

THIS LATTER HOUSE

Archbishop Thorneloe stood and, handing his crozier to his chaplain, Canon Burt, took his place before the congregation. "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace . . . Today, Ascension Day of 1917 these words from Haggi can be said of this new church of St. John the Evangelist here in Schreiber." The Reverend Stephenson smiled in agreement from where he sat in the pew. It was true alright but who would have guessed it was ever going to happen? Certainly not him when he first arrived in May of 1912 as St. John's new rector!

He took charge of a congregation that had some grave concerns about their church. Old St. John's had been basically "home built" on a limited budget and was beginning to show the effects. Shifting foundations, green wood and skimping on the building materials had all created their own unique problems for the church and it was evident that some major repairs were needed if it was to continue to serve the community's needs. He quickly sensed the congregation's desire to build a new church but he just as quickly realized how impractical that was right then. Money was the big problem and, with regrets, he and the congregation shelved any building plans for that year and set about to see what could be done for old St. John's. Some major repairs had already been made. A concrete foundation and a new roof had been added a few years previously so they made do for now with painting and decorating but they all realized that it was a temporary solution to a problem that they must confront in the near future.

Edmonde Stephenson did not appear to be the kind of rector who would lead the parish to fulfill its dream of a new church. He was an unassuming man of 54 when he arrived in Schreiber and, although he had extensive church experience in England he was untried in Canada, having only come out the year before. His health was delicate but this may have been the spur that drove him to work for a new church for, perhaps, he wished to leave some mark of himself upon the parish which was to be his last as rector. Whatever drove him it soon became obvious to all that he was driven in his desire to