

# Stamford Lane United Church



United Church  
of Canada

February 25, 2022 - Please consider this a work in progress, it will be edited and updated after June 1, 2025 wait until then to print it so you have the corrections. Thanks, AI

The first European Clergy to see Niagara Falls, Father Louis Hennepin Belgian, Catholic Missionary Recollet priest. December 1697

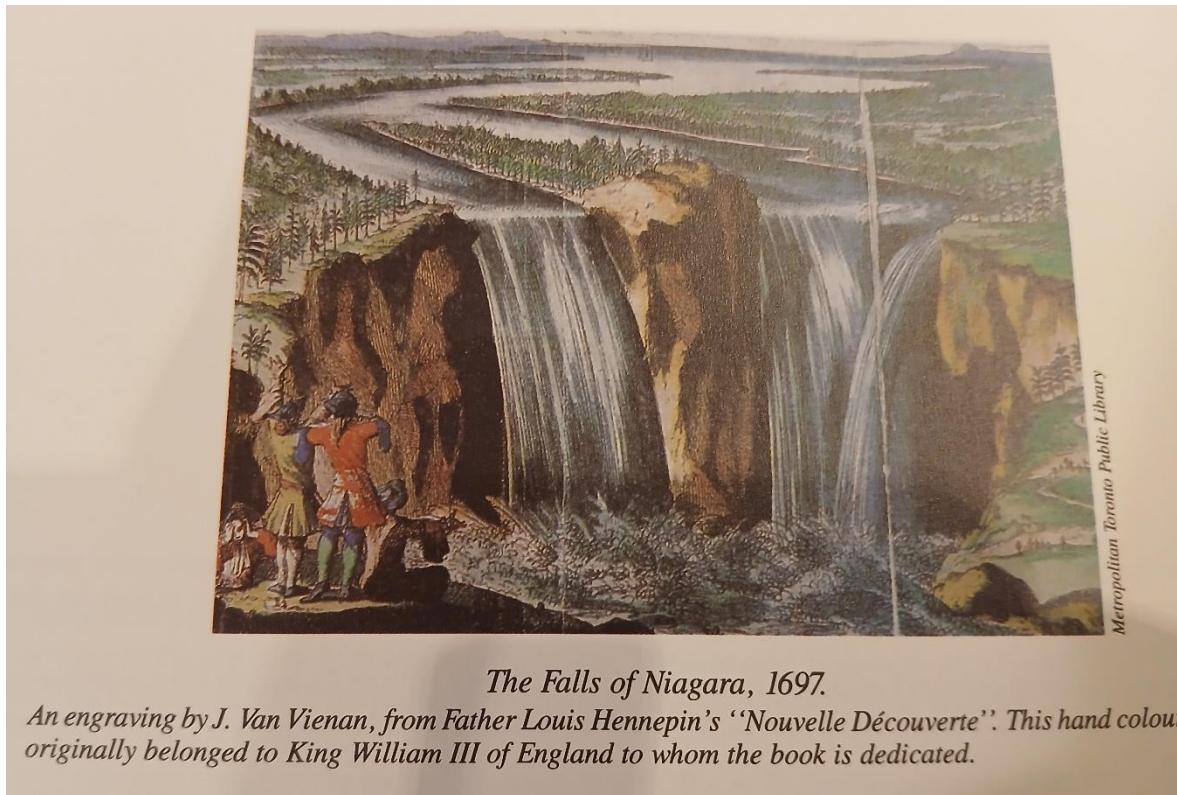
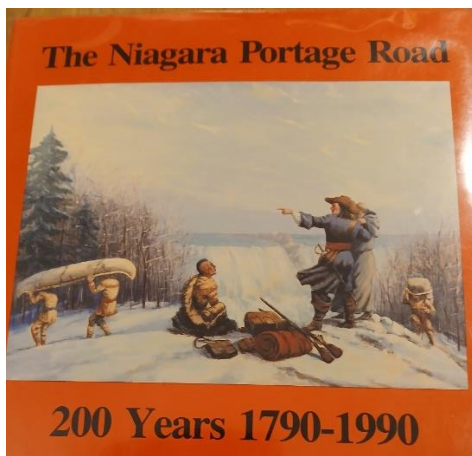


Photo of painting from: The Niagara Portage Road, 200 Years 1790 to 1990. By George A. Scheibel. Pg v. Published by Niagara Falls, 1990



Note: our very own Paisley January Pool at the counsel table. Pg iv



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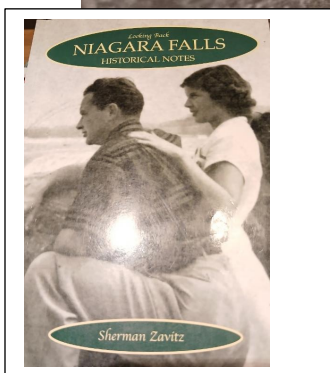




George A. Scheibel book: An impression of the Portage Trail by artist: George Catlin. Pg 2



Photo circa 1860  
inside jacket photo



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until then to print it so you have the corrections. Thanks, Al




Cattle grazing along the gorge by the falls in 1867. Page 9



Zavits, Sherman. Then and Now Niagara Falls, Ontario 2005. Looking Back Press, St Catherines Ontario

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1791	
	
King George III	Governor of Upper Canada John Graves Simcoe

## Constitutional Act, 1791

The *Constitutional Act* received royal assent in June 1791 and came into effect on 26 December. It enshrined constitutional changes that were part of the reorganization of British North America. This took place as thousands of Loyalists were seeking refuge after the American Revolution.

## Province of Quebec Divided

The bill had four main objectives: 1) to guarantee the same rights and privileges that were enjoyed by other subjects in British North America;

2) to give colonial assemblies the right to levy taxes to pay for local civil and legal administration, thus easing the burden on Britain's treasury;

3) to justify the division of the Province of Quebec into separate colonies (Upper and Lower Canada) with their own provincial legislatures; and

4) to strengthen the bonds of political dependency by fixing the constitutional weaknesses of previous colonial governments. This involved boosting the authority and prestige of the governor by making him a true representative of the Crown.

The Act guaranteed continuity of ownership of land held under the seigneurial system in Lower Canada. It also created the Clergy Reserves in Upper Canada.

[Constitutional Act, 1791 | The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)



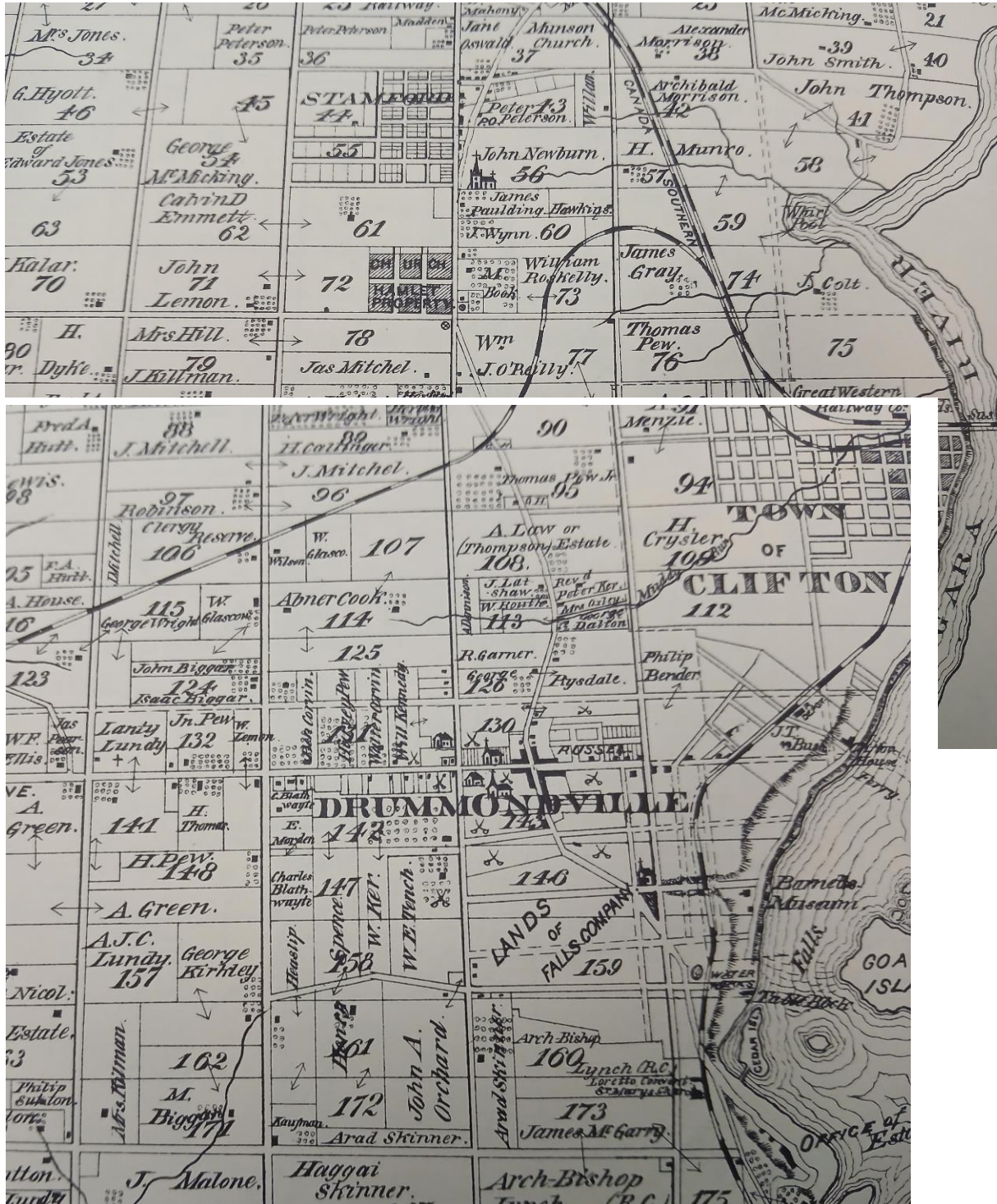
[The Road to Confederation: Canada's Early Struggles and Unity Movement](#)

Note Canada East (Lower Canada) and Canada West (Upper Canada), also notice: Alaska belongs to Russia until Oct 18, 1867



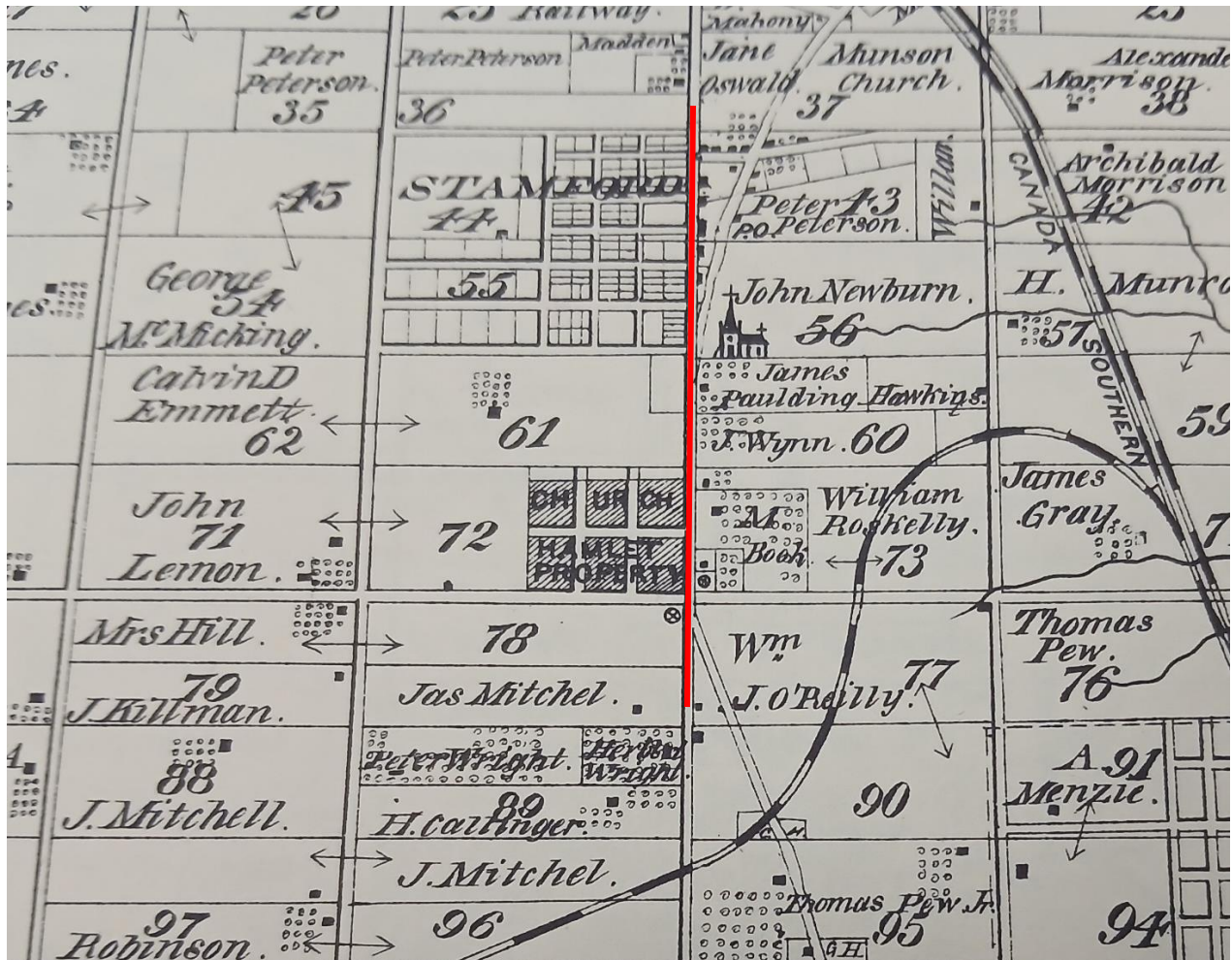
## Town Plan 1791: Clifton, Stamford, Drummondville

Bounded by Queenston in North and Chippewa River in South



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Here is Stamford from the Stamford Green to the 5 Corners



U.S. independence in 1776 forced loyal British subjects to lose their land and move to Canada. These new Settlers in the Niagara Frontier and elsewhere were called UEL (United Empire Loyalists).



The Stamford Presbyterian Church, built 1791 by the Scottish UEL settlers as the first church and grave yard in the township.



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Governor John Graves-Simcoe was Anglican, the survey of land done under his command all included 1/7 clergy reserve for the Anglican Church.



St John's Anglican at Stamford Green

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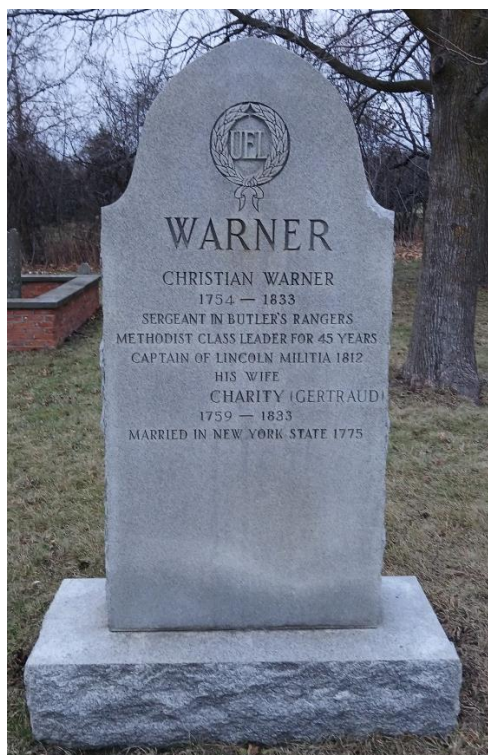
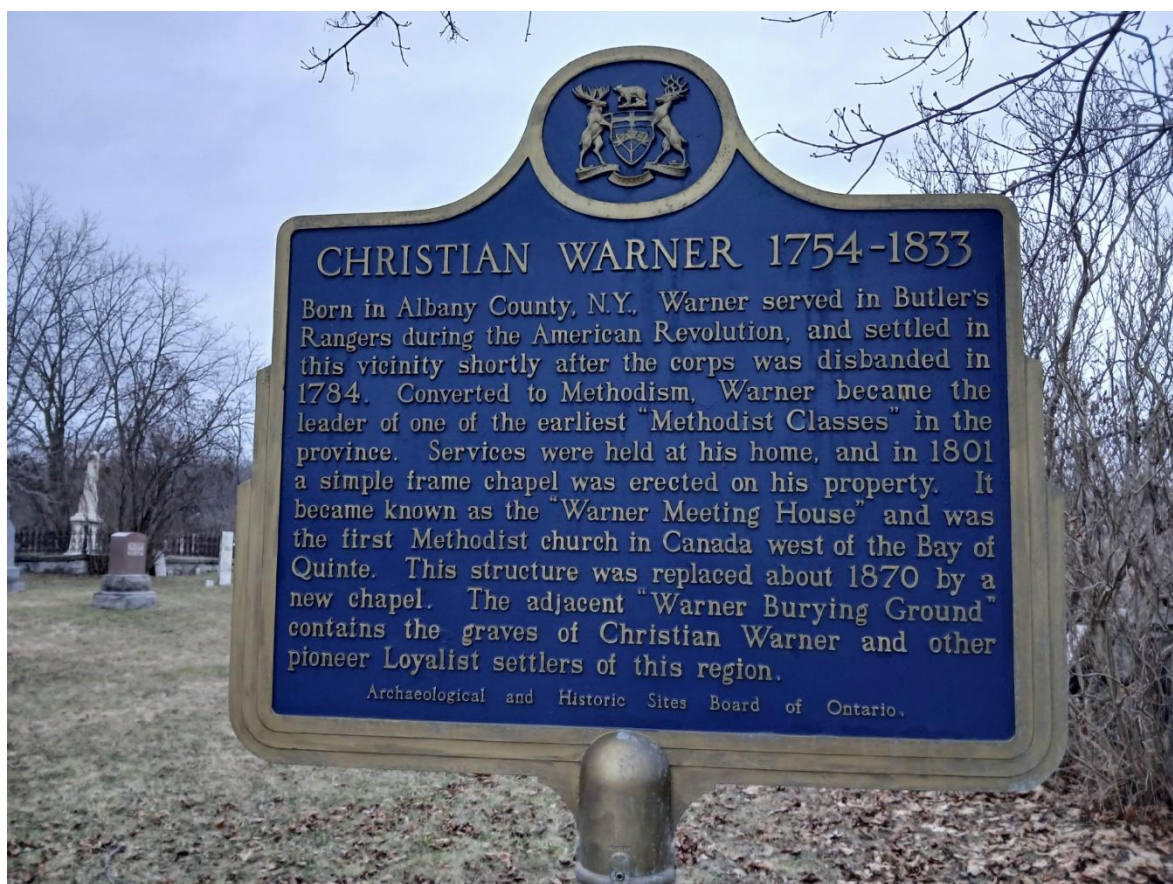
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## Saddlebag Preachers aka Circuit Riders



- Sergeant Christian Warner was a Butler Ranger
- He settled in St. Davids, Ontario
- Pioneer Methodist in Niagara
- Held classes at his home as early as 1788 (continuing for 45 years)
- This marked the beginning of what would become Stamford United Church.





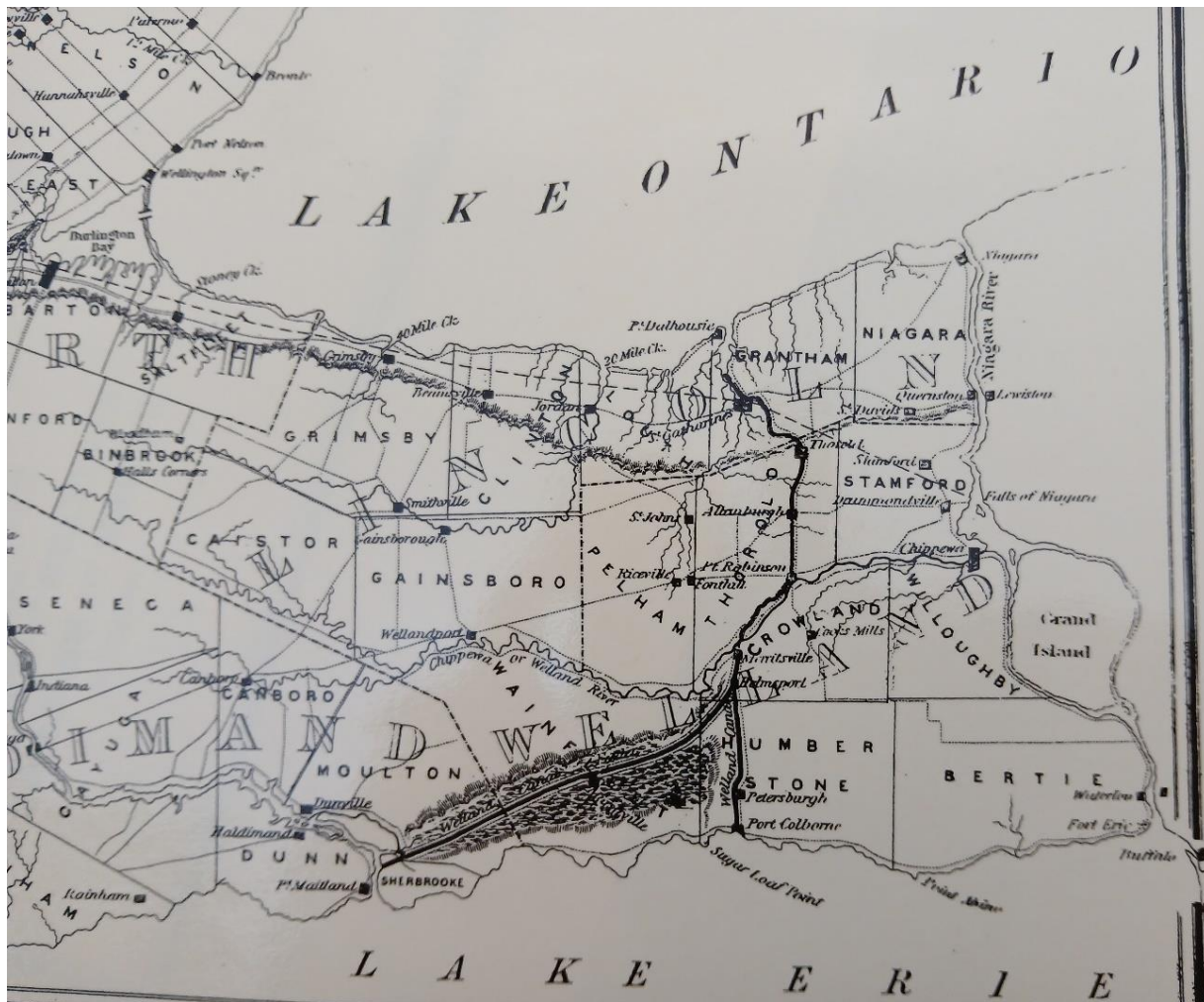
Heritage Ontario sign and Grave marker at Warner Cemetery, St. Davids, Ontario. Photo by Al Steip

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- Wesleyan Methodist Church of Canada was parent church of Christian Warner Chapel
- Influenced development of Churches in
  - Queenston
  - Stamford
  - Thorold
  - Merriton
  - Beechwoods
  - Homer
- 1874 these churches fell under the auspices of Methodist Church of Canada







Reproduced from: Smith, W.H. *Canada: past, present and future, being a historical, geological and statistical account of Canada West*. 1852.  
**Global Heritage Press** Canadiana Map Reprint Series No. 4 ISBN 1-894378-21-0  
 158 Laurier Ave., Milton, ON, Canada L9T4S2 Order Desk: 1-800-361-5168 Online: [www.globalgenealogy.com](http://www.globalgenealogy.com)

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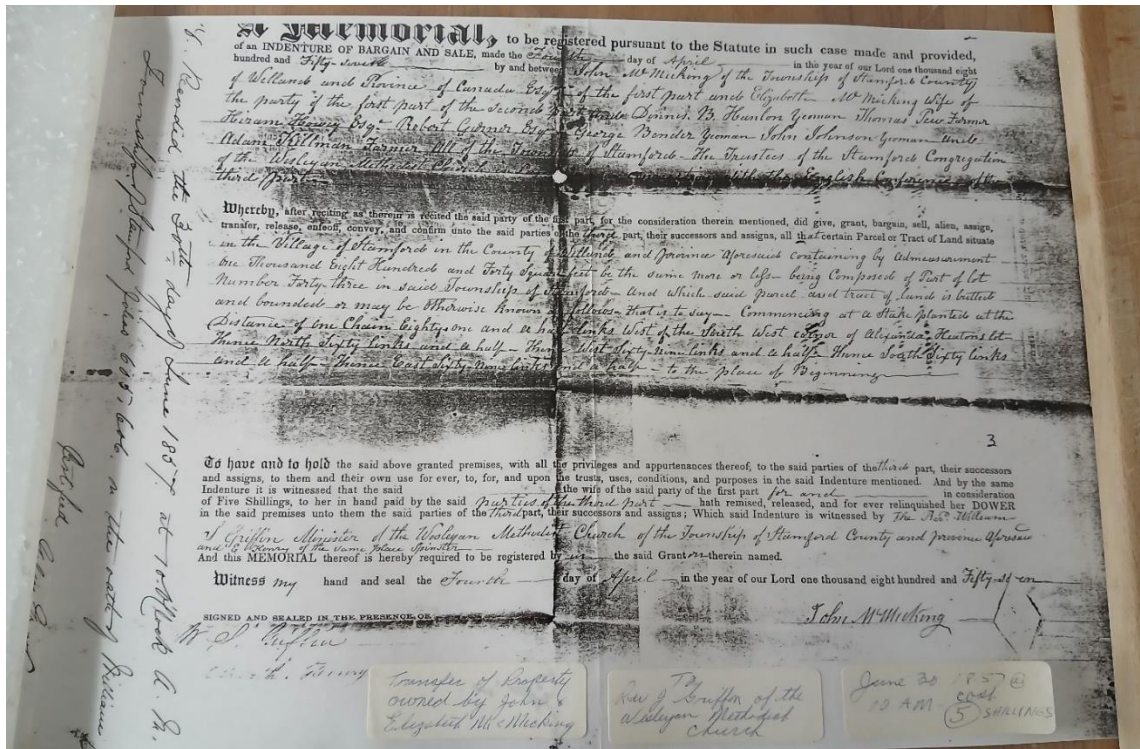
The Niagara Portage Road 200 years by George A. Scheibel states that a Methodist Church was now being built in 1817.



Photo source unknown

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Indenture of bargain and sale made fourth day of April in the year of our Lord 1857 by and between John McMicking of the township of Stamford, County of Welland, Province of Canada Esquire of the first part and of Elizabeth McMicking, wife of the party of the first part.

...of the second part: Dennis B. Hanlon yeoman, Thomas Pew farmer, Hiram Howey Esquire, Robert Gurner (spelling) Esquire, George Bender yeoman, John Johnson yeoman, and Adam Killman farmer all of the township of Stamford—the trustees of the Stamford Congregation of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada in connection with the English Conference of the third party.

Approximately 1840 square feet, part of Lot 43 Stamford Township

5 shillings, Witness rev William S Griffon & E. Henry, spinster

The timing of this land transfer and the notes from the Christian Guardian newspaper demand that the relationship of our church history to this building and land need to be re-examined.

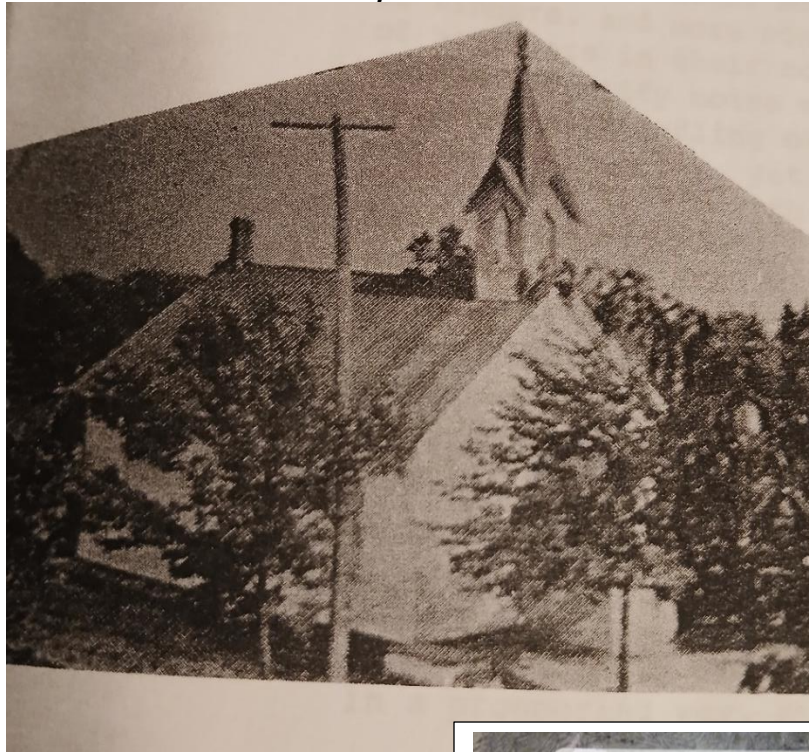
Thence North 60 links &  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Thence West 60 links &  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Thence South 60 links &  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 Thence East 69 links &  $\frac{1}{2}$

This is a historical map of a section of Toronto, Ontario, showing property lots and owners. A red arrow points to a lot owned by Peter Peterson. The map includes labels for 'STAMFORD ST.', 'CANADA ST.', and 'Railway'. Other lot numbers visible are 35, 36, 37, 45, 55, 61, 72, 78, and 77. Owners listed include Peter Peterson, John Newburn, James Paulding Hawkins, J. Wynn, William Roskelly, and J. O'Reilly.

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The Stamford Wesleyan Methodist Church, 3002 St. Paul Street.



House in 2025 with steeple removed. Notice how close it is to St. Paul, as it was build next to a dirt horse trail in the early 1800's.

Photo: Al Steip

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THE HISTORY OF LUNDY'S LANE UNITED CHURCH

NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO

LHC  
287.92  
M938

From the pioneer days of the Methodist saddle-bag preachers to  
the Union of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational  
Churches to form the United Church of Canada

1786 - 1925

BY

KENNETH A. MOYER



Research on the Saddlebag Preachers and the Circuit riders is well  
documented in this volume, found in the historical records at the  
Niagara Falls Public Library

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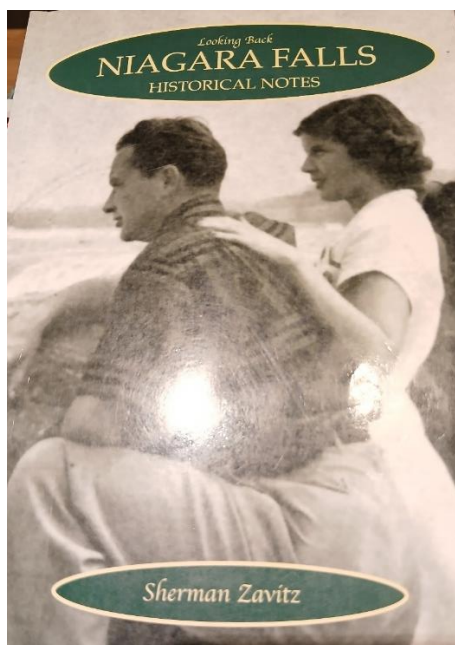
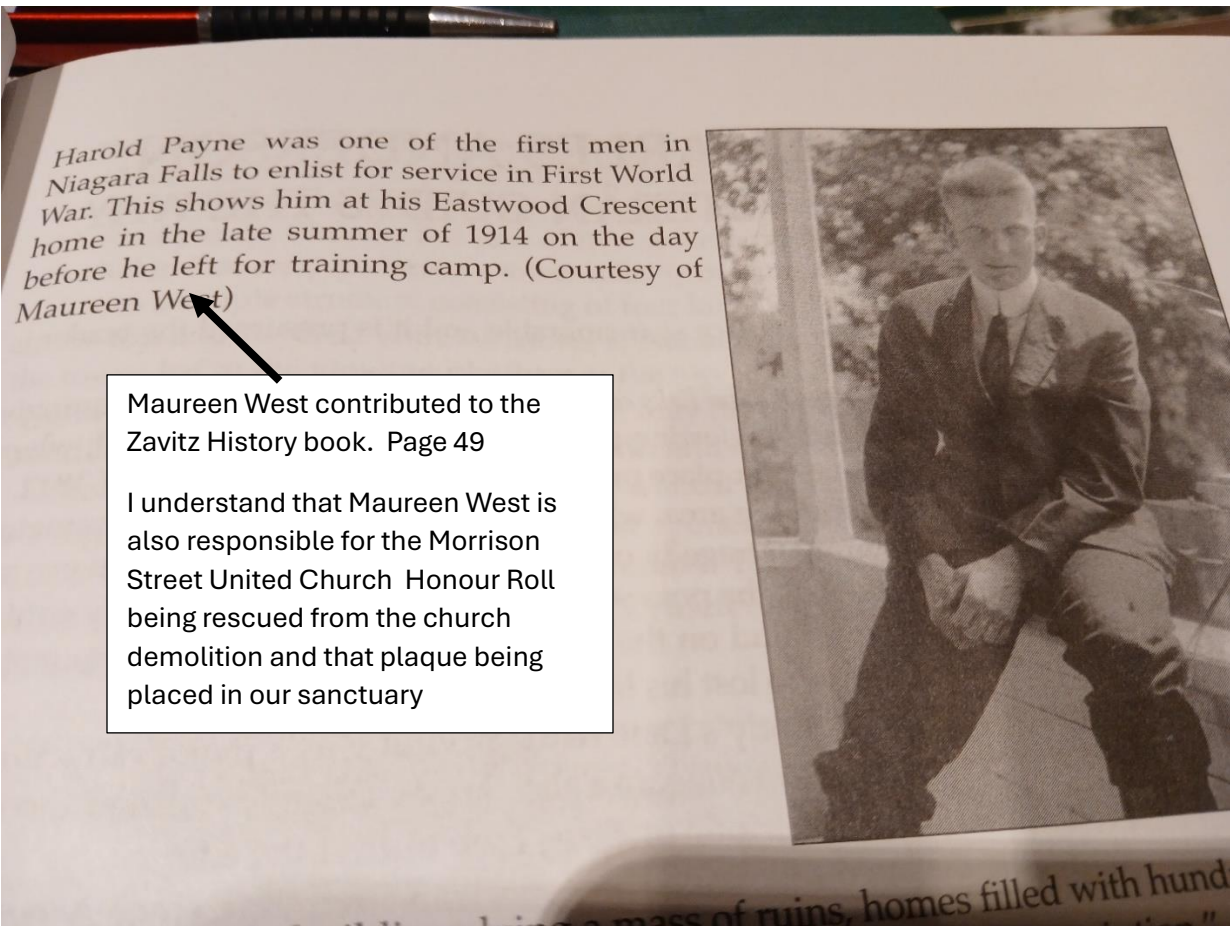


## Confederation of Canada 1867

1867	
	
Queen Victoria	John Alexander MacDonal
<p>The British North America Act received Royal Assent on 29th March 1867 and went into effect 1st July 1867. The Act united the three separate territories of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick into a single dominion called Canada.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="#">British North America Act 1867 - UK Parliament</a></p>	

Manitoba joined: July 15, 1870
British Columbia joined: July 20, 1871
Prince Edward Island: July 1, 1873
Saskatchewan & Alberta: September 1, 1905
Newfoundland & Labrador: March 31, 1949
Northwest Territories: July 15, 1870
Yukon: June 13, 1898
Nunavut: April 1, 1999

## First World War 1914 -1918



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Methodist Church Board and guests from undetermined churches decide to join the union and form a United Church in Stamford Centre. Known as South End, Ontario

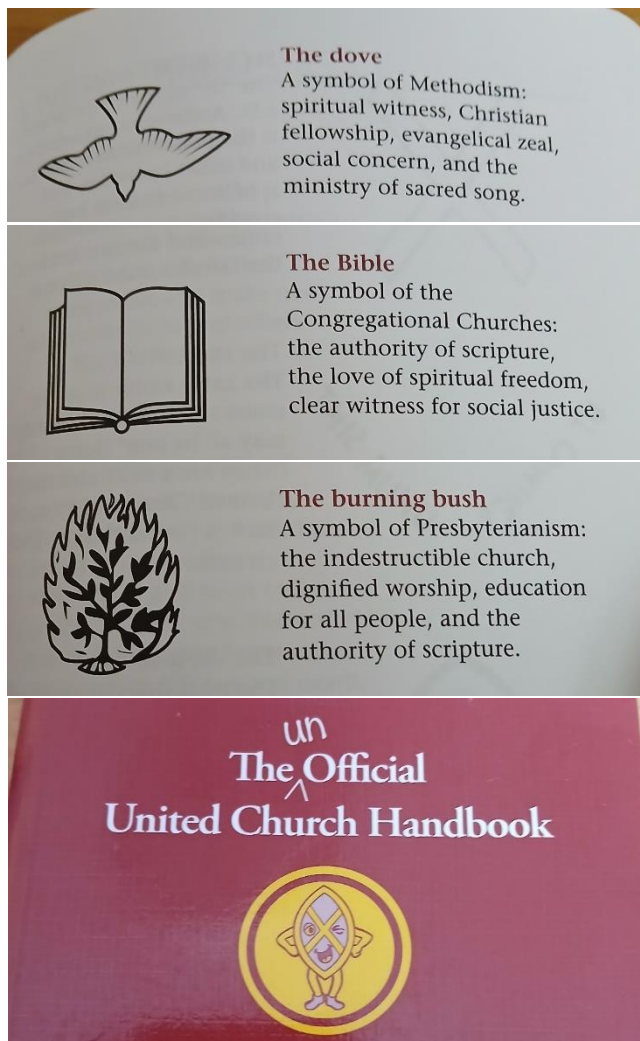
June 1925						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
	1	2	3	4	5	
7	8	9	10	11	12	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

First United Church, Stamford, Centre Ontario  
First Service



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In 1925 the idea of Church Union was developing in Canada. Three churches, the Methodists, Congregational Church and the Presbyterian Church felt they were similar enough to become one church. Thus, better serving the congregations and reaching more people efficiently.



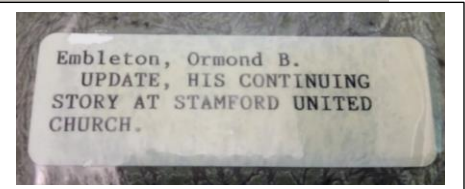


On June 4th, 1925 an enthusiastic meeting was held in the Memorial Hall and a decision was reached for the organization of a Union Church at South End, Ontario. Speeches were made by the following gentlemen - Mr. Hugh Mitchell, James Depew and A.J.Potter, all who were in favour of having a Union Church organized here.

Moved by A.Arrowsmith, seconded by J.Hawken that we organize a congregation of the United Church of Canada at South End, Ontario.

( Moved by J.Hawken, seconded by James Depew to hold their first service of the United Church of Canada at 7:00p.m. June 14th in the Memorial Hall.)

( The Rev. Dr. Hazen of London, Ontario and Dr. W.D.Lee of Thorold, Ontario officiated on this historic occasion establishing a United Church of Canada six days after the United Church of Canada came into being.





My math does not compute with Ormend B. Embelton here, as the calendar I downloaded shows Wed. June 10 as the first United Church service (also the day the United Church of Canada Act came into effect). The First United Church, Stamford, Ontario had its first service on Sunday, June 14 according to the book. This is only 4 days not 6 days after the church union.

In either case (4 days or 6 days), this makes a great argument that our church is one of the first United Churches of Canada to be organized and hold a service after the union.

I found Rev. G.N. Hazen in Strathroy, ON in 1895. Methodist Church - I presume he was a saddle-bag preacher on the London circuit.

Dr. W.D. Lee of Thorold not found yet, I wonder if he was a Reverend and if so, what church he may have represented at the meeting?

1925	
	
King George V	W. L. Mackenzie King
1926 The King- Byng Affair	

F. J. Fydell 1925-1927





F. J. Fydell was appointed minister of First United Church, Stamford Centre Ontario, on July 1, 1925.

At this time, meetings were held at: The Women's Institute Memorial Hall built after WW I, which became known as the Stamford Lions Memorial Hall.



Embleton, Ormond B.  
UPDATE, HIS CONTINUING  
STORY AT STAMFORD UNITED  
CHURCH.

The site today has been demolished and is awaiting a new purpose.

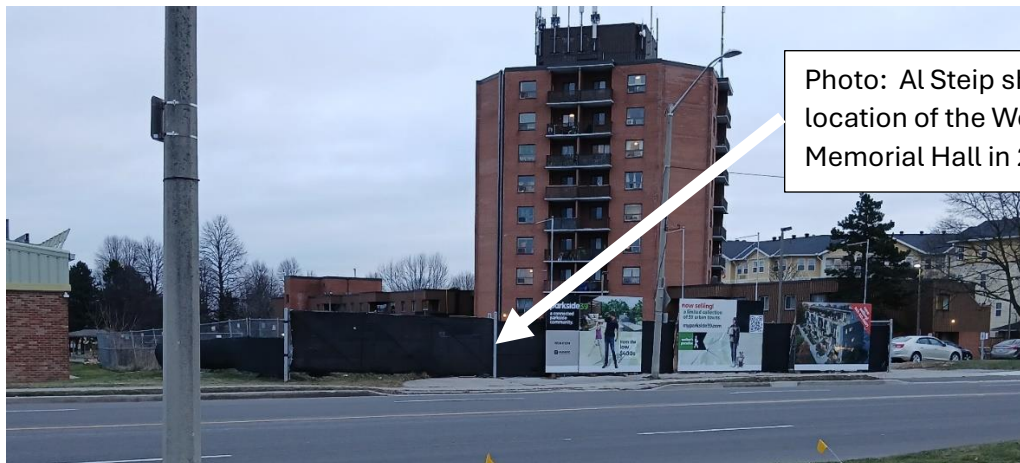


Photo: Al Steip showing the  
location of the Women's Institute  
Memorial Hall in 2025

Reverend Fydell immediately started a building fund. 447  $\frac{2}{3}$  shares were purchased with the promise of 25 cents per month and no reduction in regular givings. 61 people participated.

Embleton, Ormond B.  
UPDATE, HIS CONTINUING  
STORY AT STAMFORD UNITED  
CHURCH.

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On July 9th, 1925, it was moved by Mr. A. Arrowsmith and seconded by Mr. W.R. Boyce that in view of (the new situation arising in our community, we the members of the Board of the Stamford United Church, formerly Wesleyan Methodist Church in a regularly called meeting) do hereby enlarge this Board of Trustees in order to more adequately represent the new constituency.

( Original Methodist Board

Mr. A.J. Potter

Mr. A.E. Arrowsmith

Mr. J.K. Hawken

Mr. E. Leviness

Mr. C.R. Johnson

Mr. W.R. Boyce

Mr. A. Warren

New Trustees added

Mr. Wm. Mitchell

Mr. James Depew

Mr. Peter Hay

Thus the first Board of Trustees to serve our church chiefly consisted of members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church whose history dated back to 1845 making our family tree years of service in this community.

On July 30th, 1925 Mr. Robert Mitchell was appointed to the Committee of Stewards.

Embleton, Ormond B.  
UPDATE, HIS CONTINUING  
STORY AT STAMFORD UNITED  
CHURCH.



1926 Board of Trustees. Photo from our 1927, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program, stored with our 1952 Annual Report. Courtesy Maureen West. Page 29

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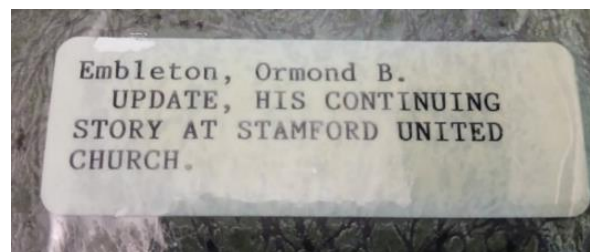
July 31, 1925 this board sent an invitation to the Stamford United Presbyterian Church to join their new church.

"Dear Fellow Workers:  
We make no apology for presenting the following matter for your consideration.  
Believing, as we do, that the Union now before the churches is an endeavor to fulfill the prayer of Jesus that his followers might be one; and believing that it is in the best interests of our community to consolidate the religious forces as far as possible, and further believing that this can best be done by centralizing and building adequately to meet the future requirements of an evergrowing constituency of which we are proud, we would officially ask you to join us while we are still in the preparatory stages, that we may go forward unitedly, and together plan and prepare for the future. We believe that we will be better able to serve the moral and spiritual interests of our own and coming generations in this community through the Union of forces than in separate action, and with greater success extend the kingdom of God and bring glory to His name. In this spirit we make this suggestion.

Peter Hay	C.R. Johnson
Albert Arrowsmith	W.R. Boyce
Robert Mitchell	E.E. LeViness
Albert J. Potter	J.K. Hawken
Wm. Mitchell	James Depew
Albert Warren	
Stewards and Trustees	
United Church of Canada"	

following reply dated

September 7, 1925, a reply states they held a congregational meeting to discuss the matter and decided not to join the union. Thus, Stamford still has the Presbyterian Church and cemetery on St. Paul.

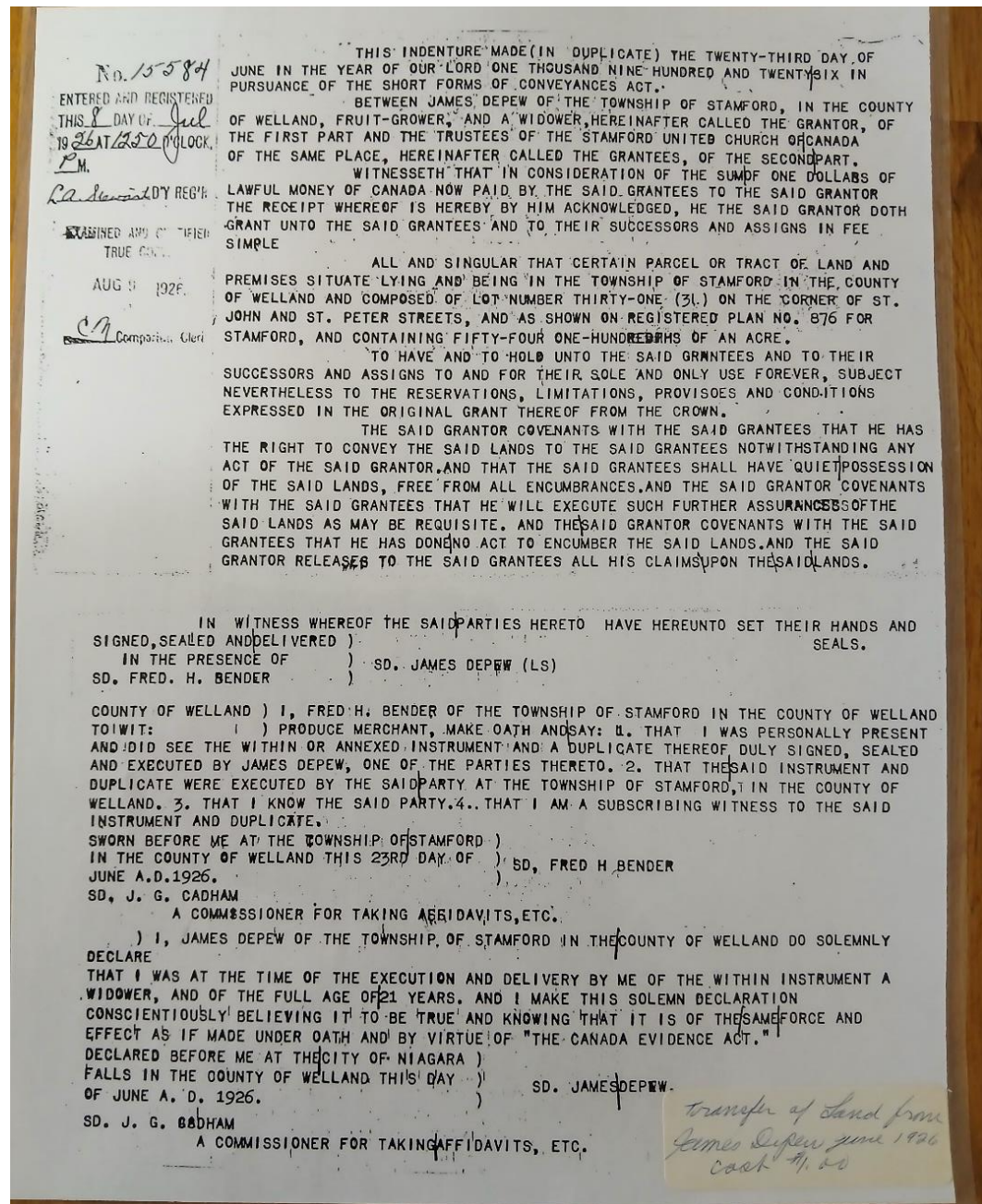


Sometime in 1925, James Depew offered land and \$10 000 towards the construction of a new church.

Francis Petrie, Niagara Falls Review May 19, 1981

1926 a call for plans for the new building went out.

The land transfer took place June 23, 1926. Land cost was \$1.00



Stamford Lane United Church Archives

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Plans of Mr. Aubrey Butler were accepted and work started spring 1926 by: Smith Bros. Construction Company of Niagara Falls.  
Basement was completed in May, 1926.

Wednesday, July 28, 1926 7:30 pm Cornerstone Ceremony

Rev. A. W. Thompson, Westminster Church St. Catharines

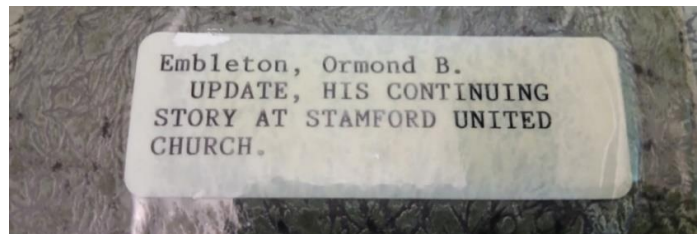
Rev. S. W. L. Horton, Lundy's Lane Church, Niagara Falls

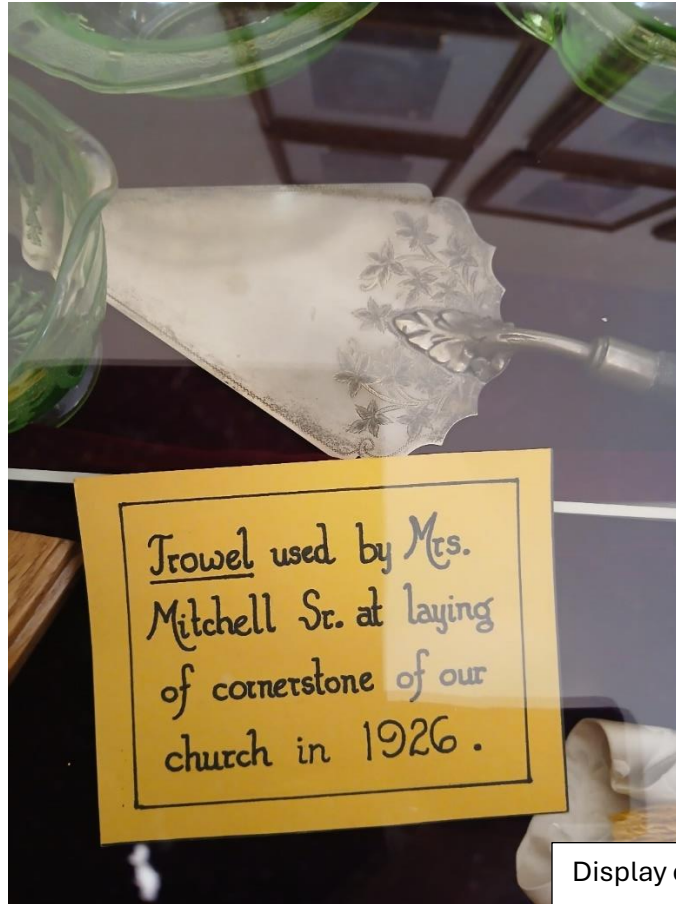
Mrs. J. R. McMicking } given silver trowels to lay the cornerstone

Mrs. Hugh Mitchell } The two oldest members of the Church

Mr. C. F. Munroe -- Reeve of Stamford Township

Placed a copy of today's Niagara Falls Evening Review, Toronto Globe and some other articles in the time capsule.





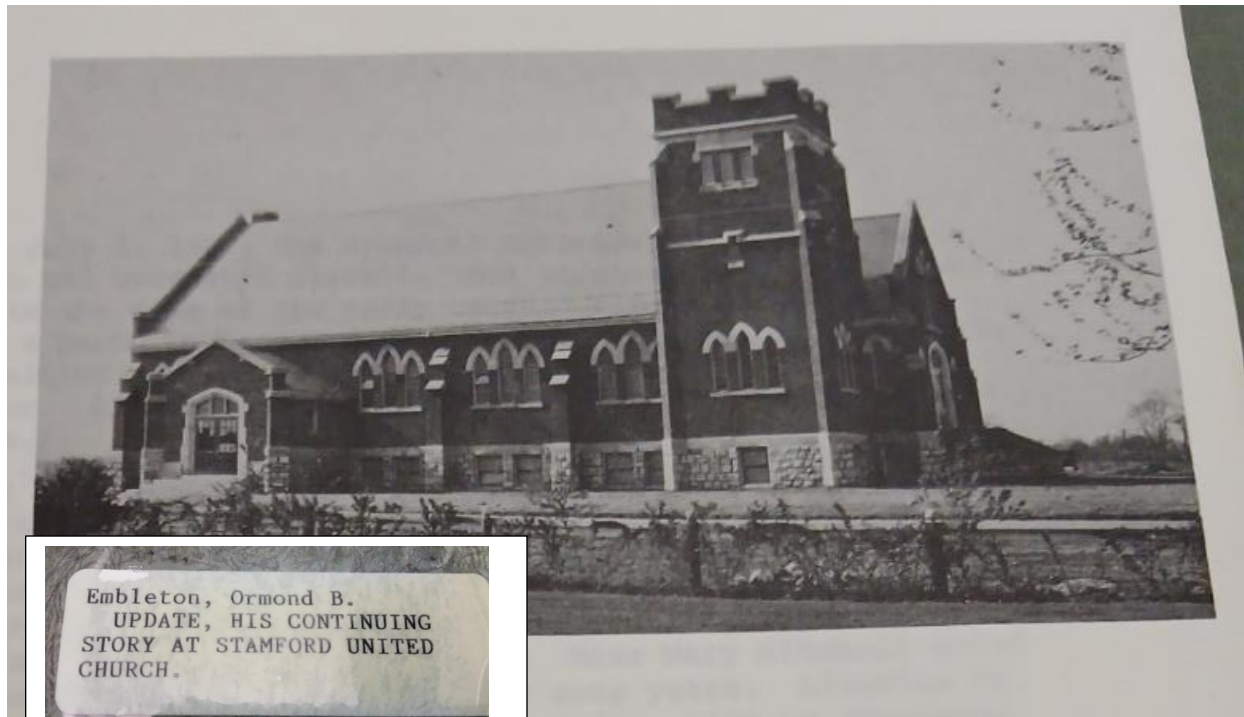
Display case in the Narthex,  
Photo by: Al Steip



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Building shown below right after completion in 1927. Photo in Ormond B. Embleton book.



Please note the lack of large trees on the property in 1927 compared to 2025. Also in 2025, the tower top has been renovated and the Christian Education Wing addition is visible.



Photo by: Al Steip 2025

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F. J. Fydell presided over the opening and dedication services of the new building, which took place over 3 Sundays.

Sunday, May 22, 1927

Rev. J. L. Alexander, President of the Hamilton Conference and from the former Congregational Church spoke following a parade from the Women's Institute Memorial Hall.

Sunday, May 29, 1927

Rev. Dr. R. J. Wilson from the Presbyterian Church spoke.

Sunday, June 5, 1927

Rev. R. M. Dickey of Hamilton, represented the Methodist Church.





's Statement

Expenditures	
Overdraft in Bank Mar 31	255 94
Pulpit Supply .. . . .	238 00
Minister's Salary .. . . .	750 00
Rent for Manse .. . . .	240 00
Rent for Hall .. . . .	50 00
Janitor's salary .. . . .	140 00
Extras for Janitor.. . . .	6 00
Moving expenses .. . . .	50 00
Presentation to Mr. Fydell	100 00
Lawn seed .. . . .	9 33
Interest and Insurance ..	380 27
Programs (opening service)	41 48
Hymn Books.. . . .	49 80
Envelopes.. . . .	29 71
Hydro Electric .. . . .	22 59
Quarterly Statements.. . .	1 50
Interest on Mortgage ....	600 00
Interest on Overdraft ....	2 72
Coal .. . . .	167 75
	<hr/>
	\$3,135 09

1927

Photo from our 1927 Annual Report

# Parade marks 2 anniversaries

*June 1/85*

History will repeat itself Sunday as a banner waving, hymn singing parade from Stamford United Church marches through the streets of Niagara Falls.

Held to mark the 140th anniversary of the church, as well as the 60th anniversary of The United Church of Canada, the parade is a re-enactment of a similar event which occurred Sunday, May 22, 1927.

On that day, church members made their way from the Women's Institute Memorial Hall, Portage Road, (now the Stamford Lion's Hall) where they

had been holding church services, to the newly built sanctuary of Stamford United Church, St. Peter Street.

Now, 58 years later, the congregation and Sunday school will repeat that march in style. Led by antique cars and waving specially made banners, parade members will be decked out in their oldest hats.

All church members, past and present, are invited to this special event. Festivities start at 9:30 a.m. at the Lion's Hall where light refreshments will be served. The church service follows the 10 a.m. parade. A pot luck luncheon will follow.

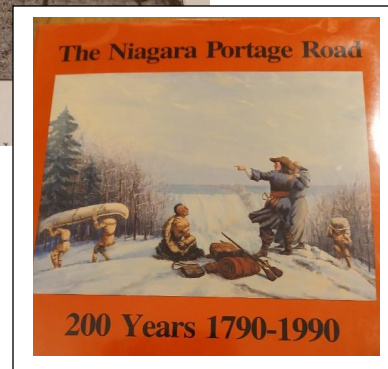
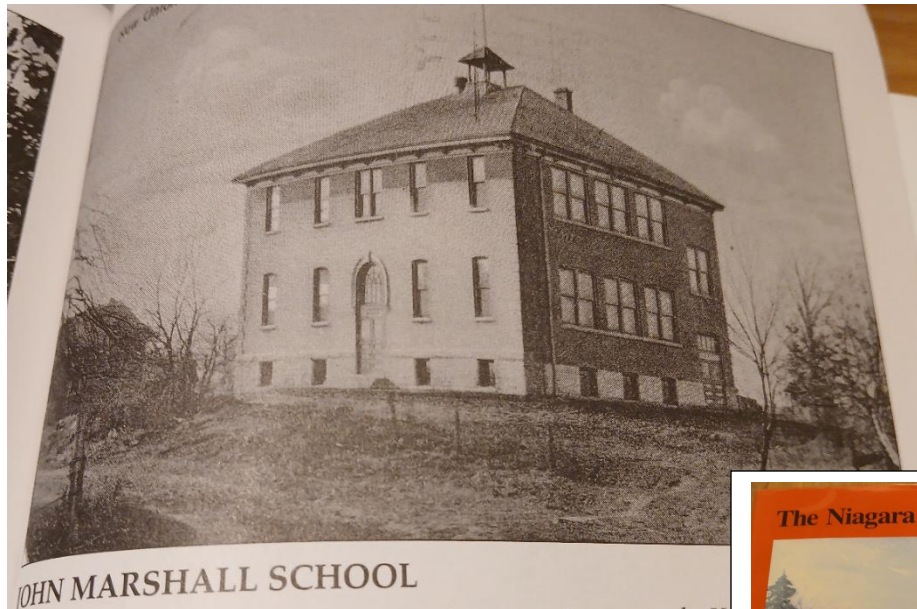
Niagara Falls Review June 1, 1985

Internet records show Rev. F.J. Fydell in Salford, On at the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1918, before Stamford.

He was in Riverside Techumseh, after Stamford.

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John Marshall School built 1909.



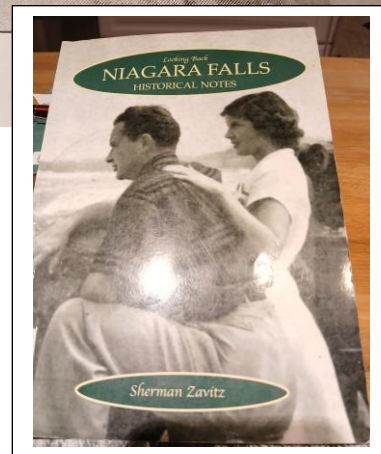
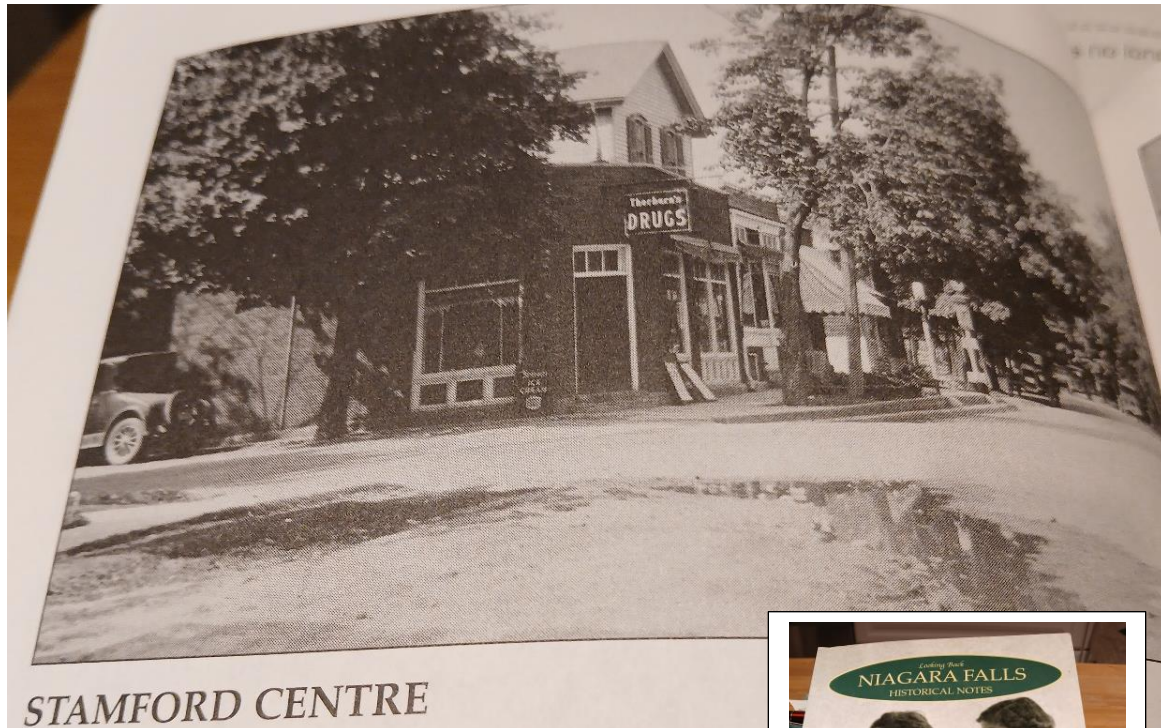
John Marshall 2025



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Five Corners looking North ate 1920's, known as Collards Corners, where M&M and Bank of Nova Scotia is today. Notice: dirt road & Meadows Pharmacy.

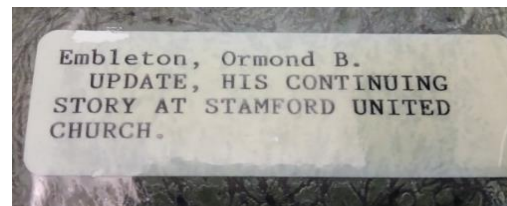


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View of South End, Ontario  
Stamford Centre, Ontario  
- intersection of five corners -  
looking west out Thorold Stone Road.  
The building on right is Collard's  
house and store.



Five corners looking west, you can see the bank. 2025



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## Some Items of Interest

1. The membership of the church in 1925 was 100. In 1951 it was 368.
2. The Church Notice Tablets at the front and the side entrance of the church were made and donated by Mr. A. M. Elkins.
3. The maple trees around the Church property were planted in 1928 by members of the Board. Mr. Arrowsmith often pointed out his tree on the south-east corner of the lot.
4. The first wedding of the Church was that of Mr. and Mrs. W. Meadows in 1927. The minister was Rev. H. F. Dellar.
5. The Pulpit was donated by the Yottometus Club in 1927. Later they also donated the Bible for the Pulpit.
6. The Pulpit lamp was a gift of the Woman's Association in 1935.
7. The small mirror and lamp on the organ, also a chest of drawers for our silver in the kitchen were made and donated to the church some years ago by Mr. J. Oakes.
8. The carpet on the centre aisle and pulpit platform were donated by the Woman's Association in 1935.
9. The Sunday School attendance on April 19, 1931, was 191.
10. Roger Dickson accompanied the piano for the hymn singing in the Sunday School when it was held in the Memorial Hall.
11. The curtains on the platform in the basement were purchased by the Woman's Association.
12. The cupboards in the rear of the basement were built and donated by Mr. J. J. Webb and Mr. C. Beckett.
13. The Guest Book in the vestibule was donated to the church by Mr. W. Olsen and Mr. Jack MacKenzie. The stand for this book was made and donated by Mr. Pineo.

Photo from our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program, stored with our 1952 Annual Report. Courtesy Maureen West. Page 28

1927	
	
King George V	W. L. Mackenzie King

H. F. Dellar

No Photo available at this time

H. F. Dellar served the church for a few months in 1927 between Rev. Fydell and Rev. Graham. (These dates are mine and disagree with Mr. Embelton's which has a chart showing Rev. H. F. Dellar at Stamford United Church for 3 months in 1925) This does not work if the Church Union was June 10 and Rev. Fydell was hired July 1/25 until 1927.

Rev. Dellar, may have been a Queenston Circuit Preacher, who served at the church after Rev. Fydell left before Rev. Graham arrived. At that time the First United Church of Stamford severed ties with the Queenston Circuit on July 1, 1927 with a cheque, and the church became a separate unit of the United Church of Canada. Rev. H. F. Dellar left Canada for work in the United States from Stamford United.

Embleton, Ormond B.  
UPDATE, HIS CONTINUING  
STORY AT STAMFORD UNITED  
CHURCH.

February 25, 2022 - Please consider this a work  
June 1, 2025 wait until then to print it so

Francis Petrie, May 19, 1981. Niagara Falls  
Review



I have found Rev. H. F. Dellar working:

Jarvis, Ontario newspaper says he did a wedding in Port Dover in June 1922

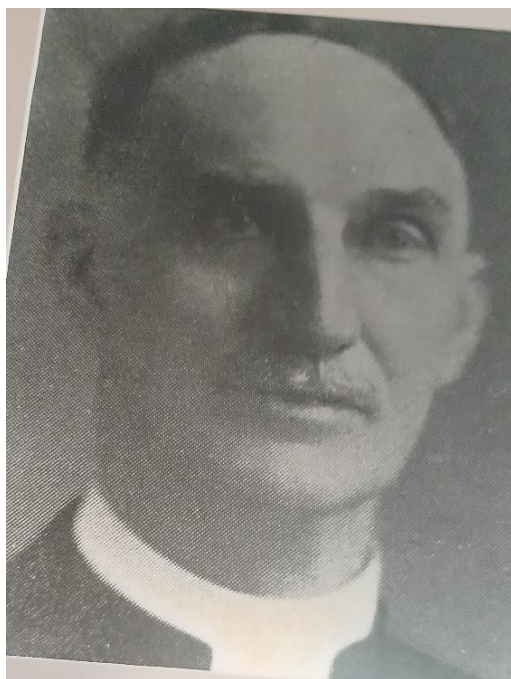
In 1925 he was at St. George United in South Dumfries, Brant County

In 1926 he worked at Trinity United in Kitchener

Also, on the previous page, Embelton states there is a cheque dated June 1, 1926 that may have cut ties with the Queenston circuit. (Page 24) making the Stamford United Church a separate unit a full year earlier than July 1, 1927 as stated on page 15.

1928	
	
King George V	W. L. Mackenzie King
1929-1939 The Great Depression	

A. Graham



Our Heritage wall says 1927 - 1933

Embelton says he started Feb. 1928 (page 15)

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Membership in the church at this time was just over 100 and the depression was causing financial hardship.

The minister's salary was at the minimum.

Miss Mary Mitchell acted as pianist and choir director for gratis for many years starting in 1927. She became the organist when an organ was installed. Mary also led the Mission Band

Mr. Wm Mitchell (known as Bill) carried out the duties of custodian for no remuneration. Bill was also a trustee, elder and steward.

Robert Mitchell was treasurer from 1928 to 1942, also a member of the Stewards and Trustee. He was a member of the session in 1959 and sang in the choir until 1964.

Janet Mitchell taught Sunday School from 1925 to 1963 and sang in the choir until 1951

Mr. A. J. Potter was influential in the Sunday School and helping with expenses passed away in 1929

Rev. A. Graham resigned in 1933 due to ill health.

Pulpit supply was arranged until the end of June, when Rev. W. D. McIntosh was installed.



The first 5 Annual Reports in our archives. Note the annual report of 1927 states it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report. This means we do not have the first two annual reports which would have taken place at the Womens' Memorial Institute before the church was built.

In the Annual Reports from 1927, 1928, 1929

Rev. A. Graham is listed as chairman and

G. Munro is listed as the Clerk

Then, the Annual Reports for 1930, 1931

Rev. A. Graham is the chairman

Rev. G. Munro is listed as the Clerk

Later in the story (1960)



Rev. Gustav Munro made a legacy donation during a renovation.

Plaque in Treasurer office.

1960 Rev Gustavus Munro Pews & Furnishings



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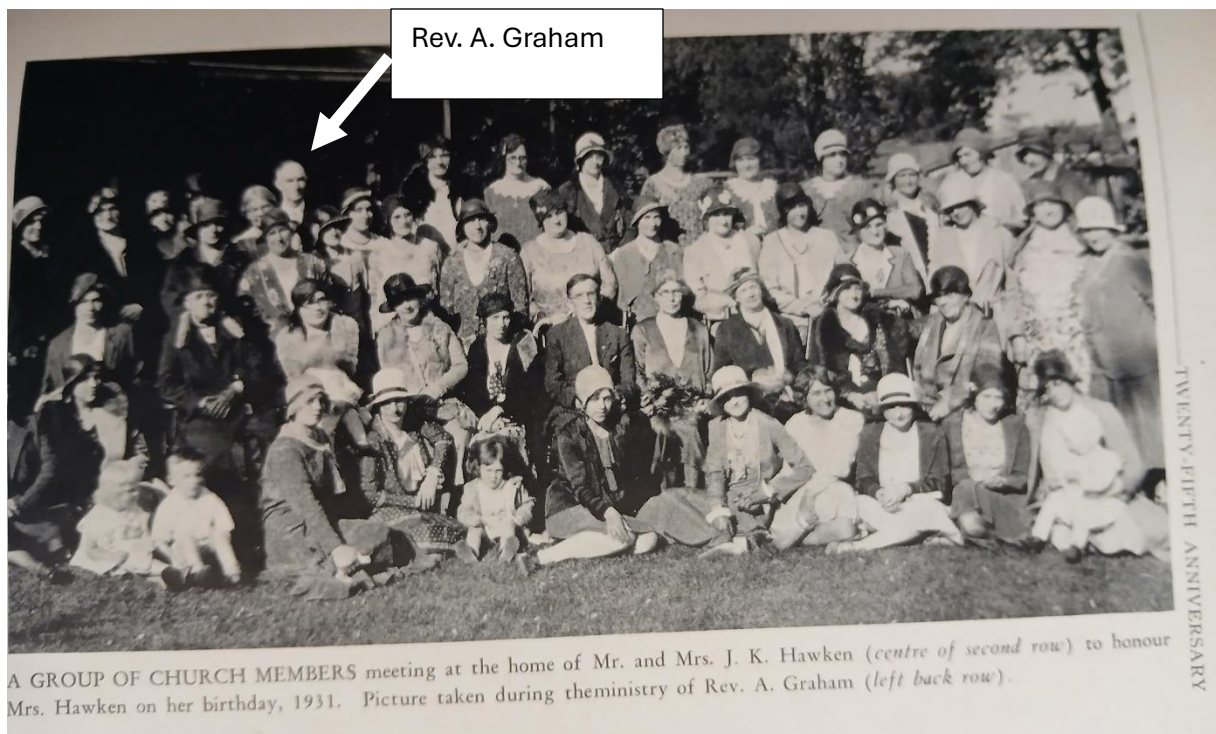




Photo from our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program, stored with our 1952 Annual Report. Courtesy Maureen West.

1933	
	
King George V	Richard Bedford Bennett

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## W. D. MacIntosh 1933-1937



William Donald MacIntosh, born Bruce County 1881 had a conviction growing within himself that "God was calling him to gospel ministry". He went to high school in Port Elgin, then to Queen's Arts then Theology graduating in 1910. He was ordained and installed July 26, 1910 in Sarnia.

Married in 1914, had 3 sons.

In 1924 while working at Knox Church in Milton, he presided over the congregational meeting to join the church union. The congregation voted against union so he resigned!!

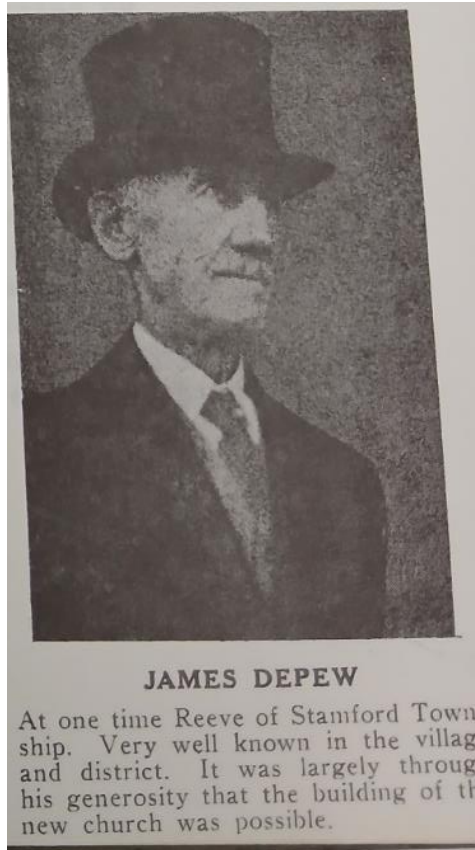
He went to the Methodist Church in Wingham and then to the Knox Church in Embro which was a union of 2 congregations.

He showed "wise and tactful leadership" and was keenly interested in religious education giving the Sunday School invaluable assistance. The young people of the church recognized him as one of themselves.

100 years in the Zorra Church, Knox United Church, Embro, Ontario  
The United Church Publishing House, Toronto, Canada 1930. Ryerson Press.



Mr. James Depew donated an organ and had it installed in 1933.



The organ was dedicated August 27, 1933 with two services.



At the morning service for the dedication of the new organ, it was announced that two memorial windows would be unveiled September 10. One for Mr. Depew's wife Margery McKerlie and one for his father-in-law, Mr. Samuel McKerlie. Unfortunately, Mr. Depew passed away September 7 and never saw the unveiling.

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—TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

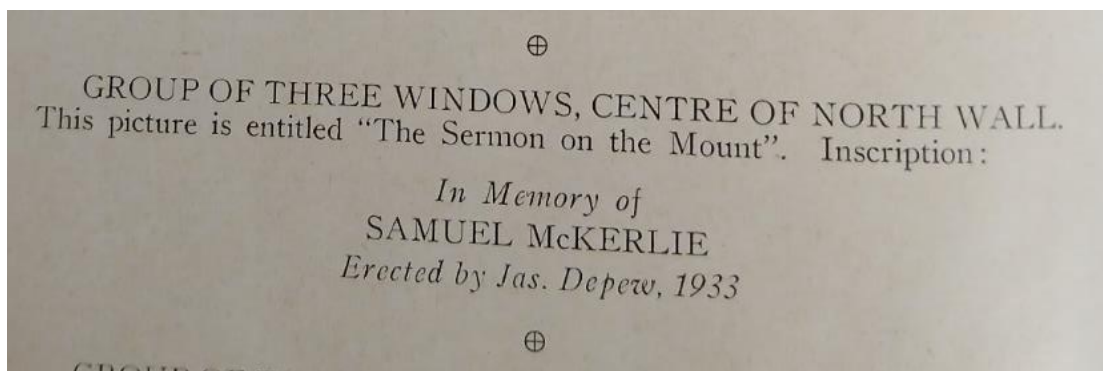
SOUTH CENTRAL GROUP OF THREE WINDOWS. This is  
a picture of the Resurrection. Inscription:

*In loving memory of*  
MARGERY DEPEW  
*Erected by her husband, 1933*

⊕

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Mr. Depew left the bulk of his estate (\$60 000) to the church.

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1937	
	
King George VI	W. L. Mackenzie King
September 3, 1939 Newfoundland declares war on Germany	
September 10, 1939 Canada's parliament enters war on Germany	
World War II 1939-1945	

R. H. Parr 1937-1941

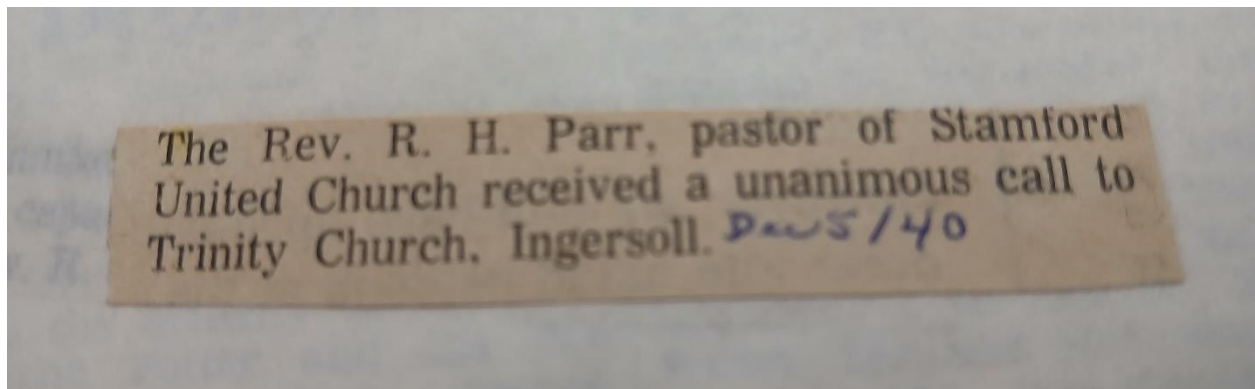


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Rev. Parr began his tenure by working on settling the Depew estate. He paid off a bank note for \$3000 and purchased the Manse from Janet Mitchell the Sunday School teacher. Bill Mitchell had built the home for Janet beside the church.

Rev Parr sold building lots across from and behind the church and sold the Depew homestead to the Stamford Lodge. (Not clear if this was the Masons or a nursing home).

Also, organ chimes were installed while Rev. Parr was leading the church.



Niagara Falls Review

Dec 8, 1940

## Forward to the 1940 Annual Report

This foreward in our 1940 report is not only a farewell message by your minister but it is also a wish and a prayer for your new Pastor, that you will give him the same kindly support throughout his pastorate as you have given Mrs. Parr and myself. During the year, we have received several new members and families. To them we give a hearty welcome into our fellowship. The church has made evident progress in our Sunday School and Young People's Work for which we are truly thankful. Spiritually the members have shown a revival of interest.

During the year, we have said farewell to a number of our boys who have heard the call for duty in the Army, Navy and Air Force. Stamford First United will never forget them. Constantly we shall offer our prayers for their safety and that in due time, they shall come back to us. And that some day, in the near future, we shall enjoy their home-coming by a special service in the Church we love.

Death has visited some of our homes, and members heard the call to enter that Wider Expansion of Life. To all the loved ones we offer our deepest sympathies. We pray that these sad experiences may

## 1941 Annual Report



### A Loan to My Country—A Gift to My Church

To help liquidate the deficit of the United Church the following War Savings certificates have been purchased and registered in the name of the United Church.

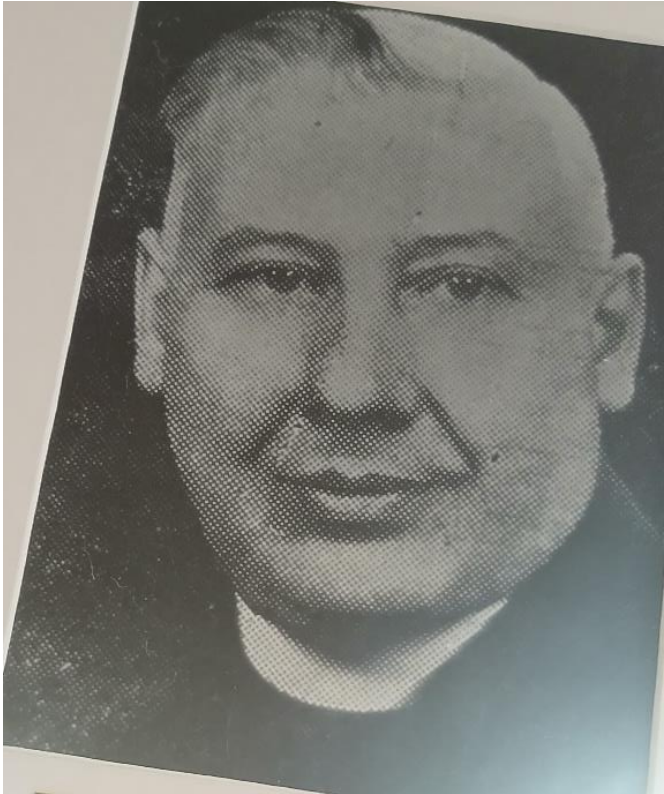
Sunday School—14 Certificates .....	\$ 56.00
Junior Y.P.S.—6 Certificates .....	24.00
Senior Y.P.S. ....	8.00
Woman's Association—2 Certificates .....	8.00
Through Bank—8 Certificates .....	32.00
Through Industry—5 Certificates .....	20.00
Sent in Direct —5 Certificates .....	20.00
Donation (to apply on deficit) .....	10.00
Individual Certificates (28) .....	112.00
	—————\$290.00

It is hoped that we will reach our objective of \$550 by September, 1942.



1941	
	
King George VI	W. L. Mackenzie King
WW II 1939-1945	

F. C. Miller 1941-1945



Rev. Miller finished settling the estate of Mr. Depew.

He started the Bowling Club. This was an indoor carpet bowling club set right behind the sanctuary wall. Imaging the chairs stored under the pipes, behind the wall. This was the carpet bowling alley and the CGIT meeting room.

Before you wonder too much, notice the choir window with two windows in front of the wall and one behind the wall. In the old days, all three windows were behind the sanctuary, making the space back there larger by 6 or 8 feet.



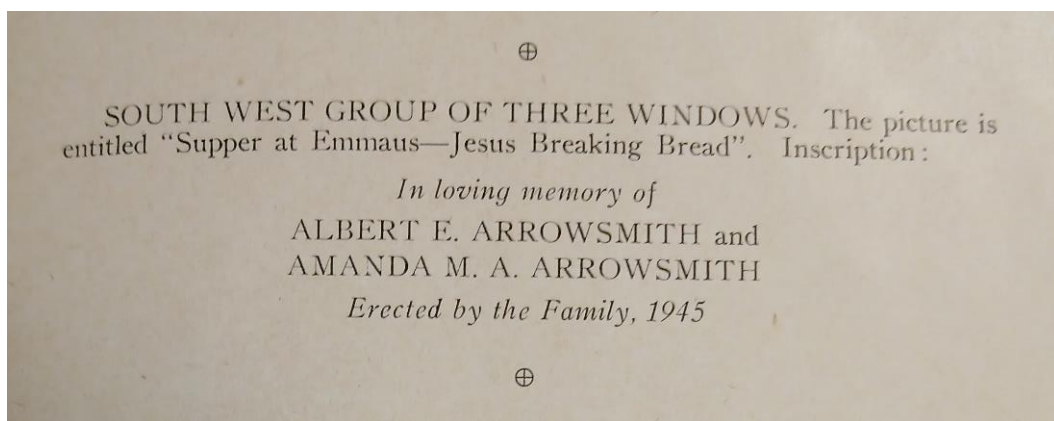
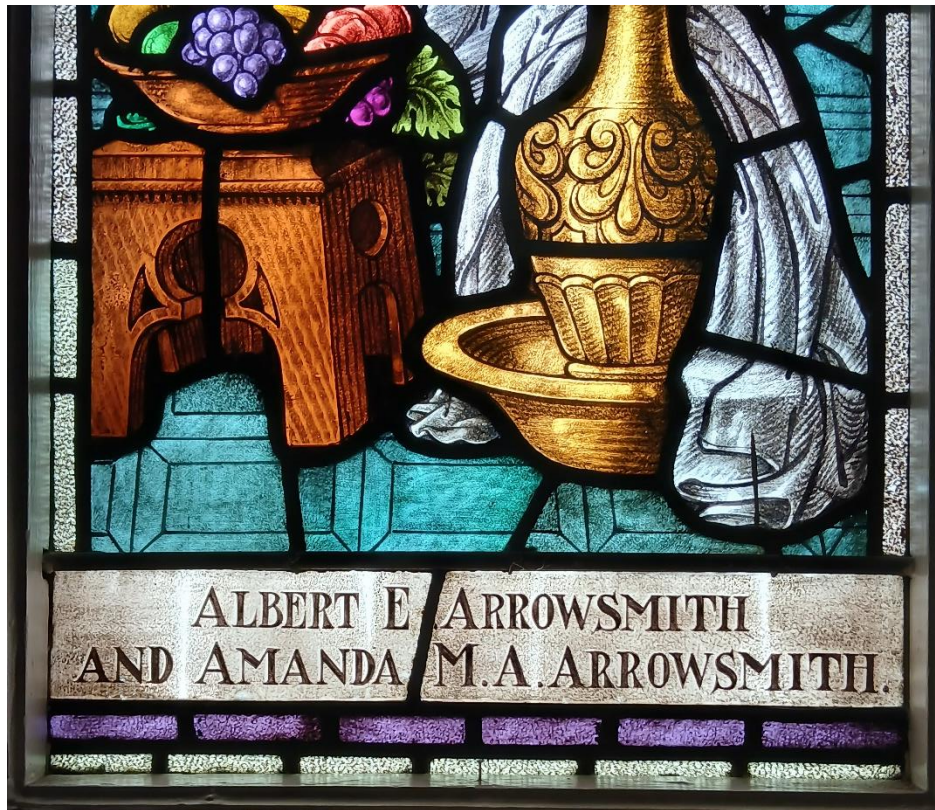
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During his tenure Memorial windows for Mr. & Mrs. Arrowsmith were donated by their grandchildren.





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1945	
	
King George VI	W. L. Mackenzie King
Tuesday, May 8, 1945 VE Day	
November 9, 1945 Canada joins United Nations	
1947 Canadian Citizenship Act: before this all people born in Canada were considered British subjects	
March 31, 1949 Newfoundland joins Canada	

Dr. E. M. Morrow 1945-1951



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GROUP OF THREE WINDOWS EAST OF SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL. Name of this group is "Christ with the Chalice". Christ is in the centre with the Virgin Mary on one side and St. John on the other.  
Inscription:

*In loving memory of  
PETER HAY, Senior Elder  
Erected by his wife and son, 1946*

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# Memorial To Be Dedicated

*Apr. 17, 1947*

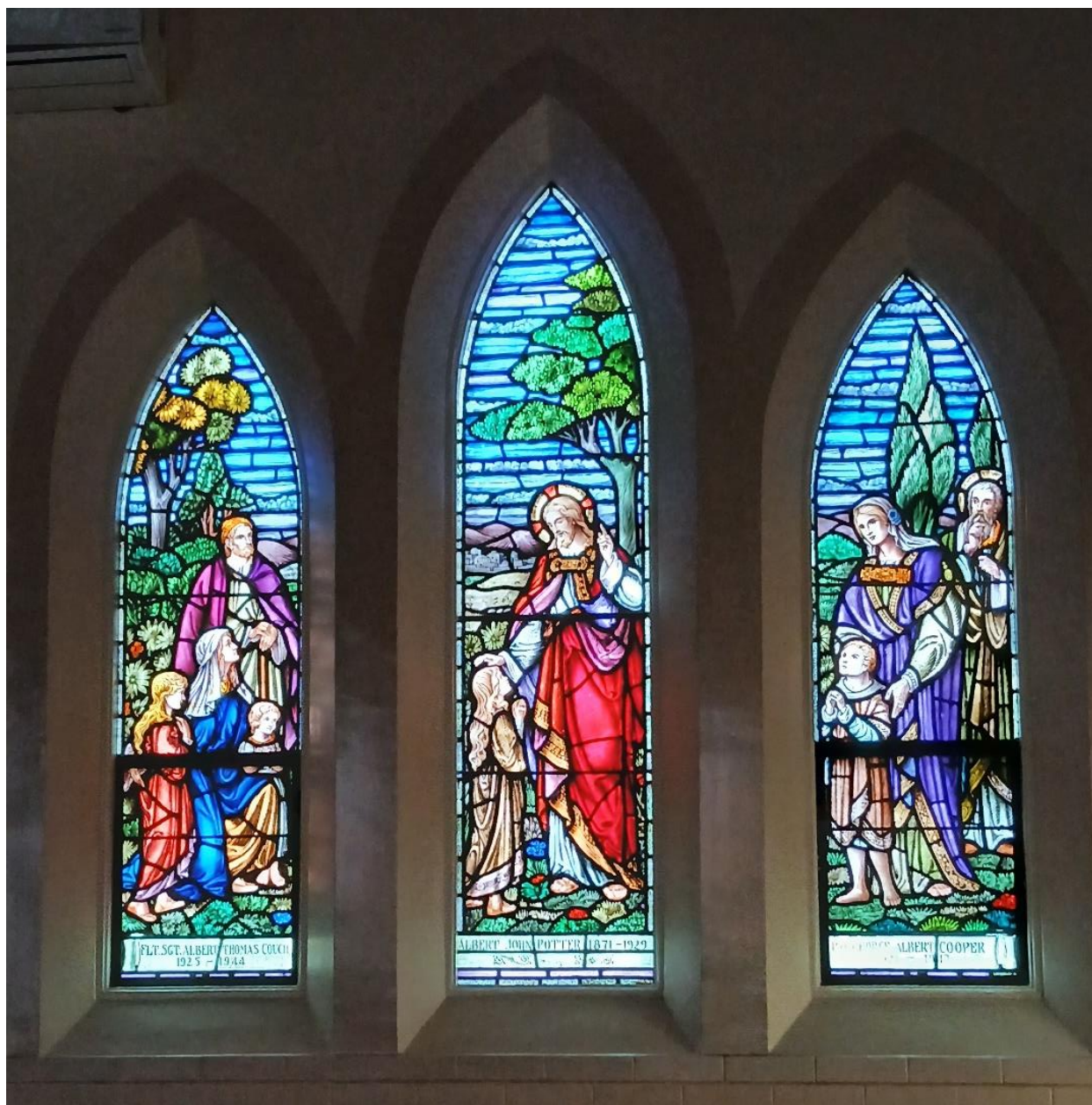
On Sunday, April 20th, at the morning service of the First United Church, Stamford, a memorial window will be dedicated and unveiled to the memory of the late Albert John Potter and his two grandsons, Pilot Officer George Albert Cooper and Flight Sergeant Albert Thomas Couch, who lost their lives while serving with the R.C.A.F. in the Second World War.

The beautiful window, entitled "Suffer the Little Children to Come unto Me", will be unveiled by Wilfred Potter, Jr., elder son of Dr. and Mrs. Wilfred A. Potter.

The late Mr. Albert Potter, who

passed away in 1929, was chairman of the official board of the church for many years, and served on the session and as an elder, trustee and steward. He was superintendent of the Sunday School for twenty years. P.O. Cooper was reported missing in September, 1942, and Flight Sergeant Couch was killed in action on July first, 1944.

In attendance at the service will be the following members of the immediate family: Mrs. A. J. Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard T. Couch, Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Potter, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Potter of Washington, N.J., Dr. and Mrs. Harlan R. Potter, and Mr. and Mrs. Ewart Maidens.



GROUP OF THREE WINDOWS at Extreme North East. A beautiful picture of "Christ and the Children". Inscription:

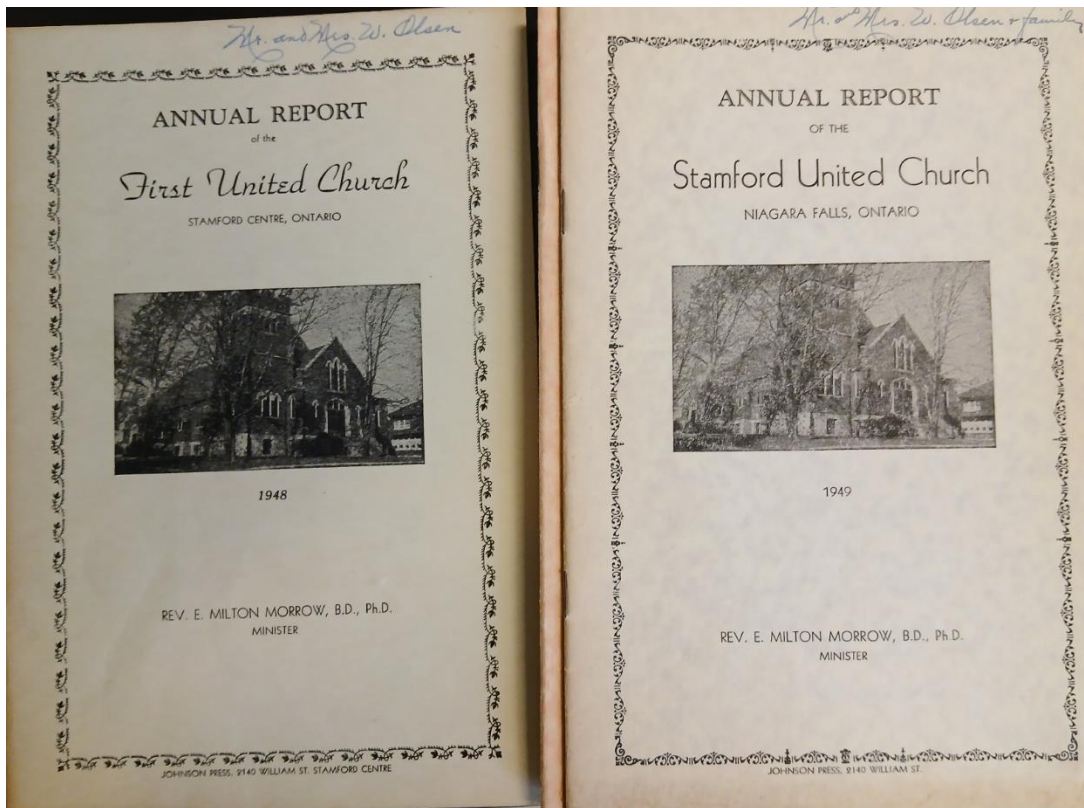
Flt. Sgt. Albert Thomas Couch, 1925-1944.

Albert John Potter, 1871-1929.

P.O. George Albert Cooper, 1921-1942.

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Cover of Annual Reports for 1948 and 1949

Notice the name change.

Research at this time does not reveal the reason for the name change.



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MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS  
of  
STAMFORD UNITED CHURCH, NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.

My Dear Friends :

It is with great gratitude to our Heavenly Father for His presence and blessing on our united efforts in the Kingdom work, that I, here, present your minister's annual message.

Again, let me commend the proven interest of Officials, Leaders of Young People's Groups, Convenors of Committees and others, whose loyalty and zeal have made possible the successes of the past year. To those in charge of our Junior Congregation, we extend our heart-felt thanks. Their splendid work makes it possible for some parents to attend the church services, who, otherwise, would be denied the privilege. We would, also, express profoundest appreciation to the members of our Choir for their loyalty and good work.

One of the most encouraging features of the year is a noteworthy increase of interest in the missionary enterprises of the Church. The W.M.S. organizations show a substantial increase over 1948, while the Missionary and Maintenance Fund is up about \$150.00 (dollars). There seems to be a growing consciousness of the need of supporting the work of the Kingdom both at home and abroad. My dear people, it is a great privilege to work together as co-laborers with Jesus Christ and members of His body here upon earth. Let us earnestly and in His Spirit strive to make our church a centre of Christian friendship and effort for God, and by lifting up Jesus Christ in our hearts and before the world, draw others into the Kingdom. To this end, dear friends, may I entreat some of you to practice a greater constancy in your attendance on the means of grace. Regular attendance at the service of worship will mean much to all of us. Let us place God and His interests in His rightful place, and we shall some day prove the wisdom of it. If we but seek God's blessing upon our personal lives and our church, we shall know the true joy of living.

Finally, I would commend our congregation and all our work to the mercy and goodness of God with the prayer that we may imbibe His precious spirit in sufficiency to meet every need.

Gratefully your minister and friend,

E. MILTON MORROW.

JOHNSON PRESS, 2140 WILLIAM ST.

1948 9



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ON THE NORTH WEST WALL beside the Soldiers' Memorial Window. Two beautiful bronze plaques bear the following inscription:

## HONOUR ROLL

*First United Church, Stamford Centre*

Armstrong, Wayne	Elkins, Donald	Monroe, Frank D.
Bean, Daniel	Ellis, W. Rennie	Moody, J. Willard
Blain, Bruce	Embleton, Ormond	Moore, Stewart A.
Caswell, George	Embleton, Earl	Myles, Roger
Caswell, Harold	Fairlie, Norman	Ness, James
Clark, Philip	Gallinger, William	Ness, Alexander
Clark, Harry	Garden, William A.	Newman, Charles
Collinson, Kenneth	Garden, Robert A.	Newman, William
Craig, Robert A.	Gorham, Merton	Palmer, Clarence
Dalby, Margaret	Hay, John A.	Palmer, Neal
Dalby, George W.	Holt, Edgar	Peel, Walter
Dalton, Edwin	Johnson, Hugh R.	Peel, William
Deans, Taylor	MacKenzie, Dr. A. E.	Russell, John
Detlor, Marian	MacKenzie, John D.	Smith, Victor
Detlor, Harold	MacKenzie, Bruce	Swayze, William
Detlor, Hugh	McIntosh, Bruce	Walker, Daniel
Easton, Ralph	McIntyre, Kenneth	Walker, Bert
Easton, Rae F.	Mackie, Alex H.	Walker, John
Eidt, Frank	Misener, John	Warner, Wilfred
Eidt, David		West, Hugh

*Presented by Cecil W. B. Collett in fond memory of his  
Sunday School Class.*





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#### **“THE 'TEEN AND TWENTY CLUB”**

President, Mr. Ray Beckett  
Vice-President, Mr. Ted Galloway

Secretary, Mrs. R. Beckett  
Treasurer, Miss M. Cooper

This Club is non-denominational and seeks to promote a truly Christian fellowship with any young people, who may become interested. There is a membership, at present, of 25 and the attendance is well sustained. The meetings consist of devotional, business, and recreational periods. Toward the end of the year the Club decided to place a beautiful flag before the special soldiers' memorial window in the church. The Board gratefully recognized this gesture and the flag was duly dedicated on Sunday, December 11th.

A membership fee is charged and a collection taken at each meeting.



STAMFORD UNITED CHURCH

## Memorials of Stamford United Church

### STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

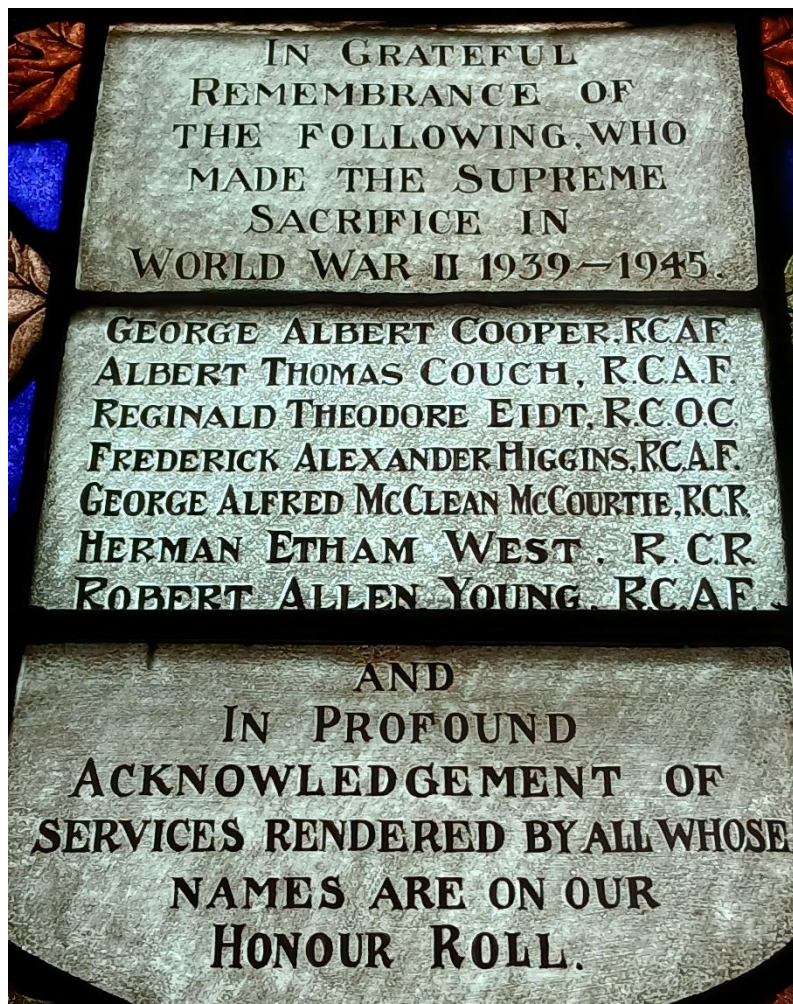
SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL WINDOW, one of the group of three windows on the north-west wall. This beautiful window was put in place by the members of the congregation and bears the following inscription:

*In grateful remembrance of the following who made the  
Supreme Sacrifice in World War II, 1939-1945*

George Albert Cooper, R.C.A.F.  
Albert Thomas Couch, R.C.A.F.  
Reginald Theodore Eidt, R.C.O.C.  
Frederick Alexander Higgins, R.C.A.F.  
George Alfred McLean McCourtie, R.C.R.  
Herman Etham West, R.C.R.

and in profound acknowledgement of Services rendered by all whose names are on our Honour Roll.

*"They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old, age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."*



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1951



King George VI



Louis Saint Laurent

H. C. Linstead 1951-1958



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Notice the different entrance, this was a renovation done to accommodate the elevator in 1988

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The Christian Education Wing added classrooms for the church school, a gym and a kitchen.

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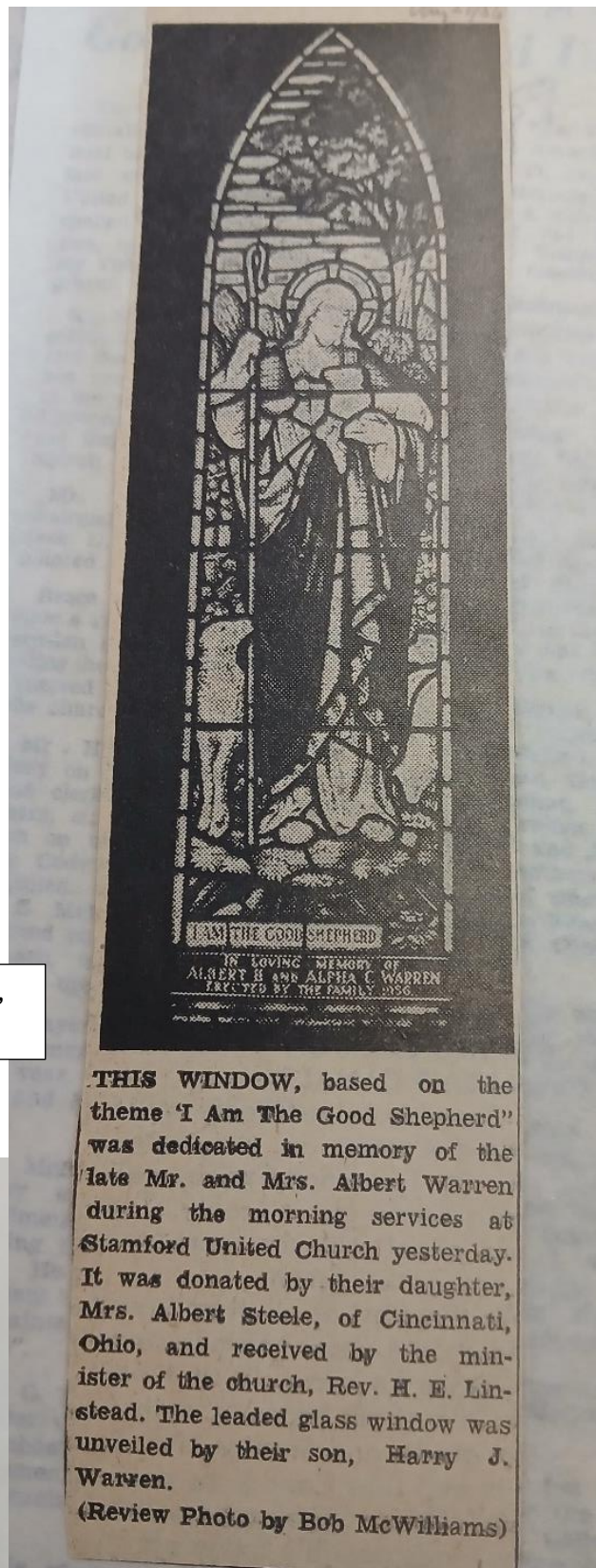


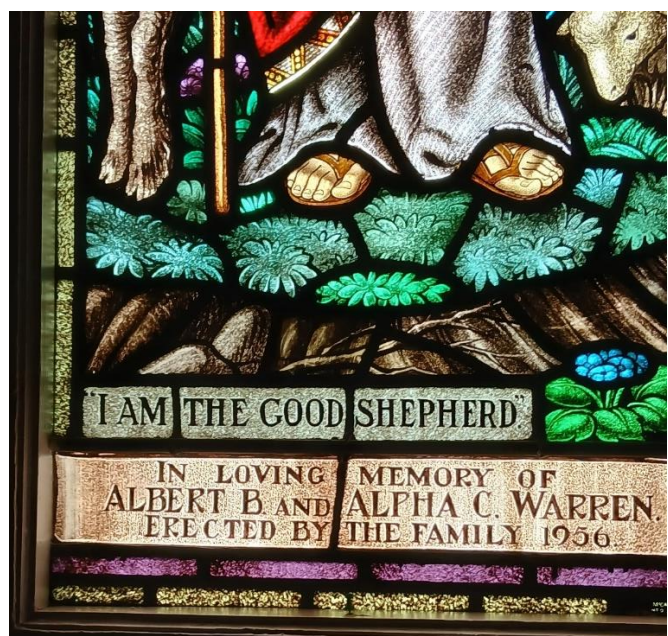
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clippings from the Niagara Falls Review

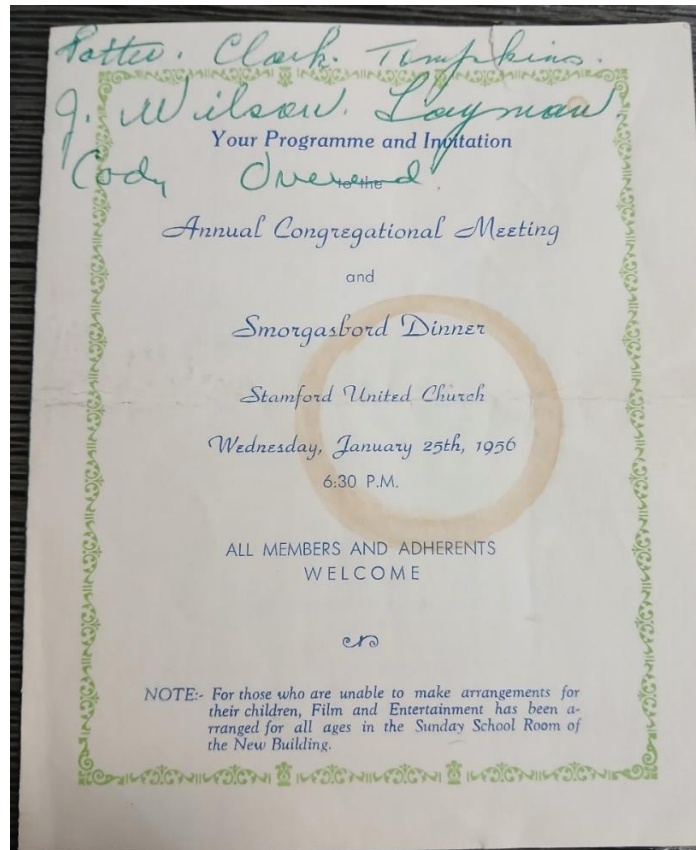
CHURCHES  
UNITED  
STAMFORD  
Aug. 1956



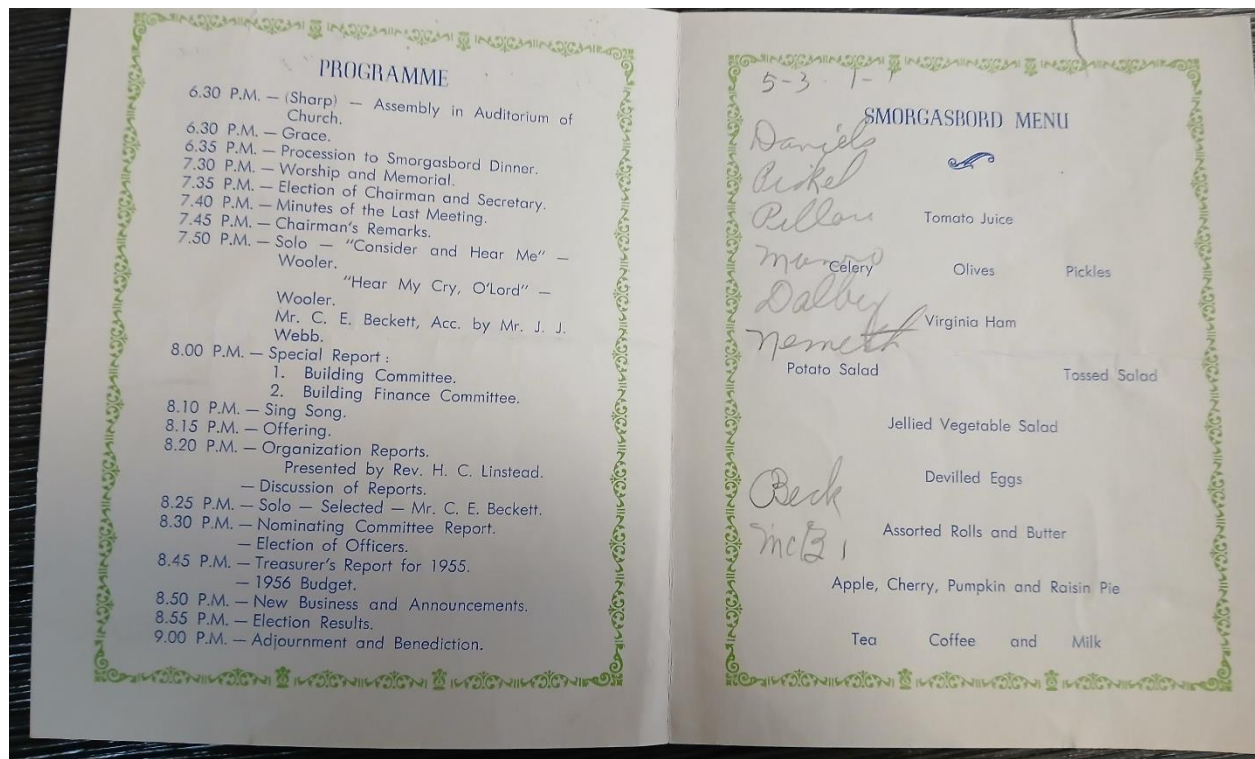


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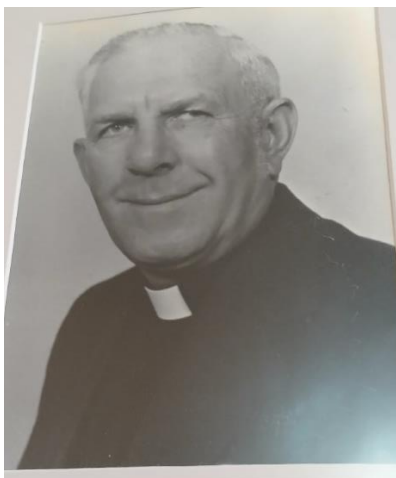
## Invitation to the 1956 Annual meeting



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1958	
	
Queen Elizabeth II	John G. Diefenbaker
1959 St Lawrence Seaway Joint Project	
1960 First Nations people allowed to vote in Canadian election without giving up status and treaty rights	
1965 Canadian Flag	
1967 Canadian Centennial Year	
1967 Expo 67 in Montreal	
1970 Crisis	

Rev. Carlyle Husser 1958-1970



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Rev. Husser invited Rev. Linstead back to preach at the anniversary and to oversee the burning of the mortgage for the Christian Education Wing.


**Stamford United Church To Observe 32nd Anniversary**  
*Oct. 31/55*

Anniversary services to be held on Sunday, November 1, will have a special significance this year for the congregation of the Stamford United Church, for not only will they observe 32 years as an established church, but will also have a special ceremony for the burning of the mortgage for the new Christian Education Centre, which was officially opened on Sunday, November 20, 1955.

Rev. H. C. Linstead, M.A. B.D., of Westmoreland United Church, Toronto, who was minister at Stamford when the Christian Education Centre was built, and dedicated will be welcomed back on Sunday as guest preacher, at both the 9.30 and 11 a.m. services. At the conclusion of the second service the burning ceremony will be held followed by an informal gathering in the auditorium.

Guest soloist for the occasion will be Miss June Forse of Hamilton, formerly of Simcoe, who will sing "The Holy City", by request. Special music will also be rendered by the choir under the direction of J. J. Webb, organist.

It was in the spring of 1925 following the consummation of church union that some of the leaders of the former Stamford Methodist Church, along with members of other city church affiliations felt the need of a church in the south end of the village where the more extensive building was taking place. As the former Methodist Church was inadequate and was a struggling congregation the feasibility of a new church building to accommodate the growing population became more evident. A congregation was organized, built largely around the former Methodist church.



**REV. H. C. LINSTead**

The new "Walcker Pipe Organ" purchased with memorial funds for the war dead.



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# New organ to honor war dead

Feb. 11/66

More than two years planning will culminate Sunday when the new \$30,000 Walcker pipe organ in Stamford United Church will be heard in performance for the first time.

The instrument will be inaugurated at 10 a.m. worship replacing the church's normal two morning services. Wallace Laughton, church organist, will be at the console and climaxing the day's celebration will be a public organ recital at 8.30 p.m. by Clive Jacklin, organist and director of music at Drummond Hill Presbyterian Church.

The redecorated sanctuary, with new organ case work done in oak, new choir lift and clergy platform, high organ porch and new lighting, represent approximately \$55,000 with the organ.

The instrument is in memory of those from the church who died at war.

Custom designed in every detail for the church the specifications were drawn by Mr. Jacklin in conjunction with Werner Knoch, Knoch Organ Co., of London, Ontario. The organ works were constructed by German's famed old E. F. Walcker firm.

The impact as one looks up to the organ porch is massive. Two sections of pipes — Great and Pedal — are in the open as part of the sanctuary's architecture. The third division — the Swell — speaks from a chamber behind a ceiling to floor decorative screen.

The sound impact is even greater. As opposed to the smooth sentimentalism of many organs this one follows 17th and 18th century concepts — true classic. Its lippy "spit" and "chiff" have little in common with romantic organ sounds with which most of its voicing is in direct revolt, but not all of the instrument follows radical difference. It has murmuring strings to cuddle the softness of sensitive accompaniments.

Its two powerful open reeds snarl with great authority, slightly nasal. The organ, up to its brilliant mixtures, is designed for richness. Its flutes ping and sing with varying colors.

The organ's concept is functional. It is a different genre of sound, character and ethos, perhaps in some ways apart from common organ tone conceptions, providing performers with authentic sounds to use the instrument in the true dignity of classic organ repertoire, though still not nullifying its utilitarian value in the sensitive whispers of accompanimental and related music.

Its dramatic climaxes reflect the value of the open pipes which soar high in the church unobstructed.

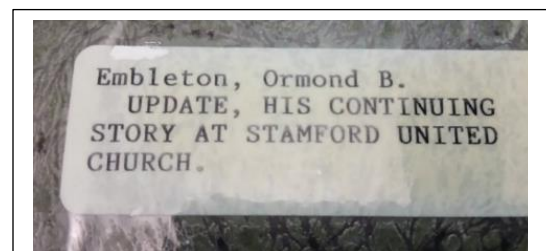
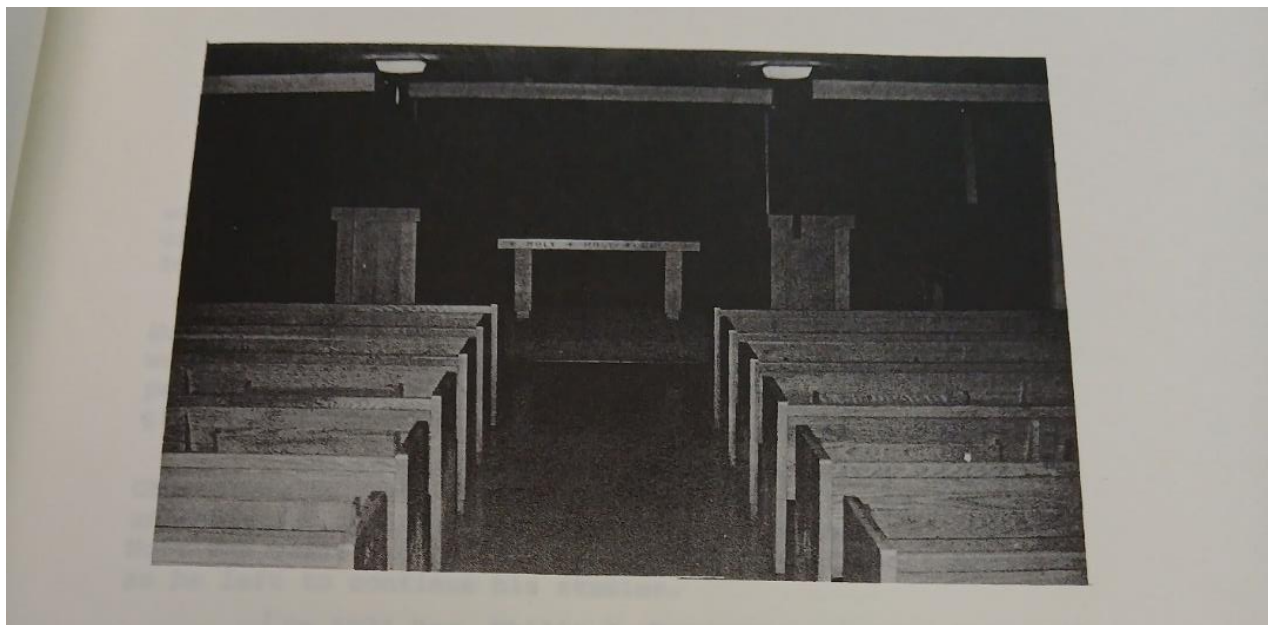
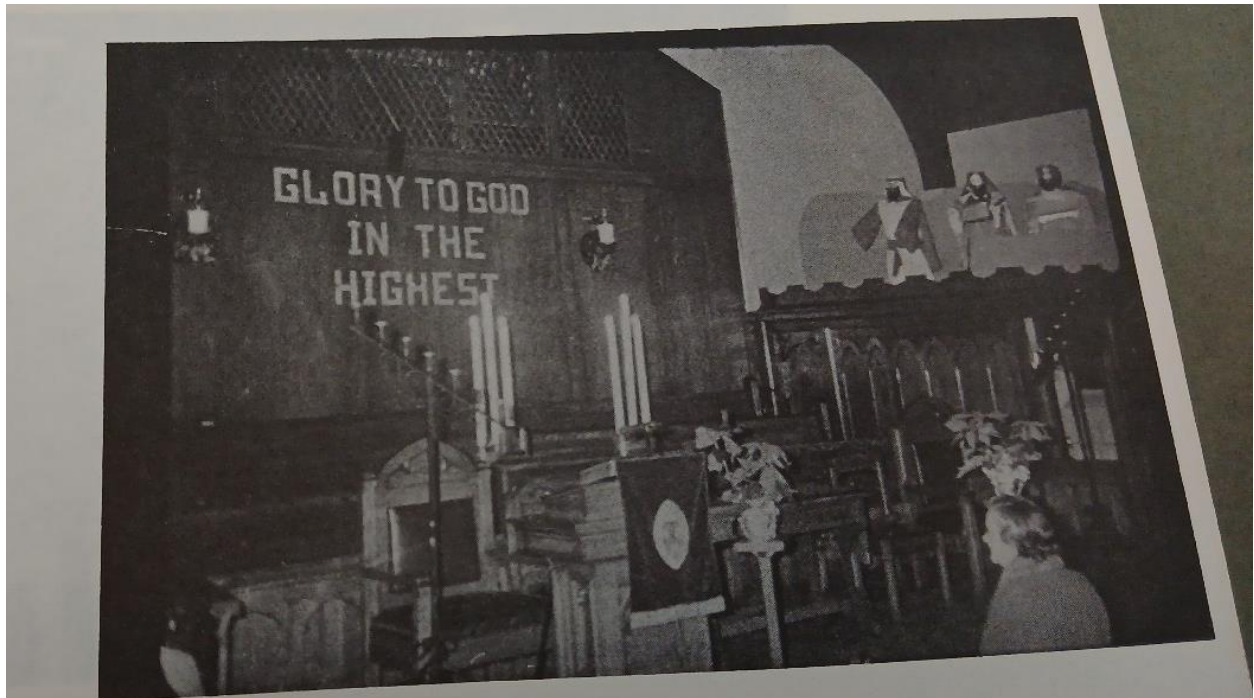
Each of the organ's 1,341 pipes was hand-made to exacting proportions for the church and then "given voice" in the church. The design used fundamental principles in craftsmanship practiced in Europe hundreds of years ago which are now enjoying a renaissance in so many organ installations in North America.

Niagara Falls Public Library

Niagara Falls Review

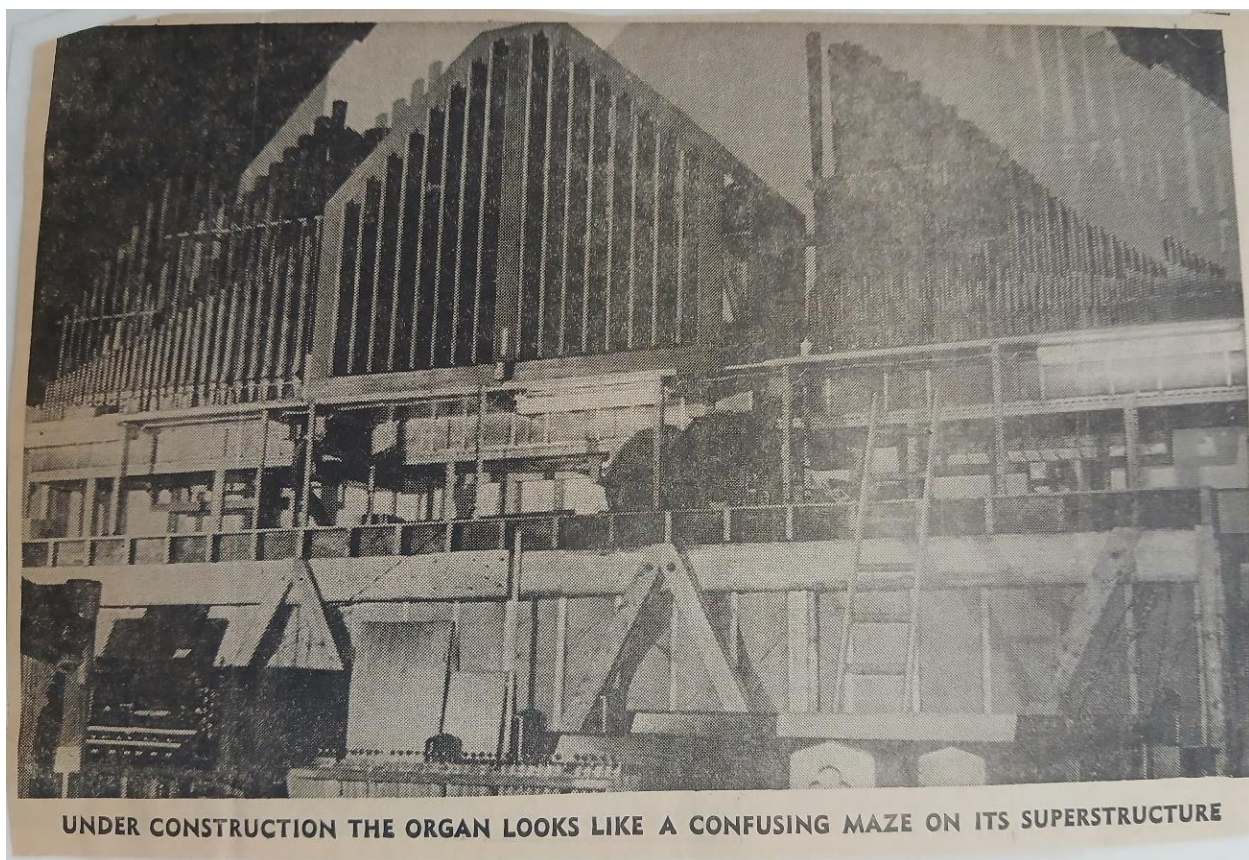
February 11, 1966

Front of the church before renovation



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**UNDER CONSTRUCTION THE ORGAN LOOKS LIKE A CONFUSING MAZE ON ITS SUPERSTRUCTURE**

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1341 pipes installed, from small to large.



CRAFTSMAN'S DELICATE HANDS GIVE VOICE TO A RANK OF PIPES

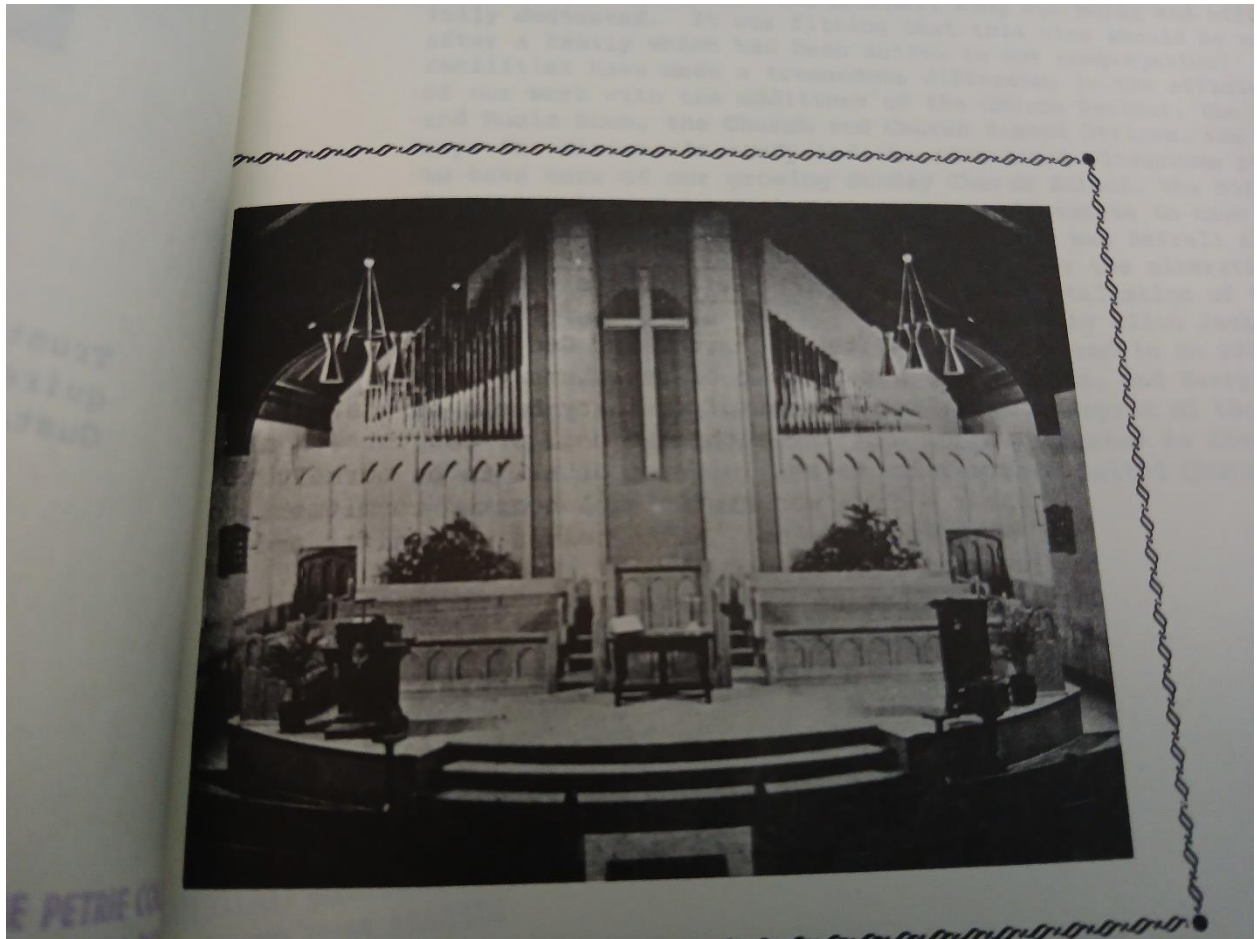


HUGE PIPE CONTRASTS OTHERS THAT ARE JUST INCHES IN HEIGHT

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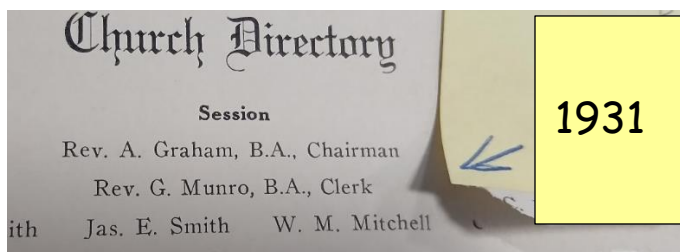
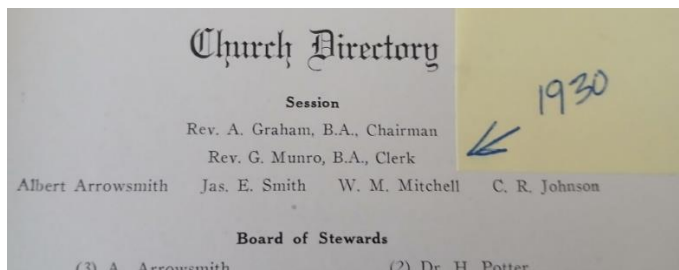
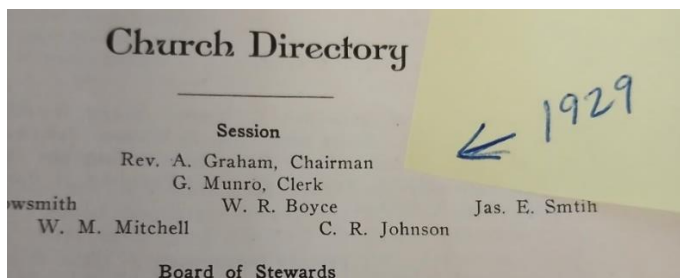


## The new front of the sanctuary



Embleton, Ormond B.  
UPDATE, HIS CONTINUING  
STORY AT STAMFORD UNITED  
CHURCH.

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Note: G. Munro  
Becomes a Reverend

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## Pioneer Family Honored

# Mitchell Wing Is Dedicated

Life-long residents of the former Stamford Township, Miss Janet Mitchell and Robert Mitchell, whose ancestry here dates back to the year 1780, were honored Sunday when the newly-constructed wing at the Stamford United Church was officially opened and dedicated in their name by the Rev. Carlyle Husser. This is an extension to the Christian Education building completed in 1955.

The Mitchell Wing, as it has been named, is not only a tribute to Miss Mitchell and her brother but a memorial to a sister, the late Miss Mary Mitchell and a brother the late William Mitchell. This family has devoted their life to the betterment of the church.

Mr. Husser paid tribute to the family for the role they have played in the history of the congregation. J. D. H. Mackenzie, chairman of the Mitchell Wing committee, related highlights from the church records in which it was noted that there were not too many offices in the church that have not at one time or another been filled by the Mitchell family. Mr. Mitchell is the first life member of the session. The Sunday School

first met in the Mitchell home before the church was built in 1927.

Mr. Husser officiated for the Litany of Dedication in which the congregation participated. The wing was then declared officially opened.

### FACILITIES NEEDED

Mr. Mitchell said it was only after some consideration that he and his sister agreed to let the wing be named after the family. He felt the facilities have been required for sometime, especially the minister's study, choir room, secretary's room, and library. "This building will add to the usefulness of the church in spreading the gospel at home and abroad. The building of this wing was not in vain," he said.

Mr. Husser extended greetings on behalf of the United Church ministerial, and from Rev. P. J. Darch of the Stamford Presbyterian Church. He expressed thanks to the building committee, the furnishings committee and a sub-committee that had the responsibility of selecting certain drapes and furnishings.

A tour of the new wing was conducted by the members of the building committee.

Flowers in the sanctuary were provided in honor of the Mitchell family by the official board; in memory of Miss Mary Mitchell by the United Church Women; and by Donald Chapman, architect. Corsages were presented to Miss Mitchell and Mrs. C. Husser, and boutonniers to Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Husser. Throughout the new rooms flowers were placed by Mario Pingue, the contractor.

### FAMILY HISTORY

A history of the Mitchell family shows that the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Mitchell, were born in Stamford in the years 1844-46. Grandfather Mitchell came from Lanarkshire, near Edinburg, Scotland, in 1825, and proceeded to clear the forest on what became the family farm on Dorchester Road, just south of Monroe's fruit farm. Grandfather William McMicking (mother's father) came to Stamford in 1780 as a United Empire Loyalist. An uncle was a Rev. John Russell who also has a street named after him.

There were ten children in the Mitchell family, three of whom died early in life. There were seven boys and three girls. The Mitchells farmed and operated a dairy.

They were originally members of the Stamford Presbyterian Church but in 1909 transferred to Drummond Hill Presbyterian Church. In 1925 they voted for church union. The parents and family, Janet, Mary, William and Robert became charter members of First United Church, Stamford. Gordon became an active member of Morrison Street United Church. He passed away in 1962.

Mrs. Hugh Mitchell and Mrs. McMicking participated in the cornerstone laying of the present church in 1926. William Mitchell was a member of the

first Trustee Board, served as a steward and elder, built the house (which is now the manse) for his sister, Janet, who sold it to the Church in 1937. He passed away in 1942.

### WAS PIANIST

Mary Mitchell served as pianist and director of music from 1927, and became organist in 1933, for a period of one year following the gift of an organ by the late James DePew. She also was in charge of the Mission Band. She passed away in 1956.

Janet Mitchell sang in the choir until 1951 and taught Sunday School from 1925 until her retirement in 1963. Thousands of girls and boys sat under her leadership in the primary department.

Robert Mitchell was church treasurer from 1928 to 1942 and during the depression years the Mitchell family provided free janitor service. He has been a member of the stewards, is on the trustee board, and a member of the session since 1940. He became clerk of session in 1959 and sang in the choir until 1964.

The Stamford United Church congregation is greatly indebted to a number of pioneer families whose descendants still provide leadership in the congregation, but none has done more for this congregation, without any thought of praise, than the Mitchell family.



Mitchell Wing front exterior



Mitchell Wing rear exterior



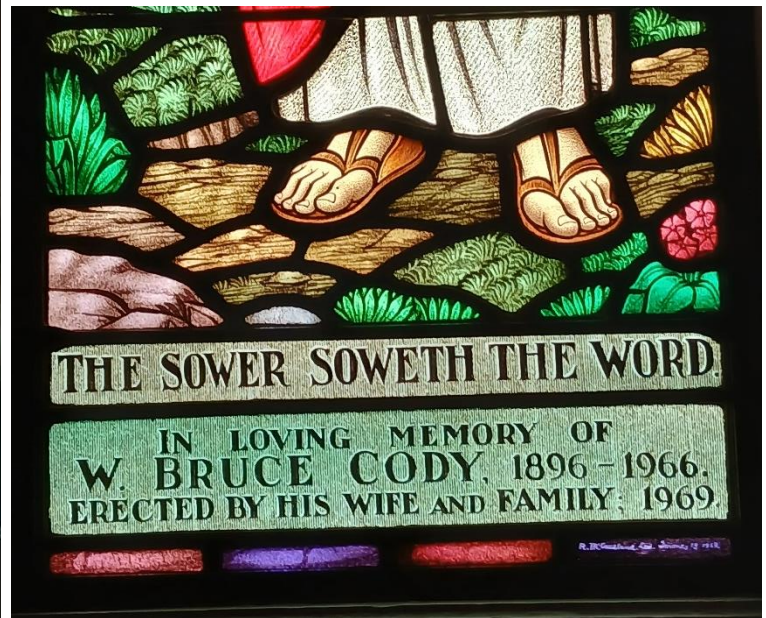
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The "Parlor" in the Mitchell Wing, after its most recent renovation.



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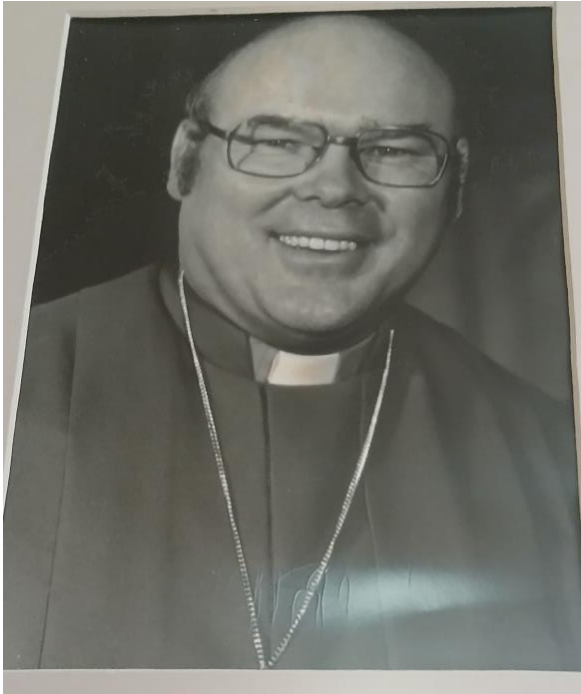




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1970	
	
Queen Elizabeth II	P. E. Trudeau
April 17, 1982 Constitution Act	
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms	

M. R. Graham 1970-1985







1972 K. E. Mott called to assist

No Photo available at this time

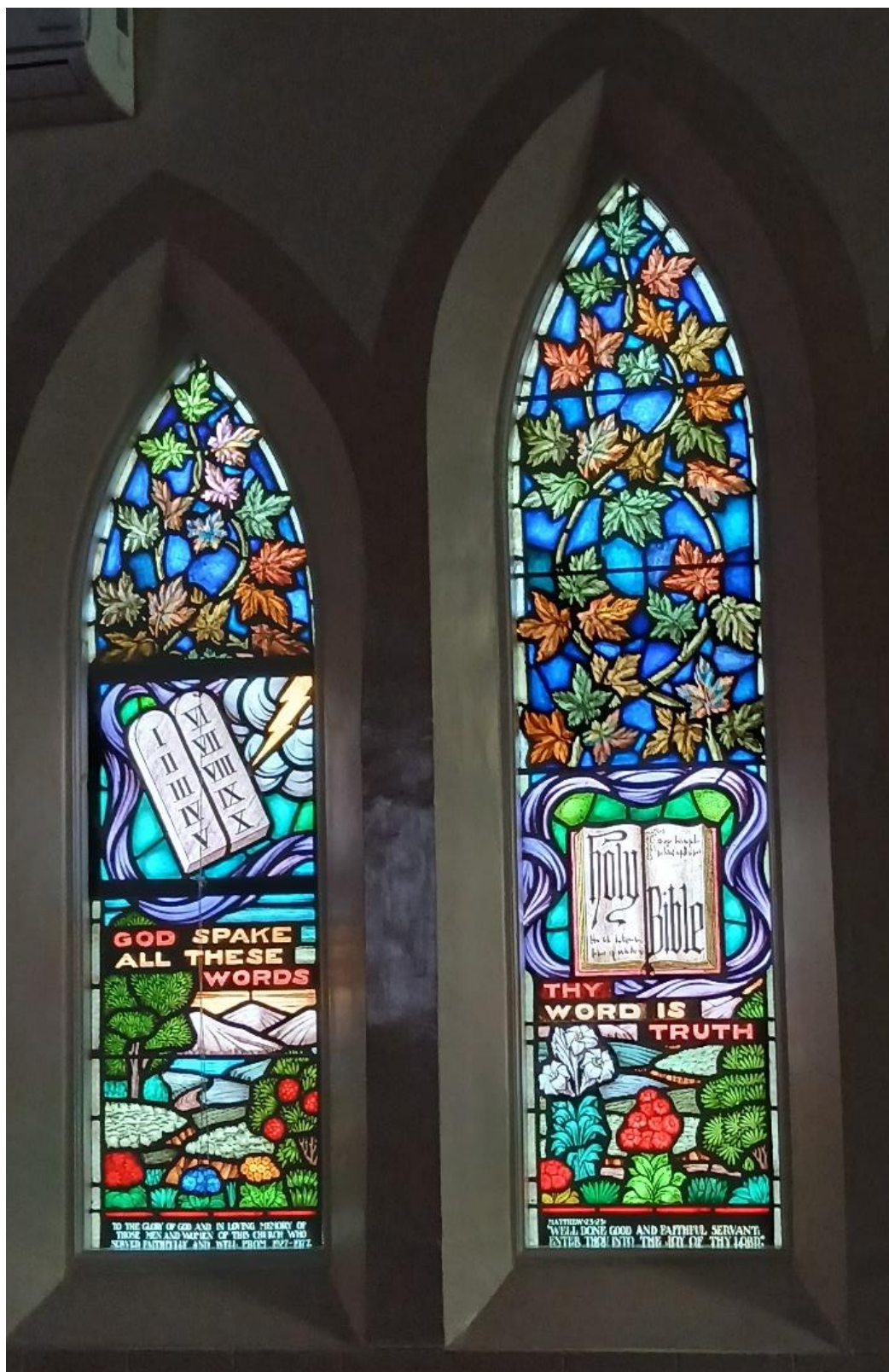


## MEMORIAL UNVEILING

This memorial stained glass window was unveiled at the United Church Women's Service of Lay Witness in Stamford United Church last Sunday. The window, in memory of members of the congregation who served the church in its first 50 years, 1927 to 1977, was installed by Robert McCausland

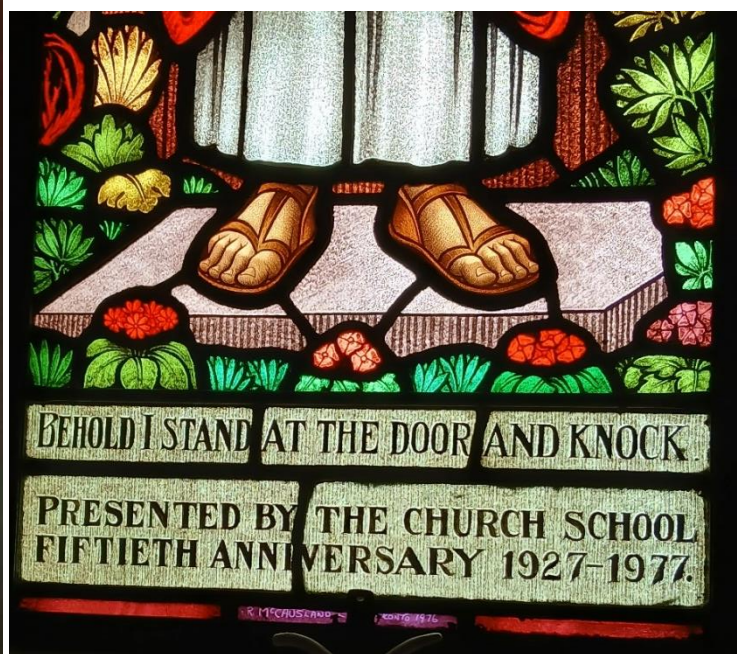
Ltd. of Toronto. From the left are Hop Straker of McCausland Ltd., Mrs. Bertha Cooper and Mrs. Ceryl McComber. Mrs. Cooper, assisted by Mrs. McComber, unveiled the memorial, a project of the Stamford United Church Women's memorial fund.





In memory of all who served in the first 50 years.

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Merrill and Charlotte Graham joined Tri-M as honorary presidents in 1970, Merrill introduced the custom of presenting the "Tools of the Office" to the new executive at the Christmas Dinner party.



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OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

One evening in August 1976 four people met in the minister's study, and Stamford United's 50th Anniversary Committee came into being.

Its task was challenging; to plan a year's programme of special services and events to celebrate our church's first half century. Ours is an active church; the congregation includes families and individuals of all age groups, each with their own interests and commitments both within the church and without. The aim of the Anniversary Committee was to generate enough enthusiasm, involvement and support to make the coming year outstanding and to involve as many of the congregation as possible.

We decided that to achieve this purpose we needed three special groups of people; those who remembered the early days of Stamford United, those active in the work of the church today, and the young people who would be contributing to its life in the future.

That first meeting was a far cry from the vigorous and exciting work group the committee was to become by the beginning of Anniversary Year 1977, as more and more people were invited to serve, each contributing their own particular talents and ideas.

A large calendar was drawn up for the coming year with special events blocked in and different members taking responsibility for them. Mrs. Marjorie Slinn, our choir director, promised special musical events in each month of the year, from our own choirs and instrumentalists in the church and community. May 22nd would be Anniversary Day and this would need special attention and planning.

The year began with a congregational luncheon in the gym after morning service and communion on January 9th. Over four hundred people attended and were served broasted chicken, birthday cake and coffee. Mrs. Roy Cooper, one of the original members of Stamford United, cut the cake and everyone enjoyed the event. Tickets were two dollars.

The following Sunday, January 16th, a new south window was unveiled and dedicated. The Sunday School, under the leadership of the late Arnold Woodhead, had collected money for over a year for this project. Mrs. Maureen West, active in the Sunday School since its beginning, unveiled the window; and Ted Woodhead, a present member of the Sunday School, spoke to the congregation and presented the window for dedication. It bears the inscription: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock". Mrs. Helen Frampton, on behalf of the Sunday School, presented a book for recording memorial gifts.

The month of February was highlighted by a Youth Service on February 27th. Graham Frampton represented and spoke for the Young People's Group, Peter Clark for the Scouts, Allison Jones for the Canadian Girls in Training, Shelley McBain for the Youth choirs, and Sandra Allen gave the address.

Other readers who took part in this fine service were:

Ted Woodhead	Ginny January
Beverley Allen	Bill Jones
Mark Slinn	Leslie Harris
Bruce Olsen	Allen January
Wendy Olsen	Julie Attack
Michael Sandercock	Rosalia Cassano
Shirley Sandercock	Chiarina Cassano
Charlie Atkinson	



Rev. Merrill Graham and Charlotte moved to Dundas, January 25, 1986.

Interim Minister Rev. Barry Dunbar took care of Stamford United with Rev. Phil until September 4, 1986, when Rev. Harvey Murphy and wife Tillie moved into the Manse and took over.

1974- 1991 P. J. Hommersen Associate Minister



1991 P. J. Hommersen Minister Emeritus



Garden for Rev. Phil and installed by Cathy and Reg Ferland

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1986	
	
Queen Elizabeth II	Brian Mulroney
1986 United Church of Canada apologizes to First Nations for colonization	
1989 invention of www = world wide web	
Nov 9, 1989 Fall of the Berlin Wall	
1991 End of the Cold War	

Harvey Murphy 1986-1996



## Stamford United Church to induct new minister

The Rev. Harvey K. Murphy, B.A., B.D., will be inducted as the new senior minister of Stamford United Church on Thursday, Sept. 4 at 7:30 p.m. The service will be under the direction of Niagara Presbytery of the United Church and preacher for the service will be Rev. Fred Skelly.

Mr. Murphy comes to Stamford from Owen Sound where he has been senior minister in Division Street United Church for 12 years. Prior to service in Owen Sound, he served in Prince Albert, Sask., and Empress, Alberta.

A native of Ottawa, he worked with Mutual Life Assurance Co. in a number of cities before studying at the University of Toronto for ministry in the United Church. He graduated from Victoria College and Emmanuel Theological College and was ordained by Toronto Conference in 1961.

Mr. and Mrs. Murphy have four children, the youngest of which is enrolled in Waterloo University. Richard is a student in the systems design engineering programs of Waterloo and will make Niagara Falls his home base. The Murphy's other children are married daughters — Lauren, Mrs. Mark Herrendorf who is living in Victoria, B.C.; Cheryl, Mrs. Andrew Armstrong living in Barbados; and Jocelyn, Mrs. Bruce Richard living in Kitchener. Jocelyn was a gold medal winner in piano performance in University of Western Ontario in 1955 and currently teaches music in Kitchener.

Mr. Murphy has served the church at all levels including terms as general council commissioner, conference president, and presbytery chairperson. He served for six years as a member of the board of directors of the United Church Observer, the church's national magazine.



Harvey

THE REV. HARRY MURPHY

Mr. and Mrs. Murphy have travelled widely, having attended the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, led a tour to Oberammergau, Germany and study trips to Scotland, U.S.A. and Zambia. Rev. Murphy shared a study seminar tour of the Middle East which visited Palestinian Refugee Camps and other areas in the Middle East including Israel.

Mr. Murphy and his wife, Tillie, reside in the Stamford United Church Manse, 3839 St. Peter Ave. He will begin his preaching this Sunday.

Reno to church parlor, updated after installation of Mitchell Wing.

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Installed elevator 1988



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Original steps up to the Narthex,



New steps and railing installed 1988, notice the large maple removed in this photo and the growth of the trees up near the doors.



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Organist Andrew Henderson, seated, leads bell ringers Isabel Olsen, left, and Geraldine Zavitz in rehearsal for Rainbow Ringers Sunday concert at Stamford United Church. The only adult

bell-ringing choir in Niagara Falls, the Rainbow Ringers will be performing classics and hymns with Andrew, a 12-year-old prodigy who has been play piano for only two years.

*IT'S ALL IN THE WRIST...AND TIMING*

Oct 5/88

## Rainbow Ringers keep art alive

By SEAN CONDON  
Review staff writer

Marjorie Slinn can't get rid of the

"It's no surprise to know the younger you are the easier it is," laughed bell player Isabel Olsen.

the Harmony Ringers, and a children's choir. Choir selections include the classics of Bach, the baroque, and contemporary.



## Silver Cross Mothers

Mothers who lost a son or daughter during military service,

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Kitchener Street United Church were welcomed as members at  
Lundy's Lane United Church





Plaque on piano on sanctuary stage

Sunday, June 23, 1996 Farewell service for Harvey and Tillie Murphy.

Sunday, July 7, 1996 Arrival of Harvey, Barb, Christopher, Anne and Hope Toby

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1996	
	
Queen Elizabeth II	Jean Chretien
1998 United Church of Canada apologizes to First Nations for residential schools	
1999 Nunavut created and Territories re-mapped	
2005 Civil Marriage Act	
Jan 2020 First Canadian case of Coronavirus (Pandemic)	

### Harvey Tobey 1996-2025



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Renovation of the Narthex and addition of the Heritage Wall.



Renovation of the "Tower Room" now called the "Bride's Room"



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Lighting Renovation for the whole sanctuary.

New 16 Channel sound board and assistive hearing for our congregation



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## Renovation of Kitchen



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# Windows honour music

By TONY RICCIUTO  
Review Staff Writer

NIAGARA FALLS — Stamford United Church will be unveiling two stained-glass windows on Thanksgiving Sunday to commemorate and honour the important role music has played at the church.

"Music is a ministry just like the spoken word or the scriptures," said music director Marjorie Slinn, who has been associated with music at the church for the past 33 years.

"Music has always played an important part at Stamford United even with other choir directors before me."

The idea of installing two stained-glass windows grew from a donation of \$5,000 given by the Harmony Singers Choir after disbanding and completing 22 successful years of celebrating and presenting music both in their church and communities across Ontario and the United States. They even participated at the International Music Festival in Harrogate, England.

Members of the choir, past and present, and many interested members of the congregation made donations in memory of loved ones, explained Slinn. The drive was started in January and by April they had raised the required \$15,000 that was needed to complete the project.

The work was expected to have been completed by Christmas 2000, but there were some minor delays due to the illness of one of the major artists, so it had to be postponed for about six months.

After coming up with the idea of what might be depicted on the two windows, Slinn presented the suggestion to Rev. Harvey Tobey and the company that was going to do the work. The plan was sent off to their designer.

The style and colours of the design on the new windows were kept to match the other windows that are already present in the church.



Margorie Slinn, director of music at Stamford United Church, invites past and present choir members to take part in a service of dedication Sunday. The church's two new stained glass windows will be unveiled.

Photo: Mike DiBattista / Review

See 'Church' on Page A2

## Christmas Hope



IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: To celebrate the Christmas season, many people will be attending church services this evening, where carols will highlight the spirit of the occasion. Eleven-year-old Hope Tobey practices some of the songs that will brighten Christmas for residents of many faiths. Hope is part of the Stamford United church choir, which performs for various groups throughout the holiday season.

Photo: Mike DiBattista / Review

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# Clergy plead for calm

*Apr 3/02*  
Inter-faith council urges federal government to intervene to end bloodshed in Middle East

By GRANT LaFLECHE  
Standard Staff

Amid the ripples of fear and loathing caused by the current crisis in the Middle East, a group of Niagara spiritual leaders is pleading for peace.

The Niagara Falls Inter-Faith Council, in an effort to prevent distrust locally from festering into violence, issued a statement Tuesday urging the federal government to intervene to end the bloodshed in Israel.

"We believe that uncontrolled massacres and destruction occurring in the most sensitive area of the world at present could explode into a great disaster for the entire Middle East, with dire effect on the rest of the world," the council said in a statement released to the news media. "We urge the government to act immediately through the United Nations, to dispatch a peace (keeping) force to the area before the world sees a repetition of the recent massacres in the Balkans and Africa."

The council — made up of Islamic, Jewish and Christian leaders in the region — says there are extreme consequences of doing nothing.

"We have to learn the lessons from places (like Rwanda) and prevent this from getting far worse than anyone could imagine, which I think is where it is going," said Reverend Harvey Tobey of Stamford United



Reverend Harvey Tobey of Stamford United Church in Niagara Falls: "We have to learn the lessons from places (like Rwanda) and prevent this from getting far worse than anyone could imagine, which I think is where it is going."

staff photo by Denis Cahill

and Islamic communities.

The statement was put together by Ebrahim Valli, president of the Islamic Society Niagara Peninsula.

"I wrote it out and sent it to the other members of the council for their approval," he said. "It is an is-

erately structured to avoid assigning blame for the crisis.

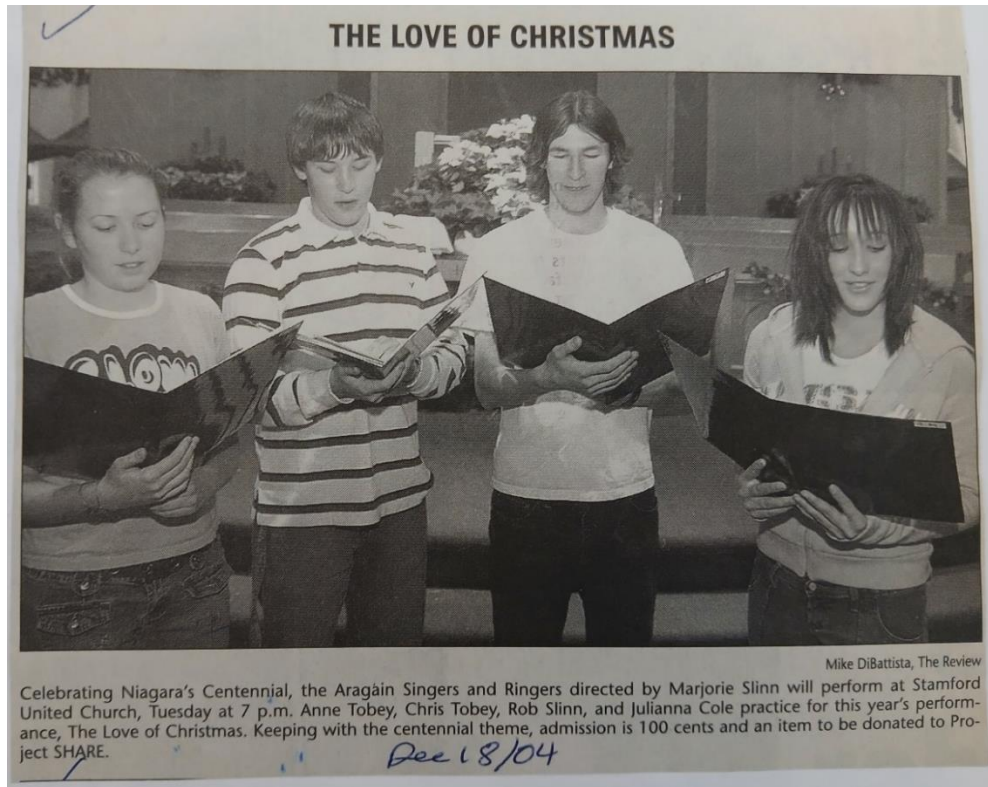
"There are enough people doing that already," he said. "There needs to be a chance for people to cool off and let the peace process start."

While there has been no major out-

He said he, as a member of the council, has already had hostility directed toward him, but he wouldn't go into details.

"I'm not getting into that because it would serve no purpose," he said.

The council will meet Thursday to discuss the statement.



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Manse 1977 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photo of property

Bill Mitchell had built the home for Janet Mitchell beside the church.

Rev. Parr purchased the Manse from Janet, the Sunday School teacher in 1937.

Manse Committee did survey and renovation/repair decision led to demolition of the Manse and the property was used to expand our parking. 2006



Photos courtesy:

Bev & Paul Patterson



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Cross from Morrison Street United Church 1925-2008

Located in stairwell at the gym entrance



Congregation Safety

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Dec 1, 2011 Lisa Parmeter, student minister. Sponsored by the congregation and supervised by Rev. Toby.

## Ordination



**Rev. Lisa Parmiter,**  
B.A., M.Div.

Lisa was born and raised in Labrador City, NL to Murray and Nancy Parmiter. She was baptized and grew up with the members of Carol United Church. Lisa was confirmed with her sister

and dad by her side, and from there went on to her first General Council in Wolfville, NS. Overlooking the ocean, she felt God calling her to ministry.

Lisa graduated from Menihek High and went on to post secondary education at Memorial University: Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Corner Brook, NL.

She became a member of Humber United Church and began helping with Sunday School. After graduating from Grenfell College, Lisa spent the summer working at West Haven United Church Camp.

In the fall in 2009, she headed to Toronto to attend Emmanuel College. There she found St. Andrew's United and worked with the children and youth. In 2011, Lisa did her internship in Niagara Falls learning from and with the congregation of Stamford United. Then it was back to Emmanuel to finish up her M.Div. which lead her to Pool's Cove, NL to do a year of Student Minister Candidacy Supply. Lisa welcomes the joy of ordination as she continues her faith journey.



## Digital sign



## Amalgamation with Lundy's Lane United Church June 2015



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## Lundy's Lane United Church closing.



### New beginnings for United Church

By Alison Langley, Niagara Falls Review

Friday, June 5, 2015 9:56:04 EDT AM

Lundy's Lane United Church Minister Douglas Mitchell and Bryce Anderson, a member of the congregation for 70 years, with the original announcement of the church opening in 1888. On Sunday, the church will hold it's final service.



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## Projection System



## Cave Springs Camp Service



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Java 98

2015-2019

These photos from Nov 2015



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Appreciation Garden, May 29, 2016



Communion Service, Thanksgiving 2016



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## Bells



## Music



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## Children's Time during the Service



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## Project Share, Community Service and Mission Activities



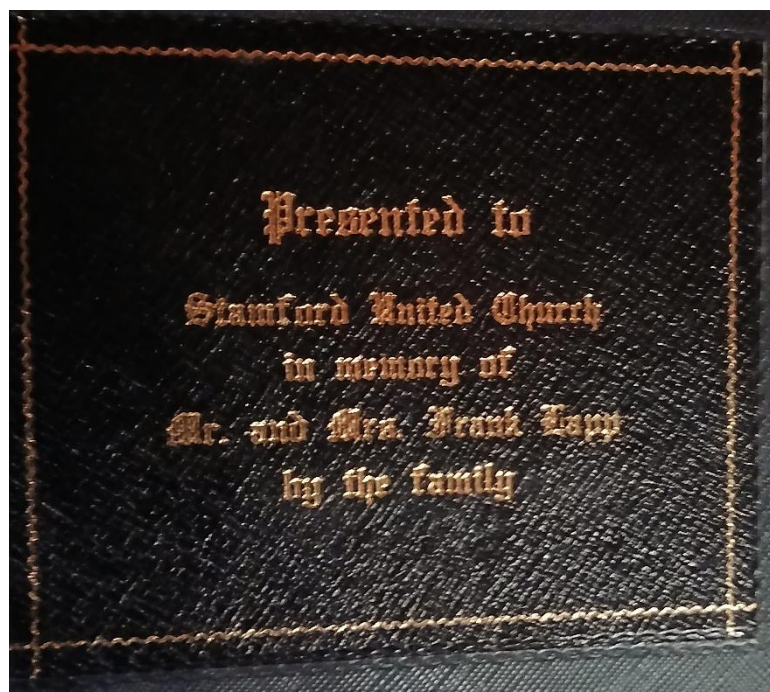
## Chilli & Trivia Night



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## Alter Table Bible in the Sanctuary



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## Church Board 2024



## First Church Board 1926



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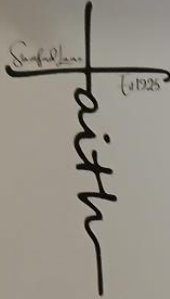
## An active church in the late 1970's

### *Our Church Activities For You and Your Family*

- SUNDAY:** 10:00 a.m. — Morning Worship  
10:00 a.m. — Church School and Nursery (3 years and up)  
11:15 a.m. — Adult Bible Study  
11:15 a.m. — Informal Coffee Hour  
7:00 p.m. — Youth Group (high school age or teenager)  
2nd Sunday of the month
- MONDAY:** 7:00 p.m. — Scouts  
7:00 p.m. — Stewards and Session — 2nd Monday of the month  
7:00 p.m. — Official Board — every other month  
7:30 p.m. — Unit 3 — 1st Monday of the month
- TUESDAY:** 1:30 p.m. — Badminton  
6:45 p.m. — Cubs  
6:45 p.m. — Explorers  
7:30 p.m. — Joy Unit — 1st Tuesday of the month
- WEDNESDAY:** 9:30 a.m. — Scout Mother's Auxiliary  
(2nd Wednesday of the month)  
10:00 a.m. — Kneedle Circle  
7:00 p.m. — Venturers and Rovers  
7:00 p.m. — Boys' Choir Rehearsal  
8:00 p.m. — Gnu Unit — 2nd Wednesday of the month  
8:00 p.m. — General UCW — 4 times a year
- THURSDAY:** 2:00 p.m. — Unit 2 — 2nd Thursday of the month  
6:00 p.m. — Men's Club — 2nd Thursday of the month  
6:30 p.m. — Girls' Choir Rehearsal  
8:00 p.m. — Volleyball — except 2nd Thursday of the month
- FRIDAY:** 7:00 p.m. — C.G.I.T. — 1st Friday of the month  
8:00 p.m. — Tri-M — 4th Friday of the month

## Our program today

### Sunday to Sunday at Stamford Lane United Church 2025



**January 26 Paul Fast**

**February 2 Rev. Gwen Nicol-MacDonald**

Feb 7, 6:30 Valentine Craft Night sign up

**February 9 Bryce Anderson**

Feb. 15 at 6 **Chili & Trivia**

\$20 each in tables of 8. Auction items appreciated.

**February 16 Annual Congregational Meeting**

Bring sandwiches or sweets to share

**Coldest Night of Year Walk** Stamford Lane United is participating in the **Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**, walk to raise funds for Project SHARE. Alastair Davis 905-641- 5925 [alastairdavis9@gmail.com](mailto:alastairdavis9@gmail.com) invites you to participate as a walker or donor. Donations can be made online at [CNOY.org](http://CNOY.org) for a Stamford walker, or to the church by cheque/cash or e-transfer to [givings@stamfordlaneunited.ca](mailto:givings@stamfordlaneunited.ca) (specify CNOY)

#### You Are Invited to:

- Quilt With Us Mon. 10-2pm
- Walk With Us Mon. 10-11am
- Line Dance Mon. 6:30pm
- Bell Ringers Wed. 6:30-7:30pm
- Bargain Boutique Tues. 10-2pm
- Bible Study Tues. 10:15-11:45am.
- Treblaires practice Tues. 6:30-9:30pm
- AA Tues. 7pm
- AA Wed. noon
- TOPS Wed. 5:30-7:00pm
- Church Council 1st Wed. 7:00pm
- Good News Women 2nd Wed. 7:30pm
- Bargain Boutique Thurs. 10-2pm
- Walk With Us Thurs. 10-11am
- Yoga Thurs. 11-12noon
- Ball Room Dance Thurs. 6:30pm
- Adult Choir Thurs. 6:30-8pm
- Sew With Us Fri. 10-2pm
- Children's Choir Sat. 11am
- Junior Choir Sat. 12:00noon
- Sunday School Sun. 10:00am
- Worship Sunday 10:00am

[www.StamfordLaneUnited.ca](http://www.StamfordLaneUnited.ca)  
[Office@StamfordLaneUnited.ca](mailto:Office@StamfordLaneUnited.ca)  
[Choir@StamfordLaneUnited.ca](mailto:Choir@StamfordLaneUnited.ca)  
[Minister@StamfordLaneUnited.ca](mailto:Minister@StamfordLaneUnited.ca)  
[Givings@StamfordLaneunited.ca](mailto:Givings@StamfordLaneunited.ca)

**905-354-8841**

**February 23 Al Steip**

March 1, 6-8 **Karaoke Family Night - Pizza**

**March 2 Mission Family Sunday**

Pancake Lunch after church.

**March 9 Lent 1 Water & Wine**

March 15, 6:00 **FunDue - fondue evening**

**March 16 Lent 2 Fire & Ashes**

March 21 In-Touch lunch at noon RSVP

**March 23 Lent 3 Sand & Stone**

**March 30 Lent 4 Coins & Debts**

**April 6 Lent 5 Light & Darkness**

**April 13 Palm Sunday Branch & Oil**

**April 16 Holy Thursday**

Healing Communion at 7:30pm.

**April 17 Good Friday** here at 10am.

**April 20 Easter Family Communion**

**April 27 Harvey Retires**

**May 4 Rev. Gwen Nicol-MacDonald**

**May 11 Mother's Day Good News Women**

**May 18 Paul Fast**

**May 25 Hymn Sing**

**June 1 Al Steip**

**June 6 - Kids' Choir at Niagara River Lions**  
Maridian Centre

**June 8 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
of this Congregation  
and The United Church of Canada



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2025



King Charles III



Justin Trudeau

Harvey Tobey to retire  
After church April 27,  
2025.

The search for a  
replacement has been on  
since our AGM Feb 2024

# Roots of Stamford United Church stretch back to 1845

By Francis Petrie

Stamford United Church will be celebrating its 186th anniversary on May 24. Present at this special service on Sunday will be Rev. H. C. Linstead, minister at the church from 1951 to 1958.

The Memorial of Indenture of 1845 in an interesting document compiled by Ormand Embleton with special assistance from Rev. Glenn Lucas, Archivist-Historian of the United Church of Canada, and with photographs from the Petrie Collection.

Entitled "Update HIS—continuing story at Stamford United Church," the booklet provides a concise and easy to read history of Stamford United Church from its beginnings as the Wesleyan Methodist Church at Stamford to the present.

The first official reference to this new congregation appeared in the Christian Guardian of July 22, 1845. Notice was given that the dedication services for the new church at Stamford would be held "on the first Sabbath in August next."

The next official document confirming the early history of the church was the granting of the land by John McMillan on the 10th of April, 1857. This document, which has been framed, names the following Trustees of the Stamford congregation of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1845: Dennis B. Hanton, Yeoman; John H. Esq., George Bender, Yeoman; John Johnson, Yeoman; and Adam Killman, Farmer.



By Francis Petrie

business and mailing addresses because there was a South End, North End, and West End. Accordingly, several businesses met and changed the name to Stamford Centre.

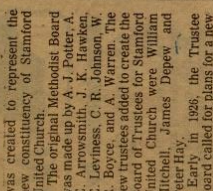
In 1925, three factors combined to show the need for a new church building. These factors were the development of the church union in the township, the growth of South End, Ontario, and the need for a church to serve the larger congregation.

Mr. James Depew, a follower of the church union offered a site and raised towards the project of raising the new church building. On June 14, 1925, a meeting was held in the Memorial Hall (now Stamford Lions Memorial Hall), and a decision was reached for the organization of a Union Church at South End, Ontario.

The meeting was moved by J. Hanton, seconded by James Depew to hold the first service of the United Church of Canada at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.

The Rev. Dr. Hazen of London, Ontario, was called to officiate at this historic occasion, establishing a United Church of Canada six days after the United Church of Canada first came into being.

On July 1, 1925, Rev. F. J. Fydel was appointed as minister. An enlarged Board of Trustees



was created to represent the new constituency of Stamford United Church. The original Methodist Board was replaced by J. Petrie, E. Arrowsmith, J. K. Hawken, E. LeViness, C. R. Johnson, W. R. Boyce, and A. Warren. The new trustees added to create the Board of Trustees for Stamford United Church were William James Depew and Peter Hay.

Early in 1926, the Trustees Board called for plans for a new church building. The plans of Mr. Aubrey Butler were accepted as was the tender of Smith Brothers Construction Co., Niagara Falls, Ontario. Building was started in 1926.

In May of that year, the basement was completed and the "laying of the cornerstone" was held on Wednesday, July 28, at 10:00 a.m. in the new building. The Rev. W. T. Thompson, son of Westminster Church, St. Catharines, and Rev. S. W. L. Horton of Lundy's Lane Church, Niagara Falls, Mrs. J. R. McMillan and Mrs. Hugh McMillan, the two oldest members of the church, travelled to assist in the laying of the cornerstone.

Mr. C. F. Monroe, Reeve of Stamford Township placed the days copy dating back to the days of the Niagara Falls Evening Review and the Toronto Globe in Stamford was a part, to become a separate unit in the United Church of Canada.

The first minister in the new church, Rev. H. F. Dellor, remained only a few months before leaving for the U.S. The next minister, Rev. A. Graham, however, in 1933 Rev. Graham, ill health, and was replaced in June by Rev. W. D. McIlhenny.

Accordingly, R. J. Alexander, B.D., president of Hamilton Congregational Church was the church occurred in 1933 when James Depew donated and installed a pipe organ at a cost of



Stamford United Church will be celebrating its 136th anniversary with a special service May 24. This is a picture of the church as it appeared in 1927, immediately after completion at its present site near Stamford Centre.

from the Presbyterian Church \$4,478.50. A dedication service for the organ was held on August 27, 1933. Two memorial windows, also the gift of Mr. Depew, were dedicated on the Sunday of September 10. Unfortunately, Mr. Depew died on Sept. 7, 1933, a few days before the unveiling.

In June, 1937, Rev. R. H. Parr was called to the pastorate to succeed Rev. McIlhenny, and he served until 1945. Rev. E. M. Morrow in 1945, Rev. Morrow retired at the end of June, 1951, and was followed by Rev. H. C. Linstead. During Rev. Linstead's pastorate, the Christian Education Building was built at a cost of \$9,000.

In 1958, Rev. Carlyle Husser succeeded Rev. Linstead. The Mitchell Wing was constructed in 1964, adding a Church community today. Stamford United Church has had a long and proud history and continues to play an important role in the life and work of the community.



In 1910, Highway 8 was the site of the old Stamford Methodist Church (right). The church was dedicated in 1845, but most of the early records have been lost.



Looking forward to the future!!



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## Data from Annual Reports

Year/ Minister	Resident Members	Non-Res Members	Baptism	Marriage	Death/Burial	Church School Teachers	Church School Students
1925 Fydell							
1927 Dellar	117		6	2	1		
1928 Graham	137		9	0	3	22	175
1933 MacIntosh	206		7	5	4	25	206
1937 Parr			15	5	4	7	
1941 Millar	290		10	16	10		
1945 Morrow	323		8	8	4		
1951 Linstead	328		12	7	1	9	80
1958 Husser	571		56		2	38	419
1970 Graham	680	70	13	22	9	30	267
1986 Dunbar							
1986 Murphy	604	140	27	22	23		
1996 Toby	495		20	11	11	15	
2025							

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Al Steip

Researched and compiled this information

With contributions and from Harvey Tobey, Janet Harris, Bev Patterson, Leslie Maddalena, and help and advice from many others.

Thanks to all.

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