

St. James' July /August 2007 Newsletter
Many Mini Ministry Mysteries

1911 to 1916 Monetary Roller Coaster Ride

Did you know.....?

The events that took place for St. James' Parish during Rev. H.S. Broadbent's tenure as rector from Oct. 1911 to Nov. 1914 then Rev. Wilson's interim time through to 1916, took the parish through a monetary rollercoaster ride. One can only imagine the emotions of optimism and angst that guided the vestry of that time. The prayers for and of our young congregation must have indeed been frequent and fervent. As we review these events we can only marvel at the faith of these pioneers of St. James' and say in Thanksgiving that the 'Good Lord Did Provide'.

Here is the sequence of events that were set out in the 'Diamond Jubilee Year' booklet of '67.

- **1911** - George Winch of Norwich, Eng., a member of the Church of England Missionary Society who was visiting Saskatoon, purchased three lots that were located about 100 yards from where the original wooden church was built. The cost was \$1,000. (Boom speculation had started.)
- **Early 1912** - A \$6,000 loan from Toronto General Trust Corporation to build the red brick church with a 'temporary' chapel was obtained.
- **June 1912** - The Foundation stone of St. James' Church was laid.
- **April 1914** - The vestry minutes recorded that Rev. Broadbent was not only rector but also choir master & finance administrator. A finance committee "relieved the rector of the burden of financial administration."
- **July 7, 1914** - Vestry discussed a further loan of \$14,000, but they couldn't pay the interest on the original debt!
- **September 1914** - The decision was made to close the church for the winter to save the heating expenses. Services would be held in the original church hall. (The hall/Refinery wasn't built 'til 1928.)
- **October 1914** - Four outstanding accounts could not be met! The vestry clerk was advised to try and stall these creditors

until the money market improved and a church loan could be obtained.

- **November 1914** - Rev. Broadbent offered to leave for England after the outbreak of WW1, on an extended leave of absence without stipend, to help relieve the financial burden. His stipend had been \$1,500.
- **November 1914** - Rev. Henry Wilson appointed locum tenens at \$60 per month.
- **November 1914** - Mr. Tinkler became choir master but soon resigned when the church could not pay him for his services.
- **Early 1915** - A Special fund raising canvass was held.
- **February 1915** - Vestry agreed to pay 10% interest in order to get bank notes renewed every three months.
- **Further into 1915** - A Chain letter campaign was suggested by Mr. Bert Sumner. The Finance committee sent a letter to a selected group of parishioners who were requested to make a contribution to the church, then each was to send a similar letter to a friend with the same request.
- **September 1915** - Rev. Broadbent sent his resignation from England. He was now chaplain to the armed forces. He requested that his furniture be packed and shipped back to England!
- **April 1916** - Toronto General Trusts sold the first mortgage. The new owner, a Roman Catholic with a lack of ecumenical spirit, threatened foreclosure.
- **Spring 1916** - Special Canvass - St. John's welcomed the canvass but the \$411 raised only covered a fraction of the sum needed.
- **Spring 1916** - Parishioner and director of the Teachers' Hostel, Miss Ella Bashford, appealed to the Colonial and Continental Church Society in London England and a miracle occurred. Rev. Dr. Mullins arranged that St. James' receive \$6,146.
- **July 1916** - The parish was saved from financial ruin!

The jubilation of the vestry at preventing a foreclosure was tempered by the fact that the parish still owed \$10,700 on all church property and that \$5,365 was payable immediately!

The financial rollercoaster ride for St. James' obviously didn't finish then. The continued tale of financial woes and triumphs is another story.

The fact that the parish persisted in being a worshipping body and trusting that 'The Good Lord Will Provide' is a significant ministry of St. James'.