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An Introduction To

A

Great Church

The Frontier

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

(Methodist)

Niagara Falls, New York

JOHN ABBOTT REDMOND, M. A., S. T. B.

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HISTORY

The history of St. Paul's Church has been associated with affairs on the Niagara Frontier since 1815, the date of the origin of our local Church society. 1823 is the date of first property ownership.

The first Methodist Church building was known as Union Chapel; later the Methodist Chapel.

The first resident pastor was the Reverend John Cannon (1835).

The old Falls Street Church was purchased in 1849.

The name "St. Paul's" was adopted in 1865. The corner stone of the old St. Paul's was laid in 1868 and the Church dedicated in 1872.

The site of our present Church was purchased in 1917; ground broken and the corner stone laid in 1921 and the new Church dedicated in 1923.

MEMBERSHIP

Resident members in St. Paul's Church July 6, 1924, numbered 593. (Non-resident members not included.) October 4, 1942, resident and non-resident members made a total of 763. Members at this date, February, 1947, number 1015 active, 66 inactive and 136 non-resident—a total of 1217.

ORGANIZATIONS

If all groups in Saint Paul's Church that meet independently under the leadership of a chairman, teacher, president or counselor were included, there would be approximately 97. Outside organizations using the Chapel and Community House include the Seventh-day Adventists, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little Theatre, Philharmonic Orchestra, Commandery, Carborundum Girls, DuPont Chorus and Red Cross. Within a single day as many as ten organizations find time and room to carry on separate programs within the Community House.

PUBLIC WORSHIP

Services of public worship are held in St. Paul's Church every Sunday of the year. The Wednesday Evening Bible Hour, meeting from the first Wednesday of October to the middle of June, affords a second service of public worship and Bible Study. Outstanding preaching events include the Summer Preaching Program and the Thursday evening Lenten Series. Records of these include the names of many of the great preachers of this country and Canada.

MEN AND WOMEN

The Men's Club is carried on periodically throughout the fall and winter months. Programs feature Church dinners, distinguished speakers, excellent music and fine fellowship. Members are of all ages, all professions and vocations. Membership is open to men of the community as well as members of the Church.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service and The Guilders carry on regular monthly programs of social, literary, missionary and musical events. These actively create and fulfil the advantages and opportunities for service and fellowship within the Woman's Division of the Church. Unusual personalities in missionary and literary fields are frequent guests.

CHURCH SCHOOL

The Church School in St. Paul's includes the Sunday Church School, the Week Day School of Christian Education and classes in preparatory membership.

The Sunday Church School is divided into three Divisions: Children, Youth and Adult. For children there are Nursery, Beginners, Primary and Junior Departments. The Youth Division is constituted of Intermediates and Seniors. There are three adult classes.

St. Paul's Church provides classes in Christian Education for protestant students in South Junior High School. These classes are held in the Community House on Mondays of the school year.

VISUAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION

A new Victor 16 mm Sound moving picture projector has been made a permanent part of St. Paul's Church equipment. A supply of slides, strip films and movie films, is being built up. These cover religious, literary, social and educational fields.

A wide variety of recreational facilities and events are open and available for interested persons of all ages.



Youth in the Church

YOUTH FELLOWSHIPS

Three Methodist Youth Fellowships meet every Sunday afternoon and evening. The Intermediates (12-15 years) meet in the afternoon. The Seniors (15-18 years) and Young People (18 years and older) meet together in the evening for Worship in the Chapel. A fifty-minute discussion period in separate groups follows; then Sunday night supper and sing in the dining room. The evening concludes with fireside leisure and chat.

GROWTH

Church membership, attendance and general interest in St. Paul's Church have been decidedly on the increase in recent years. People come from every part of the city and outlying regions. Members belong to many walks of life. Three

choirs sing regularly Sunday mornings during Fall, Winter and Spring months. Visitors from all parts of the United States and Canada frequent our services. During weeks when Sunday Services are broadcast by radio, letters and messages from distances up to 150 miles tell of spiritual guidance, help and inspiration.

FUTURE

St. Paul's Church is located on the highest point of ground at the center of the life of a young and growing city. The year 1948 will be the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the dedication of our beautiful Church. A complete and satisfying Anniversary program is being eagerly anticipated.

New stained glass windows are a part of the plans for the immediate future. It is expected that work on these will begin soon after Easter (1947). The great artist in stained glass, Mr. William R. Jack, chief designer for Whittemore Associates, Inc., of Boston will design and execute the windows.

The Church mortgages have been reduced to \$12,500 (January, 1947). It is expected these will be burned in 1948—perhaps as a part of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary.

The influence of St. Paul's Church is felt around the world. Possibilities for the future are unlimited. Persons who have no Church home in this city and live within a reasonable radius of St. Paul's Church are invited to attend Church Services and talk with the Minister concerning the Christian life and possible identification in membership.

The Church Office is located in the Community House, 723 Seventh Street, and is open 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Monday through Friday. Minister's Interview Hour in the study at the Church Wednesday, 4:00 to 5:30 P. M.; other days and hours by appointment. Church telephone: 2-5652.