

St. John's Parish Magazine

WEST TORONTO

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Foreword

St. John's Church celebrates half a century of spiritual growth and privilege. From small beginnings and through dark days as well as bright ones God has steadily led us on. Other men have laboured and we have entered into their labours. For all that has been accomplished God's Holy Name be praised. For all that has been weak and unworthy may He graciously grant forgiveness.

To greater things than these let us aspire as we go forward into the future. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." Let us go on in the Name of the Lord.

We live in critical times, times of stress and strain to both body and mind. We shall need all our Christian faith and courage to fortify and sustain us. May the old faith, the faith of our fathers be our strength and stay. In a day when the foundations of our civilization are threatened and men's hearts fail for fear, let us hold fast to the faith, once delivered to the Saints. This is a testing time, a time in which to believe that God is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."

R. MacNAMARA.

St. John's Church, West Toronto

An Historical Sketch 1881—1931

By HILDA MAY

"Ye shall hallow the fiftieth year—It shall be a jubilee unto you." Rev. 25-10.

The term jubilee is derived from the Hebrew "Yobel" meaning "Blast of a Trumpet" and jubilee—a ram's horn. A grand festival of the Jews was proclaimed by a ram's horn trumpet on the first day of the tenth month of the fiftieth year called jubilee year. It was a year of special rejoicing because slaves and debtors regained their liberty and lost inheritances were restored. From time immemorial Ecclesiastical Jubilees have been observed. In this Dominion and especially in the Diocese of Toronto many churches have celebrated the jubilee of their founding and now St. John's, West Toronto, is to be added to the list.

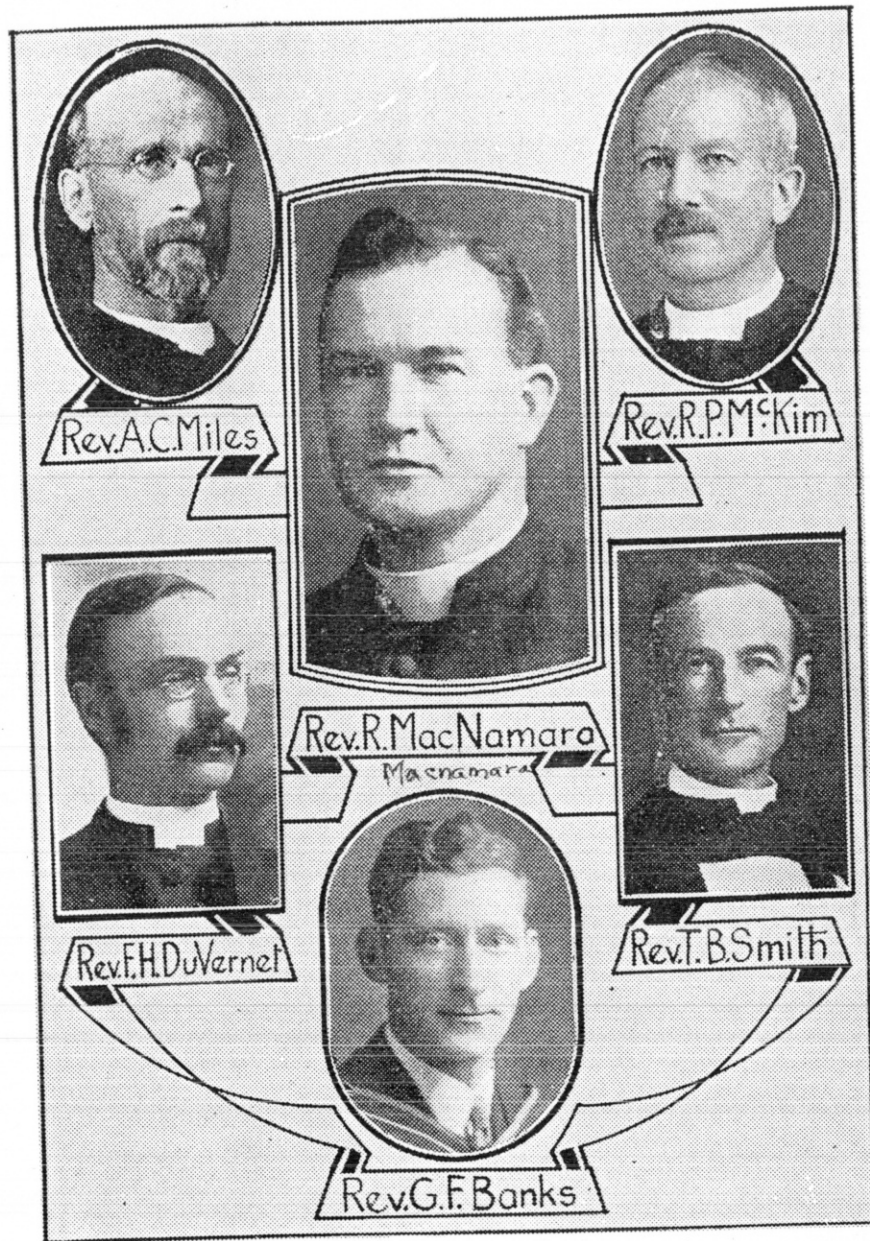
Although the congregation have passed through dark periods yet many happy and prosperous years have also been experienced and one and all can look on this jubilee year and say "Eben-Ezer" "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. Praise ye the Lord."

Origin

In August 1879, Mrs. B. W. Murray on Sundays, hitched up her horse and collected the children living in the bush in the Runnymede and Swansea districts and drove them in her buggy to her home on the estate, south of Bloor St. between Jane St. and Windermere Ave., where in her drawing-room she conducted a Sunday School, the nucleus of the present St. John's Church. To the honoured memory of Mrs. B. W. Murray is a bronze tablet on the eastern wall of the present St. John's Church including these words: "Through her devoted energy and her great love for little children, the foundation of the Parish of St. John was laid."

In September, 1879, The First Service was held in the Mission Room, a barn-like building at the north west corner of Elizabeth and Louisa Sts. (Runnymede and St. John's Rd.) On Friday, Dec. 19th, 1879, the First Vestry Meeting was held in this Mission Room. Those present being: Messrs. David Kennedy, Sr., Jas. H. Kennedy, Albert and Walter Foxwell, A. R. Ronald Wellsman, Carter and B. W. Murray. The Rev. J. H. McCollum the Rector of St. Thomas Church presided.

The First Easter Vestry Meeting was held March 29th, 1880, when it was recorded that a most cordial vote of thanks be tendered to Messrs. Fiskens and Wadsworth for their valuable present of two and a half acres of land as a site for the church and parsonage.



Mr. Wadsworth, still hale and hearty, resides at 124 Tyndale Ave., his home for fifty-one years. This new site was where Dundas and Louisa St. met. Louisa St. later was re-named St. John's Rd. On April 18th, 1881, Rev. J. H. McCollum resigned the incumbency of the Mission.

On Nov. 20th, 1881, the first St. John's building was opened. Being of frame construction there was no corner stone but there remains today a valued memento of the opening in the form of a lectern cloth on which is inscribed in Miss Streets handwriting: "St. John's Church, Runnymede, opened Sunday, Nov. 20th, 1881, by the Bishop of Toronto, Arthur Sweatman, G. A. Street, Mrs. B. W. Murray. B. W. Murray and Hugh Dempster, Church Wardens."

It is the opening of this frame Church, later styled The Old School House, that we are commemorating this month.



The Mission from 1882 to 1888 was in charge of Wycliffe students including the late Canon Ardill, Rev. Dr. Cooper Robinson and Rev. J. Macqueen Baldwin, the Rev. Mr. Gaviller of Buffalo and the Rev. R. A. Sims.

On Nov. 14th, 1887, the Mission was set apart from St. Mark's, Carleton, and named by Bishop Sweatman, the parish of St. John's, Runnymede, later St. John's, Toronto Junction.

On March 31st, 1888, the Rev'd. Arthur Chipman Miles was appointed the first Rector of St. John's. The first lay delegates to the Synod were: Messrs. B. W. Murray, Edward Williams and Wm. Wilson. At the next Vestry Meeting it was resolved to

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enlarge the Mission House and on April 30th, 1889, arrangements were made for the laying on May 11, 1889, of the corner stone of a brick church. It was to cost \$8,000, to seat 330. This corner stone has since been removed and built into the present church. From 1892 to 1894 Mr. Robert Philip McKim was in charge of St. John's while Mr. Miles had leave of absence. On July 1st, 1894, the Rev. R. P. McKim was inducted by Bishop Sweatman to be the second Rector of St. John's. During Mr. McKim's regime, despite the dark days of financial depression after the "boom", work being scarce and a mortgage of \$8,667 on St. John's Church, the parish was a beehive of parochial and missionary activity and has been ever since.

There was a well organized Sunday School, a Men's Association and Boys' Brigade. The Senior Branch of the W.A. was formed in 1891 and the Junior Branch was formed in 1892. The latter Branch and the Sunday School supported a school in China under the Rev. Mr. Stewart who was afterwards massacred.



Cottage Prayer Meetings, Open Air Services and other Meetings were held in a Mission Hall where today there stands the West Toronto Post Office. These were all organized by Mr. McKim but the crowning feature of his ministry was the presentation to Bishop Sweatman on Jan. 27th, 1894, of twenty-four candidates for Confirmation. Then, one Sunday, there came the news that Mr. McKim had been invited to St. Luke's Church, St. John's, N.B. A petition was then presented to the Bishop asking that the Rev. Prof. F. H. DuVernet of Wycliffe College be appointed third Rector of St. John's.

On foot or bicycle Mr. DuVernet traversed his parish and in his humility considered no task too lowly.

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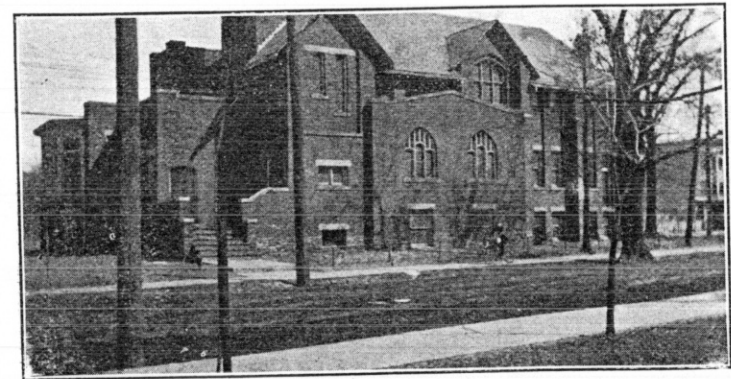
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A strong Branch of the A.Y.P.A. and Gleaners Union were added to the other organizations.

Mr. DuVernet kept abreast of the times and always showed great interest in the cause of temperance among the working men. He also foresaw the extension of the city westwards and enlarged the brick church. This was re-opened in 1904.

Mr. DuVernet, by a special real estate scheme of his own enabled the working man to obtain his own land and build a home. On St. Andrew's Day, Nov. 30th, 1904, Mr. DuVernet was consecrated second Bishop of the Diocese of Caledonia. Just before this event Miss Collinette Harris, who had been organist and teacher and latterly Deaconess left as missionary to Egypt, and later became "Our Own Missionary" at St. John's. On Dec. 31st, 1904, the Rev'd. Thomas Beverley Smith, B.A., became the fourth Rector and for nearly thirteen years nobly carried on the good work of his worthy predecessors until forced to resign in April, 1917, dying Nov. 14th, 1918.



Of Mr. Smith, Bishop Sweeney recorded in his charge "He was devout in disposition, earnest in speech, active in service and faithful in parochial ministrations. Mr. Smith's parting with his people was deeply felt and he has left behind him an impression for fearlessness of utterance in advocacy of all movements that

would make for the uplift of the community. His name will long be associated with the history of the Church which he served with such fidelity." He opposed unflinchingly the evils of drink and also organized a "Band of Hope."

On Sept. 23rd, 1911, with a silver trowel Mr. B. W. Murray laid the foundation stone of a new Parish House and Sunday School on the eastern side of the Church and in May, 1912, Bishop Sweeny opened this well equipped Parish House.

Then in 1914 came the war with all its sadness and sacrifice. One Sunday just before service a mother sent her younger boy to say that one son had lost an arm in France and that another son had been killed in a submarine explosion—the news about both arriving at the same time. "Go, young man and go soon" was the tenor of Mr. Smith's sermons during the war. A memorial service in memory of nine men who were killed was held on December 31st, 1916. Altogether 171 men and one nurse enlisted from St. John's.

Mr. Smith also began the Missions of St. Paul's, Runnymede, and the Church of the Advent, and conducted services for children every Sunday morning and evening.

In September 1917 the Rev. R. MacNamara, of All Saints', Collingwood, and Chaplain of the 7th Brigade, C.E.F., became the fifth and present Rector of St. John's. During these past fourteen years he has nobly followed his predecessors, carrying on the same organizations, including the Teacher Training Class, begun under Mr. Smith and devotedly conducted by Miss Hilda May. In all his work the Rector has been ably assisted by his most capable and missionary minded wife.

In July 1918 the present site of the Church and Rectory was purchased. On May 5th, 1923, the corner stone of the present Church was laid and in November 1923 the Church was opened.

On November 11th, 1923, Bishop Reeve dedicated the memorial window to the memory of thirty-nine men and boys who made the supreme sacrifice in the war. The window was unveiled by Lieut. H. Cliff and Sergeant H. Leaver, D.C.M. Other windows have since been dedicated to the memory of the Rev. T. Beverly Smith, Arch Bishop Du Vernet, Mrs. R. R. Hopkins, Mrs. C. J. Cliff, and Dr. R. R. Hopkins. There are also bronze tablets to Mr. Beverly Smith, Mrs. F. Cowan and an oak shield in memory of six Bula Matadi lads of Miss May's class, who served overseas. The pulpit is in memory of Mr. R. Drewitt, a former Warden, and The Alms Bason is in memory of Miss Minnie Musson. In addition there is a window to Miss Griffin which was brought from the old Church; the font is to the memory of Mr. Charles Flint and the Credence Table is in memory of Cyril M. Thompson, the first St. John's boy to give his life in the war.

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On Sunday, November 22nd, at 11 a.m., a memorial window presented by members of the Bula Matadi Boys' Bible Class will be unveiled and dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Toronto. This class was organized in 1895.

The passing years have thinned the ranks of former workers and parishioners and many have gone to their well earned rest. It is for new members and new workers to carry on the task so well begun.

Of all those who have exercised ministerial charge in this parish we may honestly say, in the thought of St. Paul:

"Remember them that have had and have the rule over you . . . for they have watched and are watching for your souls as they that must give account—that it may be with joy.

H. MAY.

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The Bulletin

GOLDEN JUBILEE MONTH

Sunday, November 1st—All Saints' Day—22nd Sunday after Trinity

11.00 a.m.—Holy Communion. The Rector.

4.00 p.m.—Holy Baptism.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer. The Rev. Dr. R. B. McElheran.

Sunday, November 8th—23rd Sunday After Trinity—
Remembrance Sunday

8.00 a.m.—Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer. Rev. Prof. T. W. Isherwood, M.A.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer. Rev. Dr. R. A. Hiltz. Young People's Service.

Sunday, November 15th—24th Sunday after Trinity

11.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer. Rev. Canon S. Gould, M.D., D.C.L.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer. Rev. Dr. Dyson Hague.

Friday, November 20th—Anniversary Day

6.30 p.m.—Congregational Banquet. Speaker, Rev. Canon H. F. D. Woodcock, M.A.

Sunday, November 22nd—Sunday next before Advent

8.00 a.m.—Corporate Communion for Young People.

11.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer. The Lord Bishop of Toronto.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer and Holy Communion. The Rev. Dr. H. J. Cody.

Sunday, November 29th—Advent Sunday

Commencement of Week of Mission Services

8.00 a.m.—Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer. The Ven. Archdeacon A. L. Fleming, L.Th.

7.00 p.m.—Opening Service of Mission. Captain A. Casey.

Mission Services, November 30th to December 6th
Every evening at 8 p.m. and other services as announced.

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Parish Notes

Of necessity our notes must be greatly condensed this month so we urge you to read the Bulletin of Services the more carefully.

* * *

Please do your utmost to attend our Golden Jubilee Services, all of which will be addressed by outstanding preachers. Then there is our Congregational Banquet on November 20th. We want everybody to come to that. The month concludes with a Mission directed by Captain Casey. We ask your prayers and support for all these endeavours.

* * *

Our warm thanks are extended to the following for donations towards the magazine: Mr. and Mrs. Tynegate, Mrs. Nelson, Mr. Hand, Mr. J. Nichols, Mrs. K. C. Marshall, Mr. L. Jennings, Mrs. Lowndes, Mrs. Cokes and Mr. and Mrs. Ellis. Contributions of 50 cents annually will be gladly welcomed and acknowledged by the Rev. G. F. Banks.

* * *

- Nov. 1 Commencement of Golden Jubilee Services.
“ 5 Entertainment, “The Secret Society of Cabbageville,” under auspices of Women’s Guild.
“ 7 Alert Bible Class Country Store. Open at 10 a.m.
“ 10 Teen Age Girls’ Social Evening, 8 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. R. B. McElheran.
“ 12 Men’s Club meeting.
“ 14 Home-made baking sale. Mrs. MacNamara’s unit, 2 p.m.
“ 18 Illustrated lecture by Mrs. Cuttle. Auspices of Miss Code’s class.
“ 19 Young People’s meeting.
“ 20 Golden Jubilee Banquet, 6.30 p.m. Speaker, Rev. Canon H. F. D. Woodcock, M.A.
“ 26 Men’s Club.
Dec. 5 Sale of cooking and fancy work and tea by Mrs. Morris’ Unit.

* * *

There is an urgent need for a baby carriage or a go-cart (or both) for a needy family. Will anyone oblige, please?

STOP PRESS ITEMS

A real evenings amusement is offered you in "The Secret Society of Cabbageville" on Nov. 5th, at 8 p.m. Admission 25 cents.

The well known "Country Store" by the Alert Bible Class will be held on Saturday, November 7th, opening at 10.00 a.m. Cakes, pastry, groceries, meats, vegetables and useful gifts will be on sale. Real bargains—please remember the date and support this effort on the part of the Young Men's Class.

On the following Saturday, Nov. 14th, Mrs. MacNamara's Unit will hold a sale of home cooking, etc., and on Dec. 5th Mrs. Morris' unit will have an afternoon for the sale of bakery and fancy work. Please give these efforts your real support.

Our earnest desire is that our Golden Jubilee may be in every way truly successful and it will be if every one of us will do our share cheerfully and gladly.

I am only one,

but still I am one.

I cannot do everything,

but still I can do something;

and because I cannot do everything

I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.

EDWARD EVERETT HALE.

SPARING THE CHILDREN

I often hear it said by weak and sentimental folk that we ought to screen our children from the testings and buffetings of life. I do not believe it. My own observations leads me to say that the two prime causes for failure in children are these: a prolonged and weak sentimental indulgence of children in early childhood and youth, and then mischievous interferences with them when they must face life alone as grown men and women. Better never to have had a home than that one's home should make us soft and flabby. Better go out and face the beatings of time and life until you are covered with wounds and bruises than to keep your skin whole within a hothouse of weak sentimentality and selfishness.

DR. HARRIS KIRK.

"Woe unto the man who goes to his grave without having shown love to his fellowman."

"Woe unto the cup that goes to pieces without having quenched some one's thirst." (Rueckert.)

Both have missed their true purpose.

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