

## FOREWORD

### A 200-YEAR HERITAGE

I hope that you enjoy reading this short history of the Weston United Methodist Church. We are one of the oldest Methodist Churches in New England. We began when George Washington was the first President of the United States.

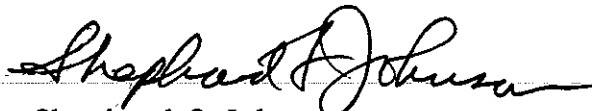
Imagine, if you can, the numerous women and men who through those 200 years have served the Lord in this Church. Some of their names will appear in these pages. But, other countless "saints without names" are a part of the "blest communion" we call the Weston United Methodist Church.

This brief history will acquaint you with some of the high and low points our Church has experienced along the way. Just imagine your despair if your Church burned to the ground on the eve of a new century; or your grief when your organist of thirty years dies at the console during a worship service. But, also feel the strength and the faith of a people who rebuilt and grew and reached out to plant the seeds of new churches in other New England towns.

In the early years of our nation, President Thomas Jefferson said:

"Laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."

The people of Weston United Methodist Church face the challenges of a new century. We are a Church of many towns. Active members come from more than fifteen communities. Some call us the "Metro-West" United Methodist Church. We carry with us the 200-year heritage of our predecessors. We also carry the 200-year heritage of those who choose to call themselves Christians--followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Shephard S. Johnson  
Pastor (1989- )

## DEDICATIONS

*For all the Saints, alleluia! We need to be reminded frequently of the "Saints who from their labors rest," who, as a result of their faith in God and dedication to the work of His Kingdom, have bequeathed to us, not only a church building, but a like spirit of dedication of purpose.*

*Raymond J. Harrington  
1900 - 1968*

*Raymond Harrington's research and preparation of our church history was published in 1979 as part of this church's historical celebration. This updated and expanded history draws heavily on his writings in its first two chapters. He, his sister, Helen Harrington Warner, and his wife, our beloved Flo (Florence Penketh Harrington) have dedicated more than 200 years in the service of Christ and the Methodist Church in Weston. This family is only one of many to whom our current congregation owes a great debt for their stewardship in carrying on Christ's work. At this 200th Anniversary of our Church, may we be ever mindful of the hopes and faith of our heritage, celebrate His love and blessings given to each of us today, and rededicate ourselves to continuing His ministry through this church for future generations.*

*Kenneth G. Riddle  
Chairman of The 200th Anniversary Committee - 1994*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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