This, however, was wiped off in one night by a big supper, which was the marvel of the district, tickets being sold at \$2.50 each and finances generally were brought into splendid condition. Much of the financial



REV. J. A. CRANSTON, M.A.

success of the congregation must be attributed to the Chairman of the Board of Management, Mr. T. A. Bell.

"We had a very good Sunday School under efficient and devoted teachers. Mrs. Simpson had the pleasure of organizing the first Women's Missionary Society in the congregation, and was elected

their President. Mrs. Esselmont was treasurer, but I cannot call to mind the other officers. However, their minute book will give these with other information. I likewise had the pleasure of organizing the first Young People's Society



JNO. McKELLAR

One of the Donors of St. Andrew's Site of Christian Endeavor in the congregation. I well remember Angus McDonald among its first members and he no doubt will remember better than I do who the members were, etc. Miss May McLaurin also took a deep interest in it. I would also like to acknowledge my sense of indebtedness to her for her faithfulness and efficiency as organist, together with the many other ways in which she helped along with my work. I also feel much indebted to the late Mr. T. A. Bell for the wise counsel and valuable service which he rendered in the choir and Church management.

"While there were many difficulties, I derived much pleasure in my ministrations to those people. Services were well attended and the work made satisfactory progress.

"I fear what I have written will not be much help to you, but not keeping any record, my memory does not enable me to give you any concise history.

"Wishing you all success and happiness in making out your history for the Church,

Yours sincerely,
"JOHN L. SIMPSON."

From 1893 to 1910, a period of vigorous life and activity in the Presbyterian Church at Fort William, Rev. W. L. H. Rowand was pastor, called from Rapid City, in the Minnedosa Presbytery, and inducted in October, 1893.

Rev. Mr. Rowand furnishes some interesting details of the work during his pastorate, which was notable for the erection, in 1909, of the splendid edifice which now is the home of St. Andrew's congregation.

Mr. Rowand writes:

"At the time of the induction there were no elders in the Church. An interim session was appointed by the Presbytery and shortly afterwards the members of the Church were called upon to select from their number those considered most suitable to fill the office of elders. The choice fell upon T. S. T. Smellie, M. D., and Angus McDonald, and these men were afterwards duly installed.

To secure a permanent and suitable home for the minister, it was felt that a Manse should be built. A lot adjoining the church property was bought from Queen's University, Kingston, and a commodious and modern house erected thereon.

With the further growth of the congregation, it was again felt necessary to consider the question of accommodation and it was decided to erect a new Church. A committee of six was appointed to take charge of the work: P. McKellar, chairman, D. W. Black, G. R. Duncan, H. M. Piper, F. W. Young and D. Smith. The

**Anniversary
Service**



Sunday, June first

Nineteen hundred and nineteen

Morning Service

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

ORGAN PRELUDE—"Caprice in G. Minor" (Crackel)

DOXOLOGY.

INVOCATION.

PSALM No. 86.

READING.

ANTHEM—"Te Deum" (Brackett)

Mrs. T. H. Gillespie, Mrs. S. McMullin and Choir.

PRAYER.

HYMN No. 437.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY—"Reverie" (Faulkes)

SOLO—"God's Garden" (Lambert)

Mrs. T. H. Gillespie.

CHILDREN'S STORY.

HYMN No. 797.

SERMON Rev. D. A. MacDonald of Korea

PRAYER.

SOLO—"O Happy Day" (Goetze)

Mr. Basil Smith

HYMN No. 379.

BENEDICTION.

POSTLUDE—"Grand Chorus" (Dubois)

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Evening Service

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

ORGAN PRELUDE—"Andante and Fanfare"(Rossini)
(From overture to William Tell)

DOXOLOGY.

INVOCATION.

HYMN No. 599.

READING.

ANTHEM—"Hark, Hark my soul"(Shelley)
Mrs. S. McMullin, Miss Ina Whyte and Choir.

PRAYER.

PSALM No. 74.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY.

SOLO—"Lead Kindly Light"(Hawley)
Mrs. S. McMullin.

SERMONRev. J. A. Cranston

PRAYER.

WOMEN'S CHORUS—"Saviour, Breathe an Evening Blessing"..
..... (Sudds)

Mrs. T. H. Gillespie, Miss Ina Whyte, Miss Jean Bauslaugh,
Miss M. McNair, Miss W. Craig, Mrs. S. McMullin,
Mrs. S. Green.

HYMN No. 295.

BENEDICTION.

POSTLUDE—"Finale," E. Flat(Guilmant)

St. Andrew's Church Choir

Fort William, Ontario

NORMAN T. IVES, L. T. C. M.

ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER

LIST OF MEMBERS, SEASON 1918-19.

SOPRANOS:

Mrs. Thos. Dow
Mrs. W. Ginn
Mrs. T. H. Gillespie
Mrs. H. D. Keane
Miss L. Baker
Miss J. Biggar
Miss J. Bauslaugh
Miss B. Clark
Miss E. Deane
Miss R. Hogarth
Miss J. Hawthorn
Miss E. McGee
Miss M. Liberty
Miss B. McKay
Miss A. McKay
Miss E. McRae
Miss E. McKenzie
Miss E. Mills
Miss E. Robertson
Miss Spence
Miss M. Trapp
Miss I. Whyte
Miss Ina Whyte
Miss A. Whyte

TENORS:

Mr. T. H. Gillespie
Mr. J. Garner
Mr. H. Garner
Mr. C. Hettenhausen
Mr. Price
Mr. D. Reid
Mr. R. Stanley

CONTRALTOS:

Mrs. W. Ferguson
Mrs. S. Green
Mrs. S. McMullin
Miss E. Armstrong
Miss H. Bell
Miss W. Craig
Miss A. Lumby
Miss M. McNair
Miss M. Nichol
Miss W. Piper
Miss I. Weegar

BASSES:

Mr. Froome
Mr. A. Bloomfield
Mr. W. Biggar
Mr. H. Hogarth
Mr. E. Marston
Mr. T. Piper
Mr. B. Smith
Mr. A. Seed
Dr. J. S. Strachan
Mr. M. Thomson

Mrs. S. McMullin Secretary

Dr. J. S. Strachan Treasurer

Executive Committee: Norman T. Ives, J. S. Strachan, David Reid,
Miss Anne Whyte, Mrs. S. McMullin.



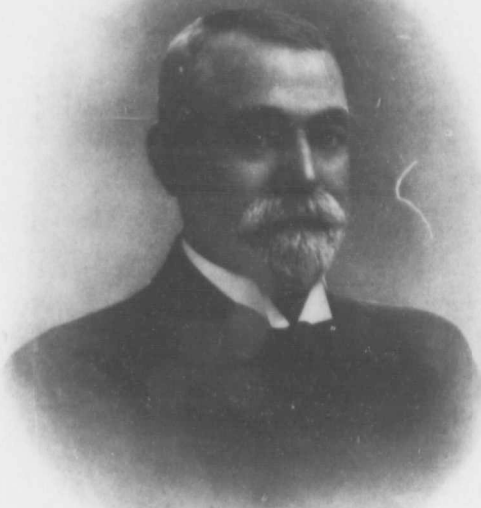
S. M. Keller

One of the Donors of St. Andrew's Site

old site was chosen, it being thought desirable to have one large Presbyterian Church in the city, and afterwards to erect churches elsewhere of such size and number as might be required. At first it was intended to erect a brick church to cost not more than \$50,000, but later it was thought that it should be of stone. This greatly increased the cost of the church, but added much to its beauty. The old church was moved back to the rear and it was intended to use it for the Sunday School for four or five years un-

til the debt on the new structure was somewhat reduced, and that then a new Sunday School building should be erected."

The present St. Andrew's Church, to which Mr. Rowand refers in his notes is a beautiful structure in white sandstone, of fourteenth century Gothic architecture, with a magnificent main entrance, of which the most striking feature is the ten marble columns, supporting Corinthian capitals of fine carved stone. Passing through this handsome entrance, one finds the interior fully equal to the exterior,



Peter McKellar

One of the Donors of St. Andrew's Site

giving the impression of noble spaciousness and ample light. Directly facing the main entrance is a beautiful stained glass window, the gift of two sisters of the McKellar family, Mrs. Deacon and Miss Mary McKellar.

A splendid pipe organ was installed and used on the day of dedication. The celebrated organ builders, Casavant Brothers, of St. Hyacinthe, Que., were given the contract, at a price of \$5,250.00. Mr. Andrew Carnegie paid half the cost of this organ.

Continuing his story, Mr. Rowand re-

calls the laying of the foundation stone by Peter McKellar on September 1, 1908, when the dedicatory address was delivered by Dr. J. A. MacDonald, then editor of the Toronto Globe.

Progress on the building was rapid and when the new church was opened three Sundays were devoted to celebrating the event, with special preachers on each day.

On Sunday, June 13th, 1909, the first Sunday of dedication, the preacher was Rev. Robert Johnston, D.D., of Montreal, on the second Sunday, a week later, Rev. A. B. Weldrum, D.D., of the Old Stone

Church, Cleveland, preached, and on the third Sunday, June 27th, Rev. R. P. McKay, D.D., Foreign Mission Secretary.

"The session," says Mr. Rowand, "was enlarged from time to time as the needs



JNO. LIVINGSTON
The First Elder

of the congregation required, and many good men were elected to the office of the eldership. Some of them have since passed away. Perhaps special mention should be made of Mr. Jno. McNaughton, who manifested an unusual interest and exercised unusual gifts in the work of the church. He was an active worker in the S. S., C. E., and choir for a time and was also in the session.

"A number of prominent men who were interested in the foundation of the Church passed away in my time: Jno. McKellar, Jno. McIntyre, Jno. Livingston and others.

"There are a few links in the church today connecting the church of the present with the strenuous past, including P. McKellar, A. McDonald, H. M. Piper, F. C. Perry and others."

Concerning his own part in the development of the church and its activities, Mr.

Rowand writes that he was only the appointed leader, and bears testimony to the loyal service of his co-workers. "We were," he says, "workers together with God, and I was among them as one who served."

From 1910 until the present day the history of St. Andrew's church has been that of the pastorate of Rev. J. A. Cranston, under whose guidance the work of the church has been kept up to the high standard set by his predecessors, who, although they laid the foundation and did the missionary work, did not have to minister to the congregation through such a time of trial by fire as that which commenced on August 4th, 1914.

The sphere of influence of the church has not been confined only to the single congregation of St. Andrew's, but has been widened so that there is hardly a field in the social and religious work of this district that it has left untouched.

This widening influence was noted with marked appreciation in a resolution passed on February 14th, 1919, by the Superior Presbytery, which, after eulogizing the work of the congregation and its more than capable minister, Rev. J. A. Cranston, went on to say that, outside of the annual budget and expenditure of the church, the unrecorded and untabulated work of the church would exceed in pecuniary value twenty-five thousand dollars in gifts bestowed, including the donation and equipment of St. Stephen's Ruthenian church and of Knox church, all set going free of charge and without a penny of debt.

Following is a summary, briefly told, of the work accomplished since Mr. Cranston took charge:

The amount raised for the years mentioned for church maintenance by envelope contribution and voluntary offerings in St. Andrew's is shown in the following table:

1889	\$ 499.56
1899	1,758.40
1909	4,460.47
1918	9,736.07

The Rev. W. L. H. Rowand, B.A., resigned the pastorate of St. Andrew's Church in April, 1910, and after a short vacancy, the Rev. J. A. Cranston, M.A., of Collingwood, was called on his reputation, and in the month of August was inducted into the pastorate of St. Andrew's Church.

The progress of the congregation has continued with varying success since that date. This is manifest at least in some lines.

Knox congregation started off in the year 1913, and today is in a flourishing condition, with 250 members on its roll and nearly 300 Sunday School scholars enrolled.

She has been served by two ministers, Rev. D. I. Ellison, who is now in Runnymede, Toronto, and Rev. I. W. Cruikshanks, B.D., the present minister. St. Stephens Presbyterian Ruthenian Church was established about the same time to serve a growing Presbyterian population among the Ruthenian people. The present minister in charge is Rev. William Hotney.

A new Sunday School building as an annex to St. Andrew's Church has been erected, but only partially finished owing to the war.

St. Andrew's Church is served by splendid bands of workers.

To meet the need of the growing congregation, which now numbers seven hundred in membership, the session has been from time to time augmented until now there are sixteen members. The managing board of the Church consists of fifteen members, presided over by Mr. Hugh M. Piper, who, along with Mr. F. C. Perry, the treasurer, has given many faithful years of service.

The Sunday School organization is a live wire, under the superintendency of Mr. A. C. Adams, assisted by Mr. H. J. Oliver, and Mr. J. H. Garner, as class supervisor. At the present time the school is served by a fine band of forty-five officers and teachers, who have a vision of greater things yet. The school has grown until it has reached four hundred in attendance.

There is great need of the completion of the unfinished Sunday School building for the growing numbers of the young.

The Women's Guild is a splendid organization. Since the opening of the new church the salary of the choirleader and organist, the paying off of the mortgage on the manse, the giving of large payments towards the new Sunday School building—all these have been met by the Guild, besides assisting in many other ways. Mrs. T. M. Piper is the President, and Mrs. G. MacEdward, the Treasurer.

The missionary organization has been most active and has helped greatly to keep alive the missionary spirit.

The Women's Missionary Society is presided over by Mrs. W. F. Hogarth, the Young Women's Society by Miss Sarah McLeod, and the Sunbeam Mission Band by Mrs. Robert Hunter. The congregation is enjoying at the present time splendid music by a fine choir of forty-five voices, under the able leadership of Mr. Norman T. Ives, L.T.C.M.

St. Andrew's congregation gave liberally of her young men to the great world war to the extent of three hundred and fifty-seven, forty-one of these laid down their lives, many more have been maimed for life. While the sacrifice was severe, the victory won is great.

The people of St. Andrew's are in good heart and look hopefully to the future.

St. Andrew's Church Office Bearers

1919

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Rev. J. A. Cranston, M. A.,	Minister	W. W. SOUTHON,	Clerk of Session
John McCorkindale	Chas. Jenkins	Robert Corbett	
Thomas Stewart	Chas. C. Le Cocq	Herman Trapp	
Thomas Dow	William Young	William Webster	
Angus McDonald	John Izatt	Alexander Stewart	
W. J. Hamilton, B.A.	George Birch	John Garner.	

MANAGING BOARD

A. C. Adams	G. R. Duncan	A. D. Cameron
G. E. Ewing	H. M. Piper	T. H. Gillespie
J. A. Fife	Thos. Russell	Chas. LeCocq
E. G. Simpson	Robt. Strachan	J. R. Wells
R. A. Chambers		
M. A. Thomson, Secretary	F. C. Perry, treasurer	
J. B. DONALDSON, Church Warden and Envelope Sec.		

WOMEN'S GUILD

Hon. Presidents	Mrs. J. D. Nichol and Mrs. W. A. Matheson
President	Mrs. T. M. Piper
Vice-Presidents	Mrs. A. Caskey and Mrs. W. F. Lester
Secretary	Mrs. J. A. Riddell
Collectors' Secretary	Mrs. Birch, Sr.
Treasurer	Mrs. Geo. MacEdward

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

President	Mrs. W. F. Hogarth
1st Vice-President	Mrs. J. A. Cranston
2nd Vice-President	Mrs. A. McDonald
Secretary	Mrs. Lewis Petrie
Treasurer	Mrs. W. J. Hamilton

YOUNG WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Hon. President	Mrs. J. A. Cranston
President	Miss S. McLeod
1st Vice-President	Miss A. Lehman
2nd Vice-President	Miss J. Hogarth
Secretary	Miss G. A. Ross
Treasurer	Miss M. Cameron

ST. ANDREW'S "SUNBEAM" MISSION BAND.

President	Mrs. Robt. Hunter
Vice-President	Mrs. J. A. Cranston
Secretary	Miss Helen Simpson
Treasurer	Miss Verna Lawrence

St. Andrew's Sunday School

OFFICERS:

- A. C. Adams, Superintendent, 318 S. Norah Street
J. H. Garner, Superintendent of Teachers, 234 S. Brodie Street
H. J. Oliver, Assistant Superintendent and Recording Secretary,
1422 Moodie Street
- Miss Bessie Bowie, School Secretary
A. E. Southon, Treasurer
- Miss Myrtle Bowie, Supply Secretary
H. H. Wightman, Supply Secretary
Miss Athol Walker, Supply Secretary
A. H. Knutson, Statistician
Mrs. H. J. Oliver, Pianist

TEACHING STAFF

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. D. Anderson | Miss S. McLeod |
| Mrs. Birch, Sen. | Mrs. McTaggart |
| Mr. Geo. Birch | Mr. A. McDonald |
| Miss M. Cameron | Miss J. Matheson |
| Miss Esther Davidson | Mr. R. Munro |
| Miss Grace Davidson | Mrs. Mitchell |
| Miss E. Dean | Mrs. F. C. Perry |
| Mr. A. H. Goodrick | Miss W. Piper |
| Mr. F. A. Halliday | Mrs. L. Petrie |
| Mrs. W. F. Hogarth | Mrs. O. Peterson |
| Miss R. Hogarth | Mrs. F. Ross |
| Mr. J. Izaat | Miss Redmond |
| Mr. A. Knutson | Mrs. J. F. Robertson |
| Mrs. W. F. Lester | Miss K. Stewart |
| Mrs. W. Lindsay | Miss J. Stevenson |
| Miss G. McEdward | Mr. Allan Thomson |
| Miss J. McKay | Mr. H. H. Trapp |
| Miss A. McLennan | Miss Wannan |
- Mr. J. Wood

Occasional teachers: Miss H. Row, Miss A. McKay, Miss F. Robertson, Miss G. Neeley, Miss A. Strang, Miss F. Hazelton, Miss M. Wells, Mrs. S. Langille, Mr. C. LeCoq, Mr. McMillan, Mr. Anderson.