

ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - EVERSLEY

by

Mrs. D. McCallum

There is no story quite so interesting as the story of the planting of the christian church. The work required great heroism, it was illumined with true romance, it has been crowned with a largeness and a victory of which even the most hopeful ever dreamed. (Souvenir booklet of Rev. James Carmichael D.D.)

The people who found Eversley Church were few in number and not richly endowed with possessions. A small log cabin on the third concession was the beginning. Rev. Henry Gorden (first minister) was inducted in 1834. His charge was King and Newmarket.

Other ministers and missionaries had found their way into King before this. Perhaps the earliest was the Rev. Mr. McDowall who was settled in the Bay of Quinte district. He and a Mr. Jenkins who had settled in the township of Markham in 1820 and a Mr. Carruthers, a missionary sent out by the London Missionary Society near the beginning of the century, visited the homes of the pioneers, preaching the gospel wherever a few families could be gathered together.

Mr. Gorden was transferred to Gananoque in 1837. After a short vacancy the Rev. John Tawse was inducted on March 8, 1837, and served from then until his death forty years later.

When Rev. Tawse failing health made an assistant necessary an earnest young man, Rev. James Carmichael of Carleton Place, then known as Beckwith, was called and in 1860 was inducted as minister of the King Charge, which consisted of Eversley, Strange and West King. He later became Rev. Dr. Carmichael, ministering in the same charge for fifty years, until 1910 and for 6 years pastor emeritus.

The deed of land on which the church stands has been preserved and shows that the price was five pounds of good lawful money. The site was purchased from Joseph Wells, fronting his farm on the third concession road. The first congregation of Eversley held services in a log building which also served as a schoolhouse on week days. Mr. Tawse was both minister and schoolteacher. When a wedding was solemnized the pupils were sent to the back of the room with orders to keep quiet.

The present stone church was built in 1848. Since that time not one of the weathered stone blocks has been removed. The only changes made since that time were the raising of the roof and an alteration to the entrance. The narrow straight pews were closed by stout gates, designed to keep the children of the worshippers from running up and down the aisles during the service. The ministers and the precentor were also boxed in. The high boxed in pulpit and the precentor's box, still higher, were replaced by a more modern type at a later date. Precentor Hugh Mitchell struck the tune with a tuning fork and it was not until 1889 that an organ was installed and a choir organized. Flowers were never used to decorate the church in the early days.

Eversley Manse, long since rebuilt, has remained in the Tawse Family since 1837. Mr. Jim Tawse and his sisters Mrs. Elizabeth Folliot and Mrs. Mina Bridgeman live there. Many years ago the home of the ministers became settled on Keele St. N., King City. The first marriage performed in the stone church was between James McMillan, 32 years of age, and Rose McKellar, 26 years of age, both of King.

In 1877, when Rev. Tawse passed away his body was laid to rest in the cemetery beside the church. In the graveyard are headstones dating from 1837.

Since 1910 the following ministers have occupied Eversley pulpit:-

Rev. Robert Brydon

Rev. A. W. Crow

Rev. J.M. Miller

Rev. James Hagen

Rev. T. L. Williams

Rev. A.K. MacLaren

Rev. M. E. Burch

Mr. R. Boak

Rev. Black

Rev. D. C. Soules

Rev. D. C. Wotherspoon

Rev. G. Johnston

Rev. J. C. Shepherd

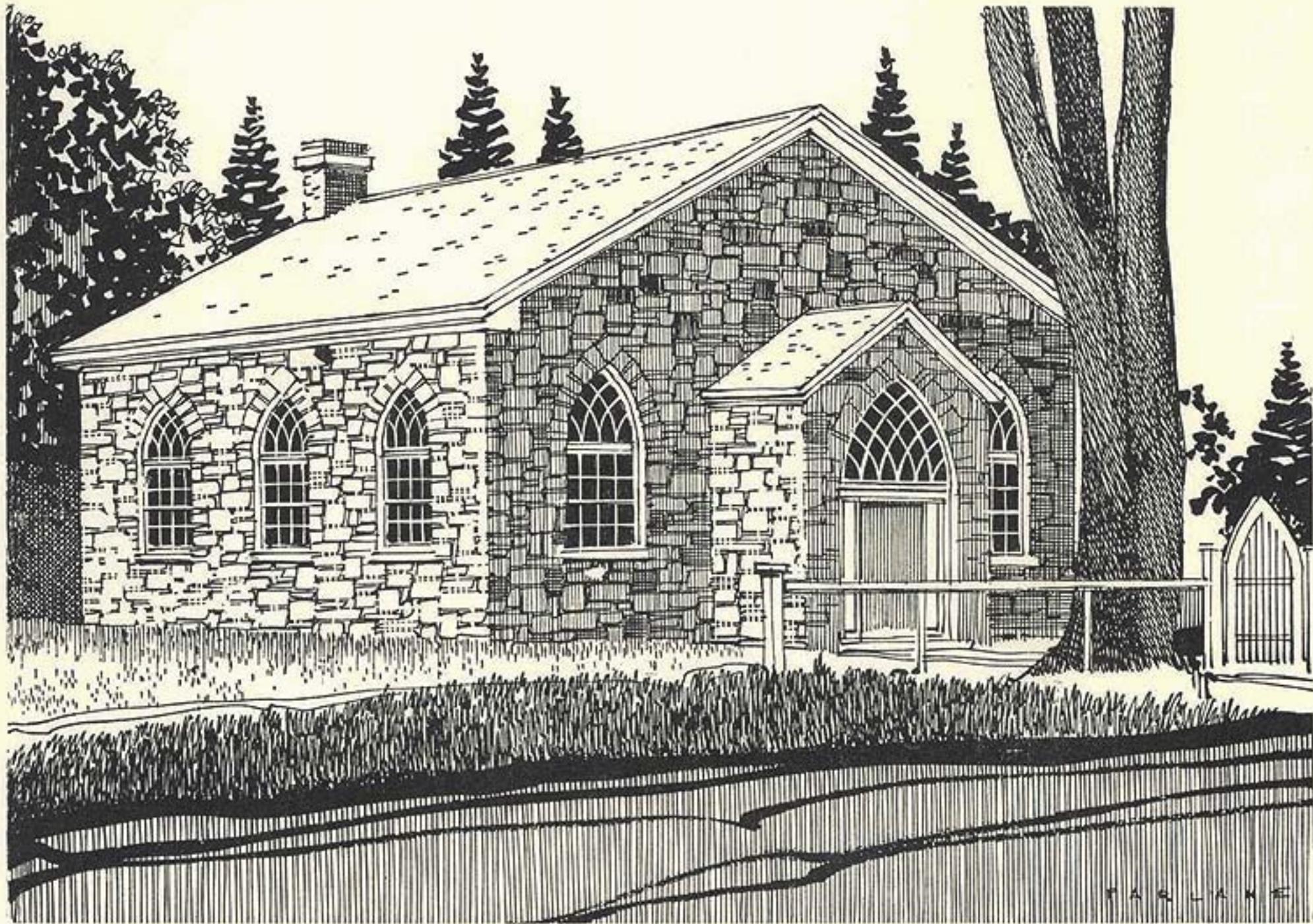
Mr. Bruce Will (a student)

In 1958 this historic building was offered for sale after the members of its congregation had amalgamated with those from Strange to form one congregation, with a new church in King City.

Lady Eaton, who has lived at Eversley since 1919 purchased the 110-year old church and has preserved it for posterity.

"Some of the greatest moments of peoples' lives take place within the walls of their church buildings, their weddings, their christenings and their farewells. The church building becomes precious in their sight and they love every stone." Thus spoke Rev. C. Andrew Lawson, minister of Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Toronto, on Sunday afternoon, June 30th. 1963, when friends and neighbours gathered for the final service in the church their forefathers knew so well.

Reverend G. K. Agar, minister of St. Andrew's, King City, read the statement from Presbytery releasing the little stone building from its use as a Church.



ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH---KING CITY

On June 17, 1958 when the Presbytery of West Toronto met in ordinary session in Morningside Presbyterian Church the Committee on Church Extension recommended to the court that St. Andrew's Congregation, King City be granted permission to erect a portable church on the property adjoining the manse on Keele St. North.

Permission being granted by Presbytery a joint congregational meeting was held at Strange with Eversley on July 20, 1958 to appoint a Building Committee and a Building Finance Committee. Mr. Donald McCallum was appointed chairman of the building committee and Mr. John Tanner, chairman of the finance Committee. Mr. Bruce Will, a student at Knox College was minister of the church at that time.

The manse property was surveyed which comprises of five sixths of an acre. Plans for the portable building were drawn by Mr. David Clark, architect and later trustee of the village of King City. A building permit was granted by council and the digging of the footings was begun Saturday afternoon August 9, 1958 at 4 p.m. The masonry work was done by Alfred Bayliss, local contractor. Precutting of the wall studding was carried on while the wall was being erected.

On Sunday, August 17, 1958 the official sod turning was conducted. The sod was turned by Mrs. Robert Farren of Strange and Mr. Duncan Ross of Eversley. Members of the Extension Committee and Toronto West Presbytery presided. Ministers of the local churches spoke briefly at the ceremony.

The following week centre supporting beams were transported from a farm north east of Aurora. Floor joists and floor panels were in place by Saturday noon. Twenty-nine roof trusses were built in a jig on the floor and wall panels were fabricated at the same time. Roof trusses were put in place the second Saturday evening, August 30, after supper completing the job in time to enable workers to take cover from a thunderstorm.

Roof sheathing was applied the following week and the roofing on the north side. There was a delay of several days due to rain before the south side could be roofed. Then it was accomplished in one evening being completed at 10 p.m. by electric lights. Electric wiring was then commenced and the installing of the heating unit. The water supply line was laid into the church to accomodate the grounding of the hydro service.

The six window units were fabricated in a family car garage, glazed and were installed on Thanksgiving Day.

The overall time of construction from footings to the Dedication Service was eighteen weeks from August 9 to December 14, 1958. During that time members and adherents and interested persons in the neighbourhood worked vountarily many

hours together. They got to know one another better. Many welcome cups of tea and lunches were consumed. Ladies of the church met to paint both the interior and exterior of the church.

In the latter weeks the lights burned later in the evenings as completion for the Dedication drew near.

It was extremely gratifying to all those who had contributed to the erection of the church building to witness a capacity congregation of close to 200 people attend the service of Dedication on December 14, 1958.

The congregation of St. Andrews began the year 1959 with a communicant membership of 75.

During that year the congregation mourned the passing of Duncan Ross, senior elder who had given a life of service to the church of Christ.

In May 1959, Mr. Will, the student minister was ordained in the church. This was a happy moment for the congregation as Rev. Bruce Will had been active in helping to build the church.

As Rev. Will was to leave with his family for the mission field in British Columbia in August a combined congregational meeting was held in May 1959. A call was sent to Rev. Gordon K. Agar of Tisdale, Saskatchewan and was accepted. Rev. Agar was inducted into the congregation on August 28, 1959.

ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SCHOOL

In 1959 when the church school began in St. Andrew's new church there were 28 scholars enrolled. Mr. L. E. Siverns was the Church School Superintendent and Mrs. Fred Curtis the Secretary. In the years following the number of scholars doubled in attendance making it necessary for the occupation of St. Andrew's Church house in 1963. Mr. John Tanner was the Church School Superintendent in 1967.

ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -- KING CITY

On January 24, 1960 the congregation was honoured by the visitation of the Right Rev. Alex Nimmo, D.D. moderator of the General Assembly.

In June 1961, Mr. L. E. Siverns, Church School Superintendent, accepted a call as student in charge at McBeth Presbyterian Church, East Selkirk, Manitoba.

The new manse on Elizabeth Grove was completed by the first of November 1962 and the Agar family were moved into their new home.

The old manse was declared for worship purpose; to be used for the church

school in 1963. It was officially named St Andrew's Church house at a Dedication Service on December 15, 1963

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION-- ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH--KING CITY

On January 19, 1959 a group of ladies met in the new St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, King City, to elect officers for a Women's Organization. Mrs. John Tanner was the first president with Mrs. L. E. Siverns as secretary. There were 24, twenty-four, names on the roll call. A kitchen shower was held in the church in February 1959. A Congregational Pot-Luck Supper was held in late April. A bake sale was held on June 66, a corn roast for the congregation on September 11 and the first annual bazaar on November 28th. Mrs. L. E. Siverns became President following the completion of Mrs. Tanner's term of office. Upon Mrs. Siverns leaving for Manitoba with her husband in June 1961, Mrs. Albert Holman became President of the W. A. Following her term of office Mrs. Fred Curtis became President then Mrs. Victor Potter. Mrs. Fred Curtis became President again for 1967.

ST ANDREW'S W. M. S. ---KING CITY

On January 5, 1959, a meeting was held in St. Andrew's Church, King City to organize a Women's Missionary Society. Mrs. Donald McCallum was elected President and Mrs. Charles Gordon, Secfetary. There were thirty-two members and the meetings were held at night in the church.

A life membership certifi cate and pin were presented to Mrs. Bruce Will, the former minister's wife before her departure to the charge in the west.

A friendship tea was held in August 1959 to help raise funds to organize the children's groups in the church.

PRESIDENTS--

Mrs. D. McCallum	1959--1963
Mrs. H. Clegg	1963--1966
Mrs. R. A. Arbuckle	1966--

In 1959 when the Church School began in St. Andrew's new church there were twenty-eight pupils enrolled. Mr. L. E. Siverns was the Church School Superintendent and Mrs. Fred Curtis the secretary. In the years following the number of pupils doubled in attendance making it necessary for the occupation of St. Andrew's Church House in 1963. Mr. John Tanner was the church school superintendent in 1967.

SIGMA - C---St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Boys
(12--13--14)

The purpose of the Sigma - C, is to help boys discover that the full scope and goal of their life ^{is} found in Jesus Christ. The activities they do are all related to the teachings of the Bible and the Christian Faith.

The first meeting of the group was held November 2, 1959. Mr. Victor Potter was the Christian Guide (C.G.) of the group. The first members were Russel Arbuckle, Ron Clegg, Larry Graham and Brian Forsythe.

Upon completing four successive meetings and learning the meaning of Sigma - C, the personal aim Philippians 3-14 and making a personal octagon the boys passed their new members vow and recieved their family initial. On January 18, 1960 these boys passed their halfway mark consisting of the sports and church areas.

The Sigma - C Group was held until 1964 when as the average age of boys in the 1964 group were below the Sigm - C requirements made it necessary to discontinue the meetings for that year.

ST. ANDREWS C. G. I. T.

The opening meeting of St. Andrew's C.G.I.T. was held on October 27, 1959. Membership included six girls and the two leaders Mrs. Howard Clegg and Miss Betty Arbuckle.

Bible pictures were prepared for missionaries in Africa. Church calendars were sold. Each girl made a towel while learning huck weaving and also learned to make a fancy Christmas candle. A candlelight vesper service was held in December, 1959.

The C.G.I.T. was carried on under the capable leadership of Mrs. Clegg until 1963. Cash on hand at that time was sent to the Treasurer of Toronto West Presbyterial W.M.S. to be used to help train and pay the salary of Miss Hsin-mei Cheng

who was to teach at the Hsin-chu Bible School in Formosa.

CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH

On November 5, 1959 a mid-week group for children aged 6-8 was commenced under the leadership of Mrs. John Tanner and Mrs. William Willoughby with eight children enrolled. This group was disbanded in 1962 because of the lack of children for the age group. All monies were sent to Toronto West Presbyterial.