

SHARON ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH  
Stellarton, N.S.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH

The congregation of Sharon St. John is the result of the uniting of two former Presbyterian Congregations of Sharon and St. John.

The Sharon Presbyterian Congregation was organized on February 19, 1866 by Rev. Alexander Ross. It was under the ministry of Rev. A.J. Mowatt that the original Sharon Church was built on the lower side and north end of what is now MacKay Street, then known as Riverbank. A new wooden church was built on our present site in 1889. On February 24, 1924 this wooden structure was destroyed by fire, and replaced by the present brick building. Sharon Congregation became a part of the United Church of Canada in 1925. Our present church was completed and dedicated on February 21, 1926.

In 1925, the former Methodist Congregation of Stellarton, which built its first church and manse on the east side of Foord St. during the ministry of Rev. John Cassidy, united with the St. John ( Kirk) Presbyterian Congregation to form the St. John United Church. From this Church the present Kirk Avenue takes its name. In 1918 the Methodists built the Mission Hall on Kirk Avenue. The St. John Church was moved to a new location up town on the east side of Foord Street. After this congregation united with Sharon congregation, the church building was sold and in 1959 was destroyed by a disastrous fire.

In 1934, the last Sunday in October, the Sharon and St. John Congregations united into one congregation. The first sod for the Church Hall construction was turned on April 20, 1962, and the Hall was opened and dedicated in 1963 under the ministry of Rev. D.C. Boothroyd.

It has been fifty years since our Sharon St. John Congregation was formed and following is a list of ministers who have served:

Rev. Dr. G.M. Young 1934- 1936  
Rev. D.M. Grant 1936- 1938  
Rev. T.E. MacLennan 1938- 1943  
Rev. Dr. R.D. MacIntosh 1943- 1954  
Rev. D.C. Boothroyd 1954- 1963  
Rev. D.H. Gass 1963- 1974  
Rev. R.E. Johnston 1974- 1980  
Rev. N.D. MacDougall 1980-