

## 125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED - 1919

It was at this time that half of the goal set by the former pastor, Reverend Hodge, was realized. From the records of the First Quarterly Conference on May 4, 1919, we read: "Voted that the pastor's salary be \$1,000 and parsonage for the ensuing year." The other half of his goal was still far distant (100 members) as there was a membership of 77.

The year 1919 was the 125th anniversary of the founding of our church. The pastor, Reverend Butler, took advantage of this and held anniversary services throughout the week of October 12-19. This was the program for the week:

### Sunday, October 12

- 10:30 A.M. Public Worship with sermon by Reverend Dr. Willis P. Odell (District Superintendent)
- 12 Noon Bible School Rally, Herbert Tyler, Superintendent
- 6:15 P.M. Epworth League Rally, Miss Lydia M. Gore, Leader
- 7:00 P.M. Public Worship, sermon by the pastor-topic:  
"125 years of Christian life."

### Wednesday, October 15

- 6:00 P.M. Banquet
- 8:00 P.M. Reception to former pastors and families.

### Friday, October 17

- 7:45 P.M. Public Worship with short addresses by former pastors.

### Sunday, October 19

- 10:30 A.M. Worship Service followed by Reception of Members.

In the spring of 1921, the Trustees had the problem of shingling the roof of the church, as the wooden shingles put on when the church was built were now weatherbeaten and the roof was leaking badly. They decided to slate the roof at a cost of \$860. As usual, there was no money to defray the expense, so Reverend Butler, assisted by several members, solicited donations. They received \$871 in all and the work was done during the summer months. This was a fine investment as the roof lasted as long as the building.

Following Reverend Butler as pastor was Reverend William J. Kelley (April 1923-April 1926). During Reverend Kelley's pastorate, another milestone in the history of the church was reached. It was decided that the days of the popularity of the horse and carriage had passed, and the carriage shed at the rear of the church was of no further use. So the shed was moved to the rear entrance of the church and, with the addition of some carpenter work and painting, was made into a fine storage room for coal, wood, and the tables used for suppers. Reverend Kelley also had the partition between the sanctuary and the cloak room removed, and folding doors installed, so the room could be used for "overflow" congregations.

In April 1928 Reverend Kelley announced his retirement from the ministry, having reached the age of retirement and his health was not good. He retired to Natick and kept in touch with the Weston church until he passed away.

**1929 - THE GREAT DEPRESSION**  
**OUR FAITH SURVIVES**

When Reverend William Kelley, pastor of the Weston Methodist Church, retired from the ministry, Dr. Joseph E. Waterhouse, former pastor, was again assigned to the church. This was the pastor who had served so well in 1909-1911, and all considered it fortunate to have a man of his calibre at this time. The church was experiencing a change, along with the changing economic status of the community. Dr. Waterhouse's task was not to increase the membership of the church, but to keep the church alive.

At this time the Hastings Organ Factory, which had been for some time the means of support for many families, was having a decline in business and many of the employees and their families were forced to seek employment outside Weston. Thus, church attendance and church membership declined. During these years Weston was a town made up of large estates and farms, and it was beyond imagination that these would ever be split up into house lots. Such a thing couldn't happen!

This was the church budget for 1929:

Pastor's Salary	\$1,700
Bishop	\$22
District Supt.	\$93
Conference Claims	\$238
Pulpit Supplies	\$40
Fuel, Organist, Sexton, Taxes, Insurance and Repairs	<u>\$485</u>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$2,578</b>

Sunday morning, August 20, 1933, William Dolbeare, who had been organist and choir director from 1903, passed away at the console of the organ during the church service. All who knew him mourned his passing. The good Lord provided a wonderful organist to fill the spot he left vacant, for it was then we obtained the services of Mrs. Reginald Cahill. She played her first service Sunday, September 3, 1933, and served most faithfully for many years.

Dr. Waterhouse served our church for nine years, and because of ill health felt it was necessary to give up his full-time pastorate. Reverend Robert L. Taylor was sent to us (May 17, 1937-May 1941). He was a Man of God and his activities included not only preaching and the normal duties of a pastor, but hard physical labor. With the assistance of some of the men of the church, he painted the exterior, changing the color from gray to white. He himself put new sills under the parsonage. He did a great deal of work on what was known as "The Taylor Room". Also, he had a new heating system installed throughout the church building. Before this time we had a coal furnace which supplied heat to the auditorium through two hot air registers in the floor.

Reverend Taylor inspired all the organizations of the church to put forth every effort to pay for these improvements. Special credit should be given to the Women's Society for its part in this venture. They were untiring in their work, one phase of which was a food sale, every Saturday on the church lawn. When Reverend

Taylor was transferred to Swampscott, every bill was paid. He was the first pastor who had the choir process and recess and it was partly through his efforts that the first choir robes were obtained. (The Women's Society made them.)

It was with much regret that the congregation said "goodbye" to Reverend Robert Taylor, for many in the church felt they were being separated from a beloved friend.

The Young People's Group was a forlorn group for he was very close to them. Usually, if Reverend Taylor was in his car, it was packed with the youths. He worked wonders with them and they adored him.

He passed away in Swampscott during his pastorate there, but to many of us his memory is still vivid.

## Old-Fashioned Tea And Sale Thursday At Barberry Acres

A country tea and food sale will be staged in the Fiske Cabin, Barberry Acres, 121 North avenue on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 15, under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Weston Community Church. Red plaid table cloths will cover the tables and napkins in tumblers will bring back memories of old country scenes. A bright fire will be burning in the large fireplace. The cabin, already furnished as a Colonial room, will make an ideal setting for this country tea. The menu, too, will be a tempting reminder of grandmother's house, with the real tarts and old fashioned sandwiches, doughnuts and coffee.

Mrs. Mae Weeks and Mrs. Robert L. Taylor will be in charge of the food sale. Assisting them with the tea will be Mrs. Allan Guthrie, Mrs. Carl Morgan, and Mrs. Donald R. Fiske. The food sale will open at 2 o'clock and tea will be served from 2 to 5

## THE WAR YEARS

The pastor of our church following Reverend Robert Taylor was Reverend Charles I. Spear (1941-1944). The community was beginning to grow and more and more new homes were built. This, of course, reflected in our church and Sunday School attendance. Both were growing steadily. The commissions of the church were having difficulty in meeting the situation, but Reverend Spear met the problems and six months after his arrival everything was running smoothly. The future looked bright indeed!

Then came World War II. Within a short time, all the young men in the Youth Fellowship were in the service. (Four of them lost their lives while on active duty.) Many members of the congregation and the choir joined the services too. The choir then became a women's three-part chorus and served faithfully during this time. Food, gas and fuel oil rationing was in effect. There were no food sales or family night suppers given by the Ladies Aid Society--there was not even enough oil to heat the sanctuary.

Reverend Spear took all these problems in stride. A coal stove was purchased and set up in the vestry and Sunday services were held there in the cold weather. The hymns were sung just as joyously there and the spirit was alive and warm as all sat around the stove and sang their praises. It was a wonderful experience for all who were present.

With gas rationing it was difficult for the pastor to make as many calls as he

would have liked, but he was always there when needed, and many families were comforted by his presence and his prayers. He was a true servant of Jesus Christ, ably and faithfully assisted by his wife, June, all during his pastorage here. Because he had reached retirement age, Reverend and Mrs. Spear moved to their home in Hudson, Mass. Mr. Spear was Pastor Emeritus of the Hudson Methodist church and he preached there or in other churches which needed him.

## WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL ROLE

*Roland L. Bumpus*

*Francis Guthrie*

*Stewart MacDonald*

*Fred Patterson*

(from plaque in Narthex  
of present church)