

In 1925 when voting decided the name of this new congregation to be St Giles and growth in attendance was evident, the service of praise was capably led on a piano by the minister's wife Mrs. Cameron. From the beginning, there was plenty of musical talent for a choir including soloists, and a music committee was formed. When the minister Rev. A.G. Cameron presided over the turning of the first sod on July 5th 1928, the choir led the singing of three praise numbers. Later the same year, Sept. 22nd. the corner stone was truly laid by the Governor General with the choir leading the service of praise that followed. When the doors of the new church were opened for the first time on May 5th 1929, the choir numbered 24 and contributed, anthems, solos and quartettes for both the morning and evening services. An observance of the first anniversary was agreed for to be held on May 4th 1930 at which the choir sang no less than 4 anthems, had a baritone solo and a duet. Unfortunately Mrs. Cameron took ill during the service and passed away four days later much to the shock and sadness of the church and community.

Following this, the choir obtained a new director in Mrs Angus Orr and entered into a busy time of producing several cantatas which resulted in several invitations from other churches all of which was in addition to anthems for regular services and special music at Christmas, Anniversaries and Easter. A pipe organ was considered necessary toward which the choir opened a fund raising money from the proceeds of religious musical plays they presented before church audiences up and down the Ottawa valley. With the added assistance of the Women's Group, an electric reed organ was installed and greeted the worshippers as they entered the church on June 14th 1937. The choir continued to serve the congregation and assist in parcels for serving troops during the war and it was not long afterwards that the choir and congregation again set their minds towards a pipe organ. The choir began a series of religious cantatas to raise money which was augmented by other working groups. The committee comprising the minister, choir director Mrs Orr and a few musically talented members, recommended to the congregation, a Casavant, three manual, twenty six stop pipe organ which continues to enrich the services of praise to this day. It was a wonderful Christmas eve family service in 1947 when it was played for the first time by Mrs Orr.

In the 1930s, the junior choir numbered 34 and were organized by Mrs. Logan Vencta with Audry McLennan on the piano. By the 60s the direction was in the hands of Margaret Elder with Catherine Wilson on the piano. In 1963 sadness and sincere regrets was experienced by the choir when Mrs Orr resigned after 33 years owing to indifferent health.

There followed a group of talented musicians to continue leading the services with anthems, solos, duets and special events:

David Sutherland from 1963 to 1968, who was instrumental in hiring Conrad Sheck, tenor soloist who would inspire us for 40 years.

Peter Andrews from 1968 to 1978, with the Rev. Hamish Kennedy leading the singing of Easter Hymns in the Glebe.

Daniel Morel from 1978 to 1991, who introduced soprano Rhoda Baxter to the choir. With the Rev. Ian Victor carolling in the Glebe.

Julia Mills from 1991 to 2008. The Twisted Halos came into existence with Margaret Lavictoire, Cecilia Lee and Shirley Carleton. We were introduced to Julia's punishment for misbehaving !!! The dreaded 'Wet Noodle'. A lady who got so much out of her amateur singers.

Simon Pinsonneault from 2008 to 2012.

Brenda Beckingham from 2013 to 2021.

Heather Rice from 2021 to present, with vocalist Katie Gratton.

(by Ian Stevenson)