

OUR HISTORY AT ST. STEPHEN'S

By Nelvin Yeakel, St. Stephen's Archivist

The Senior Choir

I have not been able to pinpoint the year that St. Stephen's formed its Senior Choir, but I believe it wasn't until sometime after 1900. What I did find was a copy of St. Stephen's "Choir" preamble, constitution, and by-laws; unfortunately, they are not dated. It was interesting reading; if you would like to read them they are on file in the Archives.



One of the things I noted was that the choir did not wear robes until February 1931, when the church purchased them. The robes were black with white collars, and the women on the choir also had a small black cap to wear with the robe. Sometime in the early 1960's, the black robes were retired. A number of women of the church made new red robes.

These robes were not too well received. A few years later they purchased new green and white ones which many church members felt were really elegant. The current robes were purchased around the year 2000.

I found that in the early years, during rehearsals, a basket was passed around and choir members contributed money to purchase their music. It isn't until the Worship & Music Committee came into being that they stopped this practice. This committee now budgets for and funds the choir. Until recently, though, the basket was still passed at rehearsals, with the money used to purchase flowers for ill choir members.

From records dating back to the 1920's, our choir has continued the practice of singing Christmas and Easter Cantatas which are always well received.