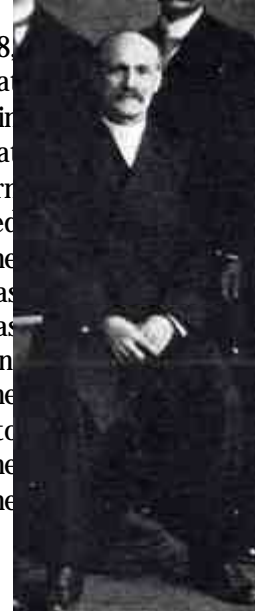


# The Clergy of Robertson Presbyterian 1909-1977

## Rev. Dr. David James – 1909-1919

The Rev. David James, D.D. was born in Glasgow, Scotland on February 18, 1854. His father was also a Presbyterian minister who had held pastorates at Wolverhampton, England, Albany, New York, and among other places in Ontario, Paris and Hamilton. The Rev. David James graduated in theology at Knox College, Toronto, and carried on work in mission fields in Northern Ontario before taking charge of Midland Presbyterian Church where he stayed many years. In poor health due to an accident, he went to California where he became pastor of San Rafael Presbyterian Church. At the end of 1908, he was called to be the first minister of Robertson Presbyterian Church where he was known for his intense missionary zeal and enthusiasm. From its inception Robertson Presbyterian was self supporting. During Rev James' tenure, the church was able to start supporting a home and a foreign missionary. Due to failing health, Rev. James retired and moved to Orland, California where he had a fruit ranch. He died the in December of 1938. His obituary is in the Newspaper Clipping section.



## Rev. Alexander Esler, D.D. – 1919-1938, 1941-1943



Rev. Alexander Esler, D.D.

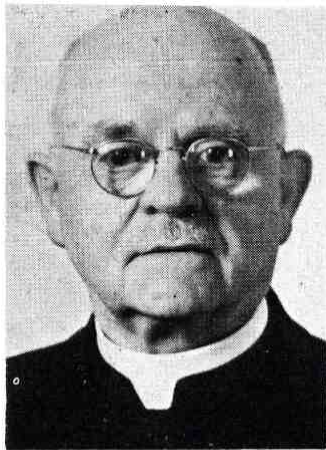
Rev. Alexander Esler began his ministry at the turn of the twentieth century in Cooke's Church, Toronto. A magnetic preacher, he quickly attracted a large following. In 1908, he moved his family west, accepting a call to Grace Church, Calgary. Rev. Esler received his Doctor of Divinity in 1922. It was during Rev. Esler's ministry that the congregation of Robertson Presbyterian voted against union with the Methodist Church. When the vote was taken, 84 voted for union, and 308 voted against. Those in favour of the United Church left the Presbyterian Church and joined Grandview Methodist, which became Grandview United Church. This exodus was balanced by an inflow of other Presbyterians from St. Matthew's, Cedar Cottage, and other congregations throughout Vancouver. Dr. Esler was known as a very evangelical preacher. Membership in Robertson increased greatly during his tenure. By 1924, church membership had reached 489. In 1935, Dr. Esler was instrumental in forming a Summer Bible School. Dr. Esler retired from active ministry in 1938, but returned to Robertson for two years during World War II when his successor, Rev. S. McMaster Kerr was stranded in Australia. Three of Rev. Esler's children became ministers.

## Rev. S. McMaster Kerr – 1939-1941

Rev. S. McMaster Kerr was born to Scottish parents in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Before entering the ministry, he was controller of the Royal Trust Company in Montreal. He received his BA at McGill University and took his Bachelor of Divinity at Montreal's Presbyterian College. He received his Doctorate at Los Angeles' Kingdom Bible College. Rev. Kerr's wife was a lecturer at McGill. Prior to

# The Clergy of Robertson Presbyterian 1909-1977

coming to Vancouver in June of 1939, Rev. S. McMaster Kerr was the Pastor of Valleyfield Presbyterian Church in Valleyfield, Quebec. During his short ministry Robertson Church was remodelled and pews were installed. Most of the work was done by voluntary labour. In his last year at Robertson, Rev. Kerr began a ministry of prophecy. The evening services were filled to overflowing, but the congregation was strictly a transient one. In 1941, Rev. Kerr left on a Preaching mission to Australia and was unable to return to Robertson due to the outbreak of the Pacific War. While in Australia he was guest preacher at a number of churches. He was also active in New Zealand where he was called to take charge of St. Paul's Presbyterian in Christ Church but around the same time he was asked to serve as Chaplain to the US forces stationed in Australia, so he declined. After the end of the war Rev. Kerr worked at a number of churches in the United States, including Kentucky, where he was instrumental in the creation of the Appalachian Regional Hospital chain. By the late 1950s he was serving in Kalispell, Montana. There are a number of articles concerning Rev. Kerr in the News Clipping Section



Rev. G. Sydney Barber

## Rev. G. Sydney Barber – 1943-1949

Rev. G. Sydney Barber was born in England on November 9, 1877. He became a Presbyterian minister in 1901 and for fourteen years he served as a missionary in South Africa. Barber's wife's name was Mabel Hatcherley. The Barbers came to Canada in 1935. Rev. Barber built the first Presbyterian Church in Vernon, and a Presbyterian Church in Tracey, California. At one point in his life, Rev. Barber served as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church. In 1949 he moved to 261 Winter Street in White Rock and took charge of White Rock Presbyterian Church. He died at Royal Columbian Hospital on July 12, 1951 at the age of 73 and was buried in Ocean View. His obituary is in the Newspaper Clipping section.

## Rev. Edison Lloyd Garvin – 1950-1960

Rev. Edison Lloyd Garvin was born in Saltcoats, Saskatchewan on July 27, 1896, the son of Saskatchewan pioneers Robert Garvin and Ella Tracey. His wife's name was Annie Scott Rollo. He came to Robertson Presbyterian in February of 1950. Prior to coming to Robertson, he worked under the Home mission Board in Northern Ontario and Saskatchewan, and held pastorates in Knox Church, Selkirk, Manitoba and St. Andrew's Church in Lethbridge, Alberta. During Rev. Garvin's ministry the Lower Hall was remodelled and the church kitchen modernised, largely through volunteer labour. In 1951, the Manse at 2508 East 4th was purchased and a garage erected. Rev. Garvin served at Robertson for 10 years. His sons Robert and Murray followed their father's footsteps and entered the ministry. After retirement from active ministry, Rev. Garvin moved to White Rock where he lived at #17, 14990 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He died at Peace Arch Hospital on January 10, 1977

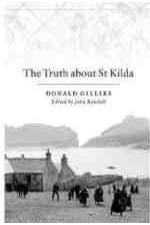


Rev. E. L. Garvin

# The Clergy of Robertson Presbyterian 1909-1977

at the age of 80 and was buried in Valley View Memorial Gardens in Surrey.

## Rev. Donald John Gillies – 1961



The Rev. Donald John Gillies was born on St Kilda, the outermost of the Scottish Western Isles, in 1901. His wife's name was Peggy. Gillies left St. Kilda in 1924 and subsequently moved to Nova Scotia. St. Kilda was evacuated in the early 1930s. In his later years Rev. Gillies travelled widely and maintained close contacts with the surviving inhabitants of St Kilda. He wrote a book called *The Truth About St. Kilda* published by John Donald Publishers Ltd. In August 1980 he returned to St Kilda for the rededication of the recently restored church on the 50th anniversary of the evacuation of the island and preached the sermon in the service to celebrate that occasion. He died in Vancouver in 1994.

## Rev. George D. Moore, 1962, 1965-1970

## Rev. Lawrence D. Hankinson – 1963

## Rev. Philip K. Schnarrenberger – 1964-1966

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

SUNDAY SCHOOL ..... 9:45 A.M.  
 DIVINE WORSHIP ..... 11:00 A.M.  
 COMMUNION SERVICES  
 2nd Sunday - March, June, December: 1st Sunday - October  
 NURSERY and JUNIOR CHURCH ..... 11:00 A.M.

**WEEK DAY MEETINGS**

CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH ..... MONDAY, 5:30 p.m.  
 CLUBS ..... MONDAY, 8:00 p.m.  
 BOARD OF MANAGERS ..... 1st MONDAY each month, 8:00 p.m.  
 WOMEN'S SERVICE GUILD ..... 3rd MONDAY each month, 8:00 p.m.  
 EXPLORERS (Girls) ..... TUESDAY, 6:00 p.m.  
 EVENING DEPT. OF W.M.S. .... 2nd TUESDAY each month, 8:00 p.m.  
 SESSION ..... 3rd TUESDAY each month, 8:00 p.m.  
 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
 4th TUESDAY each month, 8:00 p.m.  
 PRAYER MEETING and BIBLE STUDY  
 1st and 3rd WEDNESDAY, 7:30 p.m.  
 C.G.I.T. (Girls 12 - 17) ..... WEDNESDAY, 7:00 p.m.  
 CIRCLES OF W.M.S. No. 3 ..... 3rd FRIDAY each month, 1:30 p.m.  
 No. 4 ..... 3rd THURSDAY each month, 1:30 p.m.  
 W.M.S. .... 4th THURSDAY each month, 1:30 p.m.  
 CHOIR PRACTICE ..... THURSDAY, 7:30 p.m.  
 COMMUNICANTS CLASS ..... SATURDAY, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.


**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

Minister, Rev. PHIL K. SCHNARRENBERGER, 1346A Lakewood Dr., 255-7447  
 Session Clerk ..... Mr. A. McINTYRE, 1841 E. Hastings St., 255-1809  
 Christian Education Committee  
 Chairman ..... Mr. H. Wm. STEWARD, 2540 Garsley St., 255-7518  
 Board of Managers  
 Chairman ..... Mr. J. JOHNSON, 6650 Kearsy Court N. Burnaby, 298-3668  
 Church Treasurer ..... Mrs. J. S. STEWARD, 2540 Garsley St., 255-7518  
 Organist and  
 Choir Director ..... Mr. G. LAMBERT, R.A., 2725 W. 14th Ave., 738-4552  
 Caretaker ..... Mr. G. WHITWELL, 2548 E. 24th Ave., 435-9973  
 Communion Services ..... 2nd SUNDAY - March, June, December  
 1st SUNDAY - October  
 Baptism ..... 1st SUNDAY of each month, or by arrangement

Visit with Minister Requested .....   
 Change of Address .....   
 Backnum .....   
 NAME .....  
 ADDRESS .....


Please hand in Letters or put on Collection Plan

ROBERTSON



PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

1795 NAPIER STREET  
VANCOUVER, B.C.



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

# The Clergy of Robertson Presbyterian 1909-1977

## Rev. Eric J. Schulze – 1971-1976

Internet searches for Rev. Eric J. Schulze produce a number of hits connected to Moravian College in the USA.

## Rev. Hugh Appel – 1977

Currently retired, Rev. Hugh Appel lives with his wife Jane in London, Ontario. Prior to going into full-time ministry, he worked in the paper industry. During his years of ministry Rev. Appel had served several congregations, and been involved in a number of community activities. He wrote a book about his life journey called *From Pulp to Pulpit*