

## A PERIOD OF GROWTH

In the year 1908, after a pastorate of six years, Reverend J. Alfonse Day left our church for other fields. He had what was considered a very successful pastorate, leaving the church completely free from debt.

The new pastor assigned to the church was Reverend Joseph E. Waterhouse (April 1908). He brought to the parsonage his wife, a daughter, Ruth, and a son, Edson. Edson was the pastor of St. John's Methodist in Watertown for more than twenty years, and was widely known, loved and respected by all in the New England Conference. Reverend Joseph E. Waterhouse was indeed a "Man of God." His great love of God and his sincerity of purpose were a great inspiration to all who were fortunate enough to know him. Under his guidance many were brought into the fellowship of the church. The young people loved him and the Sunday School showed a steady growth. The average attendance at Sunday School - 1907--30 pupils, 1908--42 pupils, 1909--50 pupils, 1910--58 pupils. Average attendance during 1909-1910 at Epworth League (Youth Fellowship) was 27. The church wanted to keep him here as attested by the salary paid to him: 1908 - \$550; 1909 - \$600; 1910 - \$800.

Dr. Waterhouse served our church from April 1908 to April 1911 and again from April 1928 to April 1937, making his ministry the longest

in the history of our church (a total of 12 years). During his first pastorate here, he admitted to membership three people whose contributions were to be well known -- Mrs. Carrie Brooks, 1908; Miss Lydia M. Gore, 1908; and Mrs. Ethelyn Otto, 1910.

During this time, the interior of the sanctuary was redecorated. The walls were painted a pastel green and behind and above the altar, in ivory, was an arch of painted ribbon, flanked by a wreath on either side.

*On the arch was painted, "The Lord is in His Holy Temple", on the wreath to the left, "God is Love", and on the wreath to the right, "God is Light".*

The walls of the vestry were also painted the same color and the floors and stairs were oiled. Here is a paragraph taken from the report of the secretary of the Official Board Meeting on July 31, 1908: "The artist made two mistakes. He overestimated his ability to finish the work in two weeks and underestimated the amount of stock which would be necessary, resulting from the exceeding porous condition of the plaster. His estimate was that the stock would cost \$25, but it actually cost \$30.75. As he charged only for the two weeks estimated work, the entire expense was \$90.75, and for this additional \$5.75, we really received the benefit of the border and lettering at the front of the church, which was not included in the figure given us." Red carpet was also installed on the altar and a cork-base linoleum laid in the aisles.

At an Official Board meeting on March 26, 1909, the pewter communion set, used since the founding of the church, was retired from use, and an individual communion service (a gift from Mr. Charles E. Peakes) accepted.

On February 28, 1910--the sum of \$1,000 was bequeathed to the church by Miss Mary H. Stearns--this legacy to be held by the Trustees for the church, the principal invested under the direction of the Trustees--all income derived therefrom only to be used to assist in the support of preaching. At this writing, it was still in the hands of the Trustees and the income used for the purpose it was intended--ministerial support.

In April 1911, Reverend Joseph E. Waterhouse was assigned to another pastorate and with deep regret the congregation was forced to see him go. He was followed by Reverend Fayette Nichols.

### A QUIET PERIOD

Reverend Fayette Nichols served our church for three years (1911-1913). This period was evidently a time of quiet as shown by the Pastor's report to the Fourth Quarterly Conference, February 6, 1911:

*"The Pastor wishes to express his gratitude for the unvarying courtesy and kindness of the people. His faults, in a great measure, have been overlooked and his efforts have received kindly commendation. During the year only one death has*

*occurred in our membership or in the congregation. In one respect, the congregation has resembled the Kingdom of Heaven -- none have been married nor have been given in marriage. Two have been received to full membership from probation. None have taken letters away, none have been received by letter. Total Gain-1."*

Also of note at this time was the Sunday School report of the Second Quarterly Conference, October 23, 1913. This reads in part:

*"The particularly interesting thing to us at the present time is the work of the Junior Department, for some time under the efficient leadership of Mrs. Brooks. The boys of that department have been doing splendid work. At the present time the work has broadened out so that it includes the girls of the same department. We now hope that the boys and girls may not only grow to know more of the Bible and its teachings, but that they may be led to see the great need of Jesus Christ as a personal Savior."*

Two of these boys attended Mrs. Brooks' birthday celebration in the Parish House and told of the work she had done and the influence she had on their lives.

Following Reverend Nichols as pastor was Reverend Edward E. Abercrombie (1914-1915). During his two years as pastor he worked very hard, but did not have much more success numerically than did Reverend Nichols. He organized an Adult Bible Class which met weekly with an

average attendance of eight. He, with the assistance of Miss Rachel Washburn and Miss Ethelyn Russell (later to be Mrs. Ethelyn Otto), revised the method of teaching in the Sunday School. He personally secured approximately \$500 for repairs on church property. Of this sum, \$293 was used to install an upstairs bathroom in the parsonage and \$40 for a cesspool. Reverend Abercrombie reported he had received two into membership, two removed from membership. Total Gain - 0 in his two-year pastorate.

During 1916, the pastor was Reverend Hugh K. Hamilton, a young married man from San Jose, California. He attended Boston University School of Theology to obtain his degree, and was our first "Student Pastor." He was admitted to the church membership on probation by Reverend Hamilton.

### A NEW ORGAN

In April 1916, the church had a new pastor, William Hodge, who served the church for the years 1916-1918.

Reverend Hodge had a son, Wesley, who was then about fifteen years of age. Later, he became a Methodist minister, serving in Rhode Island from 1928 to 1958. He served the Wakefield, R.I. church from 1932 to 1949.

Reverend William Hodge prepared a statistical report of the previous seventeen years, omitting no detail. At the bottom of his statistical chart he wrote: "*A study on the statistics on the*

*above shows the slow growth in membership, the rise and fall of the Sunday School, the great increase in benevolences and current expenses, without much change in salary; the difficulty of reaching our goal of 100 members and a salary of \$1,000 and house. The statistics also conceal certain facts that can be learned only from experience."*

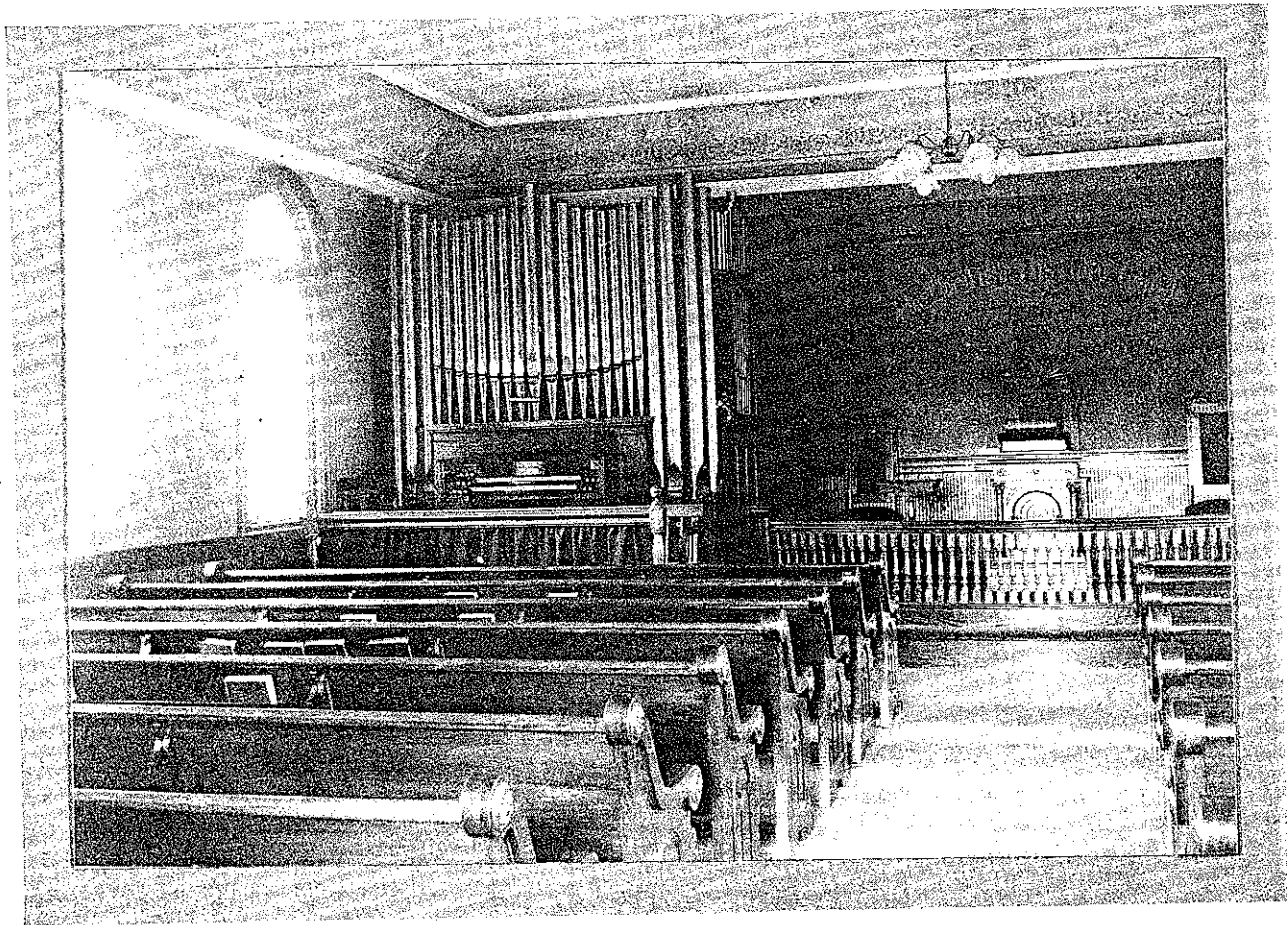
During his pastorate a new pipe organ was purchased from Hook Hastings Co. Reverend Hodge mentions it in his report to the Fourth Quarterly Conference held March 18, 1917:

*"Improvements: Five years ago the Hastings Co. placed in the home of a wealthy resident of Cambridge a handsome, two-manual pipe organ. As this organ had to be sold this month, it was bought by this church last week for \$900. An electric blower worth \$200 is included. The organ was made by the men of this church and is in fine condition. We are assured we have the equivalent of a \$2,500 organ today. The Organ Fund, started in 1914, has accumulated to \$460. We pay on the organ \$450 and agree to pay \$150 a year for three years. Great credit is due the Organ Committee--Mrs. Carrie Brooks, Chairman, Fred Hill, Henry Lawrence, Organist William H. Dolbeare and John Guthrie. Our men will set up the organ and it will be ready by Easter."*

The organ was installed before Easter and all felt a great deal had been accomplished. Again, the Ladies Aid showed their appreciation of the work which the men had done in installing the organ and gave a turkey dinner to

them and their wives (March 31, 1917). Mrs. Carrie Brooks was Chairman of the dinner which was followed by entertainment.

At the New England Conference on April 7, 1919, a new minister was assigned to our church. Reverend Harry G. Butler served from April 1919 to April 1923.



*interior of 1901 church*

Dear Friend,

You are most cordially invited to the reunion of former members and pastors of the Weston Methodist Episcopal Church on its One Hundred Twenty Fifth Anniversary.

May it be an Old Home Week indeed, an inspiration to young and old for most loyal service to God and to humanity!

Sincerely,

Harry Grant Butler, Pastor

## CHURCH OFFICERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

### TRUSTEES

John Guthrie  
Richard Atkinson  
Arthur Vittum  
Fred Hill  
Howard Richardson  
Henry Lawrence  
Frank Brooks  
Rachel Washburn  
Harry Butler

### STEWARDS

Arthur Vittum  
Herbert Farrar  
Waldo Hill  
Fred Hill  
John Guthrie  
Howard Richardson  
Rachel Washburn  
Mabel Washburn  
Lydia Gore  
Mrs. Fred Hill  
Mrs. Frank Brooks  
Miss Annie Blackwell  
Miss Mabel Stevens

William Dolbear

Church Organist and Musical Director

Sunday School, Mr. Herbert Tyler, Superintendent

Epworth League

Miss Mabel Stevens, President

Ladies' Aid Society

Mrs. Harry G Butler, President

Women's Foreign Missionary Society

Miss Effie Richardson, President

Mrs. Frank Brooks, Superintendent of the  
Standard Bearers, King's Heralds and Light Bearers

*125th Anniversary Program*