

GLENCOE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

**SEMI-JUBILEE**

1890 - - 1915

GLENCOE - ONTARIO

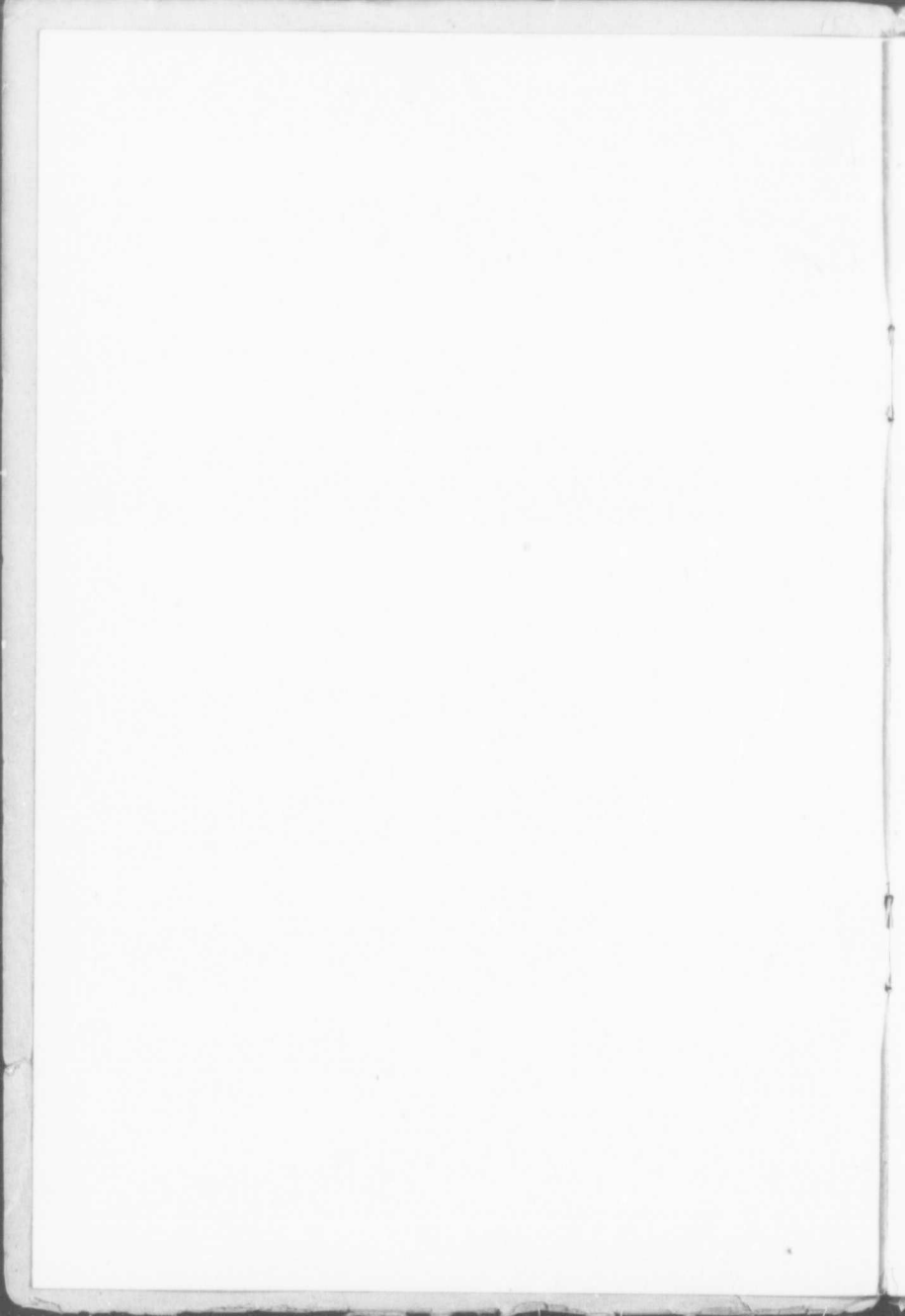
Glencoe Presbyterian Church  
Glencoe, Ontario

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Semi-Jubilee Souvenir  
1890 - 1915

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*The Transcript Press, Glencoe*





*REV. GEC. WEIR*



*MRS. WEIR*

*THE PRESENT MINISTER AND HIS WIFE*



## Historical Sketch

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PRESBYTERIANISM in Glencoe and vicinity dates back to the year 1830, when some Highland families from Argyleshire, Scotland, settled in Ekfrid, near the Longwoods Road. A weekly prayer meeting and Sabbath School were instituted under the supervision of Mr. John McKellar, and shortly afterwards occasional services were given by missionaries, the first of these being Rev. Donald McKenzie, the well known pioneer minister of Zorra, followed by Rev. Daniel Allan, Rev. Duncan McMillan, Rev. Lachlan McPherson and others. These services were held in the humble homes of the early settlers until the year 1840 when a log church was built near where Knox Church, Ekfrid, afterwards stood.

In 1848 Rev. W. R. Sutherland was inducted as pastor, and two years later the frame building known as Knox Church, which stood near the Longwoods Road, one and a half miles east of Strathburn, was opened for worship.

In the year 1854 the Great Western Railway was built, after which Glencoe came into existence, and in a few years a schoolhouse became a necessity, and after its erection, about the end of the year 1857, Rev. Mr. Sutherland, probably in this schoolhouse, opened what he called "a new church in Glencoe" and held services regularly thereafter. This was the beginning of a Presbyterian congregation in Glencoe.

About the year 1860, the late Rev. Donald Strachan, then a missionary of the Church of Scotland, commenced services in the homes of the people, and his success was so marked that in 1862 St. Andrew's Church, Glencoe, was built. It was a brick structure and stood on a lot adjacent to that on which the present manse is built. The late Mr. Duncan Graham granted the site for the church. It was dedicated by Rev. Lachlan McPherson, assisted by Rev. James McEwan. For some considerable time Rev. Mr. Strachan continued to minister to St. Andrew's congregation in the new building, followed for shorter periods by the Reverends McGillivray,

McDougall and McAuley. In the year 1808 Rev. John McLeod became pastor. He resigned his charge in 1871. The Rev. D. McEachran then followed as a missionary. A call was extended to him, which he accepted, and his induction was in 1875. He remained until his translation to Parkhill in 1879, when he was followed by Rev. Hugh Cameron, who ministered most acceptably until in 1884 he accepted a call to Watford, and is now settled in Morrisburg, Ontario. In 1879 the congregation in Glencoe, under the ministry of the Rev. W. R. Sutherland, erected Burns' Church, which was dedicated by Rev. Dr. Scott and Rev. N. McKinnon. It was built of brick and stood on nearly the same site as the present Glencoe Presbyterian Church. The land was a gift from the late Mr. N. Currie, M. P. P. Burns' Church was destroyed by fire in 1886.

The union of all the Presbyterian churches in Canada in 1875 brought St. Andrew's and Burns' Churches into the same denomination, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and led to the union of these two churches in 1885, under the name of Glencoe Presbyterian Church.

About this time Rev. Mr. Sutherland retired from the active duties of the ministry, and in 1898 London Presbytery celebrated in Glencoe Church the 50th anniversary of his ordination. His friends presented him with a fine address and a purse of gold. His death occurred in October, 1898.

For a few years after the union, the congregations of Glencoe, Appin and Tait's Corners formed one pastoral charge and called Rev. John Robbins, who, after a brief pastorate, was translated to Teuro, Nova Scotia. He was followed in May, 1887, by the Rev. D. Currie, B. A., B. D.

In 1889 Appin and Tait's Corners were set apart as a separate charge, leaving Glencoe congregation under the pastoral care of Rev. Mr. Currie.

### The Present Church—1890-1915

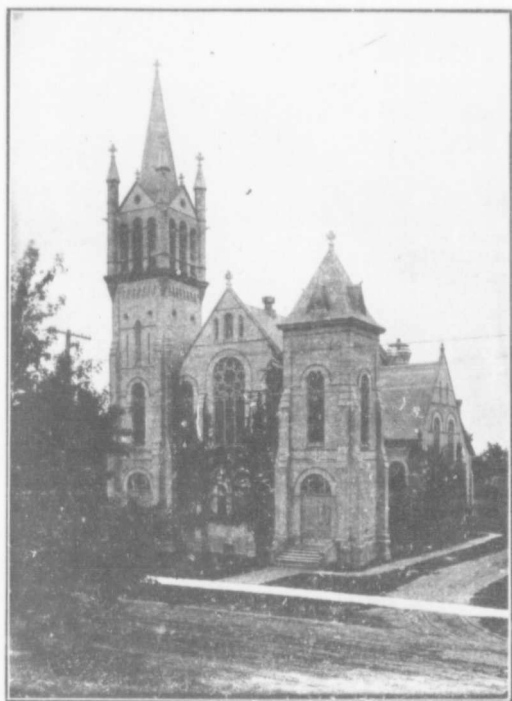
After the loss of Burns' Church it was found that St. Andrew's was too small for the increasing congregation, and steps were taken to erect a new church edifice. A congregational meeting appointed the following building committee:—Messrs. I. Rathburn, W. W. Gordon, S. J. McCreery, J. A. Younge, T. Hopkins, W. Symes, J. McKellar, A. Stuart,

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J. M. Tait, A. J. Taylor, D. McCallum, J. McNeil, A. McLean, and W. Webster, Treasurer.

This committee met October 4th, 1888. Subscriptions were solicited, plans secured, the site selected, and in April, 1889, the contract awarded to Mr. A. Clanahan. The architect was Mr. G. F. Durand, of London.

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Glencoe Presbyterian Church.



In the presence of a large assemblage, on Sept. 9th, 1880, the corner stone was laid by the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, B. D., of Toronto.

Amid general rejoicings, in which Presbyterians for miles around joined, the church was opened June 1st, 1890, by Rev. Dr. McVicar, of Montreal, who preached excellent sermons to large audiences.

The church, which is one of the finest and most prominent buildings in the village, occupies a beautiful site on Main Street. With stone foundation, walls of white brick, slate roof and stately towers, its exterior appearance is one of architectural beauty and durability. It is well lighted by beautiful cathedral windows in stained and ground glass, and has a seating capacity of about five hundred. The interior is finished in oak. The pulpit and ends of the very comfortable pews are nicely panelled and the elegant, upholstered oak pulpit chairs appropriately match the other furniture. Back of the pulpit is the choir gallery and a handsome pipe organ.

The lecture hall, also used as a Sunday School room, is at the rear of the church and forms a part of the building, the whole of which is lighted by electricity.

### The Session

At the time of opening the church, the session was composed of Rev. D. Currie, Messrs. Alexander Eddie, Alexander Cameron, Thos. Strachan, John McCracken, Duncan McGregor and James A. Younge.

Later in the same year, Angus McNish, A. J. Taylor and John McKellar were added to the session and, in 1894, it was further strengthened by the addition of A. W. McBean, Isaac Rathburn, George Lethbridge and James Robertson.

In 1901, John Strachan, Dr. J. Y. McLachlan, J. L. Luckham and Angus McGougan were added, and in 1907, Charles Scott, Robert Eddie, George Innes and G. C. McFarlane.

Three years later, to meet the losses caused by death and removal, the congregation elected W. R. S. McCracken, John McLean, James Harris, J. A. Scott, R. B. McKellar and George McBean.

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The passing years brought many changes. Messrs. McNish, Robertson, McGowan and McFarlane left us for new homes and service in other congregations, whilst these have been called to their eternal reward—Messrs. A. Eddie, J. McKellar, T. Strachan, D. McGregor, J. L. Luckham, J. McCracken, J. A. Young, A. J. Taylor, I. Rathburn, A. W. McBean, and G. McBean. "They rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

The clerks of session during the quarter century have been Mr. J. A. Young for ten years, Mr. James Robertson for two years, and Dr. McLachlan, who still fills the position.

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Rev. Dugald Currie, B. D., D. D.

Rev. Dugald Currie, B. D., D. D., was born in the Township of Aldboro, was educated at Wardville High School, McGill University and Presbyterian College, Montreal, where he graduated in 1884. He was called to the charge at Three Rivers, Que. After a pastorate of three years he was called to Glencoe and became the second pastor of the united congregation. Here he labored with conspicuous success for a period of six years. Under his wise guidance, the work of uniting the two congregations in a true sense was completed. In 1891 he was called to Perth where he remained until called to his present charge in Beaverton. In 1913 Rev. Mr. Currie was honored by his Alma Mater with the degree of D. D.

## Board of Management

The Board of Managers in 1890 consisted of Alexander Cameron, Chairman; A. J. Taylor, Secretary; John McNeil, Treasurer; D. A. McCallum, Archibald McLean, S. J. McCreery, John McKellar, Alexander Stuart and Robert Eddie.

In the years following many have been elected to serve in this capacity, and the congregation owes much to the noble and unselfish service freely rendered by the various Managing Boards during the quarter century.

The late Mr. Isaac Rathburn, of honored memory, for many years acted as Chairman and devoted much time and energy to the advancement of the interests of the church.

At present the members of the Board are J. A. Scott, Chairman; George Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer; E. T. Huston, David Coulthard, Donald McGregor, D. F. Eddie, J. M. Beckton, J. B. McKellar, Alexander McAlpine, William Hurley, Lewis Suttter and A. B. McDonald.

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## Missionary Organizations

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This congregation has always been closely identified with the missionary interests of the church, and its sympathy has found expression in the activities of the various missionary organizations, some of which came into existence at a very early period in the history of the united congregation.

The first of these was that of the Ladies' Missionary Society, which held itself responsible for collecting funds for the various schemes of the church. It was organized in 1885, during the pastorate of Rev. John

Robbins. The following were the officers for 1890:—President, Mrs. Gordon; Vice-President, Mrs. T. Hopkins; Secretary, Mrs. (Rev.) D. Currie; Treasurer, Mrs. G. Wilson.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society came into existence in October, 1885, and for twenty-nine years continued to be one of the most active and educative influences in the congregation, and contributed very largely to the deepening of the interest of the people in the whole problem of missions. Its officers for 1890 were: President, Mrs. Neil McKinnon; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. James Younge; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. T. Hopkins; Secretary, Mrs. (Dr.) MacIntyre; Treasurer, Mrs. (Rev.) D. Currie.

The present organizations are four in number and aim at the further development of the missionary spirit, the diffusion of missionary intelligence, and to enlist in active co-operation the whole congregation.



Interior View of Church.

## Women's Missionary Society

The Women's Missionary Society comprises what were once the Women's Foreign Missionary Society and the Weir Home Missionary Society. The latter was organized in February, 1900. These two societies were amalgamated in 1914, since which time the united society has enjoyed great prosperity and is proving itself a vital factor in the cultivation of the spiritual life of our women. The officers are as follows: - Hon. Presidents, Mrs. Alex. Cameron and Miss Ann Strachan; President, Mrs. Weir; Treasurer, Mrs. C. B. McLean; Secretary, Mrs. J. Y. McLachlan; Messenger Secretary, Mrs. A. E. Sutherland; Strangers Secretary, Miss Berdan; Home Helpers Secretary, Mrs. Neil Graham; Organist, Mrs. J. L. Luckham.

## Ross Mission Band

This Band represents the work among the young ladies of the congregation. It was organized during the pastorate of Rev. R. W. Ross. And for many years it has been doing very creditable work. Officers—President, Mrs. J. Strachan; 1st Vice President, Miss M. McEachren; Treasurer, Miss Jennie Finlayson; Secretary, Miss Fern Graham; Pianist, Miss Jean Sutherland.

## Gordon Mission Band

This faithful band of junior workers was organized during Dr. Currie's pastorate, and was called after the late Mrs. W. W. Gordon, who was its first and very devoted president. It addresses itself to the work of educating and training boys and girls in missionary activities. It has experienced steady progress and is quietly sowing the good seed in the young hearts at a time which cannot but prove fruitful. The officers are—President, Mrs. R. B. McKellar; Vice President, Miss Florence Keith; Treasurer, Miss Sadie McKellar; Secretary, Miss Dorothy Weir; Organist, Miss Marion Huston.

## Laymen's Missionary Committee

This, though the youngest of all our missionary organizations, is, perhaps, the most prominent and, in a sense, the most active. It first came into existence in 1908 but became disorganized for several years until January, 1914, when it was reorganized on a very satisfactory basis and has been chiefly instrumental in putting new life and energy into the missionary forces of the congregation. Its members have been active even beyond the boundaries of our own congregation in seeking to stimulate missionary zeal in other congregations. During the year 1914, through its work, the amount allotted to this congregation was exceeded. Officers—President, Mr. W. R. S. McCracken; Secretary, Mr. C. B. McLean; Treasurer, Mr. James Poole. The latter has been a very efficient treasurer of mission funds for a period of six years.

For many years this congregation has supported a student missionary in the home field. This has had its reflex influence upon the life of the congregation. The steadily growing interest in all phases of missionary work is one of the most encouraging features of its life. At the present time it is represented by two of its young men, D. W. McKellar and Warren McAlpine, in the home mission field.

Rev. R. W. Ross, M. A., was educated at the Clifton and Galt Institutes, Toronto and Berlin (Germany) Universities and Knox College, from which he graduated in 1893. In January, 1894, he was ordained and inducted into Glencoe Presbyterian Church where he remained for five years. In 1899 he was translated to Knox Church, Guelph, where he labored for nine years, when he was called to his present charge, Fort Massey Church, Halifax.



Rev. R. W. Ross, M. A.

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## Willing Workers

The work of our congregation would be hampered and our comfort seriously affected were it not for "those women" who comprise that faithful and energetic body known as the Willing Workers. It is one of the features of this society that it never has reported a deficit, always having a surplus, and, best of all, ever ready to do its part for all that makes for the welfare of the congregation. Officers, 1915:—Hon. President, Mrs. David Currie; President, Mrs. J. Grant; Vice-President, Mrs. A. McPherson; Secretary, Mrs. Neil Graham; Treasurer, Mrs. Lewis Sutter.

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The Manse, built in 1804.

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## The Choir

One of the organizations of which our congregation is justly proud is our choir. Although composed of volunteers who give of their time and talents freely, it has always been able to maintain a very high standard of efficiency, and was never in a more satisfactory condition than at the present time. Our congregational and choir singing were greatly benefited by the handsome pipe organ which was installed about twelve years ago. For many years the choir was under the capable leadership of the late Mrs. Duncan Cameron, who during her life sought to instill into her pupils and members of the choir a love for music.

Under the various organists and choir leaders, the choir work has steadily progressed, and today it is moving along with delightful harmony under the capable leadership of Miss Hattie Saxton.

The choir possesses its own organization. Its officers are as follows:— President and Choir Leader, Miss Hattie Saxton; Treasurer, Mr. M. C. Campbell; Secretary, Mr. Lewis Suttler; Organist, Miss Ethel Copeland.

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## Young People's Society

The Y. P. S. is one of the oldest organizations in the congregation, having come into existence during the early years of Dr. Currie's pastorate, and enjoyed for a time great prosperity, numbering among its members not a few who have since come to fill places of responsibility in the various walks of life.

The passing years have wrought many changes, seriously reducing the number of our young men and young women. This has affected our young people's work. Notwithstanding, our society is still struggling on, affording a most helpful field for the training and development of the young for the Christian life and service.



## Sabbath School

The Sabbath School has always enjoyed a prominent place in the work of this congregation and from the time of the union there has been a most encouraging attendance and a large staff of teachers. From among its pupils several have gone forth into the ministry of our Church—Rev. N. D. Keith, B. D., Principal of Alberta Ladies' College, Red Deer; Rev. A. A. Graham, B. D., Principal of Boys' College, Moosejaw; Rev. Campbell C. Strachan, B. A., Norquay, Saskatchewan, and Rev. Edward MacGougan, B. D., of Stratheona.

Associated with the school as superintendents were the following:—Mr. Alexander MacIntyre, Mr. A. J. Taylor, Mr. R. J. Webster, Mr. John Strachan.

There has been a steady growth of interest in missions, which was greatly stimulated by the congregation assuming responsibility for the annual current expenses of the school and thus leaving it free to devote its entire contributions to missions. In 1914 the highest mark was reached by the school when they gave \$202.00 to the Budget. There is a perceptible growth of interest in all phases of the work and a larger attendance of children at the Sunday service.

Officers and Teachers are as follows:— Superintendent, John Strachan; Assistant Superintendent, J. A. Scott; Secretary-Treasurer, M. McAlpine; Librarian, James Poole; Pianist, Margaret Morrison; Assistant Pianist, Jean Sutherland; Superintendent Cradle Roll, Maggie Berdan; Musical Director, Donald Munroe.

Teachers—Mrs. Weir, Senior Bible Class; Mr. Weir, Young Men's Class; Miss Berdan, Young Ladies' Class; Mrs. John Strachan, Primary Class; J. A. Scott, Alexander McAlpine, C. B. McLean, A. B. McDonald, Mrs. W. Weaver, Mrs. Allan McPherson, Miss Bessie McRae, Miss Evelyn McLachlan, Miss Gladys McAlpine, Andrew Strachan, Miss Anna McLachlan.

It may be of interest to note that at the time of the union there were two hundred and thirty-four members on the roll. In a few years a number of these left to form the Tait's Corners and Appin congregations. Some are living elsewhere, many have been called away from earth, but, in God's kind providence, the following are still with us and identified with our congregational work :—

Miss Margaret McAlpine  
 Mrs. A. W. McBean  
 Miss Euphemia Dalton  
 Mr. Robert Eddie  
 Miss Margaret Ferguson  
 Mrs. Malcolm Leitch  
 Miss Margaret Sinclair  
 Mrs. John Smith  
 Miss Margaret Smith  
 Mrs. Jane Tallamy  
 Mr. Alexander Cameron  
 Mrs. Alexander Cameron  
 Mrs. Robert Clanahan  
 Mrs. D. McAlpine (Ekl.)  
 Mr. Alexander McLellan  
 Mrs. Thomas Strachan  
 Miss Ann Strachan  
 Miss Christena Sutherland

Mrs. Alexander Sutherland  
 Mr. W. W. Gordon  
 Mr. Donald Gillies  
 Mrs. Donald Gillies  
 Miss Mary Graham  
 Mrs. Archibald Graham  
 Mrs. Thomas Hopkins  
 Miss Margaret McMillan  
 Mrs. Donald McEachran  
 Mrs. James Harris  
 Mr. D. A. McCallum  
 Mrs. D. A. McCallum  
 Mr. M. D. McAlpine  
 Mrs. M. D. McAlpine  
 Mr. James Nichol  
 Mrs. James Quick  
 Mr. George Wilson  
 Mrs. George Wilson



Rev. W. R. Sutherland



Rev. John Robbins

In this brief sketch no attempt has been made to tell in detail the history of the past twenty-five years. Its purpose is to outline the origin, development, and some phases of the work, especially the missionary activities of the congregation. The story of the early efforts, the difficulties overcome, the faithful men and women whose names deserve to be recorded as co-laborers with Christ, is a most interesting one and would fill a large volume. Time has wrought changes. Some have left the bounds, but the majority of those who labored earnestly in the Master's service in the earlier days, organizing and maintaining his congregation, have been called home, but the labors of those who have taken their



Rev. James Wilson, B. A.

Rev. James Wilson, B. A., was born in the Township of West Wawanosh, Huron County. He was educated at Goderich High School, Toronto University and Knox College. After graduating he was called to Drummond Hill Church, Niagara Falls, where he was ordained and inducted in 1883. After seven years he was called to Glencoe where he remained for five years when he was called to his present charge, Dovercourt Road, Toronto. Under his faithful and energetic leadership his congregation in Toronto has become one of the largest in the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

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places have also been abundantly blessed. The retrospect at this Semi-Jubilee is inspiring. The memory of past blessings calls every member to more consecrated service and effort to extend the Kingdom of our Master, each looking forward to a happy reunion in the Homeland above and anticipating His glad welcome, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

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Rev. George Weir, B. A.

Rev. George Weir, B. A., the present pastor, was born in East Zorra, County of Oxford, educated at Woodstock Collegiate Institute, McGill University and Presbyterian College in Montreal, graduating in 1897. He was ordained and inducted into the charge of Avonmore, Presbytery of Glengarry. After a pastorate of nearly eight years he was called to Glencoe. Notwithstanding the numerous changes in the congregation, through deaths and removals, the work has enjoyed a goodly measure of substantial progress.