

Salford Church Corner Stone  
Laid May 1890

# History of Salford United Church



125th Anniversary

1851 - 1976



PREFACE

Our object in compiling available bits and pieces into book form has been the very modest one of providing our members, friends, and others who may be interested in an outline of the early beginning and development of Christian missionary work in this area (South West Oxford) which brought into being the "Salford Congregation" of the United Church of Canada as we know it today.

This religious group experience of faith, fact, and sentiment of our fore-fathers, has become cherished memories which we cannot allow to dwindle and fade into obscurity or to die with time – for us, it has become sacred history which we cannot afford to forget or ignore.

Another object equally important in our attempt – was to make the humble acknowledgement, that with an awareness of our religious past, we could become more knowledgeable of who we are, and why the church means so much to us. From one point of view, many would be ashamed if they did not carry on the religious traditions of the past, from another, our forebears, taking a peek into modernity, would be shocked if not ashamed to see how we are carrying on. Be that as it may, we cannot doubt, that in this history we are not observers, but fellow participants in the drama of more abundant life, not for the sole purpose of achieving certitude, but meaning.

The information which is embodied in this compilation comes to us from oral tradition, local church records, the archives in Toronto, newspaper clippings, United Church bulletin, the United Church Observer, the Christian Guardian Church Statistics, and the memory bank of members and friends.

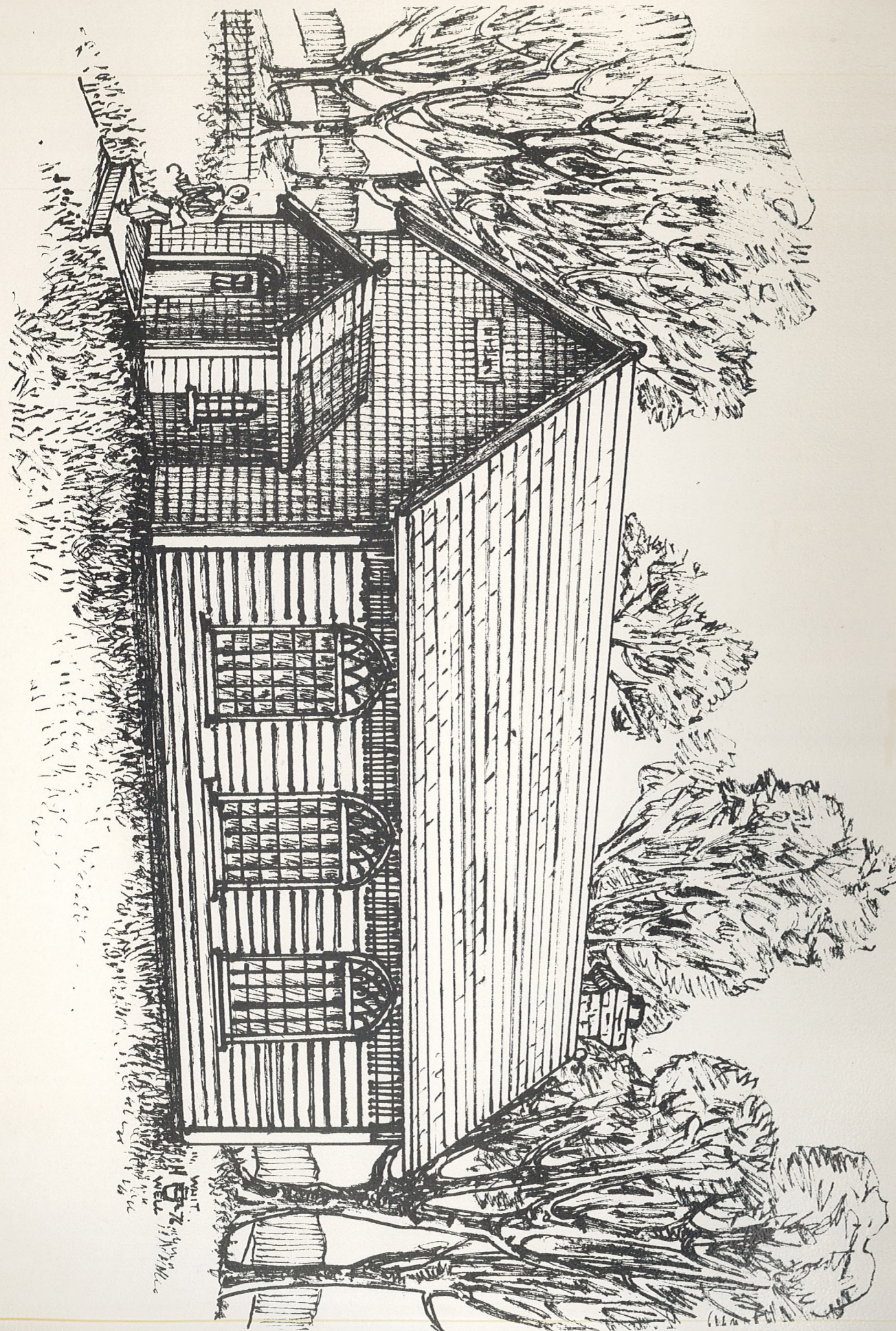
With authority from the Salford "Local Church Board" a History Committee which comprised of the Rev. R. B. Cumming (Resource Church historian), Rev. E. A. Ramrattan (Co-ordinator), Mr. Everett Wilson and Mr. Russell Dickout, was delegated with the responsibility to compile the history of the Salford Church as a project for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada (1975). We are now one year behind time, and though our compilation might be sketchy in some areas and a bit unevenly balanced in other areas, with bits and pieces pasted together in patchwork scheme, it nevertheless, shows that the Salford Congregation of the United Church of Canada as we know it now, had a unique beginning and a solid foundation in its Methodist origin.

As co-ordinator of the "History Committee" I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the Rev. Mr. R. B. Cumming (Church historian), Mr. Everett Wilson and Mr. Russell Dickout for their active participation; Mrs. Lawrence Durham (a co-opted member), for her assistance; to Mrs. Currie Way and Mrs. Lloyd Patterson, for reading through the material and making the necessary corrections; to Mrs. Everett Wilson and Mrs. David Ulch for typing the final manuscript; to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fishback, for their expert help in taking pictures.

However, this acknowledgement would be quite incomplete if I fail to mention the added help given to the working committee by the many friends and families of our church and community.

Eric A. Ramrattan

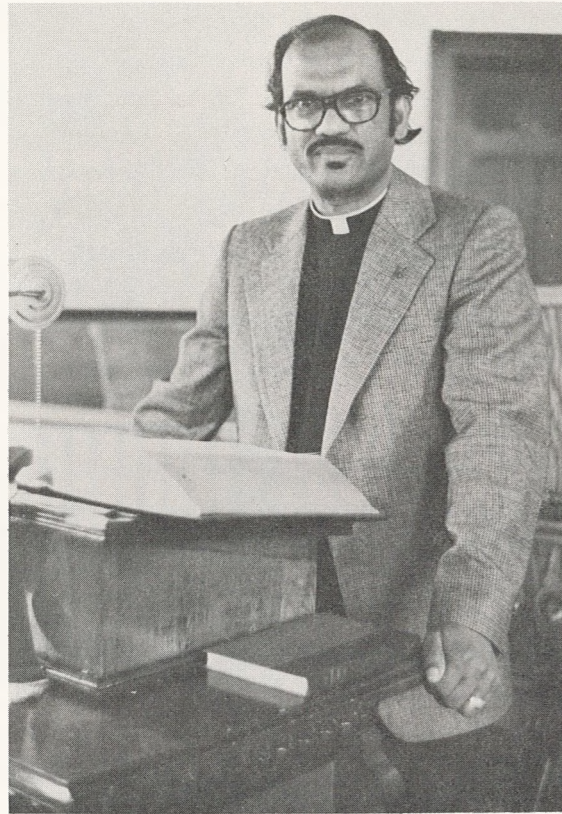
*Rev. Eric A. Ramrattan*



The Wesleyan Methodist Church, Salford.  
Built 1851. Sold to Mr. Piper of Salford – Burned 1931

Drawn by Harry Whitwell from descriptions given by aged people who went to this church.





In Memory Of  
**REVEREND ERIC A. RAMRATTAN**

Who passed away April 3, 1976

The committee gratefully acknowledges  
his encouragement and assistance  
as Committee Chairman  
in the preparation of this book.

*Oxford Presbytery*  
of  
**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

Otterville, Ontario  
April 2, 1976

Salford United Church:

Greetings to you from Oxford Presbytery as you celebrate 50 years in The United Church of Canada and 125 years as a congregation in the Salford Community.

As you look back over the years I'm sure you are reminded of all those who have contributed in service to God through His Church in your community, and give thanks for this tremendous contribution. We remember our threefold heritage from the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches, and latterly, from the Evangelical United Brethren Church which have helped to make The United Church what it is today.

May we give thanks for those who in the past gave up something which they felt was very precious to them in order that something greater might be born. May we in the future be as willing to give leadership in the ecumenical movement and achieve other unions which will be in harmony with the will of God.

No church can live on past achievement. We have to try to improve the future by being willing to move forward to try new ways and means to bring God's kingdom to the area in which we live and also the the larger world of which we are a part.

May God's blessing be with the Salford congregation as you seek to serve Him in the coming years.

Anne Egilsson  
Chairman  
Oxford Presbytery



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Church Officers – 1976

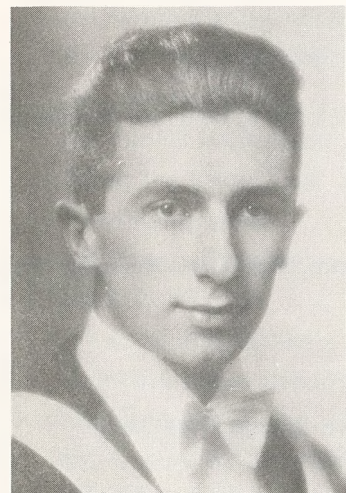
Minister	Rev. E. A. Ramrattan
Lay Chairman	Currie Way
Treasurer	Mrs. Homer Hammond
Secretary	Mrs. Andrew Empey
M. & S. Treasurer	Mrs. Andrew Empey
Choir Leader	Mrs. Ed. Coward
Organists	Mrs. Orville Nancekivell, Miss Nancy Rachar, Bob Gibson
Pianist	Mrs. Harold Harrison
Auditors	Miss Ruth Way, Miss Mary Way
Observer	Harold Manicom
Presbytery Rep.	Everett Wilson
S. S. Superintendent	Douglas Milne
S. S. Sec. Treas.	Tom Way
U. C. W. President	Mrs. Currie Way
Young People's President	Steven Wilson
Worship Committee – Harold Harrison, Chairman	
Cecil Howard, Mrs. Harold Fishback, Richard M. Wilson, Ross MacDonald, Mrs. Harold Harrison, William Johnson, Mrs. David Riach	
Finance Committee – Orville Nancekivell, Chairman	
Mrs. Homer Hammond, Mrs. Andrew Empey, Harold Manicom, Currie Way, Mrs. Ray Sadler, Charles Nancekivell, Cecil Wilson, Mrs. Russell Dickout, Russell Dickout, Mrs. Gordon Baxter	
Property Committee – Bob Coventry, Chairman	
Ken Nancekivell, Alton Manicom, Mrs. Orville Nancekivell, Tom Way, Dougald MacDonald, Mrs. Floyd Swance, Andrew Empey, Mrs. Floyd Belore	
Christian Education Committee – David Riach, Chairman	
Bob Winter, Mrs. Susanne Wilson, Douglas Milne, Larry Bartram, Mrs. Glen Bartram, Roger Swance, Wilford Wagner, Mrs. Wilford Wagner	
Board of Trustees	
Albert Quinn, Orville Nancekivell, Ray Sadler, Currie Way, Keith Wilson, Tom Way	
Ushers	
Rob Way, Ron Johnson, Clayton Coward, Brian Manicom, Ross Wilson, Steve Wilson, Steve Sadler, Evan Swance, Russell Wilson, Dennis Wilson, Dave Manicom, Chris Manicom, Brad Coventry, Brad Fishback, Bill Wilson, Paul Way, Dave Wilson, George Way, Charles Nancekivell, Rob Johnson, Roger Swance, Keith Swance.	





Back — l to r - Keith Wilson, Harold Harrison, Ross MacDonald, Cecil Howard  
Front — l to r - Richard Wilson, Mrs. Ed. Coward, Mrs. Harold Harrison, Mrs. Harold Fishback, Ronald Johnson

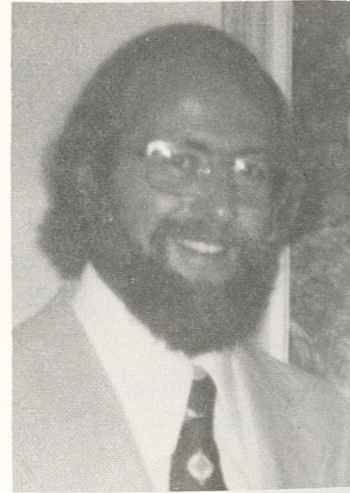
THREE ORDAINED MINISTERS FROM THIS CONGREGATION



Rev. Edgar Gill



Rev. Lloyd Hooper



Rev. John Hooper

Chapter 1

EARLY BEGINNINGS

This history of Salford United Church, is beyond doubt, a most interesting and romantic evolution of a religious stronghold which began like the dripping stalactite and its corresponding response of stalagmite. Today it forms a spiritual arch of security, and a deep expression of faith in an Almighty God to the people of this area.

Since the Salford Church started from its inception as Methodist, we would trace the evolution of our congregation until the time of union, which eventually changed its name and in some ways its nature, though not its mission.

Nathan Bangs

The earliest saddle-bag preacher of any denomination to come into the South-Western Ontario region was Nathan Bangs. Sent "beyond the Canadian Line" by the New York Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, perhaps as early as 1801, he made several journeys through the forest wilderness on horseback, commencing at the Niagara frontier. From there he worked his way westward, visiting settlements located along the Thames River and eventually reached as far as Detroit. Rev. Bangs would hold services in homes along the way wherever he could gather an interested audience.

Addressing such a group near Thamesville, on the 12th of August, 1804, he began his sermon, "My name is Nathan Bangs. I was born in Connecticut, May 2, 1778. I commenced itinerating as a preacher in the month of September, 1801. On the 18th of June, the present year, I left New York for the purpose of visiting you, and after a long and tedious journey I am here. I am bound for the Heavenly City, and my errand among you is to persuade as many as I can to go with me."

Rev. Bangs continued his ministry in Southern Ontario for several more years, then returned to the United States where he became a renowned preacher, an eminent theologian and an author of religious essays.

The First Methodist Congregation in Oxford

August 4, 1804, was a memorable day for those early pioneers in the settlement called "Oxford on the Thames", located along the Thames River between the present day Ingersoll and Beachville. They had just been privileged to hear the preaching of a true minister of the gospel in the person of the Rev. Nathan Bangs, and then he led them to organize as a branch of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America. Thus it was on this day that Rev. Bangs, on one of his journeys into Ontario in 1804, founded the first congregation of Methodists in Oxford County.



### First Church

Mrs. Russell Currie, in her history of West Oxford Church, writes that this group held meetings whenever possible in homes along the First and Second Concessions of West Oxford. Soon, however, plans were made to build a "Meeting Place". This was constructed of logs on Lot 7, Broken Front, along the Old Stage Road, where a cemetery known as the Karn Burial Ground was also established. Services continued in this building for several years, until the War of 1812-14, when the Westbrook Raiders swept through this area and burned this church and many homes and buildings of the pioneers.

### The New Chapel

Undaunted, the congregation now met for services in a log schoolhouse located near the site of the present West Oxford Church. At this time the people were served by ministers from the Ancaster Circuit, formed in 1811.

By 1823, there was a strong desire to build a church here because it had grown to be an active religious centre. For this purpose, one acre of land was purchased November 29, 1823, from John Galloway at a cost of five pounds. A large frame church was built the following year, 1824; it was nearly square and clapboarded on the outside with unplanned lumber and had large windows on each side. A cemetery was also established in connection with the church. This frame church was replaced in 1854 by a smaller brick church built on the same location and this church is still in service today.



West Oxford Church — Built 1854

According to Byron Jenvey, the pioneer people walked for many miles from every direction to attend services at this chapel, until churches were built in their own communities, closer to their homesteads. They would often walk barefoot, along the sometimes muddy trails, carrying their shoes until they neared the church, when they would don them, unsoiled, and tidy their apparel before they entered the house of God. People from the Salford area were among those attending services there at this time.

### West Oxford Made Head of Circuit

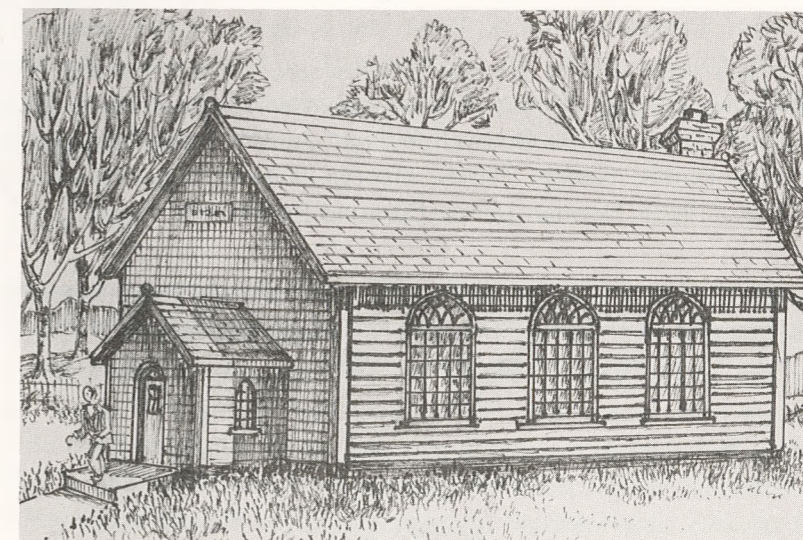
With the continued growth in size and influence of the membership of Oxford Chapel — it was called this because it was indeed the first and only chapel in Oxford for many years — in 1832 it was made head of the newly formed Oxford Circuit of Methodist Episcopal churches. Rev. John Bailey was the first minister on the new circuit.

In 1834, a union took place between the British Wesleyan Methodists and the Methodist Episcopal Church to form the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Some Methodist Episcopalists chose to remain outside of this union, thus at West Oxford the name Wesleyan Methodist wasn't adopted until about 1850, and even then some members separated to build a Methodist Episcopal Church at Piper's Corners in 1856.

As more communities such as Ingersoll, Beachville, and Woodstock developed in the late 1830's and early 1840's, West Oxford became less of a leading power, and in 1843, Central Church at Woodstock replaced it as the circuit head.

### Salford (Manchester) in the Picture

When West Oxford became head of the Oxford Circuit in 1832, there were listed eleven appointments, namely: (West) Oxford Chapel, Beachville, Ingersoll, 12th Concession Zorra, Woodstock, North Oxford, Embro Road, Aylmer, Mt. Elgin, Dereham, and Salford. As there was not yet a church in Salford, we can only surmise that services were held in homes or perhaps a school house. However this indicates that a nucleus of a congregation was developing in the Salford area at least 15 years before it was decided to build a church.



Wesleyan Methodist Church — Built 1851

### The First Wesleyan Methodist Church

It was in 1849 that authority was given by the Wesleyan Conference to the people at Salford to acquire a site for the purpose of building a Chapel for divine worship. At a subsequent prayer meeting, Warren Harris offered to sever from his farm, a parcel of land, located at the south east



corner of the intersection of the middle town line and the First Concession of Dereham, measuring 66 feet square. Mr. Harris received five shillings for this site, with the following seven Trustees signing on behalf of the Salford Wesleyan Methodist Society: Warren Harris, Isaac Piper, Charles Wilson, William Kennedy, Andrew Wolfe, John Sibbald, and Joseph Smith.

With volunteer help a neat frame church, approximately 30 feet by 40 feet was erected. The church faced North with three windows on each side and two rows of benches flanking a centre aisle.

On September 5, 1851, a public meeting was held in the church to decide on the regulations for the conduct of Public Worship under the Wesleyan Methodist Society. They are as follows:

1. Families sit together during service, not divided as male and female.
2. Pews to be let or rented, and first choice would be held by the highest contributor to the Building Fund, with no pew to be held for less than £10. This custom continued until 1888.
3. That a caretaker be appointed, the position going to the lowest eligible bidder.
4. That the Baptist congregation be invited to worship in the church until their own church was completed.
5. That ministers of other Evangelical denominations be allowed to hold religious services in our Wesleyan Methodist Church.

The seating in the new church was let as follows:

Warren Harris £50, Hiram Ranney £12-10, Isaac Piper £12-10, John Sibbald, William Kennedy, Charles Wilson, James Wolfe, Joseph Tysons, John Cosey, Joseph Smith, Daniel Harris Jr., Thomas Cadman, Andrew Wolfe, John Gregg, Solomon Shell, Richard Wilson, Walter Harris, Ephraim Briggs, Peter Hazel Jr., Smith McKane, William Russell, Harvey Purdy, John Thornton, Henry Shell, W. Layton, Charles Chadwick, Peter Smith, George Quartermage, Ira Harris, Abram Roe, Thomas Russell, Charles Cody, Daniel Phelan, I. I. McKenzie, John McDonald, Robert Haining, Thomas Sibbold, Thomas Brown, William Eastwood, Samuel Hagle, Eli Sage, R. Wilson, Robert McCue, Leonard Wilson, James Bodwell, William Squibb, John Tyson, Truloch Bodington, John Cannom, Pheobe Harris, George Harris, George Walker, John Dundas, James Falconer, Jeremiah Minklin, G. B. Tillson, Herman James, Edmund Bodington.

This church was used continuously until 1890 when the present structure was built. The old frame building was sold to William Piper and moved to lot 18, Concession 1, where it served as the Piper home until it was destroyed by fire in 1931.

## Chapter 2

### SALFORD WESLEYAN METHODISTS 1851 – 1874

#### Rev. Shepherd on the Circuit

The new church at Manchester (Salford) was on the Woodstock Circuit of the Wesleyan Methodists, although Ingersoll seems to have been head of a western division of this circuit. The Rev. Edmund Shepherd was minister of this circuit in 1851, 1852, and 1853.\* In order to provide more regular services of worship at the many churches on the circuit, young probationers for the ministry worked with the ordained man. Thus in 1851, Drummond Fletcher, in 1852, John Evans, and in 1853, Thomas Peacock served with Rev. Shepherd.

#### Name of the Village Changed in 1855

The next minister on the Circuit was Rev. Wm. McCulloch, who served from 1854 to 1856. During his ministry, in 1855, the name of the village was changed from Manchester to Salford. Apparently there was another Manchester in Ontario, so the name Salford was chosen as it was a city in England near Manchester. Salford means "the crossing at the willow tree" (from Anglo-Saxon SEALH - a willow).

#### Five Ministers in Ten Years

Rev. Ashael Hurlburt was minister in 1857 and 1858, Rev. John Bredin in 1859 and 1860, Rev. Wm. Stephenson in 1861, Rev. Wm. Lund in 1862, 63, and 1864 and Rev. John Hunt for the years 1865, 1866 and 1867.

#### Church Shed Built in 1866

It was during Rev. Hunt's ministry, in 1866, that a subscription was taken in order to build a church shed. There is a detailed account, still in existence, of the contributors and the amounts given, which totalled \$220.63. (By this time the English money system had been replaced with our familiar one). Extra land on the north side of the road across from the church was bought for \$70.00 and the shed was built there. The sale of this land is recorded at the County Registry Office, dated May 7, 1867. The deed is a contract between Robert Nicholson and the Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church at Salford, namely: Warren Harris, Charles Wilson, John Sibul, Wm. Kennedy, Isaac Piper, Joseph Smith, Daniel Dickout. The land consisted of Village of Salford lots 13, 14, 15, where Muriel Piper now lives.

\*NOTE: The Pastoral year begins July 1 through June 30 the following year. The year given throughout this book indicates beginning of Pastoral year.



### Salford Made Head of a New Circuit in 1868

The year 1868 is a significant date in the history of the church at Salford, for it was then that the District Conference decided to form the Salford Circuit by a division of the Ingersoll Circuit. It consisted of four appointments, Salford, West Oxford, Zion (Foldens) and Culloden Stone Church. The Stone Church was located at the corner of the Culloden Road and the third concession of Dereham; perhaps named after the Stone family, who lived nearby. A new brick church was built there in 1882 which was named Ebenezer. However, Church Union in 1925 resulted in its being closed shortly thereafter.

The Rev. Hugh McLean was the first minister stationed on the Salford Circuit in 1868, and he stayed until 1870.

### First Quarterly Meeting of the Official Board

The first meeting of the Official Board of the new Salford Circuit was held at Salford, on July 6, 1868, at 3:00 p.m. The following members were present: Charles Wilson, Daniel Harris, R. A. Janes, Isaac Piper, J. B. Piper, John Wilkinson, John Partlo, Stephen Roberts, Daniel Dickout, William Lowes, and John Gaine. R. A. Janes was appointed Recording Steward. The following Stewards were appointed: George Galloway, Enoch Sage, H. S. Pendleton, John Ronson, and Percy Harris.

A budget was drawn up for the circuit. Minister's Salary — \$240.00, Board — \$215.00; Horse Keeping — \$60.00; Fuel — \$40.00; Moving Expenses — \$65.00, Incidentals — \$10.00; Childrens Fund — \$70.00. Total — \$700.00.

This was apportioned as follows: Salford — \$212.00; Stone Church — \$170.00; West Oxford — \$178.00; Foldens — \$100.00; Contingent Fund — \$40.00.

It is interesting to note that Salford's \$212.00 share was appropriated to the various "classes"<sup>1</sup> as follows: Stephen Roberts — \$130.00, Daniel Dickout — \$82.00.

A committee was appointed to meet with representatives of Ingersoll Circuit, with a view to an equitable settlement for Salford Circuit's share of the Ingersoll parsonage and property. It was subsequently agreed that Ingersoll pay \$400.00 to the Salford Circuit.

### A Parsonage is Bought

At this same meeting, a committee reported that it had bought a house and lot to be used as a parsonage for Salford Circuit at a price of \$450.00. This transaction, registered at the County Office, was between Mary Taylor, wife of Wm. Taylor, Baptist Minister, and the Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of the Salford Circuit. This property consisted of Village of Salford lots 7 and 8 on the North side of the Ingersoll and Pt. Burwell Road containing 2/5 of an acre. (This is where the manse is now located). It was also agreed to spend \$90.00 on furniture and major repairs to the house, which ultimately cost \$291.00

1. The church membership was divided into groups called classes. Under a class leader they were led into fuller commitment, both to Jesus Christ, and to the financial support of the church.

### Church Repairs and a New Organ

A meeting of the trustees of the Church in early 1868 appointed Warren Harris, W. Kennedy, and Isaac Piper to oversee the repairing of the church.<sup>1</sup> Also, an item dated September 12, 1868 is listed as follows: One organ from Andrews Bros. (spelling uncertain) for \$125.00.

### Local Preachers and Exhorters

From the minutes of the Board meeting of May 3, 1869, the license of Isaac Piper as Local Preacher, was renewed, and Daniel Harris was named as Exhorter. An Exhorter in the Wesleyan Methodist Church was one who could give leadership at Prayer meetings, house Bible study sessions, etc. A complimentary resolution was read to brother Joseph B. Piper, "who was removing from Salford," commending him for "his efficiency as Recording Steward, and zeal as Local Preacher for over twenty years, and his interest in the spiritual welfare of the entire circuit".

A meeting on May 7, 1870, renewed the license of Isaac Piper and appointed John Gregg as Steward. At a meeting February 5, 1871, brother Emerson Quartermas was also licensed as Local Preacher. The Circuit Board had the power to license Local Preachers. In the United Church today, this is done at the Presbytery level.

Rev. Thomas Crews was received as the new minister in 1871 and he remained for 1872 and 1873. It is recorded that his salary for 1873 was \$800.00.

R. A. Janes retired as Recording Steward of the Circuit Official Board in 1872 and George Galloway was appointed to take his place.

### The Methodist Church of Canada Formed by 1874 Union

In 1874, the union took place between the Wesleyan Methodists in Canada and the Canada Conference of Methodist New Connexion, to be known as "The Methodist Church of Canada".

1 Apparently major repairs were made to the Portico of the church.



### Chapter 3

#### THE SALFORD METHODIST CHURCH 1875 – 1890

##### Circuit Enlarged to Six Appointments

In 1875, the Official Board of Salford Circuit, which, with the addition of Salem (Zenda) (formerly New Connexion Methodist - union facilitated this co-operation) and Newark, now consisted of six appointments, requested the Conference to send a young man to help their new minister, Rev. James Kennedy. Apparently the previous two ministers, Rev. McLean and Rev. Crews had no young men assistants.

Rev. Kennedy stayed two years, 1874 and 1875. The young man assistant in 1875 was David A. Moir. He later returned in 1940 to attend the 50th anniversary of the building of the present church. A newspaper report of that event described him as follows: "in spite of his 88 years he is as virile and active as many men a score of years his junior. He told the story of his probation days on the Salford Circuit, his call to the ministry, and of many memories of his ministry".

At a meeting of the Trustees of Salford Church, held July 13, 1874, with the following members present: J. Gregg, James Terry, Rueben Smith, and S. Nagle, it was agreed to paint the church. Money must have been scarce because Reuben Smith agreed to pay for the paint, and wait until the money could be raised for his repayment. John Gregg agreed to pay the painter on the same terms.

At this time a Mrs. Hogg was caretaker of the church. For this she received \$20.00 per year.

To raise money for the church, there were frequent "tea meetings" and "socials". One tea meeting had proceeds of \$66.75 and a social at S. Roberts made \$30.00.

Rev. Charles Stringfellow was the next minister on the circuit for the years 1876, 1877 and 1878.

From the minutes of 1877, the minister's salary was set at \$720.00 and the young man assistant (Wm. Penhall) was set at \$360.00. During this year the minister was granted leave to visit England (reason not given).

Local Preacher's licenses for 1877 were granted to Bros. Cadman and Bell. In 1878 licenses were given to Bros. Winterbottom and Major. The minutes note that these men were used in the Circuit Plan. With six churches to serve, some plan would be necessary in order to have regular services at each.

In 1879, the new minister on the Circuit was Rev. Wm. Willoughby. He remained until 1880. His "young men" were Albert Crews (1879) and Wm. Balmer (1880).

##### Districts Reorganized

The Methodist Church in 1881 created London Conference by a division of Niagara Conference. In 1882, Woodstock District was organized. This included Salford Circuit. However, the Woodstock District at this time remained within the Niagara Conference.

##### The New Hymn-Book

The minutes of the Board of 1881, indicated that Rev. David Hunt was minister on the circuit at the time a resolution was passed approving that the new Hymn-Books be placed in the pulpits by Oct. 1. This new Hymn-Book referred to came about as follows, as quoted from its preface.

"With the union, in 1874, of the Wesleyan Methodist and the Methodist New Connexion in Canada into one body known as "The Methodist Church of Canada", and the expiration of the copyright of the English Wesleyan Hymn-Book the same year, rendered it necessary either to adopt the hymn book of some other branch of Methodism, or to compile a new book of praise for the newly formed Methodist Church. The subject was considered at the first General Conference held in Toronto in 1874. A committee was appointed to prepare materials for a new Hymn-Book and report to the next Conference. The report of this committee, submitted to the next General Conference which met in Montreal in 1878, dealt mainly with what hymns in the old Wesleyan Hymn-Book should be omitted and what abbreviations and emendations should be made in those retained. The committee recommended that all hymns selected for the new Hymn-Book, whether from the original collection, or from other sources, should be arranged under suitable heads, according to their subjects. After full consideration, the following resolution was adopted: 'That the Report of the Hymn-Book committee be adopted, and that the committee be re-appointed, and authorized to complete and publish the Hymn-Book within two years.'

Having their authority renewed, and their work definitely specified, the committee applied themselves to successful completion of the task. In numerous meetings, and afterwards in a protracted session held at Coburg during Sept. 1879, the work was completed and published within the time specified by the General Conference."



The first hymn in this book is "O For a Thousand Tongues". The book contains 936 hymns, most of which were written by Charles Wesley. This same Hymn-Book was approved for use in the "Methodist Church" after a later union in 1883.

#### Beachville Now on Salford Circuit

The minutes of 1881 state that Bro. Rush was granted a license as a Local Preacher. Furthermore, it is suggested that the young man on the circuit (R. George Lounds) be provided with a suitable boarding place in West Oxford or Beachville. This is the first mention of Beachville, in Salford Circuit minutes. Returns, which began to show from there towards the salary, definitely indicate that Beachville was on the Salford Circuit at this time, making a total of seven appointments.

#### Additional Land Bought Adjacent to Parsonage

At a board meeting held Nov. 7, 1881, it was decided to buy the half acre of land adjoining the parsonage. A bill of sale dated Nov. 22, 1881, was signed between Maria Warner and the Trustees of the Church, for the sum of \$62.50 with regard to a parcel of land containing ½ acre, lying at the rear of village of Salford lots 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. It was an irregular four sided parcel, at the north and west of the parsonage.

A meeting held May 8, 1882, passed a resolution granting Rev. Hunt the privilege of absenting himself from the circuit to visit the North-West. As we shall see, a most dramatic event occurred during his absence.

#### Salford Methodist Parsonage Destroyed by Fire

The June 30, 1882 issue of the Sentinel Review (a weekly paper then) carried this news item:

"Salford: A fire in Salford, Dereham, on Thursday 22nd inst., destroyed the Methodist parsonage and barn. The fire is supposed to have been kindled by a spark from the kitchen stove. When discovered at 3.30 o'clock, it had made such headway that the attempt to save the building was abandoned, and through vigorous efforts on the part of those who were present, the house was speedily cleared of its contents. Much of the property, however, was necessarily injured by rough handling in the hurry and confusion. Mr. (Rev.) Hunt, incumbent minister, being absent on a visit to his sons in Manitoba, has sustained considerable loss; his fine new carriage, harness, robes and considerable other property in the barn being destroyed. Mrs. Hunt, having born up bravely while the hurry and excitement lasted, became utterly prostrate for a while, but we are pleased to see her around again, and trying to make the best of the inconvenience that has beset her. She has the heartfelt sympathy of the community, and we trust, as Mr. Hunt is absent, that the officials of the circuit will do what they can to remove as much of the care from Mrs. Hunt as possible".

Thus a Parsonage Board meeting, chaired by Mr. Thomas Moore, the young man on the circuit, was called on July 8, 1882. The minutes begin as follows: "The parsonage having burned down, this meeting is to consider building a new parsonage and to provide suitable residence for the minister's family for the time being." The minister's family was given lodging with Mr. & Mrs. John Wilson, who lived where the Elliott family now live.

#### Plans for Building a New Parsonage

A meeting August 13, 1882, elected the following people from the circuit to be a building committee: Galloway, Wilkinson, Lewis, Smith and the minister. (Rev. Hunt was back again at this meeting). There was discussion about buying the Lintz property, east of the parsonage lot, which contained 2 acres. It was decided to offer \$150.00 for the property. There is no recorded sale or further mention of this. Mr. Lintz must have refused to sell. At this same meeting, it is recorded that bricks, "which were considered good", could be purchased for \$7.00 and \$8.00 per thousand.

A meeting on December 26, had two tenders to build the parsonage under consideration.

Mr. Abell offered to build the house for \$1650.00 if the building committee would supply stone, sand, bricks, and haul some of the coarse lumber.

Mr. Layton offered to build the house for \$1975.00 and furnish all material. His offer was accepted. However, the building committee then wanted to haul the building material, and to be allowed "seasonable rates" for this. The contractor agreed.

It was decided that the H. Boyce house be used as a model for the parsonage, with many minor and some major changes. For example, instead of two bay windows in front, the parsonage would have one.



Salford Parsonage — Built 1883

Thus the new parsonage was built during the summer of 1883. The subscription to pay for its construction is documented in records still in existence. It seems to have been generously subscribed to.



### The Church Union of 1883

The Official Board of the Circuit meeting on February 6, 1883, with the minister, Rev. Hunt in the chair, had before it the Plan of Union — a proposed joining of The Methodist Church of Canada, (itself newly formed in 1874), The Methodist Episcopal, and The Bible Christian Church. The vote of the members of the board was taken, and the result showed 21 for, and 4 against. The vote at Salford in favour of union was in harmony with the feeling of Methodists across Canada. Thus this union was approved and "The Methodist Church" came into being, a new and powerful Christian force in this country.

The first General Conference of the new church was held in Belleville in September of 1883, and many organizational changes were made, which would come into effect at the beginning of the Conference year on June 1, 1884.

The Woodstock District, of which the Salford Circuit was a part, remained with the Niagara Conference.

### Salford Circuit Trimmed to Two Points

The Salford Circuit was completely reorganized at this time. Foldens and Beachville were put on the Sweaburg Circuit. Newark and Zenda were switched to another circuit, as was Ebenezer, leaving only West Oxford and Salford together. The Rev. Hugh McLean was the minister on the circuit (for the second time), and with only two appointments he was able to have services at both churches each Sunday without the assistance of a young man or a Local Preacher. This was a first for Salford church — an ordained man in the pulpit every Sunday. However this was a mixed blessing as we shall see in a few years.

### The Role of Members in 1884

In 1884 the following families rented pews at the church: Reuben Smith, John R. Dickout, Samuel Gregg, John Gregg Sr., James Chambers, Samuel Nagle, Samuel Mitchell, Robert Stockdale, John Gregg Jr., Wm. Piper, Gilbert Dunton, William Wilkinson, Minister's family, Henry Elliott, Thomas Nancekivell, Henry Gregg, H. D. Johnson, John Dunton, Mrs. Hogg, Mrs. Kennedy, Robert Steward, Ransom Harris, H. C. Wilson, Daniel Lintz, Mrs. Scott, Thomas Newton, Robert Newell, Samuel Embury, Richard Wilson. Pew rent was \$3.00 per year and this practice had been carried on since the church had been built.

### Rev. Hugh McLean First Circuit Minister After Union

The minister on the reorganized Salford Circuit following Union of 1883, was Rev. Hugh McLean. He remained for the years 1884, 1885 and 1886. Apparently the Circuit had a third church on it, an unneeded and little used former Methodist Episcopal Church at Pipers Corners. At a board meeting held November 2, 1885, it was decided to sell this church. H. Fordon, E. Uren, E. Lewis, W. Galloway and J. G. Wood were the committee to see to the selling. The proceeds from the sale in 1887 were \$51.00.

### Rev. John E. Hockey — A Man of Action

The minister on the circuit for the next three years - 1887, 1888 and 1889 was Rev. John E. Hockey who was born South of Ostrander. With only two appointments left to carry the burden (Salford and West Oxford), the financial drain of building a new parsonage (1883), and of making major alterations to the church, where a choir loft had been installed, resulted in difficult times. Rev. Hockey gave very effective leadership throughout these trying times, and later, as we shall see, provided dynamic direction as a great new project was undertaken.

### Springford Circuit Claim

Salem (Zenda) and Newark had contributed to the building of the new parsonage in 1883 while they were on the Salford Circuit. In 1887, they were on the Springford Circuit, and some compensation was sought for their share in Salford's parsonage.

At a joint meeting at Zenda on October 29, 1887, this matter of a fair award was discussed. Rev. Hockey led the Salford Circuit delegation, and Rev. Laird led those from the Springford Circuit. The Salford people immediately moved that the Zenda appointment be joined to the Salford Circuit, thus cancelling their claim on Salford, and that Newark's claim be settled separately after this union took place. The result of a vote on this motion was six in favour and four against.

It was decided to try to find some other arrangement because it was evident that this was divisive and Zenda wasn't going to be added to Salford at this time.

Thus Salford Circuit agreed to pay \$125.00 to Springford. On the other hand, Springford offered to accept \$200.00. The meeting ended with both groups standing firm.

A Board meeting October 31, 1887, stated that Salford Circuit would not exceed their proposal of \$125.00 to the Springford Circuit. Again, a meeting of December 2, 1887, recommended that the Springford Circuit accept the full and adequate offer of Salford. Finally, on August 6, 1888, an item in the minutes states that Springford's claim and interest was paid to the amount of \$138.40.

Ironically, in May of 1888, Zenda Church must have been in need of some aid, for Salford Board offered them a loan of \$70.00, provided that it be joined with Salford by July 1 of that year. Whether or not the loan was made is not known, but Zenda wasn't joined to Salford Circuit.

### Events of 1888

Robert Peck was reappointed as caretaker of the church at a salary of \$25.00 per year. It was decided to have the Report of the Circuit printed and distributed to members at a total cost of \$3.00. It was agreed to grant the minister two weeks of holidays that year. His salary was set at the same as the year before, \$650.00. West Oxford's share was \$212.66 and Salford's \$433.32. This is the first record of either a report being printed and distributed to members, or of the minister being given holidays.



The practice of renting pews was abolished at this time. A type of envelope system was adopted, not weekly envelopes as we now have but quarterly envelopes. Samuel Gregg was appointed assistant secretary-treasurer to help T.L. Newton in keeping the envelope accounts.

The bill of Mr. James Elliott, for four evergreen trees for the parsonage yard, was presented. The board learned that the Ladies Aid had agreed to pay it, and that Mrs. R. Wilson was to attend to it. One tree apparently died, and was replaced in 1890.

Evening services in the future would be held only every other sabbath.

#### **Moment of Decision of 1889**

The year 1889 was a year of great decision for the people of Salford Methodist Church. At a meeting on February 21, 1889, considerable discussion took place over the question of whether to repair the old church or to build a new one.

S. Gregg, W. Chambers and T. L. Newton were appointed to be a committee to consider repairing the church to a limited extent, while at the same time H. Wilson, W. Wilkinson and J. R. Dickout were elected as a committee to investigate securing a suitable site for a new church.

At a meeting held September 30, 1889, the committee on church repairs reported no repair work carried out owing to the strong feeling against spending money on the old church. However, it was agreed to buy a new pulpit from Messrs. Bell and Nagle at a cost of \$10.00.

After some discussion, the following significant motion was made: Moved by T. L. Newton, seconded by S. Gregg that, "the time has arrived when we should build a new church for divine worship, and we should take the immediate steps to secure subscriptions and prepare plans in order to build next year." Rev. J. Hockey, W. H. Chambers and H. C. Wilson were appointed to prepare plans.

At the Salford Circuit Board meeting, November 12, 1889, the motion to build a new church at Salford, was supported by the following resolution moved by Warren Harris and seconded by William Chambers: "Resolved that this Official Board do hereby authorize the Trustees of this church to go on and build a new Methodist Church at Salford".

#### **Choice of Site Difficult**

The matter of choosing the site for the new church was not easily decided. A lot, owned by Miss Smith, west of the parsonage was considered. However, some felt that this lot was too expensive, and a vote was taken on buying this lot or building on the old site. The result was a tie vote. A committee of S. Gregg, J. R. Dickout and T.L. Newton was appointed to meet with Miss Smith to see if she would exchange lots.

The next recorded meeting was held on November 12, 1889, with no mention of the site in the minutes, but the committee on church plans reported they had visited two churches at Belmont and two at Dorchester, and had gained valuable ideas from each. It was recommended that the vestibule of the new church be within the church's main walls.

Mr. James Wright, architect, of Ingersoll, was present and offered valuable suggestions to the board.

On November 28, another board meeting was held, at which the site committee reported that Miss Smith would sell for \$300.00 (Apparently she would not trade lots). Warren Harris offered to sell a lot 70' x 128' for \$100.00, location not given. It was decided that this was not large enough.

A lot owned by Matthew Johnson at the east angle of the intersection of the 1st Concession and the Ingersoll-Port Burwell Road, was also considered. The price of this was \$500.00.

Mr. Wright suggested a new site midway between the old church and the school, and as this was generally approved, the site committee was instructed to ascertain its purchase price.

At a meeting held December 5, 1889, it was decided to buy Mr. Johnson's lot. The description of the lot is as follows: "From a point 191.40' from the intersection of First Concession and the Ingersoll-Port Burwell Road along the First Concession, and from another point 191.40' from the intersection along the Ingersoll-Port Burwell Road, proceed 53.46' from both points until they meet. This forms a kite-shaped lot containing  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of land." The deed was signed January 14, 1890.

#### **Tenders Called for Church Construction**

It was decided to advertise for tenders for the erection of the church which, it was agreed, should have seating capacity of 304 people. The advertisements were placed in the "Ingersoll Chronicle", the "Sentinel-Review", and the "Tillsonburg Observer".

The following advertisement appeared in the Ingersoll Chronicle, Thursday, December 19, 1889: — "Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned up to Tuesday, noon, January 7, 1890, for the erection of a New Methodist Church in the village of Salford, in the County of Oxford. Plans and specifications may be seen at the office of James Wright, Esq., architect, Ingersoll, on or after December 26, 1889. All tenders to be marked "Church Tender", and addressed to Secretary of Building Committee, T. L. Newton, Box 1, Salford P.O."

It was also reported at this time by Samuel Gregg, treasurer of the building fund, that the subscriptions for the building fund had reached a total of \$4500.00.

#### **Contract Awarded; Preparations to Build**

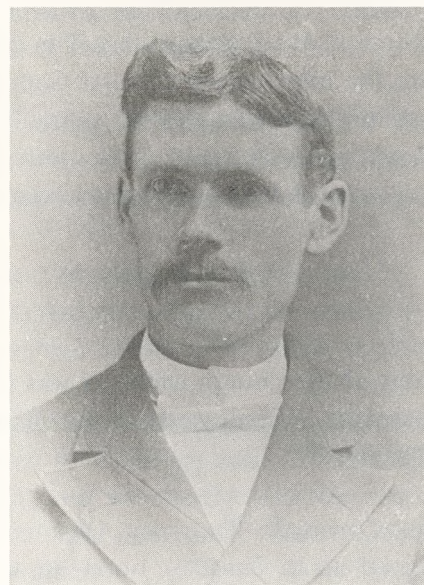
Messrs. J. W. Ferguson and Son of Tillsonburg were awarded the contract to build the new church. The exact contract price cannot be ascertained, but an accurate indication of the total cost is given later at the dedication of the church.



On March 6, 1890, the Ingersoll Chronicle reports "members of the Salford and West Oxford Methodist Churches are taking advantage of a few days of "good wheeling" <sup>1</sup> and the piles of brick and stone on the site of the new church grow steadily".

On April 10, Salford news in the Chronicle states, "the buildings on the new church site have all been disposed of and moved off. J. A. Stephens bought the house and J. P. Hogg the barn. The architect, James Wright, met the building committee last Tuesday, April 8, and staked out the church location, ready for excavation, which will begin next week".

The church will face the angle formed by the intersection of the Ingersoll-Port Burwell Gravel and the First concession roads.



Rev. John E. Hockey



Rev. Charles Deacon

1. "Good Wheeling" means a time when roads are in good condition before the spring break-up. They used this time to transport materials by horse and wagon.

## Chapter 4

### BUILDING AND DEDICATION OF THE NEW CHURCH 1890

#### Building Commenced

The spring of 1890 was a busy, bustling time at Salford, for with the completion deadline set for fall, Mr. Ferguson and his men had a tough schedule to meet. Construction began about mid April, the corner stone laid the end of May, and in the June 12 Chronicle, it is reported that the new church was "well underway".

#### Rev. John E. Hockey Departs From the Circuit

Owing to the strict policy of the Conference Stationing Committee of the Methodist Church, which moved its ministers at three year intervals, Rev. Hockey was not to be permitted to stay on the Salford Circuit to see the completion of the church. The Salford Board considered sending a delegation to the Conference Stationing Committee to request that he be allowed to remain another year, but Rev. Hockey advised that this would be of no avail. He preached his farewell sermon at Salford on Sunday, June 22, 1890 and was moved to an appointment at Stoney Creek.

At the last meeting of the Circuit Board under his chairmanship, May 28, 1890, the following tribute was carried unanimously: "Moved by T. L. Newton, seconded by James Snell, and resolved that this Circuit Board extend to our pastor, Rev. J. E. Hockey, our earnest and sincere thanks for the faithful and efficient pulpit ministrations and pastoral care which he has rendered during the three years of his ministry on this Circuit, and which have been blessed of God to our spiritual welfare and in the salvation of many of our people. We also would gratefully acknowledge the arduous duties which he has efficiently discharged in the removal of a burdensome debt from our parsonage, in restoring tranquillity with the neighbouring circuits, in the renovating and rendering more comfortable and inviting the Church at West Oxford and likewise in the undertaking and carrying forward a good way toward completion, the erection of a large and beautiful temple to the worship of God, which we deeply regret that his stay with us does not allow him to successfully finish. We assure him and his wife that our earnest prayers will ascend to Heaven on their behalf, that in whatever field of labour they may be engaged in the future, they may be eminently successful as in the past, in building the Church of God and winning souls to Christ".

H. C. Wilson, Recording Steward

The Ingersoll Chronicle reports that a farewell presentation for Rev. and Mrs. Hockey was held at the home of T. L. Newton prior to their leaving. The gift which they were given might seem a little strange to us, for they were presented with a set of horse harness.



### Rev. Charles Deacon comes to Salford

The next minister on the Salford Circuit was Rev. Charles Deacon who preached his first sermon at Salford on June 29, 1890. There were five Sundays in June that year which accounts for his beginning then, instead of 1st of July, as was customary.

The walls of the new church were said to be six feet high when Rev. Deacon arrived at Salford.

### New Church Rushed to Completion

The building proceeded on schedule through the summer and fall of 1890 though not without incident. The Chronicle, September 11, reports that, "last Friday, scaffolding gave way at the Methodist Church at Salford, precipitating James Pettit into the basement, badly bruising him".

In the October 23 edition, it is reported "the furniture and lighting apparatus for the new church arrived last week and will soon be completely installed." The lighting was provided by a carbide-acetylene system.

The Christian Guardian, December 10, 1890 edition carried the following description of the new church written by Rev. Deacon: "The church building is solid white brick, 40 x 75 feet with a slate roof. The windows are cathedral glass with stained glass borders. The wood-work and ceiling are of ash finished in oil. The church is seated with Pennington and Baker's Assembly chairs. The floor rises eighteen inches and the chairs circle the pulpit. The church will seat comfortably 450, though nearly 600 were in it at the opening".

There was a full basement under the church, with Sunday School capacity for approximately 150 people. Heat for the church was provided by two large wood-coal furnaces located at the rear of the Sunday School room, there being a chimney provided for each on either side of the church.

The shed was moved from its former position across the road from the old church and reconstructed at the east end of the new church. At this time it was an open-fronted shed.

At a board meeting held November 4, 1890, it was decided to have the dedication service on November 23 and to hold two services regularly each Sabbath in the new church after its opening.

### Farewell Service For the Old Church

This same board meeting also decided that there should be a farewell service for the old church, to be held on November 16, at 10.30 a.m. However, fate determined this was not the last service to be held there. For in the following week, Mrs. John R. Dickout died suddenly, and her funeral was held there — the final service from the church that had served since 1851 — a period of thirty-nine years.

The church was sold to Mr. Wm. Piper, who moved it to his farm, Lot 18, Concession 2, Dereham, and converted it into a dwelling. It burned in 1931.

### The Dedication of the New Church



Salford Methodist Church — Built 1890

The November 13, 1890 edition of the Ingersoll Chronicle carries the following notice: "The new Methodist Church at Salford will be opened for Divine Worship on Sunday, November 23, 1890. Sermons at 10.30 a.m., and 7.00 p.m. by Rev. John Kay, President of Niagara Conference; and at 3.00 by Rev. J. E. Hockey. Tea Meeting on Monday evening, November 24, with special music by the Choir of King Street Methodist Church under the leadership of Mr. A. Jury".

The Ingersoll Chronicle carried the report of the opening on the front page of its November 27th issue. The report begins with a brief resume of the past history of the Methodists at Salford, the building of the "neat little frame church" about forty years before, and how joys and sorrows had been experienced there. It told how

the church proved later to be inadequate for the increasingly large congregation, "but it remained for Rev. Hockey, last year to take the steps toward securing a more commodious place of worship, and today the people of Salford and vicinity have one of the finest edifices to be found in any place of its size".

"The dedication services were attended by the largest crowds ever gathered together in the village. Visitors were present from miles around, many Ingersollites being among the number. The good people of Salford are noted for their hospitality and right nobly did they sustain their reputation on this occasion. Strangers were sought out and freely invited to the various homes where the utmost kindness and hospitality were bestowed upon them"

"The opening service commenced at 10.30 a.m., Rev. John Kay, President of Conference being the preacher. There were present on the platform, also the following ministers: Rev. Wm. Walker, pastor of Salford Baptist Church; Rev. Wm. Boyd, Dereham Centre; Rev. J. E. Hockey, former pastor; and Rev. Charles Deacon".

The latter read a brief statement showing the cost of the church and its present financial position. The total cost was \$6,948.00, including fencing, levelling grounds, and moving sheds, etc. In addition to this the trustees had put in an estimate of \$250.00 for interest during the next 2 years, which made a total of \$7,198.00. Of this amount, there is already provided, from subscriptions paid and unpaid, and the sale of old church buildings, \$5,290.00, leaving a debt of \$1,908.00. For this purpose special collections were taken up during the day. Envelopes were



placed in the pews, on which those who were willing to assist in the good work could subscribe the amount they would give, which would be payable in 2 annual installments”.

“Rev. Kay, chose his text from Acts 7, vs. 47, “But Solomon built Him a house”. The preacher reminded the people that while God Himself does not need a temple, it is an honour and a privilege for man to build a house for God. It shows that the people have faith. It shows recognition of God’s claim on our resources. The house of God serves as the centre of Christian influence to the whole community.”

“At the close of the sermon, Mr. John Gregg Sr. (born July 29, 1811) one of the members present at the opening of the old church, was called to the front to give a few remarks. He said that when he first came here about 56 years ago, this place was almost a dense wilderness and Salford was not in existence. It was before the time of railroads, and it took him three days to drive from Hamilton. They built a little log house where they used to hold religious meetings, and though the place was small it was his spiritual birthplace. He never expected to be able to contribute toward the erection of so noble an edifice”.

“Mr. Warren Harris, another pioneer, was also called upon for a few remarks and related a brief personal experience. He was born in 1813, and had been a Class Leader since 16 years of age. The old church was built about 40 years ago and he was one of the few remaining members who had helped in its erection”.

“At 3.00 p.m. Rev. J. E. Hockey, former pastor, occupied the pulpit. He preached a practical sermon from Phillipians 2, vs. 12, “Work out thine own salvation, with fear and trembling”.

“In the evening the Rev. Kay again preached and at the close of the service the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was celebrated. The handsome church was packed to its utmost capacity on each occasion and many were unable to gain entrance.”

#### The Tea Meeting

On Monday evening November 24, from 5.30 to 8.00 p.m., a Tea Meeting was held, the proceeds of which were to be devoted to the Organ Fund. At the opening the old organ had been used and they hoped to purchase a new one. Tickets for the tea were priced at 40 cents for adults or 75 cents a couple; and 20 cents for children. The crowds present on this occasion must have been gratifying indeed to the ladies, who had charge. Tables were spread in the basement, and an army of willing workers attended to the wants of the multitude. The provisions were abundant and of the very best, and after all had been satisfied the supply was still unexhausted.

Shortly after eight o’clock, Mr. Joseph Gibson of Ingersoll was called to the chair and a program was presented. After an anthem by the choir, Rev. Snider of Ingersoll led in prayer. The chairman in a few brief opening remarks, said that the first tea meeting he ever attended was at the opening of the Salford Baptist Church. The meeting was then composed mostly of Baptists and Methodists and he was glad to see this kindly feeling continuing. He congratulated the Methodists of Salford on the erection of so fine a church.

Rev. Carpenter of Sweaburg Circuit was called upon for a few words and extended his congratulations on the occasion.

Rev. Walker of Salford Baptist Church was the next speaker and his words proved very prophetic in the light of events in the near future. He said in part, “along with the beautiful edifice will come increased responsibilities which I trust you will have the needed wisdom to meet. Spiritual strength is decision of character and force of will and unless there is the determination and energy, our beautiful thoughts and sentiments will be worthless.”

Rev. Boyd of Dereham Centre was then called upon. He said he hoped his people would go back dissatisfied with their own church and build as beautiful a one as this. He pointed out that in the United States an average of six new churches a week were being built, and one man had stated that between Hamilton and Windsor, fifteen new Methodist churches had been built that year.

Rev. Moir of Hamilton was the next speaker. (He had been the Young Man on the circuit in 1883). He said that he felt a peculiar pleasure at being present and seeing so many familiar faces from his younger days. He congratulated the Methodists of Salford on the completion of their new church.

Rev. D. W. Snider of Ingersoll Methodist Church was called upon next. He remarked “As I will speak to you next Sunday, I will not trespass on your time tonight”.

Rev. J. E. Hockey was then introduced. He said, “When I was first put down for the Salford Circuit, the question was asked, ‘Are you going to pay the Parsonage debt, and settle the difficulties?’ I made no decided answer. The next question asked was, ‘Are you going to build a new Methodist Church at Salford?’ Shortly after I came, the Parsonage debt was settled. I kept quiet about a new church for a time. One day, however, I called my board together, and consulted them about the matter. Some were in favour of the scheme and some were opposed to it. It was finally decided to build the church if a certain amount of money could be raised. I told them if they would vote church, I would raise the money. They voted church and on Monday morning I started on the road with a subscription sheet and within four weeks, I had four thousand dollars subscribed. Some wondered at the success of the canvass. I would simply say that not a subscription was put down or one asked for without a prayer being offered up. People ascribed the praise to Hockey and Deacon, but I ascribed it to God”.

The pastor, Rev. Deacon, then read a statement of the money raised during these services. On Sunday, the collections and subscriptions amounted to about \$200.00; at the tea meeting, about \$125.00, but many tickets were sold outside, and the returns were not in yet. The proceeds of the tea meeting were going to the Ladies Aid.

Rev. Kay then took the platform and announced that a subscription would be taken up and that they hoped to provide for the entire debt before they left the church that night. A brief prayer was offered up, after which subscriptions were asked for, starting at \$100.00. About an hour and a half was spent in this manner, at the end of which some \$2100.00 was announced as the amount which had been subscribed. The debt of the church was therefore provided for, with a surplus of about \$400.00.



Rev. MacGregor, Presbyterian minister from Tillsonburg, was then called on for a speech. After congratulating the people on the erection of such a fine church, he spoke a kind word for the contractor, Mr. Ferguson of Tillsonburg. He said, "he built the first Presbyterian church in Tillsonburg, and it was good all the way through".

Rev. Hobbs of Tillsonburg, was next announced; he also congratulated the people on such a fine church.

Mr. Ferguson, the contractor was then asked to say a few words. He said that while praise for the work was being bestowed, the architect, Mr. James Wright of Ingersoll, should not be forgotten. The contractor was but carrying out the plans of the architect.

After a couple of selections by the choir of the King Street Methodist Church, Ingersoll, the meeting was brought to a close by pronouncing the benediction.

An Ingersoll Chronicle reporter closes his article with these comments: "Mr. James Wright of Ingersoll, the architect, personally supervised the building of the church. The result is ample proof of his ability and judgement in this line. The contractor was Mr. Ferguson of Tillsonburg and his work throughout has given the highest satisfaction to the officials and to the congregation".

The building committee, Messrs, T. L. Newton, S. Gregg, and H. C. Wilson, and indeed the whole congregation who so liberally contributed of their means, are to be congratulated on the handsome church they have erected, and the success of the opening services. They have the proud satisfaction of knowing that the total cost is amply provided for".

The opening services were continued the next Sunday when sermons were preached at 10.30 a.m. by Rev. A. E. Russ of Woodstock, 3.00 p.m. by Rev. D. W. Snider of Ingersoll, and 7.00 p.m. by Rev. R. Burns of Ingersoll.

## Chapter 5

### QUEST FOR THE THIRD APPOINTMENT TO THE CIRCUIT 1891 – 1924

#### Rev. Deacon Minister Until June 1893

In 1891, a fourth Class was formed at Salford church with Wm. Chambers as Class Leader, indicating an increased membership.

It was decided to hold the first anniversary of the new church in the early part of October, and to invite a guest minister. The unpredictable weather of the actual anniversary of its opening in late November caused the board to choose an earlier October date, and Salford anniversary was held at this time for many years.

At a meeting on August 24, 1892, Rev. Deacon reported that a new system of raising financial support had been tried that year and it had proved highly successful. Instead of quarterly envelopes, a subscription list for canvassing had been used, thus the board agreed to raise the minister's salary by \$100.00, to \$800.00.

#### Rev. John Stewart Minister, 1893 – 1895

By 1894, with no canvass being done, the Stewards reported finances were very unsatisfactory.

At a meeting on February 7, 1895, a large deficit was again reported. The Board accepted a loan from one of its members (with interest at 6%) in order to pay the minister's salary.

Mr. W. K. Newton expressed the feeling of the Board when he stated that the Circuit was too small. Before Union it had been easier to support two ministers than it was to support one then. Another comment was that times were very difficult and the people would give if they could.

Mr. T. L. Newton retired as Finance Steward at Salford because he was moving away, and Mr. Samuel Gregg took his place.

The salary of the minister was lowered to \$700.00 to aid the tight financial situation on the Circuit. Distribution was Salford \$450.00, and West Oxford \$250.00.



In February 1896, a large deficit was again reported. The Ladies Aid was asked to hold a few Socials to help the Board overcome its problem. The membership of the Circuit at this time was recorded as being 152 members.

On July 1, 1896, the Guelph and Niagara Conferences were merged to form the Hamilton Conference, and Salford was connected with it.

#### Rev. W. W. Sparling, 1896

The next minister on the Circuit, commencing July 1896, was Rev. W. W. Sparling.

At a meeting on February 9, 1897, a large deficit was again reported, and once again the Board members gave notes to cover the debt.

The Board voted to request the Chairman of the District to add another appointment to the Circuit in order that it might remain financially stable.

At the next Board meeting on May 4, 1897, Rev. R. W. Woods, Chairman of the District was in attendance. He said that there appeared to be no way to add another appointment to the Circuit. Either there had to be a more liberal giving of the members, or else an amalgamation with the Sweaburg Circuit.

Mr. Wm. Chambers said he believed the Salford Circuit could and should remain self supporting and Mr. Ruckle supported him. Others were of the opinion that the feelings of the Sweaburg Officials should be ascertained on the question of amalgamation. This plan was approved. The pastor was asked to do this and reported back to a meeting on May 17. At this meeting it was decided to endeavour to continue the Salford Circuit.

However, the continuing seriousness of the situation was evidenced by the fact that at the first Quarterly meeting of the next year, August 5, 1897, the President of Hamilton Conference, Rev. R. W. Woodsworth was present and chaired the meeting. It was decided to try to retain the Circuit as self-supporting, and the Stewards were requested to canvass the membership.

#### Rev. Albert Kennedy Minister, 1897 – 1899

The new minister, Rev. A. Kennedy was on the Circuit by September of 1897, when a special meeting of the Board was held. The report of the canvass was received and it was described as satisfactory. The minister's salary was set at \$700.00. A valuation of Church property was recorded on May 4, 1898, as follows: West Oxford Church, \$1,000.00, Salford Church \$6,000.00 Parsonage, \$2400.00, Parsonage furnishing, \$160.00. Finances were described as most satisfactory in May of 1899. James Wellington was approved for licensing as Local Preacher.

At a meeting of August 8, 1899, it was decided to send a delegation to meet with the Officer of Toll Roads for the purpose of obtaining free toll gate passage for the minister while on duty. It is not recorded whether this was achieved.

#### Rev. Christopher Cookman, 1900

At the August Board meeting, Rev. Christopher Cookman was the new minister in the chair and he was given a few weeks vacation. The Board meeting of November 5, went rather normally. There was no forewarning of the event that occurred at the next Quarterly Board meeting. At this meeting held May 9, 1901, after the usual opening, and the election of a delegate to Conference, (Wm. Nancekivell that year) the minutes were recorded as follows: "After some remarks by Bros. Gregg and Chambers in regard to Pastoral support, and also by other members of the Board, it was decided to take a ballot which resulted in six for closing and three for continuing the present pastorate".

Whether this was done in a moment of despair, as a device to bring some action on the part of Conference, or perhaps to bring about a change of ministers, (Rev. Cookman was not well received on the Circuit) it is difficult to know, but this action certainly caused shock waves on the Circuit.

A special meeting was called for May 27, to consider the action taken by the Board on May 9. Rev. Cookman was in the chair. However, there were no members present from West Oxford. It was decided to take another vote on the closing, with each man declaring his stand, a yes vote meant confirming the previous action, a no vote meant to rescind the motion. The members names were called. The vote was 3 Yes, 6 No; two members refused to vote. Thus, the Circuit was still alive, be it ever so feeble. At this same meeting a petition from the Epworth League, containing 50 names requesting the minister to stay, was presented to the Board.

However, Rev. Cookman was moved from the Circuit at the end of his first year, demonstrating that the Stationing Committee, although unbending in allowing ministers to stay more than their three years, would act with dispatch to correct an unsatisfactory situation.

#### Rev. T. Webster Kelley, 1901 – 1903

With the new minister in the chair, the August 12 Board meeting considered the Circuit Budget allocations, and in order to assist the West Oxford situation, Salford agreed to assume \$500.00 of the salary. West Oxford's share was \$200.00. The situation on the Circuit by then seemed to have righted itself, and the work of the church was much more satisfactory.

A movement called "Temperance and Moral Reform" was started and a committee of the following was elected to promote it: John Gregg, A. Little, W. K. Newton, Wm. Chambers, Wm. Nagle.

The salary of Rev. Kelley was raised to \$750.00 in the year 1903, an indication of a healthier condition.

#### Rev. John H. McArthur, 1904 – 1906

The new minister, Rev. John H. McArthur was a man of considerable organizational ability. In November 1904, there was a motion passed to open an account in the Traders Bank of



Ingersoll and to pay all circuit accounts by cheque. The board, at the next meeting, decided to postpone this. It was not yet ready to adopt this business-like practice.

The February 9, 1905 Board meeting initiated two forward-looking studies. First, the manner of financing on the Circuit was to be studied, including the advisability of adopting the weekly envelope system. Rev. McArthur, Gifford Poole (collecting steward at Salford), and W. K. Newton were the committee to report at the next meeting.

The second concern was the extension of the Salford circuit, long desired by the people. Rev. McArthur and G. Poole were appointed to gather information on this subject.

Thus at the May 10th Board meeting, the report on the Circuit enlargement was given, recommending that Salem (Zenda) be added. Rev. McArthur and G. Poole were to be a delegation to attend the next meeting of the Norwich District (in which Salem was located). To support this, a letter was drafted to the Salem appointment, inviting them to join with Salford Circuit. A letter to the Norwich District, suggested that as it was understood the Springford Circuit was adjusting its boundaries (Salem was an appointment) and that as Salem was a close neighbouring church to Salford, and that as Salford needed the addition, it would be an ideal time to act. The Hamilton Conference was advised of the advantages of adding Salem to the Salford Circuit.

At the August 14th Board meeting, the committee which had studied financing the circuit presented its report. It had three recommendations:

1. That the Circuit expenses such as Pastor's salary, parsonage fuel and lights, Connectional funds, namely General Conference, Sustination, Contingent, Temperance, and Union Church Relief, as well as incidentals be consolidated into one fund.
2. That a Financial Secretary be appointed to look after this fund. (Up to this time the financial steward of each appointment had brought that appointment's share of the minister's salary to each quarterly board meeting and presented it to the minister. The other funds had been raised by various methods such as special days, from the Ladies Aid. None of these had been very regular or consistently successful. The recording Steward of the Circuit kept a brief record of this account).
3. That the weekly envelope system be adopted.

Action was taken on the first two recommendations. At the Board meeting of February 1, 1906, Joseph Dickout was appointed to the position of Financial Secretary (Treasurer) of the Circuit.

At this same meeting the Board had before it a recommendation from a committee of the District which had studied the readjustments of the Circuits. This suggested that the Ebenezer appointment be added to the Salford Circuit. The Salford Board rejected this recommendation (no reason was given) and held to their opinions that "it would be preferable and more satisfactory to all concerned to attach Salem to Salford".

The May 12, 1906 Board meeting set the minister's salary at \$800.00 — \$580.00 for Salford and \$220.00 for West Oxford.

Robert McGill was granted a license as Local Preacher; and once again it was decided that in the event of adjustments of appointments, Salford would strongly desire Salem.

The Board meeting scheduled for November 6, 1906, failed to convene "on account of the new shed not being complete". At this time the old open-front shed was being replaced with an enclosed shed attached to the church.

#### Rev. Thomas Boyd, 1907 — 1909

The next minister, Rev. Thomas Boyd, came in July 1907, at the time when considerable repairs were being considered for the parsonage. Mr. Joseph Dickout was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the parsonage Board, and a committee was appointed to make the repairs and to paint the parsonage, borrowing the required money.

Mr. Wm. H. Chambers was elected Recording Steward for the Circuit, replacing H. C. Wilson who had served since 1886, a period of twenty-one years.

The minutes of the first Quarterly Board held on August 8, 1907, are the first minutes recorded in the new Circuit Board minute book, the first having covered the period from 1868 to 1907.

In 1908, Salford membership was 175. Harris Newton was licensed as a Local Preacher.

#### Rev. W. J. Ellis, 1910 — 1913

Rev. W. J. Ellis, the minister on the Circuit was in the chair and convened the Board meeting August 11, 1910. It was reported that A. A. Stevens was organist at the church with salary of \$30.00 per year.

At the February meeting, 1911, Mr. Harris Newton was approved as a candidate for the ministry.

Finances were low again at this time, so it was agreed to canvass the membership.

#### Church Union Discussed

At a meeting held February 7, 1912, at the home of George Way, the matter of Church Union was discussed. At this time Board meetings were often held at Mr. Way's home, because it was mid way between West Oxford and Salford. A vote was taken with eleven Board members in favour and one against. The board also considered the advisability of holding an annual congregational meeting, to receive reports and to review the work of the church. This was not a normal Methodist practice at this time, and had probably been picked up from the discussion of the Basis of Union, which calls for an annual meeting of the congregation.



It was decided to hold such a meeting of each congregation.

At the May meeting, a report was given of the result of membership voting on Union. Results: Members over 18 years, 60 in favour, 2 against, members under 18 years, 21 in favour, adherents, 2 in favour, 1 against.

Thus the Methodists at Salford, (as was the case in most other places) were ready for union, but it would be thirteen years before the official union would take place.

#### Rev. John A. Neill 1914 – 1917

When Rev. John A. Neill arrived on the Salford Circuit, the West Oxford appointment, which had been small for some time, was in serious difficulty in membership and in raising its Circuit share.

At the Circuit meeting held November 5, 1915, at West Oxford Church, the chairman of the District, Rev. H. W. Crews was in attendance, to deal with the problems. The three members of the Board, Bros. Millington, Ruckle and Uren, stated that they believed the time had come to close the appointment, although they would be very sorry to see it cease. The board decided that West Oxford should hold a congregational meeting to settle the matter. At this membership meeting, held January 11, 1916, (12 people present) it was decided to close the church at the end of the Conference year, (June 30).

The Quarterly Board meeting held May 9, 1916, accepted the decision of the West Oxford people, and voted to forward the motion to the District meeting, along with a request for the addition of a suitable appointment to the Circuit. It appeared that, barring a miracle, the existence of the historic West Oxford church was approaching its end. Perhaps the Circuit was also nearing its end.

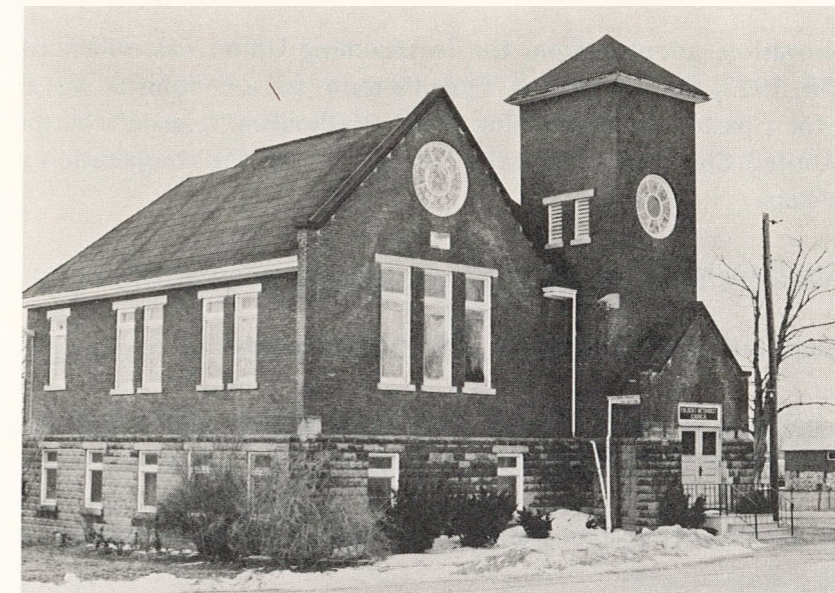
#### Miracles do Happen!

The May District meeting gave much consideration to the Salford Circuit, and decided to adjust and rearrange appointments in order to keep it alive.

At the August 1916 Board meeting, there was mention made of Sweaburg in the appropriations of the minister's salary - and West Oxford was still there! There were no members from Sweaburg listed as present at any meetings that year, so it appears that it never actually became part of the Circuit. Thus Salford and West Oxford were still together into the 1917 pastoral year.

#### Special Meeting: The Announcement of a Third Appointment

At a special meeting, held at Salford, April 15, 1918, with Rev. Neil in the chair, and Rev. Green, District chairman present, the long awaited news was announced. Rev. Green addressed the meeting, and described the considerations of the boundaries committee. He stated that a third appointment was to be added to the Salford Circuit at the beginning of the Conference year (July 1). Foldens would be added, and the Sweaburg Circuit disbanded, with a new circuit formed including Beachville, Sweaburg, and Embro.



Foldens Methodist Church – Built 1911

It was decided that West Oxford would have the afternoon service. Salford and Foldens would alternately have morning and evening services.

The minister's salary was set at \$1,100.00 (\$100.00 for horse keep) Salford was to raise 50%, Foldens 33 1/3% and West Oxford 16 2/3%.

At last, the long sought appointment had been won, and through co-operation, a stronger Circuit was achieved.

#### Rev. Fred J. Fydell, 1918 – 1921

The new minister on the revitalized Circuit was the Rev. F. J. Fydell.

At the May 5, 1919 meeting, congratulations were sent to Mr. Harris Newton who was then a missionary in China.

A plaque was placed in the church in memory of the following men who had given their lives in the 1914 - 18 War – Wray V. T. Chambers, Archie J. Harrison and Ralph S. Galpin.

Mention was made in January 1920, of the success of the Forward Movement. Also in July 1920, plans were made for evangelistic meetings to be held in Salford, with the Baptists of the community invited to join.

Joseph Dickout, an active member of the Board, being Treasurer, was elected delegate to the Layman's Convention in 1920. He died at the end of the year, at an early age.

At the November 2, 1921 meeting, there were several women elected to the various committees, the first time that this had been done. A communication from the General Conference, requested a vote on the question of "extending to women equal rights and privileges with men, to become probationers and ministers of the church". Result of the vote: yea, 1, nays, 5, 1 not voting.



Another innovation, adopted from the forthcoming Union was evidenced by a resolution passed January 30, 1922, the last of Rev. Fydell's term, for a committee was appointed, "to be on the look-out for a pastor for the coming year". Methodism "placed" the ministers. The new method of the United Church was that the "charge", with the co-operation of the Presbytery, "called" the ministers.

**Rev. J. Milton Copeland, 1923**

Rev. J. M. Copeland, the next minister, stayed but one year.

During his holidays, it was decided to have union services with the Baptists, a joint effort which continued for many years at Salford.

By this time the minister's salary was \$1,500.00 plus \$200.00 for transportation.

At the Board meeting held May 9, 1924, Wm. H. Chambers resigned as Recording Steward because he was moving away. He had held this position since 1907, and his son A. Newton Chambers was elected to take his place.

**Rev. Wm. E. S. James, 1924 – 1925**

The last minister of the Methodist Church of Canada in Salford, was Rev. Wm. James.

During this time various funds of the Methodist Church were closed and turned over to headquarters, and other arrangements were made in preparation for the Union.

The last Quarterly Board meeting of the Salford Methodist Circuit was held on April 28, 1925. At this meeting John Dickout was elected as delegate to the District meeting to be held at Ingersoll May 7, 1925, the final meeting of the Methodists in the Woodstock District.

**Chapter 6**

**CHURCH UNION AND THE EARLY UNITED CHURCH 1925 – 1935**

**Salford United Church**

Although the Salford Circuit had voted in favour of Church Union in 1912, the formal consummation of Union at the national level did not occur until 1925, when an impressive service was held on June 10 in an arena in Toronto, uniting the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches.

At Salford, Union meant little in terms of membership, because, of the three denominations involved, there were very few other than Methodists in this community. However, these former Methodists were faced with major changes in the structure of church government in the new United Church of Canada.

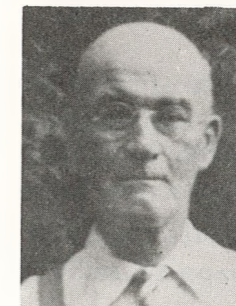
**First Congregational Meeting**

Chaired by the minister, Rev. Wm. James, the first Congregational Meeting of the Salford United Church was held April 8, 1926. A congregational meeting had been held the year before on May 1, but no organizational changes were made at that time.

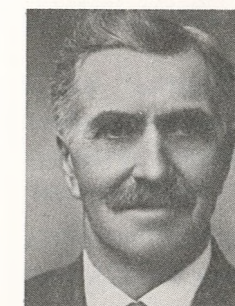
Thomas B. Way, who had succeeded Joseph Dickout as church treasurer in 1921, was named secretary of this meeting. At this time the offices of Secretary and Treasurer were combined.



Adelbert Haycock

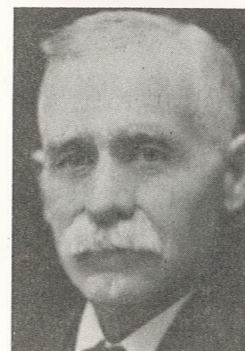


William McBeth



George Harrison

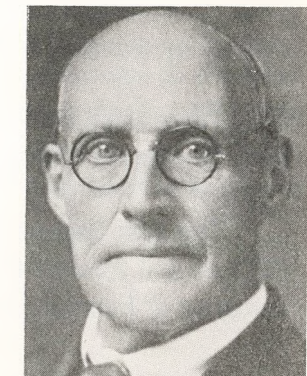
FIRST  
ELDERS



William Nagle



John Dickout



Joseph Mitchell



## First Elders

The matter of electing elders was a major item. This office, new to the Methodists, carried with it the responsibility of the spiritual welfare of the congregation. Serving communion was also the elders' responsibility.

The first elders elected were Joseph Mitchell, Wm. Nagle, Wm. McBeth, Adelbert Haycock, (who was, prior to union, a member of Verschoyle Presbyterian Church) John Dickout, and George Harrison. There was discussion concerning the ordaining of elders, which the Presbyterians practised and to which the United Church rules referred. It was voted that the elders be thus ordained, but this motion was rescinded so that the elders and the minister could study that matter. The ordaining of elders was not practised at Salford.

The elders were to be called collectively the Session — a name which became familiar. The title of Clerk (Secretary of the Session) was never much used at Salford.

## Other Changes

The functions of the Trustees and Stewards were also changed in the new United Church. Now, the Trustees were the holders of the property. The Stewards were responsible for the financing and the upkeep of the building. This change brought confusion and some reluctance, particularly on the part of the Trustees, who had in the Methodist Church been responsible for the maintenance of the property and buildings.

The first Board of Stewards of the United Church at Salford were: Frank Gregg, Thomas B. Way, George Nagle, Newton Chambers, Clarence Gill, Harley McBeth, Wm. Pearson and Frank Way.

The name Pastoral Charge was a new United Church term. Consequently, the three churches became The Salford Pastoral Charge, instead of The Salford Circuit.

The Methodist term "District" was abolished and areas generally conforming to county boundaries were called Presbyteries. Oxford Presbytery was attached to the London Conference being the easterly most Presbytery of the Conference.

The first meeting of Oxford Presbytery of the United Church of Canada was held at Central Church, Woodstock September 8, 1925. Salford was represented by the minister Rev. Wm. James and by lay delegate Newton Chambers.

The minister on the charge during this transition period was Rev. Wm. James — a scholarly man. During his ministry the Trustee Board was reorganized.

The first baptisms in the name of the United Church were: Catherine Daniels, daughter of Clifford and Adeline Daniels, July 3, 1926, at the home of Joseph Banbury; and Lorna Rhodes, daughter of Edward and Alice Rhodes, July 8, 1926, at the home of Solomon Ranney.

The first marriages were: Percy Harlock and Peninnah Baer, June 20, 1925; and Albert Findlay and Laura Wiles, September 3, 1925; both weddings took place at the parsonage.

Mrs. James was a very capable person who could "take the pulpit" in an emergency.

## Rev. Percy S. Banes 1926 — 1929

Hired for \$700 per year, plus car and fuel allowance, Rev. Banes came to Salford at a time when the church seemed to be at a low ebb. Mrs. Banes organized the Woman's Missionary Society and the Mission Band in 1927.

In October 1927, an area electrician, Ewart Wilson, installed electricity in the church at a cost of \$200, plus \$79 for fixtures. The electricity replaced the carbide lighting system which had produced a good quality light. Some people can remember that if the evening service carried on too long, the lights would go dim and the janitor would have to hurry down to the coal room (off the church shed) where the generating tank was located and add some more carbide to the system. The reaction of water and calcium carbide produced the gas acetylene.

In 1928, the Board discussed and supported the full ordination of women. At the Annual Meeting, January 9, 1928, T. B. Way resigned as Secretary-Treasurer and Frank Gregg was elected to the position. In 1930, Edgar Gill was recommended as a candidate for the ministry.

## Rev. Selby Jefferson 1930

During the one year of Rev. Jefferson's ministry at Salford, the item demanding a great deal of the Board's time was the sale of the church woodshed, and a part of the north-east corner of church property (including a corner of the church shed) to the Department of Highways. The Department was rerouting the highway at Salford, and the church received \$1200 in settlement. Rev. Jefferson, who had had some legal training, proved to be a valuable negotiator in the transfer of this property.

## Rev. Harold Bolingbroke 1931

Rev. Bolingbroke was hired for \$1800 per year, or more, if it could be raised. He was the first minister on the charge who had been a Presbyterian prior to Union.

## Rev. George I. Van Loon 1932 — 1935

Salford was Rev. Van Loon's first appointment, although he was no stranger to the area. He was born in Tillsonburg and had spent a good part of his early life with relatives at Mt. Elgin.

During his ministry at Salford a series of "cottage prayer meetings" were started as a form of mid-week "get-togethers".



## Church Piano

A piano for the church was bought while Rev. Van Loon was here. Prior to this, whenever piano music was desired in the church, the one from the Sunday School was lifted aloft by ropes through an opening in the ceiling of the present church kitchen and into the small room in the north-east corner of the church. Then, it was rolled into the sanctuary. Some operation! This was usually done only once a year – for the Sunday School concert, for which a platform stage was assembled across the front of the church.

## United Church Hymnary

The following expense item dated May 30, 1934, is listed in the church account. – “T. Eaton Co., Hymnary \$76.15”. The Eaton catalogue of 1934 lists the United Church Hymnary at prices of \$.50, \$1.00, \$2.50 and \$3.75. About this time, Salford received a bequest from Joseph Webber, and some of it was applied towards the purchase of the new Hymnary.

Shortly after Church Union, the General Council of the United Church of Canada appointed a committee to prepare a hymn book of common praise for the church. This committee selected hymns representative of the stateliness of the Scottish Psalter, the evangelical fervour of the Wesleys, and the lyrical qualities found in the Congregational Hymnody.

The Hymnary, first published in 1930 was black in colour, and began with the “Presbyterian” Holy, Holy, Holy. It contained 691 hymns, and it included Psalm selections.

There is no record of an official dedication of these book for use at Salford. However, worshippers have lifted their hearts and voices in hymns of praise from the Hymnary for 39 years. It can be said, with justified pride, that the hymn-singing of the Salford congregation has been consistently enthusiastic and of high calibre.

## Chapter 7

### THE CUMMING ERA

#### Rev. Robert Bremner Cumming 1936 – 1947

The arrival of Rev. R. B. Cumming at Salford July 1, 1936, comes as a surprise to a reader of the church minutes because the following item is recorded in the Board's minutes, May 24, 1936, “it was agreed to call Rev. H. W. Watts of Courtland as the next minister”. Apparently this call failed to materialize and the Conference Settlement committee placed a minister on the charge.

The placement of Rev. Cumming at Salford was a surprise to him also. He had been at Sparta for some time, and had requested Conference for a change of pastoral relations, and he was listed for the Beachville charge. Towards the end of May, he was talking to the chairman of the Settlement Committee who said to Rev. Cumming, “the roses are blooming in Beachville”. It was too early for roses to be blooming, so Rev. Cumming asked him what he was talking about. He explained that the minister listed to be placed at Salford had refused to go there, but had preferred Beachville because it was centrally located, and was on a main highway. Therefore, this minister, Rev. Rose, was going to Beachville, and Rev. Cumming was listed for Salford. Rev. Cumming said, “if Salford it is, then Salford it will be”.

In having Rev. Cumming for its minister, the Salford Charge witnessed an era of memorable experiences with his ministry of 12 years, the longest of any ministry to date. The community would soon discover that this man who reflected the flavour of his Scottish native land, also had boundless energy and enthusiasm as he gave spirited leadership, first through the latter years of the grim depression, then those terrible and anxious war years, and into the post-war boom. His zest for living and his sense of an historic occasion will always be remembered by those of us fortunate enough to have known him.

#### Signs of the Times

At the September 26, 1936 Board Meeting, an appeal was made for the “drought stricken areas of the west”. By November of that year it was reported that two carloads of food and clothing had been sent from Oxford County.

Central Church in Woodstock celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1936 and four men from Salford went to the “At Home Service” October 18 and participated there. Central Church had served as the head of a Circuit to which Salford belonged prior to 1868, and Central was the “mother” of many churches in Oxford County.



At the November 10, 1938 Board meeting a letter from the Federal and Provincial governments was read, requesting churches to co-operate in placing unemployed young men on farms in their communities.

Mention is made of forming a Red Cross organization at Salford. Also, plans are begun for the celebration in 1940 of the 50th anniversary of the building of the church, and a committee was appointed to arrange this. These two items will be referred to later as they develop.

The horse barn, located on the parsonage lot, was reported sold for \$100.00 at a meeting May 11, 1939 — the end of the horse and buggy era!

On October 19, 1939, it was decided to buy gas burners for the furnaces of the church. Gas became available then from the Brownsville gas fields.\*

### War Years

The board meeting, on November 7, 1939, was informed of the part the church was playing in the war, recently declared; ministers were enlisting as chaplains, young men were volunteering for service, and church members were urged to support the effort. Recalling those time, Rev. R. B. Cumming writes, "The period . . . proved to be a time of testing for the church and community as well as the country and world at large. It tested the moral fibre of the people who had survived World War 1 (1914-1918), which we thought was the end of war in our time. Those of us who had gone through that period at home and serving overseas, especially those who had lost loved ones, were not prepared to face the testing of another war. The church was vitally concerned inasmuch as we had fostered the spirit of goodwill which should have brought a permanent peace.

While we were facing the merging facts, another phase of life was emerging upon our children and young people . . . Naturally they became involved in war service which separated them from their homes and families, wherever the call of duty lay. Some were called on to lay down their lives, which seemed to be a needless sacrifice.

During the war years the church led the community in combined efforts working for the benefit of the period, the Red Cross making a major contribution — collection of newspapers — auction sale for the SPITFIRE FUND in Salford, England."

### Red Cross Society

The major effort of the Salford community in providing support and comfort for the boys in the armed forces in World War 2, was channelled through the Red Cross unit.

On November 7, 1939, representatives from the following organizations met in the Salford United Church basement to consider forming a Red Cross Unit in the community: United Church, Baptist Church, Woman's Association of the United Church, Ladies' Mission Circle of the Baptist Church, and the Woman's Institute. Rev. R. B. Cumming acted as chairman and Miss Ethel Page

\*Note: In 1944 the natural gas wells at Brownsville failed, and the furnaces at the church had to be reconverted to burn coal and wood again.

was secretary of this meeting. It was decided to form an associate unit with Ingersoll Red Cross Unit. This meeting made nominations for the executive of the proposed Unit, with elections to take place at a public meeting on November 14, 1939.

At this meeting, held in the United Church basement, personnel were present from the Oxford County Red Cross Society to explain the organization and work of the Red Cross.

It was decided to canvass the district for funds in November, 1939, and teams of two were assigned to make the collection, which totalled \$450.00 of which \$350.00 was sent to the national Red Cross.

### Spitfire Campaign

The following telegram was received in Salford, Ontario from Salford, Lancashire.

Salford, Lancs. Eng. Sept. 3, 1940  
The Mayor:  
Salford, Ont. Canada  
Greetings from Salford Lancashire to Salford Ontario. Hitler's threats are many and his actions vicious and brutal, but we are of good cheer and certain of victory. We want to buy a Spitfire, would you like to help us?

Webb, Mayor of Salford

Following the receipt of this telegram the people of the community, with the Red Cross giving leadership, decided to collect articles for an auction to help buy the Spitfire airplane (such a plane cost about \$25,000 then). March 17-21 (1941) was proclaimed Spitfire week, and the idea caught the imagination of the whole community, with the response so great that the large church shed was filled to overflowing with a myriad of valuable articles, including livestock! Mr. George Nagle was the auctioneer, and he recalls that it was a full day's task. He believes that the proceeds from this sale were about \$800.00. What was the fate of the Spitfire partially financed by this effort? In answer to this question, the present mayor of Salford, Lancashire, Nellie Openshaw makes this reply in a letter, November 24, 1975.

"I am afraid that the local government reorganization which took place all over the country on 1st April last year has resulted in some aspects of our past being somewhat difficult to research. However, I can tell you that one Spitfire was purchased but that we can find no trace of its operational history. The plaque commemorating this purchase is fixed to the corridor wall of the old Salford Town Hall".

### Christmas Boxes

A general canvass was held again in November, 1940, which totalled \$480.99, of which \$425.00 was sent to the Ingersoll Red Cross. At a meeting held October 20, 1941, it was decided to pack "Christmas Boxes" for the servicemen overseas. Thereafter boxes were packed regularly at Salford Store several times a year until the war ended. A typical box weighed about



11 pounds, and contained a pair of hand knitted wollen socks, 1 pound of fruit cake, a tin of Prem, chocolate bars, cigarettes, razor blades, soap, toothpaste etc. It was then sealed, tied, wrapped with heavy paper, tied again, addressed (both inside and outside) to the servicemen from the area. The Red Cross minutes record receiving many letters from the men expressing thanks for these much appreciated boxes.

It was decided to have a general canvass in May, 1942, and the total was \$476.70.

In 1942 it was reported that 43 Christmas boxes, as well as many knitted socks and sweaters were sent overseas.

### **Blood Donors**

On February 3, 1943, it was reported that nine people gave blood at the Ingersoll blood donor clinic. The Salford Red Cross appointed a convenor to arrange for donors on a regular basis.

Many socials were held through 1943 to raise money, and with the canvass the total amount raised was \$685.95. Ninety boxes were sent during that year.

At the April 20, 1945 meeting, held in the Baptist church, it was decided that the proceeds from the sale of the old hall <sup>1</sup> be left in the hands of the committee which was investigating the possibility of establishing a community centre at Salford.

It was reported that the spring Red Cross Canvass had raised \$822.50.

### **The Last Meeting**

The last regular meeting was held November 16, 1945, in the Baptist Church. The war was over, so it was moved that monthly meetings be discontinued, but that the organization continue "in case of an emergency". Rev. Ray, the Baptist Minister, closed with prayer.

The last funds of the Red Cross were held for some time to be used towards a memorial in the community park, but this never materialized, and on February 16, 1952, the balance of \$59.99 was turned over to the committee in charge to apply to the improvement of the ball park.

### **Welcome Home Service**

An executive meeting was held January 6, 1946, at which arrangements were made to have a welcome home and remembrance night for the servicemen. It was decided to buy service rings for those who had served overseas and signet rings for those who served in Canada.

This service was held on Wednesday evening, January 23, 1946, in Salford United Church, with Red Cross President Roy Barnett as chairman. There were several musical numbers, then an address by Rev. C. D. Daniel of Trinity United Church, Ingersoll, who had served in the war as a padre to the servicemen. Rev. Cumming then called for a tribute of silence for those who had died in active service: Robert Clark, Lawrence Chatfield, Donald Jenvey, James Minard and Samuel Wilson.

Note: 1. A former Templar Hall which stood between the present school and Russell Harvey's property.

The service rings were then presented to those who had served overseas — 28 people, and signet rings to those who had served in Canada - 12 in number.

Following the presentations, Paul Ranney of the Navy, Francis Way of the Army, William Roberts of the Airforce, and Willa Chambers representing the women who served, responded for their particular group, thanking the community for the gifts, and also for the many boxes sent to them while in the services. Mrs. Burton Harris, on behalf of the community, thanked those who had worked so faithfully and well in the various offices of the Red Cross Unit of Salford.

After singing the national anthem, a social hour was spent in the Sunday School room.

Thus ended a most important period of activity and service in the life of the community of Salford, which, while it involved everyone, was fostered to a large extent by the church, and merits a place in its history.

### **Parsonage Garage Built**

The February 19, 1940 meeting of the Official Board, was told that a substantial brick garage had been built, by volunteer help, at the parsonage.

Considerable renovations at the West Oxford Church had been completed and a rededication service was held in May.

### **50th Anniversary of Building of Salford Church**

On Sunday, October 6, 1940, special services were held both morning and evening, to celebrate 50 years since the erection of the Salford Church.

At the morning service, in addition to the resident minister, Rev. R. B. Cumming, the following ministers were present: Rev. H. A. Edwards, the Salford Baptist minister, who read the scripture lesson; Rev. Dr. D. A. Moir of Hamilton, who gave the main sermon (Rev. Moir had been a probationer on the Salford Circuit in 1875, and had a distinguished career in the ministry) and Mrs. (Rev) J. E. Hockey, the widow of the late Rev. Hockey who had been instrumental in building the church in 1890. Mrs. Hockey gave an interesting address to the congregation.

The evening service featured a sermon by the Rev. J. A. Neill of Aberfoyle, who was minister here in 1914-1917. Also, Rev. Judson Kelley of London, (the brother of Rev. T. Webster Kelley, who preached here from 1901-1903) addressed the congregation, and gave a very informative historical account of early gospel preaching in these parts, beginning with Nathan Bangs.

Special music was provided by the choir under the direction of Mrs. H. P. Hughes, with guest soloists.

### **Golden Jubilee Supper**

On Tuesday evening, October 8, nearly four hundred people sat down to a sumptuous Golden Jubilee Supper at Salford church. The Woman's Association, who provided the special



feast, was under the leadership of Mrs. W.H. McBeth, who had the honour to cut the jubilee cake, a delicious piece of which was given to each guest at the supper. After the banquet, the guests reassembled in the church sanctuary, where Rev. R. B. Cumming led in singing. After a sketch of the history of the building of the church was given, Rev. Dr. D. W. Moir addressed the assembly and told the story of his ministry. Then Rev. Stanley Moote of Kintore brought greetings from the Presbytery.

#### Lloyd Hooper

The meeting of the board November 7, 1940, approved Lloyd Hooper as a candidate for the ministry. Mr. Hooper, born January 25, 1916, is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hooper, who farmed where Monkel Bros. now live. He received a degree in agriculture at Guelph and then served in the Peace River district during the following summer. During the war years, he was in the army stationed in England. He then went directly from England to Africa as an agricultural missionary, sponsored by the Anglican Church of England. After four years in Africa, he returned to Canada, attended seminary in Vancouver and was ordained by the B. C. Conference of the United Church of Canada in 1949. His ministry has been spent in the Vancouver Island area and along the coast of B.C.

#### New Treasurer

At the congregational meeting January 31, 1941, the treasurer, Frank Gregg, resigned and Leslie Wagner was elected to succeed him.

#### War Savings Campaign

At the meeting of February 3, 1941, Rev. Cumming told the board that the national church would have a great work after the war in the ravaged areas of Europe, and it was recommended that church members consider buying War Savings Certificates payable to the United Church, so that it would have the resources to carry out the work. A War Savings campaign was organized, and by the end of 1941, \$51.00 had been pledged from Salford.

#### Day Light Saving Time

The board meeting of February 10, 1942, considered the government's introduction of Daylight Saving Time. It was decided to have a congregation vote to determine whether to have services on this new time — the resulting vote was 32 to 10 in favour of adopting it for church services.

The minister's salary for 1942 was set at \$1500.00

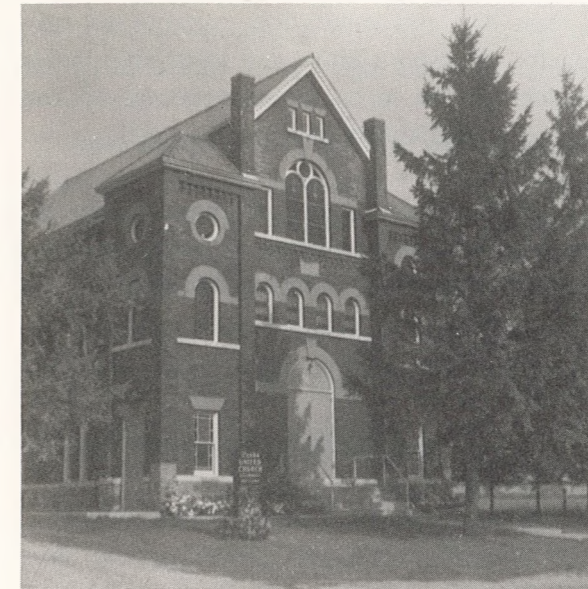
#### Religious Education in Schools

The board meeting of February 8, 1945, discussed the advisability of the minister going into the public schools to teach religious education. It was decided that this would be worthwhile and soon Rev. Cumming had worked out a schedule by which he visited the school in the Salford, Foldens and West Oxford area regularly each week, a total of nine classrooms.

#### Realignment of West Oxford and Zenda

It should be noted here that Rev. Cumming was made chairman of Oxford Presbytery in 1944.

A special meeting held at West Oxford in March, 1945, had in attendance Rev. Dan Gaynor and Rev. G. W. Butt, members of Oxford Presbytery boundaries committee. They outlined a significant plan of boundary changes in the Presbytery which was being proposed in order to effect a more efficient ministry.



Zenda Methodist Church — Built 1900

The changes that pertained to Salford Charge were the removal of West Oxford appointment to the Beachville Charge and the addition of Zenda to the Salford Charge. After due consideration, the board approved the plan, expressing deep regrets, however, at severing old ties with West Oxford, with whom a continuous association had existed since the early days. Since 1868 they had been together on the Salford charge — a period of 77 years.

On May 25, 1945, a meeting was held at Zenda church, in order to organize and make arrangements suitable to the people of Foldens, Zenda and Salford. The minister's salary was raised to \$2000.00 and the appropriations were: Salford 45%, Foldens, 27½%, and Zenda 27½%.

Hours of service were set, for Salford, 9 a.m., Foldens, 10 a.m., and Zenda, 11.15 a.m. These plans would come into effect July 1, 1945.

#### War Memorial Discussed

At a board meeting, February 7, 1946, considerable discussion took place concerning the obtaining of a suitable memorial to honour those who had defended democracy. The difficulty of decision centered around the points — should it be a congregational or a community project and where should it be located? Ultimately, a framed scroll of the names of the servicemen who served in the war was prepared and placed in the church.

#### Rev. Cummings Resigns

At the February 11, 1948, board meeting, Rev. Cumming announced that he intended to leave the charge at the end of the Conference year (June 30). The board accepted his resignation with regret, and expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the great enthusiasm and energy with which he had served the Salford Charge for the past 12 years.



On May 10, 1948, Rev. Cumming chaired his last board meeting on the charge. An item of business was a request from Salford that the appropriations be changed. It was decided to re-assign as follows: Salford, 40%, Foldens, 28% and Zenda, 32%.

When the business was concluded, Rev. Cumming said that he would always remember the happy associations he had enjoyed during his time with the charge, and the many kindnesses shown him during his pastorate here. He wished for the charge the very best in whatever lay ahead, and prayed God's blessing would rest upon the people in all their endeavours. Rev. Cumming, always mindful of the coming generation, expressed his thoughts as follows:

"First, is the observance of the boys and girls who became active youth reaching into manhood and womanhood. We can be very proud to record the fact that with the growing years they emerged into men and women worthy of their day and generation, capable not only of development of mind and body, but with a capacity of responsibility and leadership in homes of their own, and worthy successors to their elders on the farm, in business and education, reaching to the selection of careers of their own choosing and ability in which to excel.

Chief of all, however, has been the preservation and excellence of their loyalty to the Church, and its spiritual mission in life. For all of which we are extremely thankful to God, and expressive of our admiration of their loyalty and progress as worthy citizens, not only of Canada, but of the Kingdom of God".

## Chapter 8

### HISTORY TO THE PRESENT (1948 – 1975)

#### Rev. Robert A. Passmore 1948 – 1951

The next minister on the charge was Rev. Robert A. Passmore who was called and given a salary of \$2,200.00. At the first board meeting held August 2, 1948, he said that he would feel it too time consuming to visit the schools on the same schedule as the former minister and suggested that he would cut the visit from once a week to once every other week.

Rev. Passmore said that he was disappointed with church attendance and suggested that an evangelical "preaching mission" be initiated on the charge. It was decided to hold the first of these at Salford during the week of November 20-25, 1949, and it was described a success. Many new members joined the church as a result of this effort.

The church anniversary in 1949 was held June 19. This was a departure from the usual fall date of anniversary; now it is usually held on the last Sunday of May.

#### 25th Anniversary of Church Union

Plans were made in the spring of 1950 for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of church union. It was decided to hold a joint service of the three churches on June 11 at the Zenda park (the platform and other facilities which Zenda Garden Party used provided an ideal location for the outdoor event). A service was planned for 11 o'clock, followed by a picnic lunch and then re-assembling at 2 o'clock. It was suggested that "at the morning service two or three short speeches might be given outlining some of the more important steps leading up to Church Union. At the afternoon service, some of the highlights of the early history of each congregation could be given".

It was also agreed that the choir leaders of the churches arrange for music for the day and that the collection be given to a needy student for the ministry. It was a good day and a collection of \$123.00 was sent to the head office for the aid of needy students. It was felt that the celebrations had been successful and a blessing to all.

A booklet entitled "Growing With the Years" was published by the United Church of Canada to mark its 25th anniversary.

#### New Organ: Chimes - Later

In May of 1950, an electric organ was installed in the church. This was in memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Wilson and Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Gill, donated by their families.



A fund to purchase chimes for the organ was established at this time. This fund was completed in 1968 with a bequest from Mrs. Fred Wilson, and the chimes were installed in May of that year.

#### 60th Anniversary of Church

On June 18, 1950, Salford church celebrated the 60th anniversary of the building of the church. The guest speaker at this anniversary was Rev. George Williams, who was born at Sweaburg and was a returned missionary from China.

#### 100th Anniversary of Congregation

Rev. Passmore announced plans of Salford church to hold the 100th anniversary of its founding. Services were held on June 17, 1951, and Rev. A. E. Kewly was the guest speaker. A committee was appointed to prepare a history of the church and this was printed as part of the church bulletin and given out the day of the anniversary services.

#### Salford Raised Minister Participates at 100th Anniversary

Rev. Edgar Gill returned to Salford Church to participate in its 100th Anniversary service in June, 1951. Rev. Gill is the son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Clarence C. Gill. He was born June 1, 1912 and was 14 years old when his parents moved from the Verschoyle area to farm where "Whispering Winds Farm" is now located. He attended Salford Church and Sunday School.

He took his seminary training at Emmanuel College, Toronto, and was ordained by London Conference in 1936. Rev. Gill retired in 1973.

It was in this year, 1951, that the oil furnace was installed in the church at a cost of approximately \$1,770.00.

At the April 1, 1952 Board meeting, Rev. Passmore announced that he had accepted a call, and would be resigning from the Salford charge on June 30.

#### Rev. S. Robert Cooper 1952 – 1957

The new minister was Rev. S. Robert Cooper, who was hired at a salary of \$3,000.00. He was a native of Newfoundland and his sermons often had references to the life on the island.

At this time, the church magazine, the Observer, was promoting a new plan called "The Every Family Plan". This plan offered a subscription rate of 50% of the regular price, if a church would enroll its entire membership and pay the cost. Salford considered this plan and soon enrolled in it.

A representation from Presbytery attended the February 3, 1953 Board meeting. They discussed the shortage of ministers and urged that recruitment be emphasized. They also announced a "Church Extension Plan" which the church had initiated. This was a fund which would

help to build new churches in rapidly growing urban centres, and a great number of new congregations were formed in this period. The allocation of Salford charge was \$1,295.00, and the board agreed to assume the full amount.

In June of 1953, Fred Peck resigned as janitor of the church, and James Fishback was appointed to succeed him.

#### Water Installed In Church

A pressure pump had been installed in the parsonage, pumping from the well there. Representatives from the Junior Bible Class attended the Board meeting September 22, 1953, and requested permission to hook into the pressure system with a pipe line to the church. Permission was granted, and water on tap for the church was soon installed.

During the summer of 1954, it was decided to hold all the services in the morning. In the past the third point took an afternoon service (in the winter) and an evening service (during the summer) but attendance at the summer evening service was reported as poor. In order to have all services in the morning, the elders of the churches agreed to help open and close the services.



60th Anniversary  
Mr & Mrs. John Dickout December 26, 1954

Back - l to r - Orville Nancekivell, S.S. Superintendent Albert Quinn, Elder, William Pearson, Elder, George Nagle, Asst. Superintendent, Rev. S. R. Cooper, Harley McBeth, Elder, Fred Peck, Elder, Richard Nancekivell, Elder.  
Front - Mrs. John Dickout, John Dickout, Elder

#### Washrooms Installed

A special congregational meeting was held on May 5, 1955, at which plans were presented for the installation of washrooms at the church. Two plans were presented, one, that a building be built to house two washrooms and the furnace (this would cost approximately \$1,200.00). The other plan was to build the two washrooms under the front stairway, and to enclose the furnace - the cost estimated at about \$600.00. The latter plan was approved and the work duly completed.

At this same meeting, it was moved that the lettering at the front of the church sanctuary be put on. The church had been repainted and the inscription painted over. This is taken from Psalm 96, part of verse 9, "Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness".

A board meeting of February 2, 1956 had the chairman of the parsonage board, Mr. Lew Somers, present. He reported that many repairs were needed. The furnace was not working well, and the board believed that the parsonage should be sold, a new location chosen, and a fine new home for the minister should be built. This motion was tabled to the next meeting. At the next meeting, April 13, it was decided that to build a new parsonage "would be too great an undertaking at this time".



In October an Interdenominational Evangelistic Mission was announced, to be held in the new Ingersoll District Collegiate auditorium, and all church members were urged to attend.

#### Central Charge Treasurer

In 1957, a new office of central charge treasurer was created, and the first person to fill this post was Grant Hutchinson of Salford. The money for the charge expenses was turned over to him by the three churches, and he paid the accounts. The idea of a central treasurer which was first recommended by Rev. McArthur in 1905, was at last a reality.

#### Residence at University of Western Ontario (Now Westminster)

The board meeting of May 7, 1957, was informed of plans by the London Conference to establish a residence for the convenience of United Church students attending the University of Western Ontario. The board agreed with the idea and voted to send \$50.00 immediately, with further contributions when the plans were complete.

Rev. Cooper told the board of his plans to return to Newfoundland for a visit during his summer holidays.

In the fall of 1957, the parsonage board reported that a new furnace was needed at the parsonage and permission was granted to proceed. A new furnace was installed and at the board meeting of January 23, 1958, it was reported to be working satisfactorily.

At the same time, the residence at Western University was discussed and it was announced that Presbytery had set the allocation for Salford at \$2,000.00. It was decided to raise this amount over the next three years.

Rev. S. R. Cooper announced that he intended to resign from the charge as of June 30, 1958.

#### Rev. Albert E. Menzies 1958 – 1967

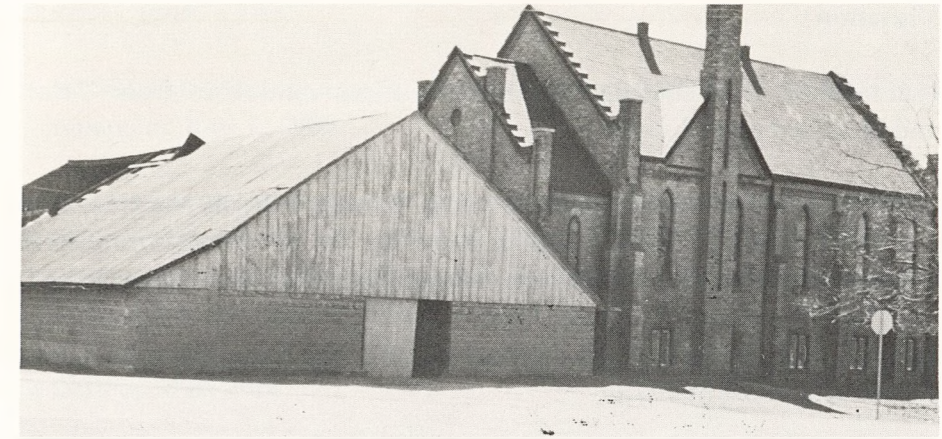
Rev. Albert E. Menzies was the next minister hired on the Salford charge at the initial salary of \$3,700.00.

#### Church Kitchen Remodelled

During the year 1958, new kitchen cupboards, sink and complete kitchen facilities were built in the church. A considerable portion of the cost was paid by the W. A. (Woman's Association).

#### Church Shed Sold

In 1959, the church shed was damaged by a wind storm, and it was decided to sell it at a public auction. It sold for \$156.00. The foundations were cleared away, the ground levelled, and gravelled for a church parking area.



Church Shed (damaged by wind March 17, 1959)

#### Other items of Interest

The church was partially sandblasted that year, and completed in 1960, for a total cost of \$750.00.

A special meeting was held June 7, 1960, at which a delegation from Oxford Presbytery presented their plan for the Residence at Western. The Presbytery had decided to set up a contingency reserve equal to that which they would pay towards the Residence. The share of Salford Charge was set at \$6,000.00, to be paid quarterly, with payments to be completed by December 31, 1963. Any previous payments to this project were taken into consideration. Salford Charge paid its full share on time. Some churches in the Presbytery were unable to fulfill their obligations.

#### U.C.W. Is Formed

Considerable discussion took place concerning the new women's organization which was to replace the W.M.S. and W.A. and at a board meeting February 7, 1961, three women were present from Zenda, representing the new organization. However, it was not until the board meeting of February 5, 1963, that the first women board members from Salford attended, Mrs. George Wallace and Mrs. Cecil Wilson.

The recording steward for 26 years, Fred G. Peck, resigned the position in 1961, and James Somers was elected to the office.

During the next four years, the Board met just yearly, except for a few special meetings. This was a departure from the traditional practice of Salford charge, of holding quarterly board meetings, which had been done since its beginning in 1868.

A meeting on February 6, 1964, considered the appropriations of the three churches and decided as follows: Salford 40%, Zenda 30%, and Foldens, 30% (formerly Zenda 32% and Foldens 28%). Rev. & Mrs. Menzies were granted a winter holiday March 2 to 22 in order to go to Florida.

Rev. Menzies was appointed Chairman of Oxford Presbytery for the Conference year - 1965.



### Presbytery Visitation

A special meeting on November 15, 1965 with representatives from Oxford Presbytery considered and discussed several topics.

One was the use of the New Curriculum in the Sunday School. The New Curriculum was a United Church publication of Sunday School materials for all classes, from nursery to adults, and was based on a three year cycle with the themes: God and His Purpose, Jesus Christ and the Christian Life, The Church and the World. These materials brought the modernist-fundamentalist debate to the local level. Salford Sunday School began using these materials in September 1964 and discontinued using them in 1972.

Another topic that the Presbytery team discussed was Church Union. The Principles of Union between the Anglican Church of Canada and the United Church of Canada had been agreed upon on March 30, 1965, and based on these principles, it was hoped that a plan of mutually acceptable union could be agreed upon. A Plan of Union was drawn up by the committees of the two churches in 1972, but in early 1975 Anglican opposition to the plan scuttled the hope of union for now.

An improvement to the church in 1965 was the installation of a 100 amp electrical service at a cost of \$135.00.

The minutes of the board of February 3, 1966, reveal that the manse committee had bought a new stove and refrigerator (total \$448.00). The term "manse" by this time has replaced the old Methodist term "parsonage".

In 1966, due to the failing health of her husband, Mrs. James Fishback assumed the duties of janitor, with assistance from her granddaughter Janice Anstee. In 1967, Mrs. Leslie Nancekivell became the janitor.

In 1967, Canada's centennial year, the centennial project of the Salford church board was the cementing of the parking area at a cost of \$890.00.

### Rev. Menzies Retires

At a board meeting October 3, 1967, Rev. Menzies announced that he was retiring from the active ministry as of June 30, 1968, completing 43 years as an ordained minister. Shortly before he left, he dedicated the chimes which were installed for the organ.

### Licensing of Lay Preachers

A Presbytery event was held at Salford church on October 22, 1967, at which nine lay persons from the county were licensed as Lay Preachers. Among those licensed were two members of Salford congregation, William Roberts and Everett Wilson. Presbytery had conducted a course for three winters and written examinations were prescribed for those taking the course.

### Rev. Wesley Mitchell 1968 – 1972

Rev. Wesley Mitchell was hired as the next minister at a salary of \$5,600.00 (including car allowance), commencing July 1, 1968.

At a board meeting, on February 6, 1969, it was decided to buy a Gestetner for use on the charge. It was soon purchased and Rev. Mitchell began printing church bulletins with the order of service, and other information for each service. This added a new dimension to the worship of the charge.

### Zenda Church Destroyed By Fire

On January 23, 1970, the Zenda church was destroyed by fire and the Zenda people decided not to rebuild. The majority of the members joined with either Foldens or Salford on the Salford charge.

With only two appointments now, several decisions were made at meetings in 1970. It was agreed that new appropriations would be set —Salford, 55% and Foldens, 45%. It was decided to hold services at 10.30 a.m. for Foldens and 11.30 a.m. at Salford during the winter of 1972-73 and to revert to even hours in the summer.

### Reorganization of Church Boards

At a board meeting held November 10, 1970, Rev. Mitchell presented a plan to reorganize the boards of the churches. He suggested that the boards of Stewards and Elders be changed and enlarged into four Committees: 1. Worship, 2. Finance, 3. Property, 4. Christian Education. Each committee would have nine members with a three year term, after which they would not be eligible for re-election for one year. The Trustee board would remain, because the Manual states that it must be the holder of the property deed. Provision is made for the U.C.W. to appoint four of its members to the board for a term of not less than two years or more than three years.

The board approved that this new form of church government be adopted, and that Rev. Mitchell act as the nominating committee for the first slate of officers. Thereafter, the Worship Committee would have this duty.

### Choir Loft Renovation

During the summer of 1972, it was decided to renovate the choir loft and a committee was appointed as follows: Rev. Mitchell (Chairman), Mrs. L. Durham, Mrs. G. Baxter, Bob Coventry, and Harold Fishback. They were given the task of planning and carrying out the renovations. They visited several churches and decided on a plan which the Official Board approved. Harold Fishback agreed to do the carpentry work. The ornamental wooden pipes at the back of the loft and the curtain screen at the front were removed. The floor was rebuilt and brought to one level. (it was formerly three levels) The walls were painted and carpet installed. Choir pews of oak were custom made by Exeter Furniture at a cost of \$525.00, and a chancel screen of oak grained



wood, with 2 doors at front for processional access, were installed. The organ speakers were relocated, and a wooden cross was suspended from the ceiling at the back of the loft. The total cost was approximately \$2,200.00. An appeal raised \$2,161.00 and a rummage sale at Salford School on November 4, 1972 netted \$470.00. The project was fittingly concluded when Rev. Mitchell, who had initiated it, returned on September 30, 1973, for a special evening dedication service.



Choir Loft Before Renovations



Choir Loft After Renovations

#### New Janitor

Mrs. Leslie Nancekivell resigned as janitor August 31, 1972, as they were moving, and Mrs. Elwood Nancekivell was named to succeed her.

#### Rev. Mitchell Resigns

At a board meeting October 12, 1972, Rev. Mitchell formally submitted his resignation to the board to become effective January 1, 1973. He had accepted a call to Calvary United Church in Windsor.

#### Rev. Edward Baker

The interval between January 1 and April 1, 1973, was capably supplied by Rev. Edward Baker of Lambeth.

#### New Hymn Books

At the annual congregational meeting held February 19, 1973, it was decided to purchase one hundred new Hymn Books for the church. These Hymn Books were a joint effort by committees from the Anglican and United Churches. These committees commenced their work in

1965, examined many hymn books (150 in all) and made special studies of the hymns of Isaac Watts and Charles Wesley, of the metrical psalms and of ancient Office hymns, and also endeavoured to include the finest of contemporary hymns. The Hymn Book, a large red book containing both words and music, was adopted in its draft form by the official bodies of both churches on February 1, 1971. The new hymn books, which cost \$3.75 each, were dedicated for use by Rev. Ed Baker, at a Sunday service on March 25, 1973, and the old United Church Hymnary was retired from use.

#### Rev. Eric A. Ramrattan 1973

The next minister on the charge was Rev. Eric Ramrattan, who began his ministry on the Salford charge on April 1, 1973. He was a native of Trinidad, was ordained in the Presbyterian Church there, and with his wife and two children came to Canada in 1969. His sermons often contained references to his native land and its culture.

#### Manse Repairs

Extensive renovations, including replastering the hall and stairway, remodelling the bathroom and painting and decorating, were carried out at the manse prior to the arrival of the Ramrattan family in April.

#### Key 73

An evangelistic endeavour called Key 73 was undertaken in the fall of 1973. People went in pairs for a visitation of everyone in the community, regardless of denominational affiliation, and gave each home visited a small tract containing the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. In general, the visitors were well received. A few homes were missed because of lack of personnel.

#### Repairs of 1974

In 1974, a new oil furnace was installed at the manse. The trim on the outside of the church was repainted and new eavestroughs were installed.

#### Salford-born Minister Returns

The guest minister at Salford on Sunday, August 25, 1974, was Rev. John E. Hooper, of Surrey, B.C. He was in Ontario as a Commissioner to the United Church General Council at Guelph. Rev. Hooper, born October 25, 1932, is the younger brother of Rev. Lloyd Hooper, both sons of the late Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hooper, who farmed where the Monkel Bros. now live. "Jack" went to Salford Public School and attended the Salford Sunday School. He took his seminary training at Union Theological College, Vancouver B.C. and was ordained by the British Columbia Conference in 1963. He is presently the minister of Colebrook United Church, Surrey British Columbia.



## Car Hits Church

On September 23, 1974, a car went out of control, demolished the church sign, and crashed into the northeast corner of the church, dislodging a considerable number of bricks and breaking the kitchen window. The total cost of repairs was approximately \$275.00. This was paid by the driver's insurance.

In March of 1975, the interior of the church sanctuary was repainted and the woodwork and ceiling varnished. The front vestibule and stairways were also repainted, and repairs made to the plaster.

## 50th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada

At the December 5th, 1974 meeting of the Official Board of Salford-Foldens charge, a committee composed of the Worship and C.E. committees from both churches, was appointed to arrange for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the United Church of Canada. Tentative plans were made to have Rev. R. B. Cumming and Rev. Alvin Roth as speakers for special services to be held in June 1975. At a subsequent meeting of this committee, March 18, 1975, it was decided to have the celebrations the second week of June, as the actual date of Church Union was June 10, 1925. Other events were also planned at this meeting.

The week of celebration began with a joint church service at Salford, on Sunday, June 8, with Rev. R. B. Cumming guest minister, speaking on "The First Fifty Years". At this service, Rev. Cumming presented Salford Church with a painting by his late wife, Kate Taylor Cumming. Following the service, a pot luck lunch was enjoyed by all. A special anniversary cake was made and decorated for this occasion by Mrs. Currie Way, Salford U.C.W. president, and her daughter Ruth, and each person present was served a piece.

On Tuesday evening, June 11, a fashion and variety show, "Music and Modes", was presented at Harris Heights School, Ingersoll. An overflow crowd enjoyed fashions of the last 100 years modelled by members of both churches, interspersed with music and songs of each era, given by various groups and individuals. Brief histories of Salford, Foldens and the former Zenda church were given.

A Craft and Antique Show was held on Friday afternoon and evening, June 13, in the Salford S.S. rooms. This was a most interesting showing of a great variety of articles and a large crowd was on hand to view this display.

Following this, an old-fashioned "Box Social" was held at Salford School. Mr. George Nagle auctioned off the decorated boxes and the bidding was spirited. The highest priced box sold for about six dollars.

The final event in this week of celebration was a joint church service at Foldens Church on Sunday, June 15. The special speaker was Rev. Alvin Roth, London Mission Services, whose topic was "The next fifty years". Rev. Roth challenged the church to be the church as God would have it be — to be evangelistic and to exercise discipline towards its membership. A buffet lunch was



Rev. R. B. Cumming and Rev. Eric Ramrattan going to church, June 8, 1975 for 50th anniversary service, Ross Wilson, carriage driver.



Anniversary Cake — I to r - Mrs. Chas. Merrill, Rev. Eric Ramrattan, Rev. R. B. Cumming, William Pearson, Harry Little



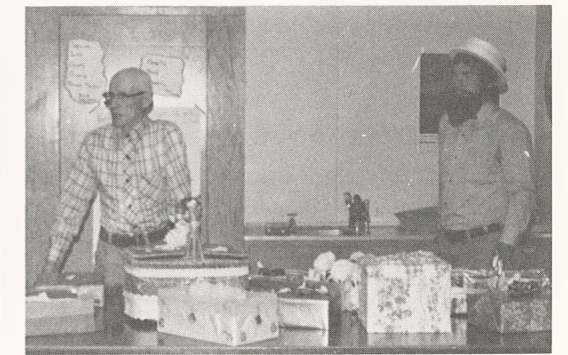
Picture painted by Mrs. R. B. Cumming, presented by Rev. R. B. Cumming to Rev. Ramrattan, for the church.



Music and Modes — I to r - Sherry Ramrattan, Irene Shelton, Bernice Manicom, Murray Somers, Ethel Barnett, Shirley Wilson, Nora Hanson, Linda Wilson, Everett Wilson, Emma Empey, Kathy Somers, Keith Swance, Cathy Campbell, Suzanne Wilson, Barbara Manicom, Janet Durham, Mildred Thomas, Anne Wilson.



Craft and Antique Show



Box Social — George Nagle, Auctioneer, Ken Nancekivell, Assistant

## 50th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS



enjoyed by all in Foldens Community Hall after the service. Rev. Ramrattan thanked all who had given of their time, talent and resources in the preparation and the bringing to fruition of the many events during the week's celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the United Church.

#### New Well at Manse

About fifteen years ago, the well at the manse proved inadequate, and the water supply was purchased, first from the Earl Millard well, then from the Bob York well. At a Manse Committee meeting held March 1, 1976, it was decided to drill a new well at the manse. The McCutcheon well drilling firm was contracted and the well completed March 12, 1976, reaching water at 241 feet. The cost of the drilling was \$2,621.00, of which Salford's share was \$1441.55, with an additional cost of approximately \$1,000.00 for a new pump and its installation.

Salford Church Board offered to pay for the pump, in order to obtain a water supply for the church. A "Well Fund" campaign was launched, a rummage sale was held April 10, and the Young People's group sponsored a community dance in the school on April 17, in support of the Fund.

#### The Work Continues

The year 1976 marks the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the Methodist Church at Salford. As a congregation we should thank God for the great heritage which has been handed us, and receive it not only with gratitude, but as a challenge to continue the work of Jesus Christ, for He said, "My Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom".

## Chapter 9

## WOMEN'S WORK IN CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

### A. LADIES AID (1880's - 1934)

The Salford Ladies Aid was first organized sometime in the 1880's but in the absence of any records the exact date cannot be established. The following three paragraphs, describing the early Ladies Aid are taken from the writings of the late Mrs. John W. Dickout.

"The regular monthly meetings were held in the homes and each meeting held a devotional period at the opening of the meeting. Then followed the business meeting and the dues paid - 60 cents per year or 5 cents per month.

The Ladies Aid was strong in the devotional periods, and in their business meetings, plans were made for caring for the parsonage needs and helping the church in every possible way. In winter, basket socials were held, usually in the homes. Garden parties were held in the summer with the view of making needed money and also providing social life in the church community. The Ladies Aid also assisted in providing the Sunday School picnic dinner in summer and the Christmas tree supper.

The big event of the year, in the eighties, was the Harvest Home at harvest time. It opened in the fore-noon with dinner and program lasting the afternoon, then supper and an evening program. The outdoor decorations were large arches decorated with sheaves of grain, flowers, vegetables, coloured awnings, flags and whatever might add to the beauty of the surroundings. The illumination consisted of coal oil lamps on tables which were set in what was then known as driving houses, coal oil lanterns hung on trees or any available place and two bon-fires. Four posts, about five or six feet high, were set in the ground and a platform built on top of them. On this platform a floor was placed, a depth of earth was placed on the floor and pine knots were placed on the earth and the fires kindled. The programs consisted of speeches by both local and guest speakers, readings, songs and music. The Mount Elgin Brass Band was always present and provided band music."

On November 5, 1888 the Ladies Aid is first mentioned in the records of the Quarterly Official Board of the Salford Circuit (1868-1907) when Rev. J. E. Hockey explained that the Ladies Aid had assumed the bill for four evergreens. Are the trees on the lawn of the parsonage 87 years old? In February 1896, Salford had a deficit and the minister had to wait for his salary. The men decided "to confer with the Ladies Aid in regard to holding a few socials to help the Board to meet the deficiency". Mrs. William Anscombe was asked about these socials and she recalls her mother, Mrs. George Nutt, having two of these in their home. At the second one, she remembers the ladies serving hot biscuits and honey along with their meat.



On November 24, 1890, the day following the official dedication of the new Methodist Church, the ladies held a Tea Meeting with the proceeds of approximately \$125.00 going to the Ladies Aid.

The first mention of Salford ladies being appointed to any office is in the Quarterly Official Board meeting on November 12, 1903 when Mrs. W. Chambers and Mrs. Geo. Bartram were elected as Sabbath School representatives.

In the November 2, 1921 Quarterly minutes of Salford Circuit, a communication was read from the secretary of the General Conference requesting a vote of this board on the question of extending to women equal rights and privileges with men to become probationers and ministers of this church – the result of the vote being yeas 1, nays 5 and one member not voting.

Even though the Ladies Aid did not make large sums of money, they were always able to assist financially the trustee board when necessary. They gave a donation each year to the M. & M. fund of the church and occasionally gave a cash gift to the Consolidated Fund. This is recorded in the financial statements of the Salford Pastoral Charge of the late 1920's and early 1930's.



Salford Ladies Aid (1922)

Back Row – r to l - Mrs. Dutton, Mrs. Frank Gregg, Mrs. Geo Harris  
 2nd Row Standing Left Side – Mrs. John Wilson, Miss Nancy Reeves (Mrs. Tom Sheldon) Mrs. Geo. Way  
 2nd Row Standing Right Side – Mrs. Archie Gregg, Mrs. Shelton, Mrs. John Gregg  
 Sitting – Mrs. Burton Pullen, Mrs. John Service, Mrs. Dick Nancekivell, Mrs. Fred Page, Mrs. W. H. Chambers  
 Mrs. Lade  
 Sitting – Rocking Chair - Mrs. John Gregg, Mrs. Clinton Gregg, Mrs. Grant Hooper, Mrs. Thomas Way, Mrs. Fydell (Minister's Wife)  
 Children – Frank Nancekivell, Jean (Gregg) Connor, Norma (Gregg) Baskett

## B. EXCELSIOR MISSION CIRCLE (1921 – 1931)

The "Sunshine Class" of the Sunday School and their teacher, Mrs. John W. Dickout were making many contributions to missionary work. These early events led to the organization of the Excelsior Mission Circle on September 2, 1921 at the parsonage. Mrs. F. J. Fydell, the ministers wife, told the young girls of the origin of the W.M.S. as well as instructions for carrying on Circle work. Meetings were held each month for a period of ten years. Each meeting was conducted in an orderly fashion with a business period, hymns, roll call, prayer and Study Book talk about World Missions with each member taking part. The young girls quilted or tied quilts, and sent bales. In later years, they did a play and held an Easter church service. Mrs. J. M. Copeland gave some leadership in the group from 1922 to 1924 when her husband was the minister. Rev. P. S. Banes' wife also contributed her time and talents to this group. A Baby Band was organized on June 21, 1927 by the Mission Circle. There were twelve young members. The Mission Circle was originally organized for single girls in the community but many, who married and stayed in the Salford area, remained as faithful members.

Interest in the group waned, and at the November meeting in 1927, the Mission Circle first mentions joining with the W.M.S. In December 1930, after a few months of poor attendance, plans were made to meet with the W.M.S. for 1931, and to take full charge of the meeting every fourth month. Mrs. John W. Dickout was the senior leader of this group for the whole ten years.

By checking the minutes, we note that during this time, many girls left the community for more education, and fewer remained at home until they married. This Mission Circle served its purpose well, and challenged these young women to go into other organizations both in the church and outside.



Excelsior Mission Circle (1922)

Standing – l to r - Clara Peck, Nora Nagle (Mrs. Dawson Hatch), Margaret Chambers (Mrs. Feldner), Laura Haycock (Mrs. M.W. Goodrich), Nancy Reeves (Mrs. T. Sheldon), Glennie Barret (Mrs. Loyal Pogue) Alma Quinn, Jessie Crosby, Ethel Warren (Mrs. Roy Barnett) Mrs. Kathlean (Harley Atwood Stroud), Stella Haycock (Mrs. Roy Stoltz) Edith Service (Mrs. Geo. Rachar), Mary Gregg (Mrs. E.G.Ellis), Mrs. Barker, Hazel Puckett (Mrs. Routledge)  
 Kneeling Row – Blanche Nancekivell (Mrs. Harry Moulton), Mable Quinn (Mrs. Cecil Howard), Ruby Harris, Mildred Ellis, (Mrs. E. Shuttleworth), Willa Chambers, Violet Cucksey  
 Sitting on Ground – Evelyn Peck, Dora Harrison, Mrs. F.J. Fydell (minister's wife), Olive Puckett (Mrs. Woolley).



C. MISSION BAND 1926 – 1969

The Mission Band was first organized at Salford on Saturday, October 30, 1926. Mrs. Banes, wife of Rev. P. S. Banes chaired this meeting, held in the church basement. Mrs. Banes was elected President, and Mrs. Hooper the Vice-President.

In the annual church financial report of April 1, 1926 to April 1, 1927, the Mission Band showed receipts of \$7.50. The meetings were held the second Saturday each month. The children sang hymns, learned scripture, offered vocal solos, piano solos, recitations and had the study book. Minutes of these meetings and attendance records were kept for five years.

On January 15, 1927 the Mission Band chose the name "The Golden Rule Mission Band". Many of these early meetings were held at the parsonage.

Mrs. Wm. (Coza) Anscombe was elected as the assistant superintendent for 1928.

In Sept. 1928 they were invited to put on a programme at the Verschöyle Mission Band. Some also attended a Mission Band Rally.

By 1931 the membership was dropping off. We believe this organization disbanded for 6 years (1932-1937). In the financial report ending Dec. 31, 1938, the Mission Band showed \$5.57 sent forward.

The Mission Band was divided by 1947 or 1948 when a second group named Willing Workers started at #1 school (lot 7 con 1), across from the home of Lewellyn Roberts. The group was started under the leadership of Mrs. Beulah (George) Smith and others. This group disbanded in 1960 when the school was sold to the Haycock family.

Salford Sunshine Mission Band became Messengers in 1963. This was just a new name for the Mission Band in Canada.

For the last few years this active, vociferous group met in the church basement, while the church service was on. The Messengers appear to have been disbanded in 1969 as this was the last time it was mentioned in the annual reports of our church.

D. WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
April 25, 1927 – December 1961



Woman's Missionary Society (1929)

Standing – Mrs. Walter Wilson, Mrs. Banes, (ministers wife), Mrs. Will McBeth, Mrs. Harley McBeth, Mrs. Frank Gregg, Miss Clara Peck, Mrs. Harry Banbury, Mrs. H. Atwood, Mrs. R. R. Nancekivell, Mrs. C.C. Gill, Mrs. Fred Hooper.  
In front – Mrs. Wm. Pearson, Marion McBeth, Mrs. Fred Wilson.

We were really at a disadvantage with no minutes for the first 28 years and no treasurer's books before Jan. 1948 (20 years). Each treasurer's book states that April 25, 1927 was the date of organization. Former members tell us that Mrs. Banes, the minister's wife who organized the Woman's Missionary Society, was the first president and presented a mission programme at each meeting until 1930 when they moved from this charge. The Ingersoll Tribune of Dec. 20, 1928 lists the officers for 1929 with Mrs. P. S. Banes as president.

East meeting consisted of a short business period conducted by the president, devotions, music, and the mission study which was the major part of the meeting. A different country was studied each year. Members paid a yearly fee of fifty cents. The W.M.S. bought study packets and supplies for the Mission Band, C.G.I.T. and Mission Circle. Many ladies knit booties for the Baby Band convenor to give to newborn babies. Mite boxes were distributed to the members, and individual envelopes were used for givings at the monthly meetings. Mission funds were remitted quarterly to the Oxford Presbyterial treasurer. Each year, Easter and Fall Thankoffering Services were held. These services were a part of the regular Sunday morning service with the president in charge. There was a guest speaker and special music. The W.M.S. received part of the offering. No lunch was served after the regular W.M.S. meetings until after the second war. One helpful aid when preparing a W.M.S. program was the Missionary Monthly, a magazine that members subscribed to for 35 cents a year or 5 cents a copy. Members tried to send a delegate to Alma College each summer so they would receive a report on the latest mission work and how to present it to local groups. Some members attended the annual meeting of Oxford Presbyterial.



It was a custom to sort and pack bales yearly. Some quilts were put in these bales, as well as layettes. The bales were taken to Ingersoll where Overland Express picked up and delivered them to the Toronto Depot free of charge.

In 1942 joint W.A. and W.M.S. meetings were held and this continued until Dec. 1961 when all women's organizations were restructured by Oxford Presbyterial and U.C.W. came into being.

**E. WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION**

The W.A. was organized on April 11, 1934 at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. W. H. McBeth. Previous to this the group had been known as the Ladies Aid. This information comes from the diary of the late Mrs. J. W. Dickout.

The meetings would begin at noon with dinner, followed by the business and devotional periods and the rest of the afternoon would be spent in quilting. Very often the men of the community would attend these meetings, especially in the winter months. The money that the W.A. raised was very generously used to repair, redecorate and refurnish the church and parsonage and often they were called upon to help supplement the minister's salary when the church funds were low. Quilting was very popular with the ladies and in Sept. 1938 they felt they had to raise the price of a quilt from seven to eight dollars. Fowl suppers were another popular way of raising money along with bazaars and the members would also canvas the roads to gather funds for the association. In April 1937 they papered the primary classroom and paid the bill for granite pitchers for the church kitchen. It is assumed that they are the same ones that are in use today.

In April 1939 they paid Rev. Cumming for cleaning the upstairs part of the church and also paid for plastering and painting the church basement. When the gas lines from the Brownsville gas fields were laid in Salford the W.A. paid for installing gas in the parsonage kitchen and study. Due to rising costs the ladies felt compelled to raise the dinner fee of their regular dinner meeting from fifteen cents to twenty-five cents in 1940.

At the beginning of the war in 1939 Miss Agnes Chambers, Mrs. Walter Wilson, and Mrs. George Baskett were appointed as a Red Cross Society. The ladies of the community were very faithful in their knitting and sewing for the servicemen. Each week one member would make a trip to Ingersoll to the Red Cross rooms for material for the ladies to work with and then return the next week with the finished articles and bring back with her more supplies for the coming week. In Feb. 1941 a social evening was held in aid of the British War Victims Fund and in the spring of the same year there was entertainment for the soldiers of the D Company of the Oxford Rifles. A letter was received from Major J. C. Herbert thanking the community for the social, and with it, a ten dollar donation to be used for a war charity. During the war years, when so many things were rationed, everyone saved in every possible way. Because gasoline was in short supply, the W.A. and W.M.S. decided to join together for their meetings. This practice was begun in 1942 and continued through to Dec. 1961 when all women's organizations were restructured by Oxford Presbyterial and U.C.W. came into being. Although the two groups met together regularly, in 1955 the W.A. also began holding a monthly sewing meeting.

**F. JOINT W.A. & W.M.S. 1942 – 1961**

These two groups continued to hold joint meetings having separate business sessions and cash books. A new trend started in the early 1950's with the catering to weddings and anniversaries. Turkey suppers were started in the late 1940's and have become a tradition. In 1952, the ladies catered to the Warden's Banquet for 400 people. This event was held in the church shed. Mr. Harley McBeth was the warden.

Some of the contributions made towards our church are:

- 1948 – dishes for church
- 1949 – linens for church kitchen
- 1950 – plate glass table top for communion table and silver communion plate  
– donation toward Sunday school doors
- 1951 – linen communion cloth
- 1953 – nesting tables in Sunday School  
– sherbet and glass plates

In 1955 a donation was made toward decorating the church. The ladies gave \$200 to help pay for the parsonage furnace in 1957. The kitchen was remodelled in Oct. 1958 when new cupboards were built. The ladies paid the labor bill of the carpenter and the plumber. In 1960, wine coloured choir gowns were purchased for the Senior Choir and the following year Junior Choir gowns were made by the ladies. Carpeting for the church in July 1961 was the last major item provided by the ladies of the W.A. and W.M.S.

During the final year the W.A. and W.M.S. divided into three groups (Martha, Dorcas, Abigail) and this initiated the ladies into U.C.W. units for 1962.

W.M.S. Presidents (April 25, 1927 – December 1961)		W. A. Presidents (1934 – 1961)	
1942	Mrs. George Nagle	1938	Mrs. Clinton Gregg
1943-44	Mrs. Harley R. McBeth	1939-41	Mrs. W. H. McBeth
1945-47	Mrs. Albert Quinn	1942-43	Mrs. Earl Jenvey
1948	Mrs. Wm. A. Pearson	1944-46	Mrs. Archie Gregg
1949-50	Mrs. Fred Wilson	1947	Mrs. W. H. McBeth
1951-52	Mrs. Arthur MacIntosh	1948	Mrs. Bert Nancekivell
1953-54	Mrs. George Smith	1949-50	Mrs. George Nagle
1955-56	Mrs. S. R. Cooper	1951-52	Mrs. Harley R. McBeth
1957-58	Mrs. C. W. Wilson	1953-54	Mrs. Fred J. Gregg
1959-60	Mrs. George Wallace	1955	Mrs. Orville Nancekivell
1961	Mrs. Orville Nancekivell	1956	Mrs. Arthur MacIntosh
		1957	Mrs. Orville Nancekivell
		1958	Mrs. Arthur MacIntosh
		1959-60	Mrs. Fred Wilson
		1961	Mrs. Ed Coward



G. **BABY BAND June 21, 1927 – 1970**

The Excelsior Mission Circle organized a 'Baby Band' on June 21, 1927 at the home of Mrs. George Nagle. Twelve young pre-school children were enrolled and five of these were "Life Members." Meetings were held once a year when the W.M.S. ladies entertained the children and their mothers. Each child would be given a mite box to take home so they could save pennies in these boxes for missions. Since this group was very young, they were told mission stories, had a play time and in later years had a rhythm band. When school age, children would graduate, at these annual meetings, to Mission Band. The Baby Band Convenor and Cradle Roll Convenor would visit each new-born baby and present the infant with baby powder and booties.

Some of the Baby Band Convenors have been:

1948 – Mrs. Clinton Gregg

1949 – Mrs. Cecil Wilson

1950 - 54 – Mrs. O. R. Nancekivell

1954 - 70 – Mrs. Ed Coward

The Baby Band was partially disbanded in 1963. They stopped sending mite box collections but Mrs. Coward continued calling on each new-born with a gift until 1970.

H. **EDITH SPARLING MISSION CIRCLE (1942 – 1952)**

The Edith Sparling Mission Circle was organized in August 1942 for young girls in the Salford community. Miss Edith Sparling was a missionary, and a native of St. Marys. During the mid-1940's, she was the District Missionary of the Woman's Missionary Society in Tzeliutsing, West China, and later in India.

This young group had 8 - 12 members and each person paid a yearly membership fee of twenty-five cents. Each meeting would have a business period as well as mission study. Some of the ladies who offered adult leadership to this group were Miss Agnes Chambers, Mrs. George Nagle, Mrs. Albert Quinn and Mrs. Russell Fruere. They sold Christmas cards for a few years and held one bazaar to make extra funds. From checking the treasurer's books, we know that most of those who attended in 1951 went away from Salford to work or gain further education. Young girls in the community joined the newly formed C.G.I.T. group so this Mission Circle disbanded in May 1952, after ten years of existence.

I. **THE EDITH NANCEKIVELL MISSION CIRCLE (1952 – 1961)**

In the summer of 1952 Mrs. Eleanor Wallace contacted young married women of the congregation who did not attend W.A. or W.M.S. Enough interest was aroused to form a Mission Circle for Bible Study and Mission work.

The choice of a name for this group presented a problem. Three suggestions were put forward and it was decided to choose by ballot. (Mrs. R. R.) Edith Nancekivell was overwhelmed and honoured to have her name chosen as the Mission Circle name. At this time Mrs. Edith Nancekivell had served as Oxford Presbyterial W.M.S. President.

This group was organized in Oct. 1952 at the home of Mrs. Dorothy (Currie) Way.

In 1959 they changed their name to the Edith Nancekivell Evening Auxiliary rather than join W.M.S. They had regular monthly meetings until Dec. 1961 when they moved to discontinue and join the U.C.W.

This group of young women showed a keen interest in missions as each month they heard a message from their study book from a member or W.M.S. representative. They sometimes entertained other Circles, C.G.I.T. girls, and W.A. and W.M.S. members and made return visits, hearing interesting guest speakers and seeing pictures and slides on missions. Some areas studied were: Africa, Japan, India, Indian Missions In Canada, Caribbean and New Canadians.

A typical meeting might consist of a short business period, a devotional, a message from the study book, a skit, musical numbers, and social hour.

One interesting feature was a journal started in 1956 called "Worth and Mirth". The members took turns taking the book home and would write current events, humorous anecdotes, personal news etc. and read it at the next meeting.

Some activities included: an annual summer picnic for husbands and families, bowling, making and selling a cook book (1959), holding rummage sales, helping with the bale, bake sales, hobo teas, catering to the C.G.I.T. banquet, buying toys for the use of Sunday School children, skating parties, bringing a gift for the Salvation Army and a White Elephant Gift Exchange.

In Oct. 1954 Salford held the Mission Circle Rally for Oxford County. A poster on 'Why a Mission Circle and What It Has Done for Our Church' was made by Dorothy Way and Betty Mayberry and won second prize.

Usually a member was sent to the school for leaders at Alma College and would report back in September.

The last meeting was held on Dec. 12, 1961 at the home of Mrs. R. R. Nancekivell.

Officers:	President	Secretary
Oct. 1952	(Mrs. Currie) Dorothy Way	(Mrs. Jim) Donna Dawson
1953-54	(Mrs. Gordon) Cora Moore	(Mrs. Glen) Jean Bartram
1955-56	(Mrs. Currie) Dorothy Way	(Mrs. Floyd) Elsie Belore
1957-58	(Mrs. Gordon) Velma Rickard	(Mrs. Floyd) Elsie Belore
1959-60	(Mrs. Wm.) Beth Wallace	(Mrs. Archie) Nora Hanson
1961	(Mrs. Chas) Marjorie Wheeler	(Mrs. Archie) Nora Hanson



The purpose of the United Church Women is to unite the women of the congregation for the total mission of the Church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service. Membership is open to any woman who is in sympathy with the Purpose and who is willing to contribute her prayers, gifts, and service for the work of the Church in the world.

This new organization didn't cause dissent among the women for several reasons —

1. We had been thoroughly briefed by our representatives on the Oxford Presbyterial
2. The W.A. and W.M.S. had met together since the 1940's
3. The Edith Nancekivell Evening Auxiliary chose to join the Salford U.C.W. which was organized on Jan. 10, 1962 in the Church.

General business meetings are held four times a year. The total membership is divided into three units and each of these groups hold regular monthly meetings. Each two years, the members of these three units are redistributed, so we get to know each member of the U.C.W. by this rotating pattern.

Three representatives from U.C.W. serve on each of the four committees — Worship, Finance, Property, and Christian Education, of the Official Board.

At our monthly unit meetings, we usually have a short business meeting, devotions, and Bible Study, a message from the study book, or seasonal topics and a social hour. Twice a year, the three units meet together at the Church when we try to have a guest speaker on missions, or any topic of concern and interest.

We feel our unit meetings are well attended because of their informal atmosphere, and more women will take a part at least once a year. Younger women are encouraged to attend and join in the fellowship.

The Salford women have always generously supported the Mission and Service Fund raising their contribution from \$706 in 1962 to \$1100 in 1974. We also make donations to other worthwhile causes; Westminster College, White Oaks, Overseas Relief, Bible Society, Bangladesh, Beulah Bourns (a missionary who was in Korea), London Rescue Mission and Salford Christian Education Committee.

The women have always helped keep our church in good repair. We look after the kitchen and have bought a new stove and refrigerator (1970), hot plates, hot water tank, new set of dishes (1965), new drapes for the Sunday School rooms, etc.

In 1965, \$1500 was set aside in a Building Improvement Fund and has been added to from time to time. In 1965, \$400 was used to help pave the church yard. In 1972, \$200 helped renovate the choir loft and our latest major expense has been the painting of the inside of the main body of the church and front entry which cost \$1600.

The U.C.W. units take turns placing flowers in the sanctuary each Sunday.

In the Fall of 1970, a Nursery for small children was started during the church service and each unit takes monthly turns being responsible for this.

One popular annual event is the Turkey Supper, in October. We sell 200 tickets. They are soon sold out as everyone knows that Salford ladies are excellent cooks. We also cater to weddings, 50th Wedding Anniversaries, other banquets, and lunches on various other occasions.

We have been pleased to serve a barbeque, or dinner, for the Senior and Junior Choir members each year in appreciation of their fine work. We also have an annual Mother and Daughter C.G.I.T. banquet and now take turns with the Foldens' ladies catering to this event. We work jointly with Foldens' ladies for the annual Cub and Scout, Father and Son banquet.

Over the years, we have given many articles, both new and used, to bales for overseas and in our own country, made quilts, had bake sales, auctions, sold church plates (1966), put on a programme at Woodingford Lodge, visited shut-ins in our community, and given them a birthday gift, etc.

We feel our U.C.W. units are providing Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service.



K.

### WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

The W.C.T.U. has been an active organization at Salford since 1890, and has had faithful and dedicated members. It is non-denominational, inviting all concerned with the alcohol problem to be members.

The aim and object of the W.C.T.U. is to present Jesus Christ to all people as the answer to all of life's problems and to promote Scientific Temperance Education to the youth of our land. Their badge is the White Ribbon bow and the motto is "For God and home and every land".

The presidents since 1890, in order of serving are: Mrs. T. L. Newton, Mrs. Samuel Gregg, Mrs. W. K. Newton, Mrs. John Dickout, Mrs. W. B. Poole, Mrs. George Harrison, Mrs. Adelbert Haycock, Mrs. Walter Wilson Sr., Mrs. J. C. Roberts, Mrs. A. E. Quinn, Mrs. J. C. Roberts, Mrs. H. A. Edwards, Mrs. A. E. Quinn, Mrs. A. W. Pearson, Mrs. Cecil Wilson, Mrs. Everett Wilson.

Mrs. A. W. Pearson has been a member since 1915, a period of 60 years.

Mrs. A. E. Quinn was president for 26 years, 24 consecutively.

Mrs. H. R. McBeth was recording secretary for 12 years and Mrs. Roy Barnett has been the treasurer for the last 19 years.

Some of the members at Salford have served in offices on the County level. Four members who have been County presidents are: Mrs. W. K. Newton, Mrs. Frank Minshall, Mrs. Joseph Dickout, Mrs. A. E. Quinn.

Besides promoting temperance, the W.C.T.U. has been involved in the community in many different ways. They have had parlour meetings, musical programs, concerts, medal contests in elocution, ice cream socials, sugar socials, pancake suppers, tulip teas and home cooking sales. They have produced plays, quilted quilts, and, during World War 2, its members worked with the Red Cross.

The important work today is in three areas:

Scientific Temperance Instruction — The Temperance Study Course was discontinued in schools, but posters, health and reference books, and essays are done on the local level and then sent on to county, provincial, and national levels. Many young people from Salford have won awards on all these levels. Since there are no regular classes held at Salford school now, most of the Temperance Instruction is done at L.T.L.

Loyal Temperance Legion — This organization is for girls and boys from age seven up to the early teens. The principles of the program are: Spiritual growth, mental stability, social guidance, good citizenship, character training, world friendship, total abstinence and future leadership.

Youtherama — A weekend of learning and fun, in November each year, sponsored by the Provincial W.C.T.U. The Salford W.C.T.U. sends delegates nearly every year (in 1974 we sent six). To help raise money for this event, Salford sponsors a luncheon for the community.

The W.C.T.U. has ten regular meetings during the year, usually held in members' homes, and have held public meetings, with special guest speakers or a panel discussion.

Each of us has a circle of influence which no one else has, and we must accept the challenge.



**Lydia Ranney**

In 1834, Hiram and Lydia Ranney left Vermont and came to Canada to take up land and become permanent settlers. Their children were Julia, Hiram and Homer. They settled on the east side, on the second bend of the trail, on a fifty acre lot. Lydia Ranney had learned the art of cheesemaking in her native Vermont. She started making cheese from a small herd of three cows. This herd grew to 100 head and the size of the farm to 700 acres. The first school in Salford (then Manchester) was located on the corner diagonally across from the former Baptist Church. It was in operation around 1838 and was known as the Ranney School. This was due to the fact that Mrs. Lydia Ranney was the teacher, and according to Shenstones "Gazetteer" of 1852, Mrs. Ranney was the first authorized school teacher in Oxford County. The school was of log construction.

Salford W.I. Tweedsmuir History

**Aimee Semple McPherson**

At the time when the Methodists at Salford were preparing to open their new church, another event occurred at Salford which later was to have considerable impact on religious life internationally. A daughter, (their only child) was born on October 9, 1890, to James and Minnie Kennedy who lived where Frank Wilson has now built a new home. She was named Aimee, and attended S.S. #3 school, and then two or three years at Salford School.

The church affiliation of her parents and herself was mainly Salvation Army, although Aimee is listed on the roll of the Loyal Temperance Legion of 1902 and 1903 at Salford.

Later, the family moved a short distance East to a two story frame house which is still standing. (South part of Lot 18, Con. 1) It was on the lawn of this house, on August 12, 1908, that Aimee married evangelist Robert Semple. They left for the China mission field in 1910 and three months later Mr. Semple died.

Aimee returned to the United States, and began an evangelistic campaign of her own, featuring the theme, "The Four Square Gospel".

She married H. J. McPherson, an American, and by 1923 she headed an organization which built the 5000 seat Angelus Temple in Los Angeles, costing \$1,900,000.00. This organization, which is affiliated with Pentacostalism, soon owned its own radio station, and Aimee claimed to be the first woman ever to broadcast a sermon.

She died in 1944, but the church still carries on, under her son, Rev. Dr. Rolf Kennedy McPherson.

**Mrs. Robert B. Cumming**

Miniature of Lady Tweedsmuir – Excerpt from Toronto Telegram Nov. 19, 1937.

The miniature painting of her Excellency is the gift of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and is the work of an Ontario artist, Mrs. Robert B. Cumming in Oxford County. In the background of the painting is Ontario's flower, the trillium. The gold frame is adorned with maple leaves, and has the crests of the nine provinces of Canada, done in natural coloured enamel.

Her Excellency was deeply touched by the tokens of affection, the beautiful bouquet of roses from the first Institute at Stony Creek, and the gold-framed miniature of herself. "Thank you — thank you", she said. "His Excellency has never liked any of the photographs taken of me, but this will find a place on his writing desk".

In the painting Her Excellency is wearing something blue which blends with the sky, and faintly showing in the background are trilliums, Ontario's flower.

The frame of Canadian gold on Canadian silver has a spray of maple leaves at one side and on top. Done in color are the crests of the four Western provinces, and then Ontario all by itself. and at the bottom the crests of the four Eastern provinces. The frame is the craftsmanship of Ryrice, Birks, Ellis of Hamilton.

The miniature was the work of Mrs. Kate Taylor-Cumming, wife of R. B. Cumming of Salford, Ontario, who went down to Rideau Hall, Ottawa, so that Her Excellency might pose for it. Mr. Allen Lancefield of Aldershot introduced the artist and mentioned she was from Oxford County here, and that Lady Tweedsmuir had been president of Women's Institute of Oxfordshire for about fifteen years.

**Edith, Esther, and Eleanor**

We must acknowledge the capable women of Salford who have gone on to the Oxford Presbyterial and Oxford Presbytery. The first is (Mrs. R.R.) Edith Nancekivell who was Oxford Presbyterial W.M.S. President in the late 1940's. The secretary during her term of office was Mrs. Stanley Piper. (Mrs. Art) Esther MacIntosh was the Oxford Presbyterial W.M.S. President from 1959-1961. She was on the ad hoc committee to restructure all womens groups into U.C.W. for Oxford Presbyterial. (Mrs. George) Eleanor Wallace assumed the duties of Oxford Presbyterial U.C.W. President during 1967 and 1968. Prior to this, Mrs. Wallace served as Girls Work Secretary for Oxford County O.C.E.C. (Oxford Christian Education Committee) and on Presbytery W.A., Presbyterial W.M.S. and Conference W.M.S. While she was vice president of the County, Mrs. Wallace served as Mission Education Co-ordinator on the Christian Education committee of London Conference of the United Church and a vice president of London Conference U.C.W. when poor health forced her to resign.

(Mrs. Cecil) Helen Wilson has been a very capable Treasurer of Oxford Presbyterial U.C.W. from 1968 - 1973.



(Mrs. William) Beth Wallace has held several offices on Oxford Presbyterial. Some of these include Corresponding Secretary of W.M. S. for six years, chairman of the C.G.I.T. council of Oxford County, Regional Vice-President of W.M.S. and U.C.W. and Leadership Development Co-chairman.

During 1966 and 1967 (Mrs. O.R.) Grace Nancekivell and (Mrs. A.E.) Irene Menzies were the pianist and song leader of the Oxford Presbyterial. Mrs. Menzies served as a Regional Vice President at this time. Mrs. Nancekivell has served on Supply and Welfare in 1966 and 1967 and is presently a member of the Outreach Committee for 1974-75.

At one time Salford had three ladies on different divisions of Presbytery, as representatives of Oxford Presbyterial U.C.W., not by appointment by our own local Church Official Board. These three capable women were Mrs. George Wallace, Mrs. Cecil Wilson and Mrs. William Wallace.

#### Women on Local Church Boards

Churches across Canada seem to be moving to give women an equal voice in decision-making but they are moving at individual speeds. Records do tell us that each year one woman from Salford W.A. was a representative to the Official Board. We wonder if one woman alone would even attend a meeting with a roomful of men. It is interesting to note from the Charge Minutes of May 29, 1932 that three Salford ladies were in attendance when discussion was held concerning the choice of a new minister. After an order from Toronto headquarters to all churches that one woman must be on the Board of Stewards we find that Mrs. George Wallace was appointed to this church board for 1962 along with 12 men and Mrs. Cecil Wilson was the representative to the Official Board because she was President of the U.C.W.

The names of these representatives is first recorded at a meeting of Salford Pastoral Charge on Feb. 5, 1963. Salford women have been allowed to help on the Manse Committee but the 1966 annual report was the first time their names appeared.

Ladies served on the Christian Education Committee for the first time in 1962. These were C.G.I.T. leaders for the first few years. Mrs. Larry Nancekivell and Mrs. William Wallace were the first two ladies appointed. On April 15, 1971 a woman was elected as Recording Steward of the Charge. This year brought more changes as Rev. W. G. Mitchell introduced new committees and a full slate of representatives on each of the four groups. Each committee consisted of eight men and one woman. These committees were Worship, Christian Education, Property and Finance. These groups brought more responsibilities to the ladies. Mrs. William Roberts was on the Worship Committee and therefore the first woman to serve communion in Salford United Church. On Finance was Mrs. Alton Manicom who was also the U.C.W. Treasurer, Mrs. Harold Manicom served on C.E. and Mrs. Lawrence Durham on Property. In 1972, six men and two women served on each committee. The ladies have had three representatives on each committee since 1973 and each member serves a three year term now with one new member being added each year as the third year member retires. The first woman to be elected Treasurer of Salford United Church was Mrs. Homer Hammond on Jan. 29, 1975.

This year, 1975 is "International Womens Year" but we have seen no move toward equal representation on our Official Board. We will look forward to the day when women have more than one third of the members on the Salford Official Board, a woman trustee and even a lady as our minister.

#### 1890 – HEIRLOOM QUILT

At the time when the church was built the ladies of Salford Methodist Church made a very beautiful red and white quilt. By checking the ages of the babies on the two baby blocks we conclude this quilt was made in 1890. The quilt contains fifteen red and fifteen white hand stitched blocks with beautifully embroidered accents. Each red block is surrounded by a contrasting white border strip with a corner inset of red. The next block is the same size with the colors reversed. This border between the blocks gives a checkerboard effect. On each large block names are embroidered. These names include the families of Rev. J. Hockey, Rev. Charles Deacon and many families from the area. The smaller border blocks contain names or beautiful floral designs in contrasting thread. The border has alternating strips of white, red and white with a narrow red binding and backing. By careful observation we note that the lettering and floral designs as well as the type of stitches vary, so we conclude several have prepared the blocks before quilting.

Mrs. Samuel Gregg who left the Salford area in 1900 to move to Ingersoll, had the quilt in her home. Her niece Mrs. Geo. Bartlett recalls the quilt being taken from the closet each house cleaning time. Mrs. Bartlett offered to have the quilt shown in the Church at the time of the 100th Anniversary. In April, 1962 the U.C.W. minutes record the secretary was instructed to send a note of thanks to Mrs. Geo. Bartlett of Ingersoll, for the gift of a quilt which was made by the ladies of Salford Church in 1890. The ladies asked Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilson to look after the heirloom quilt in February 1963. Since their deaths, their son Evan Wilson has taken care of it for us.

This quilt is a wonderful bit of workmanship and we cherish it dearly.



## Chapter 10

### A. SUNDAY SCHOOL

According to available records, the first Sunday School at Salford was held in 1850 in the basement of the Salford Baptist Church under the name of Salford Union Sabbath School. At this time there was no basement in the old Methodist Church, and the Baptists and the Methodists joined together for Sunday School. When the present church was built in 1890, the Sunday School was held in the basement there.

Superintendents	Secretary-Treasurers
1850 - 74 Isaac Piper Daniel Dickout	1859-89 Samuel Nagle
1875 - 79 Stephen Roberts Perry Harris Wm. Wilkinson	1890-98 Joseph Dickout
1880 - 89 Hezekiah Wilson	1899-1917 George Harris
1890 - 93 T. L. Newton	1918-26 John Dickout
1894 - 99 Robert Peck	1927-29 George Nagle
1900 - 05 Gifford Poole	1930-35 Archie Gregg
1906 - 11 Robert Peck	1936-41 Ernest Haycock
1912 - 23 George Harrison	1942-53 Fred Peck
1924 - 25 Wm. Pearson	1954-55 Grant Hutchinson
1926 - 31 Fred Hooper	1956-61 Cecil Wilson
1932 - 37 Fred Peck	1962-63 Keith Quinn
1938 - Judson Roberts	1964-73 Andrew Empey
1939 - 42 Fred Peck	1974- Thomas J. Way
1943 - 46 Harley McBeth	
1947 - Percy Gill	
1948 - 50 Murray McBeth	
1951 - 53 George Nagle	
1954 - 58 Orville Nancekivell	
1959 - 61 Alton Manicom	
1962 - 64 Currie Way	
1965 - 66 Everett Wilson	
1967 - 68 Wm. Wallace	
1969 - 70 Keith Wilson	
1971 - 72 Thomas J. Way	
1973 - 74 Ken Nancekivell	
1975 - 76 Doug Milne	

The only available attendance records begin in 1931. The highest average attendance on record is 139 in 1932. The average offering in that year was \$3.41.

For the year 1974, the average attendance was 84, with an average offering of \$12.00.

There are presently nine classes. Sunday School is held from September to June, with a Christmas Concert held in December at Mt. Elgin Hall, and a picnic in the summer at Tillsonburg Park.



**EXCELSIOR CLASS 1932**

From Left to Right (Back Row) Thurwell Dunham, Samuel Wilson, Milfred Nancekivell, Norman Johnson, Ross Fewster, Orville Nancekivell, Harold Haycock, Edgar Gill, Alan Skinner, Fred Powell (Middle Row) Timothy Brackenbridge, Gerald Gill (Pres.), Wesley Wilford (Asst Teacher), Miss Clara Peck (Teacher), Leroy Wilson (Vice President), Morton Wilson, Cecil Howard (Missionary Secretary) (Front Row) Leslie Nancekivell, Douglas Nancekivell, William Northmore, Gordon Howard (Treasurer), George Smith (Secretary), Gordon Haycock, Robert Ranson

### B. JUNIOR BIBLE CLASS

The Junior Bible Class of Salford United Church was organized by the Rev. R. B. Cumming in 1941. At the time of its organization there were nine members. Within ten years, the enrollment had grown to over sixty.

Teachers who served the class during this time were: Mrs. Burton Harris, Miss Agnes Chambers, Mrs. George Nagle, Mrs. R.R. Nancekivell, Mrs. R. A. Passmore and Miss Evelyn Peck.

In addition to the Sunday School Class each Sunday, once each month the class met in a member's home. The meeting would begin with worship, then a speaker or a paper, business would be discussed, followed with a social time. This class was responsible for forming a Junior Congregation in the church.



In 1949, the class undertook the project of installing folding doors in the Sunday School in order to have individual class rooms. One of the means used to raise money for this project was the presentation of a play, "Singing Bill from Blue Ridge Hill", by members of the class. The play was enacted not only in the Salford community but also in surrounding districts during the winter months. The cast included; Mrs. George Nagle, Mrs. Cecil Wilson, Mrs. Grant Hutchinson, Mrs. Frank Gibson, Miss Dorothy Lemon, Murray McBeth, George Smith, Mr. and Mrs Ray Sadler, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Nancekivell, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Freure and director Miss Dorris Huntley. Later on, the play "Sunbonnet Jane from Sycamore Lane" was presented.

On completion of the installation of the doors, the Rev. R. A. Passmore conducted a dedication service in the Sunday School rooms on June 15, 1950.

Another major undertaking was the supplying of 350 packaged lunches per day, to the ploughmen at the International Ploughing match in 1951.

Ten years after organization, a reunion, to which former members were invited, was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. George Smith, on June 11, 1951.

The Rev. R. B. Cumming of Brigden sent congratulations to the class. Mrs. Russell Freure baked and decorated the birthday cakes.

Work accomplished includes:

- Refinishing of Sunday School floor
- New chairs for Sunday School 1949
- Installation of folding doors 1950
- Purchasing of nesting tables to replace wooden tables 1952
- Standards for the flags in the church
- Redecorated Sunday School
- Installation of water in the church 1953
- Banquet for choir members and minister
- Layettes were made, quilts quilted and bales packed by the ladies of the class

Donations were given to: Woman's Missionary Society and Woman's Association, John Milton Society for the Blind, Salvation Army, Gideons, Overseas Flood Relief, and Miss Emma Palethorpe, a missionary.

The Junior Bible Class first began the Turkey Supper for which Salford has become known. Shortly thereafter, the W.A. and W.M.S., (now the U.C.W) assumed responsibility for this annual supper.

## Chapter 11

### FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

Miss Annie Hopwood was the organist in the old church. She was followed by Mr. Andy Stevens. William Pearson remembers back to 1911, when Andy Stevens was the organist, at a pump organ at the rear of the choir loft of the present church. Some early choir leaders were Mrs. Frank Gregg, and a school teacher, Miss Riddolls. Also, James Mayberry and others from the Baptist Church helped with the choir. They were able to do this as the two services were at different hours.

After Andy Stevens died in 1938, Mrs. Hugh Hughes was organist until 1940. She was succeeded by Mrs. R. R. Nancekivell, until 1955. For a short time in the 1940's, there was no choir until Mrs. Nancekivell recruited some older married couples to help.

Mrs. Orville Nancekivell was appointed as organist in January, 1949, alternating with Mrs. R. R. Nancekivell and Mrs. Fred Wilson. Mrs. Robert Passmore was choir leader from 1948 to 1952. Those who were listed as choir leaders in the minutes of the Congregational meetings are: Bill Ranney (1952 - 1954), Lorne Groves (1955 - 1956), Mrs. S. R. Cooper (1956), and Mrs. O. R. Nancekivell (1957 - 1958). Lorne Groves was also assistant organist from 1954 - 1956.

Mrs. A. E. Menzies was choir leader from 1958 to 1967, with Mrs. Orville Nancekivell continuing as organist and Rick Wilson as assistant. The first junior choir (with between 20 and 25 members) was formed by Mrs. Menzies.

Mrs. Edward Coward became leader of both senior and junior choirs in 1968. The junior choir sings once a month and the senior choir, with approximately 12 members, sings the remaining Sundays. Solos and special music are presented during the summer season. The assistant organist, since 1974, has been Miss Nancy Rachar. Miss Leslie Mitchell, Mrs. Norman French and Bob Gibson have assisted with music through the seventies. The dedicated services of our organist and choir leader are appreciated by the congregation.

For special occasions such as Easter, Anniversary and Christmas, we enjoy hearing Mrs. Harold Harrison at the piano and Mrs. Orville Nancekivell at the organ.

The choir sang the anthem, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" at the church service June 8, 1975, which was held to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Church Union. A copy of this anthem, which was sung at the opening of the church in 1890, was given to the church some years ago by Mrs. Bert Nancekivell.



## Chapter 12

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

#### A. Young People's

The young people of the Salford Community have long been active in the church life, as is illustrated by the record of youth groups within the church that reaches back many years.

The earliest organized youth group that there is record of was the Epworth League, which dated as far back as 1901, and probably earlier.

As for the origins of the league, Epworth was the birthplace in England of John Wesley. Thus the name for the League was probably drawn from this. The original Epworth League was an American organization of the Young People of the Methodist Episcopal Church founded at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1889, to promote an intelligent interest in the activities of the church. The date of the establishment of the League in Canada is not known, but its function was basically the same. Unlike present day groups, the membership took in a much broader range of ages, including young people, as well and young married couples, and some slightly older.

There seems to have been a very substantial membership as illustrated in 1901. On May 27, a petition, delivered in person by Miss Lints to the circuit meeting, was signed by 50 members of the Epworth League. This petition was asking that the minister be returned to Salford, in an attempt to put an end to the rumours that the Young People were against the minister.

Another point of interest is that Joseph Poole, known to be a very active member in the League, was elected as its president on August 12, 1901, at the circuit meeting.

The Epworth League was more structured than many groups today. Regular meetings were held with varied programs. At each meeting there was singing, prayers, and a discussion of a topic; eg., citizenship, or missions. Speakers were often invited to contribute to these discussions and a type of magazine or topic card was printed providing weekly program outlines. There were also various social events. One such event was the popular and well-known Box Social.

The exact date that the Epworth League changed its name to the Young People's League is not known. It is believed to have been in the mid 1920's. It may have been connected in some way with the act of church union, but this is not known for certain.

John W. Dickout was an early president of the Young People's League and Harley McBeth became president in July of 1928, with Miss Annie Todd as secretary. Meetings were held on Wednesday evenings, and activities remained much the same as they were as the Epworth League.

The youth group underwent various changes of names throughout its history. The next to follow was the Young People's Union. It is not known when this change occurred, but it remained as such until 1966 when it became known as the Salford Hi-C. More recently it has simply been known as the Young People's.

The Young People's Union was a strongly structured organization with executive at presbytery, conference and national levels, as well as local. The YPU held regular meetings at which there was recreation, worship and discussions. The group was also actively involved in social functions such as dances, parties, carol singing, projects such as church services, car washes, and involvement in youth conferences. They often visited other churches to take part in their worship.

In 1954 - 55 the United Church brought in Hi-C to serve the younger ages, and all over the country YPU groups gradually changed over in the following years. The activities of Salford's Hi-C remained much the same. They, too, were involved in activities with other youth groups, and community projects.

Although less structured, the present organization is still very active in many of these areas. They promote many projects and money-raising ventures, as well as activities with other groups.

Thus we can see that the young people's organizations have had an obvious involvement in, and have contributed much to, the life of the church over the years.

#### B. Canadian Girls in Training

The first C.G.I.T. group at Salford was organized in 1949 by Mrs. Robert Passmore, the wife of the minister. There has been an active group every year since that time.

Each meeting is opened by repeating "The Purpose" — As a Canadian Girl in Training, under the leadership of Jesus, it is my purpose to Cherish Health, Seek Truth, Know God, Serve Others, and thus with His help become the girl God would have me be.

The Vesper Service at Christmas is one of the highlights of the year. Also, the girls go carolling at Christmas, and during the year, they visit nursing homes in the area, singing for, and entertaining, the patients.

The Spring Tea is usually held in April, and the girls work very hard entertaining visitors in the tea room and selling the crafts and baked goods. This year, the theme was a birthday party, as the national C.G.I.T. is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 1975.

The Mother and Daughter banquet is an annual event, at which the girls who have reached the age of 17 graduate, and are presented with a gift.

For the last several years, girls from Foldens, Zenda and Salford area have united into one group. The present membership is 18.



Through the years the following women have given their time and talents to serve as leaders for the C.G.I.T. — Mrs. Robert Passmore, Mrs. Murray McBeth, Mrs. Grant Hutchinson, Mrs. Currie Way, Mrs. William Wallace, Mrs. Ivan Baskette, Mrs. Cecil Wilson, Mrs. Andrew Empey, Mrs. Larry Nancekivell, Mrs. Gordon Quinn, Marion Gibson (Mrs. David Wilson), Mrs. Harold Fishback, June Quinn, Mrs. Harold Manicom, Janet Nancekivell (Mrs. John Caulfield), Mrs. Gordon MacDonald, Mrs. Glen Mayberry, Pat Quinn, Mrs. Tom Way, Mrs. Douglas Milne, Karen Clark (Mrs. Gordon Underwood), Mrs. Richard Wilson, Mrs. Don Esseltine, Mrs. Richard Webber, Mrs. Brian Heron, Mrs. David Vyse, Mrs. Bill Mayberry, Mrs. Ron Johnson.

### C. Cubs and Scouts

#### Cubs Organized

In the spring of 1968, concerned people felt that some organized activity was needed for the boys of the community (C.G.I.T. was held for girls 12 to 16). The Christian Education Committee of Salford Church agreed to be sponsors of a cub pack and the executive of the Group Committee was; Chairman, Tom Way; Treasurer, Keith Wilson; Secretary, Mrs. Lawrence Durham. Other members of the committee were, Glen Bartram, Mrs. A. Manicom, Mrs. E. Wilson, and William Wallace. The first cub leader was Richard Webber, assisted by Bob Esseltine. The first cub meetings began in March, 1968, but "Salford I" received their charter in September, 1968. Their flag was donated by the Ingersoll Group Committee.

From the beginning, boys came from the communities encompassed by the three churches on the charge, and the meetings were held in Salford church basement.

Richard Webber and Bob Esseltine continued as leaders in 1969 and 1970, with Richard Longlade becoming an assistant leader in 1970.

#### Scout Troop at Salford

On September 12, 1970, a scout troop was organized under Scout leader Richard Webber, with Larry Bartram and Charles Nancekivell Jr. as assistants.

Their meetings are held in Salford school.

The leaders of the cubs in 1970 - 71 were: Frank Webber, Richard Longlade and Bill Meek.

Scouts, 1971 - 72 — Richard Webber, Charles Nancekivell, Larry Bartram

Cubs, 1971 - 72 — Bill Meek, Josie Shelton, Richard Longlade

Scouts, 1972 - 73 — Richard Webber, Charles Nancekivell, Ross Wilson, Brian Maniocm, Steven Wilson

Cubs, 1972 - 73 — Bill Meek, Josie Shelton

Scouts, 1973 - 74 — Richard Webber, Charles Nancekivell, Steve Sadler

Cubs, 1973 - 74 — Bill Meek, Josie Shelton, Ron Wagner, David Wagner, Brian Heron, Barbara Winter, Ken Nancekivell

Scouts 1974 - 75 — Richard Webber, Brian Heron, Steve Sadler, Charles Nancekivell, David Mayberry

Cubs 1974 - 75 — Bill Meek, Josie Shelton, Barbara Winter, Ken Nancekivell, David Wagner, Russell Wilson

William Wallace was elected chairman of the Group Committee in 1969, and has provided dedicated leadership to the Scout Organization since then. The enrollment in 1975 is 36 cubs and 24 scouts.

#### Father and Son Banquet

The first Father and Son banquet was held in Salford S.S. rooms on November 9, 1968 and has been an annual event since then. The number of cubs and scouts has increased and made it necessary to change the location of the banquet to the larger facilities of Foldens Hall.

#### Church Service

A special church service for Salford I cubs and scouts was held on February 28, 1971, in Salford church, and this has been an annual event, alternating between Salford and Foldens churches. In 1971, a Scout flag was purchased.

#### Camping

Most of the cubs and scouts have travelled to various camps in the area, and to the camp at Olean, New York, each year. In 1973, a new camp for Salford I was opened in a woodlot owned by Aubrey Meek, Foldens, and was named Camp Kewantah. In January, 1974, an enclosed truck trailer was acquired (free of charge) from Overland Transport, and was moved to the camp. This has added a new dimension to the camp and made it possible to use it in winter as well as summer.



Chapter 13

MEMORIALS

Bronze Cross and Offering Plates  
in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Nagle by the family

Hammond Organ  
in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Gill, Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson  
by the family

Bible Marker  
in memory of Mrs. John Bell  
by Mrs. R. R. Nancekivell

Communion Table  
in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Peck  
by the family

Baptismal Font  
in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Will Chambers  
by the family

Picture and Light (Christ the Good Shepherd)  
in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hooper  
by the family

Picture (Grace)  
in memory of Mr. Harley McBeth  
by friends on 1st concession

Communion Set  
in memory of Mr. Harley McBeth  
by his wife, family and grandchildren

Two Vases  
in memory of Mr. R. R. Nancekivell  
by his wife

Candelabra  
in memory of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Nancekivell  
by the family

"In Remembrance" book  
in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Dickout  
by Mr. and Mrs. W. Pearson

One Hundred Dollars  
in memory of Miss Agnes Chambers  
by her sister Miss Willa Chambers

Ten Copies of the Hymnary to Salford Jr. Choir  
in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Woodley  
by their daughter Mrs. Harry Cornell

Light for Organ  
in memory of Mrs. R. R. Nancekivell

Pulpit Bible  
in memory of Mrs. Reuben Nancekivell  
by the family

Tape Recorder  
in memory of Mr. Wesley Wilford, Mr. Leslie Wagner  
by Gladys Wagner Pedolin

Fifteen Dollars  
in memory of Mrs. Bert Nancekivell  
by nieces and nephews

Chancel Cross  
in memory of Walter and Annie Wilson  
by the family

Special Gifts

Pipes for the Choir — Rev. Charles Deacon 1890  
Hymn Book and Bible for pulpit — Misses Julia and Annie Newton  
Bequest from Celeste Hudson Estate  
One hundred dollars, part of which was used to purchase copies of the Hymnary — Joseph Webber  
Pulpit Light and Organ Light — Murray McBeth and Young People  
Two Flower Stands — E. R. Murray  
Flower Stand — Mrs. Bert Nancekivell  
Three Hundred and Twenty-one Dollars — Salford Baptist Church  
Manger Scene — Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Piper  
Bequest - Two Hundred Dollars — Mrs. James Fishback  
Bequest - Fifty Dollars — Mrs. C. L. Lewis  
Bequest - Two Hundred Dollars — Mrs. Evelyn Peck  
Bequest - Five Hundred Dollars — Mr. Chas. Wheeler



Chimes — Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilson  
Piano for Manse — Mrs. Charles Harrison  
Reference Books for Manse — Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Baxter  
A Painting of Salford Church by Mrs. R. B. Cumming — Rev. R. B. Cumming

#### Memorial Fund

Donations in memory of:

Mrs. John Dickout  
Mr. Robert Hutt  
Mrs. R. R. Nancekivell  
Mrs. Harry Banbury  
Mrs. Bert Nancekivell  
Miss Evelyn Peck  
Mrs. Thomas B. Way  
Mr. Charles Wheeler  
Mr. Harry Cornell

Copies of the Hymnary in memory of:

Mr. Wray Piper  
Mrs. Orrie Welt  
Mrs. R. R. Nancekivell  
Mrs. Walter Wilson (Annie)

Copies of The Hymn Book in memory of:

Mrs. Will Roberts  
Mrs. James Fishback

#### MINISTERS OF SALFORD CHURCH

##### Long Point Circuit

1804–06 Rev. Nathan Bangs  
1807 Rev. Henry Ryan  
1808–09 Rev. Thomas Whitehead  
1810 Rev. Robert Perry

##### Circuit Connected With Ancaster — 1811

1811 Rev. Geo. W. Dinsmore  
1812 Rev. Peter Comenhauer  
1813 Rev. John Rhodes  
1814 Rev. David Culp  
1815 Rev. Thos. Whitehead  
1816 Rev. D. Youmans  
1817 Rev. Isaac Summer  
1818 Rev. D. Youmans  
1819–20 Rev. J. Jackson  
1821 Rev. I. B. Smith  
1822 Rev. David Culp  
1823–24 Rev. Dan Shepperdson  
1825–26 Rev. Rowley Heyland  
1827–28 Rev. Wm. Griffis  
1829–30 Rev. Joseph Gatchell  
1831 Rev. Henry Wilkinson

##### West Oxford Head of Circuit — 1832

1832 Rev. John Bailey  
1833–34 Rev. Richard Phelps  
1835 Rev. John Atwood  
1836–37 Rev. James Norris  
1838–39 Rev. Thomas Fawcett  
1840 Rev. Peter Kerr  
1841 Rev. Wm. Coleman  
1842 Rev. Samuel Philp

##### Woodstock Head of Circuit — 1843

1843 Rev. Samuel Philp  
1844 Rev. Rowley Heyland  
1845–46 Matthias Holtby



1847 Rev. Thomas Fawcett  
 1848-49 Rev. Kennedy Creighton  
 1850 Rev. Matthew Whiting  
 1851-53 Rev. Edmund Shepherd (Salford Church built)  
 1854-56 Rev. Wm. McCullough  
 1857-58 Rev. Ashael Hurlburt  
 1859-60 Rev. John Bredin  
 1861 Rev. Wm. Stephenson  
 1862-64 Rev. Wm. Lund  
 1865-67 Rev. John Hunt

**Salford Head of Circuit – 1868 (Salford, Stone Church, Foldens, West Oxford)**

1868-70 Rev. Hugh McLean  
 1871-73 Rev. Thomas Crews  
 1874-75 James Kennedy (Zenda and Newark added)  
 1876-78 Rev. Chas. Stringfellow  
 1879-80 Rev. Wm. Willoughby  
 1881-83 Rev. David Hunt (Beachville added)  
 1884-86 Rev. Hugh McLean (Church Union 1884 resulted in West Oxford and Salford alone)  
 1887-89 Rev. John Hockey  
 1890-92 Rev. Chas. Deacon (Salford Church Built)  
 1893-95 Rev. John Stewart  
 1896 Rev. W. W. Sparling  
 1897-99 Rev. Albert Kennedy  
 1900 Rev. Christopher Cookman  
 1901-03 Rev. T. Webster Kelley  
 1904-06 Rev. John A. McArthur  
 1907-09 Rev. Thomas Boyd  
 1910-13 Rev. W. J. Ellis  
 1914-17 Rev. John A. Neill  
 1918-22 Rev. F. J. Fydell (Foldens added)  
 1923 Rev. Milton Copeland  
 1924-25 Rev. Wm. E. S. James (United Church formed 1925)  
 1926-29 Rev. Percy S. Banes  
 1930 Rev. Selby Jefferson  
 1931 Rev. H. G. Bolingbroke  
 1932-35 Rev. George I. VanLoon  
 1936-47 Rev. Robt. B. Cumming (Zenda replaced West Oxford on charge 1945)  
 1948-51 Rev. Robt. A. Passmore  
 1952-57 Rev. S. Robt. Cooper  
 1958-67 Rev. Albert E. Menzies  
 1968-72 Rev. Wesley Mitchell (Zenda Church burned 1970)  
 1973 (Jan. - March) Rev. Ed. Baker  
 1973 April 1 – Rev. Eric Ramrattan

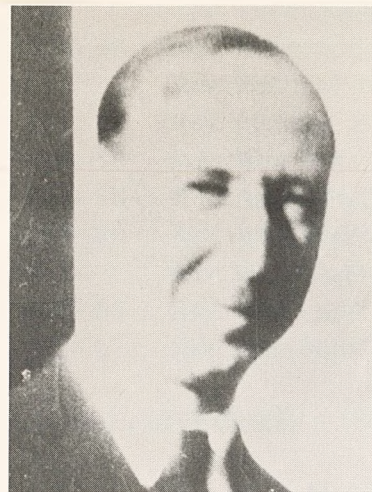
**RECORDING STEWARDS OF THE SALFORD CIRCUIT SINCE 1868**

1868 to 1871 R. A. Janes  
 1872 to 1886 George Galloway  
 1886 to 1907 H. C. Wilson  
 1907 to 1924 Wm. H. Chambers  
 1924 to 1928 A. Newton Chambers  
 1929 to 1931 John W. Dickout  
 1932 to 1934 C. C. Gill  
 1935 to 1960 Fred Peck  
 1961 to 1970 James Somers  
 1971 to 1972 Mrs. Lawrence Durham  
 1973 to 1974 Mrs. Thomas J. Way  
 1975 David B. Daniel

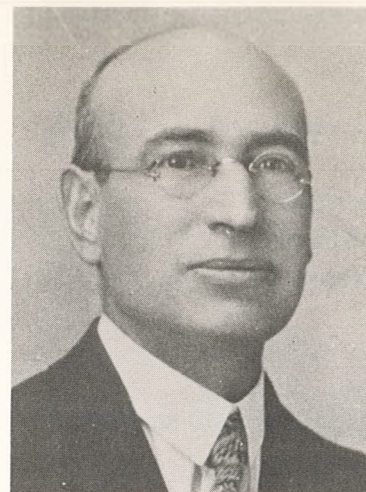
**TREASURERS OF SALFORD UNITED CHURCH SINCE 1925**

1925 to 1928 Thomas B. Way  
 1929 to 1940 Frank H. Gregg  
 1941 to 1955 J. Leslie Wagner  
 1956 to 1964 Ray Sadler  
 1965 to 1974 Everett Wilson  
 1975 Mrs. Homer Hammond

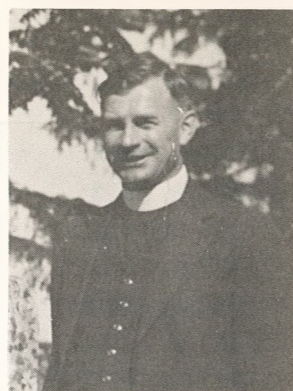




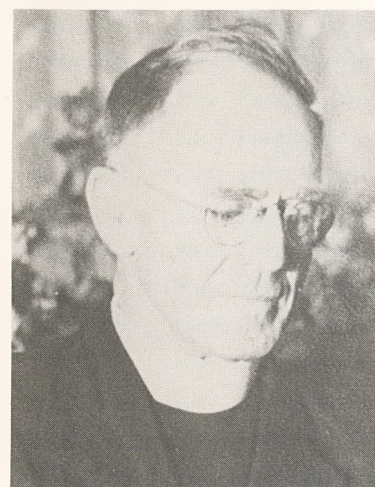
Rev. W.E.S. James, M.A., B.D.  
1924, 1925



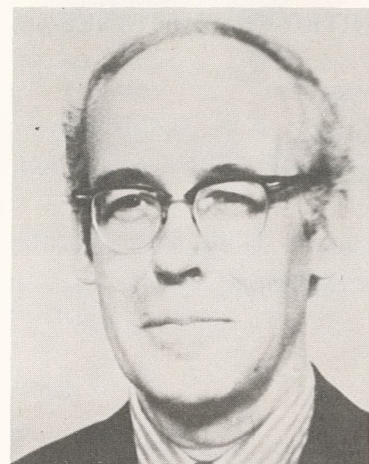
Rev. Percy S. Banes, B.A.  
1926-1929



Rev. G.I. VanLoon, B.A., B.D.  
1932-1935



Rev. Robt. B. Cumming, B.A., B.D.  
1936-1947



Rev. Robert A.G. Passmore  
B.A., B.D., S.T.M.  
1948-1951



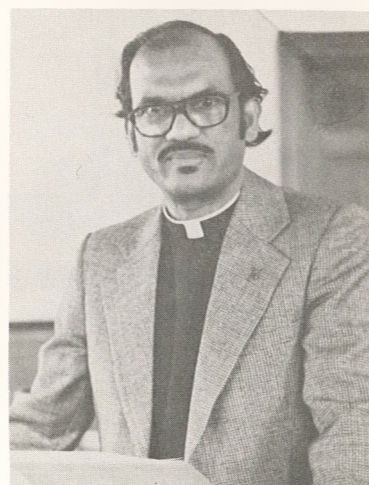
Rev. S.R. Cooper  
1952-1957



Rev. A.E. Menzies  
1958-1967



Rev. Wesley G. Mitchell  
1968 - 1972



Rev. Eric A. Ramrattan  
B.A., M. Div.  
1973 - 1976

MINISTERS SINCE 1925