



First Congregational Church of Westfield

Celebrating 200 Years of Christian Community!

October 14, 2018

Prelude: Meditation “Thais,” Jules Massenet,
(Jacqueline Klar)

Invocation/Welcome (Prayer #25, Hymnal p. 506)

Hymn #489: “I Would Be True” (Steve Morse)

Musical Interlude: Thurmond Knight, cello;
Catherine McMaster, accompanist

Church History and Scripture: Pastor Rick Shover

Musical Interlude: Ruth Marquette and the United
Church of Newport Ringers

Church History and Scripture: Susie
Webster-Toleno (reading by Emily Klar)

Musical Interlude: Jeff Fellingner

Church History and Scripture: Dwight Walker

Musical Interlude: Steve Morse

Church History and Scripture: Anne Squire
(reading by Sally Rivard)

Musical Interlude: Westfield Church Musicians:
“Glorious Day,” by Casting Crowns

Church History and Scripture: Pastor David
DiZazzo

Musical Interlude: Jan Brushett and Crystal Perrier

Church History and Scripture: Pastor John Klar

Musical Interlude: Steve Morse and Jacqueline Klar

Psalter Reading (in unison, #69, p. 518 in Hymnal)

Closing Prayer

Postlude: “Ave Verum,” Wolfgang Amadeus
Mozart (Jacqueline Klar)

Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me) by Casting Crowns

One day when Heaven was filled with His praises
One day when sin was as black as could be
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin
Dwelt among men, my example is He
Word became flesh and the light shined among us
His glory revealed

(Chorus)

Living, He loved me
Dying, He saved me
Buried, He carried my sins far away
Rising, He justified freely forever
One day He's coming
Oh glorious day, oh glorious day

One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected
Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He
Hands that healed nations, stretched out on a tree
And took the nails for me

(Chorus)

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer
One day the stone rolled away from the door
Then He arose, over death He had conquered
Now is ascended, my Lord evermore
Death could not hold Him, the grave could not keep Him
From rising again

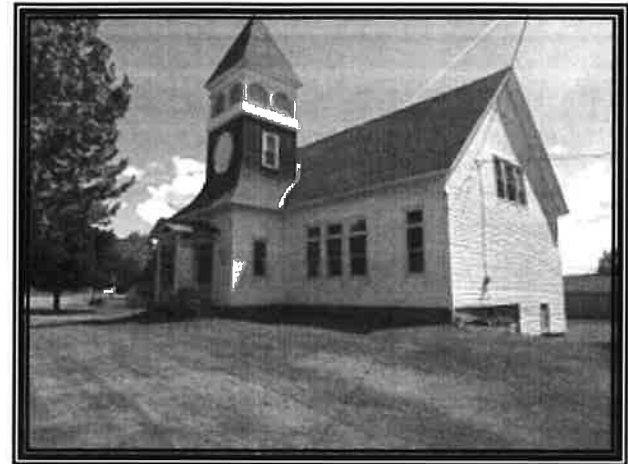
(Chorus)

One day the trumpet will sound for His coming
One day the skies with His glories will shine
Wonderful day, my Beloved One bringing
My Savior Jesus is mine

(Chorus)

*The First Congregational Church
Westfield, Vermont*

Celebrating 200 Years



A Bit of History

Sunday October 14, 2018

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Westfield, Vermont**

THE FIRST 100 YEARS

The first Congregational minister who ever preached a sermon in Westfield was a Mr. Farrar, who was then preaching in the town of Eden. This was about 1812 or 1813. A Mr. Bowen, a minister from Potton, Quebec occasionally preached here. In the year 1818, Rev. Levi Parsons of the Vermont Missionary Society, came to Westfield, and held a series of meetings. He also visited other places in the Valley. This work, as you know, resulted in the organization of the Westfield Congregational Church in Capt. Stebbins' house, and I shall now for a little time quote you his own words as recorded in our church books which bear his own signature.

Westfield, Vt., April 14, 1818 - By the request of individuals, who were wishing to be received in church relation, a meeting was appointed and after inquiring into the nature and advantage of the church government it was thought best to set apart the Friday succeeding for examination of those that wished to present themselves, when there came forward the following persons and related what the Lord had done for their souls.

Albert Levi Parsons, Miss'y

Friday, April 17 - Assembled agreeably to appointment and after examining the candidates, to wit:

Elisha Hitchcock, Editha Hitchcock, Joseph Hitchcock, Betsey Hitchcock, Shubal Winslow, Azubeth Winslow, Arunah B. Fuller, Mary Stebbins, Roswell Lumbard, Merian (?) Stebbins, Olive Colburn, Lucina Hitchcock, presented themselves for church membership and obtaining evidence of their Christian character, it was proposed that on the succeeding Sabbath a regular Congregational Church should be organized.

Levi Parsons, Miss'y

Sabbath, April 19th - After the religious exercises had commenced, the candidates for church membership voted that Deacon Samuel Skinner of Troy and brother Ephraim Skinner, a member of the Congregational Church in Craftsbury assist in organizing the church as proposed. After a short discourse Arunah B. Fuller and Roswell Lumbard presented themselves and were baptized by sprinkling. The candidates then gave their assent to a confession of faith and covenant. (On this day Luther Winslow and Lyda Daily came and were propounded to join the church.)

The following are the names of those who received into Covenant relations, to wit:

Elisha Hitchcock, Joseph Hitchcock, Shubal Winslow, Arunah Fuller, Roswell Lumbard, Editha Hitchcock, Betsey Hitchcock, Azubeth Winslow, Mart Stebbins, Meriam Stebbins.

By the concurring voice of those who were invited to assist, the church was then declared to be a regular Congregational church in Westfield.

The Lord's Supper was administered at the close of the exercise in the afternoon. May the Lord acknowledge this church as a vine of his own planting and water it with the showers of his divine grace.

Attest: Levi Parsons, Miss'y
Samuel Skinner, a deacon of the Congregational Church in Troy
Ephraim Skinner, member of the 1st Congregational Church in Craftsbury

The first stationed minister in Westfield, was the Rev. James Parker who was the stationed supply 1818 to 1825 in conjunction with North Troy. I am sorry to say that I have no record of Mr. Parker at all except that he came from Berkshire to Westfield and that he died in Troy and was buried in the North Troy cemetery. The first mention we have is of his preaching in Westfield on June 17th, 1818. On March 4th, 1819 we have mention of the Rev. Joseph Labbene, who preached a lecture, as it is phrased at Oliver Chamberlin's.

May 15, 1826, the church voted to give Mr. Silas Lamb an invitation to become their pastor. The ordination took place June 22. The churches invited were Berkshire, East Montgomery, Morristown, Berlin, Hardwick, 1st Craftsbury, Barton and Coventry. The services were held in Elisha Hitchcock's barn. During the same year a meeting was called to see if the society would build a church. After meeting several times and adjourning without result, a vote was passed and a committee appointed to locate and build. The committee consisted of Luther Page, Medad S. Hitchcock and _____ Hitchcock. Material was furnished for the building by the following persons at the following rates: The hewed timber was furnished by Joseph Hitchcock for 15 cents a hundred, the sawed lumber by M.S. Hitchcock for 58 cents a hundred, the rafters and sleepers by Luther Winslow for 22 cents a hundred. The frame was let to Elisha Hitchcock for \$41.

A rather interesting description of is given by D.A. Winslow of the interior. He says: "The inside of the church would be deemed a wonder of architecture at the present day. Two boxes fixed up 8 or 10 feet from the floor in opposite corners of the house for singer's seats, the men singers in the one corner and the women in the other. Between them was the pulpit several feet lower, so that between the men and women singers was a great gulf fixed, which

could by no means be passed. In those days the choir was not made up of boys and girls scarcely old enough to sit away from their mothers, but on the men's side sat the deacons, the elders and the solid men of the church, while on the other side were the good old matrons and the mothers in Israel. Here for years were sung *St. Martyn, China, Calvary and Plymouth*, and I remember with what delight I used to listen to those solid old tunes. Since then it has been my fortune to listen to the immortal productions of *Handel, Haydn and Rosini*, rendered by the best artists in America, but never have I experienced more pleasure than when a little lad I used to hear half a dozen old men and women sing in our old church."

The pastorate of *Silas Lamb* closed in 1829. The first letters of dismission were given on *March 22* of the same year. *Deacon Joseph Hitchcock, Betsey Hitchcock and Lucreta Hitchcock* to the church in *Craftsbury*. On *April 5th* *Elisha Hitchcock and Edith Hitchcock* to the church in *Kelleyvale (Lowell)*.

The church was then supplied by the *Rev. Wm. E. Holmes* one-third the time and was followed by *Iona Sampson*, taking us up to the installation of the *Rev. Reuben Mason*, *Sept. 26, 1837*, who accepted the pastorate of the church for three-fourths the time. The *Rev. Reuben Mason* was a prominent personage in the valley it may be said, and was generally regarded as a very able man. His pastorate terminated in 1842. Then followed the ordination of *James D. Hills* on *March 27th, 1844*.

The *Rev. C. W. Piper* was a stated supply, beginning *Feb. 4, 1852*, and continuing to 1854. Before this *Mr. Piper* had supplied the church at *North Troy* and *South Troy* as well. The next in succession was *Nathan Ward*, continuing until *Dec. 18, 1859*, when he preached his farewell sermon, administered the *Lord's Supper* and baptized two children on *Medad Hitchcock's, Elbridge Henry and Sarah Lunette*. This takes us up to the year 1860.

Jan. 1, 1860, *Rev. James P. Lane* came as acting pastor to preach one-half of the time for a year. On *Apr. 6th* is recorded the annual state fast. *Mr. Lane* was away for a time during the summer months, and during his absence the pulpit was supplied by the *Rev. Thomas Baldwin of Lowell, Rev. Mr. Hall of Stanstead and a Rev. Mr. Williams*, a student missionary of the *Vermont Domestic Missionary Society* labouring in the *North Troy* vicinity.

It is rather interesting to note that a manual, embracing principles of polarity, rules of the church, articles of faith with proofs and the covenant was prepared by *Mr. Lane*, and the pastor was authorized to have 100 copies printed for the use of the members.

Following *Mr. Lane*, the *Rev. Geo. S. Briscoe* supplied for a time, commencing

October 7, 1860, and supplying on alternate Sundays for six months and on *April 7, 1861*, he was followed by *Rev. Geo. A. Beckwith*. Mention is made of a *Mr. Bailey*, agent of the *S. S. Union*, who preached on *August 25th*.

Oct 20, 1861, *Rev. Geo. Blake* supplied the pulpit until the first Sabbath in *December* and then *Rev. Charles Scott* from *April 1, 1862*, until the coming of the *Rev. A. A. Smith*, who commenced his work here *April 1, 1863* and was installed as pastor *Feb. 11, 1864*. He preached his farewell sermon in *Westfield* *Jan. 6, 1867*. I am sorry to say we have absolutely no information as to any of these men, apart from the bare mention of their coming and going. There is one exception, however, and that is *Charles Scott*. We do know that he was pastor at *North Troy* from 1863 to 1865.

We know have the appearance of the *Rev. J. A. Farrar*, coming here in *June 1867*, and leaving in *April 1868*. *Mr. Farrar* was a young Englishman, who according to report was very English, indeed. We do know quite a little about him, for he was the minister at *Cowansville, P. Q.*, my native town, some four years previous to coming to *Westfield*. He had a wife and several children. Where he went to, the records have been silent and I have been unable to trace his subsequent career. I imagine, however, that he eventually returned to *England*.

He was followed in 1868, *May 6th*, by *Rev. Daniel Goodhue*, coming from the church at *Bradford, N. H.*, until *Apr. 30, 1871*.

Jan 1, 1872, the *Rev. D. Connell* commenced his work here, coming from the church at *North Troy*. He had been in *North Troy* two years. Here again I strike an oasis, for I do know something of the *Rev. David Connell*. He founded the church at *Cowansville, Que.* my home town, in 1852 and was largely instrumental in building the church. His pastorate at *Westfield* closed *July 1, 1874*.

Now we are beginning to reach the period of modern history, and some of you have pleasant recollections of the *Rev. F. B. Phelps*, who came here *May 1st, 1875*, and closed his work *March 30, 1879*. There were a great many additions to the church in *Mr. Phelps'* time. And it was all due largely to his own individual efforts. Sometimes he would have a neighbouring minister in to help him. He was a man who commanded respect and his name will long be remembered. *Mr. Phelps* was a cousin of *Austin Phelps*, the theologian of *Andover Seminary*, and of the authoress *Elizabeth Stuart Phelps*. No doubt the *Lowell* people could give many reminiscences of *Mr. Phelps*, for it was at *Lowell* he lived during the pastorate.

For a brief period, *Sept. 28, 1879*, to *Sept. 19, 1880*, the *Rev. O. G. Burnham* was a pastor and he was ordained while he was at *Westfield*. He is

now a resident of Belchertown, Mass., since 1915.

Then followed the pastorate of Rufus King, Nov. 7, 1880, to May 1, 1889. Then followed Edwin E. Rose, from June 1889 to June 1890, and Edwin W. Smith from 1890 to Nov 30, 1893. I regret that the church records do not tell us more regarding these two men.

Now we come to the pastorate of the Rev. L.P. Atwood, who served this church from 1894 to 1900. Fifty years of Mr. Atwood's life were spent in the ministry and before entering on his ministerial studies he spent three years on a whaler, so you see his experience of life was not a narrow one. It is interesting to note that his early ministry was with the Wesleyan Methodist connection. This was, I believe, a secession of Abolitionists from the Methodist Episcopal Church of part of the anti-slavery element, and who adopted a democratic form of church government. Mr. Atwood during his long life did a lot of hard, earnest home missionary work. In 1860, he threw his lot with the Congregationalists. After the close of his pastorate here, he removed to South Weymouth, Mass., and there died, Dec. 24, 1907. As the most of you are aware, we have the pleasure of having as a resident in our community, one of his daughters, Miss Orcelia Atwood.

In our church records we have this interesting item: June 28, 1894, Miss Harmon and Miss Nelson, missionaries sent out by the Vermont Domestic Missionary Society, commenced labours. Remained about eight weeks, visited all the families in town, and held a large number of meetings with good attendance. Organized a Sunday School on the West Hill.

From 1900 to 1902, The Rev. J.H. Cone was minister. The Rev. A.B. Peebles, now of California, followed Mr. Cone, June 25 1902 to June 25, 1904. Mr. Peebles was pastor when the movement for the new building started and preached the sermon at the dedication. On Dec. 26, 1902, is recorded the death of D.A. Winslow, the writer of the historical article in the Vermont Gazetteer. Mr Winslow was long actively interested in this church. He was actively identified with the choir while residing in town, much of the time its chorister, often supplying as organist. He presented this church with a communion and baptismal set, a pulpit Bible, and several other gifts.

From Nov. 1, 1904 to March 1, 1905, Rev. N.S. Moore served the church.

Jan. 1, 1907, the new church was dedicated free from debt.

I will briefly recount the remaining names:

Rev. F.A. Junkins, Cong. June 18, 1905 to August 25, 1907.

Rev. Mr. Williams, M.E., April 1, 1908 to April 1, 1909.

Rev. Mr. Bowman, Cong, June 27, 1909 - April 1913.

Rev. O.E. Barnard, M.E. April 1911 - April 1913

And you no doubt remember that Rev. F.B. Hyde was here from April 1913 to 1915, who today preached the centennial sermon. Then there followed the Rev. A.W. Barnlund, M.E., who supplied for a few months, succeeded by the Rev. F.A. Krackhardt, whose name completes the list up to the time I came to you.

Regarding church buildings themselves, early information gives no record of the first edifice, but according to the tradition it stood very near the present site of O.W. Bailey's house and was built about 1829. In 1848 this first building began to be unserviceable and it was decided to tear it down and rebuild. The contract was let to Robert Owen for \$690 and the old building. The pews were sold to pay the expense. The new building was dedicated in Jan. 10, 1849, Rev. C.W. Piper preaching the sermon. In 1880 quite extensive repairs were made upon the building, and again lesser repairs in 1891. At that time Mrs. Stebbins presented the church with a bell. The present pulpit Bible is a gift from the late David S. Hitchcock and his wife, Mrs. Euphemia Hitchcock. The present individual communion service was one of the many gifts received several years ago from the late Mrs. W.H. Richardson, Chicopee, Mass.

In 1905 agitation for a new building was started which culminated in the dedication on January 1, 1907, of the building now occupied at a cost of approximately \$3500, and it was dedicated free from debt. At the time of the dedication it was pointed out by Rev. A.B. Peebles, who preached the sermon, how the project started with but \$1600 but faith and sacrifice of the few brought great success.

Fourteen ladies, members of the church, met on May 27, 1875 and formed a society to be called the Ladies' Aid Society. The ladies were Mesdames A.C. Hitchcock, M.C. Hitchcock, Pary Hitchcock, R.P. Hitchcock, Aaron Burba, Jacob Stebbins, Ashley Farman, L.P. James, ALbert Miller, George Lockwood, N.C. Hoyut, O.P. Wright, D.E. Wright and Miss Addie James.

In 1880, the Congregational society repaired the church and the Ladies' Aid Society voted unanimously to pay \$200 of the expense, with the proviso that \$125 of the sum should be expended as their society decided.

Two ladies were chosen to select and purchase a carpet for the platform, a pulpit and two chairs and some lesser things. The pulpit and chairs are still in use.

For a time there seemed to be no pressing demands upon the society and only occasional suppers were served and the meetings sometimes omitted or

adjourned, consequently when the parsonage was destroyed by fire in 1890 there was only \$98 in the treasury. Activities were at once resumed and \$200 pledged for the rebuilding. This sum was raised and paid in April 1892, the year the present parsonage was erected leaving \$2.49 in the treasury. Ten dollars of this fund was given by Mrs. Julia Richardson, who, with her husband, always retained a helpful interest in this church, and from whose estate, the generous fund aggregating \$13,500 was received.

In 1903, a question arose in the church circle, of the possibility at some time in the not too far distant future that a new church could be built. This possibility was most enthusiastically received and encouraged by the pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. A.B. Peebles. With renewed interest the Ladies' Aid Society renewed their work in every direction. Useful, ornamental and fancy articles were made a profitably sold. Oyster suppers, harvest suppers, chicken-pie suppers, interspersed with sugar, strawberry, ice cream and various other socials. In August a musical concert was given in the church under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society followed by a promenade in the town. From the sales and suppers of 1902 - 1903, \$230 was received. It is gratefully remembered that the members of the sister church and the community in general attended and patronized these sales and suppers.

These efforts resulted in the Ladies' Aid Society pledging in November 1903, \$400 for the church building fund, which was raised and paid with an additional \$100, making \$500 in all before the close of 1906. Also the platform carpet was bought and laid, rugs, 50 chairs, cupboard filled with sets of fine dishes and various other needed articles at a cost of over \$100., were bought by the society, and everything put in readiness to provide a bountiful dinner Jan 01, 1907., when the church was dedicated. From this time on, all reports are missing, but it is recalled that comparatively few meetings were held and the proceeds used in additional church furnishings.

The members, trusting the work was in some measure worthy of the scriptural commendation, "Well Done" closed the affairs of the society formed in 1875 in peace and harmony and soon after informally adjourned without date.

The recent ladies' society was ordained in 1912 and did splendid work until merged with the Red Cross organization, June 1917. Among the aids rendered the church was a purchase of a \$45 stove for the vestry, the purchase of a \$250 piano and the gift of \$25 toward the repairs of the parsonage. Many smaller gifts were made.

The Christian Endeavour Society was organized in 1889 under the guidance of Rev. E.P. Rose and Mr. Greene, the school teacher. Meetings have been held every Sunday evening during all these years with varying attendance

and oftentimes discouraging circumstances. Reference was made to the encouragement given the society in its early days by Mason Stone. The society has helped the church financially in many ways, giving \$50 toward the new building, and has sent many young people out into the world better prepared for life, some being sent from the society to the war. There are now 24 active members and nine associate members.

- Excerpts from the North Troy Palladium, June 27, 1918.

- Please note: the church history proper was given by Rev. W.G. MacFarlane, the sketch of the Ladies' Aid Society was read by Mrs. Lilian Wright and prepared by her mother, Mrs. Annie M. Wright, and a brief history of the Christian Endeavour Society was given by Mrs. W.D. Bell

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Westfield, Vermont

INTO THE SECOND 100 YEARS

NOTE: With the exception of the updated list of pastors who have served this church over the years, the following is an excerpt from Mrs. Dale Santaw's write-up of the history of the church (compiled by Candace Bean) which appeared in The Newport Daily Express on Friday, July 26, 1968.

Much has been accomplished has been accomplished through the years since 1918. Unfortunately, all of our church records were loss when fire destroyed Mr. Hitchcock store and office in 1935 and it is impossible to give a complete picture of the history of our church. It is known that Rev. MacFarlane continued as minister of this church until 1925. To briefly recount the names of those who served from 1925 on, Rev. J.E. Emerson, Rev. Kenneth Bunker, 1929 -1932 ordained at the church in 1931; Rev. Gerald Miller 1932-1935; Rev. Max Webster 1935-1938, he went on to be Conference Minister in Burlington; Clinton Kew June 1938-Oct 1938; Rev. Clifford Laws Oct 1938-March 1942, given leave of absence to become chaplain in WW II; Rev. Kenneth R. Bisbee June 1942 - Sept 1942; Rev. Edward French Sept 1942-Nov 1942; Rev J.E. Emerson Nov 1942-May 1943; Rev. Lillian Gregory and Rev. Dortha Weaver June 1943-June 1948, both were ordained during this time; Rev. David Rowand June 1948-Aug 1948, a student; Donald Sears Sept 1948-1949; H.E.P. Short Sept 1949-Dec 1951, he resigned; Rev. Ed Treat Jan 1952, for one Sunday, associate minister, Burlington; Glenn Skiff Jan 1952-Sept 1952; Donald Morgan, a student; W.J. Steele May 1953; Wallace Short June-Aug 1953, student minister; W.J. Steele given call Sept 1953, off and on until 1962; Dr. Moses Baley, summer of 1954; Rev. John Wilson, summer of 1955; Jonathan Albright, summer of 1957; Rev. Charles Parker near 1958; Deane Rowe; Mrs. W.J. Steele of Troy, Jan 1961; Rev. W.J. Steele resigned Sept 1962; Miss. Elizabeth Goodrich of Montpelier Sept 1962; (of note, Miss. Goodrich preached a worship service in the House of Representatives during the 1965 General Assembly, the first woman to do so); Rev. Donald Sears Dec 1962-May 1963, William and Ann Abernethy, summer 1963 from New York; Rev. & Mrs. W.J. Steele until George Armstrong of Chicago took over, Sept 1963- June 1964; Donald Collins, Lowell, Alden Owen of Barton; Willard Reger of New Jersey, June 1964-1965; Rev. Gordon Newell of Northfield, Aug 1965 - in Nov 1966 the Cross Mountain Parish was formed consisting of 5 parishes: Lowell, Troy, Westfield, Irasburg and Coventry. Rev. Newell continued until April 1969; Edward Bottom assisted in 1968; Mr. Treat and Rev. Rockwell of Newport Center, May 1969; Charles Maxfield,

summer 1969; Rev. Arthur Leaker 1969 (ordained in England in 1975); James Hunt Feb 1976; Rev. John Nutting March 1976 (1 Sunday); Duncan Kilmartin April 1976; Rick Pulling June-Aug 1976; David Shawver Nov 1976-feb 1977; Carol Borland 1979 -1980 (Nov 1984); Rev John Gilmartin 1982; James Henderson Nov 1984; Rev. Leroy Hastings 1987 - Nov 1988. Others included Rev. Doug Brayton, Enoch Powell, Florence Ludy and Malcom Keir, Dwight Walker. We are grateful for all those who have served our church over the years.

As far as the church building, an electric stove was purchased for the church and one for the parsonage. Early in 1960 it was decided to redecorate the present church. The Social Union, formerly the Ladies' Aid Society, renamed in 1943 paid the painters. Later they purchased wallpaper and paint for the parsonage. Curtains were also purchased for it.

In 1961 their project was to raise funds to purchase an electric organ for the church. On Oct 29, 1961 a Lowery Electronic Organ was presented to the church by Mr. and Mrs. George Benware Sr., of Newport, in memory of his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Benware.

Plans were made to remodel the kitchen and dining room at the church. The first floor was completed redecorated. A white sink was given for the kitchen, later it was sold and the money used. New cupboards were installed in the kitchen, a refrigerator purchased, another sink (a cabinet style) was given and installed. Altar and pulpit scarves in memory of a loved one given, a dossal curtain, cornice and missal stand made and presented, a new guest book, new table cloth and napkins for the communion table given, a plaque made for outside the church. A new furnace was installed. A rededication service was held in the church on Sept 11, 1960 with Rev. Max Webster, Conference Minister and a former pastor, as a guest speaker.

In 1961 the furnace at the parsonage was sold and new oil furnace and hot water tank were purchased. A steel cable for the church bell was contributed and installed. A parking lot was started with many loads of gravel used to fill the area. In 1963, new doors were purchased for the church entrance. The church and altar windows were repaired, four aluminum windows purchased for the front side of the church to protect the beautiful coloured windows. Later a number of card tables were purchased as were 100 folding chairs, a candle lighter and snuffer.

In 1964- voted to cement the church basement, this work was started most of the work being done by the young men of the parish and some wives. From 1964 plans were made to complete the basement to be used as a kitchen and dining room. The Social Union held many food and fancywork article sales,

suppers and other parties, as well as serving lunches at farm auctions. Some work was done to the basement each year. In 1967 most of the work was completed. A flush toilet purchased, a lavatory was a gift, both were installed and a comfortable room partitioned off, as was the furnace room. Some aluminum windows were purchased earlier. In 1967, a carpenter was hired to finish some of the tasks. When this was done there was less than \$1.00 in the Social Union treasury and very little in the church treasury. A hot water tank was given to the church, the sink moved from the old kitchen and both coupled up. A fluorescent light given for the kitchen was installed. New curtains made by Social Union members are an added attraction.

We have had many excellent presidents and other officers for the Social Union as we have had clerks and treasurers for the church over the years. With all members willing to do their part, the main thing being working together.

Our young people, 4-H girls, Cub Scouts as well as the eighth grade pupils have the use of both new rooms, as have other clubs.

As in many things we have been criticized for letting our young people dance during their meetings as well as card parties held. In 1953, a vote was taken on the proposal made by our summer pastor at that time to determine the feeling of the congregation in regard to dancing in the church dining room. The vote was a unanimous "yes.", if the meetings were well supervised. Members later voted to hold card parties to raise money. We are most grateful for the attendance of our Catholic friends, at these parties, as well as gifts of cards and ash trays.

On July 21, 1968 we celebrated the 150th anniversary. We have struggled as prices have risen, as did the early members. For a time we alternated services with Troy, now Troy, Lowell and Westfield alternate as do Coventry and Irasburg, with only two services held each Sunday. We have 30 active members, 21 inactive, and 20 absentees. Since 1935 we have had 42 deaths of members. Records have been found of 24 deacons, 8 deaconesses, 9 clerks, 3 assistant clerks, 5 treasurers.

In the past we have had Sunday school; Bible School was held in Lowell this summer jointly with the Catholic children.

Celebrating 175 Years!

It has been 25 years since the church celebrated its 150th anniversary. Today, June 27, 1993 we mark our 175th anniversary.

As in the past, the church has had its share of struggles and until recently, shared its pastor with the First Congregational Church of Coventry. The present organ was purchased in 1981 which replaced the first electric organ donated in 1961 by Mr. & Mrs. Benware. The piano was recently donated by Martha van Tubergen. New hymnals were purchased. The Genesis songbooks were replenished by James & Rita Aitken. The church flag was dedicated in memory of Candace Bean in July 1991.

Although the days of Sunday school and church suppers appear to be over (at least for the moment), the Ladies' Social Union continue to significantly contribute to maintain the society. Holding spring and fall rummage sales, baking and selling hundreds of apple pies each year, and looking out for the members of the church both active and inactive is but a small example of their unsurpassable dedication.

Music has always played an important role in our worship service and one must recognize the contribution of our organists, three of whom I have had the pleasure of knowing; Carolyn Ferrara, Joyce Robinson and Martha van Tubergen.

I have not attempted to recount the history of our church since 1968 for fear of leaving something or someone out. I will leave that and the next 25 years to the historian who will prepare for the 200th anniversary in 2018.

At the 150th anniversary, it was said:

"It has been amazing, down through the years, to see how much God has been able to accomplish through His followers. A pastor is not God, he preaches the word of God. It is the members and friends that either make or break a church and a society. Without the support of the people, a church cannot keep going."

We live in a rapidly changing world, we always have. However, what was said in 1968 is no less appropriate in 1993 ... without the support of the people, a church cannot keep going.

- Brian Stoddard

**Celebrating 200 Years of Christian Community!
October 14, 2018**

As commissioned by Pastor Brian Stoddard in his contribution to the 175th anniversary of the Westfield Congregational Church, we attempt here to recount some of the church history over the past 50 years. Although some of this information is found in the section of our history entitled "Into the Second 100 Years," here we attempt to link pastors, years of service and interesting and meaningful church events.

As stated in the newspaper article of 1968 celebrating the 150th anniversary of the church's existence, the Congregational Church of Westfield had had 81 ministers and lay people supplying the pulpit up to that point in time. Since 1968, we have had an additional 20 - 22.

1965 - 1969 Reverend Gordon Newell

For a time we alternated with Troy, then with Troy and Lowell. In November 1966, we joined at Cross Mountain parish consisting of Troy, Lowell, Westfield, Coventry and Irasburg, with the Reverend Gordon Newell as the pastor. Reverend Newell was assisted by Edward Bottom and Charles Maxfield in 1969.

1969 - 1975 Reverend Leaker

A Cross Mountain Parish (Coventry, Irasburg, Lowell, Troy and Westfield) had been formed and under Reverend Leaker it was disbanded.

Sugar on Snow Parties and Christmas Programs were church social/community events and highlights of the year. The church had several meetings to determine how to weather the energy crisis. The decision was made to worship in the downstairs and to hold other meetings at parishioners' homes.

February 1976 James Hunt; March 1976 Reverend John Nutting; April 1976 Duncan Kilmartin all supplied the pulpit.

June - August 1976 Pastor Rick Pulling served the Westfield Church.

Reverend John Nutting of Waterbury, Associate Conference Minister also provided leadership and guidance.

November 1976 - February 1977 Pastor Davis Shawver

Highlights from the Social Union's meeting notes include Halloween parties with over 70 children attending, pancake breakfasts, rummage sales, Christmas items, foods and white elephants sales. After 15 years, Candace Bean turns over the job of Church Clerk to Marion Myott.

June 1979 - 1980, and again in November 1984 Reverend Carol Borland supplied the pulpit.

In Social Union and church meeting minutes, it was noted that they sent a gift of money to assist in purchasing books for seminary students in Zaire, as per request by former Pastor Shawver. Top items in the minutes also include: Belfry repairs and turkey barbecue for August church picnic and sledding, hayrides skiing and snowmobiling at Ferrara's for February Church Picnic.

1982 Reverend John Gilmartin; November 1984 James Henderson

1985 Reverend Janet Bryant led worship.

Of note: Social Union made 57 apple pies baked and sold, provided flowers for sanctuary, cards, lawn mowing and Christmas gifts to shut ins

1987 - 1988 Reverend Leroy Hastings served us as joint pastor with Coventry. We held joint Christmas services with Coventry. Summer vacation church school was a success. More repairs to the leaky belfry. Church was vinyl sided. Church closed for winter months in 1988.

Others who served us during this time were Reverend Doug Brayton, Enoch Powell, Florence Ludy, Malcom Keir and Dwight Walker.

1989 - 1992 Pastor Brian Stoddard joined us.

In 1991, church was held only 3 Sundays per month, and closed in winter.

1992 - 2000 Pastor Dwight Fellows Walker led worship services.

1999 basement floor was repainted, and the organ repaired....and the Social Union baked 188 pies!

2000 - Jennifer Connolly led worship.

2001 - 2009 Reverend Anne Squire served as our pastor.

The big news in the church meeting minutes: a new roof! But even more exciting: in 2003, Social Union made 220 pies! Denny Lyster was there for the last couple of pie making adventures in the earlier days. He tells how Romeo Myott rounded up the apples and the ladies then did their magic. But this was not all work. It didn't take long for the off color jokes to arise (Delpha). As one of two males (Dick Willis, the other, a willing contributor) made it quite an education. Pie making was very social!

In 2005, the front sign was refinished by Rick Danforth.

2010 - 2014 Pastor Dwight Fellows Walker once again led worship.

2014 - 2016 Church was closed due to difficulty finding a pastor.

September 2016 - present Pastor John Klar has supplied the pulpit. Once again, the church goes support ministry in Africa by sending gifts of money to help support Pastor Simon Peter in his ministry efforts. Simon Peter (Otudo) oversees four churches in Uganda, and our fundraising helped sustain a school for 290 children for one year. We continue to support a number of young children's education and housing there.

We have had "lamb day" in the spring to celebrate the joy of rebirth, plant and rummage sales, concert series organized by Jeff Fellingner, Bible study groups, quilting and fellowship, "spruce up the church and clean out the basement" fellowship, AND we have revived the apple pie sales, and think that now, in the 3rd year have managed to finesse the recipe handed down to us by the Social Union of yore!!!!

The following is a direct quote from Candace Bean's notes in 1968, which rings true even today as we celebrate our 200th anniversary: "Today we are here to celebrate the 150th anniversary. We have struggled over the years as prices went up.

We have had many excellent presidents, clerks and treasurers over the years with all members willing to do their share. The main thing was that we all worked together.

It has been amazing down through the years to see how much God has been able to accomplish through his followers. Our pastors preach the word of God but I think it is the people of the community that either make or break a church society. Without the support of the people, a pastor cannot do much. We are most grateful for your presence here today on this memorable occasion. Glad to see old friends and make new ones. We are grateful to our hosts (and our guests) and to all who have helped provide in anyway. May God bless each of you."

Although a lunch was served in 1968 at the 150th, Social Union's famous apple pie will be served following the service today.

175th anniversary version read by Deacon Reginald Laplante. Compiled by Candace Bean, Clerk. Version for the 200th anniversary edited by Sally Rivard, Clerk.