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History of
St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church
Napier, Ont.

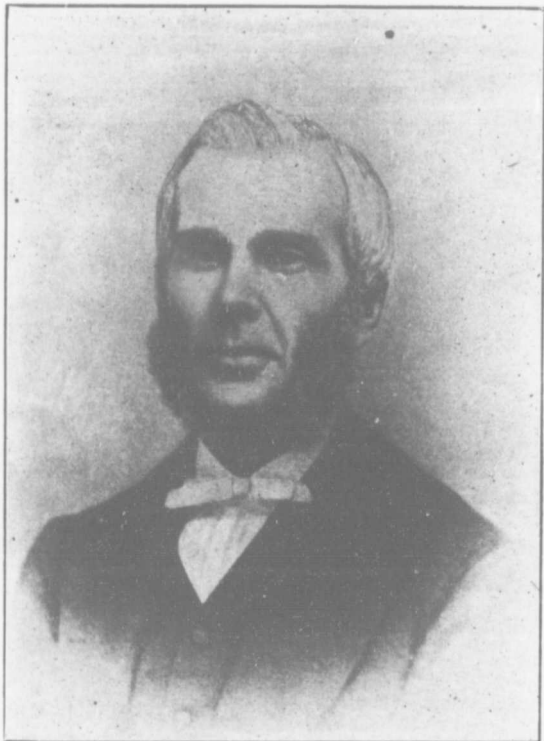


Organized May, 1863
Jubilee held August 23 and 24
1914



ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NAPIER, ONT.

—1887—



REV. WM. TROUP—1862-1865

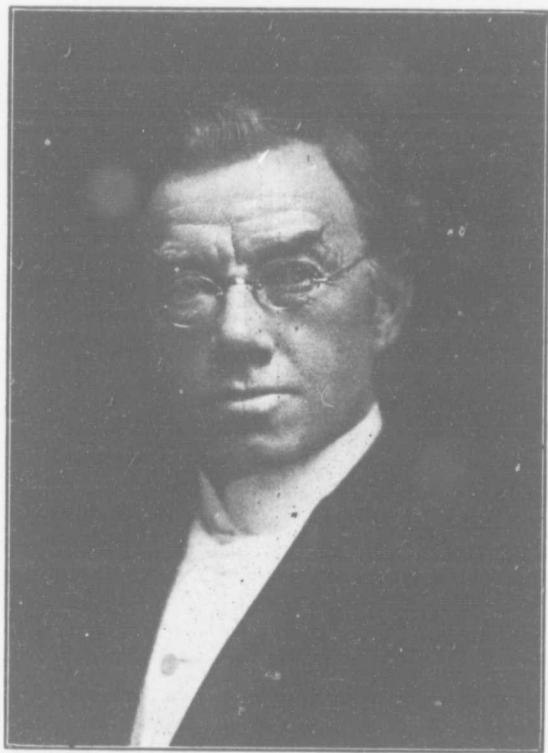
During the year 1857 the late James Gordon Sutherland located in the village of Napier, where he bought and erected new mills. At this time there was no church convenient, the Episcopalian church being situated some distance from the village. A union church was built, which served the purpose of a meeting place for some time. The Presbyterian families were few, but were possessed with a courageous and persevering spirit and soon began to plan for a church of their own, where they might worship in their own way. In the home of the late J. G. Sutherland services were held for some time, the church being in process of construction. The brick was made in the year 1860 by the late Thomas Machie. Mr. J. G. Sutherland donated the site. Among those who took part in the building were the late Mr. James Cameron, Mr. George Irving, Mr. Dougal Walker, Mr. John Walker, Mr. John Sutherland, Mr. Archibald Old and Mr. Angus McLean. The first Prescenter was Mr. Archibald Old.

The session record begins on the 5th day of May, 1863, with the following statement: "The committee appointed by the Presbytery of London to visit Napier and organize the congregation there, met in the Presbyterian Church, Napier." At this meeting of organization there were twenty-five admitted into membership.

The Rev. William Troup, who up to this time had been laboring as a missionary, was shortly afterward inducted. The election of elders soon followed—(February 24th, 1864). Messrs. Archibald Old, Dougal Walker, Elliot Grieve Elliot were the first choice.

Some of the early members were Mr. and Mrs. John Connor, Mr. and Mrs. James Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. John Bowie, Mr. and Mrs. James Emerick, Mr. and Mrs. Angus McLean, Mr. and Mrs. Dougal Walker, Mrs. McNally, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Short, Mr. J. Atkinson and Mrs. Troup, residing now in Hamilton.

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REV. J. R. JOHNSTON—1881-1891

REV. HUGH CURRIE—1875-1876

After a lengthy vacancy the congregation was again led by an ordained pastor, in the person of Rev. Hugh Currie, in 1875. The congregation was now without a session. Mosa church session in former times had generously performed the sacred duties at Napier when it was without a session, now the "Log" church came over and looked after the spiritual welfare of the congregation. In this connection the names of Rev. Wm. Sutherland, Alexander Eadie and William Zow, of Mosa, and James Munroe and Archibald Lindsay, of the "Log" church, will be remembered.

The election of elders, resulting in the second session of Napier, consisting of Messrs. John Atkins, Duncan Campbell, Angus McLean and Mod. Rev. Hugh Currie.

The early members uniting at this period were Mr. and Mrs. J. Atkins and their daughters, Margaret, Jane and Agnes, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Campbell, Miss Margaret McPhail, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Leitch, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Meloche, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald McLachlan, Mrs. J. Rundle, Mrs. Archie McIntyre and Mrs. John McNeil.

During the next vacancy the name of Rev. N. McKinnon, of Mosa, will be remembered with much congregational affection for his kindly care of the interests of Napier.

In 1881 Napier united with Alvington and called as pastor the Rev. J. R. Johnston, now of Preston. Mr. Johnston toiled earnestly and labored incessantly for about ten years. Associated with him on the session were Messrs. John Atkin, Duncan Campbell, Angus McLean, Malcolm Fisher and John Hutton. During Mr. Johnston's very successful pastorate many items of interest and importance took place. Space will permit the mention of only a

REV. T. A. BELL—1896-1909



few. In the first year of Mr. Johnston's pastorate the first mention of missions is made, when a missionary society was organized. In 1887, at the June meeting of session, we find the following matter of interest: "The moderator proposed a change in the order of service, namely, the introduction of two readings instead of one, and of four singings instead of three, and that all stand during singing." It had evidently been customary previously for the congregation to sit during singing and stand during the prayers. These were the days of lengthy services. We are assured by the number uniting with the church and the faithful way in which the spiritual interests of the church were promoted, that it was a joy to go up to the house of the Lord.

Perhaps the item for which Mr. Johnston will most be remembered, is that during his pastorate, in the year 1887, the present church was built. The work was in the hands of a committee and the session. Those taking part were Dr. Dixon, Niel McBane, W. S. Calvert, Alex. Cameron, Thomas Warren, R. Connor, D. McIntyre, W. H. Sutherland and James Walker. The name of the new church was decided upon at the regular annual meeting. It then received its present designation—"St. Andrew's."

It was in the early days of the new church that the organ began to be used. After Mr. Old had passed away, Mr. John Bowie became presentor. Mr. Bowie fulfilled this important duty for many years in an acceptable manner, receiving from time to time the cordial vote of thanks from the congregation.

REV. A. McDAIRMID—1892-1895

The Rev. J. R. Johnston resigned in 1891 and Rev. A. McDairmid became pastor. Mr. McDairmid remained with the congregation for about three years. There was a short vacancy

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REV. J. U. STEWART—1910-1913

ensuing, resulting in the induction of Rev. T. A. Bell, then a recent graduate of Knox College. Mr. Bell's gifts of personality and charm quickly won and held the hearts of his people. Together with Mrs. Bell, who soon came as a bride to live at Napier, Mr. Bell led young and old into church activities for the betterment of the community.

The outward item of advance that was contributed to St. Andrew's during Mr. Bell's pastorate was the present beautiful manse. Rev. H. Currie had resided at Napier, but had not a permanent manse belonging to the church. Mr. Bell being the only other pastor up to this time who lived in the village, found the congregation desirous that a permanent house be procured by the congregation for the use of their pastor. Owing to lack of space we are unable to print a likeness of the manse. It is a large roomy house and reflects much credit on the congregation and the building committee—A. Bowlby, Thos. Warren and M. McIntyre.

Rev. T. A. Bell was assisted in the session by Messrs. M. McIntyre, N. McBane, S. ^{Kay}Kay, J. Hutton, Donald ^{Kay}Kay, Thos. Warren and Henry Field.

Rev. T. A. Bell resigned in October, 1909, and after a year's vacancy Rev. J. U. Stewart became pastor. Mr. Stewart was enthusiastic about his work, ever keeping before the congregation the high aims of the gospel of Christ. The congregation had a missionary society which did very well for the foreign work. Under Mr. Stewart's leadership the church made a noble step forward in its missionary work and givings. Mr. Stewart will long be held in respect by the Napier people, who regret that his stay was so short.



REV. K. M. EASSON—July 23rd, 1913

After a little over two years as pastor of St. Andrew's, Rev. J. U. Stewart resigned. A short vacancy ensued, after which the present pastor was called—Rev. K. M. Easson, a recent graduate of Knox College.

Those associated with the present pastor in the leadership of the congregation on the session, are: Messrs. M. McIntyre, S. Hay, H. Field, A. Rogers and Dr. C. W. Sawers. The finances of the church are in the competent hands of Messrs. D. D. Walker, F. Gough, J. Bowie, A. Beattie, John Sutherland, F. McPhail, D. Campbell and H. McLean. Mr. Malcolm McIntyre has been the honored and respected treasurer for the last twenty years.

As a Jubilee Committee we are very thankful that the only charter member, Mrs. C. Sutherland, has been spared to witness the Jubilee. She has been instrumental in helping the congregation throughout its whole service, as well as in its institution. We wish her many and happy years in the service of her Master.