



1863

== TO ==

1913



JUBILEE SOUVENIR

OF

Strathroy Baptist Church



"Yea, of Zion it shall be said, This one and that one was born in her ;
And the Most High Himself shall establish her."

"The Lord shall count, when He writeth up the peoples, This one was born
there."—Ps. 87 : 5-6.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.



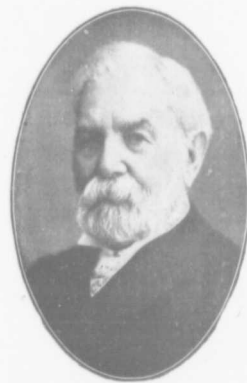
The First Building.



"FIFTY years of church life." How impossible for any human being to trace its history ! Eternity alone can reveal the gracious influence of the innumerable forces released by it into the different departments of life about it.

Fifty years ago Strathroy was a thriving village of about one thousand inhabitants. Previous to this the few Baptists living in the village and immediate neighborhood worshipped,

when possible, with the congregation at Zion Baptist Church, Caradoc. No record is left of even occasional services being held in the village prior to this date. In the early days of 1863, Mr. George Richardson, a young man, lately arrived in the country, from United States, and earlier from England, visited the town. He called upon a few of the Baptists and found them very desirous of having a Church home. Yielding to their persuasion he decided to give himself exclusively to the work of the ministry and remain with them ; so on February the 17th, 1863, the first page of the Baptist History of this town was written when a little band of eleven members organized themselves into a Regular Baptist Church. The names of this little company are :— Mr. George Richardson, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Bradley, George Verall, Mrs. Verall, Edmund Chute, Mrs. Chute, Samuel Drake, D. C. McIntyre, M.D., David Hull, Mrs.



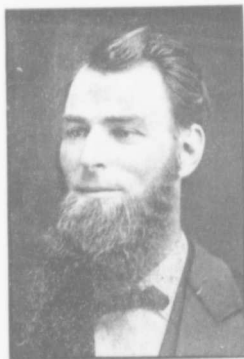
Rev. George Richardson,
First Pastor.



Rev. A. A. Cameron.



Mr. Chute, the First Deacon



Rev. D. Baldwin.

world's wealth for him there was much of real joy in service and much of real appreciation on the part of the people of the village as well as of the Church and Congregation. The Gospel was preached and souls were saved. For almost four years this happy union continued when Mr. Richardson, having received a call from the Church in Hamilton, resigned and accepted it.

Soon after this, Mr. A. A. Cameron — now Dr. Cameron, late of First Church, Ottawa — then about to graduate from the Canadian Literary Institute, Woodstock, was called to assume pastoral charge of the church. He accepted; was ordained on May 7th, 1869, and entered with great devotion upon the work. These were years of great expansion in the life of the village, as we find by 1870, the place was incorporated into a town with a population of 3,000. The Church shared in the general prosperity. The congregation soon outgrew the little frame building and a new brick structure 38x58 was erected. A gracious revival followed the entering of the new building. On one prayer-meeting night Mr. Cameron welcomed 43 persons into the fellowship of the Church. On the 11th of September, to the deep regret of the Church and congregation, he resigned to accept a call to the First Church, Ottawa.

Hull, Edward Lake and Mrs. Lake. Of these charter members, but one remains, in the person of Mrs. W. J. Bradley, of Richmond Street.

Mr. Richardson was invited to become pastor, which invitation he at once accepted. Mr. Chute and Mr. Drake were appointed deacons. Mr. Richardson was duly ordained, and on March 19th of the same year, the little cause was recognized by a council of neighboring churches, and entered into the sisterhood of the Baptist Churches of the Convention of Canada West.

The first great problem that confronted the Church was the securing of a house of worship. At great sacrifice the Town Hall, which was then up for sale, was purchased; the lot, upon which the present Church building stands, secured; the building removed to it, and fitted up for a place of worship. The documents, recording the events of this period, tell a story beautiful for its zeal and sacrifice. At the dedication exercises Rev. Dr. Davidson

preached morning and evening, and Elder Chute in the afternoon. It was a day never to be forgotten by the enthusiastic little band.

An application having been made by the Church to the Missionary Society of the Convention, a grant of \$100 per annum was made. This, with \$100 each from the Congregations in Lobo and Strathroy, gave Mr. Richardson the princely salary of \$300 per annum; but if there wasn't much of the



Rev. A. P. McDermid, B.A.



Rev. John Trotter.

The officers of the Church at this period were : Deacons—Edmond Chute, Isaac Drake, Dr E. G. Edwards, Moses Trotman, Edward Leak and John Salisbury. Clerk—Daniel McVicar. Sunday School Superintendents—George Verral and Mr. W. T. Bradley.

October 1st, 1871, Rev. Daniel Baldwin accepted a call to the Church.

Advance in financial strength during this period was evidenced by the withdrawal of the Church from the Home Mission Board and by the elimination of a debt of eleven hundred dollars that for some years had rested upon the building. Spiritually the Church likewise seemed to be prospering, as during the six years of Mr. Baldwin's pastorate one hundred persons were received into the membership of the Church, no less than seventy of these by baptism.

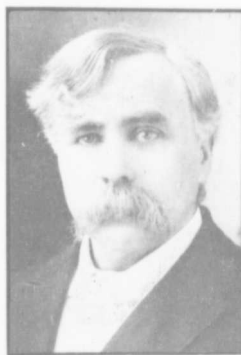
In August, 1877, Rev. A. P. McDiarmid, M. A., now Dr. McDiarmid, late president of Brandon College, began a brief but very successful pastorate. The Word of God was faithfully proclaimed and forty-nine during



Rev. P. K. Dayton, M.A.



Rev. D. Laing.



Rev. E. W. Dadson, B.A.

his brief term of office were led to confess Christ in baptism.

On January 1st, 1880, Rev. John Trotter became pastor. Mr. Trotter was a man of sweet Christian character, and his preaching was thoughtful and edifying. In May he was ordained. In March 7, of the following year, the Church enjoyed a season of gracious revival and the membership increased to one hundred and sixty. On December 31st, 1882, the pastor resigned.

During the years preceding this we find Mr. F. J. Craig Church clerk from 1873 to 1877, and Mr. H. F. Edwards clerk

from 1877-1882, when Mr. J. B. Kerr succeeded him and performed the duties of this office for some years. During the same period Dr. Edwards acted as Treasurer and Sunday School Superintendent.

In March of 1882, a call was extended to Rev. E. W. Dadson, of Denfield. He accepted it and entered upon his work in the following month. His striking personality and virile preaching raised highest hopes for an unusually successful season for the Church, but within



Rev. D. Duck



Rev. T. M. Fothergill, Ph.D.

a few months from the time of his settlement, he was invited to assume the editorship of the 'Canadian Baptist,' and to the deep regret of the Church, he felt constrained to accept it.

On October 1st of the same year, Rev. D. Laing, now pastor of First Church, Kingston, assumed the pastoral office.

This pastorate too, was a brief one, as on account of continued sickness in his family, he was compelled to resign within three years.

During his term of office a number were brought into the Church, who for years, were among the most substantial members. Following the withdrawal of Mr. Laing, the Church passed through the most trying period in its history.

It was nine months before another pastor was settled, and clouds hung heavy over the cause, but it proved to be but the dark hour before a glorious dawn.

Rev. J. B. Moore, Evangelist, visited the Church, and commenced a series of evangelistic services, which were continued eleven weeks and which resulted in the professed conversion of over a hundred persons, eighty-three of whom were baptized.

At the close of the meetings a call was extended to Rev. P. K. Dayfoot, M.A. (now Secretary of Baptist Sunday Schools of Ontario and Quebec.

He assumed charge in the summer of 1886, and began the longest, and in many respects, the most successful pastorate in the history of the Church.

The congregation by this time had outgrown the second building, and during the summer and fall of 1888 the present structure was raised, and on February 24th, 1889, with great rejoicing, the Church was dedicated to the service of God.

At the morning service, Rev. Geo. Richardson, the first pastor, preached.

In the afternoon and evening Rev. A. Grant preached.

After eight happy years for both pastor and people Mr. Dayfoot resigned to accept a call



Baptist Church, Erected 1888



Mrs. J. S. Anstey



Mrs. John Ghote

to the Church at Port Hope.

During this period a change was also made in the other officers.

March 19th, 1885, Mr. John Farthing and Mr. A. McCandless were elected deacons, and about the same time Mr. P. H. Johnson and Mr. N. Dewar were elected to the same office.

Succeeding Dr. Edwards Mr. P. H. Johnson took charge of the Sunday School. After this for many years Mr. H. McColl was the earnest and efficient superintendent. He was succeeded in this responsible office by Mr.

Thos. Irvine, and he by Mr. H. D. Johnson, P.S. I., who for many years gave himself with great devotion to this department of the Church work. He in turn was succeeded by Mr. R. Moore and afterwards by Mr. S. McCandless. In 1885 Mr. Kerr was succeeded as clerk by Mr. S. McCandless. He in turn was succeeded by Mr. W. M. Smith, who in 1894 was followed by Mr. A. E. Gill, who now for almost nineteen years has performed the duties connected with this important office.

During these years Mr. E. F. Parsons, Mr. Thos. Zavitz and Mr. Neil Dewar acted as Treasurers. In 1889 Mr. John Hambly was appointed Treasurer, and, with the exception of four years when Mr. Anstey took the work, performed the duties of this office until 1909, when Mr. S. McCandless was appointed Treasurer.

From November, 1894, to September, 1902, Rev. T. M. Fothergill, Ph. D., was the spiritual overseer of the Church. Throughout these years the work of the Church was well maintained. The debt was removed from the Church and quite a number were added to the membership of the Church.

In September, 1902, after almost eight years of faithful service Mr. Fothergill resigned, to be succeeded by Rev. D. Dack, now of Calgary.



Parsonage



Mrs. Sophia Zavitz



Rev. H. C. Priest, B.A.



Mr. A. E. Gill, Church Clerk

During this pastorate the Church continued to enjoy peace and prosperity: additions to the Church were frequent, the missionary offerings increased, and all departments of the Church activity evidenced healthy growth.

In 1905, through the generosity of Mrs. Sophia Zavitz, Mr. and Mrs. Anstey and Mr. and Mrs. Chute, the Church came into possession of the present parsonage.

On September 15th, 1907, Mr. Dack resigned, after almost four years of faithful and efficient service. January 26th, 1908, Rev. H. C. Priest, B. A., (now Secretary of Young People's Foreign Mission Movement of Canada), commenced a pastorate of a little over two years and a half. Mr. Priest was a strong preacher and a sound expositor of the Word.

In January, of the following year, Rev. J. D. McLachlan entered upon the duties of the pastoral office.

The recent history is known to all the members and adherents of the Church.

We shall not soon forget the enthusiasm with which the Church and congregation, in the Spring of 1911, responded to the appeal to raise five thousand dollars for renovating the church building. Nor the consternation that filled our hearts when, in the early moments of the first day of October, 1911, the fire whistle awakened us to the fact, that our partially renovated church was in the power of the flames. Nor our joy, when last July, we entered our beautiful new Church-Home. Nor the satisfaction that possessed us, when we found, that although the cost had been six thousand five hundred dollars, there was less than six hundred of it unprovided for.

Fifty years have gone. The Church has grown from the eleven to three hundred and nine. During these years the Church has likewise been continually giving of its life to other parts. Three of its members, Rev. J. E. Chute, B.Th., and Rev. A. Chute, have for many years



Rev. J. D. McLachlan, B.A., B.Th.



Mrs. Bradley.
The only charter member living.



Interior of Church.

tory of the past; grateful for the unlimited resources of the Eternal that are at our disposal. Never was the call to service more insistent; never the opportunity greater, and never in many ways was the Church better equipped to answer the call and to meet the opportunity. May Grace make us worthy to continue the work of the past and lead us to the accomplishment of even larger service in the future.

The Jubilee was celebrated on Sundays, March 9th and 16th and on the intervening Thursday evening. On the 9th, Rev. Dr. Mathews, of McMaster University, Toronto, preached to large audiences. On Thursday evening, the work of the Fifty years was reviewed; very interesting reminiscences of important events of the period were given by the older members of the Church, and congratulatory messages were read from Rev. Dr. Cameron, Rev. Dr. McDermaid, Rev. Dr. Trotter (brother of Rev. J. E. Trotter, Rev. T. M. Dadson (son of Dr. Dadson, Rev. Dr. Fothergill and Rev. D. Dack, B.D., and from a number of absent ones who had been identified with the work of the Church.

On the 16th, Rev. P. K. Dayfoot, M.A., the pastor of 25 years ago, preached. His "Lesson of the Years" was listened to with great interest. Thus was written the last page in the fifty year volume of Baptist history in the town of Strathroy.

labored in the Telugu missionfield, India, while Mrs. Scott (nee Miss L. Chute) died a missionary there. Many others have done and are doing efficient service in other fields of labor.

We stand on the threshold of another period; thank for the rich contribution we have received from the his-



Mr. D. Evans,
Chairman Renovating Committee.



Board of Deacons:
Messrs. J. K. Hamby, D. Dewar, A. Collins, S. McGandless, F. Robinson.



Board of Managers.



Officers of Mission Circle and Ladies' Aid.



Choir.



Officers and Teachers of Sunday School.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

PASTOR—REV. J. D. McLACHLAN.

DEACONS—John Hambly, F. T. Robinson, S. McCandless, W. A. Collins, Neil Dewar, John Farthing.

CLERK—A. E. Gill.

TREASURER—S. McCandless.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE—S. McCandless, J. Farthing, F. T. Robinson, J. Hambly, W. A. Collins, I. Burkholder, D. McIntyre, S. Ingrouille, Jas. Bowley, A. E. Gill, M. Clement, R. Moore.

MISSIONARY COMMITTEE—J. Hambly, W. A. Collins, N. Brown, W. J. Mills.

USHERS—A. E. Gill, Bruce Parker, S. Ingrouille, F. T. Robinson, A. Down, F. Paddison, R. Davis, J. D. McIntyre.

PEW COMMITTEE—A. E. Gill, F. T. Robinson.

CHOIR LEADER—Mrs. W. H. Rapley.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

SUPERINTENDENT—Mr. S. McCandless.

ASST. SUPERINTENDENT—Mr. I. Burkholder.

SECRETARY—Miss Ettie Chalmers.

TREASURER—Mrs. J. Hambly.

LIBRARIANS—Mr. Bowman and Mr. Chas. Gill.

PIANISTS—Miss C. Healy and Miss Grace Jackson.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HOME DEPARTMENT—Mrs. Ballantyne.

SUPERINTENDENT OF CRADLE ROLL—Miss I. Hambly.

BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION.

HON. PRESIDENT—Rev. J. D. McLachlan.

PRESIDENT—Miss Maud McIntyre.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT—Miss Lou Statham.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT—Milne A. Smith.

SECRETARY—Miss E. Folkes.

TREASURER—Miss Winnie Bowley.

MISSION TREASURER—Miss J. McIntyre.

PIANISTS—Misses Healy and Jackson and Milne Smith.

WOMAN'S MISSION CIRCLE.

PRESIDENT—Mrs. N. Brown.

VICE-PRESIDENT—Mrs. W. Wright.

SECRETARY—Mrs. Murphy.

TREASURER—Mrs. D. Evans.

LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT—Mrs. Bowley.

VICE-PRESIDENT—Miss Moody.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT—Mrs. Hambly.

SECRETARY—Mrs. John McIntyre.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY—Miss C. Healy.

TREASURER—Mrs. Wilson.

MISSION BAND.

SUPERINTENDENT—Miss Maude McIntyre.

PRESIDENT—Milne Smith.

VICE-PRESIDENT—Grant Johnston.

SECRETARY—Freedra Sullivan.

TREASURER—Miriam Robinson.