

## The Methodist Church

The history of Methodism in our locality began with the opening of the coal mines in 1798. Originally services were held in private homes and hired halls, with ministers supplied from the Truro and Wallace Circuits. With an increase in membership, strengthened in part by parishioners from New Glasgow, Westville and Eureka, they procured their own minister with the help of the General Mining Association. Rev. Richard Weddall was brought from England in 1845.

Not until 1861 was there an Albion Mines Circuit with a church edifice, the Wesleyan Methodist Church, erected in 1862 with Rev. John Cassidy the Circuit Superintendent. In the trustees minutes Sept. 25, 1871 it was still referred to as the Wesleyan Church, Albion Mines, but in Oct. 17, 1871 the name "Wesleyan" seems to have been dropped. It was still referred to in the July, 1872 minutes as the Albion Mines Circuit, but in July, 1883, it was called the Stellarton Circuit and in the Oct 5, 1875 minutes the Methodist Church, Stellarton.

New Glasgow separated from the Stellarton Mission in 1885, Westville in 1913 and Eureka in 1918. The ministers during these times were Rev. J. Tweedy, Rev. J. Phalen and Rev. W. A. Outerbridge.

Should this be 1872? That's what I thought

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In the March 17th, 1864, minutes of the Wesleyan Church, Albion Mines, a paper was adopted setting out conditions for the selling and holding of pews. The annual pew rent, paid in quarterly instalments was Five Dollars. The choice of pews was to be sold by auction to the highest bidder. Any pew holder was at liberty to sell or transfer his pew providing all monetary obligations were met. If the pewholder should default in his quarterly payments his pew could be resold after he received due notice in writing. No alterations or additions could be made to pews but they could be lined, cushioned or carpeted at the holder's choice.

The Trustee Board of the church as reported in the September, 1871, minutes were Rev. A. D. Morton (Superintendent of Circuit) Messrs. George Davidson (Secretary and Treasurer) Thomas Stewart, David McNeil, James Clish, William Blacker, Thomas Humphreys, William Wylie and John Douglas. That these names appeared in many subsequent church records attests to their devotion to the work of their beloved Master.

The Methodist and the St. John Churches joined to form the St. John United Church in April, 1926. Until June 30, 1926 the ministers were Rev. D. M. Matheson and Rev. H. J. Jones. Organist was Mrs. Gregor Maclean, Choir Director Mr. W. D. Henderson, Treasurer Mr. Daniel Fraser,

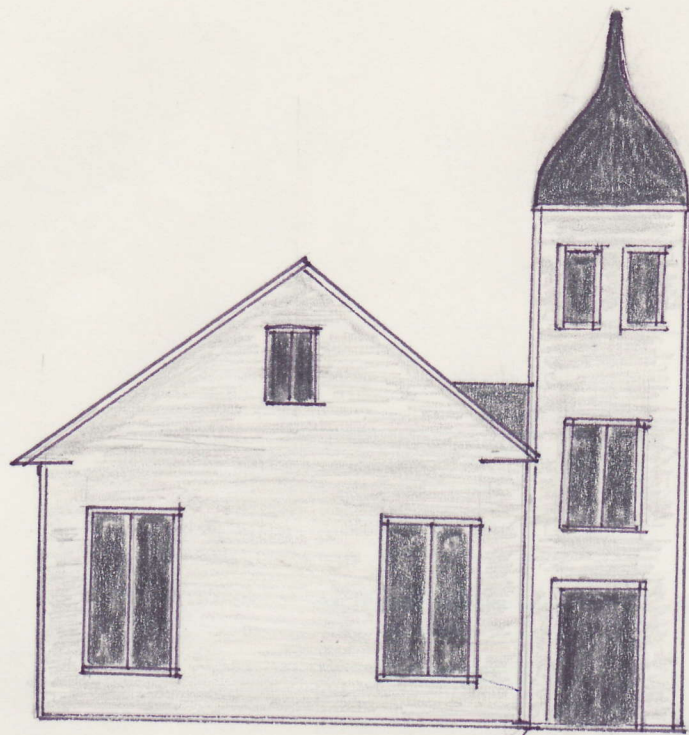
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Secretary - Mr. Andrew Fellows.  
The elders were elected by the  
Methodist Church and ordained in  
the United Church. "The Book of  
Praise" was the hymn book to be  
used.

The Methodist Church which was  
situated on Foord St. near what is  
now Allan Ave. now became Wesley  
Hall and was used for church  
meetings, social gatherings and sports  
and recreational activities by the  
congregation of Sharon - St. John  
United Church ~~and~~ until 1943 when  
it was bought by Harvard Mac  
Donald who converted it into a  
garage. In 1959 the building was  
bought by Victor MacBeth who  
rented the front part to James Hale  
for a service station and the rear  
part to John Mackay, who owned  
John Mackay's Transfer Limited.

Fire of undetermined origin  
levelled the building Dec. 31, 1964.  
Stellarton and New Glasgow fire  
departments kept the blaze from  
spreading to the lovely home next  
door which housed such ministers  
as Rev. G. M. Young, Rev. D. J. Jones,  
Rev. W. A. Outerbridge, Rev. J. Phalon,  
Rev. W. R. Turner, Rev. R. M. Jost,  
Rev. D. Farquhar, Rev. J. Johnson,  
Rev. W. Nightingale, and Rev. D. B.  
Scott in the years since 1890.

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References: Maritime Conference Archives,  
Atlantic School of Theology. Trustees' Records <sup>1864-</sup><sub>1912</sub>  
<sub>1916-1925</sub>  
Chronicle Herald, Dec. 31, 1964 p. 13



Methodist Church  
Foord Street  
Stellarton  
1862

Ministers :

1861, J. Cassidy ; 1864, D. Chapman ;  
1867, J. V. Jost ; 1869, R. Morton ; 1871, A.  
D. Morton ; 1874, W. N. Evans ; 1875 Geo. W.  
Tuttle ; 1877, Fletcher A. Weldon ; 1880, J. E.  
Thurlow ; 1883, J. Hale ; 1886, J. Tweedy ;  
1889, R. A. Daniel ; 1890, D. B. Scott ; 1893, W.  
Nightingale ; 1896, J. Johnson ; 1899, D. Farguhar ; 1901,  
R. M. Jost ; 1905, W. A. Couterbridge ; 1909, W. R. Turner ;

1912, J. Phalen; 1916, W. A. Outerbridge; 1920,  
J. Adamson; 1924, H. L. Jones

