

Chalmers United Church

Young Peoples Society

In 1894 a Christian Endeavour Society was organized and did a great work in training young people for all church activities. The Society was replaced later by the Young Peoples Home Mission Society. In addition to acting as a training school for church workers its efforts were directed largely to missionary work. After 30 years of activity the Society was discontinued in 1924. Several attempts have been made to reorganize, but it was not until May 1946 at the home of Ronald and Donald Campbell that a Young Peoples Union was formed under the guidance of Rev. T. C. Wilkinson. The Society was quite active up until about 1960, when it was disbanded again. During Mr. Burr's Ministry, a number of young people from the congregation met with the young people of Lawrence and McBrides. At the present time a Hi C. group meet with the HI C. groups of Dutton and Wallacetown.

1956

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY



Standing, left to right: Reta Guest, ^{Pamela} Lorraine Campbell, Bob Patterson, Margaret J. Campbell, Eric Guest, ^{Laurine} Pamela Campbell, James Campbell.
Seated, left to right: Don Philip Campbell, Gordon Guest, Patsy Campbell, church organist, Alice Campbell, Ann Patterson.

Chalmers United Church

United Church Women

In 1889 Mrs Rogers of London organized the first W.F.M.S., (later W.M.S.) for Missionary Work and study. The first executives were, - President, Mrs Alexander Urquhart, Vice President, Mrs D. J. Campbell, Secretary Miss Jessie Fletcher, and Treasurer, Miss Annie McTavish.

During the years the membership has not been large, but the work has been carried on faithfully in the service of the Master. Bales have been packed and allocations met. Special mention might be made of Misses Mary and Jane Thomson, who served diligently for many years, and who left a bequest of \$400, to the work of the society. Special services were observed on the 40th and 60th anniversaries of the Society.

Special mention might be made of the Young Ladies Bible Class which was organized by Mrs (Rev) Munroe in 1918. The President was Miss Catherine McCallum and the Treasurer Miss Marguerite Thomson. Meetings were held once a month at the homes, when devotional periods and programs were given. In 1929 it was felt that the W.M.S. needed a larger membership and the Y.L.B.C. amalgamated with that Society.

The Ladies Aid, and later the Womens Association have been an active organization and have assisted the Church financially in many ways, and also provided many social gatherings which are important to the life of a church. For several years the meetings were held in conjunction with the W.M.S. meetings with the same President and Secretary for both organizations but with different Treasurers. Thus the women of the congregation were ready when the time came for the two Societies to amalgamate under the new title of United Church Women in 1964. The first Organ was purchased by the Ladies Aid in 1902 and in 1942 a piano was provided for use in the Service of Praise. When a Hammond Organ was installed in 1956 the W.A. assisted with the payments, and also contributed generously toward the Heating Fund when Electric Heating was installed in 1965. The Church building has been re-decorated several times, the financial responsibility being undertaken by this group. The U.C.W. has met its allocation from the Presbyterial each year to assist in the expanding work of the Church. Missionary study has been carried on regularly at the meetings. Those serving on the present Executive (1966) are, - Past President, Mrs Ronald Campbell. President Mrs Donald McTavish. Vice President, Mrs Robert Murray. Secretary, Mrs Kenneth Campbell. Treasurer, Mrs I. L. MacAdam.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY AND WOMAN'S AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE 1956



Standing, left to right: Mrs. D. E. Carroll, Mrs. W. J. Campbell, Mrs. Philip Campbell, Mrs. Humphrey Campbell. Seated, left to right: Mrs. A. D. McTavish, Mrs. Margaret McTavish, Mrs. Hugh Carroll.

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HISTORY OF S.S. # 9, DUNWICH

1855 - 1966

copied from a booklet compiled
when the school closed in 1966.

The early settlers of this section who came here in the 1830's have descendents still in the community; names like McCallum, Campbell, Thomson, McBride, McNabb, Fletcher, Turner, McWilliam, McColl, McRae, Patterson, Graham, McTavish and McAlpine.

These settlers first attempted to build a school in the early fifties. The first school was started but not completed on Lot 22, Concession 2. About 1855 a school was built on Lot 21, Concession 2. This was a crude structure of hewn logs plastered on the outside, one window and rough planks for seats. Around 1869 an improved frame structure was built to take the place of the log school house at a site a little east, just at the brow of the hill. This school was destroyed by fire in 1870 after one year of service.

A new school was built to replace the one destroyed by fire. This school served the section until the time of a special meeting of the Section held on 26th October, 1892. The object of the meeting was the changing of the schoolsite. Dugald J. Campbell brought the matter before the meeting and the following motion was made: " A motion by Mr. Murray, and seconded, that the present site be enlarged was defeated. Moved in amendment by Samuel McColl, seconded by D. McPhedran that the site be moved at least 30 rods West of present site, Carried. "

On 12th November 1892 another special meeting was called at which Duncan McCallum was chairman and D.A. McNabb secretary. The following motion was passed: " Moved by D.G. McTavish, seconded by D.A. McNabb that the trustees be empowered and authorized to change and purchase a site forthwith at a point not to exceed thirty rods West from centre of present site to centre of new site and the school to be on said site during the vacation of 1893. Carried."

The present site of the school was purchased from Arch C. Campbell for \$75 and the contract for moving the school was given to W. Cavers. Lou Beech did the brick work on the school. The work was not very satisfactory because when the children arrived at school one morning they found that the entire front of the school had fallen out. In the minutes of the 26th of December 1895, we find the following, "Moved by Alex. McLachlin, seconded by John Campbell, that the brick work be torn down and rebuilt with one foot of stone in the foundation and raised one foot higher. Lou Beech not to do it. Carried."

James Morrison had the contract for rebuilding the brick on the school, and at that time the date 1896 was put on the school where it still remains. (Foot note - When Cliff Campbell tore the school down the board with the date was kept and is in the new house he built.)

In 1894 a well was dug in the south corner of the school yard. The records fail to show who dug the well, but the minutes of the 26th December, 1894 show that the contract of levelling the earth around the well and drawing two loads of gravel was sold to Alex McRea for \$2.10.

In the early days janitor work was generally left to the teacher and pupils, and though the families who lived close to the school were paid \$10 a year for starting fires, it was not until 1903 that we find the following motion on the books: " Moved by AC. Campbell, seconded by Angus Murray that the school house be swept by someone who was paid for it." The following few years the teacher was paid \$10 a year for sweeping.

The wood shed that held so many secrets, and the roof that tore so many pants was built by Duncan Turner in 1905 at a cost of \$70. In 1913 the first school fair was held, and in accounts of that year we find that a grant of \$5 was paid to C.W. Buchanan, then Agricultural Representative for Elgin.

At the Annual Meeting of S.S. # 9 on 31st December, 1914, the first permanent Secretary Treasurer was appointed in the person of Alex McLachlin, who received a salary of \$5 a year. He served in this capacity until 1920. J. B. Watson then served faithfully from 1920 until 1936. Humphrey Campbell was then appointed and served until the school was taken into the Central board in 1965.

The first music instruction was started in the school in 1935 under the supervision of Miss Phyllis Parsons.

Hydro was installed in the school in the summer of 1940, with Alex Law being the contractor.

Mention should be made of the maple trees that surround the school yard. They provided the children with cool refreshing shade in the summer, and plenty of leaves to build leaf houses in the fall. These trees were mostly planted under the supervision of Dan McMillan and the first four trees were planted in 1897, two on each side of the gate. The remainder were planted in 1898 and 1899.

There are numerous incidents which occurred that we might mention but we hope this brief history will be appreciated, and we will leave it all to the former teachers and pupils to remember and cherish their own memories of happy school days.

Music Teachers at S.S. # 9

Miss Phyllis Parsons	1935 - 1938
Miss Agnes Dickson	1938 - 1939
Mrs. Norman Welch	1939 - 1940
Mrs. Donald Leitch	1940 - 1950
Miss Helen Patterson	1950 - 1956
Mrs Donald Leitch	1956 - 1966

TEACHERS

The names of the teachers from 1855 to 1890 have been compiled from the memory of older residents, as our records only date back to 1890.

They are as follows:

Miss Jessie Campbell	Miss Christina Patterson
Mr. McCrimmon	MR. Shute
Mr. W.G. Fraser	Mr. John Thomson
Mr. John Leitch	Mr. McCormick
Mr. John McKenzie	Mr. McLachlin
Mr. Duncan Leitch	Miss Annie Geddes
Mr. Duncan Sinclair	Mr. A.K. Burke
	Mr. Dan McMillan

1890 - 1966

Miss Annie Shaw	1890 - 1892
Miss Maggie Paton	1892 - 1894
Miss Flora Shaw	1894 - 1895
Mr. John Malloy	1895 - 1897
Mr. Dan McMillan	1897 - 1900
Mr. Robt J. McMillan	1900 - 1903
Miss Flora Kerr	1903 - 1905
Miss Effie Kerr	1905 - 1905 (3 months)
Mr. Archie T. Clark	1905 - 1906
Miss Mary J. Duncanson	1906 - 1912
Miss Cela McRae	1912 - 1914
Mr. Jack Battin	1914 - 1917
Miss Margaret Leitch	1917 - 1919
Miss Edna Gibson	1919 - 1921
Miss Marion McIntyre	1921 - 1923
Miss Vera Brown	1923 - 1926
Miss Ruby Cornell	1926 - 1928
Miss Annie Laurie	1928 - 1928 (4 months)
Miss Gladys Hartwick	1928 - 1931
Miss Alice Matheson	1931 - 1932
Mr. Kenneth McKellar	1932 - 1938
Miss Jean Forman	1938 - 1939
Miss Agnes McWilliam	1939 - 1943
Mrs. Lloyd Wigle	1943 - 1944
Miss Nellie Auckland	1944 - 1945
Mrs. Flora Carroll	1945 - 1946
Miss Isobel McDonald	1946 - 1947
Mr. Fergus McColl	1947 - 1948
Mr. Harry Jacobs	1948 - 1950
MRS. Betty Henderson	1950 - 1956
MRS. Jean Walters	1956 - 1958
Mrs. Bruce McCallum	1958 - 1959
Miss Joan Welch	1959 - 1961
Mrs. Marilyn Weeks	1961 - 1966

IT'S NOT SO NEW

It seems a disaster
But things must move faster
New science - new math -
New phonics - platonics.

New energized - gigantic -
Tiger power 'til you're frantic.
New fabulous - stupendous -
Supersonic and tremendous!

Clinically tested - fluoridated -
Powerful and concentrated -
And now our ego is deflated
Once we hit consolidated.

But why this fuss
Over our schools,
When sometimes the brilliant
Can be fools?

It's not the speed
Or building space,
That will meet our problems
Face to face.

It's not new methods
Or the best
That will make our lives
Full of zest -

It's the folks we place
Within each room -
That will make tomorrow
Fail or bloom -

It's not the building
New or old -
About whom the story
Will be told.

It's the PEOPLE who
Do come and go
Within these walls
That the world will know.

Margaret McCallum
(nee Margaret Jane Campbell)

July 2nd, 1966.

SCHOOL SECTION # 9, DUNWICH

- 1891 Municipal grant \$15.15
Legislative grant \$15.05
- 1891 Firewood supplied at 84¢ a cord.
Firing of stove \$10 a year.
- 1892 Insurance 70¢ a year. Teachers salary \$320.
- 1893 School moved 30 rods west to present site.
- 1894 2 foot long firewood supplied by Sam McColl at 80¢ a cord.
Seats replaced hewn logs.
- 1895 Alex McRae supplied firewood at 78¢ a cord.
- 1896 Put in stone foundation.
\$195 for veneering.
J. Morrison repaired school, Alex McRae did plastering
and painting.
Insurance \$1 a year.
Teacher's pine desk sold to Peter McCallum for 70¢.
- 1905 Duncan Turner built woodshed (Sold to Ron Campbell in
1955 for chicken coop.)
- 1912 Board fence built .
- 1914 First single seats were bought.
- 1914 Alex McLachlin first secretary, paid \$5 a year salary.
- 1915 Seats sold at 24 for \$7.50 .
- 1919 Wire fence built around yard by John A. McCallum.
- 1920 Jack Watson appointed Secretary-Treasurer.
- 1935 Humphrey Campbell appointed Sec-Treas. and served in this
capacity until 1965 when rural schools were amalgamated
into a Township system. In 1969 County Boards were formed.

Rural schools were amalgamated and the Dunwich student were bussed to the Dunwich-Dutton Public School in Dutton where additions had been made to the old High School building. Trustees are sent from West Elgin to meet with other trustees from Elgin which makes up the Elgin County School Board. The meetings are held in St Thomas. Dunwich representatives have been Norman McWilliam, Morley Binks and at present Carol Walters is the representative.

In July, 1966 a school reunion was held after the closing of the school. Many former students and teachers renewed friendships. A programme and smogasbord chicken supper rounded out the sunny, fun filled day. Later that year an auction sale was held and Clifford Campbell bought the school and lot. He married Helen Moffat in 1974 and in 1975 the old school was torn down. The bricks were salvaged, then the remains burnt on April 21, 1975. A new brick home was built where the school once stood. In 1983 Cliff withdrew from the partnership of Belldoon Farms and bought a 100 acre farm near Sebringville. A public aucton was held in the spring and Cliff's brother, Angus, bought the house and lot. On June 7, 1983 Cliff and Helen moved to their new home and the house is now vacant.



Registering



Two "past ninety" Attendants
 Mrs Jessie Campbell
 Mrs Annie Cobban, oldest ex-student



Enjoying Smorgasborg
 Mrs Thos Kerr, Miss Mary Duncanson
 Mrs George Carroll



Mrs A.T.Campbell, W.I.Pres. ^{Mac} Bonnie McDonald, Bruce McCallum, Reeve Dunwich Twp., M.C.



Costumes of By-gone Days

Mrs D. Carroll, Miss K. Campbell
Mrs A. McCallum, Mrs C. Oldham
Mrs D. Branchflower, Mrs D. Forsyth

J. C. Campbell, J. A. Patterson
J. P. Campbell, W. J. Campbell
R. Murray



Teachers Present

Front Row:- Mrs McLandress, Miss Duncanson
Mrs R. Patterson, Mrs B. McCallum
Mrs Weeks

Back Row:- Mrs D. E. Carroll, Mrs McKillop
Mrs G. Carroll, Mrs Walters
Mrs Henderson, Mrs J. C. Campbell
Mr. K. McKellar

SOME SCHOOL PICTURES



1930 Back Row Mary Campbell, Gretta Anderson,
Jean McGaw.
Back Row Vera Martin, Sylvia Martin,
Katherine Campbell.



Back Row Bill Anderson, Alex Anderson, Clifford
Anderson, Dan McCallum
Middle Row Clarence Campbell, Lloyd McCallum,
Donald Keates, Lloyd Anderson
Front Row Raymond Anderson, Jack Keates, Owen
McCallum 1930



Back-Yvonne (Patterson) McCallum, John Thomson,
Duncan McTavish.
Front - Margaret (McTavish) Carroll, Doris (Stide)
Roulston, Agnes (McWilliam) McCallum, teacher.

1966 School Reunion at Cowal, \$.\$.# 9.