

Laidlaw Memorial United Church

at the Corner of Cannon and Ottawa Streets



**We're not here
to tell you what to Believe...
We're here to try to
believe what you tell us!**



WE'VE BEEN PART OF OTTAWA STREET FOR 104 YEARS,, SINCE 1912.

WE'RE a CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION

CELEBRATING RENEWAL, DIVERSITY AND TRADITION

GREEN WITH SOLAR—THE GREENING SACRED SPACE AWARD FOR 2010!
WE'RE THE FIRST CONGREGATION IN ONTARIO TO HAVE SOLAR PANELS
OPERATING UNDER THE FEED IN TARIFF PROGRAM

OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT IS REDUCED 55%,

WE'VE RENEWED OUR WORSHIP SPACE TO WELCOME
MUSIC, DRAMA AND COMMUNITY—CHECK IT OUT!

WE WELCOME PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS
TO WORSHIP WITH US AND HELP MAKE
EAST HAMILTON AND OTTAWA STREET

a GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, WORSHIP AND SHOP!

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP at 11 a.m. ANY SUNDAY!

THERE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AND a ROOM FOR BABIES

JOIN US WEDNESDAY MORNINGS at 9 a.m. FOR CRAFT CIRCLE

JOIN US THURSDAYS at 7:30 P.M. FOR CHOIR PRACTICE!

Laidlaw Memorial United Church

✉ 155 Ottawa Street North at Cannon Street, Hamilton, Ontario L8H 3Z2

☎ 905 544 6536 www.laidlawchurch.ca



**Our Mission: With respect, cooperation and joy, through acts of love
that build each other up, we seek to share the light of Christ
as a Beacon on our corner in East Hamilton**



Laidlaw Memorial United Church Ottawa Street, Ontario

There are very few people now who remember the mud streets and farmers fields in Crown Point; but this is what existed when the Rev. Dr. Robert J. Laidlaw, minister of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Downtown Hamilton, lived in Hamilton. Dr. Laidlaw was a graduate of Princeton Seminary, and taught at the University of Toronto. In 1893, he suffered the devastating loss of his wife, and not long after, died of a lung ailment October 24, 1895. The Presbyterian Church in Hamilton saw that the farmer's fields in Crown Point and Ottawa Street would soon be houses near the new factories, and Dr. Laidlaw's legacy, a Mission he had started on Mary Street, was sold, and the funds given to the Ottawa St. Mission, now Laidlaw Memorial United Church.

The present church edifice was built for \$20,000, completed in 1912, and dedicated in October. When the church was built, stepping out on the front stair, you would have looked down Ottawa Street to the docks, where the cloth that would be sold in the Ottawa Street shops would be unloaded. The church is built as a Roman Style Temple, with a steeple reminiscent of a lighthouse, and the two great pillars, Joachim and Boaz, standing guard at the entrance. The east-west orientation of the church (almost, actually, we 18 degrees Azimuth) has facilitated the installation of solar panels on the south roof.

The Laidlaw Congregation both struggles and thrives on Ottawa Street. The church was only just built when the First World War caused the death of 26 young men in the congregation, a great blow that elongated the repayment of the church's mortgage for many years. The depression and Second World War brought further losses, but also great respect for those who showed that great love when they laid down their lives for us all.

Between the world wars, Laidlaw Memorial Institutional Presbyterian Church voted to join The United Church of Canada in 1925, with the loss of enough members and support that St. Enoch's church was built by some families who left on Main Street, and has since been sold to the All Nations Church. Laidlaw welcomed the congregations of the Calvary United Church (formerly Calvary Methodist Church) from Campbell Avenue, and later St. Christopher's United Church, which had organized a Credit Union for their members to help buy homes in the area. Many wonderful people over the years have contributed and worked together to make Laidlaw a Beacon of welcome and help in this community. The church records are full of the records of weddings, funerals and baptisms that took place at Laidlaw.

At present, the congregation at Laidlaw has moved forward with the installation of a new roof and solar panels, part of a campaign of renewal and greening for the future. Laidlaw continues to welcome all those who seek to share life and light and love on Ottawa Street, in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world!

