

Church Treasurer

Wm. Hicks continued as Church Treasurer until December, 1948. He was succeeded by Walter Auckland until December, 1951, when Jas. Brokenshire took over that work, and is the present Treasurer of Church, March, 1954.

M. & M. Treasurer

M. & M. Treasurer was Mrs. Jennie Taylor until her death in April, 1948. Then Rev. L. C. White (a minister on sick leave who lived in Talbotville parsonage from July, 1945 to October, 1952) acted until December, 1950. Mrs. Fred Helkaa has been M. & M. Treasurer since then.

Envelope Secretary

Mrs. A. E. Thomas continues as Envelope Secretary since December, 19

Church Organists

Mae Gunning (Mrs. Harvey Naylor) was succeeded by her sister, Francied Gunning (Mrs. Spence Claus), then Mrs. Ralph Auckland (nee Irene Hicks) the present organist and choir leader, March, 1954.

Sunday School

Ralph Auckland and Albert Auckland continue as Associate Superintendents of the Sunday School, March 1954. Attendance has gradually increased and occasionally the "100" mark is reached. There is a splendid staff of officers and teachers. Mrs. Victor Martyn is the capable teacher of the flourishing Mr. & Mrs. Class (which consists chiefly of Mrs.), while Mrs. Elizabeth Fife took over a class of young teen age lads in January, 1954. Sunday School Treasurer is Miss Betty Wallis, and Secretaries are Douglas Shiel and Douglas Osborne.

Woman's Association

W. A. Presidents since January 1st, 1943, are -
January, 1943 - December, 1947 = Mrs. Ralph Auckland.
January, 1948 - December, 1949 = Mrs. Lester Longhurst.
January, 1950 - December, 1951 = Mrs. Gordon Lyle.
January, 1952 - December, 1952 = Mrs. John Burtwistle.
January, 1953 to present time⁵⁴ = Mrs. Chester Vooden.

5 yrs.
2 "
2 "
1 "
2 "

Secretary now is Mrs. Leslie Waugh, March, 1954.

Treasurer is Mrs. J. L. Osborne, March, 1954.

The system of working in groups began in 1940, and ceased in 1950.

Young People's Society

A Young People's Society ~~has~~ been discontinued for some time. The last Presidents were Albert Auckland and Jean Wallis (Mrs. Jim Brokenshire).

Woman's Missionary Society

W. M. S. Presidents are -

Mrs. Ernest Latimer - 1947

Mrs. (Rev.) L. C. White 1947 - 1951

Mrs. Ralph Auckland 1951 to present time.

Secretary - Mrs. Joe Auckland.

Treasurer - Mrs. Walter Auckland.

Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday afternoon of each month.

Evening Auxiliary

The Girls' Circle was re-organized under the supervision of Mrs. L. C. White into an Evening Auxiliary. The girls meet the first Tuesday evening of each month in the members' homes, and change officers each year. The President now is Miss Betty Wallis, March, 1954.

Mission Band

The Mission Band under the leadership of Mrs. A. Auckland and Miss Betty Wallis meets the third Sunday of each month in the Sunday School room during the regular morning preaching service in church.

Prepared March 17, 1954
by Mrs. Alice E. Thomas.

Rev. E. M. Currey First Woman Cleric in Elgin

The first woman ever to be called to a church in Elgin County as an ordained minister is Rev. Erla M. Currey, of Orton, Ont.

Miss Currey has accepted a call to Shedden United Church, to succeed Rev. Dr. M. W. Goodrich, who with his wife was killed in a motor accident last week in the village of Shedden. The call was approved Thursday at a meeting of the Elgin Presbytery held in Grace United Church, St. Thomas. Previous to the accident, the Presbytery had been scheduled to meet in the Shedden church.

Miss Currey will assume her new duties here on July 1, taking over the pastorate not only of the Shedden church but also of the Frome and Southwold congregations on the same charge.

Miss Currey graduated in Arts from Victoria University, which is affiliated with the University of Toronto, in 1933, and continued her studies at the United Church Training School for women, from which she graduated in 1935.

Emmanuel College Graduate

From 1936 until the middle of 1942, she served under the Women's Missionary Society in Queen Street United Church, Toronto, being chiefly responsible for children's and young people's work. In the fall of 1942, she entered Emmanuel College, the United Church theological school in Toronto, as a candidate for the ministry. She graduated and was ordained in September, 1943, having received credit for time served in study at the Training School earlier.



REV. E. M. CURREY

In October of that same year she went to Saskatchewan, and until 1948 served the Butte-Riverhurst field in the Moose Jaw Presbytery. In July, 1948, she returned to Ontario and took the pastorate of the United Church at Orton, in the Dufferin and Peel Presbytery of the Toronto Conference of the Church.

Her coming to Shedden this summer co-incides with a move of her brother, Rev. E. A. Currey, of Acton, who has been called to Wellington Street United Church, London, Ont. He will also take over his duties in July.

Mon, May 9th, 1953

40 Received at Talbotville Church

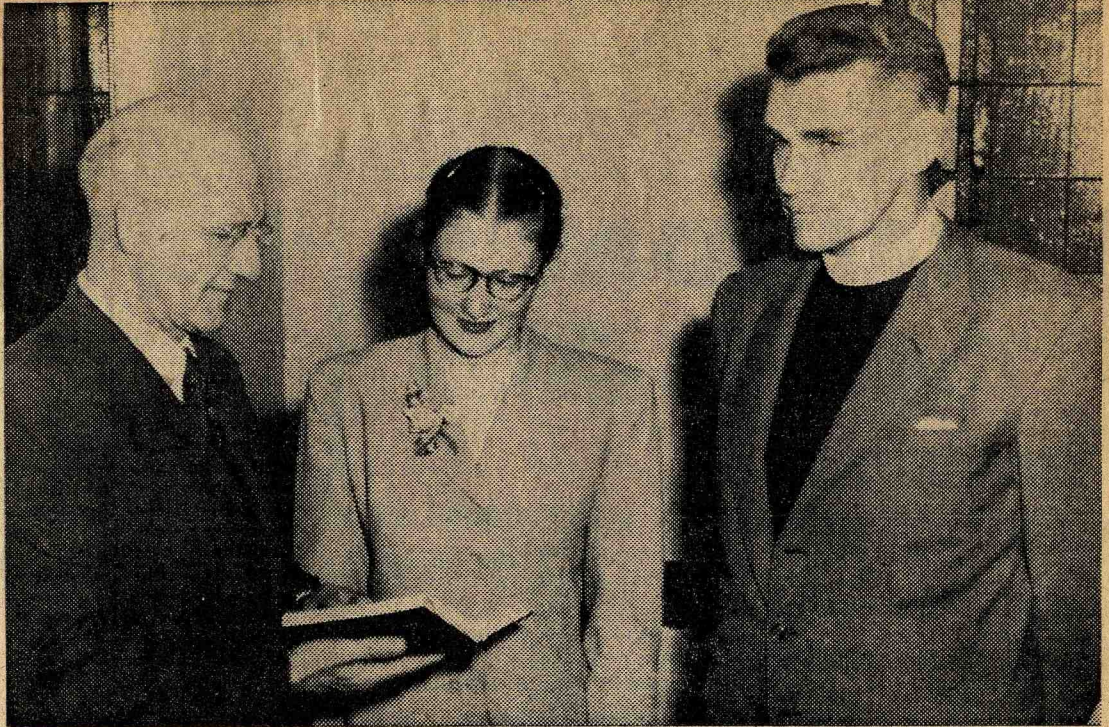
TALBOTVILLE.—Forty persons were received into the fellowship of Talbotville United Church on Palm Sunday, March 30. Rev. C. A. Perkins, B. Th., was in charge of the service. The lengthy list is as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harwood, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Siple, Mr. Victor Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Bendell, Mr. Clarence Bendell, Mr. Harvey French, Mr. Roy French, Mrs. Frank Henderson, Mr. Harley Laur, Miss Marilyn Boothman, Miss Elaine Cole, Mary Waugh, Robert Osborne, Bernice Gilbert, Marie Auckland, William Bawden, Keith Bawden, Sharon Bendell, Bobby Bendell, Marion Brokenshire, Jo Ann Burtwistle, William Catherall, Richard Carr, Betty Clinton, Allan Clinton, Russell Gould, Brian Helkaa, Howard Hunter, Allan Meek, Terry McCallum, Garry McGugan, John McGugan, Larry Stuart, Carol Young, Barbara Bendell, William Chute, Dwight Auckland.

Mar. 30th, 1953

Rena Beacom a Candidate for Ministry

May 24th, 1963.

St. Thomas, Elgin Co.



FIRST WOMAN ACCEPTED—Elgin Presbytery of the United Church Thursday accepted for the first time a woman as candidate for the ministry. She is Miss Rena Beacom, of Dutton, seen

above between her father, Rev. C. E. Beacom, left, minister at Wallacetown and Dutton, and Rev. R. B. Craig, Presbytery chairman.—(T.-J. Photo).

The first woman to be accepted as a candidate for the ministry by the Elgin Presbytery of the United Church, was received Thursday evening at a meeting of the Presbytery in Grace United Church.

Miss Rena Beacom, of Dutton, was formally received by Rev. R. B. Craig, First United Church,

chairman of the Presbytery.

Miss Beacom, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Beacom, will graduate from West Elgin High School, West Lorne, this June. She will enroll at Victoria College, Toronto, in the fall for an Arts course, followed by theological training.

Born in Windsor, she received

her early education in several southwestern Ontario schools where her father held charges. She is the oldest of four children.

Following the regular meeting of the Presbytery, a reception was held for Miss Beacom. Her father is minister for the Dutton and Wallacetown churches.

Rev. A. H. Johnston New Chairman Elgin Presbytery

May 24th, 1963.

New Ministers Coming

Rev. A. Harold Johnston, for the past three years the minister of Grace United Church here, was elected chairman of the Elgin Presbytery of the United Church at sessions held in Grace Church on Thursday. He succeeds Rev. R. B. Craig, of First Church, who has held the post for the past year.

During this same 12-month period, Rev. Mr. Johnston has served as secretary of the Presbytery, and prior to that had headed up the Home Mission and Extension work of the church. His place as secretary was filled Thursday by the election of Rev. Morley G. Clarke, of Port Stanley.

At Thursday's sessions, calls from the St. Thomas suburban charge, from the Richmond and Corinth charge and the Shedden charge, which incorporates the congregations of Frome and Southwold Station, were approved. This will bring three new ministers to the area on July 1.

Among the new ministers is Rev. Evan McLagan, of Rydal Bank, in the Algoma Presbytery, who entered the ministry while a member of the church at Mitchell during the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Johnston, the new chairman of Presbytery here. His work will cover the congregations of Homedale in St. Thomas, and of Yarmouth Centre and Townline. He succeeds R. C. Winlaw, a student in theology, who asked to be relieved of pastoral work during his final year.

Of the other two, one is a man, Rev. A. M. Manson, who is coming to the Richmond-Corinth charge from Mount Brydges, succeeding Rev. J. N. Gould, who is taking lighter duties as assistant at St. Pauls Church, Aylmer.

The other one is Rev. Erla Curry, of Orton, the first woman ever to come as an ordained minister to a charge in Elgin. She is taking over at Shedden, succeeding Rev. Dr. M. W. Goodrich, whose tragic death earlier this week caused the Presbytery to shift its place of meeting from the Shedden church to St. Thomas.

Girl Candidate For Ministry

Coupled with this was the acceptance of a report of the Christian Education committee that Mary Adrena Beacom, 17-year-old daughter of Rev. C. A. Beacom, of Dutton, be received as a candidate for the ministry. This is the first time in the history of the Presbytery that a woman has been so received. A reception service was held later in the day for Miss Beacom, who is a student at West Elgin High School. The reception was conducted by the retiring chairman of Presbytery, Rev. R. B. Craig, assisted by the girl's father.

Another change in pastoral relations was reported by the Presbytery through Rev. C. A. Malcolm, of Port Stanley, who spoke for the Pension Committee. This was that Rev. H. A. Bunt, of the Fingal charge, had taken a post as assistant at St. James United Church, Windsor.

During the day, Rev. E. J. Roulston, of Central Church, spoke in appreciation of those leaving the Presbytery. A motion of congratulation was also passed for Rev. C. C. Strachan, of Bayham, who in June will observe 50 years in the ministry.

Elgin's Woman Minister

Members of Shedden United Church, and its associated churches at Frome and Southwold will await with interest the coming of their new pastor, Rev. Erla M. Currey, and the people of Elgin will watch with interest also how she will fit in.

Women clergy are very scarce, and many people are inclined to wonder why. It seems to have to do with tradition more than anything else because, as it is a calling depending more upon intellect than upon any other faculty, there is little to choose nowadays as between men and women. They have the same educational opportunities in universities, and can be physicians and surgeons, lawyers, laboratory technicians and anything else. And a young woman is just as likely to be the gold medalist of her class as any man. It took a long time to overcome what was nothing but prejudice against women in almost every profession except public and high-school teaching, and that prejudice seems to have existed longer in regard to the ministry than any other.

Yet, it must seem to many people, indeed be obvious, that a woman could make just as good, if not a better pastor, than a man. She is more at home at the church gatherings which are almost exclusively attended by women, and is the ideal type for visiting the sick. She is more likely to get along well with children in the Sunday School.

Although there is said to have been an improvement lately in the number of young men candidates for the ministry, the number is still far short of church needs, and we see no reason — except traditional prejudice, if that can be called a reason — why young women should not be invited to train for the ministry. Many of them have been splendid missionaries, and if they can teach and attend to the religious needs of tribal peoples, they can surely make good ministers among their own people.

The earliest record we have of a woman ordained minister is that of Miss Agnes Maud Royden, daughter of a wealthy and titled merchant in Liverpool, England, who, after doing social work, graduated from Oxford University and in 1910 became assistant pastor of the famed City Temple (Congregational) in London). The Shedden, Frome, Southwold churches are to be congratulated on making this call to Rev. Erla M. Currey and we wish her every success.

Wed. May 14th, 1958



CHANGING PASTORATES —
Rev. George A. Shields, Springfield, has accepted a call to the three-church charge of the United Church taking in Yarmouth Centre, Talbotville and North Yarmouth Townline. Mr. Shields will assume his new pastorate at the end of June. He has been pastor of St. John's Church, Springfield, and of the Trinity and Crossley - Hunter United Churches the past six years, being called there from Innerkip. A pastoral committee has been set up at Springfield to fill the vacancy being created there.—(T.-J. Photo.)

Rev. G. A. Shields Joins St. Thomas Suburban Charge

Rev. George A. Shields was inducted into the St. Thomas Suburban Charge, at the Townline United on Friday evening, with Rev. W. C. Smith, Port Stanley, conducting the service. Rev. Frank E. Ball, of St. Andrews United Church, Homedale, delivered the charge to the congregation, and to the newly inducted minister. The choir of the Townline Church supplied the music. Representatives of the three charge churches, Talbotville, Yarmouth Centre and Townline were in the congregation which filled the church to capacity.

Mr. Shields will occupy the pulpits in all three appointments in his charge on Sunday. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered at all the services.

Wife of Pastor Dies Suddenly At Talbotville

Mrs. Ethel Emma Perkins, wife of Rev. C. A. Perkins, pastor of St. Andrew's United Church and the Talbotville United Church, died of a sudden heart attack about seven o'clock Thursday morning at the parsonage at Talbotville. Mrs. Perkins had been active to the end and only last evening attended a meeting of the We Two Married Couples Club at St. Andrew's Church.

Born 66 years ago in Fergus, Mrs. Perkins was a daughter of the late Edward and Emma H. (Henderson) McHardy, of Beamsville. She attended school in Fergus and prior to her marriage in 1920 at Beamsville, had served as a deaconess in the Presbyterian Church at Toronto.

Since their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Perkins had resided at Port Dover, Harriston, Elora, Hamilton, Belleville, Woodstock and other charges, and came to the Talbotville-St. Andrew's charge a year ago.

Mrs. Perkins was active in all phases of church work and the various women's organizations.

Surviving besides Mr. Perkins are one son, C. Emerson Perkins, Chatham, and three grandchildren, Deborah, Gordon, Brenda Perkins, all in Chatham; also one brother, George McHardy, Fergus.

The remains are resting at the P. R. Williams and Son funeral home where the funeral service will be held at two p.m. Saturday. Interment will be made in Maple Leaf Cemetery, Chatham.

Thurs. May 8th 1958.