



1875

**A SERVICE  
OF WORSHIP  
TO CELEBRATE  
AND GIVE THANKS  
FOR 150 YEARS OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN  
CANADA**

**AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, OTTAWA  
4 MAY 2025**



2025

About the cover:

The burning bush and the motto, “nec tamen consumebatur”, meaning “*nor yet was it consumed*”, have been used to identify The Presbyterian Church in Canada from the beginning.

It was only at the 140<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2014 that the symbol and motto were officially approved.

The upper logo was on the cover of the 1875 *Acts and Proceedings*.

The lower logo is the newest version, updated in 2018.

## The Order of Service

### Reverend Christopher Clarke, Liturgist

**Prelude** – Organ suite: “In a Medieval Monastery” 3. Noontide – Walker Baylor; Aria Da Chiesa – Georg Muffat (Arr. Van Denman Thompson); My Song is Love Unknown – M Burkhardt/JGilbert  
Claudia Crawford, Music director, St. Paul’s Church

### Announcements and historical note

Rev. Chris Clarke, Westminster Church

### Land Acknowledgement

Mark Hamilton, Managing Director, Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre

We begin by affirming that all of nature has been given by the Creator to be nurtured and cared for with equity and justice. We recognize that the land on which we gather and worship has been traditionally occupied and honoured by the Anishinaabe Algonquin peoples and their ancestors for time beyond memory and has been neither ceded nor surrendered. We acknowledge that justice obliges all of us, as humans of equal worth, to strive equally to protect this land.

### Candle lighting - John 1:5

### Call to Worship

First Sunday of month afternoon service, Order of public worship as used in the church of the Grey Friars, Edinburgh, 1863

Rev. James Hurd, Parkwood Church - Clerk of the Presbytery of Ottawa

*The Lord reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubim; let the earth be moved. The Lord is great in Zion; and he is high above all the people. Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at this footstool for he is holy.*

*Brethren, let us with humble and contrite hearts draw near to the throne of grace, in the name of our great High Priest and Advocate Jesus Christ.*

*O Lord, our heavenly father, who hast commanded us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, Be pleased to sanctify and bless our meeting together at this time: and grant that, by your Word and Spirit, our minds may be enlightened, our hearts cleansed, and our wills directed to keep thy holy commandments; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.—Amen*

### Psalm 122 - sung without accompaniment

From the Scottish Psalter of 1560

In 1875 it was usual for the congregation to sing the Psalm unaccompanied, particularly in Free Church congregations

### Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Confession of Sins, from the order of public worship, Church of Scotland, 1868

Rev. Douglas Kendall, St. Andrew’s Church, Stittsville

*O Eternal God and most merciful father, we confess and acknowledge here before Thy Divine Majesty, that we are miserable sinners, conceived and born in sin and iniquity, so that in us there is no goodness; for the flesh evermore rebelleth against the Spirit, whereby we continually transgress Thy holy precepts and commandments, and so do purchase to ourselves, through thy just judgment death and damnation.*

*Notwithstanding, O heavenly Father, forasmuch as we are displeased with ourselves for the sins that we have committed against Thee, and do unfeignedly repent us of the same, we most humbly beseech Thee, for Jesus Christ's sake, to show Thy mercy upon us, to forgive us all our sins, and to increase Thy Holy Spirit in us, that we, acknowledging from the bottom of our hearts our own unrighteousness, may from henceforth not only mortify our sinful lusts and affections, but also bring forth such fruits as may be agreeable to Thy most blessed will, not for the worthiness thereof, but for the merits of Thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our only Saviour, whom Thou hast already given, an oblation and offering for our sins, and for whose sake we are certainly persuaded that thou wilt deny us nothing that we shall ask in His name according to Thy will.*

*For Thy Spirit doth assure our consciences that Thou art our merciful father, and so lovest us Thy children through him, that nothing is able to remove Thy heavenly grace and favour from us. To Thee, therefore, O Father, with the Son and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. So be it.*

### **Historical note – Ordination of Women**

“After long and heated debate, ordination of women to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada was approved by the denomination’s 92nd annual General Assembly, held last month in Toronto. The vote was 133 to 72.” - from Christianity Today, 1966

### **Assurance of Pardon**

From the Book of Common Worship, PCC 1991

Rev. Elizabeth Chan, Osgoode Church, Vernon and St. Andrews, Kars

### **(The people stand for the assurance of pardon and the peace)**

*Hear the good news!*

*Who is in a position to condemn?*

*Only Christ,*

*And Christ died for us,*

*Christ rose for us,*

*Christ reigns in power for us,*

*Christ prays for us.*

*Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.*

*The old life has gone;*

*A new life has begun.*

*Friends, believe the gospel.*

*In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.*

*Since we are reconciled to God in Christ,*

*Let us share the sign of the peace with one another.*

*May the peace of Christ be with you all*

### **And also with you**

*Let us offer each other a sign of peace*

**The peace of Christ be with you.**

**(The people will reach out to one another with appropriate sign of peace.)**

## **Hymn – *We are one in the Spirit***

### **Time With Young Christians : Stones of Remembrance**

Sunjay Henry, Presbytery Youth Animator

### **Scripture**

#### **Old Testament: 1 Chronicles 16:8-36**

Mofor Fualah, Elder, Gloucester Church

#### **New Testament: Acts 2:1-5 and Galatians 5:22-23**

Esther Ekong, Elder, St. David and St. Martin's Church; Divinity Student, St. Paul University, Ottawa

### **Anthem: Gloria Deo – Jay Althouse**

Presbytery of Ottawa Massed Choir Directed by Pegi Jenkins, Director of Music, St. Stephen's Church

### **Sermon: To God's Credit**

### **Historical Note: Waves of Immigration**

In 1960 about 15.5% of Canadians identified as immigrants of one sort or another; today it's closer to 25%. This has been called the fifth wave of Canadian immigration and it is known for being overwhelmingly of visible minorities from the developing world. This wave was largely influenced by the 1976 revision of Canada's Immigration Act. Canadian citizens by naturalization and non-Canadian citizens have more than doubled in size from 1991 to 2021. The church has been delighted to include and learn from Christians from all over the world. I have heard many people say "we sent missionaries out and now countries are sending missionaries back."

### **Praise Medley:**

My God is a Good God; I Will Lift Up Jesus Higher; Come and See the Lord is Good; Glory Be to God in the Highest

African Chorus of St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

Intercession, commemoration and the Lord's Prayer for a mission and service gathering, Common Order PCC 2010

Rev. Reine Boghos, St. Timothy's Church

*We render thanks unto your name for your lovingkindness and tender mercy towards us. We praise you for the succession of day and night, summer and winter, seed-time and harvest, and that you have never left yourself without witness among men and women, having done good to all, sending rain and fruitful harvests and hearts filled with gladness.*

*We thank you for our lives, for our capacity to think and speak, for the society we share, for our friends and those who are dear.*

*We thank you for food and for clothing, for shelter and protection, and for all that you have provided to sustain us day by day. You have been with us throughout our lives, and have brought us to this day. Above all, we praise and bless you for your Son, our Saviour, and your Spirit, our Sanctifier, for the witness of your saints and martyrs and for the hope of eternal glory.*

*Almighty God, receive our prayers on behalf of those whom we remember before your throne of grace. O Lord, our Father in Heaven, visit, we pray, your Church universal with the joy of your salvation. Endow your people with spiritual gifts and enrich with the graces of your Spirit those whom you have set apart to minister holy things. Send forth to all lands labourers fitted to do the work to which you may call them. Let the sun of*

*righteousness give light to those who sit in darkness, and may your gospel everywhere have free course and abundant blessing.*

*Almighty God you have commanded us to make intercessions for all your people; we pray that all nations may be brought to the knowledge of your truth, and may be united in your fear and love. We pray for people throughout the world that in you they may find their peace.*

*O God our Father, you have set us in your good world to preserve and replenish it; grant that in our daily work we may glorify you, serve others, and satisfy ourselves. Deliver us from laziness and irresponsibility, from pride and self-importance. Enable us to work hard and relax creatively, to strive for the welfare of all, and to rest peacefully when our work is done; Through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray together*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Hymn – All People That on Earth Do Dwell**

#### **Invitation to the Offering**

Rev Jim Pot, Knox Church, Ottawa

The Presbytery will dedicate this offering to the Dr. Peter Bryce Indigenous Scholarship in Medicine at the University of Ottawa, established in 2022 as a partnership between Knox Ottawa and the Bursary program at the University of Ottawa. As part of an effort to live out the Calls to Action for the church by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of 2015, the Scholarship was endorsed by the Presbytery of Ottawa in 2023. Among other requirements, applicants for the annual scholarship need to demonstrate proof of Indigenous identity and be enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine program at uOttawa. To date, two recipients have been awarded scholarships of \$2,000, and with support from many people and organizations both within the churches of Presbytery and beyond, the scholarship currently has a balance of just under \$40,000. It is our intention to make this an endowed scholarship with annual bursaries awarded in perpetuity; to do so, we need to reach a balance of \$60,000.

***To donate electronically, use the QR code above.***



#### **Doxology**

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Denise Allen-Macartney, Gloucester Church, Moderator of the Presbytery of Ottawa

#### **Hymn - Ten Thousand Reasons**

#### **Historical Note – Inclusion**

Most recently, the PCC made another step of inclusion, so that today we can affirm and celebrate two definitions of marriage. Today our benediction will be offered by David Whitecross, one of, if not the first, openly gay and married ministers to be settled in a congregation.

The benediction he will offer is a non-traditional blessing, written by Sister Ruth Marlene Fox who is a Benedictine nun. I am pleased we can end with it because while the reformation is important, and the changes the church experiences over the years are important, it is also important to remember that the PCC is but a branch in the kingdom of God.

## **Benediction**

Rev. David Whitecross, Trinity Church, Carp

*May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, So that he may live deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain to joy.*

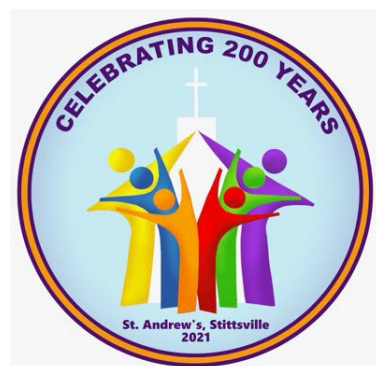
*And may God bless you with enough foolishness To believe that you can make a difference in this world, So that you can do what others claim cannot be done, To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.*

**Postlude** – Sing Praise to God – David Paxton, based on Mit Freuden Zart, Kirchegefang, 1566

## Over 150 Years of Presbyterian History

### St. Andrew's - Stittsville

The congregation of St. Andrew's in Stittsville dates to 1821 making it the oldest Presbyterian congregation in the Presbytery of Ottawa. The original congregation worshiped in a church on the Third Line of Huntley. This church was destroyed by the great fire in 1870. In 1875 a new church building was completed located at the corner of Hobin and Carp Road in Stittsville and served the Congregation for 81 years until it became too small to fulfill the needs of a growing community. Our present church on Main Street had its first service on April 22, 1956. In 2015 we added an addition that included a lift and made our church building accessible to everyone.



In 2021 when we celebrated 200 years as a Congregation, Laura Duncan designed a church logo. The logo is round, which represents inclusion. The orange circle reflects and acknowledges our historic relationship with Indigenous Peoples, the Algonquin and Anishinaabeg land on which we live, and our prayer for reconciliation and ongoing relationship with Indigenous Peoples. The building in the background is a church. The people form the church with the two tallest people forming the roof of the church. The people are of different sizes and the diverse colours of the rainbow. The people also form a joyful group, welcoming people into the church family.

Today, we look back with gratitude to the families that have gone before us and helped make the caring church family that we enjoy today.

*Dawna Selby*

### St. Andrew's - Richmond

In March 1822 Rev. William Bell conducted the first Presbyterian Church service in Carleton County in the log schoolhouse in the newly settled Village of Richmond. (Some of the current members of the congregation are descendants of these original Irish immigrants.) On a later visit he stated "this is perhaps the only place I ever visited, as a minister, without finding a person who seemed to be under the influence of religion."



By May 1823, the Rev. Andrew Glen was responsible for congregations in Richmond, Huntley and Torbolton. He was a signatory to the petition submitted to the Governor-in-Chief on May 26, 1823, requesting a land grant for a Presbyterian church, a manse and a 10-acre glebe as had been provided for in the original 1818 survey of Richmond; only a two-acre burial ground was ever granted, and that in 1844.

On December 2, 1839 a one-acre parcel on McBean Street was purchased from Edward Malloch for the Presbyterian church. Construction of a frame church was started in 1842 and completed in 1847. In 1884, the brick church in which the congregation still worships was built on the site of the frame church. Mrs. Margaret Malloch gave St. Andrew's the property adjacent to the church and a frame manse was completed in the early 1890's. A church hall was completed in 1978.

More than 30 ministers have been called to serve at St. Andrew's, Richmond in the 200 years since Rev. Glen's first service.

*Laura Hartin Tupper*

## St. Andrew's - Aylmer (Gatineau)

St. Andrew's, one of the oldest Presbyterian churches in Canada, began in 1825 when Mr. Truman Waller donated land for the express purpose of building a Presbyterian Church and manse. Today's site is on land given to the Presbyterians "in the heart of the village" by Mr. Charles Symmes in 1840 for the purpose of building a church.

The history of St. Andrew's has been a determined struggle fraught with several major reverses. These include financial difficulties; the loss of its beautiful manse by fire in 1892; a second fire in 1900 and the disastrous fire in 1921 which destroyed the heart of Aylmer, taking with it St. Andrew's Church.



St. Andrew's has had full-time, part-time, two-point charge and student ministers, with "stated supply" for the past 22 years. Over the years, St. Andrew's women's organizations have been deeply committed and responsible for fundraising to rescue St. Andrew's from many of its financial "embarrassments".

St. Andrew's continuing existence in 2025 is inspiring to all who have captured some of its history. Although small, the congregation is proud of its heritage and in 1991 rededicated itself through its Mission Statement:

Our Mission in Aylmer is to glorify God by upholding the values taught by Christ each day of our lives;  
Our Commitment is to learn, minister and live the Gospel through discipleship;  
Our Goal is to support the growth of the Church and to reach out into the community, sharing the love of Christ.

*Debi Brown*

## St. Andrew's Church - Kent St at Wellington

St. Andrew's is the oldest Protestant congregation in Ottawa. The present site was purchased from Nicholas Sparks for £200 in 1828. Thomas MacKay, one of the original elders of St. Andrew's, was a contractor engaged in construction of the Rideau Canal. Delay in canal construction left the Scottish masons time to build a church for their community. The original "Scotch Church" was extended in 1853, then replaced by the present "Neo-Gothic" structure in 1874.

In 1837 Queen Victoria deeded 178 acres to St. Andrew's as a Clergy Reserve (now known as the Glebe). During World War I, unsold land was offered to the needy as war gardens; by 1948 all the land was sold to establish the Glebe Trust, still administered by Trustees appointed by the congregation. In 1925 St. Andrew's narrowly voted against union.

For many years, St. Andrew's struggled with the tremendous costs of maintaining an ancient building in the heart of the city. However, the widespread congregation determined to remain on this site and broaden its outreach to those living and working in the city core. In 1971 came the first proposals of a redevelopment scheme. In cooperation with the Bank of Canada, the 11-storey St. Andrew's Tower was completed in 1987, with St. Andrew's maintaining offices and meeting rooms on the second floor.



Our mission continues to "deepen in relationship with God, each other, and the world, through Jesus Christ, by building connections, growing faith, and serving others".

*Elizabeth Phillipson*

## Osgoode – Vernon, Ontario

Presbyterians from Perthshire, Scotland, arrived in Osgoode Township beginning around 1830. In 1832, the first public religious services were held in the homes of Scottish settlers by a Presbyterian Minister named Reverend Robert Lyle. In 1834, the settlers petitioned Ottawa for a grant of a property for the Church of Scotland (Bathurst Presbytery). In 1843, the Osgoode Presbyterians joined the Presbytery of Kingston, in the Synod of Canada, connected with the Free Church of Scotland. In 1847, Rev. William Lohead, from Glasgow, was called as the church's first resident minister, and described as a most energetic and acceptable pastor.

The present brick church is located at 8653 Bank Street. Opening day was September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1887. A special preacher was present, in the name of Rev. Professor Scrimgeour, Principal of the Presbyterian College, Montreal. The new church was heated by two box type wood stoves and two round wood heaters. In 1919, a bell was erected in the church tower by the "Young Peoples Society" of Osgoode. In 1932, electricity and lighting fixtures were installed in time for the congregation's 100th Anniversary celebrations.



At the time of Church Union in 1925, dissenting congregants from St. Paul's church in nearby Kenmore were reunited with the Continuing Presbyterian church in Vernon. Later, in 1939, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Russell dissolved and its congregation was reunited with Osgoode.

In 2025, God is leading the Osgoode Presbyterian, Osgoode Baptist and Vernon United churches into ministry and life together.

*Brian Graham*

## St. Andrew's - Kars, Ontario

Source: *St. Andrew's Kars: A Family Church 1835-2008*, written by Susan McKellar

Starting in 1832, the Presbyterian congregation at Kars (then Wellington) met in the log schoolhouse at Lindsay's Corner. In 1856, under the Canada Presbyterian (Free Church) banner, there were four preaching stations – North Gower, Kars, Gloucester and Long Island (Manotick); Rev. William Lohead was the minister. In 1864, James Lindsay donated land for a church in Kars. The red brick Gothic Revival building was completed in 1876.

In 1875, under The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the realigned North Gower/Kars charge called Alexander Stewart as its minister, guaranteeing a stipend of \$600. By 1884, there were 82 families, 92 members and 51 in Sunday School. Presbytery provided a grant of \$150 annually. In 1882, the Lindsays donated land for horse sheds behind the church; a hall was built above the sheds. The only large hall in Kars until 1900, it was used for concerts, plays, suppers, meetings and social evenings.



In 1925 both North Gower and Osgoode Station voted in favour of church union but Kars had 32 against union and only 20 for union. The three preaching points of Kars, the minority group at Manotick and South Gloucester was constituted as one pastoral charge.

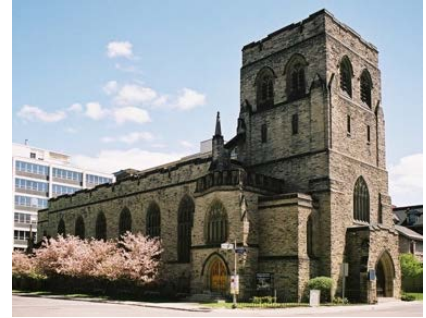
By 1989, Kars had separated from Manotick and joined with Osgoode Church in Vernon, with Rev. Jo-Anne Nichols and Rev. Cathy Victor; became a single point with Rev. Susan Clarke; and rejoined Vernon in 2017 under Rev. Elizabeth Chan.

*Peggy Malcolm*

## Knox Ottawa - Lisgar at Elgin

In 1844 several members of St. Andrew's Church, Bytown, chose to leave that congregation and establish a congregation of the *Canada Presbyterian Church* (the "Free Church") that they named Knox. Denied the use of St. Andrew's, their first service was in the British Wesleyan Chapel; a year later they had built a small church on Daly Street.

The congregation grew steadily and in 1871 a new Knox capable of seating 1150 worshippers was erected on City Hall Square. The old frame church and its property were donated to a new congregation named St. Paul's, the first of several Presbyterian congregations Knox has helped to start.



Ironically, it was Knox and St. Andrew's that hosted meetings in 1874 which led to the union of the four branches of Presbyterianism in Canada to form *The Presbyterian Church in Canada* in 1875.

In 1929 the double-spired Knox edifice was expropriated by the government of Canada for the construction of the National War Memorial. The current building with its Norman tower at Lisgar and Elgin was opened in 1932.

Beginning with a school to teach English to Chinese immigrants in the 1890s, Knox has continually worked to show the love of Christ to immigrants, the destitute and the community, sponsoring refugees from Hungary, Vietnam and Syria; partnering with Centretown Churches Social Action Committee; and using its facilities to provide hot meals to war workers during WWII and now to the hungry in our neighbourhood in the depth of winter.

*Philip Winkelaar*

## Knox, Manotick

Completion of the Rideau Canal saw several settlements started. Many workers were Scottish stonemasons and some of them formed the nucleus to establish Presbyterian churches.

In 1846 a recognized congregation was organized at Long Island. Known as the Long Island Presbyterian Church, services began in a log building. By 1875, the congregation had grown to such an extent that it was decided to build a larger church closer to the village of Manotick. Officially opened in 1877, services continued until 1925.



In 1925, the non-concurring members and adherents of Manotick Presbyterian Church organized themselves into an association for continuance of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. On donated land, the corner stone was laid in August 1926 and the service of dedication held on 28 November 1926. This new church was called Knox Church. As the village of Manotick grew, more space was needed for Sunday School and other Christian education activities. An addition and reorienting of the sanctuary was designed, completed and dedicated in 1986. Further modifications addressing accessibility issues began in September 2019. Shortly thereafter, work was halted over a contract dispute which resulted in ongoing court-directed arbitration.

The 100<sup>th</sup>, 125<sup>th</sup>, 150<sup>th</sup> and 175<sup>th</sup> anniversaries and in 1975, the Centennial Year of the Presbyterian Church in Canada were celebrated. The future has some important implications for the congregation leading to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Knox, Manotick. Continuing to trust in the Lord's leading, we give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His faithfulness and blessings.

*Larry Price*

## St. Timothy's – 2400 Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa

St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church has a rich history of faith, resilience, and growth. The roots of Presbyterian worship in our area date back to 1860, when services were first held in the Temperance Hall at Billings Bridge. In 1875, Miss Sabra Billings built a small church on her property along River Road (now Riverside Drive) and made it available to all Protestant denominations.



In 1955, as Ottawa's Alta Vista neighborhood expanded, a group of devoted Presbyterians began gathering in a local school, with the vision of forming a congregation and building a house of worship. By 1957, this vision was taking shape—65 members had joined, elders had been ordained, and Rev. Dr. John A. Johnston was called to be the first minister.

The Dowler family donated property at 2400 Alta Vista Drive and St. Timothy's was officially opened and dedicated on October 28, 1960, with the support of 250 families. Despite a period of declining attendance, the past decade has brought new hope, particularly through the growing African community, which has revitalized the congregation. Today, St. Timothy's has 107 households, with an active Sunday School primarily composed of children from this community.

Today, St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church stands as a testament to God's grace, the dedication of its members, and the spirit of community. As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our mission to worship, serve, and share God's love with all who walk through our doors.

*Kenneth Saah Fon*

## Gloucester – 91 Pike St, Ottawa

In 1860 Presbyterians held worship services at the Temperance Hall near what is now Billings Bridge, then at River Road Church (built ~1865 by Miss Sabra Billings for protestants in Gloucester Township). From 1914-1924 Presbyterians worshipped at Johnston's Corner on Albion Road.

In 1925 that congregation joined the United Church. "Continuing Presbyterians" decided on January 26, 1926, to create a new congregation called Gloucester Presbyterian.

Mrs. Catherine Boyd donated land on Sievereight's Hill (on Metcalfe Road, now Bank Street, near Albion Road). The building was dedicated October 9, 1927. Renovation/addition took place during the 1950s. Changing needs led the congregation to build a larger church in a residential neighbourhood, at 91 Pike Street, dedicated December 10, 1989.



A series of challenges over 15 years brought tumult and questions about the congregation's viability. An assessor Session was appointed, with an Interim Moderator. Core members demonstrated faithful generosity, paying off the mortgage and installing a new roof. The congregation ordained Elders to a new Session in 2005. With Presbytery's generous gift in 2009, the congregation called a full-time minister for the first time in seven years.

God led the congregation to engage with neighbours, building relationships with local schools. Newcomers from 30 countries have made Gloucester Church home. Adults and youth have come to faith in Jesus, sought baptism, and their lives bear fruit of the Holy Spirit.

God's presence continues to lead us, as "we are learning to love and follow Jesus and to bless our neighbours."

*Joan Born Flett*

## St. Giles Church - Bank St and First Ave, Ottawa

In February 1925, some months before the merger of (much of) The Presbyterian Church in Canada with the Union of Congregational Churches of Ontario and Quebec and the Methodist Church, a small but faithful congregation of what would continue to be The Presbyterian Church in Canada began meeting in this neighbourhood of Ottawa. Later in 1925 the congregation became more permanently established under its first minister Rev. Archibald Cameron. In 1928 the Congregation found a permanent home in the current building, designed by architect John Pritchard Maclaren.



In 1931 the congregation inducted its second minister, the Very Reverend Dr. John Logan-Vencta OBE. Rev. Dr. Logan-Vencta supported many local charities with a particular view towards education and self-improvement during his time at St. Giles. During the Second World War Rev. Dr. Logan-Vencta attained the rank of Colonel and became the Canadian Army's principal Protestant chaplain. He was also a long serving chaplain of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa 1935-64. In recent years this relationship has culminated in the Camerons' pipe band hosting successful fundraising concerts at St. Giles on behalf of the Centretown Emergency Food Centre.

One former member of St. Giles with whose name some of you may be familiar, Pauline Brown, would go on to become the director of the Jobat Christian Hospital. She received generous fundraising support from the WMS and the St. Giles Presbyterian Women's Association during her long period of mission work in India.

*Isaac Ives*

## Westminster - 470 Roosevelt Ave, Ottawa

Westboro Presbyterian Church was duly organized by Presbytery on March 23, 1928, at the home of Mr. Zebulon Ketchum. Subsequent divine services were held in the Masonic Hall on Churchill Street.

A building Committee, struck at the 1st Annual Meeting in 1929, began by purchasing two lots on Roosevelt Ave. but decided to construct a basement church due to financial constraints. Senator Cairine Wilson laid the cornerstone on November 11, 1931. The Presbytery approved the name change from Westboro Presbyterian to Westminster Presbyterian in November 1931. The basement church was dedicated and opened March 6, 1932.



Times were difficult with the Depression and the Second World War, but the congregation persevered. In 1953, they took a giant step forward and made plans to complete the church building. Services were held in Hilson Public School while it was under construction. The new church was dedicated on February 28, 1954, by Rev. Dr. Cameron, Moderator of the General Assembly. A congregational dinner was held on March 20; the Honourable John Diefenbaker was the guest speaker.

In 1961, an addition was built to give more space for the Sunday School. The Christian Education building was dedicated on March 17, 1963.

2007 was a significant year for two congregations when Erskine Church approached Westminster to propose amalgamation. Upon a joint application, Presbytery approved the request for amalgamation effective December 1, 2007. A final joint service was held at Erskine on October 21, followed in the evening by a Presbytery service of deconsecration.

*Mary Ann Tyler*

## St Stephen's - Parkdale and Sherwood, Ottawa

After the local Presbyterian Church in western Ottawa joined the United Church, the Presbytery of Ottawa started a Sunday School in a local YMCA in 1931. This Sunday School became St. Stephen's Presbyterian church on Sunday, October 22, 1944 with 98 members. The church building hosted its first service at Parkdale Ave and Sherwood Dr on October 17, 1948.

We have been blest with 6 calls to ministers over 80 years. Each minister brought to the role their own passion and sense of following God.

Our Community Outreach included joining with 4 other churches to start the Queensway Social Action Group (QSAG) in 1969. Projects included a pre-kindergarten daycare, parent support programs, and support for low-income seniors. Many of the programs started by QSAG continue to serve our community today, under different names.

Many groups have called St. Stephen's home, both within the congregation and from the outside community. Examples include community support groups, a choir, other churches, and a local co-op private school. Within our neighbourhood, St. Stephen's supports Parkdale Food Centre, Youth Service Bureau, Ottawa West Community Support, Prison Fellowship Canada, and Cornerstone Housing for Women. We have an active Sunday School and youth group, and we regularly love to come together for food and fellowship!

Our services are online for those who cannot attend in person. We love music, both as part of our services and to host benefit concerts. We look forward to serving God in our neighbourhood for many years to come!

*David Foulkes and Meg Patterson*



## St Paul's - 971 Woodroffe Ave., Ottawa

Our first "Family Worship Service" was held on October 16, 1955 in the kindergarten room of D. Roy Kennedy School – the room had a door with direct access to the outside and it had a piano; admittedly the chairs were a little small. The school permitted us to use some of the classrooms for Sunday School. Three years later we were able to use D. Roy Kennedy's spanking new gymnasium (and get bigger chairs). By then the Sunday school enrollment had grown from 20 at the first service to over 150 children.

In September 1958, St Paul's was excited to induct our first full time minister, Rev. Wm Duffy. Bill Duffy brought a new energy to the congregation. He preached Christ and with his enthusiasm for the work of the congregation and his natural friendliness the congregation grew.

On January 8, 1960 the new church building was dedicated. A unique structure, the first of its type in Ottawa, used double T-bar pre-cast concrete beams which permitted an open unobstructed view in the sanctuary.



Undoubtedly, the greatest blessing the congregation of St Paul's has received over its life has been the faithful Christ - centered preaching and teaching provided by successive Ministers. As a congregation we offer our thanks to God for Reverends W. F. Duffy, D.L. Campbell, J.D. McConaghy, E. Stevens, J.L. Archibald, and G. Wilson along with numerous Family and Youth Pastors/Directors for their faithful service to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

*Dan Seekings*

## St. David and St. Martin - 444 St. Laurent Blvd., Ottawa

...to seek to know God and nurture spiritual growth;  
to love and worship God;  
to do God's work.

On October 16, 1955, St. David's held its first service in the Overbrook Public School. St. David's Church was built at 473 Donald Street, the Reverend W. H. Brown appointed as minister on September 13, 1959. Meanwhile, on November 13, 1955, St. Martin's held their first service in the Manor Park School and on May 8, 1956 Presbytery approved the name St. Martin's Presbyterian Church. St. Martin's Church was constructed at 444 St. Laurent Boulevard. The Reverend Dr. P.C. Wotherspoon was inducted on February 1, 1957.



In 1968 a decision was taken to amalgamate the two charges and on September 22, 1968, the first service of Worship of St. David and St. Martin Presbyterian Church was held. The merger resulted in a revitalized church, the cornerstones of both churches being placed in the sanctuary at 444 St. Laurent in May 1969.

Since the inception of the two congregations and to the present, the people of St. David and St. Martin Church continue to fulfill our stated purpose within the community and the world. We remain a loving and welcoming church to the point of adding a weekly African Christian element to our traditional services to honour the faith walk of a number of our new congregants. We remain thankful to the many who have built, developed and maintained this church.

*Dave Dempster*

## Ottawai Kálvin Magyar Református Gyülekezet -- Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church

The first group of Hungarian refugees arrived in Ottawa on December 10, 1956. Hungarian language services were offered in Ottawa at St. John's Lutheran Church and Knox Presbyterian Church. The number of refugees was increasing and the two Hungarian congregations decided to join together. On May 12, 1957, the small Hungarian congregation moved from St. John's Church to Knox Church in a solemn ceremony, where the pastor, Rev. Douglas Stewart, greeted them. The congregation's Hungarian preacher was László Györkös until June 1960. Many still remember him fondly for his many years of service. After the two congregations united, they became an official congregation in the Presbyterian Church in Canada on July 1, 1960. Many faithfully served to shepherd the congregation over the years, including Rev Ernő Zugor who preached in Hungarian for over 18 years and is remembered fondly.



The Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church has worshipped in various places in Ottawa. They purchased a house on Laurier Avenue in 1963 for worship, and in 1966 moved to a new location on Frank St, which was sold in 2017.

The congregation continues to meet and worship together in Hungarian. Most services take place virtually, with periodic in-person worship service held in the afternoon, at Gloucester Presbyterian Church.

The congregation is grateful for their longtime minister, Reverend Laszlo Peter, who has been sharing the gospel message in Hungarian since 2003 and serving in Jesus' name.

*Vivian Szabo*

## Parkwood - 10 Chesterton Drive, Ottawa

In response to the expanding suburban area of Parkwood Hills, a worship service was held on September 20, 1964 in a local school. Within a year, Presbytery approved the formation of the Parkwood Presbyterian congregation.

A property was purchased and the farmhouse became the manse. After fundraising and donations, a church building was constructed adjacent to the manse and the first worship service in the church building was in March 1974.

In 1989 the renovated manse was dedicated as the Fellowship Centre and in 1996 the church building was expanded for improved usage.

In 2015 the Fellowship Centre was decommissioned and razed and a newly constructed expansion and renovation was dedicated in October 2016.

In September 2024 Parkwood celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> year since its first worship service. To celebrate, a worship service was held outside adjacent to the church building and a banner was hung on the front of the church.

*Dennis Featherstone*



## Trinity - 1817 Richardson Side Road, Carp

During the past five decades, Trinity Presbyterian Church met in Kanata school gymnasiums, built Ottawa's first passive solar church, outgrew that sanctuary in two years and applauded when the Powell family donated four acres of land on Richardson Side Rd for a spacious, modern church the congregation now calls home.

Ottawa Presbytery, looking to future growth, loaned Trinity money to build our first church building, 'The Little White Church on the Hill', and families contributed their sweat and money to build the church in 1980. Young families converged on Trinity, prompting two services and portable classrooms.



Although we had the gift of land for a larger church, we were not able to move until God brought us the perfect buyer for the old church building – the Ruddy Shenkman Hospice. With the generous grant and loan from Presbytery, we were able to build and open our 'new' church in 2014, where we serve our community and offer a warm gathering place for our congregation.

Trinity strongly believes in community outreach, sending volunteers to the Kanata Food Cupboard and In from the Cold, staging fundraisers for hospice and providing food and financial support to those in need.

Rev. John Bannerman, Rev. Shaun Seaman and Pastor Dave Whitecross have been the spiritual leaders, but it is the men, women and children who have created the Trinity family based on friendship, love, caring and belief in the Lord which makes Trinity a warm & welcoming home for all.

*Susan Hahn*

## Grace – 1220 Old Tenth Line Rd, Orleans

On March 4, 1980, Gordon Kouwenberg was appointed as a missionary to Orleans by the Board of World Mission. Rev. Kouwenberg began the establishment of a congregation in Orleans on Aug. 1, 1980. The first service was held on September 14, 1980 in Convent Glen School. On January 4, 1981, the Presbytery of Ottawa officially established the congregation known as “Grace Presbyterian Church” with 38 members. On September 6, 1981, worship services moved to Terry Fox School where they remained until the fall of 1989. Rev. Kouwenberg was inducted as the first and founding Pastor of Grace Church on May 10, 1987.



The land for a future church building had been purchased on Nov. 15, 1983. Construction began on the building at 1220 Old Tenth Line Rd. in June 1989 with the first service of worship held on Sunday, October 27, 1989. Rev. Kouwenberg served as Pastor until October 9, 1994.

Rev. James Statham was Pastor from June 16, 1995 until January 2004, followed by Rev. Dr. Daniel MacKinnon from April 24, 2005 until retirement in September 2018. Rev. Dr. Jonathan Dent started as Stated Supply in 2018, then continued from Jan. 2020 until retirement in 2023. Due to disagreement with the decision of the PCC to allow marriage and ordination of same sex ministers and elders, half the congregation and elders departed in November 2023. In 2025, we await discernment on when to call a new minister.

Grace Church remains faithful to follow the truth and authority of Scripture.

*Linda Clarke*

## Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Centre (GCCRC)

“Time to sell,” said Mimi and May Billings. When brother John Roger died, they decided to relinquish the huge private retreat on Lac Castor Blanc their father purchased in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Presbyterian Peace Memorial Camp, on Lake St. Francis near Lancaster, Ontario, was threatened by the rising waters of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Synod’s search for a new location began.

John Johnston, founding minister at St. Timothy’s, Ottawa, put these two events together. The Synod purchased the core of the Billings property in 1962, including all buildings and the beautiful waterfront. So began Gracefield Presbyterian Centre. The present 280-acre property was assembled over the next 40 years.



At first, Gracefield operated primarily as a summer camp offering programs for youth and families. In 1990, Synod took a bold step forward, opening White Pine Lodge, the first winterized accommodation. This allowed Gracefield to expand its original ministry, providing space for retreats, conferences and events year-round.

Today, Gracefield Camp continues as a sanctuary for individuals, families and groups—including Indigenous groups—seeking rest, renewal and fellowship. Its history—from summer estate to year-round ministry—reflects the church’s vision for outreach and growth. Across Canada, ministers and laity alike credit GCCRC as the sacred space where they discovered their vocation. Thanks to a few paid staff and hundreds of volunteers, the Camp continues to live its mission: “to invite all people to experience the loving presence of the living God, in Creation, in Christ, and in Christian community”.

*Dorothy Herbert*

## Members of St. Timothy's African Chorus

Addis Amavi  
Greg Bedell  
Bertha Saah Fon  
Michael Orock

Akap Azmon  
Juliet Bosompem  
Kenneth Saah Fon  
Daizy-Clay Sheehan  
Ashu Valentine

Samuel Asomani  
Peace Emele  
Helen Orock  
Emele Uchendu

## Members of the Presbytery of Ottawa Massed Choir Pegi Jenkins, Director; Claudia Crawford, Accompanist

### Sopranos

Patricia Beckett (Knox, Ottawa)  
Leslie Bryson (Grace)  
Lynn Carroll (Westminster)  
India Colman (St. Paul's)  
Margaret Fatona (Grace)  
Lynda Ferguson (St. Andrew's,  
Kars)  
Joan Born Flett (Gloucester)  
Katie Gratton (St. Giles)

Deb Hickey (Trinity)  
Jennifer MacIntyre (St. David  
and St. Martin)  
Diana Mahaffy (St. Stephen's)  
Sheila Major (St. David and St.  
Martin)  
Elizabeth Mann (St. David and  
St. Martin)  
Carolyn McDougall (Grace)

Kimberly Moen (St. Paul's)  
Nancy Nichol (St. Stephen's)  
Heather Rice (St. Giles)  
Heather Smith (St. Paul's)  
Karrie Smith (St. Paul's)  
Davina Tchimou (Gloucester)  
Shalom Tchimou (Gloucester)  
Linda Winkelaar (Knox, Ottawa)

### Altos

Lynn Arthur (St. Paul's)  
Betty Bone (Westminster)  
Laura Brandon (St. Giles)  
Joan Coulter (Knox, Ottawa)

Elizabeth Fletcher (St. David's  
and St. Martin's)  
Cathy Graham (Osgoode)  
Alison Lawson (Westminster)  
Nancy MacEwen (St. Stephen's)

Olive O'May (Gloucester)  
Meg Patterson (St. Stephen's)  
Heather Simon (St. Paul's)  
Ginny Thomson (Westminster)  
Margaret Viera (Grace)

### Tenors

Oliver Clarke (Westminster)  
Geoffrey Domey (Westminster)  
Simon Jol (St. Paul's)  
Karin Kerr (St. Paul's)

Owen Mahaffy (St. Stephen's)  
Paul McKechnie (St. Paul's)  
Changwon Seo (St. Paul's)  
Bill Shaw (St. Paul's)

Earnest Stoner (Gloucester)  
Paul Wu (St. Giles)

### Basses

Thomas Burnie (Knox, Ottawa)  
Brian Chamberlain (St. Paul's)  
Geoff Colman (St. Paul's)  
John Guinn (Westminster)

Jim Richmond (Grace)  
John Stevenson (St. Paul's)  
Bruce Thomson (Westminster)

David Wright (St. David and St.  
Martin)  
Andy Young (St. Stephen's)

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*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13*