

FOREWORD

The Right Honorable Vincent Massey, once Governor-General of Canada, wrote a book with the intriguing title: "What's Past Is Prelude". In preparing this brief account of HILLHURST'S FIRST SIXTY YEARS in our congregation's Diamond Anniversary year, and Canada's Centennial year of 1967, I am mindful that what is set down is only representative, a sampling, of the day-to-day and month-to-month life of a living, vital and devoted bank of persons, younger and older, that comprise a Church. One might echo the words of the Fourth Gospel:

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.

John 20:30

Many people gave their bit, large or small, many hands have labored, and we, in the midst of the changing Sixties, are entered into their labors.

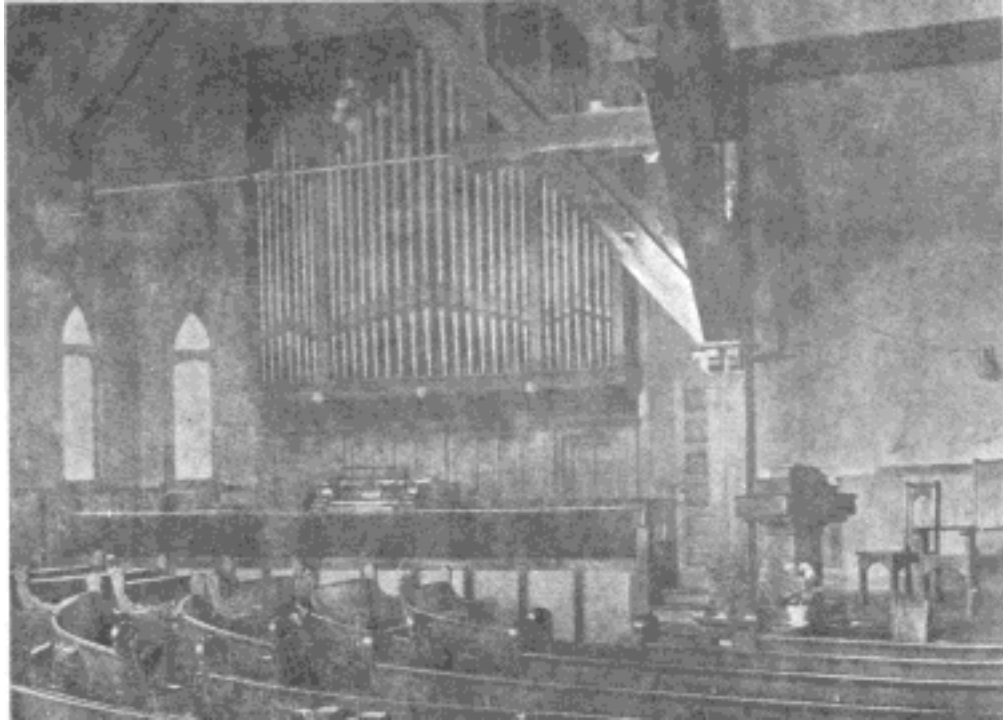
"Hitherto God hath helped us," and rejoicing in the heritage of "what's past", we can look forward with high hopes that God hath yet great things in store for us if we carry into the new day, the spirit and devotion of the old.

James Ernest Nix.

October, 1967.



HILLHURST BUSINESS SECTION - 1920
10th Street N.W. and Memorial Drive



Interior of church 1920

Rev. W.A. Smith



ST. PAUL'S METHODIST CHURCH- HILLHURST

The Methodist cause in the Hillhurst subdivision was begun in the Spring of 1907 with the organization of a Sunday School by Mr. W. R. Eveleigh, a Local Preacher recently arrived from England. The Sunday School began with an enrollment of forty and met in Riley Hall, at the corner of 11th Street and 5th Avenue N.W.

During the summer of 1907 Church services were held in Riley Hall by Mr. Eveleigh, or other visiting ministers, a congregation being organized under the guidance of Rev. T. C. Buchanan, Methodist Superintendent of Missions. The first Quarterly Official Board was Messrs. W. R. Eveleigh R. White, F. Bishop, and S.T. Thompson, Recording Steward. The Rev. Dr. R.L. Morrison, a returned missionary from China, was appointed minister.

On November 11th, 1907 a general meeting was held at which it was decided to build a Methodist Church, "the price not to exceed 2000 dollars." With Dr. Morrison as chairman, a building committee of Messrs. Eveleigh, Martin, Northover and Thompson was elected. Special services were held in November addressed by Dr. G.W. Kerby when an appeal for funds was made. Residents of Sunnyside and Hillhurst were canvassed and building commenced. Contractor was Mr. James Garden. By 1908 the Sunday School had grown to 100, and in 1909 an Epworth League (Young People's group) was formed, and a Class Meeting started with Mr. Marsh a local preacher, leader. The first Trustee was Mr T.W. Campbell, the organist Mr. Percy Bennett and the choirmaster Mr. Hove. The opening services in the new Church were held on the second Sunday of November, 1908, the Rev. George W. Kerby, D.D. as special preacher. At the banquet held the following evening speeches were made by the Hon. W.H. Cushing and Canon D. Easum, Rev. Mr. Gunn (Baptist) and Rev. C. A. Mitchell (Presbyterian). Membership in 1909 was 62. At the Annual Meeting of May 26, 1909 the Trustee Board reported that they had raised \$600 during the year, had paid the minister \$296.85 salary, with a salary deficit of \$103.15.

In summer, 1909, the Rev. W.E. Galloway was appointed minister, and a special meeting called to consider building a parsonage. Four lots adjoining the Church could be purchased for \$15,000. Weekly collections were averaging \$11 "which was a great improvement over last year".



THE CRUSADERS - YOUNG MEN'S CLASS

C.E. LEPPARD, TEACHER 1913

By Annual Meeting, May 2, 1911, membership had reached 115, and it was decided to pay the minister \$1,100., or if possible, \$1,200. An exchange of ministers with Bankview Methodist Church took place on July 1, 1912, when Mr. Galloway assumed duties as pastor there and the Rev. Wm. Hollingsworth came from Bankview to St. Paul's. In October 1911, St. Paul's appointed a Board of Trustees to assist the people of Parkdale to establish a Methodist congregation there.

In September, 1912, it was decided to enlarge the Church auditorium by an addition to the south side. The Trustees brought forward plans, Mr. Brown was engaged as "working foreman" at .60 per hour, assisted by volunteers. The work was done at a cost of \$1629.22. The enlarged Church was rededicated in November with the Rev. A.S. Tuttle and Dean Braithwaite of the University of Alberta as guest speakers. The Sunday School, Young People's and Ladies' Aid were all active and flourishing. At the end of the Conference Year, May 1913, the Treasurer's report showed an income of \$2,233.82 for general funds, Trustees \$1057.15 and \$320.50 for Missions. Income received for all purposes was \$4788.00. The value of the Church and Parsonage was estimated at \$12,000.00. In the Fall of 1913 still another addition, a basement room connected to the back of the Church, was made to accommodate growing numbers.

Speculation in oil stocks for the newly discovered oil field at Turner Valley, coupled with much

unemployment, sharply affected Church givings early in 1914. In August the World War broke out, and the Young Men's Bible Class, taught by Mr. C. E. Leppard, shrank rapidly in membership as the men enlisted. St. Paul's took over the care of Parkdale Methodist, with Mr. Hollingsworth taking services there on Sunday at 6 p.m. Because of dwindling finances, the minister's salary for 1916 and 1917 was \$1,000.00 per annum.

In June, 1916, the Rev. William Hollingsworth's term of four years expired, and he accepted a call to Lacombe while the Rev. W.A. Smith of Edmonton accepted St. Paul's call to be pastor. On July 10, 1916, it was reported by Mrs. H.M. Carscallen, President of the Ladies' Aid, that the Refreshment Booth at the Calgary Exhibition would net a profit of about \$500.00. Finances of the Church during the winter of 1916-17 were "a veritable nightmare", but by dint of an every-member canvass and extra gifts by Board members, the year ended with all bills paid and a small cash balance of \$57.00. Finances eased somewhat during the following year.

St. Paul's, along with all other Churches, was forced to close its doors for five Sundays, beginning October 13, 1918, because of the world-wide influenza epidemic. Every person, old and young, was required to wear a mask while in public. Armistice was signed on November 11th, and a few openair services were permitted.

In March, 1920 the Rev. W. A. Smith accepted the Board's invitation to serve as pastor for a fifth year, and at the following meeting of Conference, Mr. Smith was elected President. A vigorous Debt Fund campaign was held, and at the postponed Anniversary service, held on the last Sunday of March, 1920, the Mortgage on the building was burned. The Revs. W. E. Galloway and Wm. Hollingsworth were guest preachers for the occasion.

On June 26, 1920, at the evening service, a combined Memorial Tablet and Honor Roll of the men from St. Paul's who had served in the War, was unveiled. At the Anniversary Services held on the second Sunday in November, 1920 Mrs. Nellie L. McClung, noted author and M.L.A. spoke.

The Rev. W. A. Smith concluded his term as minister of St. Paul's at the end of June, 1921, and a call extended to the Rev. George H. Cobblestick of Edmonton was accepted. The Annual Meeting of May 17, 1921, heard reports showing that Church membership was 270, an increase of 48 over the previous year; The Sunday School had an enrollment of 412 a decrease of 18 over the last year; the Ladies' Aid had raised \$495.27, of which \$309.15 came from direct subscriptions; the W.M.S. had raised \$618.61; the Church Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$294.83. Envelope collections for the year were \$3,301.33, an average of \$63.30 per Sunday.

During the Fall of 1921 the proposal of Mr. Cobblestick to organize a "League of Young Worshippers" to encourage the attendance of children at Morning Worship was enthusiastically adopted. The League was carried forward into Union in 1925 and existed until 1966.

At the Annual Meeting of May 9, 1922, Church Membership was reported as 286, an increase of 16 over the previous year. The W.M.S. had a membership of 153, and had raised \$681.00 as well as furnishing the living room in the new Radway Centre Home as a memorial to their late President, Mrs. C. E. Leppard. The Ladies' Aid, with a membership of 59 had raised \$716.41. Finances were difficult, and it was reported at Conference that "deficiencies in Ministers' salaries throughout the Conference amounted to \$11,000.00". The Official Board recommended W. C. Gilroy to the District Meeting as a Probationer for the ministry, and sent forth Mr. and Mrs. William Lee to be missionaries among the Indians of Northern Manitoba. During the summer of 1922, joint services were held with the Hillhurst Presbyterian Church, each minister supplying during the other's absence, and the two congregations meeting in each Church alternately, morning and evening.

Sudden tragedy struck in the latter part of October 1922, when the Rev. G.H. Cobblestick was suddenly killed when his car was in collision with a street car. The people rallied together in this emergency, volunteers supplied the Sunday services and mid-week meetings. Some of these Sunday supplies were: Revs. J.P. Berry, Robt. Pearson, G.W. Kerby, E.T. Scragg, Jos. Coulter, C.H. Heustis, A. Garner, E.S. Bishop, H.D. Marr and W.E. Galloway, and Messrs. Paul Brecken, Henry Wise Wood and Dr. G.D. Stanley. The Rev. A.W. Coone, in temporary retirement in Vancouver, came as supply for January to June, 1923. Beginning in July, the Rev. A.B. Argue came to be settled minister at St. Paul's.

The Annual Meeting of May 12, 1924, heard that Church Membership then stood at 301, of whom 40 were nonresident. Due to an extra canvass made by the Finance Committee, all financial obligations had been met, with a

balance on hand of \$393.00. There was a total of \$400.00 raised for Conference Funds. Mr. W.J. Gadsden, the Missionary Treasurer, reported that total receipts for the Missionary Fund had been \$1,392.00. Mrs. S.G. Gregg, President of the W.M.S. reported a total membership of 176, and \$747.44 raised. The Ladies' Aid, under Mrs. W.F. Rook, President, had raised \$737.34.

A notable project in October of 1924 was the laying of a hardwood floor in the Sunday School Hall, the Ladies' Aid contributing \$215.90 toward the purchase of materials, and the men supplying the labor.

The Anniversary services held on November 16, 1924, were especially successful. The preacher in the morning was the Rev. H.D. Marr, B.A. A special offering for the needs of the Church brought in \$750.00. In the evening the Rev. A.D. Richard, President of Conference, preached. Special music was provided by the Choir under the direction of Mr. Gus Arlidge. A male quartet of Messrs D. Sinclair, W. Rice, W.G. Guthrie and D. Sharp sang in the evening. The Annual Banquet held on the Monday, catered to by the Ladies' Aid under the Presidency of Mrs. Vickers, was a great success. A programme of speeches and musical items was greatly enjoyed.

In February, 1925, a committee of five was appointed to meet with a like committee from Hillhurst Presbyterian to confer about Church Union. On April 7th the joint committee passed the motion:

"Resolved that in the opinion of this Committee, local union between Hillhurst Presbyterian and St. Paul's Methodist Churches, is desirable; that the financial statements of the two Churches for 1924 reveal the fact that the combined congregation with the present revenues available, after making allowances for increases in salaries and contingencies, would have a surplus of \$3000.00 per year; that investigation has shown that the Hillhurst Church and Sunday School accommodation is ample for the two congregations; and that both pastors be taken care of, if necessary, in the event of Local Union before the end of the next Church year."

When the congregation of St. Paul's adopted the resolution, in a recorded vote, 125 were in favor of local union, 11 against, and some 30 or 40 did not vote for various reasons. The joint Union Committee then drew up specific proposals for union, including a union prayer meeting to be held on June 10, Wednesday, followed by the first United Sunday services on June 14th. At the final meeting of the St. Paul's Quarterly Official Board, held on June 8th, tributes were paid to the work of the Rev. and Mrs. A.B. Argue for their faithful work. As the Rev. Robert Magowan of the Presbyterian Church had accepted a call elsewhere, Mr. Argue continued as minister of the United congregation. This greatly eased the transition for the people of St. Paul's who left their little frame Church, not without many nostalgic memories of happy and sad times experienced there.

Bibliography:

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REMINISCENCES OF MR. W. R. EVELEIGH

As far as my memory goes, the services were begun in Riley Hall, Hillhurst, in the spring of 1907. I opened a Sunday School there with about forty children. The teachers were Mrs. Eveleigh, Mrs. Martin (still living in Hillhurst with her daughter, Mrs. Dow), Mrs. James Cork and Miss Cheney. The Sunday School was, as I remember, continued till the fall and by that time a larger number were interested so we arranged for Dr. Kerby to preach a morning service in November of 1907. The hall was nearly filled and the sermon was remarkable. The text was "she loved much". During the winter I took several services there, with a minister about once a month, until Rev. Dr. Morrison was appointed as the first Pastor. (This was before the Church was built.)

Our first Board was formed with the late Dr. T.C. Buchanan (Supt. of Missions) in the chair. We were: Eveleigh, T. Thompson, J. Campbell, F. Bishop, R. White. I was appointed secretary. The Supt. of Missions and Dr. Morrison canvassed the neighborhood of Sunnyside and Hillhurst and had promises of

about \$1200.00 for a new Church, lots were secured and the building started in 1908. The contractors were Garden and Swallow.

The Ladies' Aid did a great work in those days and raised quite a sum during the winter of 1907, especially with concerts and entertainments. Mrs. Martin was the first president, Mrs. Eveleigh, secretary-treasurer.

The exact date of the Church opening I have forgotten, I rather think it was November, 1908. Mr. T. Thompson donated all the seats, Mr. & Mrs. A. Bennett of 5th Ave. West were a great help in the development of our Church, both with their presence and financial help. Dr. Kerby preached the opening sermon (can't remember the text this time). It was a lovely Alberta Sunday morning, the Church was well filled. The Rev. A.W. Coone was announced for the evening service, but the weather had changed and it blew a blizzard. The preacher was an hour late, but there was a fair attendance. The following night a banquet was held and a good programme was given by the ladies and Mr. A. Bennett was chairman, speeches were made by Hon. W.H. Cushing, Rev. Canon D. Easum, Rev. Gunn (Baptist), Rev. Mitchell (Presbyterian). The Sunday School grew rapidly. The Primary Department had forty scholars the first Sunday and Mrs. Eveleigh taught them all. I am not sure of the other scholars. It may have been about a hundred. Dr. Morrison held two services every Sunday.

The first organist was Mr. Percy Bennett. The first choirmaster, Mr. Hone. Dr. Morrison was Pastor until the conference of 1909. The treasurer was Mr. Wilburn Campbell. The original name was the Hillhurst Methodist Church and was later changed to St. Paul's Methodist Church, Hillhurst.

At the conference of 1909, the Rev. W.E. Galloway was appointed to the Pastorate and stayed till 1912.

I omitted to say that at the opening of the church we raised \$800. This too was under the direction of Dr. Kerby.



HILLHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
First building at 1127 Kensington Rd.
(afterwards Hillhurst Salvation Army)

HILLHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In the Fall of 1907 the Rev. C. A. Mitchell was commissioned by the Rev. J.C. Herdman, Superintendent of Home Missions, to begin three Presbyterian Missions on the outskirts of Calgary. They were to be in the Bankview, Hillhurst and Crescent Heights districts. The first service in Hillhurst was conducted by Mr. Mitchell in Riley's Hall, October 13th with a congregation of seven present. The congregation grew rapidly and towards the end of the year a

Sunday School was opened. A Board of Managers was elected on January 19, 1908, consisting of Messrs. A.I. Barton, J.W. Martin, A.J. Girling and E.A. Richards, Rev. C.A. Mitchell, chairman and Mr. Richards, secretary-treasurer.

Mr. Wm. Ross, an active layman of Knox Church and business man of the district, offered the Board a gift of two lots on Kensington Avenue and two more adjoining lots at a reasonable price. Collections for the first fifteen Sundays had totalled \$45.65. The offer was accepted and active preparations were made to begin construction in March 1908. The first Session was elected on July 19, consisting of two elders, Messrs. A.I. Barton and James Martin. The building was begun with pledges and hopes for \$750.00, and the Managers were authorized "to negotiate a loan of not more than \$800." The building committee was the Managers and Messrs. Flett, Gray, A. Mitchell and W. Millar. On July 23rd it was "decided to cart sand from near the river bank and to at once start a man on digging a well and another on mixing lime." A mortgage of \$800.00 at 8% was secured from the Bank of Nova Scotia, each member of the Board of Managers being guarantors of it.

Saturday, the 26th of September, 1908, was a big day when the Memorial Stone for the new Church was laid by Mr. Justice Charles Allan Stuart. Mr. Stuart had been a member of the first Legislature of Alberta for Gleichen in 1905, was appointed Judge for Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1906, and Chancellor of the University in 1908. The Calgary Herald reported: "The building of the Church is characteristic of the west. When it was decided to build the new edifice, the male members of the congregation volunteered to do their own stonework, and as there are several well-known members of the building trade in the congregation, this was rapidly completed in a workmanlike manner." It was their custom to cease work on Wednesday evenings at prayer meeting time to join in an open air service. When the Memorial Stone was laid, Canadian coins and stamps and Presbyterian papers and Calgary newspapers of that date were deposited in it. When the stone was recovered in 1963 for inclusion in the new Hall these items were missing from their cavity. Mr. E.H. Riley, who had loaned his Hall rent-free to the new congregation, and given a donation of \$100.00, gave an address, the history of the Church was given by A.J. Burton, who after the ceremony of laying, presented a silver engraved trowel to Mr. Justice Stuart. William Ross, who donated the lots, the Rev. J.A. Clark of Knox Church, and the Rev. A. MacWilliams of Grace Church, gave short addresses. This historic stone, returned by the Hillhurst Corps of the Salvation Army, who owned the building until 1963, was relaid in its new location in the United Church Hall on May 31 by Mrs. James E. Hunter, whose late husband proposed the Hall Building Fund in 1956.

A gala opening and dedication of the new building at 1127 Kensington Road (then Centre Avenue), was held on November 22nd, 1908, the guest preacher being the Rev. J.A. Clark.

In 1909 growth in the district and congregation was very rapid, and by May the congregation resolved to apply to Presbytery to become an augmented Church. For the first fifteen months, collections had totalled \$381.45, and Knox

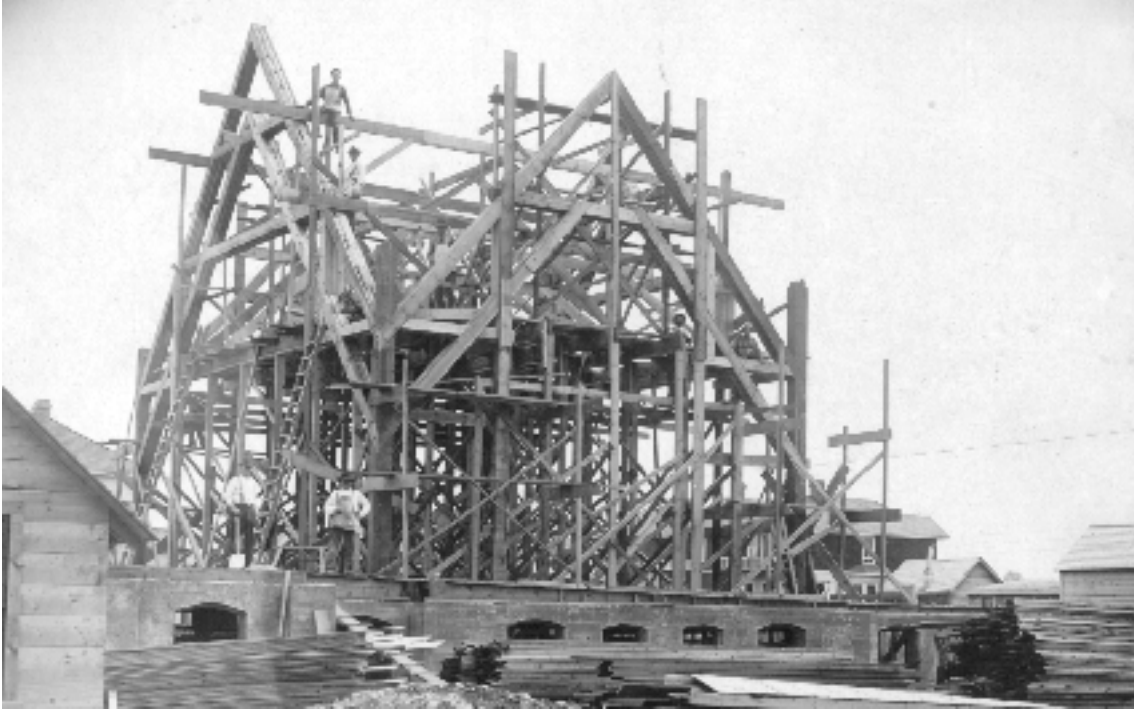
Church had assisted with a donation of \$325.00. Presbytery was now asked for a grant of \$6.00 per week in lieu of the assistance by Knox. In October, 1909, the congregation extended a call to the Rev. C.A. Mitchell, who continued as minister in building up the congregation until he resigned in April, 1911, to move to British Columbia. During his term he labored to relieve distress in the district, and also fought against the establishment of a hotel and the granting of a liquor license in Hillhurst.

The Rev. Peter A. Walker of Montreal was called to be minister, at a salary of \$1200.00 and was present by September, 1911.

In May 1911, total debts owed by the Church amounted to about \$2,000.00 and the Treasurer was asked to see whether a loan might be obtained from Knox Church. The Choirmaster asked for \$15.00 for the purchase of anthem books "but owing to the state of the finances the matter was allowed to stand over." In June, 1911, it was agreed to allow the Boy Scouts the use of the Church basement on two nights a week. - It was agreed to obtain a loan of \$1600. for the construction of a new manse on the lot east of the Church. Plans for a bungalow to cost about \$1550.00 were submitted by Messrs.

Martin and Rust, approved, and construction left in their hands.

At the Annual Meeting held on Feb. 7th, 1912, it was reported that 51 new members had been received



HILIHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
under Construction - 1912
Robert Patterson - Contractor

since Mr. Walker's arrival. The Ladies 'Aid had raised \$239.18 during the year, and had given \$200.00 to the Managers for Church funds and \$150.00 to the Building Fund. Thee Girls' Missionary Society reported that they had raised \$109.25, and had expended \$80.00 on various missionary projects. Mr. West reported that the Choir had increased to 17 voices, but still needed more contraltos and male voices. The Scoutmaster reported that the 6th Calgary Troop had had a success ful year.

Mr. S.H. Adams was elected Chairman of the Board of Managers on February 14, 1912. It was decided to become a self-supporting Church from April 1st, 1912, and discussions began regarding the building of a new Chureh. On April 17th a Building Committee of Messrs. Adams, Arnold, Flett, Mitchell and McClune was appointed. It was recommended that the plans of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church be adapted for Hillhurst's use, and that Mr. G.G. Irvine be appointed architect. The bid of Robert Patterson of \$18,500 for masonry, carpentry, plastering and painting was accepted. An order was given to the Globe Furniture Co. Ltd. for Church pews at \$1,742.00; pulpit and three chairs, communion table and two chairs at \$175.00; and forty choir seats at \$130.50. A pipe organ was ordered from the Warren Church Organ Co. for \$4,200.00.

Saturday, September 21, 1912, was another big occasion when the new Church corner-stone was laid. Rev. P.A. Walker was chairman, and music was provided by the Salvation Army Band. The Rev. A. Rannie read the Lessons, the prayer of dedication was offered by the Rev. Principal H.A. Dyde, and brief add: esses were given by Revs. W. Hollingsworth, W.F. Herman al d J.A. Clarke. Historic articles were deposited in the st ne by Dr. R.B. Francis, presentation of the trowel by S.H. Adams and laying by Wm. Ross. The Revs. Hugh McKellar and Wm. Shearer closed with prayers.

At the opening of the new Church on Sunday, January 19th, 1913, the Church had a membership of 165 (an increase of 63 over the previous year). The guest preacher for the occasion was the Rev. Professor J.M. Millar, of Robertson College, Edmonton. There was a congregational "at home" on the Monday evening, and other special events during the week including a concert given by the Sunday School in the school room on the Friday. The new Church had cost \$25,232.51 at its opening, and \$1,535.00 had been raised. The opening recital on the new organ was played

by Mr. Frank Wrigley.

By July of 1913, with unrest in Europe and changing conditions, many who had made pledges to the Church found themselves unable to pay, and the Church found itself in serious financial straits. Mr. William Ross again came to the aid of the congregation, offering as a gift, Block # 75 in Capitol Hill to be sold for the benefit of the Church. This offer was gratefully accepted, inside lots being priced at \$240.00 each and corner lots in pairs at \$530.00. In an effort to meet their various accounts, the Managers took out a loan of \$20,000.00 on the Church Property in March, 1914.

At the Annual Meeting of January 13, 1915, it was reported that Church membership had grown by a net addition of 35 to 274, and that the Sunday School had an enrollment of 245. There were 127 contributors by envelope, and total collections were \$2,594.80 from all sources. On February 28th, 1915, a special joint meeting of the Managers and Session was called to consider whether, since the Church was about \$50.00 short in revenue each week, application be made to again become an Augmented Ghurch under the Home Mission Board. It was agreed to have the Rev. Wm. Shearer and Dr. Ferguson present Hillhurst's case before the appropriate Boards in Toronto. When a report was received from them a month later it was to the effect that the Home Mission Fund in Toronto was suffering hard times also and that little or no relief could be expected. The general feeling expressed in Toronto had been that "this Church must stand or fall only through its own efforts." It was long before the day of Church Extension Council loans or stabilized Church finance. However, the Rev. Peter Walker attended the meeting of the General Assembly in Kingston and received the assurance that if the Church would undertake to pay the arrears in the principal amounting to \$1,250.00, that the Presbyterian Church in Canada would pay the arrears in interest, now amounting to \$3,000.00. Some thought the Church should be closed, but a number of individuals and organizations pledged a total of \$864.00 and a committee was appointed to try to raise the balance. In summer, 1915, conversations began with St. Paul's Methodist Church on the subject of a possible union of the two congregations. By December, 1915, discouraged by apparent lack of financial support and interest, the Board of Managers agreed unanimously to resign in a body. A new Board of five Managers was elected at the following Annual Meeting. The Rev. P.A. Walker resigned as minister on March 8th, 1916.



NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 1913

After a vacancy of three months the Rev. Robert Magowan of Winnipeg was asked to take charge of the work for one year. By September, Mr. Magowan had arrived, and on January 17, 1917, he accepted a unanimous call from the congregation to become their minister. On June 1st, 1917, the Salvation Army were expressing an interest in purchasing the old Church property on the corner of Kensington and IOA St., and the two lots and building were offered to them for \$7,000.00. Meanwhile the Loan Company and the Warren Church Organ Co. became so pressing in their demands for

payments that on July 27th the Rev. Magowan and Mr. Adams placed the congregation's plight before Calgary Presbytery asking that an appeal be made to the Presbyterian Churches of Canada for "at least \$35,000.00" for the needs of Hillhurst. Presbytery asked the Hillhurst ladies to put on a banquet on Sept. 4th at which representatives of each Presbyterian Board and Session in the Presbytery would be invited to be present to consider the matter. The right to make this appeal to the Churches was granted, and forms were printed "with a cut of the Church Building at the top, then an historical sketch of the Church, then a financial statement, and at the bottom, space for donations or promises to pay." Mr. Cann was appointed organist on October 1st, 1917, at a salary of \$10.00 per month. At the Annual Meeting of January 16, 1918, it was agreed by a vote of 55 to 9 that particular seats in the Church be allocated to families attending. For various periods at this time, the Rev. Magowan was given leave of absence to travel to the East. interviewing Toronto

Presbytery and the General Assembly appealing for help for Hillhurst. In July, 1918, Mr. Magowan wrote to Mr. Adams that his efforts were being successful. An agreement was reached with the Salvation Army to accept their offer of \$4,000.00 for the Old Church, the Army paying half the arrears in taxes owing on it. In summer, 1919, the City of Calgary loaned the Church a tent for use as a booth at the Stampede. The Sunday School put on a two day Bazaar and turned over \$700.00 to the Managers for the Debt Fund.

The Annual Meeting of January 14th, 1920, expressed satisfaction at the reduction in the Church debt. It was agreed to have a marble memorial made showing the names of members killed in the World War, the Honor Roll showing all the names of those who served. The Ladies' Aid were commended for having raised \$1,000.00 for the Debt Fund during the year.

At the meeting of January 13, 1921, hearty congratulations were extended to Mr. S.H. Adams, Chairman of the Managers, on his election as Mayor of Calgary. At the Annual Meeting that month it was reported that indebtedness had been reduced by \$1,200.00 during the previous year. The Church had been receiving \$300.00 a year from the Augmentation Fund, but voted to go self-supporting at the Annual Meeting. Envelope contributors numbered 186. Church membership had reached 285 and the Sunday School 310 with 24 teachers. The Choir, under the leadership of Mr. E.J. Cann distinguished themselves by winning the Intermediate Choir Class and the City of Strathcona Shield in the Alberta Musical Festival in May, 1921. On June 22nd, 1922, Mr. Carnegie was appointed organist and choirmaster, at a salary of \$25.00 per month. When Mr. Carnegie resigned in May, 1923, Mr. Ben Choppen was appointed to take his place.

The Congregational Meeting to vote on whether or not Hillhurst Presbyterian Church would enter the United Church of Canada, was held on January 7th, 1925. Rev. Mr. Magowan opened the meeting, and Rev. Dr. William Shearer was elected Chairman of the evening. Voting was by signed ballot, but to prevent proxy voting which was contrary to provincial Act, the roll was called, and while the ballots were being counted, Dr. Shearer conducted a song service. The voting resulted in 99 in favor of the Union, 39 opposed, and 2 spoiled ballots. Several old-time families withdrew from the congregation after this vote.

At the Annual Meeting of January 28, 1925, membership in the W.M.S. was reported as 31, and they had raised \$314.45. The Young Women's Missionary Auxiliary, with a membership of 15 had raised \$50.64, while the Mission Band of 48 members had raised \$59.92. Mrs. Fisher reported a successful year of concerts, sales and a bazaar for the Ladies' Aid, with \$1,000.00 donated to the Managers. Mr. W.R. Shearer reported a membership of 350 in the Sunday School, \$410.00 raised for Missions, and \$125. given to the Managers. The Church Treasurer reported that \$8,869.76 were the total receipts for the year. The Session and Managers were asked to meet with the Board of St. Paul's Methodist Church regarding their future policies. A committee of five from each congregation was subsequently appointed, and on May 13th the congregation unanimously agreed "that this congregation is in favor of immediate union with St. Paul's Methodist Church." The Rev. R. Magowan, putting the cause of the local Union ahead of his own interest, asked to be released as minister of the Hillhurst Church at the end of May. The Union actually took place with a mid-week prayer service on June 10th, 1925, followed by the first "United" service in the former Presbyterian Church on June 14th.

Mighty oaks from little (tiny) acorns grow. How true! When you read back through history, did it ever come home to you, how many movements influencing untold lives have been started by a few, a very few, dedicated men and women? We don't have to go any further than the Christian movement - initiated by twelve men - inspired by One - the Christ.

It is interesting to note how many of those beginnings began under rather uninteresting surroundings. Riley's hall, as it used to be, at the junction of 11th St. and 5th Avenue certainly contained little of inspiration. It is a drab looking building even now. That is where the first congregation of the Presbyterians in Hillhurst met, all seven of the members. There aren't many who knew Hillhurst in 1907. I didn't know it till around May, 1912, and there wasn't a great deal to it even then. No paved streets, sidewalks, if any, of planks, and scattered homes. It grew. You tell me why. The first minister was Rev. C.A. Mitchell. He was a hard worker and it was due to his efforts a liquor license was prevented in Hillhurst. He resigned April 11th, 1911, being succeeded by Rev. P.A. Walker of Montreal.

It was on April 1st, 1912, the congregation decided to erect the present Church building -- less than four years from the opening of the first building. This is an indication of the growth. Mr. Walker resigned March 4th, 1916. After a vacancy of three months, Rev. Robt. Magowan was asked to take charge for a year. The result was an unanimous call to be permanent minister, January 17th, 1917, which he accepted. He undertook a heavy responsibility as the congregation was carrying a tremendous debt, and with lowered membership due to the war. If anyone ever extended himself unselfishly for the cause of his Church and Christian work, it was Dr. Magowan. This present United Church owes him a great debt. Those who knew him and worked with him, loved him.

The first Church was built by voluntary labour. I didn't tell you that five men risked all they had, backing the first mortgage. When the second Church was built, times were good. There was property owned, giving some security against indebtedness. Conditions changed. Property was nearly without value. With a debt of nearly \$50,000.00, to keep the Church seemed hopeless, much less ever to pay for it. Dr. Magowan took it upon his shoulders to fight for help. Granted leave of absence, he covered a great deal of Canada pleading our cause. His efforts resulted in \$21,000.00 which enabled the Board to deal with the Bond Holders and save the Church.

Did you know we were so poor we couldn't afford to keep a fire under the boilers except when there was an actual meeting? After meetings the fires were drawn and pipes drained. Who did it? Our men. Do you wonder there has been so much expense on the organ over the years? There was no money to pay a janitor. Some of the men took turns coming down early Sunday mornings to build the fires and get steam up, then going home to change for service. Would we do it now? The congregation was a wonderfully close-knit group. Despite the struggle we all had some wonderful times together.

When I think back, remembering the Richards, Fletts, Scrutons, McQuaigs, McLeods, Sinclairs, Edgars, Cowies, Mitchells, Heacocks, Guthries, and many others, I become nostalgic. They were good days, good for us. When you fight for something, you appreciate it.

Did you know our Trail Rangers and Tuxis groups were known for their excellent work? The Church School gallery rail was decorated with banners won by them. Did you know the first C.G.I.T. group formed in the City was the one organized in this Church by one of our teachers? We had baseball and basketball teams in a Church league in this area. There was something else I consider an achievement - a men's group that maintained its identity from early days, through Union, till a few years ago.

History never stops. We are writing new pages every day. Let's make the pages of Hillhurst United, ones of achievement. Others gave their best. Why not us? Have we what it takes?

(For Mr. Hatfield's account of men's work in Hillhurst, see page 43).

HILLHURST UNITED CHURCH

The newly united congregation held Inaugural Services to "celebrate the consummation of Church Union"

on Sunday, June 14th, 1925, in the former Presbyterian Church. The Choir sang the anthem "Send out Thy Light", and Act of Dedication was conducted by the Minister, the Rev. A.B.Argue, and the Rev. H. D. Marr, B.A., preached on "The New Man". In t~e evening Mr. Marr assisted Mr. Argue by offering prayer, the Choir sang "Wide as the World is Thy Command" and Mr. Argue preached on "The Call of God and the Need of the Hour .

The congregation held its first constituted business meeting on June 17th with Mr. S.H. Adams in the chair and adopted the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Local Union "... that the Session be composed of fifteen members, the Committee of Stewards twelve members, and the Board of Trustees of three members." The size of the Session was amended to sixteen members and the following were elected:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Rev. Dr. Wm. Shearer | F.W. Heacock |
| Rev. H.D. Marr, B.A. | H. Insley |
| Dr. R.B. Francis | F.M. Irvine |
| Messrs.F. J. Conn | R.M. Johnston |
| A. W. Dingle | C.E. Leppard |
| E. S. Frost | Wm. McLeod |
| S. G. Gregg | W. Shearer |
| L. J. Harvey | A. Smith |

The following were elected to the Committee of Stewards:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Messrs.S. H. Adams | C. H. Frost |
| W. C. Brown | |
| W. C. Black | |
| L. L. Boundy | |
| J. Bradshaw | |
| F. Fisher | |
| E. W. Jones | |
| W. A. Logan | |
| G. A. Robertson | |
| W. C. Stemp | |
| Geo. Wright | |

And to the Board of Trustees:

| | |
|--------|----------------|
| Messrs | S. H. Adams |
| | T. W. Campbell |
| | John Scotland |

At the first meeting of the new Session, Mr. E.S. Frost was elected Clerk. It was resolved to continue the Church Attendance League, and until new hymn books became available, the Presbyterian book be used. Twelve of the old Methodist Hymn Books were given to Cremona United Church and the remainder to Parkdale United Church. Mr. Choppen was asked to continue as organist, but it was also decided to advertise for a new Choir Leader and Organist. Mr. Choppen was then re-hired at the next meeting at a salary of \$35.00 per month. By February, 1926, it was decided to extend a call to the Rev. W. M. Grant, M.A., then of Westminster United Church, Edmonton, to be minister of Hillhurst. The choir was given permission to hold a concert to raise money for the purchase of choir gowns.

The first Annual Meeting to be held following Union took place on April 12, 1926, with "between forty and fifty persons present" The minister reported that there were from 450 to 470 members and 380 families attached to the Church. The elders and stewards originally elected were continued in office for another year.

At the suggestion of Rev. Grant, who was then secretary of the Alberta Conference of the United Church, the Official Board had a new gavel made from wood of St. Paul's Methodist and the Hillhurst Presbyterian Churches,

and presented to Conference at the Opening on May 26th, 1927. The congregation was divided into "convenient districts, each district to be under the oversight of an elder." The old Presbyterian manse on Kensington Avenue was sold in 1927 for \$2,300.00, and in January, 1928, the old St. Paul's Methodist Church was sold to the Oddfellows' Lodge No. 46 for \$3,000.00, payable at \$500.00 cash and the balance at \$150.00 every six months, interest at 8%. At December 31st, 1927, the Hillhurst Church debt stood at \$16,725.41.

An Executive Committee of the Official Board was appointed by the Board to deal with routine business. It was to consist of the Minister; the Presidents of the Ladies' Aid and the W.M.S.; the Clerk of Session, and the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Stewards. Anniversary Sunday was fixed in 1928 as the Sunday nearest June 10th. During 1928 there was a net gain in membership of 10, giving a total of 435. It was agreed to send the pulpit and chairs from old St. Paul's to the United Church at Wayne, Alberta, in response to an appeal by the Rev. A. T. Bell who was serving there. At the Annual Meeting held January 29th, 1930, for the first time, women were elected as elders to the Session, these being Mrs. J. J. Dunn and Mrs. S. G. Gregg. At the request of the Sunday School, in 1930, talk was begun about the construction of a fire exit from one corner of the Church basement, the estimated cost being \$350.00.

The year 1930 was ended with the Treasurer, Mr. Fisher, reporting that all expenses had been met and \$500.00 had been paid on the mortgage, and "this report was considered very promising when we view the general depression in all parts of the world." There had been a net gain of twenty-five members for 1930, making the total, 426 members. Services at Parkdale were supplied by Hillhurst minister and session. In 1931, Mr. Wm. McLeod headed a "Ways and Means" committee for purchasing the new United Church Hymnaries for use in the Church, and money for this was raised by means of a choir concert and by the Keystone Class and Young People's Society donations. The Hymnaries were introduced for use at the Anniversary services on June 14th, 1931, with donations toward the cost of \$169.00 being received from the above groups, and also the Sunday School and individuals. The same edition is still in use at this writing in 1967.

In 1931, at the request of the General Council, a vote by ballot was taken in each congregation, as to the desirability of electing women elders. In Hillhurst the vote resulted in 108 votes in favor and 56 votes against.

The Annual Meeting of 1932 showed that membership was holding about constant at 428 members; the average attendance in the Sunday School was 468 with 66 teachers and officers, the groups reported a successful year "in spite of adverse conditions". m e Rev. Dr. Grant, because of depression conditions, requested that his salary be reduced, and the annual meeting accepted his offer. Dr. Grant proposed that because of heavy demands being made on the Church Benevolent Fund that an effort be made to raise \$75.00 per month for it for at least six months, each family being asked to donate \$1.00 per month to it. In April, 1932, Dr. Grant requested that consideration be given to an exchange of pastorates with Dr. William Hollingsworth, then of Metropolitan United Church Edmonton. This exchange was subsequently agreed to, Dr. Hollingsworth being called at \$2,500 salary and an unfurnished manse, the exchange taking place as of July 1st, 1932. Mr. Ben Choppen resigned as organist and choirmaster during 1932 and was succeeded by Mr. W. G. Thomas in April. Choir membership at that time was 32.

The Annual Meeting held January 25th, 1933 commended the work of the Choir under the **new leader** Mr. Thomas. The Sunday School was one of the largest in the city with 555 pupils and 65 teachers and an average attendance of 419. The Ladies' Aid had contributed \$500.00 to Church funds in spite of trying economic conditions, and the W.M.S. had exceeded its allocation by twenty dollars, raising \$745.00. Mrs. Acton reported that the Truth Seekers Bible Class was active in Church and community, calling on the sick and other activities. Mr. Fisher, Church treasurer, reported that in spite of unemployment and poor conditions generally, \$7,091.57 had been raised during the year, not including M.& M. funds. A motion, sponsored by Mr. W.G. Guthrie, that national or character dances at an entertainment be allowed in the Church. halls, was defeated.

Evidence of continued cordial relations with St. Barnabas' Anglican Church appeared in 1933 when the rector, the Rev. G. Biddle, preached at a service held in the United Church on April 5th, and Bishop Sherman preached in St. Barnabas' on April 13th, both congregations being asked to support these services.

In 1933 the congregation adopted "Cent-a-Meal" contribution boxes in an endeavour to raise money for the Missionary and Maintenance Fund, Mr. W. J. Gadsden acting as treasurer for this special effort. In spite of the general economic depression at the time, very few items relating to social

issues seem to have come before the Session. However, a special meeting was held May 21, 1933 to consider a request of a committee who wished to arrange for use of the Church sanctuary "for the purpose of hearing the Douglas Plan discussed." The motion to give consent, sponsored by Messrs. C.J. Henderson and W. Nicholl, after considerable discussion, was lost. A new screen was erected in front of the choir loft at a cost of \$21.00, the money being donated by the stewards and elders. At the end of 1933, the active church membership was 384, and Reserve 125.

In 1934 the number of "Cent-a-Meal" boxes in circulation varied between 93 and 109, and netted \$331.50 for the year. W.J. Gadsden continued as secretary for the boxes' fund.

The Annual Meeting of January 23, 1935, heard the Session report stating that in 1934 there had been a total membership of 386 at the end of the year, 9 baptisms, 17 marriages and 10 funerals, and 235 families associated with the Church. Mr. Wm. McLeod, Sunday School superintendent, reported an enrollment of 620 with an average attendance of 465. Mrs. C.~. Henderson reported for the Ladies' Aid "very satisfactory receipts for the year" of \$938.83, of which they had remitted to the Church treasurer \$600.00. The W.M.S. reported through Mrs. Marr "with thankful hearts" that they had been able to meet their Missions allocation of \$625.00. Mr. Thomas reported for the Choir that they had not been able to render the service they would have liked to have done "on account of organ trouble during the latter part of the year", and had donated \$100.00 of their funds for repairs to the organ. The 1935 budget adopted was \$6,461.00, of which salaries totalled \$3,550.00.

Evidently in 1935 the City of Calgary was having its own troubles and the Church had difficulties in getting a street lamp in front of the Church repaired. On February 6, 1935, the Official Board "Secretary reported that the Street Lamp at the East entrance had been restored to service and that Mayor Davidson had been thanked for his very kind and prompt attention given to this." Early in the year, Dr. Hollingsworth proposed a new plan to aid in increasing the usefulness of the communion cards, whereby the attendance of each member at each communion would be marked on the back of the card. The plan was adopted, to be "put into effect as soon as possible." Friendly relationships continued with St. Barnabas' Anglican Church, when joint midweek services were held at each Church on March 27 and April 3. Congratulations were tendered to Dr. Hollingsworth on his election as President of the Calgary General Ministerial Association. An appeal was made in May for "shrubs, etc." for beautifying the Church grounds, and during the summer, considerable work was done on the project. Sunday, September 15th was celebrated as Anniversary Sunday that year, with the Rev. R. Magowan preaching in the morning, but the customary Church supper on the Monday was not held due to an outbreak of "infantile paralysis." Visitation committees were set up, one plan being to hold teas in the various districts "in an effort to create interest in our Church work."

The year 1936 passed fairly uneventfully for the Church, with a net increase in membership of six. Economic depressions were still abroad and the Church distributed thirty hampers. The Sunday School, though still prospering with a staff of seventy, had fallen from its peak enrollment and attendance, and now averaged 400 attending. The Choir welcomed a fine musical team that year to its leadership, Miss Mollie Pierce, choir leader, and Miss Dulcie Bishop, organist. It was a big year for the Young People's Society, with an average attendance of 55 meeting alternate Sunday and Tuesday evenings. Visiting was a strong feature of both W.M.S. (621 calls made) and W.A. (450 calls made). Total Church receipts for 1936 were \$6,397.57. At the end of the year interest payments on the Church loan were still outstanding, \$1,732.00 in arrears.

Mr. E. S. Frost became Acting Superintendent of the Sunday School in 1937, and at the end of the year reported an enrollment of Cradle Roll, 60; Beginners, 67; Primary, 103, Juniors, 116; Intermediate, 125; Senior, 76; Truth Seekers, 17; Keystone, 35; -Total 567. The Choir enjoyed an outstanding year under their new leadership with an enrollment of 51 members, more gowns and books being required. In 1937 the old name "Ladies' Aid" was retired in favor of a new name "Women's Association".

Debt reduction continued to be a concern in 1938, and Mr. H.M. Welch sponsored a motion which was carried by the Official Board, that if the congregation would pledge \$100. a quarter towards the debt, a group of ten men had pledged an equal amount for the purpose. At the same meeting it was intimated that the Rev. and Mrs. Hollingsworth were suggesting a reduction be made in their salary, but the suggestion was unanimously rejected by the meeting, "salary for 1938 to remain as at present." Silver Anniversary of the opening of the Church building was celebrated in February

1938 with Sunday services and banquet. A new addition was made to the Hillhurst family that year on the motion of Messrs. Gadsden and Welch the request of the 24th Girl Guide Company to make their home in the Church was granted. Lay Sunday seems to have been inaugurated on October 16, 1938. The year showed a net increase of 41 members, 35 being by profession of faith. A new communion service was purchased. Thirty-two girls and boys achieved Church Attendance League Awards for attendance at morning service 48 or more Sundays in the year, twenty having attended 51 Sundays or more. The Sunday School reported an increased enrollment of 655, a major increase being a Senior department of 110. The Keystone men's group had a banner year under the presidency of Mr. J. Whitehead, with several service projects: A Country Store at the W.A. Bazaar (proceeds donated to the W.A.), renovating the kitchen, seeding the lawn and donating a leather stitching machine to the Junior Red Cross Hospital. The Keystone orchestra was led by Mr. E. E. Draper, and Mr. C.J. Eenderson continued as teacher. A monthly paper, the "Keystonian", made its appearance. A high point was reached at Easter Communion in 1939 when fifty six new members were received by letter and by profession of faith, and tribute paid by the Board to Dr. Hollingsworth for his work. With the onset of World War II, many young men and women of Hillhurst enlisted. In October 1939 the Church followed United Church national policy and formed a unit of the Red Cross Society, Mrs. E.S. Frost being elected President. A canvass for Red Cross funds raised \$192.20, and the stream of knitted and hospital articles began. A Junior W.A. was also organized in October under Miss Annie Thompson, president. The new group grew from 18 members to 31 at the end of the year.

In 1940 another new group began, the Young Ladies Mission Circle, of which Mrs. Wm. McLeod was Advisory President and Miss Jeanne Hunt, Secretary, with a membership of 12 and an active program. Visiting in the elders' districts was organized under Mrs. Wm. Hollingsworth, district teas were held, and Sunday evening firesides provided for servicemen. The year also saw the Red Cross Service Unit knit 4,500 ounces of wool into 743 knitted articles at weekly work bees. The Sunday School, though past its high water mark of enrollment, could still claim to be "one of the largest in the city" with a 1940 average attendance of 305 scholars and 56 teachers and officers. Mr. Wm. McLeod was general superintendent and Mr. P.A. Aikenhead secretary. The same factors affecting Church finances were also being felt by the I.O.O.F. who were still struggling to pay for the old St. Paul's Methodist Church building. The Lodge's offer of \$650.00 in full settlement of their debt of \$1,240.00 was rejected by the Annual Meeting of the Church held January 22nd, 1941 - the Church doubtless feeling the pinch of its own mortgage and other back debts. A subsequent negotiation with the I.O.O.F. agreed on \$700.00 as full settlement and the transfer completed by May of 1941.

An innovation in 1941 was the holding of a semiannual congregational meeting on September 24th, each organization being asked to report to the meeting under the following headings: What does your Executive hope to accomplish this season? What are your problems? What steps are you contemplating to reach your objective? The reports indicated a healthy state of affairs, but problems reported were: "the apathy of the Church members towards the Church and what the Church stands for" (session); shortage of male voices in the Choir through enlistment in the armed forces; problem of enlisting Teachers (Sunday School); greater attendance at Sunday morning sessions (Keystone). A highlight of the meeting was the Young People's report, following a \$300.00 gift to the Stewards "thanking Mrs. Hamilton for the great assistance rendered by her in their first endeavor with a booth at the fair last summer, the result being largely due to her untiring efforts." They were planning a larger and better booth at the Fair next season. Mr. J. Howie was Y.P.S. President. Features of the meeting were community singing led by Bill Guthrie, a vocal solo by Mrs. A. Young, and a saxophone solo "was rendered by Mr. A. Webb."

At Christmas, 1941, a Church letter of greeting was sent to some 70 members of the armed forces by Dr. Hollingsworth. At the second semi-annual congregational meeting held Sept. 23, 1942, in addition to the usual reports, a resolution moved by Messrs. Hatfield and Guthrie and unanimously approved by the meeting endorsed "the action of the Tenth General Council in appointing a Committee to approach the Dominion Government to enact measures to properly control and reduce the consumption of alcoholic liquors. We feel strongly on this matter and would ask that no stone be left unturned to achieve the end in view." Another member suggested that three or four young ladies devote a few hours towards keeping "clerical work, typing, etc. up to date to be on call of Dr. Hollingsworth, when possible."

The Official Board was feeling concern in 1943 over the poor attendance at evening service, and favored any change the minister could make to increase attendance, meanwhile urging "larger and more consistent" attendance from members of the Board. A special committee was formed to arrange for new bulletins and parcels to be sent to every man and woman serving overseas from the congregation. Special retiring offerings were to be made for this purpose' the committee including Mrs. A. Lower, chairman, Mrs. Margaret Rix and Mr. R.S. Rackham. A Temporary Honor Roll of those serving

in the Armed Forces was prepared by a Committee of Mrs. A.T. Lower, Mrs. C. Rix, Messrs. McKay, Guthrie and T.D. Oakes, the committee completing its work in January, 1944, the art work being done by Mr. Wm. Guthrie. The Hillhurst Official Board met on historic "D" Day, June 6th, 1944, and after an hour's prayer in the sanctuary for the success of the Allied invasion of Europe taking place that day, held its business meeting at 9:00 p.m. The matter before the Board was the resignation of the minister, Dr. Hollingsworth, due to failing eye sight. The resignation was accepted, the effective date being August 31st, 1944. The Rev. H.D. Marr was appointed interim chairman, and a pulpit supply committee of eight named. The new minister called was the Rev. A. Finnis Marsh, B.D., M.R.E., his induction being held in October.

Following Church Union in 1925 the Church had retained the former Methodist parsonage at 425 12th Street N.W. as the minister's residence. Old St. Paul's Church, however, under I.O.O.F. ownership was used for public purposes, and rowdy dances began to make the next-door situation an unhappy one. The Board was first informed of this in Jan. 1945.

At the beginning of Rev. A.F. Marsh's tenure the Church membership was 561, all current accounts payable met and a bank balance at December 31, 1944, of \$728.00. The Red Cross War Services unit reported that 1,031 articles had been made and sent in during 1944, and the Rev. H.D. Marr, on hearing the reports of the organizations made at the Annual Meeting in January 1945, "expressed amazement at the activities of the Congregation in all its various work." Mr. Wm. McLeod concluded fifteen years' service as General Superintendent of the Sunday School on June 30, 1945. Mrs. Hamilton, the Choir leader, resigned her position effective Nov. 30, and Mr. Clifford Higgin, who was leaving the same position in Knox United, Calgary, accepted the post of Organist and Choir Leader at Hillhurst from December 1st. Thus began another happy and successful era in the life of the Choir under Mr. Higgin's direction.

By April 30, 1946, the matter of the undesirable location of the old parsonage came to a head, and it was agreed by the Board to dispose of the residence in favor of "a large house situated at 237 11A Street N.W. on a thirty foot frontage lot, the price of same was \$7,200.00. While some thought the purchase price rather high, it was thought that the situation called for action at the present time." H. M. Welch and Wm. Davidson were appointed as a committee to sell the old and buy the new properties. Congregational consent was obtained at a meeting on June 26th.

The Session decided in September to recommend to the Board "that steps be taken to provide a permanent memorial for those of our boys who lost their lives in the late war." Both the Red Cross War Services unit and the Overseas Services committee concluded their activities and were dissolved with gratitude for good work well done.

In 1947 the Woman's Missionary Society with a membership of 44 exceeded their Allocation of \$632.50 by \$53.97, and received recognition as "the best read Auxiliary in the Calgary Presbyterial." Mrs. W. F. Rook was President. The Senior Woman's Association, with a \$100.00 assist from the Junior W.A. sent \$1,173.45 to the Board of Home Missions in Toronto as final payment on the Church debt, (see below for "The Mortgage" story), a large sum out of their year's receipts of \$1653.79. Mrs. B.D. Roberts was President of the Senior W.A. in 1947.

In April, 1947, Mr. and Mrs. S.G. Gregg, for twenty years active in the Sunday School, and jointly superintending the Junior Department, retired from this office.

BURNING OF THE MORTGAGE, Feb. 17, 1948

1 to r: Mrs. B.D. Roberts, S.H. Adams, Rev. Wm. Hollingsworth
Mrs. A.T. Lower, Mr. H.M. Welch, Mrs. H.H. Johnson

Rev. A.F. Marsh, Rev. Robt. Magowan, Mrs. E.J. McConnell. The **four ladies are Past Presidents of the Ladies' Aid and Women's Association**

THE MORTGAGE -- 1913 - 1947

Excerpts from Mr. H.M. Welch's Address at the Burning

First, I doubt if there are many in our present congregation who realize the difficulties the original founders of this Church had to contend with, and the personal sacrifices made by many of them, nor do they realize how close we came to losing this Church altogether.

When I first became a member of the Board of Stewards -shortly after Union -- I used to wonder who the prematurely gray-haired men were sitting on the Board. It was not till some time later -- which shows how successful Union has been in this Church -- that I found they were ex-Presbyterians. I have been delving into financial statements, minutes of Board meetings, and correspondence going back to 1912, and as a result, the wonder to me is that these gentlemen had any hair left at all, let alone grey ones' I was astounded at the facts revealed by a study of these old records.

In December 1912, there was a Mortgage taken out with the Colonial Investment & Loan Company for \$16,500.00 with interest at 8%. Those were the so-called good old days -- at least they were for those who had money to loan. Early in 1913 a bank loan was negotiated for approximately \$14,000. this last loan being guaranteed by the personal backing of the men I previously mentioned. At the end of 1913 the Mortgage stood at \$33,398. plus \$7,989. due on outstanding contract accounts, a total of \$41,387. In 1914 interest of \$3,674 was paid, but in 1915 the indebtedness had reached \$44,683., and this was the year a very critical situation arose. The loan company and the bank were pressing for payment, personal bank accounts were tied up, the loan company started foreclosure proceedings, and in fact, the sheriff was not only knocking at the door but was right inside. It was only through the efforts of Mr. S.H. Adams and his co-workers that he was put outside again.

Negotiations were made with the Presbyterian Church and Manse Board for a loan of \$3,000. to meet the immediate demands. The amount of correspondence that went on between the local Board and that at Toronto before this loan was granted, and then only on a guarantee being given that \$1,200, would be repaid within the next twelve months' It is apparent that one of the reasons for this situation was the indifference and lack of support of the congregation at large at that time. This is confirmed by a study of the givings for that year. It is perhaps not to be wondered at that at a congregational meeting that year a resolution was presented that the Church be closed -- fortunately for us it was not passed.

In 1917, the indebtedness had risen to an all-time high of \$49,814., and up to the end of that year over \$14,000 had been paid in interest. In 1916, Dr. Magowan had taken charge of the congregation, and it was shortly after this that the situation began to look brighter. In 1918, the sum of \$10,283. was raised for the debt fund, and in 1919, \$8,201. -- total \$18,484., this being over and above \$2,500 from other sources. This was entirely due to the efforts of our good friend (Dr. Magowan), and it is also quite evident that he had a way with the ladies also. From 1913 to 1918 the ladies had raised \$602, but from 1919 - 1925, when Dr. Magowan left, they raised \$7,879. That, I think, speaks for itself.

In 1923 a mortgage for \$19,000. at 6% was made with the Presbyterian Church and Manse Board, apparently without much difficulty. This was used to retire the previous mortgage of \$16,500., including \$1,792 interest for 1923. When the Doctor left in 1925 the total indebtedness was \$23,171., considerably less than half of the amount when he came. It is not hard to see why so much love and respect is still shown Dr. Magowan by this congregation, not only on account of his reducing the debt, but I think because of the faith he instilled in the congregation.

From 1925 to 1930 regular payments were made on principal and interest, and at the end of 1930, the debt stood at \$14,300. Having been born a Wesleyan Methodist, I like to think that we Methodists had some small part in those years. Not knowing anything about Church debts at that time, we had to learn from our Presbyterian friends, and I think proved apt pupils. However, by 1930, it was hard to tell one from the other, which was just as well, for in 1931 we struck the dark years again and we find that by 1937 the debt had jumped to \$15,800., in spite of the fact we had paid \$4,956. in interest during that period, but nothing on principal. Arrears of interest amounted to \$1,272. Dr. Hollingsworth had come to us in 1932, and it is to be noted that several years during that period our balance sheet showed outstanding salary due the minister. During 1931-37 the ladies had given the Stewards \$4,603., and whilst it was given with no strings attached, we knew that they hoped it would be applied to the debt. But, as generally is the case, the Church is the first to suffer when hard times come, and our givings dropped rapidly during this period.

In 1938, mainly through the efforts of Dr. Hollingsworth, the Home Mission Board reduced our mortgage by \$4,547 bringing it down to an even \$10,000. at 51, with our promise to pay at least \$1,000 a year.

In 1939, your Board of Stewards came to the conclusion that some other method than previously used should be put into effect to ensure our promise being kept. It was thought that if we did not receive any money from the W.A. we could

not spend it, so it was decided to ask the W.A. if they would take over the debt with our promise that we would not ask them for any money whilst they were paying off the debt. I had the questionable honor of presenting this request, and may I say, I was well received, and they undertook this project, with the result you all know. The Board kept their promise, and even helped out a little by paying \$500. on the debt in 1941, from money received from the Oddfellows on the sale of old St. Paul's.

During the thirty-five years this debt has been owing, we have paid \$40,072 in interest, and have received from the L.A. and W.A. \$29,951. Do you wonder at my saying I was astounded at what I found?

* * * * *

With the end of the World War in view, discussions arose in the Official Board in March, 1945, concerning liquidating the Church debt. Long-time members were battle-weary from the more than thirty years' guerilla warfare with the monster mortgage. The Mortgage was being laid peacefully (comparatively) to rest by the W.A. and the end was in sight, but some thought to kill it outright. One scheme proposed was that immediately the cease fire order was sounded in Europe, a letter be mailed to all Hillhurst members and adherents followed by a canvass on the first Sunday after hostilities ceased, requesting the donation of one or more War Savings Bonds "not refusing smaller amounts" as a Thankoffering commemorating the end of the war. The opinion which prevailed pointed out that the pipe organ had been giving "considerable trouble" and that a special fund should be set up against this future contingency. Mr. H.M. Welch was named to set up a special committee, and by the end of 1945 the "Organ and Renovation Fund" had accumulated \$1,925.00, and grew more slowly in subsequent years.

After the War when Hillhurst young men and women returned from the services, a natural division took place between "younger" and "older" young people. A new Young People's Society was formed in 1948, meeting Monday nights with about twenty-five members, headed by Jack Fair, President and Doreen Crozier, secretary-treasurer. At the same time a "Young Adult" group emerged with some fourteen members, and among other activities organized a bowling league of six teams, including persons from the congregation at large. Mr. Fred Dear was first President, Mrs. Dear was treasurer and Alberta Lovell was secretary. Mrs. E.E.Lowney was appointed chairman of a committee to erect a memorial stained glass window to members who gave their lives in the War. The cost was estimated at \$580.00 and it would be a year before delivery could be made.

The Memorial Window was unveiled at Morning Worship March 26th, 1950, by Brigadier R.C. Coleman, D.S.O., M.C , and dedicated by the Rev. A.F. Marsh to the Glory of God and in proud and affectionate memory of:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Wm. Bateman | Alan Johnston |
| John Campbell | J. J. Lucas |
| R. C. Carter | Wm. B. Martin |
| Jack Cawsey | Ronald C. Miller |
| Archie Clipsham | J. L. McConnell |
| Jas. H. Cowie | T. Wilson McKenzie |
| E. V. Davidson | Geoff. Rannie |
| Russell H. Dingle | Thos. Taylor |
| Glen Doten | Allan J. Wilson |
| Graham Faunt | |

Meanwhile, with the cremation of the Mortgage (it demands a capital "M" as befits an entity that had been a Presence at every Board meeting for 35 years), the pipe organ began to demand attention, the Stewards allowing that "its condition has gradually deteriorated". An organ committee - you guessed it - was formed, consisting of Messrs. D. Stuart Kennedy, E. Higgin and J.F. Fisher, to procure information and costs, "without going beyond the limit which our Church can handle financially".

The Choir purchased new choir gowns in 1950, raising part of the funds necessary by a concert held April 12th. The

programme included compositions written by Mr. Clifford Higgin, and the first performance of his "Ode to Minnewanka". Soloists were Frances Dibblee, Eileen Higgin, Dorothy Dingley, Arlene Meadows, Mildred Hay and Elgar Higgin. Preparations were begun for the rebuilding of the pipe organ by the Keates Organ Co. in two stages, the first to cost approximately \$10,480., and special "Organ Fund" envelopes were provided to liquidate the debt, while the W.A. also contributed \$500 in 1950, \$800 in 1951 and \$1000 in 1952 and \$700 from the Young People's group in 1951. The specifications of the rebuilt organ were drawn up by Stuart Kennedy and the Keates Company, designed for our organist Mr. Clifford Higgin. It was a matter of general sorrow when Mr. Higgin's death on September 3, 1951, prevented his enjoying the renovated instrument. The summer of 1952 saw the work undertaken, when a new three-manual console was connected to the original organ, converted for electro-pneumatic control, and a few tonal revisions made. A fine joint recital marked the completion of this stage on October 17, 1952, featuring Harold Ramsay, guest organist, with Eileen Higgin, soprano and Elgar Higgin, basso, assisted by the Hillhurst Choir.

In early 1952, Mr. Wm. Davidson concluded some ten years' service as Chairman of the Committee of Stewards, preceded by another eight years as Secretary, the Stewards expressing their deep appreciation for his able and sustained leadership. In April the congregation was gratified to learn that their minister, Mr. Marsh was to be granted the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by St. Stephen's College, Edmonton. On April 9th Mr. Albert W. Dingle spoke the unanimous congratulations of the Session to him in fitting terms. In January, 1953, at Morning Worship, Dr. Marsh was presented with a fine silk doctoral pulpit robe, the donors being the Keystone, Junior and Senior W.A. and Young People's groups. The presentation was made by Mr. E.S. Frost, Clerk of Session assisted by the Rev. H.D. Marr.

The change-over from Young People's operation of the Stampede Booth to Stewards - W.A. operation seems to have taken place with the 1953 season, when, in May, "Mrs. Sheffield said that the ladies of the congregation would look after the staffing of the Booth but would require the assistance of the men in setting it up. Consideration was given to the fact that we had not yet received a final statement and settlement from last year's activities of the booth and it was agreed that Mr. Davidson procure same from the Young People's Society." So began the Stampede Booth partnership between Stewards and U.C.W. that still remains. (1967)

On May 19, 1953, the Official Board elected a Manse Building Committee, the manse on 11A Street requiring constant repair and being uneconomical to maintain. Another committee was to search for suitable manse sites. Sketches and estimates for a new manse were obtained, and a Parsonage Fund was set up. At the Annual Meeting held January, 1954, a contention arose regarding the plan to build the new manse on the fifty foot lot immediately west of the Church building, and it was moved and carried by a vote of 73 to 14 "that the lot be reserved for a Church hall." New persons were then named to continue with the manse project. After examining and reporting on a number of houses, Mr. Wm. Hollingshead reported the unanimous recommendation of the committee to purchase the house at 1733 Westmount Road N.W. for \$18,000., together with a plan of finance, including sale of the old manse for \$7125. and a \$7,000 mortgage at 5%. (Editor's note: it was a satisfaction to the Stewards when the final payment on this mortgage was made in the summer of 1967). This was agreed by the Official Board on April 7, 1954, the minister and family occupying the new "manse" (as it was designated by motion, thus retiring the old Methodist term "Parsonage") the following month. The W.A. bought some new furnishings such as drapes, lounge, desk and kitchen set. "A truly modern and charming home," as the Stewards remarked.

In 1955 a bequest provided funds for a new baptismal font, dedicated on January 30th, in memory of Mrs. Margaret McEwen, a "charter member of St. Paul's Methodist in 1907". The font was made by the Calgary craftsman, Niels Weismose, to harmonize with our existing furniture. The "Married Couples' Club" made its appearance in 1955 with Daisy and Elmore Cook as the first Presidents. The Club "was mainly formed to fill a social need" but also began publication of the congregation's "first Church newspaper" to help make Church activities better known. The Evening Auxiliary W.A. published a 52 page cookbook "Our Favorite Recipes"; their executive that year included Mrs. Ellen Smallwood, President; Mrs. F. McCullagh, Vice-president; and Mrs. A. Wilkie, Treasurer. Mr. Percy Blunt concluded four and a half years' service as Sunday School Superintendent and was succeeded by Mr. Jim Hunter. Miss Catherine Frost's Breakfast Club for young people held on Sunday mornings provided fellowship and leadership training.

In January, 1956, the Official Board renewed the Organ Committee, electing R.A. Vair, J.F. Parder and W.G. Guthrie. Advice from D. Stuart Kennedy and D. Parnham indicated that the cost of stage two of the organ renovation would be \$15,000 - \$18,000. It was determined to present this to the Annual Meeting with the recommendation that the Work

be undertaken, and the Meeting of February 1st, 1956, confirmed their action, though not without much debate as to possible alternatives. By the end of the year, with diligent promotion by the Organ Finance Committee, the organ fund had reached \$3,632.95.

Mr. E. S. Frost was honored at the Annual Meeting of January 30, 1957, having retired after 40 years' continuous service as Clerk of Session, a presentation and illuminated address being presented to him by Dr. Marsh. The contract for stage two of the Organ Renovation was signed with the Keates Organ Co. for \$16,525.00 plus tax in the summer of 1957. The dedication of the completed work took place at Morning Worship on May 11, 1958, by the Rev. A. T. Bell, followed by an Organ Recital on May 14th, given by our organist, Mr. Douglas Parnham A.R.C.T., demonstrating the capabilities of the three-manual, 1,770 pipe instrument.

Following the resignation of Dr. A.F. Marsh as minister, a call was extended to the Rev. J. Ernest Nix, B.A., B.D., of Westminster United Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba. On June 26, 1958, at a farewell gathering of the congregation, presentations were made to Dr. and Mrs. Marsh on behalf of the congregation and the Sunday School. At the same meeting also, gifts were presented to Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Duttall who were then retiring after many years' service as Church caretakers. So began another new era in the life of Hillhurst congregation.

The Hi-C program for young people of high school age was organized at first under the leadership of Mr. Lloyd "Bud" Woodrow, meeting in 1958-59 at 9:30 a.m., and since then has met Sunday evenings. The revised Young People's Union program (ages beyond high school) is now called "Kairos" and has been active until Fall, 1967.

On October 10, 1959, a Charter was granted to the 93rd Group of Hillhurst United Church to operate the Cub and Scout program. The first Group Committee was: Mr. Wm. Stewart (Chairman), Mrs. H. McIlmoy, (Secretary):Mrs. J.E. Hunter, Mrs. G.W. Chalmers and Mr. Wm. Thomas. A Cub pack was organized with Cecil Cooper, Cubmaster, assisted by Gordon Langston, and later by George Rees. In the Fall of 1961 a Scout Troop was added with Hubert G. Peck, Scoutmaster, assisted by Chas. Kinton and Jim S. Adams.

BUILDING A NEW HALL

The decisive steps leading the the building of the Hillhurst United Church Hall were detailed in the Church NEWSLETTER for April, 1965, - the following being excerpts:

ANNUAL MEETING, January 24, 1954: Moved E. Leah, Miss J. Hunt "That the lot 50 feet wide immediately west of the Church be reserved for a Church Hall." CARRIED, 73-14

COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS, January 10, 1956: Moved J.E. Hunter, H. Woodrow "That we set up a Building Fund for the erection of a Church Hall and that the \$100. per month previously allotted to bank loan re: Manse be allotted to the Building Fund and the existing Organ Fund \$50.00 each per month. CARRIED 10 to 1.

ANNUAL MEETING, January 28, 1959: Moved L. Woodrow, J. Adams, "That a Hall Planning Committee be authorized now and appointed by the Official Board." CARRIED

OFFICIAL BOARD, April 8, 1959: Messrs. F. Mair, J. Hunter and L. Woodrow were appointed to this Committee.

OFFICIAL BOARD, September 27, 1961: Moved by F. Dear, N. Johnson, "that the Hall Committee be empowered to employ an architect." CARRIED. John Stevenson and Associates, Architects, were employed.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, April 8, 1962: Moved Mrs. D. Parnham, A. Brodie, "That we accept the recommendation of the Official Board to purchase the property (house and lot) adjoining ours to the West." CARRIED.

OFFICIAL BOARD, June 13, 1962: Moved A. Brodie, N. Johnson, "that a Hall Committee (be set up) of a general committee and sub-committees, including business, finance and planning." CARRIED Mr. A. Brodie was subsequently



TURNING THE SOD
March 19, 1965

elected general chairman.

OFFICIAL BOARD, March 11, 1964: Mr. Brodie presented revised and reduced plans, the estimated cost of building \$84,000.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, May 31, 1964: The proposed building scheme (No.6) was presented by Mr. Brodie and Mr. J. Barrett, representing the architects, and Mr. Mair presented the proposed financing. Moved W. Stewart, L. Johnson, "that we proceed with Scheme No.6" CARRIED with 8 opposed. Moved Miss L. Rannie, G. Goodwin, "that the Hillhurst C.E. Building be financed by mortgage through the Royal Trust Company, this being for \$60,000. at 7% interest over a 20-year term." CARRIED with 2 opposed.

ANNUAL MEETING, February 10, 1965: Mr. A. Brodie reported that tenders had been called for construction of the building, and a contractor would soon be appointed. Application for a mortgage had been made. RECEIVED, with 2 opposed.

OFFICIAL BOARD, March 10, 1965: Mr. A. Brodie reported that the building was to begin immediately with sodturning ceremony on March 19th. Jason Construction Ltd., contractors.

CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING, May 31, 1965: Re-laying of the 1908 Memorial Stone from the original Presbyterian Church recovered from the Hillhurst Corps Salvation Army. Laying was by Mrs. J.E. Hunter, assisted by Trustees Alex Brodie and Harold O. Merrick. Articles were deposited in the stone by Rev. J.E. Nix.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW HALL July 1965

OFFICIAL BOARD, June 9, 1965: Moved by Mr. E.S. Frost, Mrs. J. Gibson, "that the name of the new hall be "Hillhurst United Church Hall". CARRIED

CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING, Sunday, October 17, 1965: Official Opening and Dedication of the Hall by the Rev. Dr. D. Bruce Johnston of Medicine Hat, President of Alberta Conference of the United Church, followed by program and "Open House".



RE-LAYING of MEMORIAL STONE

May 31, 1965

l.to r.: A.Brodie, H. Merrick, Mrs. J.E. Hunter

(right)

DEDICATION OF THE HALL

October 17, 1965

1. to r.
Rev. J. E. Nix
Rev. D. B. Johnston
Mr. A. Brodie

Other important events of the decade 1957 to 1967 which can only be mentioned were:

In February, 1960, the Couples Club decided to sponsor a 'Teen-age Recreation program in the Church for young people of 12 to 18 years. Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Parnham were the first Adult Advisors. A full program of games, handcrafts and dancing was offered, and numbers grew in the first year from 24 to 123. In '62 the Junior High and Senior High members met on separate nights, and then the Senior High program was dropped because of less demand for it. Attendance highs of over two hundred were reached The Couples' Club resigned their sponsorship and a separate 'Teenagers' Recreation Committee' was formed, including adults and 'teenagers from Anglican and Roman Catholic neighboring Churches. The Vestry of St. Barnabas' Anglican gave a gift of \$75.00 to help equip the new Hall with window guards.

The Inauguration of the United Church Women, uniting together the former Woman's Association and the former Woman's Missionary Society. After a year's preparation on the local level, by a Provisional Committee, the Inaugural Meeting was held on January 9, 1962, in the Church Sanctuary. Mrs. Douglas Parnham was elected President, Mrs. D.E. Cook and Mrs. E.E. Lowney, Vice-presidents, Mrs. P.F. Gorton recording secretary and Mrs. G.B. Dickie, treasurer. Their purpose as stated is "to unite all women of the congregation for the total mission of the Church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service." Through the years they have continued in a noble and unselfish fashion to serve God, the Church and

Community here and abroad - the "total mission of the Church".

In 1964, after some ten years' preparation on the part of the United Church of Canada, through the Christian Education Department, but involving the whole Church at all levels of survey and experiment, the "New Curriculum" was introduced as a three-year cycle of studies. While the Hillhurst Church School is not at its former peak enrollment, very good results are being experienced in team teaching methods and in the opportunities for teacher training. Mrs. Robert Hughes succeeded Mr. Norman Cowley as General Superintendent of the Church School in 1966.

"OLD FRIENDS"

1. to r.: Catherine Frost, E.S. Frost, Mis. E. Frost, Mrs. W.

M. Grant, Dr. R.B. Francis, Rev. W.M. Grant, Rev. H.D. Marr

REMINISCENCES BY DR. W.M. GRANT

In the Spring of 1926, I was visited one day at my home in Westminster Manse, Edmonton, by two ministers, both well-known to me, Dr. M.H. Wilson, Superintendent of Missions for Northern Alberta, and Dr. R.J. Wilson of Toronto, one of the Secretaries of the United Church of Canada. Dr. R.J. Wilson informed me that in Calgary a few days before, he had visited his college friend, Dr. R.B. Francis, who enquired of him if he knew any minister, who might consider a call to Hillhurst United Church. The former Methodist and Presbyterian congregations of Hillhurst had come together on June 10, 1925, to form the Hillhurst United Church. The ministers were invited to remain for a year, and on July 1st, 1926 another minister must take their place. Dr. Wilson said that he had recommended me to Dr. Francis. Would I consider a call to this Church favorably if it were offered me?

I had been seven years minister of Westminster Presbyterian Church, which by a large majority had decided to enter the United Church. The people of Grace Methodist and Westminster Presbyterian had often thought of uniting; perhaps my withdrawal might help to consummate such a union, and so I said I was interested in the situation in Calgary. In a short time, I had a letter from the Official Board of Hillhurst Church, in which it was stated that they would not ask me to preach, but they would like to meet with me. I accepted their suggestion, met with them, and in a few weeks, I was invited to become their minister on July 1st. I was inducted early in July, and began my ministry of six years in their congregation. We found them well-organized and working harmoniously and happily together.

The Session, with Mr. Ernest Frost as Clerk, was composed of a small group of strong and willing elders; the Stewards were equally gifted and co-operative. The former Methodists excelled in praying; the former Presbyterians in paying; both essential and well combined. For a year, shortly after I became their minister, the Session took over the care of a neighbouring mission at Parkdale. Eight or ten elders preached in turn, I taking my place with them about every two months. I also visited the families of the Mission and their Church school about once a month. In this way, we helped to prepare for the establishment of Parkdale United Church.

Our greatest achievement probably was in the Church school. Over six hundred were enrolled, about the same number as in Central, Knox and Wesley, whose Church membership was more than twice Hillhurst's. On one occasion, when I was President of the Conference, I was asked to address the annual banquet of the men of Knox Church, attended by four or five hundred of the leading men of the city. I introduced myself by saying, "I am glad to meet many of the parents of the boys and girls, who attend Hillhurst Sunday School. Some of our people in Hillhurst Church are saying: 'Knox parents, who live in our area send their children to our Sunday School but our Church is not good enough for them'. However, I don't look at it in that way. You parents, I know, will agree with me: second best may be all right for ourselves, but we want the very best for our children. Continue to send your children to us, and we will do our best to help make Christian citizens of them".

The Sunday School, under the capable leadership of Mr. Leslie Harvey, later Mr. William McLeod, was reorganized shortly after I arrived, into five departments, well superintended by Mr. Bert Dingle (Senior), Mr. Leslie Harvey (Intermediate), Mr. George Gregg (Junior), Mrs. Sprague (Beginners), and Mr. Jack Collett (Primary), respectively. With adult classes (for older folk) capably taught by Messrs. C.J. Henderson and S.H. Adams.

Our Missionary giving gradually increased from \$1~400 in 1926 to \$1,800 in 1927, \$2,000 in 1928 and \$2,250 in 1929, reaching our allocation in the last three years. Then came the depression, and everything and everybody suffered, including our givings. Many were out of work; others were reduced in income. The minister asked and insisted, against the wishes of the congregation, that his salary, which had been increased by \$200 a few years before, should be cut by \$200. The financial difficulties, however, brought us more closely together and strengthened our congregation.

While Minister of Hillhurst United Church, I was elected President of the Conference of Alberta and given the degree of D.D. (honoris cause) by St. Stephen's College, Edmonton; the congregation sharing with me these honors, presenting me with a beautiful Church gown.

We had a congregation that, though comparatively small, was one of the leading examples in our Conference of the spirit of union, - two neighbouring congregations, always friendly, co-operating in the summer before Union, became a strong, friendly Church, a fine beginning for the present Hillhurst United Church.

* * * * *

HISTORY OF MENS' WORK by CLINT HATFIELD

To write a brief history of men's work in Hillhurst United Church means going back over a long period of time. Scarcely any records exist and even those who were involved in the early groups cannot at this late date give much information.

Prior to 1925, St. Paul's boasted a Mens' Bible Class under the leadership of Mr. C.E. Leppard. I came to the Presbyterian Church in 1913 and looking back, I cannot remember a Mens' organization. There was a teen-age group under the leadership of the Minister Rev. P. Walker. Well I remember a Sunday morning in 1919 when the Minister Rev. R. Magowan was accompanied to the pulpit by a young man, a stranger. This young man was a representative of the Brotherhood Movement in Great Britain. He made an appeal for the formation of such a group in our Church. There wasn't a very enthusiastic response, but it wasn't long before a Brotherhood was formed. After a very few meetings, it was decided the group should centre around Bible Study, so the group ~became the Brotherhood Bible Class under the leadership of

KEYSTONE - 1938

1. to r.: Front - C. Hatfield, J. Whitehead, C.J. Henderson,
Bill Hardy, J. Gibson, Sam Ewing
2nd row: Tom Oakes, ---, ---, ---, Jim Lawton, Alf Fanthom Jr
Steve Newborn, Wm. Guthrie, R. Stillings
3rd row: , , Fred **Watts (violinist)**
4th row: , ,

Marino Cozzubo, Roy Bygraves, Jack Smith

5th row: Bruce Compton, ,

W. Barber.

C.J. Henderson, meeting at 9:45 a.m. Sunday mornings. It worked and usually there was a group of around 30 or 35 in attendance. Later, one of our members, J.A. Robertson, (now deceased), suggested we adopt a name that would be significant to living and challenging. He pointed out that in the arch of living "Brotherhood" is the Keystone, and suggested we rename our group "The Keystone". The idea immediately took hold and the change was made.

By the way, you may be interested to know a further point of significance. In the lower Assembly Hall there is a fireplace with an arch prominently displayed around the fireplace opening. It is topped by a rather large Keystone the emblem of our group. One of our members worked on the building of the mantel-piece.

When I look thru the records and read the names it makes me sad to note so many have passed on, such as: W. Hardy, D. Sharp, J. Gibson, J. Whitehead, Bruce Compton, J. Lawton, F.P. Switzer, V. Woodrow, Tom Oakes, etc. - wonderful friends - and some of the old guard such as G. Chennells, still are making a large contribution. In this group there grew an amazing spirit of fellowship, friendship and good will. Everyone was on call to help when and where needed, and I might add, willingly. That spirit still exists among surviving members.

Can you imagine packing the choir loft with men and putting on a concert? The Keystone did it under the leadership of one of the members, W. Reader, a choirmaster. What we lacked in tone we made up in volume.

The Keystone also had a good orchestra under the leadership of H. Draper and C. Davis. The sing songs in our Bible Study hours were an inspiration. On occasion there was a good quartet as well. At the annual bazaars the Keystone "Eb and Zeb" Country Store became quite a feature.

Whenever there was painting or carpentry to be done the men rallied around. They stood behind the boys in Tuxis and Trail Rangers. There was a lot of fraternizing with other groups such as the men of St. Barnabas', the Buccaneers of First Baptist and the men of the United Church in High River. Even took an evening service there. As well, there were several visits to the Indians at Morley, who enjoyed the orchestra very much. A blood donor group was formed. Visiting the sick was an integral part of our work. Time marches on and in 1941 our Leader, Teacher, Friend, C.J. Henderson, passed on. It was a terrible blow for he was a wonderful man.

The group decided to keep going with a substitute teacher, the writer. However, circumstances seemed to against us. Two world wars had practically cut off a generation of young people who would have been prospective members. Old age and death depleted the ranks of the old men. The attendance showed we were gradually dying, so was decided to close the books. This was about 1950. Over thirty years of service.

Can you name a Church having a class or group of men maintaining their identity and usefulness for that period of time?

For a few years there was no men's group. During that time the A.O.T.S. movement, started in Vancouver, was gaining momentum. By the way, one of our members, H. Donnelly, had been a member of the first A.O.T.S in Vancouver.

The idea took hold in our Church and on December 5th, 1955, sponsored and led by men like C. McCullagh, Alec Brodie, Bud Woodrow, Fred Dear and Harold Merrick our A.O.T.S. Mens' Club was formed, with the first supper January 18th, 1956. It is a definite part of our Church organization. Our main objective is to create a Christian fellowship that will attract all our men to its ranks and provide objectives challenging to our Christian commitment, not just a dinner meeting, but a gathering enabling participants to find ways and means to make Christ and His Church a power felt in all our contacts. The feeling of fellowship is definitely there and challenging work is being done. We are supporting a Korean girl and we are backing boys in the Cub and Scout groups. Our meetings are a combination of good speakers and group discussions. We have joined with and backed our Choirs in Fall concerts. Our Christmas parties to which wives are invited are fast becoming a regular institution. We maintain a visiting service, trying to serve our people in hospitals and nursing homes.

Much more could be accomplished if all our men would join and participate. Is it worth while? You tell me.

You know Jesus said: "Follow Me" Here Let's use it to the full, now and in the future.

* * * * *

HISTORY OF THE EVENING AUXILIARY W.M.S. by Mrs. Wm. McLeod

About the year 1936, when Mrs. E.J. McConnell was Supt. of the Beginners Dept. in our Sunday School, she asked me if I would come up to her house after Sunday School and bring the girls from my Sunday School Class in the Intermediate Department, to talk over plans to start a Mission Circle. This is what we did, hoping when younger girls graduated from the

C.G.I.T. at 18 years of age, they would join us and so increase our membership. But, by the time we had carried on for five years, these young teenagers from the C.G.I.T. say: "Oh, they are too old for us," so then we decided to become an Evening Auxiliary of the W.M.S. We asked Mrs. Ernest Corbett from the Presbyterial to come over one evening and organize this new group. It would be the year 1941.

To increase our membership, we then contacted young women who were working in offices, etc., also mothers of young children who could not very well get out to an afternoon group, but could perhaps attend an evening group more easily, so our membership began to increase and by 1951 we had 28 names on our roll. Mrs. Gladys Nicoll was our President for that year, and by 1952 our membership had increased to 40. Our programs consisted of A Study Book - and sometimes a guest speaker - among those who come to mind were (1) Miss Clare - a teacher from West China, (2) Mrs. Kenneth Prior, who spoke on Africa, April 17, 1951, (3) Mrs. Berry showed us slides of her Bermuda trip, (4) Mrs. Hatfield spoke on the people of Japan, April 3, 1951, (5) Miss Fawdry showed pictures of Honolulu, November 5, 1952, (6) Miss V. Stewart went to China in 1918 as a business worker and evangelist and she gave us a most interesting talk. The first Baby Band was organized about 1951 and Daisy Cook and Gladys Nicoll visited the homes of the members.

(1) Other Superintendents were Mrs. Wilma McSorley who in 1956 was in charge of Baby Band with the assistance from members of our group. (2) Miss Catherine Frost was Superintendent of the Mission Band, assisted by Mrs. Myrna Phillips and Mrs. Eric Young. (3) Miss Jeanne Hunt was Superintendent of Girl Explorers. (4) Miss Mary Lore was Superintendent of C.G.I.T. group, which had from 45 to 50 girls. (5) Miss Shirley Mitchell had a Senior group of 11 girls - and two strong new groups of 11 and 8 members each.

Other activities included: - Decorating the Church for Christmas - Always helping at C.G.I.T. banquets, also at Baby Band parties - Always helping to serve at both Explorer and C.G.I.T. Mother and Daughter banquets - Visiting patients at the San and Dana Nursing Home - Also visited Mountain View Home for Girls and put on a program for them from time to time.

Now, in concluding this report, may I say that this group was one of the finest I have ever had the privilege of working with. We were together for 20 years, but when the U.C.W. came into being, the members joined up and are now in different groups.

HILLHURST SENOIR CHOIR - 1966

Mr. Glenn Potter, Organist and Choirmaster

HILLHURST CHURCH CHOIR by Mrs. Wm. Stewart

A history of our Church is inevitably bound up with the story of the choir. The life cycle of the organ is an epic of its own, which has been told on several earlier occasions. It is scarcely possible to name all of the organists who have warmed the organ bench, and mention will be made of only some of them. There are two present members who have sat under the waving hand of seven conductors.

The choir story is a story of personalities and families which provided multiple members. Mr. Dan Sharp and his sister Mrs. Walker were two fine soloists. The Guthrie family gave us three soloists at the same time. Mr. Guthrie, Sr., Mr. Bill Guthrie and a sister Mrs. Duff. Mrs. Ruby Guthrie and her brother Mr. Ronald Cowie gave long faithful service as soloists.

We cannot forget the "Ramsey Girls" as they were called. Merne, Bessie and Margaret gave of their talents in many other departments of the Church. Merne, who was Mrs. Harvey Wilson, was an outstanding elocutionist and on one occasion, gave a very fine recital with Mrs. Hester Scully, a soprano member.

Nor can we omit Mr. & Mrs. T. G. Millar, who were members for many years. Mrs. Millar successfully produced and directed a series of polished plays which were great crowd pleasers and money makers, the casts of which were chiefly choir members. Rehearsals were hilarious.

One choir master who deserves more than passing mention is Mr. Ben Choppen, the present organist at Parkdale. Mr. Choppen and his wife Dorothy were both exceptionally fine soloists and both were accomplished organists. During his

tenure, the choir was large and enjoyed fine fellowship. So fine, in fact, that under a dark cloak of secrecy, they used to hire the Oddfellow's Hall on Twelfth Street to have an occasional evening of games, refreshments and DANCING.

During the years we were honoured to have Mr. Clifford Higgin as Choir Master, the singing reached a high standard. Mr. & Mrs. Elgar Higgin added to our stature and many of their friends and students sang as regular members. Two of these, Miss Arlene Meadows and Miss Frances Dibblee went on to professional careers. And there was dear Mollie Pierce Hamilton. No other choir director could surpass her for sheer dynamic personality. She gave of herself and drew from others what they didn't know they had.

The longest period with us was spent by Mr. Douglas Parnham, whose wife and children were very much a part of Hillhurst Church. In his time the organ was rebuilt and rededicated at a recital, by Mr. Harold Ramsay. Mr. Ramsay was our organist for a time when he was sixteen years old. Doug was responsible for a series of Sunday Evening recitals which brought us most of the well known organists in the City. There were Choir Concerts, Choir Parties and many visits to the Colonel Belcher Hospital and Rundle Lodge.

One hardly dares to mention names of choir members because of the necessity of leaving out so many. Some of these however were: Archie Clipsham, Mr. L.J. Harvey, Geoff Rannie, Harry Hamilton, the Thompson family, the McCredie girls, Anna Davidson, Mildred Hay, just to mention-a very few

Why has the choir changed? thirty or forty years ago there was neither radio or T.V., people didn't bowl or Curl, service clubs were few; there was no Auditorium nor night shopping. Choir practice was a social event as well as a service to the Church. Is the day to come when we will sit back and listen to a recorded solo? If it does, we will just lean back in the pew and reminisce.

However, at no time during our history, have we ever before had five members of our Minister's family sharing choir work as we have had in recent years and it is doubtful if any other Calgary Church can equal this.

ORGANISTS AND CHOIRMASTERS

| | | |
|------|-----|----------------------------|
| 1908 | (M) | Percy Bennett (O) |
| | (M) | Mr. Hone (C) |
| | (P) | Miss Beveridge |
| | | N. Forsyth |
| 1912 | (P) | T. Newman-West |
| 1915 | (P) | Harold Harty |
| | | James Smart |
| | | Horace Reynolds |
| | | Harold Ramsay |
| 1917 | (P) | E. J. Cann |
| | | Mr. Johnson |
| 1922 | (P) | C. Carnegy |
| 1923 | (P) | & |
| | (U) | B. J. Choppen |
| 1924 | (M) | Gus Arlidge |
| 1932 | (U) | W. G. Thomas |
| 1936 | (U) | Mollie Pierce Hamilton (C) |
| | (U) | Dulcie Bishop (O) |
| 1945 | (U) | Margaret Brodie (O) |
| | (U) | Clifford Higgin |
| 1951 | (U) | Geo. Benbow |
| 1952 | (U) | D. Parnham |
| 1962 | (U) | Glen Potter |

NOTE.

M - Methodist

P - Presbyterian

U - United

C - Choirmaster

O - Organist

CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY

1922(St. Paul's) W. C. Gilroy

Frank R. Harback (ordained 1930)

W. John Collett (ordained 1937)

Gerald A. Larue(ordained 1945)

1946

Alan S. Hunt (ordained 1949)

1965

Murray J. Armstrong

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