

THE REBIRTH OF A  
NEW GENERATION OF FAITH  
JANUARY 4, 1900



While the embers of the church were still smoldering, a meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at the home of George F. Harrington on January 4, 1900. Members of the Trustees at this time were A. G. Jones, Albert Washburn (Miss Rachel Washburn's father), G. F. Harrington (my grandfather), T. C. Richardson, L. H. Whitney and Arthur Vittum. They, with the addition of H. C. Richardson and G. H. Stratton, were the Official Board. The Pastor at this time was Reverend R. B. Miller.

At this meeting letters were read from Charles H. Fiske, Clerk of the First

Parish Church of Weston, Unitarian, and from the Clerk of the Congregational Church. A letter from Mr. F. H. Hastings offered the use of Hastings Hall for our religious services. This offer was accepted with thanks, and the Sunday services were held there until the new church was dedicated. At this same meeting, a motion was made to rebuild the church, and during the discussion many thought it would have been financially impossible at that time. Back in the history in the year 1860, I mentioned the names of the first four members of the Board and stated they were to serve the church faithfully for

the next half century. They are now in their seventies and physically unable to undertake a vigorous campaign to raise funds to rebuild. But these devoted and dedicated men found a way! Albert Washburn offered the services of his daughter, Mabel, and George F. Harrington, his son, Herbert, and T. C. Richardson, his son, Howard, to make a door-to-door canvass to try to raise funds. Reverend R. B. Miller offered to be Chairman of the Committee, the Subscription Committee was formed, and the motion to rebuild was passed (not unanimously).

This was practically the end of a generation, as new blood surged forward and carried on the work of the church. At a meeting of the Official Board held at the Parsonage on January 29, 1900, a committee to make estimates and report to the Official Board was chosen. The members were Albert Washburn, John Guthrie and Howard Richardson. They were empowered to dig and stone a sufficient foundation, and at a meeting on February 20, 1900, reported to the Official Board. The following motions were unanimously passed:

1. *That we build a church 50' by 35' with a vestry beneath.*
2. *That the vestry windows be on a line of the top of the old foundation. The vestry floor to be 2' 10" below that line.*
3. *That the steps for the entrance of audience room and vestry be inside the church.*
4. *That Mr. Newton be employed as architect.*

## PLANS ACCEPTED FOR THE NEW BUILDING

At another meeting of the Official Board on March 7, 1900, the plans of architect Newton were accepted with the exceptions that there be four windows on each side of the audience room, a circular pulpit platform and a steeple. It was voted not to exceed \$3,500.

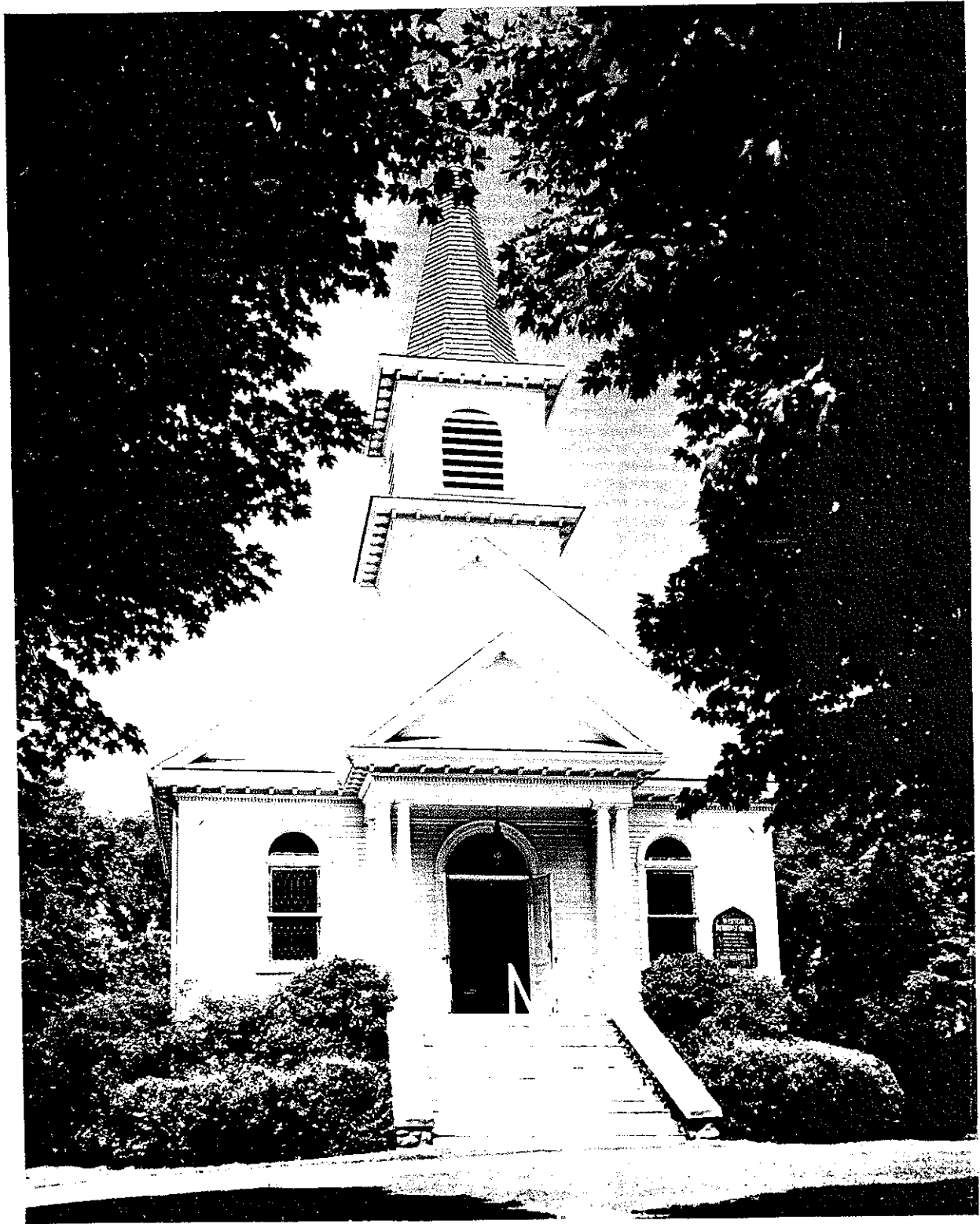
While these meetings were taking place, the Subscription Committee was untiring in its efforts to raise funds and met with success beyond its fondest hopes. The committee raised \$3,128, and with the \$2,000 insurance, there was \$5,128 to work with.

An interesting item from the subscription list was a donation of \$513 from our neighbor, the Unitarian Society of Weston, showing the friendly feeling which existed then and has grown with the years.

Let us review the situation that confronted the members of the church as they not only had to rebuild the church, but also had to refurnish it. Here are some of the furnishings and the prices paid for them:

Pews	\$241.00
Settees (for the vestry)	\$51.00
Pulpit chairs	\$100.00
Heater	\$199.00
Stained Glass Windows	\$113.00

The pulpit, reed organ and altar bible were all donated. Hymnals, bibles and the Sunday School equipment had to be replaced.



*Third Church 1900-1971*

The work of rebuilding went along very well under the direction of Albert Washburn, the builder. By December the new church was nearly completed and the plans were made for the dedication in January.

Here is the report of the Building Committee given at the Quarterly Conference held in the new church on January 14, 1901:

*"Albert Washburn and Subcommittee chosen by the Trustees to procure plans to buy material and build the church have attended to their duties. We started with Mr. G. F. Newton with the understanding that a sketch would not cost anything, but later found that he was to charge five percent of the cost so we gave him up, but received a bill for \$12. We then engaged Mr. G. E. Struit of Watertown and we think we made a good change. We tried to follow the plans he presented and that the Trustees adopted. The committee tried in every way to work for the best interest of the Church and people and, if we failed, we have done no worse than others. The material and all the furnishings we tried to buy (quality considered) to the best advantage for all concerned. We had no trouble with any one of the workmen employed in the building, with all the men we purchased material for the building and furnishings, our dealings with all were the most pleasant. Your committee recommends that a shed be built for storage, also certain buildings required by the State. Very resp. sub., Albert Washburn, John Guthrie and Howard C. Richardson."*

## NEW BUILDING DEDICATED

Our church was dedicated on Sunday, January 24, 1901. This is how it was reported in the Waltham Free Press Tribune in Monday's edition:

*"The new church of the First Methodist Society was dedicated Sunday with appropriate exercises. The edifice replaces the one that was destroyed by fire on Sunday, December 31, 1899. The exercises were of a very impressive character and were attended by a large number of townspeople of all denominations.*

*At 10:30, services were conducted by Reverend Russell B. Miller, the Pastor. Reverend J. H. Mansfield, Presiding Elder of the Cambridge District, preached the sermon. At 3:00, the dedicatory exercises were held. Reverend J. H. Mansfield was in charge and the sermon was preached by Reverend Dr. M. O. Buell, Dean of the School of Theology of Boston University. The exercises consisted of organ voluntary, hymn, prayer by Reverend Meredith of Dorchester, singing by a quartet, sermon by Dr. Buell, brief addresses by Reverend F. E. Heath of the First Baptist Society, Reverend F. J. Noyes of the Congregational Church, Reverend E. E. Bradley of Lincoln and Reverend J. W. Higgins of Waltham. The benediction was given by Reverend J. H. Mansfield.*

*Special music was sung by a quartet from Waltham, comprising of Mrs. S. Simmons, soprano; Mrs. May Cloyes,*

*alto; Mr. S. Simmons, tenor; and Mr. Charles Turner, bass. Mrs. Walter Gerritson, also of Waltham, presided at the organ. The services were brought to a close at 7:30 in the evening with a Union Service of all church-going people of the town. At this service, the sermon was preached by Reverend Charles Russell, Pastor of the First Parish Church."*

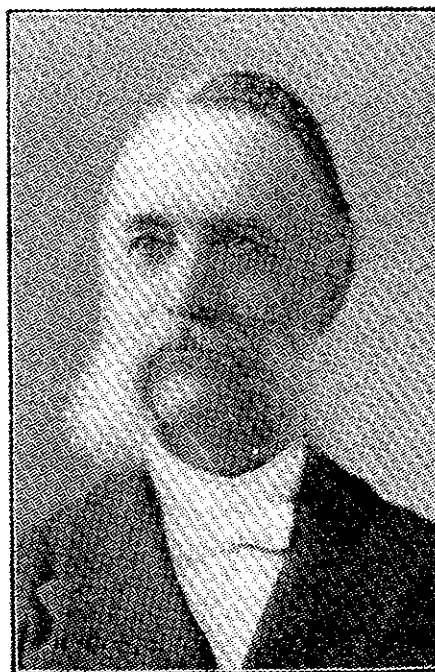
Now that the church had been dedicated, the Ladies Aid Society still had many things to do. They had to replace the dishes, cooking utensils and silver that was destroyed in the fire. Also the ladies' parlor in the vestry had to be refurnished. Sunday School pupils set out to replace the books in the Sunday School. (The Library was a very important and necessary item at this time.)

Here are the statistics of the church at the Annual Conference, April 1901: "Ministerial claims, \$696; current expenses, \$40; benevolences, \$45; paid on improvements, \$5,260; debt on church, \$375; average attendance Sunday School, 34; church members, 88; pastor's salary, \$500 and parsonage.

The new church was completed and dedicated (January 1901) and the minister who had led the congregation through their great difficulties, and who had held services in Hastings Hall while the church was being rebuilt, was leaving the Parish. The new pastor, Reverend J. Alfonse Day, came in April 1901 and was faced with the task of getting the church on a sound financial basis. At this time \$350 was still owed on the building, and the

records show this was paid in full on November 24, 1902.

At least three families from Lincoln were regular attendants of the church. They really had a full day, for they drove their horses and carriages to attend the 10:30 AM service. They attended Sunday School from 12 noon to 1 o'clock and then ate their lunches, which they had brought with them. In the afternoon, the children would attend the Epworth League (now Youth Fellowship), and at 7:00 PM, all would participate in the evening services. Then home they rode in the horse-drawn carriage. (I sometimes would hear complaints that 9:30 AM to 12 noon on Sundays is a long, long time. I wonder what these people think of the above.) Because of these people who were at the church all day, and many others who came in horse



*Reverend Alfonse Day*

... Concert ...

GIVEN BY CHOIR OF

Weston Methodist Episcopal Church

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1906

25 CENTS

ADM

LAWN PARTY

AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

TUESDAY, JUNE 20th, 1905.

Strawberries, Cake, Candy, Peanuts, Ice Cream and College Ices For Sale.

THIS TICKET is good for Strawberries and Cake; an Ice Cream and Cake; or a College Ice and Cake.

TICKETS,

MUSIC

15 CENTS.

Children's Day Concert  
June 11, 1905.

Voluntary	Mr. Dolbear, Organist
Anthem	Choir
Scripture	Rev. J. F. Day
Prayer	Rev. J. F. Day
Response	Choir
Little Things	Hudson Bray
Song - Jesus Loves Me	Primary Class
Flowers Voices	Gilbert Peakes and John Glens
Rose buds	Hazel and Lillian Small
Hark! the lilies	James Kund
God is Good	Herman Peakes
Song - Little Birds	Helen and Eleanor Harrington
4 Welcome to Children's Day	Marian and Freddie Henderson
Little Ones like Me	Lillian Harvey
Praises in God's House	Mrs. Brays and Mrs. Peakes' Class
Giving	Singne Swenson

LAWN PARTY

By the Ladies' Aid Society, M. E. Church,  
Kendal Green, Mass.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20th

Tickets 15 CENTS

Taken include One Ice Cream and Cake.  
Candy, Cake, Lemonade and Apples For Sale.

LAWN PARTY  
Weston Methodist Church

Kendal Green, Mass.  
Tuesday, July 23, 1907, next night if stormy

ICE CREAM, CAKE, LEMONADE and CANDY

Tickets 15 Cents

CHOIR LAWN PARTY

Methodist Episcopal Church  
Kendal Green, Mass.

Tuesday evening, August 15, 1905.

REAM, LEMONADE AND CANDY.

MUSIC

TICKETS 15 CENTS

GOOD FOR ICE CREAM AND CAKE

Weston M. E. Church,  
CONCERT

Given by the CHOIR, 5th  
Assisted by Master CYRIL RAPER,  
Boy Soloist.

Wednesday Evening, Dec. 12th, 1906,  
7.45 o'clock.

Admission 25 cts.

KENDAL GREEN M. E. CHURCH  
LADIES' AID SOCIETY  
Turkey Supper

WITH ICE CREAM AND CAKE  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1906

TICKETS 35 CENTS

6.30 to 8 o'clock.

Entertainment, Miss McLeod, Reader  
Pink and Candy For Sale

Lawn Party  
Tuesday - June 26, 1906.  
Weston M. E. Church  
Ice Cream & Cake  
Tickets 15cts.  
FOR SALE  
Admit One.

drawn carriages, it was necessary to build sheds to shelter the horses. Three were constructed at a cost of \$143. (November 1902)

For the first time (in 1902) Mrs. Carrie Brooks appears in the records, and also that of her husband, Frank H. Brooks, who served on the Board of Trustees in 1902 and was chairman from 1903 to 1917.

Around 1905, William Dolbeare was appointed organist. He served faithfully until 1933 when his life ended as he was playing the organ in church on Sunday morning, August 20, 1933. He was a very fine Christian gentleman and greatly loved by the choir of the church and by others who knew him.

In February 1907, a bequest of \$2,000 was received from the estate of Mrs. Abbie Stearns to be invested by the Trustees. The income from this investment was to be used for ministerial support.

During the year 1906-1907, extensive alterations were made on the parsonage. A hot water heater was installed costing \$225 and a new kitchen range costing \$43.50. Total cost of alterations was \$383.50.

The children of the Sunday School had been saving their pennies to have the grounds around the church landscaped. With a few private donations added, enough money was secured to go ahead with the project. I believe many will be interested in reading the cost of some of the items as follows:

<i>plowing and hauling loam two days with pair of horses</i>	\$10.00
<i>one day chopping and sawing wood</i>	\$2.00
<i>18 loads of loam</i>	<i>\$.50 per load</i>
<i>single team one day, double team one-half day for hauling</i>	\$5.00
<i>several days labor, one man</i>	\$5.17

On April 1, 1907, maple trees were set out on the grounds of the Weston Methodist Church; six trees were planted. They were all named for the men of the church who had labored so long to keep the church active and alive. The trees were set out by the gentlemen so honored. The first tree (nearest Conant Road) was the John Trasker tree; center one, the Reverend J. Alfonse Day tree (on North Avenue); and the third one was the Reverend John S. Day tree. There were three trees on the side of the church that were named in honor of Albert Washburn, George Harrington and T. C. Richardson. Because of the efforts and sacrifices of the Sunday School children, aided by a few adults, we now enjoy the beautiful trees and landscaping done by them. Again we say, "To All the Saints."