

## ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH SUNDERLAND

St. Andrew's United Church, Sunderland came into being with the uniting of Sunderland Presbyterian Church and the Sunderland Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1925.

The first meeting of the Presbyterian Church was about 1846 in Mr. Andrew Hill's barn situated near Mars Corners where Hwy. 12 crosses the seventh concession. At that time Mars Corners had a store, a post office and hotel. The country was still very new with very little land cleared and wild animals were plentiful.

The first minister to organize the church was Rev. Dr. Burns assisted by Rev. James Lambie who was in charge of missions in several townships between Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog.

In 1847 or 48 Mr. Wm. Patterson gave one half acre of his best cleared land which is now part of Sunderland cemetery. The church was built by voluntary labour. Mr. James Waddell was the first child to be baptized in the church. Some of the first members were Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hill, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Hill, Mr. & Mrs. James Waddell, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Patterson, Mr. James Tocher, his mother and three sisters, Mary, Isabella and Jessie, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Campbell, Mr. & Mrs. Jas. Glendenning and Mr. & Mrs. Hy Glendenning. Other new settlers were Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Gordon, Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Wallace, Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Gillespie, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kelly and Mr. & Mrs. Peter Charters. This was about 1852. Ministers who served at that time were Rev. D. Anderson, Rev. D. Corbett and Rev. Mr. Grant and the charge included Manilla, Cannington and Brock, the manse being at Manilla.

In 1865 a church was opened at Vroomanton which was then a prosperous community. The congregation there greatly increased and services were discontinued at Brock except for Sunday School which was carried on in the log school house west of the village (on the northeast corner of lot 11, concession 5).

When the railway was built Jones Corners lost its name to Sunderland and soon after the congregation was reorganized there. A new church was built in 1876 which is the building now occupied by the Masonic Lodge. The congregation was served by students from Knox College till the coming of Rev. W. G. Mills in 1887.

The first manse was bought from Mr. John Poole and was owned by the congregation till 1903 when it was sold to Dr. McDermott and a new manse was built.

In 1913 when the Calhoun block was destroyed by fire the church was damaged to the extent of \$600.00 after which it was repaired and improved.

Clerks of session since 1896 were J. H. Glendenning, Harry Baldwin, Neil McPhaden and Wm. Tocher. Additional members of session were Peter Baker, Allan Turner, A. C. McPhaden, John Kirton, Levi Wescott and W. A. Barrett, Henry Tocher.