

In 1881, the first Sabbath School was organized with Samuel Davidson as the first Superintendent. He was succeeded, in 1884, by A. Allison. Four years later, in 1888, James Sheils was appointed and was followed in 1897 by Archibald Smith, who, owing to failing health, had to resign in 1912, after a faithful service of fifteen years. His successor was Wm. Campbell, who was chosen that same year.

In this same year, 1889, during Mr. Brown's ministry, the present brick church was built. With this end in view, a meeting of the congregation was held on February 11, 1889, when the following motion was carried unanimously: "That the congregation in view of its present needs proceed to build a church of brick and stone with a basement and with roofing of slate, the seating capacity to be at least five hundred and the cost of the said building not to exceed the sum of six thousand, five hundred dollars." The Building Committee was as follows: Jas. Campbell, Colin Taylor, John Cousins, John McTavish, Dougald McPherson, Peter McMillan, John McVicar, Chas. Sheils, Wm. Brodie, Jas. McCallum, Dan McVicar, John A. Stewart, John Stewart, John McNabb, Jas. Taylor, John Campbell, Robt. McPherson, Robt. McCord, J. R. Taylor, Hy. Harkness, Walter Harkness, Wm. McLellan, and Hugh Brown, together with the members of Session.

The corner stone of this church was laid by Principal Wm. Caven, of Knox College, on the 24th day of May, 1889, on which occasion the congregation united heartily in singing that beautiful selection in the hymnal, "Christ is our Corner Stone." It truly does honor to the memory of those who were responsible for its construction. It has in the auditorium a good sized gallery and there is also a basement unequalled in any rural charge in this part of the province, and well adapted for Sunday School and other purposes.

At a meeting of the congregation held on April 28, 1896, the motion was carried, moved by Colin Campbell, seconded by John McTavish, that a new manse be built, the cost not to exceed \$2,000. As Yarmouth was in favor of it, it was agreed at a later meeting to canvass the whole congregation. They decided upon a two-story brick house, stone cellar and slate roof, to be heated by a furnace. The building committee consisted of Colin Campbell, John Campbell and John McPherson, together with the representatives from Yarmouth. This magnificent structure, a credit to the congregation, was erected that year. The old manse was sold and at present is occupied by Mr. John Chivers, on Main Street.

One of the outstanding accomplishments in the congregation's progress during these years was the installation of a beautiful Pipe Organ, in 1929. This organ has added immeasurably to our service of praise. The congregation has been fortunate in having Mrs. Alfred Weldhen (formerly Clara Taylor) as organist and Choir Leader for the past 16 years filling this position with dignity and ability.

The history of this Church becomes a spiritual romance in the lives of its members and inspires new hopes and greater aspirations for the future. Its fascinating story reassures us that the God of Our Fathers is our God and will continue to be ours "Until the Day break and the Shadows flee Away".

This congregation is honored in being able to record the fact that three of her young men and one of her young women have gone forth from her midst and devoted their lives to full-time service for Jesus Christ. Rev. Duncan McColl, B.A., a son of the revered catechist referred to at the beginning of this history, was the first. He graduated at Knox College in 1881, but at the age of only twenty-eight years God saw fit to take him to higher service, as he died in March, 1883. The next was Rev. G.M. Young, B.A., who was ordained in 1903, and at present is settled at Chippewa. In 1904, Rev. Thos. McCord, another of her sons, was ordained, and is now stationed at Bethesda and Roseneath. Miss Lilian McVicar, in February, 1919, went as a missionary of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to Central India.

Presbyterian Ministers:

Rev. Archibald Currie	1862-1871	Rev. J. Y. Hall, B.A.	1924-1926
(1st Settled pastor)		Rev. D. J. Donaghue, B.A.	1927-1932
Rev. Neil McKinnon	1872-1877	Rev. J. Knox Clark, B.A.	1932-1939
Rev. Kenneth McDonald	1879-1888	Supply	1939-1945
Rev. Jas. A. Brown	1886-1891	Rev. Bailey	1946-48
Rev. John Currie	1892-1918	Rev. Kincaid	1948-61
Rev. J. Wm. Stewart	1918-1923		

Minister's Wife Organized WMS

Mrs. John Currie was instrumental in organizing the Women's Missionary Society Knox Presbyterian Church, Belmont in 1895 during the pastorate of her husband, Rev. John Currie.

A prayer service was held at the manse with a small attendance. Officers were selected and Mrs. Currie was the first president, with Mrs. J. A. Meldrum, secretary and Mrs. George Watcher, treasurer.

This organization had a small beginning but more and more women became interested in Missions and the membership grew. The motto is, The World For Christ. The group assumed the work assigned by the Board of Missions, and was known as the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society. In 1914, a meeting was held in Toronto, when it was decided to unite into one Society namely, The Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This year in May, meetings are to be held in the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of a Missionary organization and the 50th anniversary of the coming into being of the WMS. (WD)

To highlight this anniversary, the history of the society has been written and will be produced in tableaux form by Miss Laura Pelton, a long-time member. The tableaux will not only look back to 1864 and 1914, but also ahead to the mission that faces the members in 1964.

Through the years many returned missionaries have visited this auxiliary and given first-hand information on the work being carried on in the mission fields. A member of this church who dedicated her life to full-time service in the missions fields was Miss Lillian McVicar, who went as a missionary to Central India in 1919, and was stationed at Mehidpeer. A dedication service was held in the church.

The WMS has sponsored several groups connected with the church, namely -- Explorers, COC, Cubs and Scouts. They have observed the 50th and 60th anniversaries of the WMS and the 50th anniversary of COC, known as The Busy Bee Mission Band. There have been outstanding leaders in these groups, who have devoted their time and talents to the training of these young girls and boys, who tomorrow will become leaders.

Fifty-three members have received Life Membership certificates and five have received honorary Life Membership certificates and three In Memoriam certificates have been presented. Many seals have been given to the children of the COC.

The officers for 1964 are: president, Mrs. Donald Weldhen; vice presidents, Mrs. Donald Legg and Mrs. E. J. Price; secretary, Mrs. E. J. Price; treasurer, Mrs. Gordon Brown.

The St. Thomas Times-Journal, April 7, 1964

Belmont Willing Workers Are Busy Group

A Willing Workers group was organized in Knox Presbyterian Church, Belmont, in 1903, which gave assistance throughout the year for ordinary expenses involving the church and manse.

This group was formed during the pastorate of Rev. John Currie. Money was raised by entertainments, lawn socials and banquets. They were a faithful group, who did noble work and as soon as war broke out in 1914, formed themselves

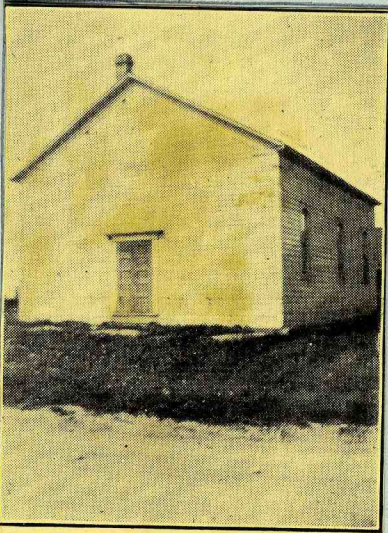
into a Red Cross organization. In 1918, the group was re-organized as a Willing Worker's Society with Mrs. W. M. Wilkins as president, Mrs. Hugh Wallace, secretary, and Mrs. J. L. Grant, treasurer.

Much credit is due this organization for help given to the work of missions as well as contributing at different times to camps connected with the Presbyterian Church; to the Deaconess Training School (Ewart College) Toronto and to the John Milton Society.

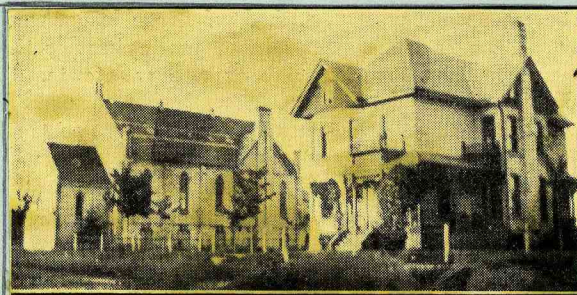
The members have taken on many projects through the years, decorating the church and manse; carpeting the church, supplying music for the choir and The Psalms for use in the congregation; and they were instrumental in having a pipe organ installed in the church in 1929 which is still in use.

Money has been raised by catering to banquets, weddings and in various other ways. One project for 1964 is the replacing of tables and chairs for use in the Sunday School.

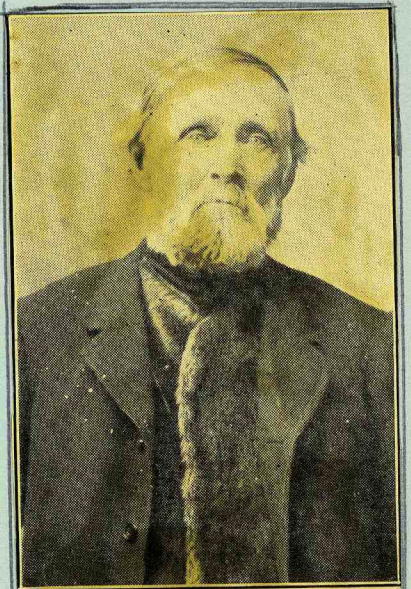
Officers for 1964 are: presidents, Mrs. E. J. Price, Mrs. Hiram Jenken Jr., and Mrs. Murray Campbell; secretary, Mrs. Ronald Taylor and treasurer, Mrs. Lorne Taylor.



VICTORIA CHURCH—1855-1929



BELMONT CHURCH AND PARSONAGE
1889-1929



1853- RICHARD DIBB 1957.

Belmont Circuit

1853-1929



The Methodist Church—1853-1925

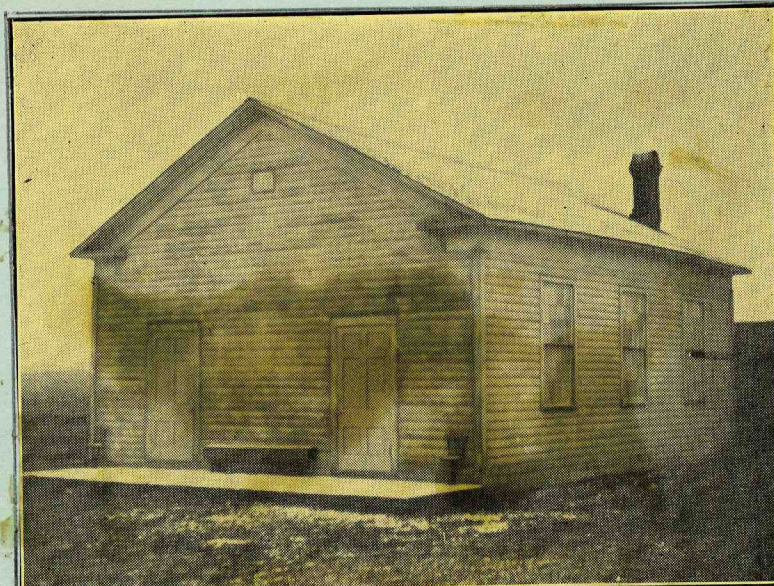
and

The United Church of Canada

1925-9

Observed July 21-22, 1929

HISTORY FROM 1853—1959.



OLD METHODIST CHURCH AT SALEM
1855- 1908