



Rev. HUGH R. MUNRO



Rev. GEORGE K. WOOD

In 1934, the installation of electric light was completed in the church; and was used for the first time at the evening service on Sunday, 18th February.

Mr McCaughan laboured zealously in the parish of Stonehouse, and preached the Gospel with power and persuasiveness. It was with sincere regret that members heard of his resignation on the ground of ill-health in 1935.

Mr and Mrs McCaughan are at present living in England.

1935. HUGH R. MUNRO.

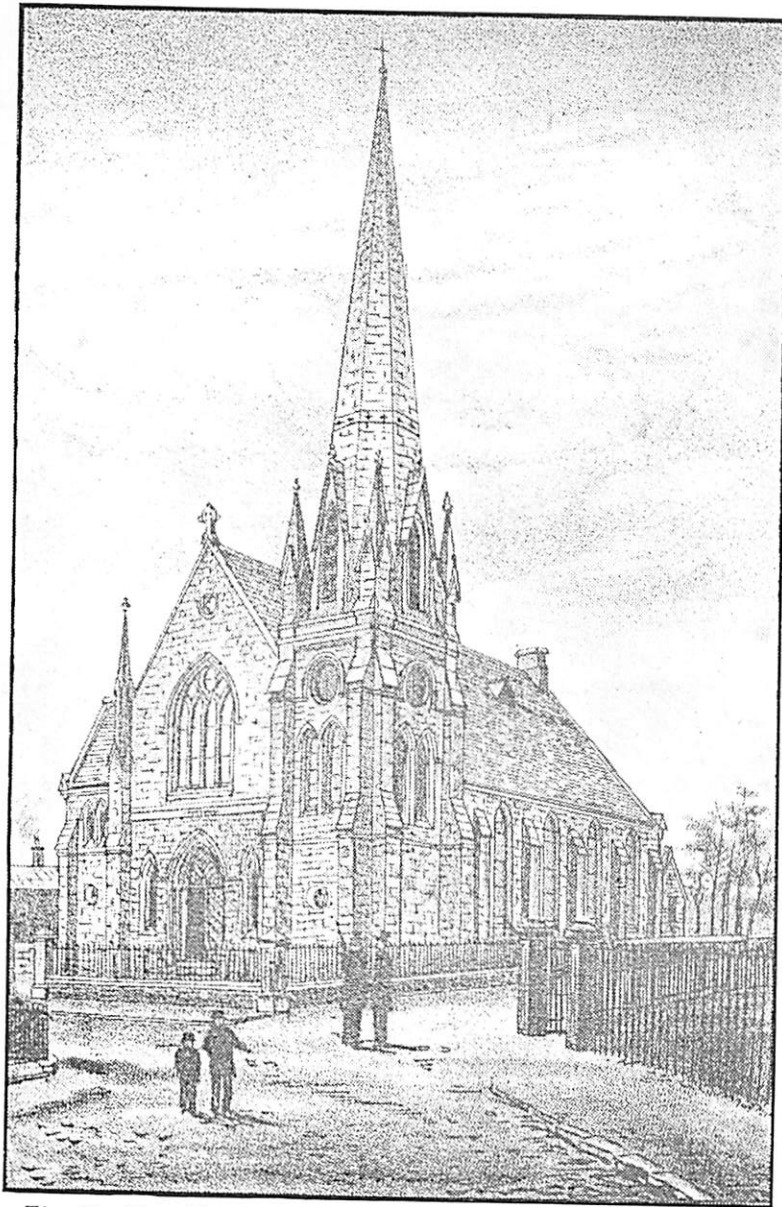
Being called from Bo'ness, the Rev. Hugh R. Munro was inducted on the 16th October, 1935, and became the assistant and successor to Mr McCaughan. On the 19th January, 1943, he intimated that he had received a call to another church.

1944. GEORGE K. WOOD.

The Rev. George K. Wood was called from Kells in New Galloway, and was inducted as colleague and successor on Thursday, 19th October, 1944. By this time, union between St. Ninian's and the Hamilton Memorial was becoming a practical proposition, and when Mr Wood received a call from another church in 1946 he accepted in order to facilitate the union of the two charges. Mr Wood is at present in Paisley.

## PART 2

# The Hamilton Memorial



*The Hamilton Memorial Church, built on the site of the original Free Church.*

## *History of Hamilton Memorial Church*

The 18th May, 1845 was a great day in the history of Scotland. It was Disruption Day. A day when over four hundred ministers walked out of the General Assembly in protest against certain principles of the Established Church. Four hundred and seventy-four ministers signed away, of their free will, their position and emoluments to the value of £100,000 a year, and every missionary in the foreign field did the same. From any point of view, it was an act of supreme courage and faith.

It did not come about on the spur of the moment. Preparations had been made for it. So we find preparations being made in Stonehouse. The following is a copy of the first minute of the embryo congregation:

Stonehouse, 28th March, 1845. After an address from the Revd. Robert Paterson; and the Revd. Mr Buchan having closed with some appropriate remarks, that portion of the audience who adhered to the Convocation Principles, remained, and formed themselves into an Association, to be called "The Stonehouse Free Presbyterian Church Association." A committee was then appointed consisting of the following members; viz:

- Mr John Scott, Merchant, President.
- Mr John Paterson, Tofts, Treasurer.
- Mr Andrew Millar, Stonehouse, Secretary.
- Mr Thomas Walker, Spittal.
- Mr John Hamilton, Bogside.
- Mr John Muter, Watson.
- Mr John Thomson, Stonehouse.
- Mr Alexander Tudhope, Stonehouse.
- Mr James Hamilton, Bogside.
- Mr James Thomson.
- Mr John Thomson, Stonehouse.
- Mr Archibald Millar, Stonehouse.
- Mr James Thomson, Stonehouse.
- Mr Alexander Hamilton, Stonehouse.

With power to add to their numbers.

N.B. The meeting was held within the Seseession Meeting House of Stonehouse. Dr. Paterson is of Glasgow, and Mr Buchan of Hamilton.

The original Free Church was erected on the site which was later occupied by the church known as the Hamilton Memorial. The first one was pulled down, as it was not big enough to contain the rapidly increasing congregation, and in its place rose a beautiful edifice which was opened by Dr. Buchanan of Glasgow, on the 4th October, 1874.

The three diets of worship on the 4th October, 1874, were crowded and the collection amounted to £450. When the intimation to that effect was made, tears of joy could be seen running down many a cheek.

On the Monday evening a meeting of the congregation and friends was held to congratulate the Building Committee on the happy termination of their labours. As the congregation had been accommodated, during the rebuilding, by the U.P. Church, one of the deacons of the Free Church presented that congregation with a cheque for £50, and gave the church officer a purse and small sum of money. The Rev. H. A. Paterson was presented with a handsome mahogany telescope dining table as a token of affectionate regard.

The church was a neat and elegant building of the Gothic style with a spire 117 feet in height. The bell, which weighed rather more than half a ton, had a deep melodious tone. The church was heated by water pipes alongside the walls above the floor. It was designed to seat 640 sitters. Mr Baldie was the architect.

For 72 years the building was in use for the Master's service, but was vacated on the union of St. Ninian's and Hamilton Memorial. It was finally demolished in 1954. That was a severe blow to all who loved the Hamilton Memorial. But love of God triumphed over love of building and surely the founders of the Hamilton Memorial, who know the joy of the fellowship which is undivided in Heaven, rejoice at the union which has strengthened the witness for Christ in this parish.

1843. REV. W. K. HAMILTON.

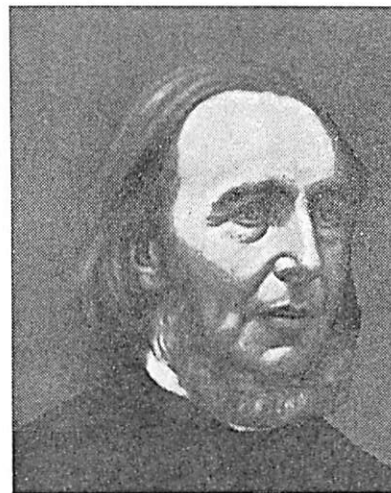
A building fund was started, and a site procured. On the 30th August a call was moderated to the Rev. W. K. Hamilton. He was ordained on the 12th October by the Presbytery of Hamilton, and on the 16th was inducted to his charge by the Rev. Dr. Candlish of Edinburgh, the ceremony taking place by the burn side in the open air.

The church cost about £480 and did service for a period of about thirty years. But under Mr Hamilton's ministry the membership increased very rapidly and a new church had to be built. The cost of the structure was £5570, and with other additions the total cost was something like £4000.

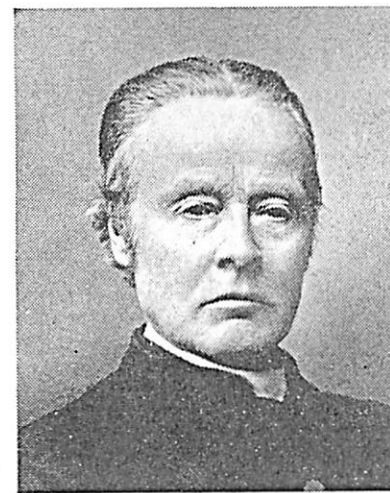
It was opened in October, 1874. Mr Hamilton had a great heart. He loved his congregation, and his congregation loved him. It was in honour of him that the church was called the Hamilton Memorial. He retired to London (1877).

1878. REV. JAMES LAING.

Mr Hamilton's successor was the Rev. James Laing, M.A., London, formerly of Lesmahagow, who came to Stonehouse in September, 1878. Mr Laing was an eloquent preacher, and had a successful ministry, during which, in 1880 a baptismal font was gifted to the church. He died on the 7th July, 1893.



Rev. W. K. HAMILTON



Rev. JAMES LAING



Rev. JAMES DEAS



Rev. GEORGE R. ROBERTSON

1894. REV. JAMES DEAS.

The election of Mr Deas is contained in the Kirk Session minutes as follows: "After prayer, and a statement by the moderator, three candidates were proposed and duly seconded, and voted upon, when there appeared to be for the Revd. Peter Smith, 142; for the Revd. J. H. Deas, B.D., 110; for the Revd. G. Burnett, M.A., 72. The two highest were then voted upon, when the Revd. J. H. Deas had 167 votes, and the Revd. P. Smith 142." Mr Deas was ordained on the 22nd February, 1894.

He came at a very trying time in the history of the congregation. But he fought his battle, and fought it well. During his ministry many improvements were carried out. Many have had occasion to give thanks for his ministry of twenty-five years.

It was during his ministry that the national union between the United Presbyterian Church and the Free Church took place, and the local congregation became known as the Hamilton Memorial United Free Church. He left Stonehouse to go to Kirkcaldy Union Church in 1919.

1919. REV. GEORGE R. ROBERTSON.

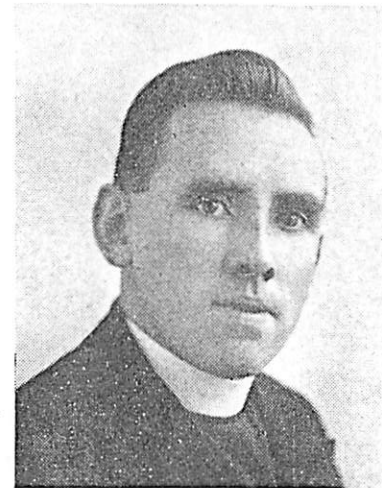
The Rev. George R. Robertson came from Tranent to Stonehouse, and was inducted to the Hamilton Memorial on the 25th June, 1919. He brought, as was expected, zeal and enthusiasm, and many refreshing memories of his ministry still bring joy to those who heard him and met with him.

During Mr Robertson's ministry there took place the great national union of the United Free Church and the Church of Scotland. The Hamilton Memorial United Free Church came into the union and was subsequently known as the Hamilton Memorial Church of Scotland. Services were held to consummate and commemorate the union.

Mr Robertson remained in Stonehouse until 1950 when he received a call from Lochee Road Church, Dundee, to which he was inducted on the 1st of October of that year. Retiring from this charge in 1955, Mr Robertson has made his home in Dundee.

1931. REV. JAMES McDONALD.

At the close of the evening service on Sunday, March 31st, 1931, a congregational meeting was held with a view to the election of a minister. It was moved by Mr James Thomson and seconded by Mrs Robertson that Mr James McDonald, proba-



Rev. JAMES McDONALD

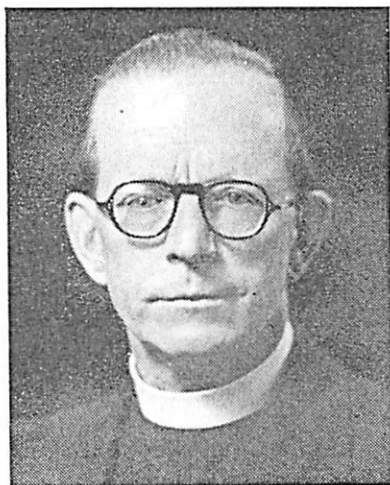


Rev. DAVID DOIG

tioner, be elected as minister. Mr McDonald was unanimously elected and, in due time, ordained and inducted. (29th April, 1931). After a short ministry in Stonehouse, Mr McDonald was called to Neilston South Church and left to take up his charge there on 26th September, 1934.

1935. REV. DAVID DOIG.

The Rev. David Doig was ordained and inducted to the charge of Hamilton Memorial on 12th June, 1935. Mr Doig ministered with acceptance, and is well remembered by many members of the old Hamilton Memorial Church. In 1939 he received a call to High Street Church, Dumbarton, and was inducted there on the 24th January, 1940. He is at present minister of Holburn Central Church, Aberdeen.



1940

1946

1940. REV. R. GOURLAY BLACK.

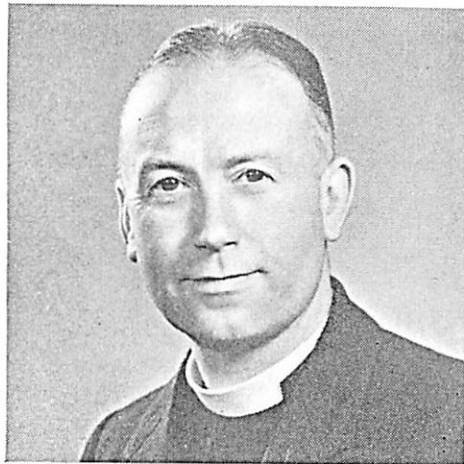
The seventh and last minister of the Hamilton Memorial was the Rev. R. Gourlay Black who was inducted on Wednesday, 25th September, 1940. During Mr Black's ministry many united services were held with St. Ninian's Parish Church, and the question of permanent union was raised. Mr Black was called to St. Rollox Church, Glasgow, in 1946, and still ministers there. We were glad to have him preaching in the Parish Church last year.

## PART 3

### The United Charge



Rev.  
ROBERT C. POLLOCK



Rev.  
WILLIAM R. F. MCGHIE

## *United Charge: Stonehouse Church of Scotland: The Parish Church*

After much discussion, the union of the two churches became an accomplished fact. A Service of Uniting was held in the present building on Sunday, 1st September, 1946, at 6 p.m. There was a large attendance, and members of other churches in the parish attended. The Moderator of the Presbytery, the Rev. D. Connelly, M.A., of Glassford, was present, also the Rev. C. Keith McWilliam, B.D., assistant clerk of the Presbytery, and the Rev. J. Bryce Jamieson, B.D., convener of the Committee of Unions and Re-adjustments.

It has been a good union, and the vitality of the church has never waned since. Indeed it can be truly said it goes on from strength to strength.

1947. ROBERT C. POLLOCK.

The Rev. Robert C. Pollock, B.D., who had served during the war as an Army Chaplain, was called to be the first minister of the united charge. He was inducted on the 29th January, 1947. Mr Pollock brought enthusiasm and friendliness to the task, and successfully discharged his duties in the church and parish. During Mr Pollock's ministry the Hamilton Memorial Church was sold, and the proceeds laid aside to form the beginning of a Hall Fund.

At a meeting of the Kirk Session on 30th May, 1951, Mr Pollock intimated that he had accepted an invitation to preach as sole nominee in the vacancy at St. Andrew's, Falkirk, to which charge he was ultimately called.

1952. WILLIAM R. F. MCGHIE.

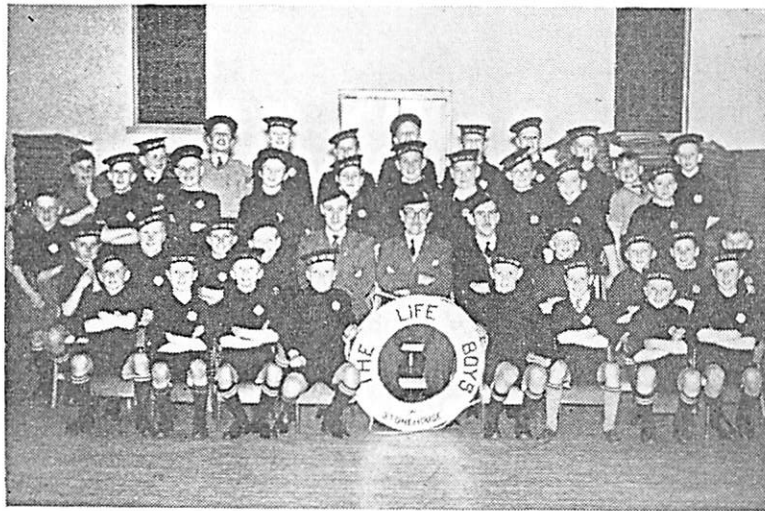
The Rev. William R. F. McGhie, B.D., while minister at the West Church, Buckie, received an invitation to preach for the vacant charge of Stonehouse, and accepting the invitation, was asked to be sole nominee, and then inducted to the charge on the 12th March, 1952.

Mr McGhie's wide experience in the Army as a Chaplain, and his five years among the fisherfolk, equipped him for the work to which he had been called.

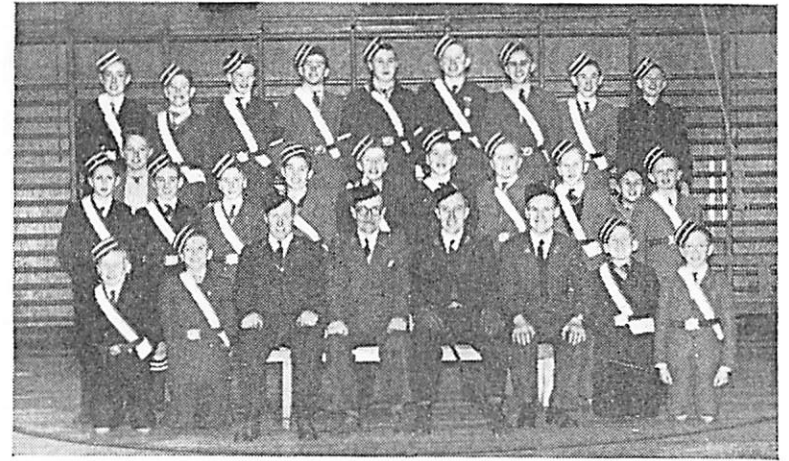
During his ministry a number of notable innovations have been made, and the church has made steady progress. Funds for the new hall were quickly raised, and a fine new hall, which incorporates lovely stained glass windows from the old Hamilton Memorial Church, was opened on the 30th March, 1955.

New youth organisations such as the Life Boys, The Boys' Brigade, The Greenwood, and The Girls' Guildry are flourishing, and all the old organisations, such as the Sunday School, Bible Class, the Woman's Guild with its drama group, choir and work-party, are in good heart. The church was painted and redecorated a few years ago, and that, together with certain gifts which have been received for the sanctuary, and the vestry, has made a great difference to the beauty and comfort of the building.

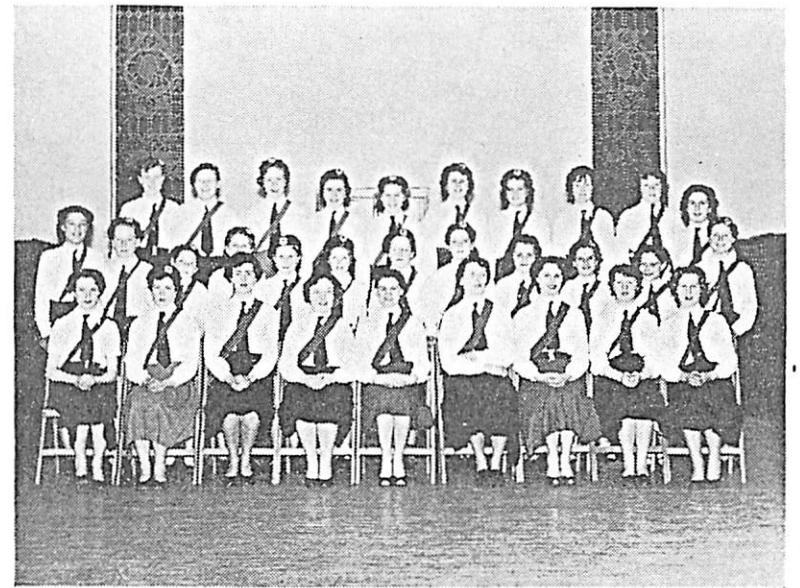
Mr McGhie is minister of the church at this present time.



*The original Life-Boy team photographed at the close of its first session (1955).*



*After a lapse of half a century the Boys' Brigade was re-established in 1954. Picture shows the first members of the new company.*



*The Girls' Guildry taken in the new hall (1956). The photograph shows the stained glass windows taken from the Hamilton Memorial Church.*

# The Succession

## (1). THE KIRK-YARD CHURCH.

1500. William Hamilton. 1625. James Johnstone.  
1571. John Rankine. 1652. Thomas Charteris.  
1574. Alexander Hamilton. 1656. John Oliphant.  
1585. Robert Darroch. 1685. Angus Macintosh.  
1586. Archibald Normand. 1687. John Oliphant.  
1591. Andrew Law. 1696. Archibald Foyer.  
1595. Luke Stirling. 1715. John Scott.  
1595. Alexander Thomson. 1760. James Muirhead.

## (2). THE VILLAGE CHURCH.

1801. William Stark.\* 1822. Hugh Dewar.  
1806. Daniel Wilkie. 1861. James Dunn.

\*The Village Church would be built before Mr Stark's time.

## (5). HAMILTON MEMORIAL.

1845. William K. Hamilton. 1919. George R. Robertson.  
1878. James Laing. 1931. James McDonald.  
1894. James Hay Deas. 1935. David Doig.  
1940. R. Gourlay Black.

## (4). THE NEW CHURCH.

1887. J. Wyper Wilson.\* 1926. Thomas McCaughan.  
1955. Hugh R. Munro. 1944. George K. Wood.

\*Mr Wilson began in the Village Church.

## (5). THE UNITED CHARGE.

1947. Robert C. Pollock. 1952. William R. F. McGhie.

## PART 4

# The People



## The People

Much has been said in the foregoing pages of the ministers of the church, but even a little brochure like this would not be complete without some reference to the people who made up the congregations. Great have been their joys and sorrows, and down the years these same folk, finding their comfort and strength in Christ, have handed down to each succeeding generation the opportunity of worshipping God in the sanctuary.

The fellowship of the Church has never been perfect. There have been, and are, the backsliders; but, more important for the continuance of the Church, there have been, and are, the sincere, faithful, Godly people. These latter, have prayed, worked, and witnessed, and the open door of the Kirk on Sunday is a standing memorial to their zeal.

Sunday School teachers, women of the Guild, leaders of the organisations, choir, organist, church officer and cleaners, all have done well and share in the great history of our church in this place.

The office-bearers and elders do an important bit of work, and the records of the church contain testimonies to their worth. The Kirk Session has functioned right from the beginning of our Protestant heritage, and many God-fearing men it has produced. There is many a fine tribute in the Session Minutes to such men, who, when their life's work was done, were honoured by their colleagues and the congregation.

As a tribute to all elders, and indeed, as a tribute to all members of the congregation who have honoured their vows and kept the light of the Kingdom burning, may I quote from the Kirk Session Minutes, the minute of 24th August, 1908: "The desire was expressed by all that the Kirk Session should record their sincere regret at the loss they had sustained in the death of Mr Alexander Shearer, the senior elder of the church. They are reminded that Mr Shearer had been an elder in the church since 1866 and that during all those 42 years he was not once absent from communion."

That is the stuff that the church is made of.

## Office-Bearers

### THE KIRK SESSION.

1. James Anderson (1954), 26 New Street.
2. John Clark (1936), 26 Townhead Street.
3. Ian Crosbie (1952), 3 Brankston Avenue.
4. James Curr (1938), 3 Green Street.
5. James Curr (1949), 2 Newhall Terrace, Paisley.
6. Mitchell Curr (1922), 8 Sidehead Road.
7. Robert Findlay (1928), 13 Hill Road.
8. John C. Haston (1951), Queen Street.
9. John Hawthorn (1938), 9 Wellbrae.
10. James Jamieson (1901), 51 Lockhart Street.
11. William Kirkland (1949), 7 Caledonian Avenue.
12. Archibald Macfie (1909), 22 Hill Road.
13. James McKay (1951), 34 Cam'nethan Street.
14. John McLachlan, M.A. (1947), 11 Wellbrae.
15. William McLachlan (1947), Woodlands.
16. Peter McMillan (1952), 10 Brankston Avenue.
17. John L. Muir ((1940), 17 Townhead Street.
18. Walter Murdoch (1952), 68 Marley Hill Avenue.
19. James A. Murray, M.B., Ch.B. (1936), 5 King Street.
20. Andrew Plenderleith (1937), 42 Marley Hill Avenue.
21. James Plenderleith (1951), 59 Lockhart Street.
22. James Rattray (1921), 40 Green Street.
23. James B. Scott (1943), 26 Marley Hill Avenue.
24. Robert Sonnenstein (1954), 55 Cam'nethan Street.
25. James Thomson (1925), 63 King Street.
26. Thomas Weir (1954), 9 Vicars Road.
27. John T. Whannell (1952), 18 Angle Street.

Passed away this year:

Andrew McAlpine (1949), 32 New Street.

William Whitelaw (1943), 16 Cam'nethan Street.

## Congregational Board

The Elders, plus the following elected members: Thomas Brownlie, 25 Townhead Street; William Cranston, B.Sc., 2 Avon View; William Drinnan, 76 Marley Hill Avenue; Mrs W. Hunter, 6 Wellbrae; Nicol Jardine, 55 King Street; Walter Lang, 24 St. Ninian's Place; Miss Jean T. Leishman, 57 Lockhart Street; Mrs C. McAlpine, 6 Wellbrae; Miss Grace K. Robertson, M.A., 59 Kirk Street; Charles Stevenson, 41 Brankston Avenue; Miss Florence I. Stirling, M.A., 65 Lockhart Street; William C. Whitelaw, 22 Caledonian Avenue; Miss Mae Wilson, 17 Marley Hill Avenue; Mrs T. Wilson, 42 Green Street.

Minister: Rev. William R. F. McGhie, M.A., B.D.  
Session Clerk: James Rattray.  
Session Treasurer: James B. Scott.  
Board Treasurer: Robert Sonnenstein.  
Board Clerk: William Cranston, B.Sc.



## Epilogue

Jesus said, "Upon this rock will I build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16.18).

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

(Ephesians 4.11-13).

"Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."  
(Ephesians 5.25).

Almighty God we give Thee thanks that Thou hast called us to be members of Christ's Church. We remember thy people who have served thee diligently down through the years in this place; and we pray that we may be enabled to follow in their footsteps, sanctifying our own lives, filling Thy church with praise and prayer, and handing on to future generations a place where they also might worship Thy great name and find peace, and joy, and salvation unto eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Amen.

