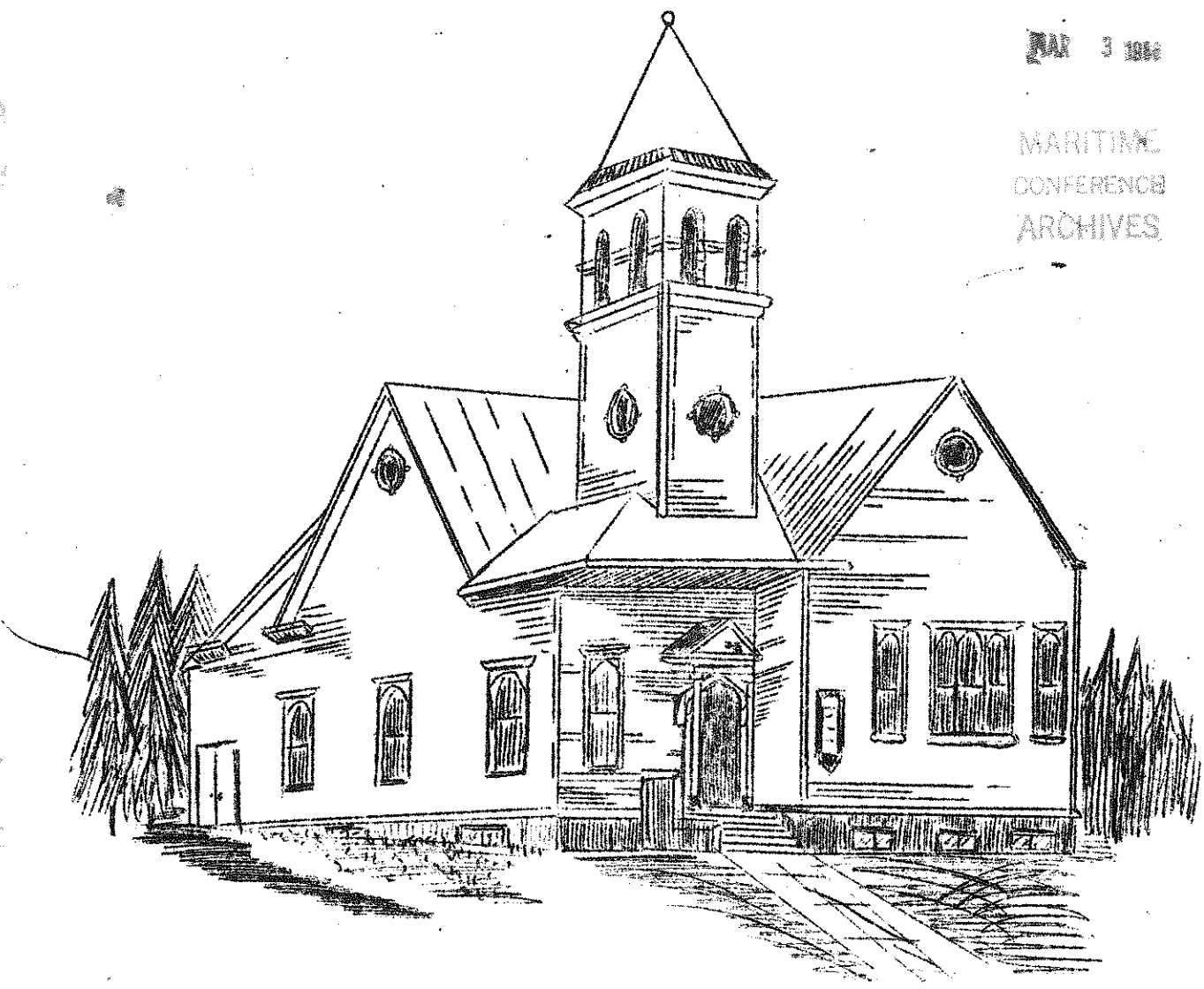


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H I S T O R Y

St. Stephen's United Church  
Red Bank, N. B.  
1876 - 1975

The following is a brief history of the Presbyterian (and after 1925, United) congregations of Red Bank and the surrounding vicinity. It begins in the year 1791, with the coming of the first Protestant minister to the Miramichi and continues on until this year of 1975. Included in the history are items of local and personal interest, with a certain amount of historical significance, which will be of interest mainly to those formerly and presently of the United Church congregation.

Through a period of 100 years, since the first actual Presbyterian church was built in Red Bank, seventeen men have ministered here. Previous to the erection of the first Red Bank church, services were held in a hall located near the same spot where St. Stephen's United is today. In 1886, the first church was built on the river bank in the area of the old graveyard. In 1907, another church was erected. In the fire of 1923, it was destroyed, and rebuilt in 1924.

This history was begun in the winter of 1972 by the C. G. I. T. group of St. Stephen's United Church, Red Bank. Eight girls and their leader have been very active in researching and in actually compiling the history. They are:

Girls: Georgina Hubbard  
Colleen Mullin  
Edrie Nowlan  
Lorna Nowlan  
Paula Sherrard  
Darla Silliker  
Gwen Somers  
Lynn Wilson  
Leader: Mrs. Charles Wilson

Thanks must be given to those who helped us in any way, either in researching, finding old papers, clippings, etc., or in offering encouragement when all of our effort seemed in vain.

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The first Protestant church, built after 1791, on the Miramichi River, was Wilson's Point. This land is now known as the "Enclosure", and is a few miles up the river from Newcastle. In 1802, the Rev. John Urquhart held services there and families came to worship from up and down the river by canoe. Many ancestors of local residents are buried there.

Up until 1875, Red Bank did not have its own church, but services were held in a local hall. Black River charge ministered to Red Bank in 1875 until 1876 when the first Presbyterian minister came.

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN MICMAC

Nuch enen waa-soke a-bin ship-took tal-wee-sin me-go day-de-mak. Chip-took igga-mam-win oo-la ne-moo-lek, naa-de la-tay-se-nen. Na-tel, wa-soke ai-keek chip-took, ta-le-ska-doo-lek ma-ga-mi-guek ay-e-mek. Tel-la-noo kov be-na-gal, opch nega-atch-kees-kook igga-mam-wim no-loo-nen. Ta-lee a-bik-chik-too-in el-wa-wook-ti-jeck. Mel-kee-nin maach win-chee-gal, mook-ta-ga-lin, kees-e-na-waam-kil, win-chee-gal, ko-qui-ak, too-ack-too-in.

INTERPRETATION

Father of ours in heaven dwelling be thy name honored in the highest. Thy kingdom be sent, be it given here to see thou wilt and as heaven is, be it known on earth who dwell. To all be given every day their daily bread. --Be friends with us, after thy anger, for we have erred and sinned greatly; in thy strength and power remain with us, and all evil and wickedness cast thou away.

It is not strange, however, that in the Micmac interpretation we do not find one word about forgiveness of trespass. Perhaps the Indians felt that in the appropriation of their lands by their white brethren, they had been terribly wronged and that forgiveness in this matter was a little beyond their comprehension. Whatever may have been the cause, the words do not occur.

On January 13, 1875, the Presbyterian Congregation at Red Bank presented Rev. S. Russel of Black River with a handsome set of silver-mounted harness, in token of their esteem and good wishes for the year that he had been ministering to them.

In 1876, the Rev. William McCullagh of Nova Scotia came to the Red Bank charge. He and his family occupied a manse which had been recently built. Since there was no church here at that time, Sunday services and prayer-meetings were held in a hall. During Mr. McCullagh's stay of 2 years, he and his wife started the first Sunday School and Bible classes.

One of the first gatherings at the new Manse was held in honor of Mr. McCullagh's coming to the Charge. The following is taken from the Union Advocate:

"We understand that a very pleasant gathering of spring folks took place at the Manse, Red Bank on Thursday last. After tea, all proceeded to the church where a number of hymns were sung in a very creditable manner. The Rev. W. McCullagh, during the first interval, addressed the children on four topics of great moment. They were PUNCTUALITY, PIETY, PERSEVERANCE, and PRINCIPLE. From the prompt manner in which the questions were answered, it is evident that the lecture was understood, and we trust will be remembered. At 7:00 p.m. all returned home, well pleased with the first invitation to the Manse."

Mr. McCullagh preached in both Whitney and Red Bank. He also ministered to a small charge in a school house in Halcomb. At this time, Trout Brook was not included in the Red Bank Pastoral Charge.

In 1880, the Rev. John McCarter of Scotland, lately of Nova Scotia, became Red Bank's second minister. The following excerpt, taken from the Union Advocate, describes his induction.

"The Presbytery of Miramichi met at Red Bank on Thursday, August 19th, for the purpose of inducting the Rev. John McCarter into the pastoral charge of St. Stephen's church. The Rev. Wm. Aitken, father of the late Lord Beaverbrook, presided and preached an impressive and eloquent sermon from 1st Peter, 2nd chapter, 4th and 5th verses. The questions prescribed by the General Assembly were then put to Mr. McCarter, and being satisfactorily answered, he was then declared minister of the congregation and was cordially welcomed by the members of the Presbytery present. Rev. Thomas Johnstone addressed the newly inducted minister on his duties and responsibilities of his office, and Rev. J. A. F. McBain followed in some very appropriate remarks to the congregation, the proceedings being brought to a close, the congregation which was quite large,

had an opportunity of welcoming their new pastor in the usual way. It is pleasing to state that the call was unanimous and as Mr. McCarter has had much and varied experience in missionary fields, we feel confident that the union so happily effected between pastor and people will prove a happy and prosperous one.

After the induction services, the members of Presbytery and other visitors, who all enjoyed their trip to Red Bank very much, were kindly and hospitably entertained at the Manse. With the exceptions of the recently organized congregation of St. Mark's, Douglastown, all the vacancies in this extensive and important Presbytery are, we believe, now filled, and the Presbytery will therefore be enabled to devote more time and energy to the development of her Home Mission field, and to church extension generally."

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#### SURPRISE PARTY AT RED BANK

"On February 28, 1881, a party of members of the Presbyterian congregation assembled at the manse, with the view of agreeably surprising the inmates, Rev. and Mrs. John McCarter. To the letter, there could have been nothing more unexpected than when on a crisp, bright morning, a procession of sleighs and sleds arrived with esteemed friends, husbands with their wives, living at distances from four to eight miles. It soon appeared that they had brought a handsome supply of winter comforts, fitted to rejoice the hearts of any minister's family, and not less so, a minister's house. These were speedily stored away in the cellar; storeroom, and barn, and after the ladies had set the table, all sat down together, probably the largest party that the manse has ever accomodated. The minister spoke a few words expressive of the satisfaction of his wife and self, and specially of the evidence of good will, heartiness, and harmony prevailing in the congregation. At this stage--perhaps it was an innovation, we do not know--one of the gentlemen handed over to the mistress of the Manse, a sum of money which he said was intended just to take away the appearance of what such parties have been sometimes charged with, of first bringing provisions and then eating them up. After dinner, a pleasant afternoon was spent with music and conversation before they separated. The whole thing was done with a degree of kindness and right feeling that left nothing to be desired. We are told that some friends at Newcastle also had a part in promoting this pleasing surprise.

The present may be a fit opportunity of saying a word regarding the beautiful manse itself, which stands on the beautiful banks of the North West. Though a church hall has stood for forty years, the church organization is young and still in a struggling condition. The Manse which was commenced four years ago, has been greatly indebted to friends of Presbyterians outside this parish. At the first start, J. B. Snowball Esq., of Chatham, with others, rendered much service. Much more, however, was needed, and for assistance during the last and previous summers may be mentioned the names of the Hon. R. Hutchison, the Hon. W. Muirhead and Sons, John Flett Esq., Allan Ritchie Esq., Messrs. A. & D. Adams and many others in Newcastle, Chatham, and Douglastown. To mention each and all by name would be to fill our columns with a pretty extensive list, which in the present form is hardly practicable, as more than one has expressed the wish that their gifts be held as anonymous. A more detailed acknowledgement of these gifts may be expected later in the form of the regular congregational report, but meanwhile, to each and all who have assisted to put a plank in the manse building, the congregation desires to express it's sincere thanks."

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On Christmas Eve, 1885, the ladies assembled at Red Bank Manse and presented their minister, with a raccoon fur overcoat.

On October 17, 1885, 49 new communicants were received and 8 a few days later, giving a total of 57 of them receiving adult baptism. The Communion roll before this had been 65. The age of the new communicants was from 15-63. "There has been no pressure to draw them in other than the conviction of sin and the power of the Savior's love." (a quotation from Mr. McCarter's sermon). Some Roman Catholics came to hear services. It was believed that much of the enthusiasm is due to the evangelists Meikle and Gerrior who came to Newcastle, set up a Gospel tent, and preached in the outlying areas.

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NOVEMBER 24, 1886

"Red Bank Presbyterian Church. During the past summer a new church building has been erected within the North Esk section of the congregation of Red Bank of which the Rev. John McCarter as pastor; began last spring; it is now ready for occupation. A neat, substantial building, with sitting

capacity for about 200, and all payed up to within \$300. It stands in an elevated position overlooking the Miramichi. "A conspicuous object from both the river and the highroad." On the Sabbath day, October 31, the building was dedicated to the Worship of God. The weather proved fine except in the evening and the three times the congregation assembled, some having come on foot, through the woods, from distances of 6 miles. A number of well-wishers from Newcastle were also present. The Rev. Thomas Cummings of Saint Andrews who ministered in the morning, speaking to the congregation's great enjoyment on Psalm LXXXVII (3) (Glorious things are spoken of thee, oh city of God), and in the evening with equal acceptance, on Jeremiah 6:16 (Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths where is the good way, and walk therein and yea shall find rest for your souls.) In the afternoon, the Rev. Wm. Aitken of Newcastle discoursed on Matthew 16:18. (Upon this rock shall I build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it). Hearts overflowed with thankfulness to God and were rejoiced and refreshed with a rich, spiritual food. Besides contributions of money, greater parts of the work was done by the people's own hands, cutting and hauling from the forests, as well as building, but among the many friends who have given their aid, it is disparagement to none to specify Mr. John Menzies as having undertaken the main burden of labor and responsibility.

This new church supplies a deeply-felt need, the progress of the congregation having been greatly hampered by the want of it. On the evening of Monday, November 1, a social meeting was held in the new building and members of the congregation discussed together with lively interest various matters affecting the congregational life and prosperity.

Besides Mr. Cummings, the Rev. Neil McKay of Chatham, N. B., was also present and both brethren rendered valuable aid by the words of wise counsel and hearty encouragement; steps were taken to organize a Ladies' Missionary and Benevolent Society within the congregation."

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The first wedding after the church was built, was on December 29, 1886, conducted by Rev. John McCarter. Mr. Wm. Henry MacDonald was married to Miss Harriet Harris. Both were of North Esk.

1876

"A sacred concert and tea-meeting was held on the

evening of New Year's Day in the Presbyterian Church, Red Bank, which was thoroughly enjoyed by a large gathering. The singing of the choir was exceedingly good, and the part-singing of the little folks uncommonly sweet, all testifying to a great amount of skilful training on the part of Mr. Thomas L. Gordon, the chief promoter of the whole entertainment at once so enjoyed and so elevating.

The ladies, who gratuitously provided the tea, the choir and Mr. Gordon received a well deserved vote of thanks, The financial proceeds were handed over as a New Year's gift to Mrs. Carter."

"On the evening of Tuesday, a Sabbath School concert was given in the Presbyterian Church at Red Bank. The building was filled to its utmost capacity, fully 300 persons, representative of all the local denominations being crowded into it. The entertainment was entirely under the management of Mr. Thomas Gordon, who must have given to it no small amount of pains and trouble. His choir sustained its character well, and his rising choir of little people deserved all praise. Having had the pleasure of hearing these choirs on several occasions we must say that each time they come forward to afford the community a treat is an improvement on the last. The pieces said and sung were all of a religious nature, some of them being clear and telling statements of the Gospel. The musical part of the evening was varied by well chosen recitations mainly, though not exclusively, by children. The recitations of eleven little boys and girls were particularly delightful, but where everyone did so well comparisons would be quite out of place.

At the close of the performance a few remarks were made by the Rev. J. McCarter, who also proposed a heavy thanks to Mr. Gordon, to the various friends, big and small who had contributed to the enjoyment and to Mr. Harry Eagle who had acted very efficiently as door-keeper. Being seconded by Mr. James Park. This was carried unanimously, and the audience separated, all feeling well repaid for having come. Such gatherings are greatly to be valued as means of developing in right directions the talents of the young, and for bringing the community together in a way conducive both to wholesome recreation and to the promotion of general harmony and good feeling.

We understand that the proceeds, which were handsome, will be devoted to Sabbath School purposes."

"Social tea meeting at North Esk. This meeting on the 22nd was thoroughly successful, \$107.00 being realized.

Friends were gathered from all parts of the river, besides a number from Newcastle and the hall proved quite too small for the numbers that attended. The hall was beautifully decorated, and the tables tastefully garnished with flowers as well as bountifully laden with tempting refreshments. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the ladies who provided the entertainment and to the stewardesses who gave attendance. The proceeds were in aid of the church building which reflects no little credit on Mr. John Menzies and others who have so vigorously pushed the enterprise to a successful completion. It will be opened for divine service in the course of the ensuing months."

On April 16, 1887, Mr. George Smith, a student minister, was nominated to fill the vacant pulpit during the summer months after Mr. McCarter's departure. The following was taken from the September 18th issue of the Union Advocate.

"The Willows, Red Bank on Friday evening the 23rd, Mr. Smith of Moran College, who has been laboring here this summer, under the Home Mission Board of the Canadian Presbyterian Church, was waited upon by the elders, their wives, and other members of the congregation, and made a recipient of an Oxford teacher's Bible and a handsome ebony cane, surmounted with a heavy gold head bearing the inscription: Presented to George H. Smith, Pastor, by the P. S. Congregation, September, 1887.

Mr. Smith, who was quite taken by surprise in a brief, but appropriate reply, most cordially thanked the ladies for this, which he considered only one of the many kindnesses he had received during his brief sojourn in this parish.

Tea was then served and a pleasant evening spent, and after thanking Mrs. McKay and family for their hospitality, the company dispersed.

Mr. Smith returns to college with the best wishes of his congregation for his future success and the regrets that his stay cannot be prolonged."

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"A few Sundays ago, a very handsome Bible was placed in the pulpit of St. Stephen's Church, Red Bank, by one of the elders.

The concert and garden party at Red Bank on the evening of the 29th was a complete success. Long before the hour of commencing, the hall was filled to overflowing, many persons

being unable to gain admittance. The incapacity of this building to hold the audience, recently drew to Red Bank a matter of great regret, and we learned steps are about to be taken to have it enlarged.

At 7:45, the entertainment opened with a selection from the Derby Band, whose progress merits great credit under the leadership of Mr. John Millar. Choruses from the children followed and were admirably rendered.

After the singing of "God Save the Queen", the assembly repaired to the Manse grounds, which were magnificently illuminated with Chinese lanterns, ornamented with evergreens and flags. Refreshments were served by the ladies, the band rendering several choice selections.

The net proceeds, which amounted to \$103.00, will be put toward the building of St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Red Bank.

While the garden party was in progress, the matter of organizing a division of the Sons of Temperance was agitated by some members of the Newcastle division, of which there were some eight or ten present, and most favorably received."

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Mr. Joseph Killam has secured the contract for rebuilding the Red Bank Bridge, and is preparing to commence operations early in 1889. The former bridge was damaged at high spring floods.

In 1888, Rev. J. D. Murray proposed a plan in getting people to support the church better, financially.

Suppose 3 families gave \$1.00 per week ...	52 weeks ...	\$156
Suppose 12 families gave \$.50 per week ...	52 weeks ...	\$312
Suppose 50 families gave \$.25 per week ...	52 weeks ...	\$650
Suppose 40 families gave \$.10 per week ...	52 weeks ...	\$208

The following is taken from the December 10th issue, 1890, of the Presbyterian Witness:

"Representatives from Red Bank and Whitneyville appeared before the Presbytery of Chatham recently, and stated that after the close of the present year, the congregation would be self-sustaining. Three years ago, when Rev. J. D. Murray took charge, the field could only raise \$500 and that with difficulty. But, during these years, Mr. Murray labored faithfully and actively, and his hands have been strengthened

by the aid of some fine spirited elders and managers and the people have also grown in the grace of liberality, and we believe in other graces also, that they can now walk on their own feet without the aid of a crutch or staff from the augmentation fund."

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"An example of Rev. Murray's endurance: In December last, he preached at Red Bank in morning, at Whitneyville in afternoon, and waded five miles through woods to Protectionville (now Maple Glen), (this is a section not included in his charge), and preached and dispensed the Lord's Supper in the evening. Monday, 8:00 a.m., he visited a few families and two sick persons and at noon, left on his return journey--walked eleven miles reaching the manse about dark."

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Various events in August and September, 1896, were held to raise money for the church property.

"A Basket Social was held on the Hubbard Sunday School Hall on Wednesday, September 2, 1896. Considering the many socials held this summer, the baskets were well bid for.

All kinds of refreshments were to be had during the evening. Between fifteen and twenty dollars was cleared. The proceeds will be spent in plastering the Hall, which is now being independent. The sum realized clear of expenses was \$76.00."

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The following is some information taken from the Halifax archives, pertaining to the church.

Church of the Year 1897

Rev. J. D. Murray .....	pastor
Number of families .....	77
Communicants .....	173
Additions during year .....	22
Removals by death .....	4
Removals by certificate .....	1
Baptisms: Infants .....	19
Adults .....	5

Contributed to schemes of church:	
Foreign Mission .....	\$19
Home Mission .....	\$12
To the Home Mission debt .....	\$2
Aged and I.M.F. ....	\$8
College Fund, Halifax .....	\$30
Manitoba College .....	\$2
Bursary Fund .....	\$8
French E. F. ....	\$7
Synod and Presbytery Funds ...	\$6
Augmentation Fund .....	\$25

There are two Sabbath Schools in the Congregation.

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The church that was built in 1886 was sold to Mr. Joseph Napke, to be used as a store. The hall was sold also and used as a private dwelling. It was moved approximately 600 feet to what is now known as the White property. The new church was built in 1907, on the same site of the present-day church. The following excerpt from the Union Advocate, describes the dedication of St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, in 1907.

"At the dedication in Red Bank on June 30, there was a large congregation. The offering amounted to \$300. The building, a beautiful wooden structure of modern design and substantial stone basement, has an auditorium with a seating capacity of 250. A Sunday School room with accomodation for folding doors, the two being thrown into one large audience room on special occasions. The pews are oak and elm and are the best made by the Globe Furniture Co., Wakrole, Ontario. The contractor was P. A. Forsythe of Whitneyville and the architect, J. M. Troy of Newcastle. The cost of the building was \$5000. The pastor was G. S. Mitchell. There was a pastor's room and a choir room. The pulpit, bell, desks and chairs, and communion table were the gift of the Young Ladie's Mission Circle. Rev. J. M. McLean of St. John's Church, Chatham, offered the dedication prayer. A beautiful memorial window to the memory of James Holmes and his wife, Catherine, was presented to the church by William Holmes of Pembine, Wisconsin. Offerings for the service amounted to \$300."

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Rev. E. E. Mowatt, who was in charge of Presbyterian Church, worked in New Maryland, York County and Vicinity, and had been pastor at Stanley, was called to Red Bank in November, 1908. The salary at that time was \$800, and included the use of a manse.

From 1908-1923, the church progressed normally. The building erected in 1908 still stood, and was constantly being improved, through the Women's organizations, who even today, are always willing to contribute greatly of their time and talents, to the improvement of the church.

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A boat, the Max Aitken, was the main means of transportation on the Miramichi at this time. It left Newcastle every Monday morning at six o'clock for Red Bank, returning to town again at 8 a.m., and arriving there at approximately 10 a.m. It made two or three runs between Newcastle and Chatham during the day, before reloading with freight and passengers for Red Bank at three p.m. A return trip cost fifty cents.

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1923

RED BANK LOSS ABOUT \$100,000 SECTION OF VILLAGE LAID IN  
RUINS ON MONDAY - 44 BUILDINGS DESTROYED

"Fire on Monday, June 11, swept the village of Red Bank, about 14 miles from Newcastle on the Northwest Miramichi River, destroyed 44 buildings and laying in ashes, the entire portion of the village on the southern side of the highway. Conservative estimates place the damage at more than \$100,000. Most of the sufferers had little or no insurance.

The fire originated in a barn owned by Issac Blackmore and fanned by a high wind the flames spread through the woods and destroyed nearly all the buildings on the south side of the Red Bank road. The fire gave off a dense smoke which caused serious discomfort here and in the surrounding country.

Most of the men were away from home at the time of the outbreak, but word was sent out, and within a short time, more than 500 men were fighting the blaze. The number was increased during the afternoon until about 1,000 were at work. The women fought the flames side by side with the men and assisted in making brave, though in many instances, futile attempts to save their homes.

Twenty-one dwelling houses, six warehouses, thirteen barns, the Presbyterian Church and Manse, the Orange Hall

and several stores were destroyed. Rev. Mr. Girdwood, the Presbyterian minister, lost his furniture and his horse. The family were away from home and did not get back in time to save anything. Frederick White was a heavy sufferer, losing two stores, his dwelling house, barn, hotel and several young cattle. He lost his home in attempting to save his stores as he did not notice that the house had caught until it was too late to save it. The furniture and effects had been previously removed and placed in an open space, but they, also, were burned.

The others, who lost properties are: Isaac Blackmore, a house and two barns; J. E. Blackmore, household goods; T. Mullin, a house and barn; William Blackmore, a house and barn; John Wells, a house and barn; Wallace Johnston, a house, two barns and a warehouse; Frank Johnston, a house; John Gillis, house and barn; Elmer Parks, two large barns; Mrs. J. Gillis, house and barn; William McKibbon, a barn; Archibald Ramsay, store, house and barn; Ritchie Lumber Company, three warehouses and a barn; James White, a house; Larry Mather, a house; John Sutherland, a house and barn; Sullivan and Company, two warehouses; William Nowlan, house and barn; Mrs. John Thompson, house and Edward Johnston, a house; Norman Sutherland, a stock of goods.

The fire spread rapidly owing to the high wind and the lack of water which handicapped the efforts of the fighters. The houses are connected by strips of woodland through which the flames spread like tinder. All afternoon and evening they burned, the fire advancing, in spite of the utmost efforts of the men to stay until late in the evening. The last buildings in its path were consumed by 10 o'clock."

After the Red Bank fire, church services were held in Allison's Hall, Boom Road. Sunday School was held in the homes of the Sunday School teachers. Rev. Girdwood and his family lived at the home of Mrs. Henry Leach.

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On December 21, 1923, the Presbytery of the Red Bank church approved an application for a building plan of \$3,000 to assist the congregation in carrying on the erection of the new church and manse to replace the property destroyed in the Red Bank fire.

The manse, which cost \$5,000 was paid for, along with the church building. The Church was built by Ernest and Boyd Tozer. Albert and Lance Whitney constructed the Manse.

The seats, pulpit and two chairs for this church, were bought from the old Methodist Church in Chatham for \$500, and paid for by the young people of Sunny Corner, who held

concerts in various localities to raise this amount of money.

Both congregations did a great deal to help the church survive financially. A concert was held at Whitney on June 20, 1924. A sum of \$350 was raised for the Presbyterian manse in Red Bank, making a total to date of \$568.00 raised by Whitney toward the manse.

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"The new Presbyterian church at Red Bank was opened Sunday, August 31, 1924, under the ministry of Rev. William Girdwood. Morning, afternoon and evening services were held which were largely attended. Rev. Donald Fraser of Sunny Brae, N. S., and formerly from Riston, N. B., was the special speaker at the morning and evening services. Rev. J. H. A. Anderson was the speaker at the afternoon service. A special feature during the afternoon was the presentation of certificates and diplomas, by Rev. William Girdwood, to a large number of boys and girls of the Sunday School for memorizing Scripture verses and catechism.

The new manse was completed some months later."

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The following is an account of one of the meetings of the Women's Missionary Society of 1924:

The WMS St. Stephen's Church, Red Bank held their monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. George Leach on Thursday afternoon with the President in the chair. Meeting opened by singing #594, followed by prayer by the President and eight members. Roll call, and minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Mrs. Leach and Mrs. Charles Hubbard read a report from the Presbyterial which was very much appreciated. Reading by Mrs. James McDonald and address by the President on "I'm Counting On You." Meeting closed by singing Doxology and Lord's Prayer in unison.

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The church at Trout Brook was first designated as the Wesleyan Church of England, which later became the Methodist Church. It was part of the Derby circuit until 1925. After union, it became part of the Red Bank charge of the United Church of Canada.

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C. G. I. T.

C. G. I. T. started in all of Canada in 1917. In September of 1926, Mrs. William Girdwood started a group with thirteen girls in Red Bank. The President was Mary MacAllister (Mrs. Earl Whitney); Secretary was Lizzie Nowlan (Mrs. Herman Hare); Treasurer was Ada Leach (Mrs. Elwin Whitney). The worship service consisted of a study of famous painters and poets. The group donated \$5.00 to the WMS. Collection each week was about ninety-five cents. The C. G. I. T. were always responsible for cleaning the church on Labor Day. A course in Home Nursing was given by Miss Eliza Keyes, R. N. She gave a talk on health and hygiene, also a course on how to set a table properly.

In 1927, a Mother and Daughter Banquet was held in the Manse. Guests were: Mrs. Archibald MacLean, Miss Annie Sutherland, Miss Eliza Keyes, and Mrs. Thomas Mullin.

C. G. I. T. ended in 1929 and did not commence again until 1941.

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Items of interest:

In 1933, land was purchased from Mr. Joseph White for a cemetery at a cost of \$200. Each lot cost \$5.00.

In 1936, electricity first came to Red Bank.

In 1937, the church was wired by Mr. Herman Hare and Rev. Albert King.

Various events were held to buy pieces of furniture for the new manse. The following is an account (taken from the North Shore Leader) of the installation of a chandelier for the Manse.

SOCIAL AT RED BANK

A very successful social was held in the United Church Manse, Red Bank, in 1939. A pleasing feature of the evening was a presentation by P. A. Forsythe, now of Newcastle, of a chandelier with indirect lighting, installed by him in memory of the late Mrs. P. A. Forsythe. The new fixture is a pleasant addition to the home installed in the dining room. It is greatly appreciated by the congregation. Rev. W. A.

Burge, pastor of the church, expressed in a few well-chosen words, his appreciation, which was endorsed by a hearty clapping of hands. Another feature of the evening was a local orchestra headed by Norman Sutherland, composed of Lloyd Johnston, Ronnie Gillis, and Norman Mather. The music added a great deal of pleasure in livening the evening with various selections. Mrs. Vera Harris and Nolla Wilson in a vocal duet were highly appreciated, and we are looking forward to this young talent during the winter. The evening was spent with stunts, sing-song and contests, being led by the minister, Rev. W. A. Burge. The winners received a box of chocolates each. The special feature of the evening, however, was untangling the cobwebs. This added a great deal of fun and frolic."

Another special service was held on Sunday, June 15, 1943, to celebrate the completion of the redecoration of the church and manse.

"The morning services were both held in the church at Red Bank, culminating the work of renovation, in which the exterior of both house and church were painted, while the interior of the church was also redecorated, the walls being tinted and the woodwork repainted.

The preacher of the day was the Rev. W. S. Godfrey, who brought inspiring messages, which many will long remember. Making special mention of the loss of the church and manse in the disasterous fire of 1923, he congratulated the congregation upon the splendid buildings which had been erected and which had now been redecorated.

The minister, Rev. William Girdwood, conducted the services of worship and gave a brief outline of events leading up to this day. Miss Annie Sutherland presided at the organ. She was assisted at the afternoon service by Mr. N. M. Sutherland, who contributed organ voluntaries. At the evening service, Mr. Sutherland also played voluntaries with violin accompaniment by Mr. Norman Mather.

During the afternoon service, the Red Bank choir gave a choral selection, and Rev. and Mrs. William Girdwood sang a duet; Miss Sutherland, accompanist. Special music was provided at the evening service by Mrs. Hubert Mullin, who sang a solo; Miss Sutherland, accompanist; and by the Whitney United Church choir, which gave a choral selection, with their organist, Miss Eva Blackmore, at the organ.

The choir for the afternoon and evening services was composed of members of the choirs from all three congregations in the Charge."

The mortgage on the church completed in 1924 was burned July 15, 1943. The following taken from the Union Advocate, gives an interesting description of the ceremonies.

#### BURNING OF MORTGAGE OF RED BANK

"Special services of thanksgiving were held in the United Church, at Red Bank on Sunday afternoon and evening on July 15. The congregation was rejoicing in the lifting of the mortgage upon their property and in the beautifying of their church. The interior decoration of which had just been completed. In spite of heavy rain, a large congregation greeted Rev. Neil MacLeod of Loggieville United Church, who preached in the afternoon. The service was conducted by the minister, Rev. William Girdwood. The Rev. John Wood of Whitney and Littleton United Baptist Church, offered prayer. Three baskets of flowers on the platform were in memory of devoted members of the church who had gone before. They are Mrs. Fred Stewart, a member recently deceased; Miss Margaret Nowlan, once a member of the choir and other church activities and Mrs. Hannah McLean who died in 1930.

A memorial hymn was sung and the minister offered prayer of grateful memory. Mr. Girdwood read a history of the mortgage. In 1923, on June 11th, a disastrous fire destroyed the entire church property which also included the manse and outbuildings. To assist in rebuilding, a loan was received from the Church and Manse Board, Toronto, and a mortgage was given. The greater part of this was repaid during the next seven years. The financial depression halted payments for a while and later started in 1941, and the entire debt has now been liquidated.

Greetings were read from three former ministers, Rev. B. E. Mowatt, Rev. N. Cole, and Rev. A. T. King and three guest ministers, Rev. N. MacLeod, Rev. John Wood and Rev. J. K. Campbell who congratulated the minister and people upon the beauty of the church and their success in lifting the mortgage.

Three men were present, whose names were on the mortgage. They are P. A. Forsythe, oldest office bearer among them, George Blackmore and Albert MacTavish. Along with these were called forth others who had canvassed in the liquidation of the debt. The document was then held suspended over a tray by Mr. Blackmore and Mr. MacTavish, while Mr. Forsythe applied a lighted candle. A prayer and hymn of rededication completed the service.

The male choir of Newcastle United Church under the direction on Mrs. M. L. Blakney and assisted by Mayor F. E. Locke and Ernest Tozer of the United Baptist Church, Newcastle; and Donald Horncastle of St. Paul's United Church, Fredericton, led the service of praise. The choir rendered two special selections and Rowland Crocker was heard in a solo.

In the evening, Rev. J. K. Campbell of Blackville was preacher. The male choir led in the singing and a quartet rendered two selections with a solo by Mr. Horncastle.

The earnest messages of preachers, the fine harmony of men's voices, the high quality of solos, with Mrs. Blakeney's accompaniment, the memorials of two departed friends, greetings from former ministers, renewed beauty of the church, burning of the mortgage, the symbolic removal of all indebtedness made it a day that will be remembered."

After the end of World War II, a bell and plaque were given to the church to the memory of the men who gave their lives in the first and second world wars.

#### CHURCH BELL AND PLAQUE DEDICATED TO RED BANK CHURCH

(From Union Advocate)

"On Sunday, October 19, 1947, people of the surrounding districts gathered with the United Church congregation at the United Church, Red Bank, to join in the dedication of a bell and a plaque to the memory of the following men who gave their lives in the two great wars. The men who fell in the last war of 1912-1914 were James D. Brayton, Warren Gulliver, William J. Hill, Courtney T. Matchett, Guy C. McLean, J. Stanley Parks, and William E. Whitney; and in the second great war: Claude F. Foran, J. Wesley Harris, Blair E. Johnston, W. Byron Sherrard, Wesley Johnston.

The service was conducted by Rev. William Girdwood of Minto, former minister of the church. After the opening devotional service, Rev. and Mrs. Girdwood and the session of the church, moved to the church entrance where the memorial plaque had been placed, inscribed with the names of the twelve men. While the congregation stood, the bell and plaque were dedicated by Mr. Girdwood. Mrs. Girdwood, by request, tolled the bell, and Harry A. Bryenton, who had taken a leading part in procuring the memorials, continued ringing the bell for two minutes.

The service of praise was led by the church choir, assisted by Mrs. William Bryenton, of Millerton, and male voices from Newcastle. Mr. and Mrs. Girdwood rendered a duet, "Beyond the Sunset"; Mrs. Bryenton sang a solo, "Sunrise", and Miss Rolla Wilson was organist.

A very fine spirit prevailed in this congregation, which is at present, without the services of a settled minister.

In 1954, a choir loft was built on the west side of the church, and the pews, which had been facing north, were rearranged to face the choir. The interior of the church was redecorated with new wallboard. Paint and varnish and lumber for renovations cost \$2,564."

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In 1954, and again in 1970, the Red Bank Bridges, which were wooden structures were destroyed by fire. Since the bridge was the main link between the two communities of Sunny Corner and Red Bank, those who had cars came across the mountain by Johnston's Bridge, others by boat, and in winter by ice, to worship at St. Stephen's.

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1962

The most recent renovation to the existing St. Stephen's United Church has been the completion of the basement.

"A new Christian Education Centre was recently opened and put into use by St. Stephen's United Church, Red Bank. The new addition is built under the church, giving a large auditorium, seven classrooms, washrooms, a large kitchen being equipped by the United Church Women. This room also doubles as a classroom. Also a new furnace room. The total cost was \$21,000.

The church also was completely renovated with the addition to the choir room and church office on the main floor.

The plans were drawn by the minister, Rev. Frank Roebuck, the contract given to Sidney Travis, Newcastle,

Many material and spiritual improvements have been accomplished during Rev. Roebuck's ministry in all three churches of the charge."

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A mortgage-burning ceremony was held in St. Stephen's United Church on Monday, July 1, 1968. The sum borrowed for renovation and additions to the church had been fully repaid over a period of eight years.

Rev. Carmen Burns, minister of the church, led the service with Rev. W. C. Amey of Fredericton, as special speaker and Rev. A. F. MacLean of Nashwaaksis assisting. Both Mr. Amey and Mr. MacLean were former ministers of St. Stephen's. The church choir attended and Weldon Copp was soloist.

During the service, Mr. MacLean presented a Bible to Mrs. George Leach on behalf of the Sunday School in recognition of the lengthy service as superintendent and teacher.

A congregational dinner was served in the church after the service to about 150 persons.

In 1974, new hymnbooks used by the United and Anglican churches, came into official use.

Numerous gifts have been given to the church in memory of loved ones. These include hymnbooks, stained windows, candle holders, cross, mirrors, organ, carpeting, communion table and cloth, fern stands, communion ware, guest book, memorial book, pulpit light, etc.

The congregation remains relatively small with approximately 100 families and 300 members.

Many have contributed much to this church in the past, and many will continue to do so in the future.

It is hoped that each will receive a blessing within the walls of the church and find eternal joy and happiness.

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SUPERINTENDENTS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL SINCE 1915

James Park -- 1915 - 1924  
Peter Girdwood (Rev. Girdwood's Father) -- 1924-1926  
Mrs. Archibald (Hannah) MacLean -- 1926 - 1930  
Mrs. George (Maude) Leach -- 1930 - 1963  
Weldon Copp -- 1963 -

TREASURERS SINCE 1924

Albert MacTavish  
Miss Annie Sutherland  
Mrs. Edward (Christie) Johnston  
Harry Bryenton  
David MacTavish  
Mrs. Cecil (Jean) Mullin  
Mrs. Merlin (Pearl) Matthews  
Charles Wilson  
Mrs. Leslie (Carol) Jardine  
Mrs. William (Francis) Stewart  
Miss Helen MacLean

CENTRAL TREASURERS FOR RED BANK, WHITNEY, & TROUT BROOK --

Mrs. Alexia Sherrard & Mrs. Ruby Whitney

After church union William Nowlan, James Park, and several others decided to remain Presbyterian and did not join with the United Church. Peter Forsythe came from Whitneyville and helped Everett Goodfellow serve communion.

Other Elders Since Union In 1924

Albert MacTavish	Weldon Copp
George Leach	Leo McKibbon
Ernest Leach	Norman Johnston
Melvin Phair	Charles Wilson
Harry Bryenton	William Stewart
Parley Vanderbeck	Theodore Matchett
Harvey Norton	Irving Astle
Chester Bryenton	William Leach
Sterling McKibbon	David MacTavish

ELDERS (Red Bank & Whitney)

1876 - M. McKendrie  
1877 - Joseph White  
1878 - George Sutherland  
1879 - " "  
1880 - Vacant  
1881 - Joseph White  
1882 - Benjamin Hubbard  
1883 - John McTavish  
1884 - Thomas C. Mullin  
1885 - Joseph White  
1886 - " "  
1887 - John Menzies  
1888 - George Jardine  
1889 - Benjamin Forsythe  
1890 - John Menzies  
1891 - George Sutherland  
1892 - John Menzies  
1893 - Benjamin Hubbard  
1894 - John Menzies  
1895 - " "  
1896 - " "  
1897 - Benjamin Hubbard  
1898 - John Menzies  
1899 - " "  
1900 - George Jardine  
1901 - John Menzies  
1902 - " "  
1903 - " "  
1904 - " "  
1905 - Vacant  
1906 - P. A. Forsythe  
1907 - Vacant  
1908 - Vacant  
1909 - John Menzies  
1910 - P. A. Forsythe  
1911 - " "  
1912 - " "  
1913 - " "  
1914 - " "  
1915 - " "  
1916 - " "  
1917 - " "  
1918 - William Nowlan  
- James Park  
- Everett Goodfellow

MINISTERS

1876-1878	Rev. William McCullagh
1879-	Vacant
1880-1887	Rev. John McCarter
1888-1904	Rev. J. D. Murray
1905-1908	Rev. George S. Mitchell
1909-1911	Rev. Everett Mowatt
1912-1919	Rev. James McCurdy
1919-1930	Rev. William Girdwood
1930-1933	Rev. Howard Hamilton
1933-1936	Rev. Nathaniel Cole
1936-1938	Rev. Albert King
1938-1940	Rev. William Burge
1940-1947	Rev. William Girdwood
1947-1948	Mr. Robert Scott supplied from Fredericton
1948-1951	Rev. William Amey
1951-1954	Rev. Thomas Evans
1954-1963	Rev. Frank Roebuck
1963-1967	Rev. Alexander McLean
1967-1983	Rev. Carmen Burns
1983-	Rev. David Melanson