

AR-425  
16

126  
1952

JUNE 30, 1885

JUNE 30, 1910

SEMI-JUBILEE  
OF  
ST. ANDREW'S  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HAMILTON



Special Services

SABBATH, 26th JUNE, 1910

Rev. James Murray, B.A., B.D., Toronto, First Pastor of  
St. Andrew's, will preach at the Morning and Evening Services.

A Glass Meeting

of the Sabbath School will be held in the Church in the  
afternoon at 3 o'clock.

A Social Gathering

of Members and Friends will be held in the Sabbath School on  
Monday evening, 27th June, at 8 o'clock.

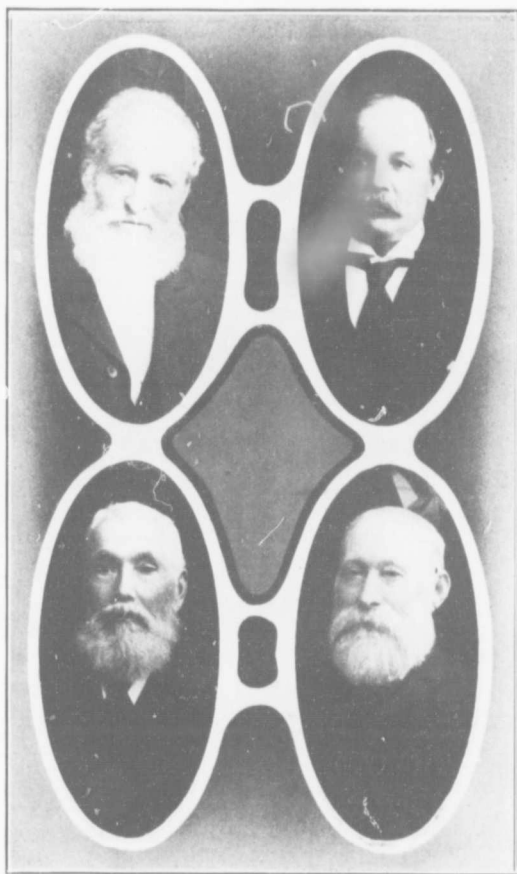


OLD MISSION BUILDING, WENTWORTH ST. NORTH  
WHERE CONGREGATION WAS ORGANIZED

#### CHARTER MEMBERS

J. A. Aiken	John Kirkness
Mrs. C. Bradley	Mrs. John Kirkness
Eric Bower	Helen Kirkness
Mrs. Eric Bower	W. R. Leckie
Mrs. Beckingham	Mrs. W. R. Leckie
Mrs. J. Catlin	Campbell Leckie
David Ewing	Mrs. Campbell Leckie
Mrs. David Ewing	Mrs. Alex. Miller
Catharine Ewing	Annabella Miller
Jessie Ewing	Jessie M. Miller
A. D. Ewing	Duncan McLeod
Mary Ewing	Frederick Peskitt
Mrs. Eaglesham	W. H. Woolley
John Jamieson	Mary Woolley

FIRST SESSION



D. Ewing

J. Kirkness

W. R. Leckie  
*Session Clerk*

D. McLeod

MINISTERS



Rev. Jas. Murray, B.A., B.D.  
1888-1895

Rev. Andrew MacWilliams, B.A.  
1896-1904

Rev. J. A. Wilson, B.A.,  
1904—

FIRST CHURCH



Opened 30th September, 1887.



FIVE and twenty years have passed since the congregation now known as St. Andrew's began its career. Many changes have come with the passing years. Those who were aged when the congregation was launched have gone to that bourne from whence no traveller returns. The middle aged have matured and ripened, while the little folks have become the industrious and aspiring young men and women of to-day.

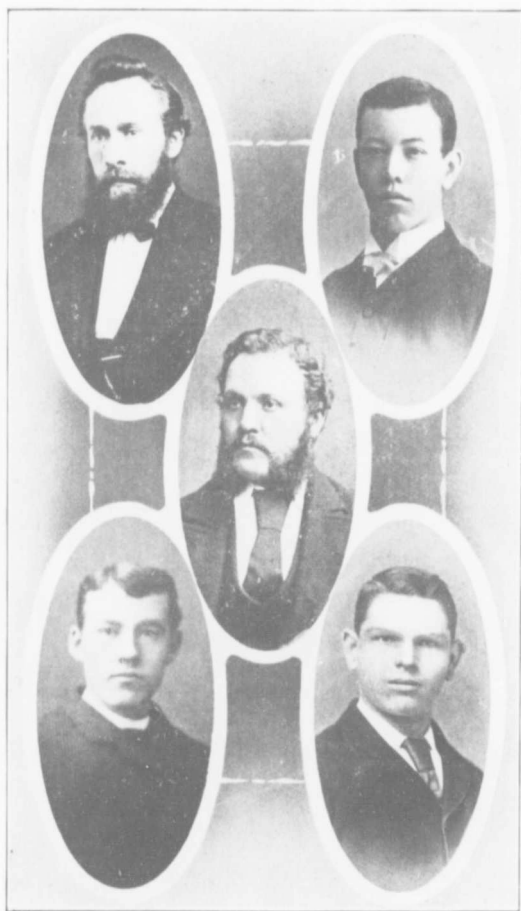
In the following pages attention is necessarily confined to the principal events in the history of the church, with brief references to the earnest and talented men who have filled her pulpit.

A fuller record, were it possible to give it, would bring into prominence also the many men who have occupied the official positions in the congregation with singular devotion. It would have much to say too of the noble band of women, who in the departments of work particularly theirs, such as Ladies' Aid Society, Women's Foreign Mission Society, Mission Bands, etc., have labored with unwearied fidelity and done much to promote the prosperity of the church. It would not omit the great number of men and women who have devoted themselves so zealously to the work amongst the young.

But even were such fuller record attempted the half would not be told, indeed the material for a complete history of a church is beyond the reach of the historian of the present. Who can tell of the souls that through the work of the church have been brought out of darkness into light?—of the edification, the help, the comfort that have come to its people through its instrumentality?—of the far reaching results of the quiet unostentatious but benign work of the Sabbath School teachers, Christian Endeavour leaders and others amongst the lambs of the flock?—or of the moral and spiritual influences imparted, it may be all unconsciously, by many godly men and women whose names have adorned the communion roll?



FIRST BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



E. Bower

J. A. Aiken,  
*Treasurer*

C. Leckie,  
*Chairman*

J. Jamieson

W. H. Woolley,  
*Secretary*



ON the thirtieth of June, 1885, the Presbytery of Hamilton met in the little rough-cast Mission Church that stood on the west side of Wentworth Street north between Barton Street and the Grand Trunk Railway, and organized Wentworth Presbyterian Church with twenty-eight members.

An Interim Session composed of the following elders from other congregations with Dr. Mungo Fraser, of Knox Church, as Moderator, was appointed; Messrs. M. McKenzie, Knox Church; D. Morton, St. Paul's; G. Black, Central; R. Henderson, St. John's; and Dr. McDonald, MacNab Street.

The services of the Interim Session were not long required, for on the 6th August following the congregation met and elected a session from their own members. Such session consisted of John Kirkness, David Ewing, Duncan McLeod and W. R. Leckie, Dr. Fraser retaining the Moderatorship until the settlement of a stated pastor. Mr. Leckie was appointed Session Clerk, which office he still holds.

Of that Session of five only Mr. McLeod and Mr. Leckie survive. The first Board of Management consisted of Messrs. C. Leckie, W. H. Woolley, J. A. Aiken, E. Bower and J. Jamieson; Mr. Leckie being chairman. Three of these brethren are still honored officials of the church. Mr. Woolley, who had been a most active worker in the early days, died in 1887. Mr. Aiken is now engaged in newspaper business in the west.

The name "Wentworth" was given to the new congregation to keep alive the memory of the much loved Mission Church. For nineteen years it was known by that name. In the year 1904 it was changed to St. Andrew's.

Wentworth Church was not the first church that was born within the walls of the quaint old Mission building. It was there in the year 1874 that St. John's Church first saw the light.



ENLARGED CHURCH, OPENED 1889, WITH SABBATH SCHOOL IN REAR, OPENED 1894



ABBATH School work was continued in the Mission by St. John's congregation after they moved to their new church on Emerald Street, and at a later date Sabbath evening preaching services conducted by students from Knox College and others were added. Many of the old residents of the neighborhood have pleasant recollections of the Rev. W. A. Duncan, then a student, who had charge of the Mission in the summers of 1883 and 1884.

Out of that Sabbath School work and these Sabbath evening services Wentworth Church sprang.

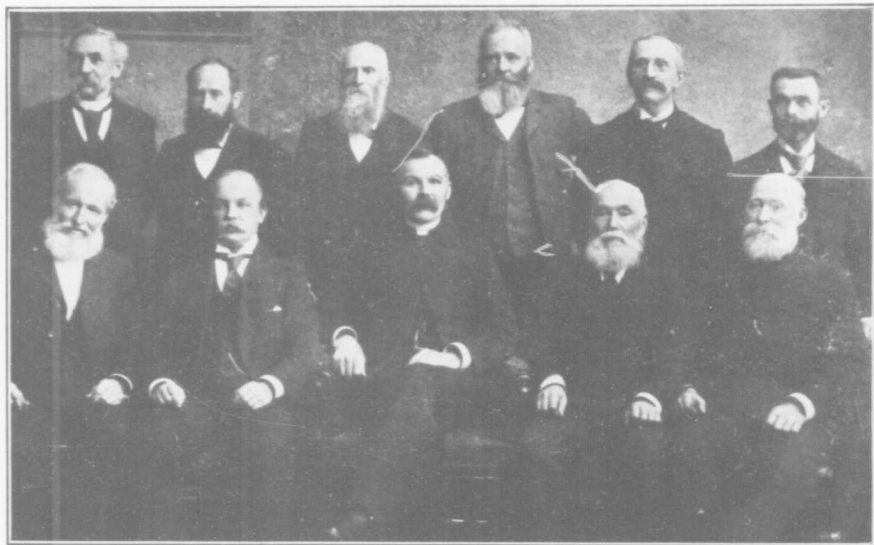
Of the men and women whose work contributed to this consummation the name of Mr. Arch. McKillop is worthy of special notice. His earnest and faithful labors gave a great impetus to the cause.

The establishment of a new church was a big undertaking for such a small number of people. What they lacked in number they made up for in enthusiasm. The Divine blessing was attending their efforts, and the future seemed full of promise.

For the first year of its life the congregation was ministered to by the Rev. A. K. Caswell by appointment of Presbytery. Mr. Caswell was a very earnest preacher and a most energetic worker, and his labors resulted in a considerable addition to the membership of both Church and Sabbath School.

During that year a movement was started towards the building of a new church. A building committee was appointed and a site secured on the corner of Barton Street and Smith Avenue.

SESSION 1895



*Front Row:* D. Ewing    W. R. Leckie    Rev. Jas. Murray    J. Kirkness    D. McLeod  
*Back Row:* J. Webster    F. Bower    W. Weir    R. Law    J. M. Robinson    W. Bale



THE infant church in the far east had many warm friends in the uptown churches, who greatly encouraged them in their enterprise and liberally contributed to the Building Fund. The heavy end of the financial burden was taken up by the members themselves and they bore it bravely.

Succeeding Mr. Caswell came the Rev. Thomas McGuire, also by appointment of Presbytery. For fifteen months he preached and labored with great acceptance. So greatly did he endeavor himself to the people that it was decided to extend a call to him to become their stated pastor, the time having come when they felt able to support a minister. The call was duly sustained by Presbytery and presented, but Mr. McGuire could not see his way clear to accept it.

On the 23rd of June, 1887, about two years after organization, the corner stone of the new church was laid, ex-Ald. McLagan performing the ceremony.

Three months later on the 30th Sept., 1887, the church was opened, the Rev. Dr. J. K. Smith, of Galt, preaching morning and evening, and Rev. J. H. Ratcliffe, of St. Catharines, in the afternoon.

The building was unpretentious, but neat and comfortable, and was seated for about four hundred persons.

Not long after the congregation had got settled in their new church home, the question of calling a pastor was again taken up, and at a congregational meeting held on the 15th March, 1888, it was resolved to extend a call to the Rev. James Murray, B. A., B. D., of Streetsville. Mr. Murray accepted the call and his induction took place on the 15th of May following.

The choice proved a very happy one. No minister could have been more admired and beloved by his people. Mr. Murray was a preacher of high merit, a devoted pastor, and a wise and far seeing leader.

Two building enterprises mark the pastorate of Mr. Murray bearing testimony to the great success that attended his labors. These were the enlargement of the church to nearly double its original seating capacity in the year 1889, and the erection of a handsome and commodious Sabbath School in rear of the church in the year 1893.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 1895



*Front Row:* S. S. McCandlish, A. Chase, W. Williams.

*Second Row:* W. T. Cline, P. Thomson, R. Wallace, *Secretary* J. Jamieson, *Chairman* J. Marshall, *Treasurer* E. Goff.

*Third Row:* J. Shoots, F. J. Lyne, W. Smith, *Vice-Chairman* Rev. J. Murray, T. Robson, *Fin. Secretary* J. Connor, A. Woolley.



AFTER a pastorate of seven and a half years, in which he had laid the foundations of the congregation deep and strong, Mr. Murray accepted a call to St. Catharines, and is now the honored minister of Erskine Church, Toronto.

On the 16th of April, 1896, after a vacancy of less than five months, the Rev. Andrew MacWilliams, B. A., of Peterborough, became the pastor, taking up the work with great vigor and carrying it on with marked faithfulness. A ripe scholar, an eloquent speaker, his sermons were educational as well as inspiring. An outstanding characteristic of Mr. MacWilliams was his tenderly sympathetic nature. Those who knew him best and loved him most were the sick, the suffering, the bereaved, and in many homes there are fragrant memories of his cheering and comforting ministries.

Mr. MacWilliams accepted a call to St. Mary's in the year 1904, after a pastorate of nearly eight years, and is now minister of Grace Church, Calgary.

The next and present pastor, the Rev. J. A. Wilson, B. A., was ordained to the office of the ministry and inducted to the pastoral charge of St. Andrew's on the 13th December, 1904. Mr. Wilson had graduated from Knox College in 1902, and immediately thereafter became assistant pastor in St. Paul's Church, Peterborough.

A great forward movement in St. Andrew's dates from Mr. Wilson's advent. So rapid was the growth of the congregation that within two years from his coming the large and handsome church to be seen on the old corner of Barton Street and Smith Avenue was erected and opened.

This church may fairly be called a monument to the present pastor's worth and work.

The opening services took place on the 9th December, 1906, and were conducted by the two former ministers, Rev. Messrs. Murray and MacWilliams.



CHAIRMEN OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



C. Leckie, 1885-1891    R. Duff, 1908-1909    W. T. Cline, 1892-1893  
A. E. Croa<sup>1</sup>, 1904-1907  
J. Jamieson, 1894-1900, 1910    T. Robson, 1901-1904



N Mr. Wilson, St. Andrew's has a minister of many talents. A thoughtful and eloquent preacher, a most assiduous pastor, and an inspiring leader, beloved alike by old and young.

It remains only to be said that :

St. Andrew's congregation has abundant cause for gratitude to the great Head of the Church for the many blessings vouchsafed to them during the quarter of a century just completed ; for the good men and true who have spoken to them so eloquently and faithfully from the sacred desk of the things that concern the Kingdom of God, and "allured them to brighter worlds and led the way" for the harmony and good-will that have prevailed amongst them ; for what they have been enabled to do in their many departments of church life and work ; and perhaps specially for the success that has attended their work amongst the young, for they have ever striven to give this branch of their activities the prominence that its great importance demands.

---

**The 28 members of 1885 have become 900.**

**The 170 Sunday School scholars of 1885 have become 700.**

**The \$600 revenue of 1885 has become \$8500.**

---

**Committee on Semi-Jubilee Booklet**

**J. JAMIESON,      T. ROBSON      W. R. LECKI**  
*Chairman*  
**REV. J. A. WILSON**

SABBATH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS



Rev. J. Murray, 1889-1895

W. H. Woolley, 1887—

J. M. Robinson, 1904-1909

W. R. Leckie, 1885-1886

" 1887—

" 1888—

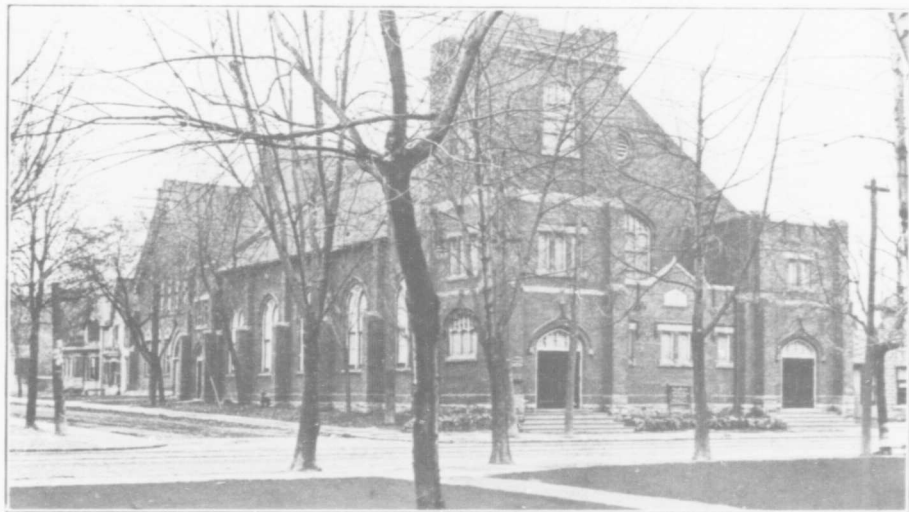
" 1889-1904

W. Bale, 1896-1898

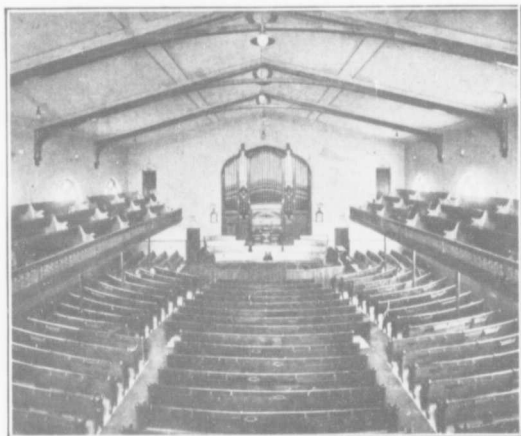
B. Leckie, 1888—

R. Duff, 1910—

PRESENT CHURCH

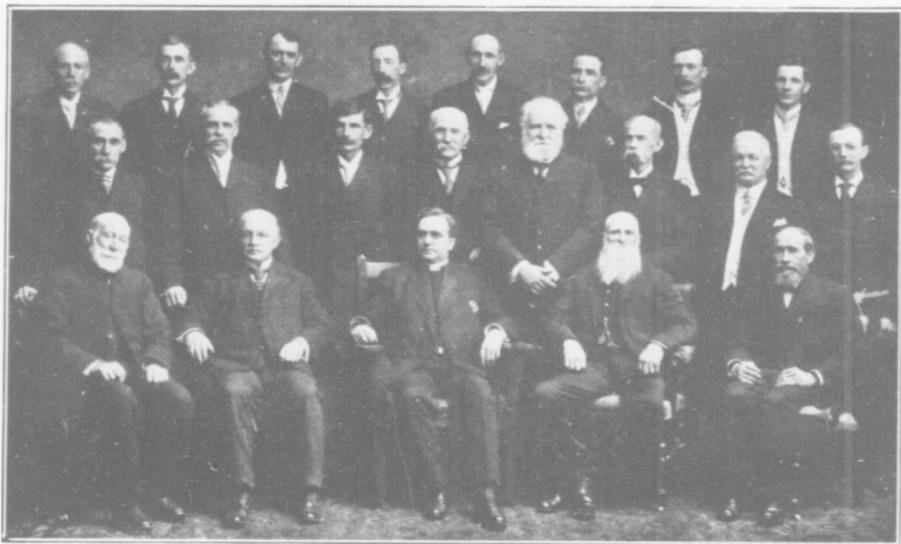


Opened 5th December, 1906



INTERIOR OF CHURCH

SESSION 1910



*Front Row:* D. McLeod, W. R. Leckie, Rev. J. A. Wilson, W. Weir, E. Bower.  
*Second Row:* A. H. Young, D. Newlands, N. G. Boggs, J. M. Robinson, R. Law, J. Connor, C. Leckie, W. Williams.  
*Third Row:* C. McLeod, T. Andrew, T. Robson, A. F. Wright, W. T. Cline, S. S. McCandlish, J. Crombie, G. Penny.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, 1910



*Front Row:* J. A. Ewing, W. Scholfield, *Secretary* A. E. Croal, *Vice-Chairman* J. Jamieson, *Chairman* W. D. Connor, R. Somerville, *Treasurer*  
*Second Row:* J. H. Little, W. F. Webster, A. E. Miller, A. Anderson, *Fin. Sec.* Rev. J. A. Wilson, W. Brown, *Asst. Fin. Sec.* D. F. McLeod, J. J. Cline.  
*Third Row:* T. E. Webb, A. Decker, H. M. Bradt, J. M. Firth, C. A. Leckie, P. Dresback, C. Plant.

**EX-ELDERS**

Wm. Wilson	xAngus Reid
Jas. McFarlane	xAndrew Wilson
xJunor Grey, Sr.	xWm. B. Robertson
	xDeceased

---

MESSAGE FROM REV. A. MacWILLIAMS  
CALGARY

"Mrs. MacWilliams and I have not forgotten the happy days spent in Hamilton and often speak of them. We join in love to all the dear old friends, and in wishing most successful Anniversary Services; assuring them that we shall be with them in spirit."



ROBERT DUNCAN & CO  
PRINTERS  
HAMILTON, CANADA