

1934

- TO THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF SHARON & ST. JOHN CONGREGATION -

The Board of Stewards take pleasure in presenting this, the first Financial Statement since the two Churches united. Because of the intricacies in preparing a complete statement which must cover not only the business of the congregation since the amalgamation, but also that portion of the year prior thereto, it must of necessity be somewhat long. We therefore ask you to bear with us, and we shall try to picture the situation as clearly and briefly as possible. First therefore we are submitting reports of the individual Churches from 1st January to 31st October, 1934. We then submit a report covering the finances from 1st November to 31st December, or since the present union was formed, and thirdly a report showing the combined receipts and expenditures for both Churches for the whole year of 1934.

We are also submitting a consolidated report giving the receipts and expenditures and balances on hand, or every organization within the Church, that has turned in a report to this Board.

We also submit a statement of the Missionary and Maintenance Fund, showing the amounts received by each Church through envelopes, and from other sources, and showing the total thus forwarded the Treasurer in Toronto. In addition to this, we also submit a statement showing the total amount contributed to the Missionary and Maintenance Fund by all organizations within this Church.

We regret to report that there has been a very marked falling off in the givings of both congregations, as compared with 1933. For the whole year of 1934, Sharon Church members contributed by envelope for Current Expenses the sum of \$3,216.81, while in 1933, the sum was \$3,655.89 - a decline of \$439.08. In the same period, 1934, St. John congregation contributed \$1,875.99, while the amount was \$2,222.80 in 1933 - a decline of \$346.81. The combined plate collections for 1934 amounted to \$974.31 and for 1933 - \$887.67, an increase of \$86.64 - or a net loss in collections of \$699.25. These figures must cause every one of us to pause and think, and consider seriously what each and every one of us is going to do to remedy this situation.

We are glad to report that the Church properties on the whole are in good repair. The sum of \$155.89 was spent during the year for repairs. During the coming year we shall however be faced with the need of making quite extensive repairs to the former Sharon Manse. A sum probably between \$500 and \$600 will be required for this work. Insurance premiums amounting to nearly \$500 are also due this month, and must be paid.

During 1934 we found it impossible to make any payment of the mortgage on this Church, but with the aid of the Ladies Guild, who contributed the sum of \$500, we paid the interest, amounting to \$1005.75. We may say that the Anniversary collections of Sharon Church have never been placed to Current Expense Account, but placed to credit of the Building Fund, and used to pay the interest on the mortgage, and when possible, something on the principal. We would recommend that this

procedure be followed when our Anniversary Services take place each year, so that we have a definite source of revenue for this important matter. The mortgage at the present time stands at \$16,750.

At the beginning of the year, the sum of \$400 was still due on the organ in this Church. This obligation was assumed by the choir of Sharon Church, and during the year a payment of \$200 and interest was made on account, thus leaving a balance still due of \$200, plus interest. We have no doubt that the splendid choir we now have will continue to give this matter their whole hearted support, and soon liquidate this obligation.

From the consolidated statement it will be seen that through all the organizations of this Church, both before and after coming together, the magnificent sum of \$14,093.28 was either carried forward at the beginning of the year, or raised during the year. The total paid out for our various activities, salaries, and purchases, was \$13,248.66, and the splendid balance of \$844.62 is carried forward by the individual organizations as a nucleus for 1935 needs.

This splendid report gives us an insight into what can be accomplished by this United Congregation, if we individually determine to continue our best support. We who make this report are but the stewards appointed by you, and we can but conserve the gifts you so generously place at our disposal. Some economies will no doubt be effected as we progress in our joint undertaking, but the success of this glorious venture must rest on your shoulders.

In closing this report we feel that we are but voicing the thoughts of the whole congregation when we express congratulations to each and every organization connected with our Church for the splendid efforts put forth. We feel we must especially mention the Ladies, who so untiringly have stood behind us as a Board, and so generously aided us financially. We deeply appreciate the work carried on by the Organists, Choir Directors, and Choirs, Mrs. Benvie and her orchestra, and all those assisting with the music. The work of these artists has been inspiring and uplifting, and undoubtedly assisted much in helping to fill the coffers of this Church, a matter that is very close to the Board of Stewards.

Then too we would like to go on record with out appreciation of the untiring work carried on by Dr. C.C.McIntosh who was pastor of Sharon Church for more than half of the year, and of the splendid work accomplished by our present minister, Dr. G.M.Young, in cementing these two congregations into one family. His position has not been at all easy, and his success is therefore the more outstanding. We congratulate him heartily, and wish him, Mrs. Young and family health and happiness, and greater successes in the years to come.

ON BEHALF OF SHARON BOARD OF STEWARDS,

.....*W. J. Robinson*.....
Chairman.
.....*Gas. Macdonald*.....
Secretary.