

OPENING SOUVENIR

—OF—

Stewarton Presbyterian
Church

OTTAWA, - - - ONT.



1907



...SOUVENIR...

OF THE

Opening and Dedication
of the New

STEWARTON
Presbyterian Church

Cor. Argyle Ave. and Bank St.,

OTTAWA.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17th, 1907.



1907
(149)

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NEW STEWARTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Ottawa, Ont.

Opened February 17th, 1907.

"Ye serve the Lord Christ." Col. 3: 24.



REV. W. A. McILROY, B.A.
Pastor.

“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord
of Hosts.” Zech. 4: 6.

Stewarton Presbyterian Church

Past and Present



WITH no small degree of pride and thankfulness to a gracious Providence, the congregation of Stewarton Presbyterian Church will ever recall February 17th, 1907, when their new church was opened. The year 1906 has been a memorable one for this growing congregation, as this southern part of our fair city has speedily outgrown the old building, and the new church is a distinctly forward step in the history of the congregation of Stewarton church.

The need for a new church home having been apparent for some time, owing to the speedy growth of the congregation, the task of erecting a new edifice was entered upon with a commendable zeal, with the result that within fourteen months after the decision to build was reached, the handsome new church is now completed and is not only the object of admiration by residents of this southern part of our city, but by citizens as a whole, and Presbyterians in particular.

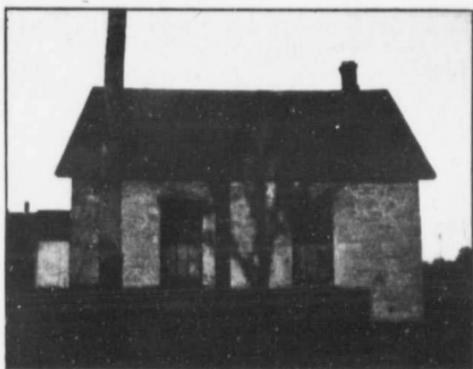
The corner-stone was laid by the Honorable Mortimer Clark, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, on Thursday, June 28th last, and in that short period of seven months and a half the edifice is now an accomplished fact.

On the opening day, Sunday, February 17th, Rev. Dr. D. M. Gordon, Principal of Queen's University, was the honored occupant of the pulpit, and preached two masterly sermons that aroused admiration for this talented and sincere preacher.

On Monday evening, 18th, the Ladies' Aid gave a congregational tea, which taxed to the uttermost their willing services.

The Sunday following, the 24th, the services were conducted by their first pastor, the Rev. R. E. Knowles, of Galt, Ont.

Monday evening, February 25th, Mr. Knowles delivered a lecture, "The Cotter's Saturday Night."



BIRTHPLACE OF THE CHURCH.

View of the Stone Building Still Standing on Elgin Street,
Opposite Argyle Ave., where the first Sunday School
was Held Thirty Years Ago.

An Interesting History

Stewarton Presbyterian congregation has an interesting history. Its beginning was unique—a Mission Sabbath School whose habitation was the old stone building, originally a stable, (still standing) on Elgin street, facing Argyle Avenue.

The Stewart family were the prime movers in this laudable enterprise. Mrs. Stewart, at a cost of \$300, had the old building plastered, windows opened in it, and other improvements made which converted it into a comfortable school room. The benches were furnished by St. Andrew's Church, and many kind friends contributed to the library and provided other necessaries to render the building the cheerful and pleasant little Sunday School hall it was.

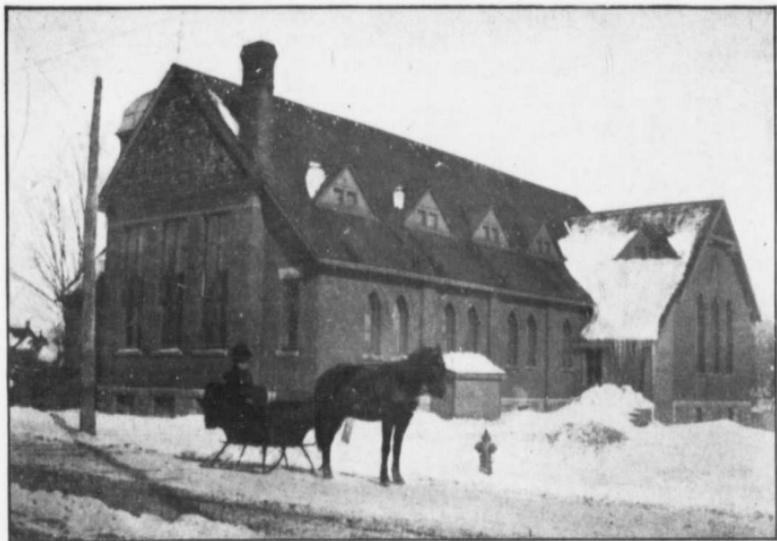
The week before it was opened, every home in the neighborhood was visited, and scholars solicited, and a very good school was begun, the majority of the pupils being young children who could not walk to the city churches.

This Sunday School was opened on the 30th of June, 1877, Mr. Elliott, of St. Andrew's Church, being Superintendent.

The teachers were: Mr. W. W. Stephens, Mr. MacNeill, Miss Stewart, Miss Annie Stewart, and Miss Flora Stewart.

Later on, Mr. John Shearer became a teacher, as also Mr. McDiarmid, Mr. Brethour, Mr. Ferguson, and others.

The old stone building was occupied until it was sold to the Canada Atlantic Railway Company, when the Sunday School was disbanded, except the infant class, which Miss Stewart continued to teach at Appin Place.



THE FIRST CHURCH

Used for Public Worship from July 19th, 1891, to
February 10th, 1907.

A New Building

Mrs. Stewart then donated a lot on McLeod street to St. Andrew's Church, the Session agreeing to put up a Sunday School hall. In due time this building was completed (in 1883) and a very flourishing Sunday School was held there.

After Stewarton congregation had been organized—in Oct. 1890—this building was granted by the Session of St. Andrew's Church for regular Sabbath services, which were commenced on November 9th, 1890.

The first communion was held on January 25th, 1891, with 26 communicants.

In the meantime the congregation had secured the large lot, now owned by it, at the corner of Bank street and Argyle Avenue, on which to erect a church. This building was completed in July, 1891, and was opened for public worship on Sabbath, July 19th, 1891, the dedication services being conducted by Rev. Mr. Mowatt, of Erskine Church, Montreal.

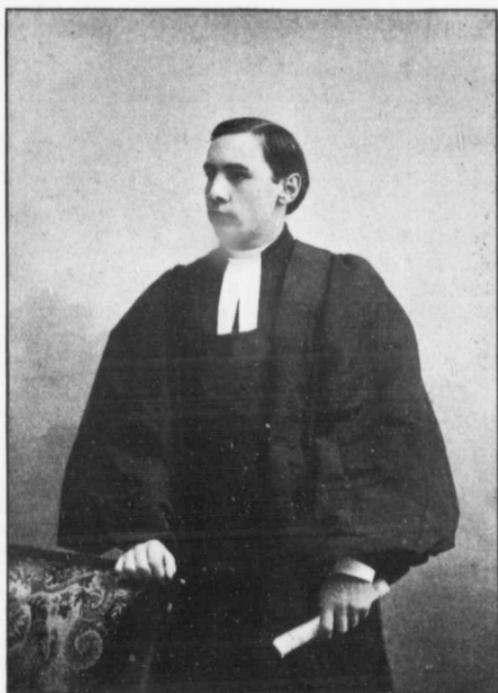
The first elders of the church were D. B. MacTavish (now Judge MacTavish), W. W. Stephen, and James B. Halkett. They were ordained September 13th, 1891.

An addition was made to the church in 1893. The work was completed in November of that year. The dedication services were held November 26th, and were conducted by the late Rev. D. J. MacDonnell, of Toronto.

Up to the present time every available space has been occupied until this building became entirely inadequate to meet the pressing requirements of such a fast increasing congregation.

First Pastor

The first pastor of the congregation was Rev. R. E. Knowles, B.A., who was ordained and inducted June 9th, 1891.



REV. R. E. KNOWLES.

For almost seven years this popular and brilliant preacher labored successfully in this new field. In March, 1898, however, he accepted a call from Knox Presbyterian Church, Galt—"The Citadel of Presbyterianism in Canada." In recent years Mr. Knowles has become widely known as the author of "St. Cuthbert's" and "The Undertow."

Second Pastor

The second pastor, the Rev. Robert Herbison, M.A., having completed a brilliant course at Queen's University, Kingston, was ordained and inducted into Stewarton on June 21st, 1898.



REV. R. HERBISON.

In March, 1904, Mr. Herbison resigned his charge, and for some time prosecuted his studies at Edinburgh University. Returning to Canada, he accepted a call to the pastorate of St. Giles' Presbyterian Church, Toronto, where he now successfully labors.

Decided to Build

Soon after the induction of the present pastor, the Rev. W. A. McIlroy, B.A., September 2nd, 1904, a forward step was taken looking for a reduction of the debt of \$5,000 then resting upon the church.

The young people of the congregation took an active part in the enterprise, and, with the aid of gifts from outside the congregation, \$2,000 was paid off the debt by the close of 1904.

At the close of 1905 a further reduction of the debt was made by \$400, leaving the debt, at that time, \$2,600.

In the report of the Board of Managers for 1905 the following paragraph appeared :

"Even with these extra sittings we find ourselves hampered for room to accommodate those who are applying for seats. This, and the fact that the Sabbath School has outgrown the church accommodation, points to the fact that, in the near future, it will be necessary for the congregation to seriously consider the question of a new building."

At the annual meeting the congregation determined to undertake the task of erecting a new church.

A Building Committee was appointed with power to ascertain the probable cost of a new church building, and to devise ways and means of carrying the project into execution.

The following composed the committee :

Messrs. C. A. Low, H. W. Williams, C. S. Smith, J. Newton Ker, James Hill, George A. Little, James H. Johnston, J. Arnold Thompson, George W. Robb, and the pastor ex-officio.

This committee at once organized, secured all necessary information and plans, and received instructions from the congregation to proceed. The result is Stewarton's new and commodious church home.

Splendidly Equipped

As the most recently erected sacred edifice in the city, the new Stewarton church is probably the most modern and adequate structure of this character in Ottawa.

The approximate cost is estimated by the building committee to be \$30,000.

The seating capacity is in the neighborhood of 1,200.

While it will be one of the largest churches in the Capital, it possesses the additional advantage of being able to employ the former building, which has been connected with the new, as a Sunday School hall. But, should the available space seem somewhat beyond the present need, the time may not be far distant when the rapidly increasing growth of the Stewarton congregation may once more tax this building to its utmost.

The church is of the perpendicular Gothic type, very common in the older cities. The designs were drawn by Mr. J. P. MacLaren, architect, this city.

It is substantially constructed of native rough limestone.

Facing on Argyle Avenue, its main entrance is from that street. Another entrance leads in off the Bank street corner.

One strong feature of the church is undoubtedly the entrance, there being no other exactly like it in the city. Triple doors open into the porch, or vestibule, and from these the inner doors at either side of the vestibule lead into the interior. Two little porches under the towers, which rise at either corner of the facade, afford entrance either to the galleries or to the church.

Attractive Interior

The interior is as equally attractive. What first strikes the eye is the unusual loftiness of the arched roof. As one of the highest, the new church may also claim the distinction of being the best lighted of the city churches. Two huge stained glass windows from the front, and the side windows along Bank street throw a flood of light which brightens up every part of the interior. The pulpit stands well to the front. The choir loft, cut off by an elliptical arch, is handsomely panelled in dark wood.

A gallery extends around the three sides facing the pulpit.

The walls are of rough plaster, terra cotta in color, with white ivory cornices breaking into the light green of the ceiling.

The pews are of heavy dark hardwood.

The basement aside from the boiler room is practically clear space. It is at present proposed to utilize this as an athletic room for indoor recreation for the young people.

The congregation is decidedly proud of its new home, and justly so. The progress of the little church has been phenomenal. When it was at length decided to take the important step of erecting a new building, the members were resolved to have none but the best. The new Stewarton church is a credit to the congregation and an excellent acquisition to the churches of the Capital.

Workers who have raised the Funds

Undoubtedly the lion's share of the credit for the new church home is due the Building Committee. When it had been decided that the project to build was feasible, a new building committee was elected, and upon these men fell the duty of engineering the scheme through to a successful end.

These men were Messrs. George A. Little, chairman; Jas. H. Johnston, secretary; Hugh M. Williams, treasurer; C. S. Smith, Chas. A. Low, Newton J. Ker, J. Arnold Thompson, Geo. Robb and James Hill.

Their first duty was to secure plans of the church, and, one month after the Annual Meeting, in January of last year, the preliminary sketches were awaiting approval.

When these had been laid before the congregation, the committee was empowered to make the necessary changes. These first plans would have placed the cost at nearly \$35,000.

The more difficult task, however, was the canvassing. While the little church was always filled, the committee felt that only those who held sittings could be rightly called upon for subscriptions. A practical and thorough canvas was made with very gratifying results. To the untiring persistency of these men do we owe much for the handsome structure now at our service.

CHURCH OFFICERS:

ELDERS—R. C. Dewar, J. H. Johnston, G. W. Robb, Robt. McConnell, Samuel Acheson, J. G. Pelton, Wm. Ashe, and W. H. Fitzsimmons.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT :—

For one year—J. Arnold Thompson, Hugh M. Williams, Geo. Little and John Darragh.

For two years—Dr. J. McK. Bell, John Graham, Wm. Hill, and C. S. Smith.

For three years—Wm. Ashe, J. G. Pelton, J. Newton Ker, and W. A. Rankin.

TRUSTEES—Alex. Parker, W. C. Ogilvie, and W. Ashe.

Secretary—James Hill.

Treasurer—John B. Picken.

The First Ladies' Aid Society

"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." Isa. 30: 15.

A general meeting of the ladies of the congregation was held on November 9th, 1892, for the purpose of forming a Ladies' Aid Society. Rev. R. E. Knowles, the pastor, presided.

The following officers were elected :

President—Mrs. D. B. MacTavish.

1st Vice-President—Mrs. W. W. Stephen.

2nd Vice-President—Mrs. Bearman.

3rd Vice-President—Mrs. Jas. Skead, jr.

Treasurer—Mrs. David McLaren.

Secretary—Miss M. Sinclair.

The aim of the society was to further the interests of the church in its benevolent, social and financial purposes.

From its inception, up to the present time, this organization has always been one of the strongest societies in the church.

The officers and members have been faithful, giving of their time and means to further its interests.

Thirty-five names were on the first roll, and of these only the following eight remain : Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Dewar, Miss Stewart, Mrs. Bearman, Mrs. Ogilvie, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Ardley, and Miss Darragh.

Each succeeding year has brought larger financial returns, a constant abiding harmony, and a realization of loftier methods of work, until this year the ideal—that is, a voluntary and systematic—plan of giving has been reached.

The following ladies have held the office of president :

Mrs. D. B. MacTavish, 1892-1893.

Mrs. Waddell, 1893-1895.

Mrs. J. J. Campbell, 1895-1896.

Mrs. Graham, 1896-1900.

Mrs. J. J. Campbell, 1900-1902.

Miss Aitcheson, 1902, and still in office.

Stewarton Sunday School

"FORWARD"

The opening of this handsome new church is a happy event in the history of the Sunday School, for it is the outgrowth of our Sunday School of 30 years ago.

True it is that the beginning was small, but 30 scholars, but God has blessed the efforts of the early workers, and the band of faithful ones who have carried on the work all these years, the result being that today our school is the second largest Presbyterian Sunday School in the city. We now have 430 scholars on the roll, an average attendance of 330. In addition to this we have a Cradle Roll with a membership of 35.

The following gentlemen have been superintendents:

Messrs. Geo. Elliott, F. H. Chrysler, W. W. Stephen, Rev. R. E. Knowles, S. J. Jarvis, E. L. Taylor, Rev. R. Herbison, W. H. Fitzsimmons, S. Acheson, J. G. Pelton. Mr. Fitzsimmons again resumed the position, and still occupies it successfully.



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