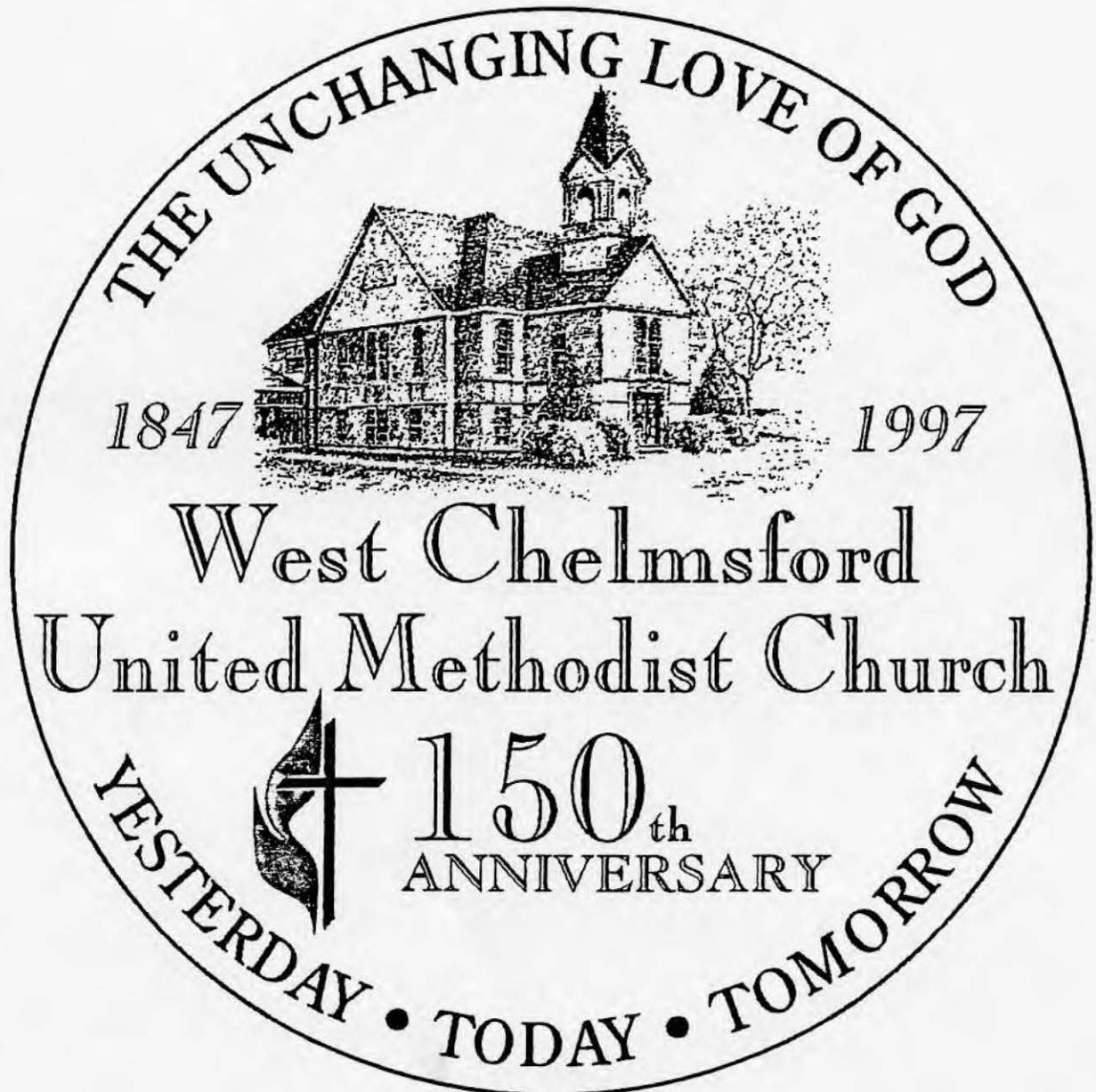


This Anniversary booklet was donated to the
Chelmsford Historical Society by
church member Marcia Brown in 2012

OUR HISTORY



**RECORD OF PASTORS AT WEST CHELMSFORD SINCE 1870, WHEN THE CHURCH
BECAME AFFILIATED WITH THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

1870-71	M. H. A. Evans	1918-18	Ralph C. Brown (3 months)
1871-73	G. C. Osgood	1918-19	Charles Maurer
1873-74	F. M. Miller	1919-20	W. A. Moore
1874-75	John Wesley Walker	1920-22	John H. Parker
1875-76	J. Winfield Walker	1922-24	Everett E. Jackman
1876-77	John E. Jubb	1924-25	
1877-78	James Walker	1925-27	B. A. Gessner
1878-79		1927-28	Edward L. Boetticher
1879-80	W. N. Groome	1928-29	Horatio Robbins
1880-82	M. H. A. Evans	1929-31	L. Burlin Main
1882-85	A. R. Sichibald	1931-33	Harley H. Ziegler
1885-86	Luther Freeman	1933-34	Donald G. Wright
1886-89	Charles E. Spaulding	1934-37	Wilbur E. Goist
1889-90	L. W. Hale	1937-38	Charles W. Hamilton
1890-91	F. G. Highway	1938-40	Owen E. Osborne
1891-94	George E. McIlwain	1941-43	Francis J. Mazzeo
1894-97	Francis J. McConnell (Bishop)	1943-45	Ernest R. Case
1897-00	W. C. Guyer	1945-48	Warren M. Roberts
1900-01	William W. Guth	1948-49	Sidney J. Lawson
1901-03	Charles C. P. Hiller	1949-52	J. Carleton Green
1903-04	Vincent Ravi	1952-58	T. Landon Lindsay (First Full Time)
1904-05	Fred C. McConnell (Brother of Bishop)	1958-60	Edward L. Hoffman
1905-06	Charles M. Merrill	1960-62	Wayne G. Austin
1906-08	Francis D. Taylor	1962-63	Miller C. Lovett
1908-10	William Collier	1963-68	Wayne S. Moody
1910-11	Harry Hess	1968-70	James S. Pemberton
1911-12	Frank Hargrave	1970-75	Charles A. Whitford
1912-14	Roy P. Crawford	1975-88	Wayne Kendall
1914-16	Thomas Hancock	1988-97	Gary S. Cornell
1917-17	H. H. Lippincott	1997-97	James Stillman (2 months)
		1997-	Merrill Hassinger

West Chelmsford Church History 1847-1997

"The settlement of West Chelmsford began about 1820 when Deacon John Farwell erected his scythe factory and a few houses along Main Street. Originally known as Farwell Village, it became popularly called Scythe Factory Village. With the coming of the Stony Brook Railroad in 1848, the official name of West Chelmsford was adopted."¹ In 1847 there was no church or religious society of any kind in the village. Only two of its families attended church at all. On June 6, 1847, Trueworthy Keyes opened a Sabbath School with twelve scholars. It is believed to have been held at the Keyes homestead, which is still standing at the corner of Hunt Road and Francis Hill Road, Westford. The school grew throughout the summer. Although the school had to close in November, its enrollment had grown to thirty students. Mr. Keyes reopened the school on April 9, 1848. It became known as the Stony Brook Society for Religious Worship. From Trueworthy Keyes' desire to share his faith has come the present Christian community in West Chelmsford. By the end of 1848, Mr. Calvert and others were discussing plans to establish a church building. The idea grew. In May of 1854 the West Chelmsford Benevolent Society was formed for the purpose of raising funds for a chapel. It was decided that shares would be sold at \$5.00 each to raise money. One hundred and sixty-six shares were offered. As the fund grew, property was purchased at 242 Main Street. Next, a barn was bought and moved to the site. Through the hard work of the Society it was reconstructed into a "neat and commodious chapel."²

Seminarians from various schools of theology preached at the chapel, but the Society had no denominational affiliation before 1870. In 1870 Rev. M. H. A. Evans, the Methodist Episcopal clergyman from Westford, was asked to serve West Chelmsford in connection with Graniteville. In the winter of 1871 the society asked Rev. Evans to organize a Methodist Episcopal church in West Chelmsford. On February 25 the First Quarterly Conference was held in the kitchen of Brother A. W. Parkhurst, at 184 Main Street with three members present. Trustees and officers were appointed. In 1872 the stock in the chapel was deeded to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the West Chelmsford Methodist Episcopal Church became a reality.³

Worship continued in the chapel until 1887. During the pastorate of Rev. Charles E. Spaulding plans were obtained for a new church building, designed by Alden Frink of Boston.⁴ A contract was signed with William C. Edwards to build the new church for \$4000.⁵ The chapel was sold for \$200⁶ and moved by oxen and rollers to its present location at 43 Nabnasset Street, Westford.⁷ It is now the home of long-time member Mary Van Norden.

The cornerstone for the new church was laid on July 4, 1887. Worship began in the new building in the late fall. The church was dedicated on a snowy Tuesday, January 10, 1888. In spite of the weather, ten clergymen and a full congregation participated in the 2:00 and 7:30 services. The final cost of the building and furnishings was \$5500. During the dedication service, guest speaker Rev. J. W. Hamilton, D.D., commended the congregation for its zeal in raising \$4500. He wished, however, he said to see the final \$1000 pledged. Within half an hour, \$1000 more had been pledged, so the new church began its life debt-free. Not to be outdone, the evening speaker, Rev. George S. Chadbourne, D.D., asked for additional pledges for a much-needed organ. Before the service ended at 10:00 PM, another \$155 had been raised.

The 1887 church closely resembled our present church in outward appearance. The sanctuary had stained glass windows, cushioned oak pews, and a central pentagonal pulpit. The recessed ceiling above the pulpit was frescoed to resemble a clear sky thickly set with stars. Scripture verses were emblazoned above the altar, the choir, and over the entrance. A chandelier provided lighting. The building was heated by two Magee furnaces. The downstairs included a kitchen and a vestry furnished with desk furniture from the former chapel, a bookcase, and settees.⁸ Improvements were made in 1915 when a parlor was added and a maple floor was laid in the sanctuary.⁹ An organ was also purchased.

From the early 1900s through 1920 there were many suppers, entertainments, and socials. Trolley tracks ran by the church until 1921, connecting with other lines in Westford and North Chelmsford. Ruth Sundberg recalls evening summer fairs at Cameron Park, (on Main Street just before the School Street branch). "There were scores of Chinese lanterns, music, plenty of baked goods, candy, and grab-bags, as well as homemade rootbeer."¹¹ During World War 1, "our boys " were prayed for by the congregation and supported by a knitting group. Sadly, just after the armistice was signed, West Chelmsford's George R. Quessy was killed. In his memory the school at the corner of School Street and Naylor Avenue was given his name.¹²

Two stories exist concerning the fire on the morning of July 16, 1920. According to Frederick Burne, the engineer of a passing train spotted a fire around 2:30 AM and blew the train whistle continuously as he passed through the village to awaken its inhabitants.¹³ A newspaper account credits a passerby with noticing flames breaking through the rear wall and roof of the church and alerting the neighbors. The alarm was quickly spread throughout the town. THE CHURCH IS ON FIRE! Volunteers immediately formed a long bucket brigade to a nearby house. Buckets were passed hand to hand to men on ladders against the sides and roof of the church. Others used hand-held fire extinguishers inside the building, but the raging blast of flames forced the volunteers back. Desperate calls were made to Chelmsford Center and Lowell to bring fire trucks to the scene. A wind created by the rising hot air soon drove the flames to the front of the

building. Fire trucks arrived in less than half an hour, but by then it was evident that little could be done but save the neighboring homes. Helplessly the villagers watched as their church was totally consumed.¹⁴

Ruth Sundberg recalls, "It was awful. I remember being there until dawn. We just watched as the beams came crashing down. There was nothing that anyone could do. Everyone was crying."¹⁵

Frederick Burne has written, "If you have ever experienced a church in which you were brought up, burn to the ground, a total loss, you would know the heartbreak we felt when our church was destroyed by fire."¹⁶

Since there had been other fires in the village, arson was suspected by some.¹⁷ Faulty wiring was also suspected, but the cause of the fire was never determined. The embers were still glowing when a determined congregation started making plans for a new church. At 7:30 that same night a large group met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Snow at 44 School Street. A special session of the Quarterly Conference was convened by their former pastor, District Superintendent Dr. Charles E. Spaulding. A vote showed that the church family was united with one thought in mind. We must REBUILD!¹⁸ Two committees were immediately formed, a solicitation committee and a building committee. At the meeting \$275 was pledged amid cheers and sustained applause.¹⁹

In the spring of 1921 the decision was made to build the new church on the foundation of the old one, using the same plans with some modifications. The contract was given to the Edwards and Monahan Contracting Co. for approximately \$31,000.²⁰

The cornerstone of our present building was laid on Sunday afternoon, July 3, 1921. While the building was under construction services were held in Historical Hall, the small white building on the corner of Main and Joy Street. The dedication of the church was held on Wednesday, January 18, 1922. The day of celebration included church services, at 3:00 and at 7:30. The dedication sermon was preached by former pastor Rev. Charles P. Hiller who served West Chelmsford from 1901 to 1903. A supper was served by the Ladies Benevolent Society, and music was provided by the Ladies' Orchestra.²¹ Although Dist. Supt. Dr. Charles E. Spaulding was scheduled to speak, a serious illness kept him from attending.²² Dr. Spaulding had been the pastor at West Chelmsford from 1886 to 1889 during the building and dedication of the former church. A newspaper account of the dedication praises the beauty and the fine workmanship of the building. "William Edwards who built the former church and has been connected with the church for many years, spent many days personally directing the work on the structure. He saw to it that only the best materials went into the building, and as a result the latter is one of the soundest and most solidly built

churches of its size. The workmanship down to the very last joist is of the finest." Many gifts and furnishings were given by parishioners and friends of the church including the bell, given by the contractor, John J. Monahan.²³

Throughout the 1920s the church continued to be the center of religious and social life in the village. Student pastors came to West Chelmsford on the weekends and stayed at the home of Miss Lottie Snow at 48 School Street.²⁴ Most served only a year or two. During that time the church had an active Sunday School and Ladies' Benevolent Society. Miss Elsie Burne was church organist until 1922, followed by Esther Nystrom. Mrs. Nystrom faithfully played for Sunday services, weddings, and funerals for forty years until her retirement in 1962.

In the 1930s the church was a busy place. There were Sunday morning and evening services and a Senior and Junior Choir. In addition to the Sunday School and Ladies Benevolent Society, it had a Junior and Senior Epworth League for young people, a Mens' Club and Softball Team, Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, a Reading Club, and a Dramatic Club. There were frequent suppers and entertainment programs, such as the Tom Thumb Wedding starring the village children.²⁵

A special Homecoming Sunday was celebrated on October 19, 1930, with several former pastors attending. At the 3:00 service the sermon was delivered by Dr. Charles E. Spaulding. Bishop Francis McConnell, former pastor from 1894 to 1897, preached the evening sermon. Bishop McConnell had recently been selected by twenty thousand preachers in America as one of the twenty-five most influential preachers in America.²⁶

In 1939, the word Episcopal was dropped from our name when the three branches of Methodism in America merged.²⁷ Thus we became The West Chelmsford Methodist Church.

On Dec.4, 1941 the office of Edwards and Monahan Contractors at 44 Nabnasset St. Westford was purchased for \$650 for use as a parsonage.²⁸ Volunteers renovated, painted, and furnished it. During the same time period, the church sanctuary was refurbished. It was rededicated in October of 1942, in a celebration which included a homecoming dinner with former pastors invited. Many sent letters recalling their days in West Chelmsford.²⁹ Again, local boys were called upon to defend the country in World War 2. The war sent young men around the globe and the prayers of their church family went with them. There was great rejoicing when parishioner Ralph "Habie" Haberman, Jr. returned home after being held as a prisoner of war.³⁰ Peace came at last, and services of thanksgiving were held.

The church continued to grow throughout the 1940s. An Intermediate Choir was added. The womens' group became the Womens' Society of Christian Service, and the Epworth League became the Methodist Youth Fellowship. The church budget was supplemented with the proceeds from ham and bean suppers and West Chelmsford's delicious smorgasbords. A yearly Homecoming Sunday was held every fall, with a turkey dinner prepared by Rita Anderson and her able helpers. There were Christmas fairs and summer lawn parties featuring baby contests, beauty contests, bicycle and doll carriage parades and band concerts by the Abbot Worsted Band of Westford. Summer Vacation Schools were held each year. All-church entertainments such as minstrel shows and variety shows added to the funds.³¹ Among the weddings held during the 1940s two were of special note: Pastor Ernest Case married local girl, Glendys Bickford, and Rev. Warren Roberts returned to marry West Chelmsford's Evelyn Burton.

In 1952, T. Landon Lindsay became the church's first full time pastor. Under his leadership the church continued to grow spiritually and financially. A new emphasis on pledging to support the church was begun and yearly canvasses took place. On July 3, 1953 the church's neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Kirkpatrick generously gave the church the parcel of land on which the Education Building now stands. On June 23, 1954, the first parsonage was sold for \$4400 and the second parsonage at 238 Main Street was purchased for \$11,423.³² Church membership increased. A new Methodist Men's group was formed and became famous for their wonderful chicken barbeques. The WSCS continued to thrive, supporting missions, visiting the sick and shut-ins and sponsoring large summer fairs with costume parades. The MYF sent many young people to camp at Rolling Ridge in North Andover and other Methodist conferences. Yearly children's shows were held under the direction of Fern Ricker. In 1957, a new worship setting in the sanctuary, designed by Arthur Englund, was dedicated. The pulpit, chairs, and kneeler were moved from the center of the worship area to the left side of the chancel. A new altar replaced the wooden table and a maroon velvet hanging provided a background for the large gold-leafed cross. This replaced the free-standing walnut-stained wooden cross made by Wendell Luke.

In 1958 under the leadership of Rev. Edward Hoffman, a needs survey was conducted by Boston University. A recommendation was made that an education building was needed. In 1960 Rev. Wayne Austin lead the canvass to raise funds for the new building. Ground was broken on January 28, 1962. The Education Building, designed by Arthur Englund, AIA, and built by J. George Picard, was completed in the fall of 1962 at a cost of \$103,000.³³ The building was dedicated on Sunday Dec. 2, 1962. A weekend of celebration featured a teen dance, an open house, and a consecration dinner which many former pastors and their wives attended. Bishop James K. Matthews was the guest speaker.

Under Rev. Miller Lovett's direction in 1962-1963, a period of spiritual renewal took place, with over

forty people participating in Yokefellow Groups. Two Sunday services were begun. On February 3, 1963 a religious census of the Chelmsford Farms/ South Row area of Chelmsford was undertaken to determine the need for a mission church. As a result of this survey, in spite of many varying points of view, a house was purchased at 95 Concord Road, Chelmsford, on June 3, 1963. This was to be used for Sunday School classes at the mission church. At the next Quarterly Conference the name Aldersgate Methodist Church was chosen for the new church.

Rev. Wayne Moody became pastor in fall of 1963. Rev. Ned Watts was appointed assistant pastor. His duties were mainly to assist at the new Aldersgate Church. Rev. Watts subsequently became Aldersgate's first pastor. During Rev. Moody's pastorate there were many changes. Several lay people became youth counselors and laymen filled the pulpit during the pastor's vacation. Annual Easter Sunrise Services and breakfasts began. Christmas fairs became whole church events with suppers, puppet shows, and sometimes evening entertainments. Many cantatas and choral programs were presented by the choir, under the direction of Pat Brown, choir director and organist. West Chelmsford's fall rummage sales began. Mrs. Helen Monahan moved her Jack and Jill Kindergarten to our educational building. There was a heightened awareness of world and national events as our church held memorial services to honor President John F. Kennedy and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Former pastor Rev. Landon Lindsay returned in 1964 to speak about being arrested and jailed in North Carolina for participating in a civil rights demonstration. The Lowell Chapter of the NAACP used our building for annual suppers and several parishioners joined the group. A growing awareness of physical disabilities was ours as Rev. Moody, in spite of his blindness, opened our eyes to the problems of the physically handicapped. Many church and community members took part in a patterning experiment to help a local child with cerebral palsy. A committee on social concerns was formed and letters were sent to President Johnson to support legislation to ease poverty and discrimination.

In 1965-1966 the grounds at the rear of the church were landscaped to include a worship area, benches, and a barbeque area with picnic tables surrounded by trees and ornamental shrubs. These were dedicated in September 1966, in memory of Charles A. Englund, architect.

In 1967-1968 a sanctuary redecoration project took place. The hanging white lamps were replaced with brass chandeliers. The walnut-stained pews were painted white. The cross background was changed from maroon to blue. The old reed pipe organ was replaced by a new five-manual, two-rank pipe organ built by Rostran Kershaw of Lowell, with the console cabinet made by Lothar Fuchs of Chelmsford. The choir area was redone, by removing the existing door to the parlor, building risers, and enclosing the loft. The sanctuary rededication took place on March 18, 1968.³⁴

During 1968 and 1969 under the leadership of Rev. James Pemberton, the church embarked on a \$65,000 campaign to pay off the mortgage on the Education Building, fulfill conference obligations, and build Sunday School rooms in the vestry. In November 1969, our present Minister of Music, Karen Leonard was hired.³⁵

From 1970 to 1975 under Rev. Charles Whitford's direction, lay participation continued to expand. Lay readers took part in the weekly services. Three youth groups, Sr. High, Mid-High, and Jr. High flourished under the guidance of lay advisors. Yearly youth group retreats at Elsie and Dave Wilson's farmhouse in Alexandria, N. H. were eagerly attended. Our first Lenten Booklet of Devotions was written by members of the congregation. Lay men and women continued to fill the pulpit in the minister's absence. A prison ministry was begun. Two assistant pastors, Pat Haley and Al Taylor shared the pastor's workload. We provided internships for several theological students from Boston University: Lindsay Thorpe, Lynn Hess, Al Singleton, Keith Beasley-Topliffe, Lynn McLagan, and Janet Byers. The building was now home to five scout troops, a kindergarten, Project Headstart, the Guys and Dolls Chorus, and AA. It was also the meeting place for all our committees, choirs, Sunday School, WSCS, MYF, Bible Study, and Covenant groups. Special events of the 1970s include the Lay Witness Missions, Consultations on Racism, and mid-winter Snoopy Picnics. The WSCS became the United Methodist Women in 1973.³⁶

In 1975 Rev. Wayne Kendall became pastor. Under his leadership a ministry to the deaf community began. Monthly interpreted services and sign language classes for the congregation were offered. Videotaping equipment was purchased and services were taped and distributed. In 1979, the parsonage at 238 Main Street was sold for \$36,998. The proceeds from the sale provided a pastors' housing allowance, paid off the \$29,000 Educational Building mortgage, and the remainder was used for building maintenance and renovation. Four stained glass windows were placed in the narthex in memory of Susie Roberts in 1976.³⁷

The 1980s brought increased church membership. To make our sanctuary more accessible, the church purchased a Wecolator Stair Climber for \$3300. Our music program expanded when three octaves of Schulmerich English handbells were added. Over the years two more octaves have been purchased. Under Karen Leonard's direction an extensive handbell choir program was begun. A set of needlepoint kneelers depicting the life and ministry of Jesus was designed by artist Elizabeth "Betty" Wilder. They were stitched by many members of the UMW and dedicated on December 4, 1983. Throughout the 1980s there was a strong emphasis on missions, with 10% of the budget beyond conference apportionments given to local, national, and international mission projects. The educational and youth program continued to grow. Living nativity scenes were begun. A stage was built in the Fellowship Hall and two all-church entertainments

were held: "Celebration Time" in 1981 and "From Broadway to Main Street" in 1986. In the fall of 1986 Rev. David Doepel from Australia became the assistant pastor. In 1986 a merger with the United Brethren on the national level brought another name change. Now our name was the West Chelmsford United Methodist Church. In July 1988 a parsonage located at 10 Ridgewood Rd., W. Chelmsford was purchased for \$159,906.³⁸

Rev. Gary Cornell, was appointed in June 1988. Under his guidance, children took a more active part in the worship service. Sunday School classes participated in worship and many children were servers. An evening fifth and sixth grade children's fellowship and a new ministry to college students were started. Teams of teachers began teaching the Sunday School classes.. Hands-on mission projects included supplying Open Pantry, providing hot meals for the residents of Middlesex Shelter and St. Paul's UMC kitchen, and volunteering at Habitat for Humanity. In 1992 the first yearly summer work camp for youth and adults, Mission at the Eastwood, was held in Maine. A Montessori School was housed in the Education Building from 1992 to 1995. A new signboard was made and landscaping was done at the front of the church by David Leonard and an altar and benches were constructed on the rear grounds by Gregory Troughton as Eagle Scout projects. The church entered the computer age with the acquisition of a computer and the formation of a web site committee.³⁹

The anniversary year, 1997, had many special events. New front doors were purchased by the congregation as a gift to future generations. In January, a beautiful anniversary quilt was presented to the church at the Anniversary Kick-off Dinner. In February, Bishop Susan Hassinger was the guest speaker at the Sunday Services and was guest of honor at the reception which followed. In April an all-church variety show, Stony Brook Follies, under the direction of Karen Leonard and Holly Cerullo was presented. In May, at a national conference, our minister of music, Karen Leonard was chosen to be President-elect of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. A church birthday party was hosted by the Sunday School on Children's Day, June 8. This was held 150 years and two days after Trueworthy Keyes' Sabbath School first began. June also brought the news that our pastor, Gary Cornell, was being transferred. A farewell reception was held on June 29. Interim pastor Rev. James Stillwell ably supplied the pulpit during July and August. Our new pastor, Rev. Merrill Hassinger, began his ministry with us in September. The rededication of the church took place on September 14, 1997, with District Superintendent James Todd as guest speaker. In October on a weekend of celebration, an Anniversary Dinner, Special Anniversary Services and a Vesper Service were held. Rev. Wendell Luke, Jr. D.D., who grew up in this church, was the guest speaker at the Vesper Service.

Today as we celebrate our one hundred and fiftith year, West Chelmsford United Methodist Church

has a membership of approximately 600 and a budget of \$175,000. From September through May, there are Sunday worship services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM. Sunday School is at 9:30 with classes for children age 3 through high school. A 9:30 crib nursery is provided for children age 2 and younger. In summer one service is held at 9:30. Our six choirs provide music, under the direction of Minister of Music Karen Leonard assisted by Holly Cerullo. There are three youth groups for young people from fifth grade through high school, a mens' fellowship, an adult fellowship, Bible study, and four circles of United Methodist Women. The church is also home to Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, two AA groups, and the Kids First Preschool. In addition to supporting our missionaries to Russia, William Lovelace and Sun Lae Kim, the church strongly supports local, national, and international missions.

We are proud of the young people who grew up in this church who have gone on to serve the Lord as ordained ministers: Rev. Wendell D. Luke, Jr. D.D., Rev. Lynda Palmer Hadley, and Rev. David Whitford. We are also proud of the young adults, Rev. Barbara Herber, Rev. Kurt Herber, and our interns who spent part of their journey to the ministry with us.

The Lord has blessed this branch of His Church with hundreds of loving hearts and willing hands over the past 150 years. From the vision of Trueworthy Keyes and a handful of families has come a community of faith still dedicated to worship of the Living God. As we complete our 150th year may we, the present church, keep the faith preserved for us by "saints" of the past and strive to do God's work in our world today as they did. Our love and thanks goes out to all our pastors, members, and friends throughout the years who have given of themselves to build this community of faith. Above all, we thank the Lord who has blessed us with His love.

This church history is taken in part from the writings of Rev. M. H. A. Evans, pastor in 1870, as quoted in Bayard Dean's "102 Years of Methodism," written in 1949. Mr Dean, a long-time member and trustee of the church, adds his own recollections in that document. Perry Snow's "History of Methodism in West Chelmsford, Massachusetts" adds to the years between 1941 and 1962. Frederick Burne's "History of West Chelmsford Church", gives us more information as well as a personal glimpse of the church in the early 1900s. Much is from newspaper articles, pamphlets and programs gathered by Margaret Cornell. Ruth Wyman has supplied a wealth of photographs saved by her aunt Ebba Anderson and her mother, Ella Johnson. Other information was provided by Annual Conference reports and council minutes. Some is drawn from the memories of those who served here: Ruth Sundberg, Mary Van Norden, Ashton and Fern Ricker, Elsie Wilson, Karen Leonard, Betty Wilder, Al and Ruth Wyman, Al Brown, and Helen Monahan.

As one who grew up in this church, I find that the naming of events and dates cannot convey the bonds of love and support forged here, nor can it tell the shining stories of faith lived out in the daily lives of its people. For that one must come and be a part of it all.

Marcia Brown

October 15, 1997N

Endnotes

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3. Dean, "102 Years".
4. Newspaper article, Jan. 1888.
5. Dean, "102 Years".
6. Burne, Frederick, "History of West Chelmsford Church".
7. Conversation with Mary Van Norden, Jan. 1997.
8. Newspaper article, Jan. 1888.
9. Dean, "102 Years".
10. Lowell Courier Citizen, July 17, 1920, "West Chelmsford Methodist Episcopal Church Is Totally Destroyed by Fire".
11. Conversation with Ruth Sundberg, Jan. 1997.
12. Sundberg, Jan. 1997.
13. Ashton Ricker quoting conversation with Frederick Burne.
14. Lowell Courier Citizen, July 17, 1920.
15. Sundberg, Jan. 1997.
16. Burne, "History".
17. Conversation with Wendell Luke.
18. Burne, "History".
19. Lowell Courier Citizen, July 17, 1920.
20. Dean, "102 Years".
21. Program, Service of Dedication, Jan. 18, 1922.
22. Parker, John H., Letter, Oct. 26, 1942.
23. Conversation with Helen Monahan, Jan. 1997.
24. Sundberg, Jan. 1997
25. Newspaper articles and photographs loaned by Ruth Wyman.

26. Program, Homecoming Sunday, Oct. 19, 1930.
27. Conversation with Rev. Gary Cornell, March 1997.
28. Snow, Perry T., " History of Methodism in West Chelmsford, 1941-1962".
29. See letters in Scrapbook, West Chelmsford Church History 1847-1997.
30. Newspaper picture, 1942.
31. Newspaper articles, Wyman.
32. Snow, "History".
33. Snow, "History".
34. Annual Reports, 1963-1968.
35. Annual Report, 1969.
36. Annual Reports, 1970-1975.
37. Annual Reports, 1975-1979.
38. Annual Reports, 1980-1988.
39. Annual Reports, 1988-1996.



1847 - 1887

242 Main Street - Moved to Westford in 1887, still used as house

Image courtesy of Don Burne



Published by F. E. Bickford

M. E. Church, West Chelmsford, Mass.

242 Main Street - Dedicated 6/10/1888, Burned 7/16/1920

Postcard Courtesy of Paul Pettazoni



242 Main Street - West Chelmsford United Methodist Church, rebuilt using original plans 3/13/2005 F. Merriam



238 Main Street - UMC Parsonage from 1954 to mid 1970s

3/13/2005 F. Merriam



242 Main Street - Church dedicated 1/18/1922, Wing dedicated 12/2/1962

3/13/2005 F. Merriam



242 Main Street - West Chelmsford United Methodist Church

1/17/2005 F. Merriam