

Rev. A.G. Cameron, First Minister of St. Giles (from 1925 to 1930): Shortly after the vote for church union, in January 1925, the Presbytery of Ottawa put Rev. A.G. Cameron in charge of a group of Glebe residents who wished to remain continuing Presbyterians. On February 1, 1925, Rev. Cameron preached at the first service of this group held in the Seventh Day Adventists Church on Fifth Avenue. It soon became clear that the building was too small for the numbers, hence, the motivation to build a new church. Rev. Cameron continued to nurture the growing community of continuing Presbyterians, as “stated supply”, and at a key meeting on March 3, 1927, the decision was reached to build a new sanctuary at the corner of Bank Street and First Avenue. Subsequently, in January, 1928, Rev. Cameron resigned as “stated supply” and was enthusiastically called to be the congregation’s first minister, inducted on February 2, 1928. Rev. Cameron organized the key events related to the building of St. Giles church including: the Turning of the First Sod, July 5, 1928; and the Laying of the Cornerstone, September 22, 1928. The major event of the opening and dedication of the new church took place on May 5, 1929. Shortly after the first Anniversary Service, May 4, 1930, the congregation was shocked by the sudden, unexpected passing of Mrs. Cameron. The loss of his wife, his declining health, and the demands of a rapidly-growing congregation led to Rev. Cameron resigning from St. Giles. He moved to a less stressful position with another congregation. In reviewing the first five years of St. Giles’ existence, one is reminded of the immense contribution of Rev. Dr. A.G. Cameron. He was central to creating a firm foundation for our congregation. In recognition of the contribution of Rev. Cameron, the Chancel Widow of St. Giles has been dedicated to his memory.

The Very Rev. Dr. John Logan-Vencta (from 1931 to 1969): John came to Canada in 1924 and studied at the University of Toronto and Knox College. In 1931 he was called to St. Giles Church, Ottawa, where he served until his retirement in 1969, except for five years service as Army Chaplain during World War II. His service with the Army Chaplaincy began with the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa but later he became Principal Protestant Chaplain Overseas. On his return to Canada he was promoted to Principal Chaplain (P) of the Army and retired with the rank of Colonel. Dr. Logan-Vencta’s ministry was strong in preaching and compassionate pastoral care of the congregation but his Christian service was extended widely into the work of the whole Church and into the community life of Ottawa. He was honoured in 1953 with the degree of Doctor of Divinity by the Presbyterian College in Montreal. He was further honoured in 1967 when elected as Moderator of the 93rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. He was a zealous and tireless servant of Jesus Christ, of the Church and of the community at large and he will be long remembered by all who knew him.

Rev. Hamish M. Kennedy (from 1969 to 1986): First entered into ministry through the Church of Scotland, Hamish came to Canada with a wealth of congregational experience. He was later called to St. Giles Church and served until retirement in 1986. In his retirement years, he also faithfully served as interim moderator to the former Cushman Presbyterian Church in Hull, Quebec.

Rev. Duncan S. Kennedy (from 1986 to 1998): Graduate of the Knox College in 1982, Duncan had previously served as minister at St. Andrew’s in Maxville, St. Elmo in Gordon, and as assistant minister to Knox Presbyterian Church in Ottawa. He faithfully served St. Giles for thirteen years.

Rev. Dr. D. Ian Victor (from 1999 to 2005): When Ian came to St. Giles, he brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience from his previous ministries in theological education, denominational participation and congregational ministries. Always with a sense of humour and humility, Ian would eventually go on to receive an Honorary Doctor degree from the Presbyterian College in 2010.

Rev. Ruth Houtby (from 2005 to 2011): Graduate of the Presbyterian College in 1999, Ruth came to St. Giles bringing with her experience in congregational ministry, youth ministry, and denominational contribution.

Rev. Paul Wu (from 2020 to present): Graduate of the Knox College in 2007, Paul brings with him a passion for imparting faith to the next generation. He and Daisy have started a new chapter in the congregational life of St. Giles.