



ST. GEORGE'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
Moncton, New Brunswick

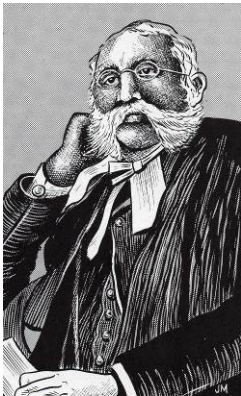
HISTORY OF ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

With original text from
THE VEN. J.J. ALEXANDER, 1932

1st St. George's Church
1852 -1873



Thanks to Bliss Botsford



Judge Bliss Botsford

The following is an extract from the minutes of the public meeting held at the Parish Church on Easter Monday, 1852: “Moved and seconded that the thanks of this congregation be given to Mr. Bliss Botsford for his zeal and activity in getting the Church erected, and also for his gift of land for building the Church on - that this resolution be inserted in the Parish Church Register”.

In the minutes of a congregational meeting held April 27, 1852, there is the following interesting item: “Resolved that the Parish Church erected at The Bend be called by the name of St. George”.

First Opened in 1852

St. George's Church was opened for Divine service for the first time on Sunday morning, August 12, 1852, the service being conducted by the Rev. William

Nathaniel Boyer, Rector. At that service, Robert Fielding, son of the Rev. W.N. and Caroline Boyer was baptised – this being the first baptism administered in St. George's Church and the forty-fourth administration of Holy Baptism in the Parish of Monckton.

Previous to this date, the congregation worshipped in a hall on Steadman Street in use to this day and called “The Free Meeting House.”

The Holy Communion was administered for the first time in St. George's Church on Christmas Day, 1852, when five persons received the Holy sacrament. Permission for this celebration was obtained from the Bishop as the Church had not been consecrated.

The Church was consecrated the following year and the record of that service reads:



Bishop Medley

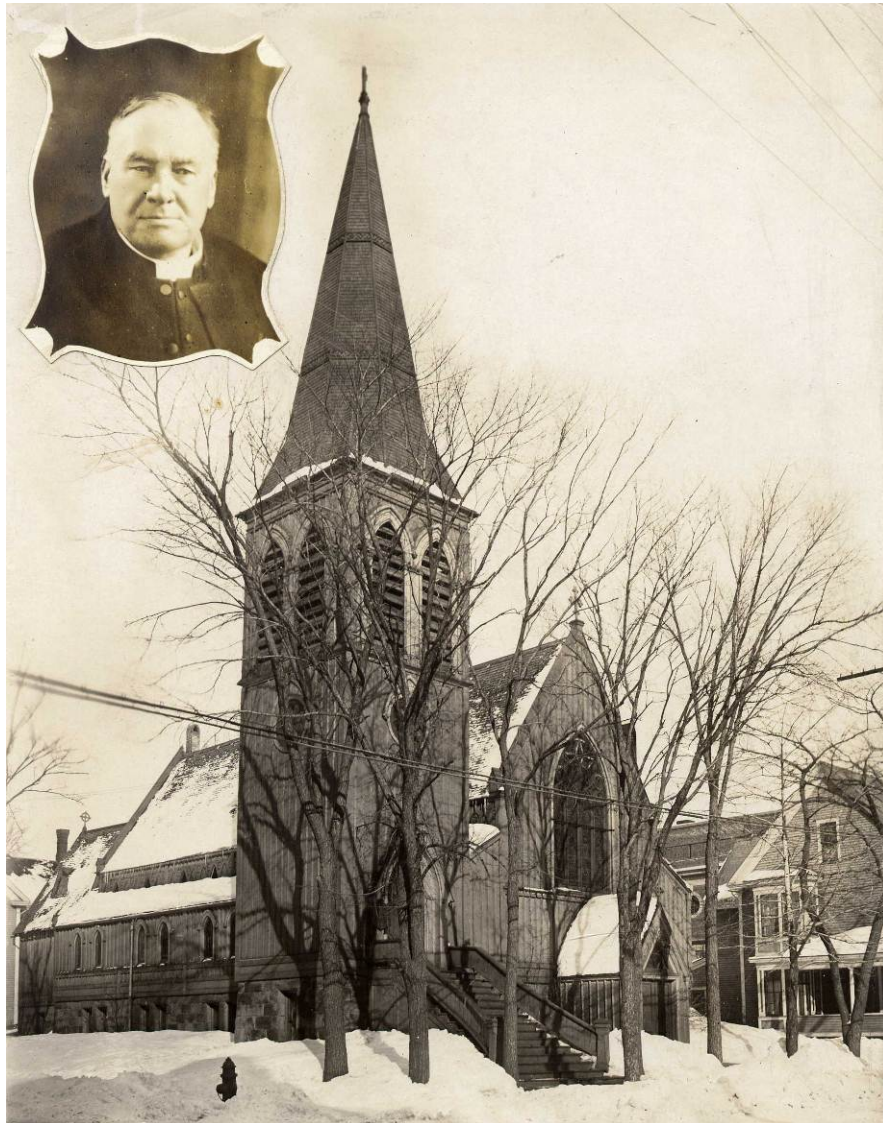
“St. George's Church, Monckton, was consecrated by the Right Reverent Father in God, John Medley, Doctor of Divinity, Lord Bishop of Fredericton, on Sunday morning, June 5th, in the year of our Lord, 1853.”

On the same day, four candidates were presented to the Bishop for confirmation, this being the first record of a confirmation service, in the Parish.

The first meeting for the election of a Church corporation was held on Easter Monday, 1854. The following were elected: ----- Wardens; Bliss Botsford (who donated the land for the Church) and E.B. Chandler; Vestry Clerk; Ezekiel Taylor; Vestrymen; Jonas Cutler, John Elliot, Duncan Robertson, W.M.S. Evans, E.S. Cawlings, Scott Wood, Ezekiel Taylor, George Slater, John Bishop, Thomas Woodman, Henry V. Prince, George Wood.

A fire in 1873 burned the Church to the ground. Once again, Anglicans were worshipping in temporary quarters. Dunlap's Hall, at the junction of Main and Pleasant Streets, was available for services for approximately two years.

2nd St. George's Church
1875 -1932



The Second St. George's in 1932 prior to demolition

The following extract appears in the minutes of the Easter Meeting held in Dunlop's hall in 1874:

“Moved by E.B. Chandler, seconded by Charles Blackwell, that a Building Committee be formed to report as to cost of the erection of a Church on the site of the original St. George's, such committee to thoroughly ventilate the expediency of erecting a temporary or permanent building and report on Monday, April 25th.”

The following men constituted that committee: J.F. Armstrong, Charles Blackwell, P. W St. George, W Willis, George C. Peters, and the Rector.

Mrs. Peters, Mrs. Armstrong and Miss Hill were requested to solicit subscriptions for the proposed building and to deposit the same in the Bank of British North America.

In New Edifice

In June, 1874, services were still being held in Dunlap's Hall, but the records show that the Easter Meeting of 1875 convened in the Parish Church of St. George.

The Church building referred to in the resolution later became the chancel of that structure which was demolished in July, 1932.



Rev. E.S.W. Pentreath

Rev. E.S.W Pentreath succeeded to the Church in June, 1874. The Chancel of a new Church was erected in that year and this was large enough to hold the whole congregation. When twenty gathered, this was considered a large congregation. The Chancel was dedicated in 1876 by Bishop Medley.

Plan Main Building

In 1875, C.B. Blackwell, Esq., was requested to submit a plan and estimate of the main building of the Church, which plans were received and approved by the Corporation, July 1876 and construction commenced that year.

The temporary Church building which then stood east and west in the centre of the property was moved to the north end of the lot, converted into a chancel and a nave, or main building, was added - this structure formed the nucleus of the 2nd St. George's Church.

Church Enlarged

During the incumbency of Rev. E. Bertram Hooper the Church was enlarged. This was done by moving the chancel northward and building a section between it and the nave. The tower and spire were later additions, as will be seen from an extract from the minutes of a Vestry meeting held in July 1881, which reads:



Rev. E. Bertram Hooper

“Mr. William Stevens presented his report on behalf of the Building Committee, they having accepted Corbett & Steadman's offer for \$400 jar the completion of the tower and spire.”



Upon the completion of the tower the chimes were installed and were rung for the first time by Joseph G. Wran-

The Church had begun in 1875 and it was consecrated in 1878 in a very impressive ceremony with Bishop Medley and nineteen clergymen from all over the Province.

It is evident from existing records that the ladies of the Parish were at all times active and faithful workers, laboring, both to raise funds and “to beautiful the place of His sanctuary. “ The first reference to any definite Ladies' Organization on the Parish minute books appears in 1879 and reads as follows:

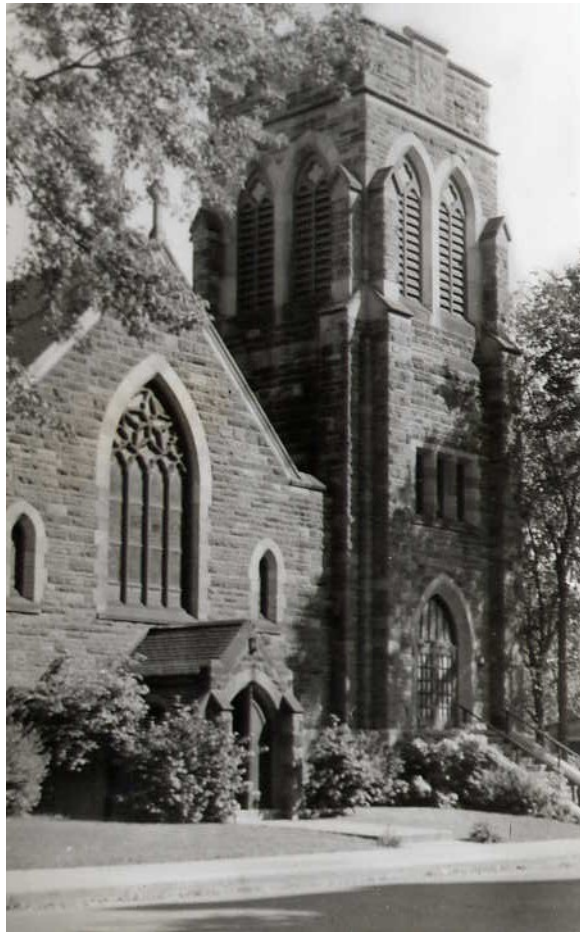
“The annual report of the Willing Workers was read,” and from the minutes of the same meeting, “a vote of thanks was tendered to the

Willing Workers for their assistance during the past year “.

It may be recorded that at the last service in the old Church the chimes were rung the evening of June 26, 1932, by John Woodhouse, son of A.A. Woodhouse, organist of St. George's since April 30, 1909.

The building was demolished in July 1932 to make way for the present structure.

3rd St. George's Church 1932



At the annual meeting of the congregation held on Easter Monday, 1931, the newly elected corporation was constituted a building committee and authorized to secure plans for a new Church, said plans to be laid before the congregation at the next annual meeting. The corporation in due time called for competitive sketches and having selected that submitted by CA. Fowler and Company, Halifax, NS., asked that firm to submit plans and specifications. These were received and after slight alterations accepted. The contract for this new building was awarded to the firm of Ambrose Wheeler Limited, on the evening of June 24, 1932 and the following Sunday the final services were held in the Church which had served the congregation for over a half century.

Work on the new structure began on the following morning.

The Laying of the Cornerstone

Wednesday, August 17, 1932



The corner stone was laid at 1:30 by the Bishop of the Diocese of Fredericton, Right Rev. John A. Richardson, who delivered an address immediately afterwards.

Sunday will be a day of rejoicing on the part of the Rector, Wardens, Vestrymen and the congregation of St. George's Anglican Church in this city, for on that day their new Church edifice will be occupied for the first religious service in the building. The new building is one of the handsomest and most imposing of its size in the Maritime Provinces, with a simple dignity in its architectural style that impresses the observer in marked fashion.

Built of grey freestone quarried in the Maritime Provinces, it adds another to the already long list of beautiful Churches in Moncton.

The Church Hall

The hall, occupying the basement section of the building, has been fitted up handsomely, with plastered walls of a neutral tint and polished hardwood/1001's. It is a spacious interior, only a narrow space about four feet from each wall being interfered with by columns, extra-long beams having been constructed across the ceiling to give the great width necessary for convenience. At the rear of the hall is a deep raised platform, which will be occupied at the Sunday services by the Rector and the choir, the congregation being seated on the floor below. To the right of the platform, as one faces it, is a large room to be used as a ladies' parlor

for the women's organizations of the Church, while to the left are rooms for the women and men members of the choir, respectively. The platform will also be used by St. George's Dramatic Society for the presentation of plays from time to time. At the opposite end of the Room from the platform have been built a large kitchen, complete with range and other equipment, and across a narrow hall is the spacious serving room. The main entrance to the Church hall is from Church Street, in the middle of the western end of the building.

December 5, 1932 - Morning Service



Church Hall Prior to the first service, 1932

The service at 11 o'clock was an impressive one. Led by Rev. J.J. Alexander and the boy choristers, the service was opened with a procession to the choir quarters in the chancel. Mr. Alexander conducted the service and during it, he took occasion to express his appreciation to

Archdeacon Cody for his presence, and to Canon Sisam, his predecessor as rector of the Church, for his long years of service.

Archdeacon Cody, in his address, referred to the laying of the corner stone and based his remarks on the contents of the box which was placed in the corner stone. The Archdeacon also had warm praise for the choir and the musical portion of the service, and commented on the initial appearance of the choir boys, some thirteen boy choristers, clad in the traditional vestments of the Church, whose fresh young voices have been undergoing training for several months. It is the first time in the history of St. George's that boy sopranos have formed a part of the choir.

The Children's Part

There was a large attendance at the Children's Service in the afternoon. At this service the boy choristers led in the singing with John Woodhouse at the organ. Rev. Mr. Alexander spoke briefly on the words from the catechism "A member of Christ, a child of God and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven".



Boys Choir for the First Service

A feature of the afternoon service was the baptismal ceremony at which Helen Alma Richards, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O.A. Richards, was baptised, she being the first child to be baptised in the new Church.

Evening Service

Archdeacon Cody's evening sermon was on the subject of "The Unfinished Task," likening the challenge of Joshua to the people to "Get thee up to the wood country and cut down the woods for yourself and drive out the giants, "to today's unfinished task. He declared there still was an unfinished task in the new Church. It was yet unfinished but if the people continued their fine work it would one day be completed and the congregation gathered to give thanks to their God for His goodness and mercy.

For the Future

Above the basement, is what will be the main portion of the Church when the interior is finished There is a large auditorium with chancel at the eastern end, while to the right of the chancel, as one faces it, is a small chapel for the smaller devotional services. The Church proper has its main entrance on Church Street near the southern side, while entrance may also be effected from Queen Street by a flight of steps arising near the Chapel end of the building.



It is interesting to note in connection with the opening services of St. George's new Church, that Joseph G. Wran, who rang the bells of the old Church when they were first installed fifty years ago, also rang them in calling the parishioners to worship in their new Church.

St. George's Church today is spoken of by many as one of the most beautiful Churches in North America.

The lovely St. George's was opened for Divine Services on June 18, 1935 with a celebration by the Rector, The Rev. J.J. Alexander, assisted by the clergy of the Deanery. Ven. H.A. Cody, Dean J.H.A. Holmes, Canon C.G. Lawrence, Archdeacon T. Parker, and Archdeacon I.A. Richardson were special speakers at services held throughout the following week.

The Sunday services conducted by the Archbishop were broadcast by C.K.C.W and were the first Church services broadcast by a Moncton Church.

Bishop of Fredericton Officiates 1948

St. George's Anglican Church was filled to capacity Sunday when services in the morning and evening marked the consecration of the Church which was erected sixteen years ago.

At the morning service Rt. Rev. W.H. Moorhead, D.D., Bishop of Fredericton, conducted the ceremony, repeating it for the evening service. A proclamation was read by Judge G.F.G. Bridges and sermons were delivered by Venerable Archdeacon T Parker, of Chatham and the Bishop of Fredericton.

Rev. J.J. Alexander, Rector of the Church since decision was reached to rebuild the former St. George's, had served for five years as curate under the late Canon WB. Sisam and was the senior minister in point of service of all others in Moncton.



Rev. J.J. Alexander



Saint George

Saint George was the Patron Saint chosen by the early congregation of Anglicans (or members of the Church of England, as they were called at that time. There are many stories and legends concerning Saint George. We know that he was a Greek soldier, born in Cappodicia in the fourth century and martyred for his faith at Lydda, Palestine. He was undoubtedly a faithful servant of God.

The Elevator Project, 2000-2001

The following is an extract from the minutes of the September 18, 2000 Vestry meeting held at the Rectory, 266 Weldon Street, Moncton:

“Report from the elevator committee:

As a result of the September 11th Congregational Meeting and their recommendation to the Corporation that we proceed with the elevator project at a meeting following the Congregational meeting,
“It was moves by Ray Joudry and seconded by Robert Rothwell that we proceed with the elevator project at a cost of \$190,000.00 plus HST”.
Motion Carried.

The contract was awarded to Tricor Development Ltd. of Moncton with Tony Staples to oversee the project. Completion date set for February 2001.

Approval has been received from the Heritage Board. Final approval has been requested from the Diocese of Fredericton and construction will begin upon receipt of same.

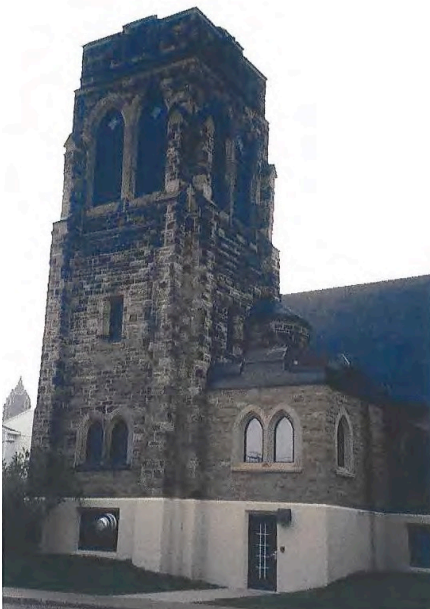
April 8, 2001 – Palm Sunday

The elevator is now complete and is open for use. There is an intercom installed at the new Queen Street entrance. The door is unlocked on Sundays. The elevator has tone bells and the numbers in Braille on the buttons to accommodate the seeing impaired.

September 23, 2001 – Trinity XVI

The Blessing of the new church windows was given by the Rector, The Reverend Canon D.E. Mercer at the 10:00 A.M. Service.

“Almighty God, who hast called us out of darkness into thy marvellous light mercifully accept our offering of these windows, which we dedicate to beautify the place of thy sanctuary, in honour of him whom thou hast given to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, Jesus Christ thy Son, our Lord”.



December 2, 2001 – Advent Sunday

The Blessing of the new addition was given by the Right Reverend William Hockin, Bishop of Fredericton, at the 10:00 A.M. Service.

“The love of Christ has gathered us into one, let us fear and love Christ our God; where charity and love are, there is God”.

Saint Andrew's Anglican Church



The Mission Hall was opened, Sunday September 12, 1909, with a service conducted by the Rector, Rev. Canon W.B. Sisam and was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. John Richardson, Bishop of Fredericton. The original purpose of the building



*Clergy at opening of
The Mission Hall, 1909*

was for Sunday School classes and the Bishop expressed his confidence that the congregation would someday become a Church. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew, a group of Scottish men, had a part in establishing the Hall.

The Guild, a small group of dedicated ladies helped to pay the debt for the hall and provided funds for additional furnishings and supplies through the years. St. Andrew's Mission Hall had grown to such an extent that, in 1971, plans were made for considerable enlargement. A new sanctuary was added to the original Hall and a wing for kitchen, nursery, and supplies was constructed. The Building was debt free by

December 1978 and the Lord Bishop of Fredericton, The Rev. Harold Nutter, dedicated the Church for the Worship of God on May 6, 1979.

In 1990 the Church added an extension to the building which enlarged the hall and includes a new kitchen and Sunday School rooms.

In September 1999, St Andrews became a partner in shared ministry with the parish of Hillsborough and Riverside Albert to be served by one priest; and so the congregation continues in faithful ministry to the people of Sunny Brae and beyond.

The Chapel of St. Mary and All Angels



Located on the South side of the main Church, the Chapel has its own entrance on Queen Street, and is open for daily prayer or quiet from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm, Monday to Friday. The Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer are conducted in the Chapel at 8:30 am and 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. On Sundays, the 8:00 celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the 9:15 am Morning Prayer, and the 5:00 pm Evensong are all held in the Chapel.

In 2005 the Chapel underwent extensive renovations. These were done to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sandra MacDonald by her family.

As the “Lady Chapel”, the carpets are blue in honour of Saint Mary, the Virgin Mother of Christ. The Church proper, however, as a representation of the Body of Christ, has red carpets in significance of the Blood which our Lord shed for us on his Cross on Calvary.



Early photo of the Lady Chapel



Clergy and Wardens at the Rededication of the Chapel of St. Mary and All Angels, 2005
 (L-R) Rev. C. VanBuskirk, Ven. R.B. Stockall, Ven. T.W.F. Crowther, Rev. Canon W.W. Corey,
 Rev. Canon D.E. Mercer, Wardens Mark Staples and Ralph Black,
 Ron Freeman, Building Committee

Rectors of St. George's

The Rev. W.N. Boyer	1848-1870
The Rev. W. Walker	1870-1874
The Rev. E.S. Pentreath	1874-1882
The Rev. A. Hoadley	1882-1886
The Rev. J.H. Talbot	1886-1889
The Rev. E.B. Hooper	1889-1907
The Rev. Canon W.B. Sisam	1907-1932
The Ven. J.J. Alexander	1932-1966
The Ven. T.W.F. Crowther	1966-1990
The Rev. Canon W.W. Corey	1990-1998
The Ven. R.B. Stockall	1998-1999
The Rev. D. Titus	2000
The Rev. Canon D.E. Mercer	2000-2003
The Ven. R.B. Stockall	2003
The Rev. Canon C.G. VanBuskirk	2004-