

Names familiar to the congregation in the early years were:
Hitzel, Pfeiffer, Kerner, Ellis, Schmitt, Limberger, Ramstein, and
Schnekenburger.

Written by: Miss Minnie Martini



Old Christian Church - 1875

update ministers - Rodney Christian Church

Thomas Gray	1953	- 1955
R. Ray Stetson	1956	- 1958
John Carr	1958	- 1963
J.P. Murray	1963	- 1967
St O. Steele	1968	- 1973
2 Ron Mellick	1973	- 1975
Thomas Gray	1975	-

To Mrs Dawson for Swedenborg
book

" THE RODNEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH "

The Rodney Christian Church finds its spiritual roots in Argyleshire, Scotland. It was in the year 1817 that a small group of Scotch Baptist believers, restive under the restraints of a creedal bound state dominated religion, and desirous of a greater measure of religious freedom, set sail for the shores of Canada. Ultimately they were to land on the north shores of Lake Erie at the place now known as Fort Glasgow, but then nothing but an untamed wilderness in Upper Canada. This was in the month of October 1817. One of this group was John McKellar, sometimes referred to as a minor prophet of the movement known as Disciples of Christ or Church of Christ (Disciples). By 1820 this group of early Disciples but at the time referred to as Scotch Baptists, numbered among its members such worthy pioneers as Donald McVicar, Duncan McKillop, Colin Ferguson, Malcolm Robertson, George Squire Munro and Peter McKellar. It was in that year that another Argyleshire Scot James Black joined these Aldborough Pioneers. Upon his arrival he was immediately hired as teacher and preacher. His name is perpetuated in Aldborough by Black's Lane which is the first cross road west of the Furnival. When he left some five years later, he was to leave behind him a strong influential congregation that was ultimately to mother four other Disciple Churches in Aldborough, Eagle, Third Concession, Rodney and West Lorne. In the year 1850, under the influence and leadership of this same James Black, the Scotch Baptist Movement in Ontario were all without exception to become united with the movement known as Church of Christ (Disciples) or Christian Church. This movement had its beginnings in the United States in the year 1807 under the leadership of another Scot, Thomas Campbell.

Among early members of the Rodney Christian Church who were of this pioneer group are to be found the names McKillop, Ferguson, McVicar and Munro. Two of the pioneer preachers in this congregation were

" THE RODNEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH "

The Rodney Christian Church finds its spiritual roots in Argyleshire, Scotland. It was in the year 1817 that a small group of Scotch Baptist believers, restive under the restraints of a creedal bound state dominated religion, and desirous of a greater measure of religious freedom, set sail for the shores of Canada. Ultimately they were to land on the north shores of Lake Erie at the place now known as Port Glasgow, but then nothing but an untamed wilderness in Upper Canada. This was in the month of October 1817. One of this group was John McKellar, sometimes referred to as a minor prophet of the movement known as Disciples of Christ or Church of Christ (Disciples). By 1820 this group of early Disciples but at the time referred to as Scotch Baptists, numbered among its members such worthy pioneers as Donald McVicar, Duncan McKillop, Colin Ferguson, Malcolm Robertson, George Squire Munro and Peter McKellar. It was in that year that another Argyleshire Scot James Black joined these Aldborough Pioneers. Upon his arrival he was immediately hired as teacher and preacher. His name is perpetuated in Aldborough by Black's Lane which is the first cross road west of the Furnival. When he left some five years later, he was to leave behind him a strong influential congregation that was ultimately to mother four other Disciple Churches in Aldborough, Eagle, Third Concession, Rodney and West Lorne. In the year 1850, under the influence and leadership of this same James Black, the Scotch Baptist Movement in Ontario were all without exception to become united with the movement known as Church of Christ (Disciples) or Christian Church. This movement had its beginnings in the United States in the year 1807 under the leadership of another Scot, Thomas Campbell.

Among early members of the Rodney Christian Church who were of this pioneer group are to be found the names McKillop, Ferguson, McVicar and Munro. Two of the pioneer preachers in this congregation were

Dugald Sinclair and D.B. McKellar. It was not until 1875, that members of the Rodney Christian Church were to build a permanent church edifice. For several years previous to this, members of the congregation had been meeting in and around Rodney, using homes, barns and public buildings as meeting places. Appalled by the great prevalence of establishments catering to the alcoholic thirst of the villagers and ashamed at the complete absence of a building dedicated to the glory of God, This early group of Disciples set about to erect the first church building in Rodney and in 1875 joyfully dedicated it to the greater glory of God. This original building was situated on a piece of land donated to the church by Richard Lusty. It is described in these terms, 2/5 of an acre of land part of the south half of lot seven, in the seventh concession of the township of Aldborough, and may be otherwise known as the intersection of Maple and Ridout Streets. The church trustees at this time were Joseph H. Barnes, William C. Grout and John Johnson. In 1920 this building was sold to Louis Schneckenburger and used for a garage situated on Main Street. It is now owned and occupied by Mr. Bert. Lashbrook.

In 1919 the present church was bought on Stinson Street. This church bore the name of A.W. Methodist Church the A.W. being for Amasa Wood, who started the Amasa Wood Hospital in St. Thomas and now known as Memorial Hospital. This church was remodelled and a basement put under it and a front built on to it. On account of it being built so soon after the war, brick being unavailable, the best that could be done was to build with concrete blocks, much to the dislike of the building committee. The building committee was composed of Alex. Purcell, Dr. A.G. McLevy, Frank Graham and Ernest Lusty.

The following is a list of the names of those who have served as ministers to this congregation since 1875:

Colin Sinclair	-	1873-75,
Archibald Sinclair	-	1875-77,
D.B. McKellar	-	1877-79,
James Kilgour	-	1879-80,
T.L. Fowler	-	1880-82,
W.D. Campbell	-	1883-86,
Joseph Ash	-	1886-87,
Percival Baker	-	1887-92,
R.M. Ainsworth	-	1892-93,
Edmund Shepherd	-	1894-95,
T.L. Fowler	-	1895-1903,
W.C. McDougall	-	1905-06,
C.H. Scriven	-	1906-08,
Hugh Calkins	-	1908-11,
T.L. Fowler	-	1911-19,
V.J. Murray	-	1919-22,
Swaby-Smith	-	1923-27,
Perry L. Wolfe	-	1927-30,
E.T. Lewis	-	1930-31,
Archibald Gray	-	1931-36,
Fred Dunn	-	1936-42,
David Watterworth	-	1942,
Gary Quigley	-	1942-48,
Elmer Stainton	-	1948-52,

" ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH "

- Written by Mrs. (Rev.) T.E. Kennedy,

In 1877 St. John's Presbyterian Church, Rodney, was organized and the church built on the property it now stands on, given by the grandfather of G.S. Stinson. Up until that time the people had gone to New Glasgow or Kintyre.

Among the first ministers were Rev. O. Francis, Rev. J.F. Scott, Rev. J. Falconer and Rev. Wolland.

In 1911 the church was renovated and stands the same to-day. In 1950 the auditorium was redecorated and in 1952 the men of the church redecorated the Sunday School rooms.

In 1925 church union divided the congregation, but the building and manse were retained by the continuing Presbyterian Church.

In 1890 a Womens' Foreign Missionary Society was organized, and after it's 60th., Anniversary, the members presented the church with a beautiful Baptismal Font.

For many years there has been a Young Womens' Missionary Society and a Mission Band with many capable leaders. Before the Second World War there had always been a Young Peoples' Society.

At one time the Adult Bible Class of this church was known throughout the church in Canada, because of its membership and enthusiasm. At the present time there is a fine Sunday School under the leadership of Mr. D.G. Gillies.

Since 1925 three young men from this church have become ministers: The Rev. Harold Lowry of Burlington,
The Rev. Donald St. Clair Campbell of Windsor,
The Rev. Glen Campbell of Seaforth.

The present minister Rev. T.E. Kennedy has been here since 1947.