

ST. GILES KINGSWAY CHURCH HISTORY

In **1950**, when the Humber Valley Village subdivision was in its early stages of development, five interested Presbyterian men and Rev. David Rowland, Convener of the Presbytery Missions Committee, arranged to have the Presbytery purchase a church site for \$5,000, conditional on the establishment of a congregation within 3 years.

Rev. William Adamson was appointed to part-time ministry and services were begun in Lambton Kingsway Public School. Mr. Justice Keiller MacKay (later to become Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario) and his wife, Katherine, although members at St. Andrew's Church, King Street, became deeply associated with and supportive of the original group of worshippers who met for the first time on **Sunday, November 12, 1950**.

The chosen name for the new congregation was **St. Giles Presbyterian Church**, a fact that led later to the gift of a stone from St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, along with a stone from Iona Abbey, both of which have been incorporated into the wall of the new Sanctuary. Founding families agreed that the congregation would be self-supporting from the beginning. The Communicants' Roll was established in February 1951, and Mr. Adamson was inducted on April 14.

1952 was marked by two major events: the establishment of the Kirk Session and the turning of the sod for the first building. **This building, which opened in 1953**, housed a small sanctuary, Sunday School and meeting rooms, all fully furnished. Congregational growth in the 50s was very rapid. By 1959, membership numbered 360 with 228 children in the Sunday School.

Although 2 services were held on Sunday mornings, a larger building had become essential. At this time, the neighbouring congregation of Kingsway Church was having difficulties and discussion ensued culminating in amalgamation. This took place on New Year's Day, 1961, with the name of **St. Giles Kingsway Church**. A new building was soon under construction and was dedicated on Palm Sunday, 1962. By the mid-60s, membership had climbed to 500.

Despite some moderate financial concerns in the 70s, the congregation paid off the mortgage in 1981. In 1990, on the congregation's 40th Anniversary, Dr. Adamson retired, an occasion that was celebrated with both joy and sorrow at a series of homecoming events.

In 1991, Rev. W. T. Clyde Ervine was inducted as minister. As membership increased there was a return to two Sunday morning worship services. In 1994, Rev. Jeremy Lowther became part-time pastoral assistant to Dr. Ervine, and he was followed in 1996 by Rev. Gordon Fish, minister of pastoral care. They were also assisted by Karen Colenbrander, community co-ordinator, and Mary Patrick, youth coordinator.

In 2000, there was a celebration of the **50th Anniversary of the Church**. A major fundraising campaign took place and several projects – both interior development and missional endeavours – were supported. This was also the year in which Rev. Ervine left the Church to take up the role of Director of Pastoral Studies at Presbyterian College, Montreal.

In 2002, Rev. Bryn MacPhail was inducted as minister. In 2004, Rev. Christopher Jorna became assistant minister. He served until 2006. In 2007, Rev. Sandy Fryfogel took the role of minister of Pastoral Care. Diana Loach became the director of children's ministry.

Bryn had a passion for reaching the 'unchurched' in the community. Through his efforts, along with several others in the church, the later morning Worship service became a contemporary service – The Well – which included praise teams and an upbeat, yet relaxed format. In 2010, Bryn left for a call to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Bahamas.

In 2012, Rev. Tim Bruneau was inducted as minister. The Church has a hopeful outlook as they seek to fulfill the renewed vision of 'Love Thy Neighbour' in the community in which they are called to serve.

ST. GILES KINGSWAY CHURCH (KINGSWAY CHURCH)

The Kingsway congregation came into existence in 1945 on the initiative of the Presbytery of Toronto and some local residents in Etobicoke. A mission was established with Rev. J. B. Thomson, then Director of Church Extension, as its moderator.

The first service, attended by approximately 50 persons, was held in Etobicoke High School (later to be known as Etobicoke Collegiate) in July 1945. Rev. G. D. Little was appointed as ordained missionary in 1946. Members of the first Kirk Session were inducted in October 1946.

The membership roll increased from 35 in 1945 to 194 in 1955 with an average attendance of 81 at Services of Holy Communion. The status of the congregation was changed in late 1947 to that of an augmented charge and in 1948 Mr. Little accepted a call. The congregation became self-sustaining in 1950.

Beginning in 1945, the necessity for a permanent home for the congregation was a prime concern. When the use of school premises was not available on a continuing basis, the congregation acquired the use of Montgomery Inn, located at 4709 Dundas Street West. The Inn, which had been built as a tavern about 1832 by Thomas Montgomery, was in a neglected state of repair. It had at one time been used as a Court House and, following the enactment of the District Municipal Courts Act in 1841, the first election of councillors was held there. The cleaning and refurbishing of the building was done by volunteers from the congregation, a difficult and grubby project. The completed assembly hall which was created accommodated about 65 worshippers. Initially the pews were made from planks laid on nail kegs.

In April, 1950, the congregation expressed the need for a more adequate building and plans for a basement church as an extension to the Inn was drawn up. By late 1952, this building was occupied by the congregation. Mortgage payments were generously supported by the members. In addition to the ministry from the pulpit, there were children's programmes through the establishment of a Cub Pack, a Boy Scout Troop, and a Brownie Pack. The groups were supported by the dedicated efforts of the Adult Group Committee. The Women's Association was active and successful in their on-going projects.

For reasons of health, Mr. Little resigned in the fall of 1956 and for the next 4 years the pulpit was occupied by a series of supply ministers, Rev. J. R. F. Moore serving longer than any other from 1958 to 1960. In the fall of 1960, concern for the future of the congregation led to the consideration of a possible merger with another congregation. The outcome was the amalgamation of Kingsway congregation with that of St. Giles, effective January 1, 1961, under the name of **St. Giles Kingsway Presbyterian Church**. The Montgomery Inn was later sold and is now a historical museum.