

St. Davids-Queenston United Church



OUR JOURNEY OF FAITH

QUEENSTON 1786-2013

ST. DAVIDS 1788-2013

THIS HISTORY BOOK IS DEDICATED TO THE FAMILIES FROM QUEENSTON AND ST. DAVIDS,
WHO FOR OVER THE LAST 225 AND 227 YEARS HAVE KEPT THESE FAITH BASED COMMUNITIES
ALIVE.

WE ARE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL.

ARMSTRONG	BANGUARD
CLEMENT	DIGWEED
ELMER	FISHER
HANNIWELL	HOLT
HUGGINS	LAIDMAN
LOWREY	MORLEY
NIVEN	OSTROSSER
PAGE	PAXTON
PENDERGAST	PRENTICE
SECORD	SLINGERLAND
STEWART	STEVENS
STEVENSON	WALKER
WOODRUFF	WARNER

Today, in 2013, we thank God for His gifts that have allowed us to prosper and flourish. We thank the many many working hands who have provided so much love and labour.

Dear Friends:

As you walk through the cemetery of St. Davids Queenston United Church, you get a glimpse into the history of this congregation. Two hundred and twenty five years of family history.

Over the years the church has been the focal point of the community. Weddings, baptisms, confirmations and funerals have all marked the passage of time.

Throughout our history we have experienced wars, sickness, economic depression and uncertainty, and transition from a rural to an urban community. We have survived and thrived.

In celebrating this very special anniversary, we stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us. Two hundred and twenty five years is something to be proud of and humbled by.

As we commemorate this anniversary, let us remember the people who shared a faith so strong that it has moved us forward to today. Let us continue to worship with the faith of our fathers and mothers, brother and sisters, for in the end, we are a family. One of which we should be proud.

Rev. Paul James

Thank you to Ginny Slingerland, Alice Page, and Roberta Chevers for sharing their collections and to Darlene Romanowsky for finding books in the church files.

A very heartfelt THANK YOU to the UCW for their financial support in completing this very special project.

Thank you to Ginny Slingerland and Esther Binning for your input and your proof reading. Steve Hardaker for taking pictures and for your website information, lunch, tea and coffee. To Susi Hardaker, for all the hours you put in to composing, typing, scanning and doing things I didn't know a computer could do. THANK YOU. This could not have been done without you.

May all who read this, enjoy it as much as we enjoyed putting it together. Our history of faith and devotion must live forever.

Florence Turner

St. Davids-Queenston United Church 225th Anniversary Committee Chair

QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH

Two hundred and twenty seven years have passed since October 7 1786, when Maj. George Neal crossed the swift flowing Niagara River and landed at Queenston. He had been born in Pennsylvania, February 23 1751, taught school in North Carolina, and was a Major in the British Army during the revolutionary period. Like many others he found living conditions intolerable after the war and came to Canada.

He was a devout Methodist, who preached in the US, and arriving in Queenston, he was determined to spread the gospel throughout the new land by starting Bible classes.

It was from these classes that Queenston United Church dates its founding. His classes were opposed by the Commanding Officer at Queenston who believed that only clergy of the established Church of England should preach in the colonies. He ordered Neal to leave the province in 30 days, but the commander was taken ill and died before the time had expired for Neal to leave.

So Neal continued and with Christian Warner (it is recorded that Warner was a convert of Neal) established classes in both St. Davids and Queenston, old Niagara and Drummondville. After the war of 1812, he and his wife moved to Cope's Landing to continue preaching. He and his wife are buried in Port Rowan, Ontario.

In 1790, the Stamford Methodist Society was formed. The Society, while not an official organization of the Methodist church, consisted of Maj. George Neal's followers devoted to the Methodist cause. By 1795, the circuit of Niagara was established as part of the Methodist church of Upper Canada and it

extended from Toronto, west to Ingersoll, south to Long Point and included the entire Niagara peninsula. The first ordained Minister was Darius Dunham.

Queenstons early classes were held in homes, in the former Presbyterian church and at the old stone school. The Queenston United church - then called the Wesleyan Methodist Church – was built in 1862 at “a cost not to exceed \$700”. It was built on the northeast corner of Queen and Dumfries Streets. In 1939, alterations were added to include a vestry and choir room. Here it remained until 1958, when it was moved to the northeast corner of Niagara Parkway and Dumfries. At this time, a large basement auditorium, kitchen and extra rooms were added. It was re-opened and dedicated October 16, 1960. The following spring on May 28 1961, the new organ was dedicated “in memory of those of Queenston United Church, who lost their lives in service to their country in two world wars and the Rev. S.A. Laidman and son, G.H. Reesor Laidman, founders of the Boy Scout movement in the community.” In October 27 1968, the mortgage was burned in the presence of a very happy congregation.

Because of declining congregation members and with heavy hearts, it was decided in 1996 to amalgamate with St. Davids United Church. The official amalgamation date was October 6 1996. The church building was sold for \$1 to the Niagara Parks Commission and it was moved January 7, 2011 to the location of the Laura Secord homestead property. It was restored to its original 1862 stature and is part of the “Village within a Village”, in the Village of Queenston.



St. Davids ~ Queenston United Churches

Box 89, St. Davids, Ontario, L0S 1P0
Phone: (905) 262-5242

Mr. Russell Plumley,
Secretary,
Niagara Presbytery.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

At a meeting of the Queenston United Church congregation on Sunday, March 17, 1996 a lengthy discussion took place concerning the future of the congregation; the following motion resulted —

That the Queenston United Church congregation request the immediate involvement of the appropriate committee of Niagara Presbytery to begin the process of closure of the Queenston United Church

Motion made by — Mrs. Roberta Cheevers^{RL}
Motion seconded by — Mr. John Walker

The vote was taken with regret:

	7	in favour
	1	opposed

We, the members of the congregation ask that the appropriate Presbytery personnel begin meeting with the Official Board of the Queenston United Church to work through all aspects/options re the process of closure.

Yours truly,

Loretta Chevers

Mrs. Roberta Che^{EC}vers

Secretary of The Board

dated: March 17, 1996

cc. Rev. Joan Mackintosh



St. Davids ~ Queenston United Churches

Box 89, St. Davids, Ontario, L0S 1P0
Phone: (905) 262-5242

May 26, 1996

TO

The Board/Congregation of The Queenston United Church

At a special congregational meeting of the St. Davids Church congregation after Worship on May 26th. 1996 a proposal was presented to the congregation that the St. Davids Church congregation accept the request of the Queenston congregation of amalgamation of the two congregations, included in the request were the following proposals —

- 1) that the name of the newly amalgamated congregation would be the Queenston-St. Davids United Church.
- 2) that the Boards of Trustees of the two congregations would be combined in dealing with all matters relating to the disposition/disposal of the Queenston Church property, and that only the votes of the Queenston members will count.
- 3) that all expenses pertaining to the upkeep and maintenance of the Queenston Church shall be paid until the disposition/disposal of the property is finalized.

The voting was done by secret ballot and was near unanimous in favour of the above stated proposals.

We wish to extend warmest regards to the members of the Queenston congregation as they go through what is a most difficult and painful time and experience.

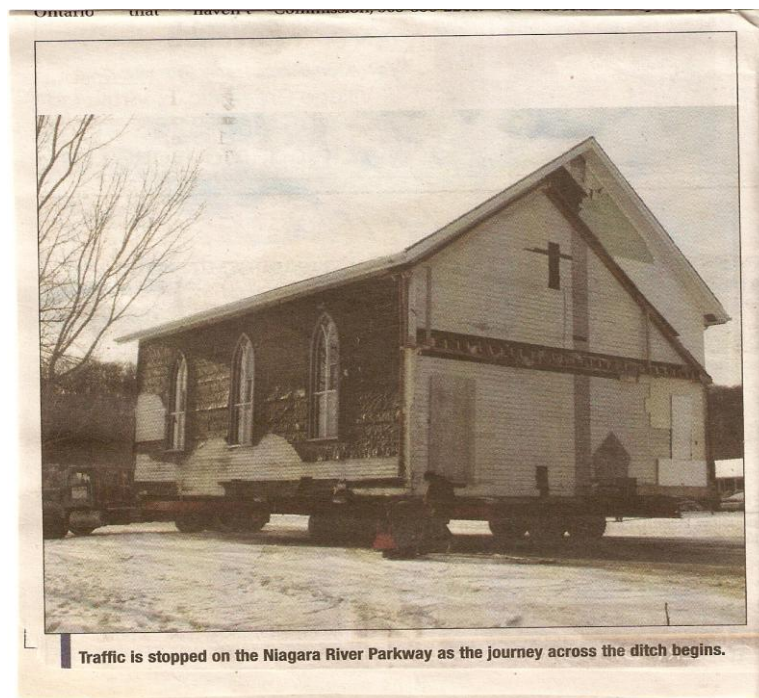
Sincerely,


Phyllis H. Green Secretary of The Board

Queenston Methodist Church, presumably at the turn of the century, since there are hydro and telephone poles present.



Moving of the original Queenston church to its current location to the Laura Secord Homestead on the Niagara Parkway, 2011



ST. DAVIDS UNITED CHURCH

Christian Warner was the impetus for the creation of St. Davids United Church. In researching the life of Christian Warner, it appears his ancestors were Lutheran and of Swiss nationality. Warner's father, Michael Warner came to the US in 1739. Warner was born in Schoharie, New York, November 7, 1754. He was married to Gertrude (Charity) Ecker on March 5, 1775. After the marriage, he joined the British cause in 1777 and was taken prisoner soon after at Saratoga, NY. He escaped and came alone to Canada in 1778 following the outbreak of the American revolution and the subsequent persecution of the British loyalists and their families. He joined Butlers Rangers and served as a Sergeant until the end of the war when he brought his wife and 2 children over in 1783. The children were carried in baskets on the back of a cow. This animal and well as an auger and an axe, were the only equipment they had with which to build their home and start anew in the unbroken Canadian wilderness. They went on to have 12 children and Warner retired from the military at the rank of Captain.

Methodism did not come to Christian Warner until he settled in Canada. He was one of the first converts of Maj. George Neal. By 1788, he became a zealous Methodist and many meetings were held in his home under his leadership. Warner was known far and wide for his power in prayer and had his own private prayer ground which had the most effective sounding board, as his neighbours declared could hear his prayers two miles away! It is from this background that we are celebrating 225 years of ministry in St. Davids. Following is a typical Sunday Order of Service at the Warner home.

METHODIST SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
to be held (D.V.) at the home of Mr. Christian Warner
on SABBATH DAY, FEB. 2nd 1789. 1986

Words of WELCOME by Mr. Warner.

"Jesus united by Thy grace" ——— HYMN 255

SILENT PRAYER - CIRCLE of PRAYER - LORD'S PRAYER

"Join all ye ransomed sons of grace" — unaccompanied
hymn.

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

The preaching of John the Baptist — MARK 1. v. 1-8

The old life and the new: the people of God. COLLOSS 3 v. 12-17

"Soldiers of Christ arise" ——— HYMN 171

Collection and dedication of gifts

Announcements.

"Jesus, Lover of my soul" ——— HYMN 77

SERMON by Major George Neal.

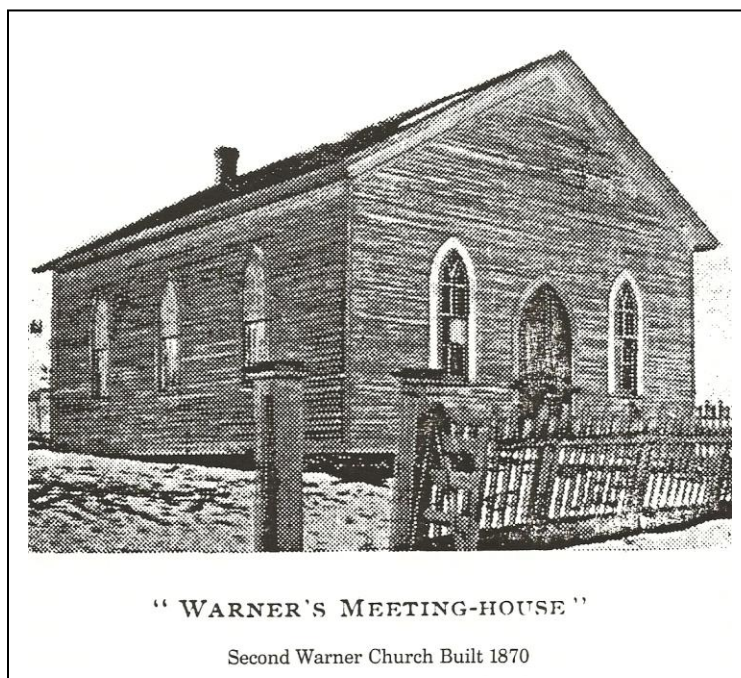
"The gift of grace, and the means of grace."

"Love Divine" ——— HYMN 241

BENEDICTION.

A funny story about Christian Warner: Like all true Methodists, he insisted on simplicity and dress. Among other things, he condemned the wearing of suspenders. He insisted that God had given people hips to hold their trousers up and that the desire for suspenders was only wicked pride. His sons, however, bought suspenders and hid them in the barn when they were not using them. Eventually, Warner himself became extremely “fleshy”, attaining a weight of 340 lbs. His hips could not longer hold up his trousers and he was obliged to wear suspenders. However, he wore only one suspender at a time!

In 1801 land was purchased from Edmund Horton which was near the Warner homestead and a high frame church was built. This was the first Methodist church in Upper Canada, west of the Bay of Quinte and the third church in the Province of Ontario. Warner continued to worship and offer services here until a new building was erected in 1870 called the Warner Meeting house. To be clear, there were 3 incarnations of the Warner Meeting House, if you will. The first being his own personal homestead, the second built in 1801 and the last being erected in 1870. This third church was sold at public auction in 1908 and lumber was used to build houses in the area.



Christian Warner died at the age of 79, from dropsy, referred today as edema, “an abnormal excess accumulation of serous fluid in connective tissue or in a serous cavity”, on March 21, 1833. He was buried in the Warner Cemetery which can still be seen from the QEW at the end of Warner Road.

Today in 2013, we are proud to have a fifth generation, direct descendent of Christian Warner; Donald Slingerland, whose mother Melissa, was a Warner. Don and his wife Ginny, were married in this church and have been and continue to be active members of our congregation.

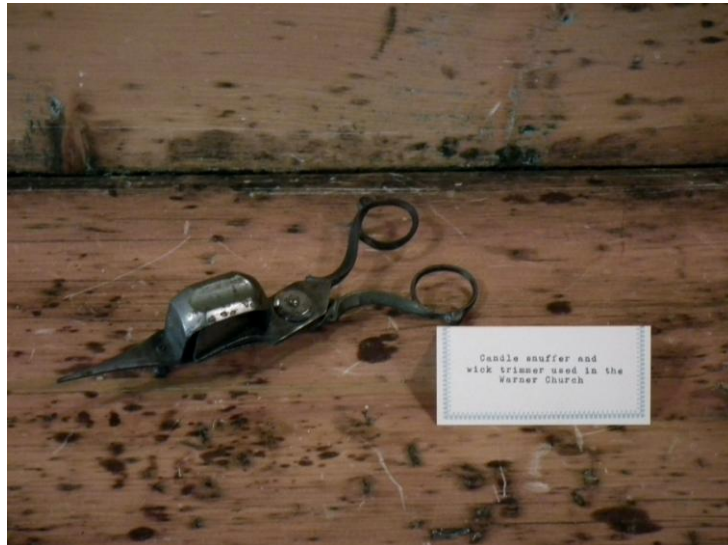
The original Warner Church Bible



The original Warner Church Collection Box



The original Warner Church candle snuffer



The original Warner Church Pew with Bible and Collection Box

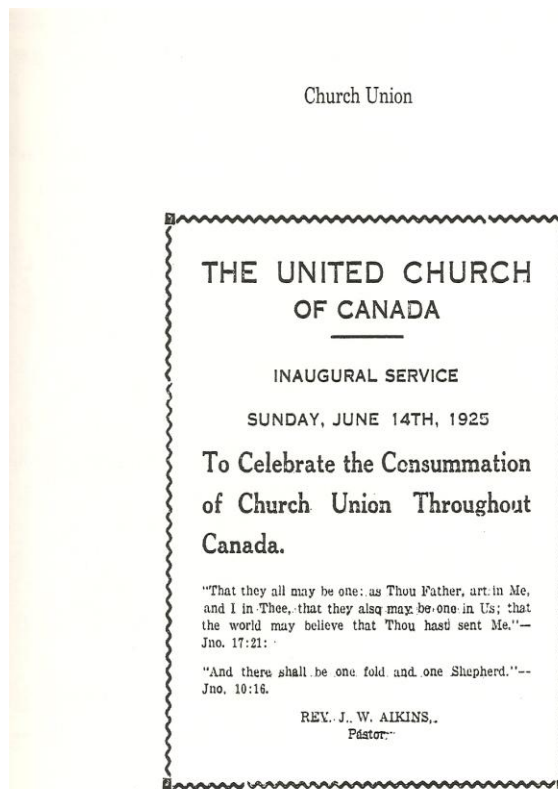


The original Warner Altar



In 1813, Major David Secord (for whom St. Davids was named) donated a large tract of land for the purpose of building a church, school and cemetery. The purpose of this was to provide those that lived closer to the Village of St. Davids, an alternate place to worship, rather than travel the great distance that it was, to the Warner Meeting House. The church was commenced before the division of the Methodist church, into 2 branches of Wesleyan and Episcopal Methodist churches. The building was well on its way to completion when the division took place. It was left in an unfinished state for many years. During the winter of 1843-1843, the Niagara temperance Association sent a lecturer through the Niagara district. After the division of the Methodists both denominations held alternate religious services in the schoolhouse. The trustees of the school refused the temperance lecturer the use of the school and so a few of the residents, at their own expense, portioned off parts of the church, put in a table, a stove and benches and commenced meetings. Soon religious meetings were held there as it was larger than the school room. This lasted for a year or two when these two branches united to put the church in repair. Between the years of 1889 and 1901, renovations took place to include the installation of new floors and new pews. At this time, the pulpit was changed to relocate the choir

behind the organ. Currently these same pews are being used in the sanctuary and the Pulpit is located in the Christian Education Hall. It was during this time that stained glass windows were installed as well. This was the church that served the congregation until 1945. In 1925, United Church of Canada was formed when the Methodist Church, Canada, Congregational Union of Canada and 70% of the Presbyterian Church of Canada entered into an organic union.



In 1925 the Church Union took place when some Presbyterians came into union. The Congregational and Methodist churches all joined into union and became the United Church of Canada.

It was on February 18, 1945 that the last service was held in this church because it was discovered to be so deteriorated that it would be unwise to attempt repairs, and because of increased traffic conditions and the need to widen the highway, it was found impossible to re-build on the sight. It was a complete loss to the congregation. Then, Mrs. D.F. Woodruff with her son Paul Woodruff, donated the land on which the new church was to be built. The sod turning service for the new church was held on February 10, 1946. Now began the long struggle towards the completion of the church.



For the next 4 years, from 1945 until 1949, St. Davids congregation members worshipped across the street at St. Davids Presbyterian Church, thanks to the gracious nature of their Board of Management. Sunday School was held upstairs in the local firehall.

Many meetings were held to decide how big a church was required. Was it to be made of stone, brick or wooden frame? Finally the decision was brick. A building committee was appointed and an architect was hired to draw up plans. A contractor was hired to build the new church. After waiting

for a year to start work on the church, he informed the congregation that he could not start to build unless they pay him an extra 10% of the cost on all material because of increased prices. He complained that he could not get the brick they wanted or the steel. Even after they got these items for him, he still wouldn't start work. On April 6, 1947, the cornerstone for the new building was laid.



Finally the contractor paid for the brick because of breaking the contract. This caused a delay of a year and a half in the building of the church. The congregation decided to be its own contractor and work parties were organized, working two and three nights a week as well as some Saturday and the work began. In 1949 the church basement was completed and services were held there. More delays ensued because to lack of funds. Appeals were made and the response was such that the church was completed in 1955. Being that St. Davids has always been a farming community, what must be realized is that many financial committments had to wait until the fall, as the farmers were paid for their years crops at that time. What must also be remembered is that the men of the congregation worked very

hard all day at their regular jobs and then volunteered at the church where they gave even the last bit of spare time. Every organization in the life of the church gave of itself in some way to bring the arduous task to its magnificent completion.

The budget for building this church was \$25,000 however, this rose to \$35,000 when it was completed and was opened on March 27, 1955. The church building was dedicated by the Rev. Waldemar Williams, M.A., who was President of the Hamilton Conference of the United Church. The Rev. H.R. Stevenson was the Minister at the time and he spoke these words at the dedication service:

“To build a church is one of life’s richest experiences. Beginning with a dream, it progresses as people are willing to dedicate themselves to an ideal. It involves planning, organization and finances. Along the way many can share in the undertaking. The church stands as a monument to the cooperation of a multitude of people. Yet it belongs to no one person. Its doors are open wide to all who care to enter. It ministers down the years long after those who built it are gone. It is a gift from today to tomorrow.”



How many couples stood on these steps after being married at St.Davids United Church?

At a special service on March 19, 1961 the mortgage on the church was burned. This mortgage was paid for by the Women's Association.



Taking part in the burning of the mortgage at the St. David's United Church on Sunday evening were left to right, Rev. E. W. Shaw, former minister and guest speaker at the evening service, Mrs. J. McIntee, president of the W.A. at the time the mortgage was assumed, H. Ostrosser, secretary of the Trustee Board, H. Elmer, clerk of the session, Mrs. Frank Stewart, president of the W.A. and A. G. Pease, student minister of the St. David's-Queenston charge.
(Review Photo by Counsell)

In 1963, the St. Davids United Church had over 175 members in regular attendance. They had their Christian Education classes in the church basement, the choir loft, the sanctuary and where ever they could find space. It was felt that a more adequate space was required for the various church functions

and for Christian education. A building committee was formed and the congregation decided to add an extension to the main building including a hall, kitchen, vestibule and washrooms. The congregation underwent an aggressive fund raising campaign and in October 1965 the new Christian Education Hall was opened and dedicated.



On October 30, 1977, the mortgage for this building was burned.



Another addition to the church started in 1982 when a new entrance to the church was required because the front steps of the church were badly in need of repairs. This time the work was completed by volunteers from the congregation. In March 1983, the new entrance and narthex were dedicated, which also coincided with the 28th anniversary of the present church building.

Because of a declining number of congregation members, a very moving and historical service was held on October 6, 1996 to celebrate the amalgamation of the St. Davids and Queenston United Church congregations. And we became known then as St. Davids – Queenston United Church.

In 2007, the congregation started investigating how to make St. Davids-Queenston United Church accessible and more welcoming to all the community. An accessibility committee was established and the congregation pledged to raise the funds to install a lift from the rear doors to the sanctuary, a chair lift down into the Christian Education Hall and an accessible washroom in the CE Hall vestibule. A major portion of the cost was raised by the congregation and small loan was secured from the Niagara Presbytery Extension Council and the work was completed in 2009. The loan was paid off in full in 2012.

A basement flood in 2011, prompted the church to undergo a basement renovation in 2011. The Nursery was remodelled with new bright flooring and paint. The parlour was divided into two rooms and the outer wall was extended five feet. This made a new Christian Education classroom and a smaller, but very functional Parlour. The church is full today and parking on Sunday mornings can be at a premium. Our congregation is a warm, welcoming and caring group who share beliefs and fellowship on a regular basis.

The building of St. Davids United Church 1947-1955



Building the Basement, 1947



Building the upper part of the Church, facing York Road and St. Davids Presbyterian Church, 1949



Building the walls



Two hard working men



Labour intensive work



Lots and lots of wood



Laying concrete



Taking a much needed break

MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED THE ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON CHARGE
NIAGARA CIRCUIT FORMED 1795

- 1795 Darius Dunham
1796 James Coleman
1797 James Coleman, Michael Coats
1798 James Coleman, Michael Coats
1799 James Coleman
1800 Joseph Sawyer
1801 Joseph Sawyer, Seth Crowell, Long Point added to part of circuit for two years.
1802 John Robinson, Daniel Pickett
1803 S. Keeler, S. Howe, R. Harris
1804 D. Pickett, L. Bishop, N. Bangs
1805 Gershom Pearce, Andrew Prindell
1806 Thomas Whitehead, Robert Perry
1807 Thomas Whitehead, Ninian Holmes
1808 Henry Ryan, Isaac B. Smith
1809 Henry Ryan, Robert Perry
1810 Andrew Prindell, Joseph Gatchell
1811 I.B. Smith, Peter Covenhoven
1812 Andrew Prindel, Ninian Holmes
1813 Ninian Holmes
1814 No records owing to war
1815 William Brown
1816 Elijah Warren
1817 J.W. Byam, George Ferguson
1818 I.B. Smith, George Ferguson
1819 I.B. Smith, D. Shepherdson

In 1820 the Niagara Circuit divided having four circuits, Ancaster, Niagara, Lyons Creek and Long Point.

- 1820 Isaac Puffer
1821 Isaac Puffer, John Thackary
1822 Ezra Adams, John Ryerson
1823 Ezra Adams, William Ryerson
1824 Thomas Demorest, William Ryerson

For a period of four years Fort George and Queenston became a separate charge served by a minister. Fort George and Queenston.

1825 William Ryerson

1826 James Richardson

1827 Served from Niagara Circuit by David Yeomans, Rowley Heyland

1828 Samuel Belton also 1829

During this time St. Davids was part of Niagara Circuit and served by:

1825 Thomas Demorest, Wm. Griffis

1826 John Ryerson, Wm. Griffis

1827 David Yeomans, Rowley Heyland

1828 James Richardson, Joseph Gatchell

1829 James Richardson, Edmond Stoney

1830 Edmond Stoney, Ephraim Evans

1831 Joseph Messmore, Ephraim Evans

In 1830 the Stamford Charge of the Methodist Conference was formed as a separate charge. Stamford had been served by a minister of Fort George and Queenston. The old Niagara Circuit was discontinued in 1831, as many points had become independent. The Fort George, Queenston charge became part of the Stamford charge as did St. Davids. They were served by the following ministers.

1830 Joseph Messmore, James Wilson

1831 Edmond Stoney, James Wilson

1832 Edmond Stoney, Ephraim Evans

1833 David Wright, Eddy M. Ryerson

1834 David Wright, Alexander Irvine

1835 Alexander Irvine, Alexander McNab

1836 Richard Jones, Alexander McNab

1837 Thomas Bevitt, Samuel Rose

1838 Matthew Whiting, Joseph Messmore

1840 Hamilton Biggar, E. Shepherd, Thomas Cosford

1841 Hamilton Biggar, John Law, G.E. Sanderson

1842 Lewis Warner, C.E. Sanderson, William McEwen

1843 Lewis Warner, James Musgrove

1844 Jonathan Scott, Joseph Messmore, Joseph Shapley

1845 Jonathan Scott, Joseph Messmore

1846 Ruben E. Tupper, Ephraim B. Harper also 1847

1848 Ephraim B. Harper, John Hunt Name of circuit changed to Drummondville 1849

1849 Edwyn M. Ryerson, John Hunt also 1850

1851-52 Thomas Cosford, George Young

1853 Thomas Cosford, Claudius Bygone

1854-55 Alexander T. Greene
1856 William S. Griffin
1857-58-59 George N.A.F.T. Dickson
1860-61-62 John Wakefield
1863 Alexander Sutherland
1864-65-66 William S. Blackstock
1867-68-69 John G. Laird
1870 John Mills, William J. Ford
1871 John Mills, James Awde
1872 John Mills, Joseph Odery
1873 Thomas Stobbs, John Smith

The London Conference of Methodist Church was formed. At this time the Methodist church entered a union of Wesleyan Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist Connection of East British America and the Methodist New Connection churches. These three branches of the Methodist church uniting into one, greatly increased their strength and enabled them to have several conferences besides a general conference. The area of Southwest Ontario became the London Conference of the Methodist church. From 1874 to 1880, Queenston became an independent charge of the Methodist church: Ministers were:

1875 James Mooney
1876 Charles R. Morrow
1877 George Daniel
1878 Augustine Broadway
1879 Robert H. Balmer
1880 Wiliam Sparling

Drummondville Circuit of which St. Davids was a part was served in these years by:

1874 Thomas Stobbe
1875 John Ridley also 1876
1877-78-79 Matthew Swann
1880 Samkuel Wilson
1881-82 A.D. Millar
1883-84-85 W.S. Jameson

In 1883 St. Davids removed from Drummondville and became part of Queenston-Stamford charge and St. Davids

1886-87 Daniel W. Thompson
1888 John H. Robinson

1889-90-91 J. Edgar Russ
1892-93 Owen G. Collamore
1894-95 R.J. Foreman
1896-97-98 Hugh S. Dougall
1899-1900 Jabez H. Dyke
1901 G. Francis Morris also 1902
1903 Robert L. Ockley
1904-05-06-07 Isaac M. Moyer
1908-09-10 Samuel A. Laidman
1911-12-13-14 W.G. Bull
1915-16-17-18 J.E. Todd
1919-1920-21 G.C. Raymer
1922-23 J.W. Kitching
1924-25 J.W. Aikens
1926 F.J. Fydell
1927-28-29-30 C.R. Albright
1930-31-32-33 N.E. Bowles
1933-34 W.C. Lundy
1935-36 J.W. Stewart
1936-37-38 J.M. Copeland
1938-39-40 W.J. VanGorder
1940-41-42-43-44-45-46 D.R. Gordon
1946-47 E. Shaw
1947-57 H.R. Stevenson
1957-58 W.G. Pelley
1958-62 A.G. Pease
1962-65 W.C. Smith
1965-66-67 Aeron Davies
1967-72 Donald A. Stiles 1972-75 John R. Wareham
1975-79 Arthur Higgenbotham
1980 Don Caughey (layman)
1980-83 Louise Barrie
1983- Arnold Proud
1993-1994 R. Morrison-Wright
1994-1995 Betty Shupe
1995-2000 Joan Mackintosh
2000-2001 Paul James
2001-2006 Douglas Hallman
2006-2007 Johnston Kottaram
2007-Present Paul James

ST. DAVIDS UNITED CHURCH CEMETERY

There was a time when the congregation felt there was an urgent need to develop a new cemetery. The internment area that was donated in 1813 encompassing the former church building was now full and therefore members and adherents were having to purchase burial plots in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Welland and Niagara-on-the-Lake areas. As non-residents of these above areas, they would have to pay a much higher price for burial plots.

In February 1956, negotiations for the purchase of the Woodruff property directly south of the church began. This proceeded and an agreement to purchase was signed in February 1957. The property consists of 2.5 acres and contains approximately 2000 grave plots.

In 1957, the Trustee Board consisting of Rev. H.R. Steveson, Clayton Good, Ernest Staines, Paul Woodruff, Everett Page and Howard Ostrosser began the removal of the existing orchard and finalized the landscaping according to approved plans.

This cemetery is still maintained by the members appointed by the congregation as Trustees of the St. Davids- Queenston United Church.

The two names that appear most frequently in the cemetery are those of Woodruff and Lowrey. Some interesting people resting in this cemetery include:

Major David Secord, Sergeant in the Butlers Rangers, Major in the Lincoln Militia (formed in 1810), Magistrate during 1796, and Member of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada from 1811-1844, and for whom St. Davids is named, with his wife Mary Page;

Richard ('King Dick') Woodruff, a leading landowner and Member of Parliament;

Edwin David Lowrey, a leading farmer whose descendants now own two exceptional local wineries;

Samuel Zimmerman the celebrated railway king who was reinterred here with his wife Margaret Ann Woodruff;

Many of these early settlers lived to great age: William Chrysler, died 1824, aged 92; Ann Clement Woodruff, born 1788, died 1878, aged 90 years, while Richard Woodruff, her husband, died 1872, aged 88. Major Adam Brown of Queenston, died 1874, aged 76; Col. Joseph Clement, died 1867, aged 76; and his wife aged 80. Maria Dewy, widow of the late Deacon Jacob Beam, died 1881, aged 88 years.



Headstone of Major David Secord, died 1813



Headstone of Samuel Zimmerman,
Railway Baron



Headstones of Founding families, Woodruff and Lowrey

THE CHOIR

Music, like religion, speaks in a universal language. It uplifts and benefits all it touches. Spiritual songs and hymns are part of our church's heritage.

We must agree that if ever an invention that has added itself to enhancing the music of worship, it is the organ, from the original pump organs which were maintained by a supply of air by a foot pedal by the organist, or an assistant using a lever, to the electric organ of today.

Throughout its history, there has been a continuous response by people to be involved in our choirs. Much could be written on the vast hours of practice, dedication, precision, and desire if one is to accept the responsibility of being an organist or choir director. Every ship must have a captain, every choir must have its leader. The success of our choir histories, down through the many years can be attributed to those who have served in this capacity. A list of those who have and are presently contributing their time and talents to both choirs would be too extensive to list, however, there are certain names that are notable and must be mentioned.

From Queenston, Muriel Laidman and Jean Huggins. From St. Davids, Neva Weaver, Lloyd Page (brother-in-law of Alice Page), Rena Elmer Edgely and our current Choir Director, Lisa Cousens Brillon.

First Choir of the Methodist Church in St. Davids.



First Choir of the Methodist Church

Back Row: Hattie Lowrey, Felix Sundeen, Neva Weaver, Ed Lowrey

Middle Row: Gussie Vivian, Harry Lowrey, Hannah Woodruff

Front Row: Maud Woodruff, Franklin Woodruff

Current Choir of St. Davids-Queenston United Church



Back row, l-r: Doug Halpenny, Jerry Bergsma, Dianne Bergsma, Don Slingerland, Monty Slingerland

3rd row: Sandra Macdonald, Susan Cote, Lisa Tiller

2nd row: Eleanor Macdonald, Anne Dorland, Helen Slingerland, Valerie Zuk

Front row: Nancy Lang, Susi Hardaker, Lisa Brillon, Dianne Catillo, Barbara Muisiner

Missing: Judith Bennoch, George Dunn

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School has played an important and active part in church life. It is here, we look back to those who will grow and eventually take on the responsibilities of those who have gone before them. Sunday School is where children can learn about the life of Christ and about caring and understanding others. Like regular school, the Sunday School had its own special events such as Christmas pageants and annual picnics and the students strove for perfect attendance awards, promotions and the memorizing of Biblical verses.

In Queenston, John Pendergast held the position of Superintendent for many years, as did Herbert and Mary Hersom (Father and Mother of Helen Slingerland). At St. Davids, there were many who held this position, however, to name a few of those that were long serving, would include D.F Woodruff (Uncle Doc), Henry Elmer (father of Evelyn Stewart and Rena Edgley), Caleb Bennett and Everett Page (husband of Alice Page).

The Sunday School in St. Davids was so well attended that in 1964 a new curriculum was introduced and there were 178 students enrolled with an average attendance of 133. Fast forward to 1975 and the next 5 years sadly there was no Sunday School at all. However, in 1980, the need for rejuvenating the Sunday School became apparent and through the efforts of several people, notably, Helen Slingerland, the classes began again. By 1985, the enrollment reached 60 with an average attendance of 25 students. Today, our Sunday School is under the leadership of Stephanie Morely with an enrollment of approximately 12.

Both churches are pleased and honoured to have had two of our Sunday School students grow up in the church and become Ministers in the United Church of Canada. From Queenston, the late Rev.

Carl H. Sulliman and from St. Davids, The Rev. Mel Sauer, who has recently retired from the Harriston United Church.

Over the years, in addition to Sunday School, there were young peoples groups that were part of the church community. These groups consisted of Explorers, Canadian Girls In Training (CGIT), Youth Groups for young men and women in congregation and still today, we welcome both Cubs and Scouts to meet in our CE Hall.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

In both our churches, prior to amalgamation of the United Church in the 1920's, there were two womans groups that were actually named : The Women's Association and Ladies Aid. Possibly in the older days, known as the Silent Majority! They were and still are always ready to arrange for church suppers, bazaars and any projects to raise money for the church. Worship was never neglected since meetings started with a worship service. Today in fact, all meetings begin with a prayer and devotional and end with a benediction. Since approximately 1969, women have been permitted to serve on various Committees and sit on the Official Board of the church.

In earlier years, the Queenston women made quilts and rugs. Bales of clothing were sent for overseas relief work, for Manitoba flood victims, Indian reservations and other numerous charities, including the Ina Grafton Gage home, and the Mission hospital in Banswara, India.

Throughout the years and with the various name changes of the womens organizations, women like Helen Glendenning, Roberta Stark Chevers and Isabel Griffiths gave their time and talents to Queenston and upon amalgamation of our churches, St. Davids prospered.

In St. Davids, it is interesting to note that during the war years, 1939-45, the Women's Association held imaginary teas because of the shortage of sugar, butter and tea and no one could afford these items. Quilts were made and sent to British war victims and bake sales were held regularly mostly at the corner in St. Davids. They gave to the Russian Relief, China Relief, British Relief and Armenian Relief funds. Waist measuring, at one cent an inch, brought in even more proceeds.

On January 10th, 1962 a new organization for women came into being. It was called the United Church Women. It was organized in the congregations, the Presbytery and the Conference areas. All women of the United Church of Canada were invited to be a part of this organization. The purpose of the organization was "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 witness, study, fellowship and service."

The inaugural service of the United Church Women of Niagara Presbytery was held on January 21, 1962 at St. Pauls Street United Church, St. Catharines. This brought together all the women of the church including the former Womens Association, Ladies Aid and Womens Missionary Society. In St. Davids, in 1963 we had two groups; the afternoon and evening units. Louella Bell was the leader of the afternoon group and Helen Peel led the evening group that year. This evening unit began because the young women who were part of the UCW had young families and were unable to participate during the day, so they gathered at night to meet. This continued until 1968 when they returned to one group meeting in the afternoon because by that time, their children were of school age and this was the best time to all meet together.

It is interesting to note today, the activities and assistance that was provided by our UCW to various missions, including used clothing being sent to Indian Reserves in Ontario and Manitoba. Annual contributions back in the 60's and 70's included the Mission and Service, Womens Place, Cave Springs Camp, Ina Grafton Gage Home, Ministerial Student, Alcohol and Drug concerns, World Development and Outreach, Stamps for Leper Society, C.G.I.T and Explorers, as well as Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Fund and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind appeals.

During the years from 1948 to 1981, the UCW have paid the sum of \$40,000 toward the building funds, \$5000 have been spent on major items purchased for the church and a substantial contribution was made to the new front entrance that was dedicated in March 1983.

The insurance premiums on the church building have been an annual project for the UCW for many years and still continues today. Money raised for this project now comes from our monthly meat pie bake and the annual UCW bazaar. For the last several years the ladies have donated \$5000 every year, regardless of the actual cost of insurance.

Over the years, the UCW have provided the fridges in the kitchen, the furniture in the ladies parlour, served funeral luncheons, prepared and managed the over 80's luncheon, bake pies for the pie booth at the Lions Carnival and continue to replenish kitchen stock for the many events held in the church.

2012 was the 50th anniversary of the UCW, a very special year for all. We have six founding members still with us who received 50 year pins and certificates for more than 50 years of dedication to the church. These women include Ginny Slingerland, Alice Page, Cathie Stevens, Betty McIlroy, Marian Niven and Verda Smith.

The national UCW's anniversary project was a fundraiser for a womens clinic in Morogoro, Tanzania where women are still very oppressed. The goal for this project was \$50,000. As of February 28, 2013 there has been over \$259,000 raised nationally with the Niagara Presbytery raising over \$7300.00. In honour of St. Davids-Queenston UCW anniversary, the ladies conducted the church service on June 3, 2012.

Two new songs were written for this 50th celebration and sung nationally at the convention in Ancaster, Ontario. As a congregation, we were very proud that our own Rena Edgley, wrote the words and music to one of these new songs, titled “United Church Women”. Thank you Rena for your contribution of devotion and talent to this very important milestone.

United Church Women

(Words and Music by Rena Edgley)

Ever since our church was founded back in 1925,
The women all have worked to keep it healthy and alive,
We came from different churches but no matter what the name,
United Church Women we became.

(Refrain)

We are united throughout the land,
Our work and worship go hand in hand.
We stand together in faith and love,
To serve our Father up above.

Our history has shown that should adversity befall,
When helping hands are needed we are here for one and all
For church or for community or missions far abroad,
We rejoice in the service of our God.

(Refrain)

We are united throughout the land,
Our work and worship go hand in hand.
Into the future we gladly go,
And our God leads us, this we know

There is no way to record the friendship, fellowship and memories that many ladies have experienced throughout the years. As a former minister once said “the younger women of today are losing out on these joys.” Our older ladies who are no longer with us have provided an experience and relationship that is precious and becoming rare. Some have worked for over 50 years in the kitchen of the church as well as many other areas. They have at times been called “Marthas” but we all know that Christ loved the Marthas of the world as well.

UCW 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Back row: Irene Small, Pat Proud, Aileen Paxton, Cathie Stevens, Grace Doyle, Ginny Slingerland

Middle row: Anita Jordan, Lois Klassen, Betty Rignanesi, Helen Woodruff, Edna Beatty, Mona McGeachie, Cecile MacDougall

Front row: Nellie Good, Virginia Petrunik, Gladys Ireland, Edie Slingerland, Joan Henning

UCW 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Back row: Nancy Utting, Peggy Fleming, Verda Smith

Third row: Ginny Slingerland, Rena Edgley, Florence Turner

Seond row: Esther Binning, Joan Dunn, Brook Bruce

Front row: Violet McArthur, Cathie Stevens, Alice Page, Susan Page, Betty McLroy, Susi Hardaker

Missing: Sandi Salewytch

ST. DAVIDS HONOUR ROLL OF 1ST WORLD WAR 1914-1918

Fred Booker	Joe Houghton	W.P. Richardson
Charles Cain	John Johnston	Robert Salbridge
Nelson Cain	Allen Lawson	George Smallwood
Arthur Cole	John Lawson	Robert Smith
Edgar Dagleish	William Lines	Sydney Smith
Frank Dunkley	Joe Lowe	George Swansboro
Harry Dunkley	*Wright Lowrey	Frank Trenier
*Delbert Green	Harry Mace	Leslie Werener
Thomas Golding	Arthur McLeod	Sydney Wing
Charles Hatt	John McKay	Cecil Woodruff
*James Hatt	Walter Murray	George Woodruff
W. Henderson	Russell Prest	Wilfred Woodruff
Harold Holt	J. Rennie	George Robson
*Ernest Houghton		

ST. DAVIDS HONOUR ROLL OF THE 2ND WORLD WAR 1939-1945

Jack Adams	Harold Hedgeman	Warren Parr
*Robert Adams	Robert Hedgeman	*Donald Parr
James Anderson	Ivan Hunt	Elmore Paxton
Robert Anderson	*Alvin Hutchinson	Phillip Robertson
William Anderson	Nina Hutchinson	Russell Selway
Ralph Booth	Claude Hutt	Carl Slingerland
Earlby Crabbe	Carl Johnson	Charles Slingerland
William Crabbe	John Johnston	Russell Slingerland
Kenneth Dalgeish	Clifford Lowrey	Frederick Stewart
Vivian Dalglish	Stanley Lowrey	Walter Stewart
Ambrose Forsythe	Haldred Lowrey	Douglas Stewart
Arnold Doyle	*Norman Manley	Gordon Vice
Wesley Doyle	John Martin	Hubert Rockley
David Greer	Lorne Niven	

Members of the Boy Scout Association serving in the Second World War – Queenston Ontario Group

1939-1945

Armstrong, John D	Dodman, Lloyd	Hiltz, Kenneth	Nichol, Leonard
Birchnell, Andrew	Dickson, William	Haylor, Gerald	Pirrie, John
Birchnell, Robert	Ellsworth, A.W (HOP)		Pierce, Kenneth
Bilon, Roland	Ellsworth, Nelson	Lapeer, James	Pierce, John
Bird, Eric		Lockhart, Gordon	
Black, Robert	Fedorkow, Walter	Lockhart, Stanley	Rockley, Fred
Brown, Carmen	Fleckney, Arthur	Longhusrt, James	Sheppard, Bert
Bucke, William			Sager, Hubert
Barr, Roy	Gates, Harold	McMullen, Robert	Smeaton, James
Carson, Orlando	*Gallagher, Seth	McCelland, Bert	Stewart, Robert
Cooley, Robert	Goodman, Roy	McRae, Earl	
	Green, James	McRae, Lloyd	Warner, Russell
	Green, Willim	Merritt, Ernest	Walsh, James
Darchuk, Murray	Haylor, William	Melway, Robert	Walker, Sidney
Dick, David	Hindle, Morley	McIntosh, Wilfred	Walsh, Dorothy D
Digweed, Harry C	Hiltz, Ellsworth	Monteith, Lloyd	Widdifield, Francis
	Bird, Douglas	Bird, Wesley	

ST. DAVIDS QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



The inscriptions on these windows, from left to right:

In Loving Memory of Frederick J. Stewart, presented by his son, Mark F. Stewart & family, 1990

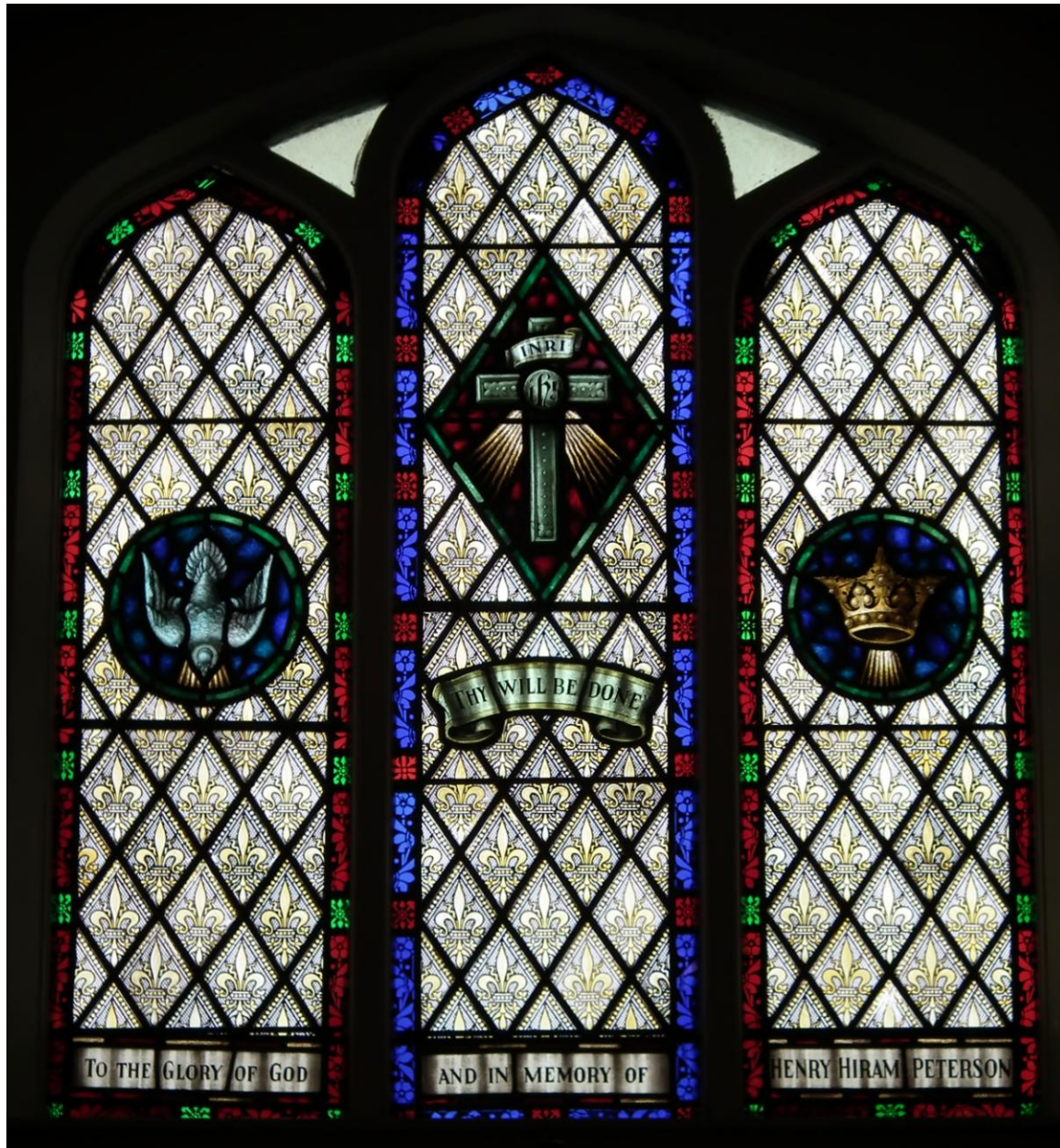
*Dedicated to the Glory of God, in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. E.D. Lowrey, Presented by Mr. & Mrs.
Howard B. Lowrey & Family*

*Dedicated to the Glory of God, in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. F.H. Lowrey, Presented by Mrs. A.V. Lowrey,
1990*

Dedicated to the Glory of God, by the Family of C. Keith Dalglish, 1990

Dedicated to the Glory of God, in Memory of those who served in the Armed Forces, 1990

From the choir loft, this window was made from the glass taken from the windows of the old church which were installed in 1891. This completed window was designed and installed when the church was opened in 1955. The dedication is to Henry Hiram Peterson who had donated a bond in memory of his sister who was a faithful member of the church.

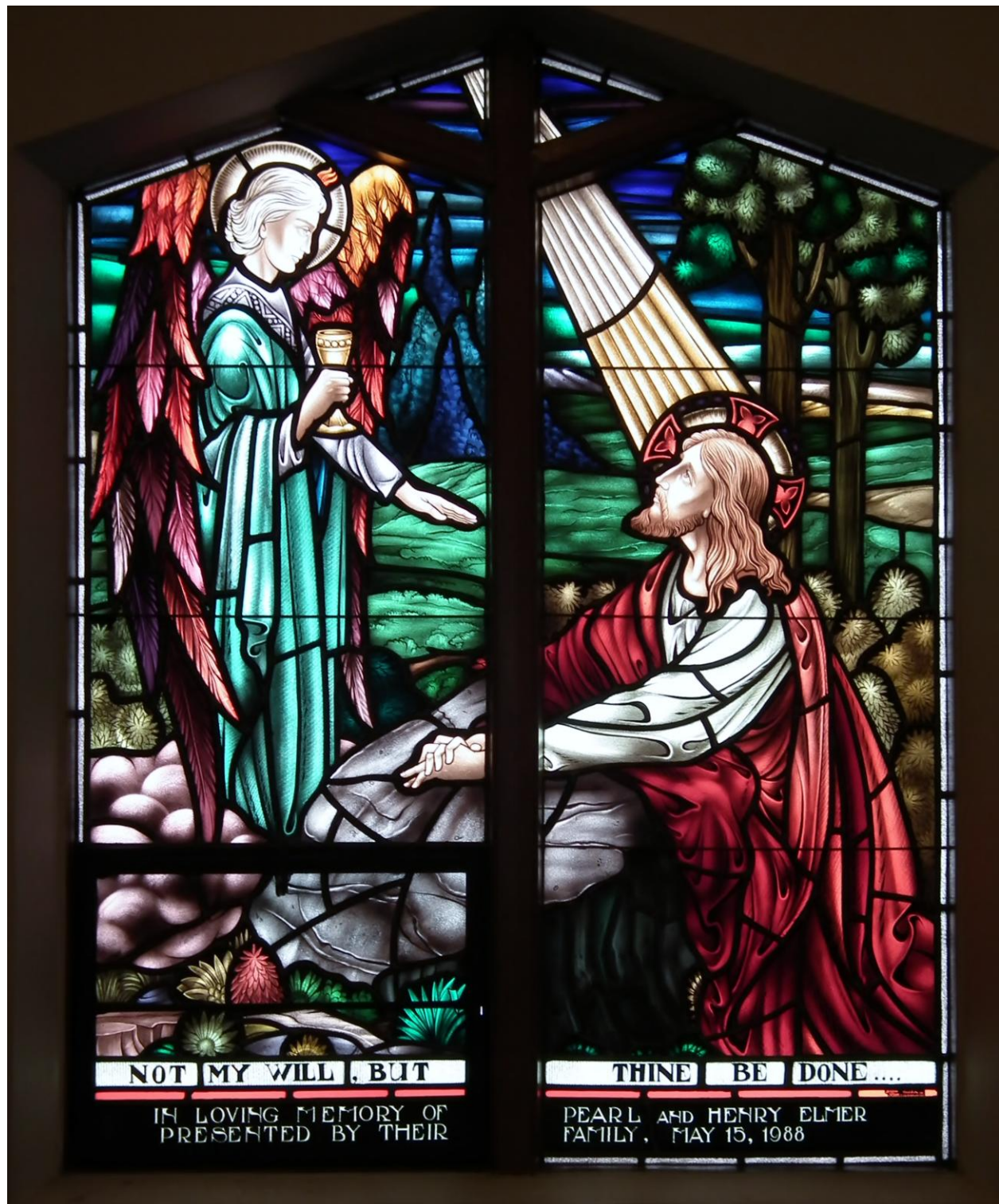














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