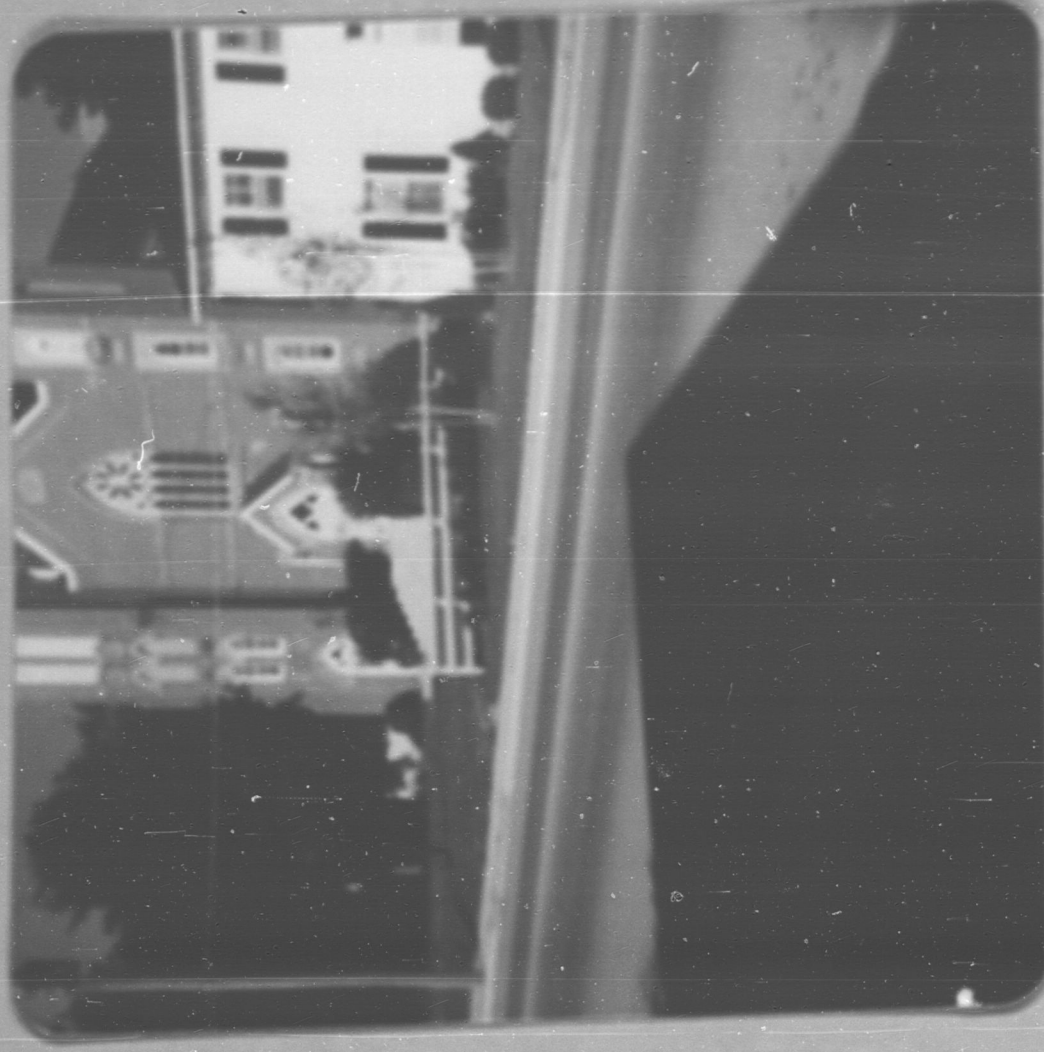


Knox Presbyterian Church



KNOX CHURCH ON WALPOLE ST.



It was in the summer of 1856 that the first Presbyterian service was conducted in Jarvis in the old Nicol house. On September 30th 1856 the Presbytery of Hamilton- then a court of the Free Church of Scotland- authorized the Rev. Wm. Craigie of Port Dover to organize the congregation and to dispense the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This organization was speedily effected, and according to some sources was realized either prior to or very shortly after Thanksgiving Day. At the meeting of organization there were eighteen members and these were augmented by thirty one new communicants being received at the first communion service of the newly formed congregation.

For the first year the services were conducted by students and probationers with the occasional visiting minister, but on Oct. 21, 1857, Mr. John McRobie was ordained and inducted as minister of the united charge of Jarvis, and Walpole, thus becoming the first resident minister of Knox Church. After Mr McRobie's induction the place of worship was transferred from the schoolhouse to the Temperance Hall. The growth and enthusiasm of the congregation was so remarkable that in a little over a year the congregation erected a frame church on Walpole Street which was dedicated almost free of debt in the spring of 1859 by the Rev. Dr. Irvine of Hamilton.

In 1864 the growth of the congregation became such that steps were taken to erect a new church edifice commensurate with the growth of the congregation and the community. As early as 1881 plans had been made concerning the erection of a new church when it was discovered the present church building was sadly in need of repairs in excess of \$1783.00. At this date, it was thought that a new church could be built for approximately \$4000.00. On March 9, 1885 a special meeting of the congregation was called to receive the report of the committee appointed to canvass the congregation. It was reported the congregation had subscribed a total of \$5,497.00. whereupon it was agreed to build a new church, the erection of which was to commence in the spring of 1886, and on the third Friday of June 1886 the corner stone of the present church was laid by members of the Masonic Order.

Early records reveal that the cost of erecting the fine brick church which now stands as a monument to the splendid faith, and zeal of both ministers, and congregation cost \$10,367.15. It is interesting to note that the entire indebtedness was entirely paid within a period of thirteen years.

The bricks for Knox Church were made at a nearby brickyard operated by William Rodgers, which was situated on the farm where J.W. Parsons now lives. It is estimated that 75,000 bricks were used in the building, at a cost of between five, and six dollars a thousand. The bricks were made in moulds of six, and were sanded with red sand for colouring which was secured near Blinds on the Blind Line.

Since 1886 two members of Knox Church have entered the ministry. They are Rev. John Nicol of Hamilton, and the Rev. Dilwyn Evans, son of a former minister.