

EAST KILDONAN WANTS CHURCH

**Services Will be Started as Soon
as Suitable Place is Secured—
\$5,300 Already Subscribed.**

The Presbytery of Winnipeg met in Westminister church yesterday morning. Edward Brown presiding as moderator. Mr. Brown who had been elected as presiding officer at the last meeting, thanked the presbytery for the honor done him and expressed high appreciation for it, but said that for several reasons, mostly personal, he would be unable to act and he asked the presbytery to release him. Rev. J. Phillips Jones, M. A., of St. Johns Presbyterian church, was chosen as moderator and took the chair.

The Rev. John A. Cormie of Oak Lake, Rev. A. P. Ledingham, missionary from Central India, Rev. H. B. Dowson of Glenewen, and Rev. Principal Mackinnon of Halifax, being present were invited to sit with the Presbytery as corresponding members.

Edward Spice presented a petition from residents of East Kildonan asking for a church. Mr. Spice announced that the petition had a lengthy list of signatures and that it was accompanied by subscriptions amounting to \$5,300 toward the erection of a church and three offers of free sites, with the prospect that about \$1,000 more in the way of subscriptions might be secured. It was announced that this movement has the approval of the Kirk Session of the old church in West Kildonan, and it was agreed that leave be given to the Church Extension committee for organization, with religious services to be established as soon as a suitable place can be provided.

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WIPE OUT DEBT OF MEMORIAL CHURCH

**John Black Presbyterian Launch-
ed Under Favorable Auspices—
Call for Permanent Minister.**

Large congregations and inspiring sermons marked the opening services yesterday of the John Black Memorial Presbyterian church in East Kildonan. So favorable, indeed, were the auspices under which the new church was launched that after the concert-social, which is to be held tonight, there will not be a dollar of debt on the land or the building. Steps are to be taken at once to obtain the services of a permanent minister, and officers of the church will issue a call as soon as a choice can be made.

The Rev. Dr. Baird, of Manitoba college, occupied the pulpit at the morning service. The theme of his sermon was the way in which the disappointments of life not infrequently turn out finally to be occasions of rejoicing rather than of regret. With reference to the new church, Dr. Baird complimented the congregation on the commodious proportions of the building and the rapidity with which it had been erected after the project was first broached.

The Rev. Samuel Polson, of East Kildonan, was to have assisted Dr. Baird at the opening service, but was unfortunately prevented by indisposition.

The Rev. Dr. John Hogg, of Winnipeg, occupied the pulpit at the evening services, the devotional exercises being conducted by the Rev. Hugh Hamilton. Dr. Hogg showed how Christ had been likened to a cornerstone. There was no gospel, he said, but the gospel of Jesus Christ, and 20th century culture was not sufficient for the salvation of the 20th century soul. The minister felicitously expressed his good wishes for the new church and its congregation.

Collections taken at both services will be devoted to the building fund, and the handsome amounts obtained indicated the warm interest of the congregation. The church's maximum capacity is about 250 persons, and at the morning service the collection was no less than \$172, and at the evening service \$157.50.

Tonight a social and concert will be held in the church. Several clergymen will be present and give short addresses, including Rev. Dr. Wilson, of Augustine church; Rev. D. N. McLachlan, of Elmwood; Rev. J. P. Jones, of St. John's; Rev. H. A. B. Harrison, East Kildonan "Anglican church"; Rev. Hugh Hamilton, Rev. D. H. Jacobs, and the members of the interim session, Dr. Baird, G. H. Greig, Rev. S. Polson, John Sutherland, Magnus Harper and S. R. Henderson.

August 1926

Believe Burglar Started Fire Causing Destruction of East Kildonan Church

A lighted match left by a careless burglar is believed to be the cause of the fire which burned John Black United church, East Kildonan, to the ground early yesterday morning. According to officials of the congregation, the cupboards of the church have been broken into on several occasions lately. It is thought that the same thing may have happened last night and that in lighting a cigarette, the thief dropped a burning match on the floor.

Reconstruction will commence as early as possible, in order that the congregation may be housed before winter. At a joint meeting of the session and the board of managers last night, plans were made for future action. Committees were appointed, one to deal with plans for rebuilding and one with the raising of subscriptions to supplement the insurance. This amounted to \$7,000, of which \$500 was on the contents of the building. The committees will

report to a meeting of the congregation at an early date.

The church will be rebuilt on the same site, but will be constructed on a larger scale, to meet the growing needs of the community.

Rev. H. J. Robertson, pastor of the church, was on his vacation at Kenora, when the news reached him by telegram. He hurried home to find himself without pulpit, organ, pews or a place to put them. There was nothing left of the church but the chimney, which has since been pulled down. The fire broke out at 5.30 a.m., and for three hours the East Kildonan firemen and other men in the neighborhood who came to their assistance worked hard to save the building. The fire had gained too great headway before the alarm was turned in, however. The building was dedicated in October, 1914, and since that time has served a large congregation.

Tomorrow's service will be held in the Kitchener school at 11 a.m.

To Build Church in East Kildonan

August 1926

John Black United Congregation Will Replace Burned Edifice by New Structure

To replace their building which was burned last week the joint boards of John Black United church have decided to proceed at once with the erection of a new church, according to the announcement made yesterday. Already an architect has been retained and plans have been discussed for a new edifice to be completed this fall.

The joint boards have reached the conclusion that a church should be erected to accommodate about 300 people. A stucco building with a full basement and sewer and water connections is favored at the present time. The site has not yet been determined, the opinion being held that the former location could be improved upon. The former church was insured to the extent of \$7,000, which will form a nucleus for the building fund.

Tomorrow the congregation will meet in the Lord Wolseley school on Leighton avenue, East Kildonan. The service will be held at 11 a.m., to be followed immediately by the session of the Sunday school. Rev. J. A. Bowman will conduct the service.

NEW JOHN BLACK MEMORIAL CHURCH

April 1927



The picture shows a drawing reproduction of the new John Black Memorial church, tenders for which will be called next week. It will be located on the north side of Roberta avenue, East Kildonan, and on the west side of Kildonan road. Completed, it is believed that the structure will cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000, and it is expected to be finished next July. The church has acquired 192 feet frontage, on which tennis courts and bowling greens will also be located. The minister is Rev. Dr. Hugh J. Robertson. Edgar Prain is the architect.

NEW JOHN BLACK MEMORIAL CHURCH

October 1 1927

October 1927



This handsome frame and stucco building is the new church home of John Black Memorial United church in East Kildonan, which will be formally opened on Sunday. The former church was burned down in August, 1926. The minister is Rev. Dr. H. J. Robertson.

Special Services to Dedicate New John Black Building

\$20,000 Structure Replaces
First Church Burned in Au-
gust, 1926 — Dr. A. B.
Baird, Who Opened First
Church, to be Preacher

Special services will mark the formal opening and dedication for worship Sunday of the new John Black Memorial United church in East Kildonan. Rev. Dr. Andrew Baird, who opened the first church, which was destroyed by fire in August, 1926, will officiate again. The new Sunday school room will be opened by a Sunday school rally in the afternoon at 3 o'clock, when Rev. Dr. R. B. Cochrane will be speaker.

At the morning dedicatory service Dr. Baird will be preacher, while the Rev. D. H. Jacobs, a veteran Manitoba minister and member of the congregation, will assist. Rev. Dr. J. W. Atkins will preach in the even-

ing, and the choir will provide special music at both services.

Cost Totals \$20,000

The new church building is a frame and stucco structure, measuring 35 by 75 feet, with full basement, and, while not pretentious, is exceedingly attractive in appearance, both outside and within. Edgar Prain is architect, and A. Ibbitsen, contractor, in charge of the construction. The total cost of the edifice, which has a seating capacity of 325 persons, is \$20,000.

Since the first building was destroyed, the congregation has been carrying on its work in the Lord Wolseley school and the East Kildonan Scottish hall. The congregation was organized in 1914, and the first church opened on Oct. 4, of that year. Rev. J. W. Little was the first minister until his resignation to become secretary for the Religious Educational Council of Manitoba. Since that time Rev. Dr. Hugh J. Robertson has been minister. C. J. McLeod is chairman of the board of managers and the special building committee.



Known as the "Wonder Team" these boys from John Black Memorial church in East Kildonan defeated Greenwood in the final game of the Sunday School Juvenile Hockey league played Thursday night. This team has not lost a game in the last five years and scored 74 goals against 6 in the season's play. From left to right: Back row—H. Bennett, R. Robertson, J. McLeod, Jim Brown (coach and manager), J. White, G. Adams, B. Stewart; front row—T. Ironside, T. Kesler, R. Wannicott, B. Martin, F. Reynolds and B. Colvin.

February 26 1935

Sunday School Mission Was Start Of John Black Memorial Church June 1957

John Black Memorial United Church grew out of a Sunday School Mission that was started on the east side of the Red River in 1907.

S. R. Henderson, who later was to be the municipality's reeve from 1918-23, was the superintendent of this new venture of Kildonan parish.

The Sunday School grew rapidly and accommodation was a big problem for a few years. On April 11, 1914, a public meeting was held to plan the erection of a Sunday School building. But at that meeting it was decided that a congregation ought to be organized as well.

When the congregation was formed by action of Presbytery, it took the name of John Black Memorial, in commemoration of the first minister of Kildonan Church.

The original scheme was to build a sizeable church in the district. But these plans were set aside with the outbreak of the First World War. A small frame building was erected and opening services were held on Sunday, Oct. 4, 1914. The church opened debt-free.

The congregation decided to call a minister and the call went to the Rev. J. W. Little, of Shoal Lake, Man.

Mr. Little was inducted on Feb. 11, 1915, and rendered an effective ministry through the war years, until he left in 1918 to undertake Christian Education field work for the Presbyterian Church.

George Kennemore, one of the original elders of the congregation elected during Mr. Little's ministry, still serves on the Session as Roll Clerk.

Dr. Hugh J. Robertson was called to the church and inducted April 11, 1918. His was a long and splendid ministry, lasting until June, 1932.

During those years the congregation went into Church Union in 1925, weathered the disruption brought on when fire destroyed the first church in 1926, and carried through the erection of a fine church building on Roberts avenue in 1927.

A worthy successor to Dr. Robertson was found in the Rev. J. R. Mutchmor, who was then in charge of Robertson House, Winnipeg, and a valued friend of John Black community.

Mr. Mutchmor was inducted on July 8, 1932. During the years of his ministry the congregation struggled with the problems and chal-

lenges of the depression situation and carried on a variety of helpful programs.

Dr. Mutchmor resigned in 1936 to take up work with the Church Board which he now heads, the Board of Evangelism and Social Service.

The Rev. P. V. Samson was called from Minnedosa to serve the congregation. His was the longest pastorate in the church's history — from 1936 to 1954, a challenging and fruitful period of years.

One of the high moments of this ministry was the occasion on Feb. 12, 1947, when the mortgage on the church was burned, marking the success of an earnest congregational effort.

In the final years of this period East Kildonan was beginning to expand rapidly, and there was a marked increase in the enrollment of the church school and congregation.

Upon Mr. Samson's retirement from the pastorate, the Rev. C. H. Forsyth was called from Sioux Lookout, Ont., to serve John Black Church.

From 1955 to the present, the planning work and canvass program has been carried on which has resulted in the present church building extension.

After half a century in East Kildonan the congregation of John Black Memorial Church proudly held its first services on May 28th in their new \$160,000 church building.

