

FIRST WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

Westminster, was Rev. William Inglis who was inducted in April 1857 at a stipend of \$600.00 per annum. During his brief pastorate the various departments of congregational work were initiated. Sabbath School was held after morning service with an intermission, during which "we ate our piece". At this early date contributions to missions were started. The elders were: Elliot Grieve Sr., Robert Fleming, Andrew Dodds, Thomas Fleming. Trustees: Francis Nichol Sr., James Rae and Thomas Fleming.

In 1858 a manse was built at a cost of \$1100.00. Rev. Inglis received a call in 1860, to the United Presbyterian Church in Woodstock. Later he was editor of the "Canada Presbyterian" and on the staff of the Globe. He died in Toronto in 1900.

In 1861 pursuant to the union of the United Presbyterian and Free Churches in Canada, the Free Church on the fifth concession was united with this Church on the third.

In 1862, Rev. George Simpson, from Scotland was inducted as pastor and continued for fifteen years. He accepted a position as editor of the Canada Presbyterian, and later on the staff of the Chicago Interior.

In the year 1876, the manse burned and the main part of the present manse was built the following year.

The Union of the Presbyterian Churches in Canada in 1875 paved the way for another local union in Westminster, and in December 1877, St. Andrews congregation on the eighth concession and this First congregation were united to form one pastoral charge.

Rev. Frank Ballantyne, a Knox College graduate, was the first minister of the United charge ordained and inducted in 1879. During his pastorate an extensive building program was carried on. Shed accomodation for horses was provided. In 1880 the present church was built and opened free of debt, the following year the manse was enlarged, and in 1882 the Sunday School room erected. It was decided to hold classes both winter and summer, meeting before instead of after the service and having classes for adults. Mr. Ballantyne resigned the charge in 1885; later he served the church in Walton, Lobo and Kirkwell. He retired to London until his death in 1931.

Rev. E.H. Sawers, of Chicago, accepted a call, and was inducted in October 1886. He remained