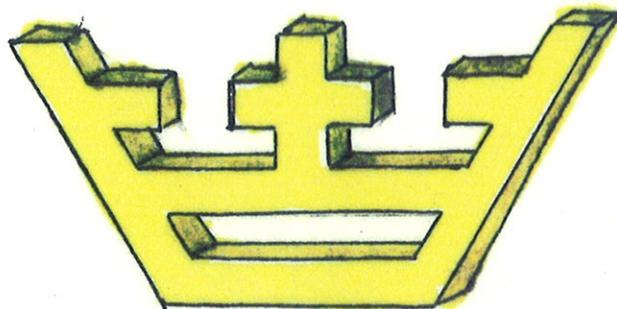
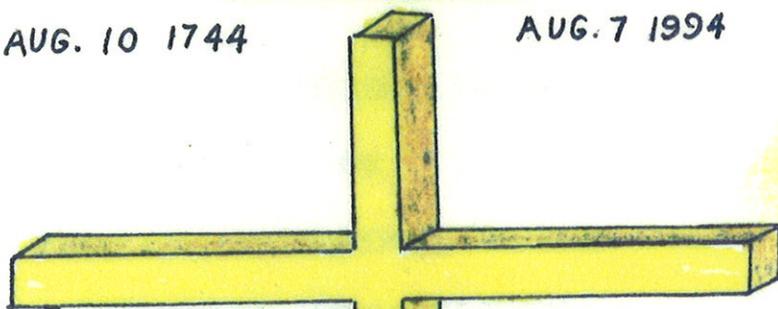


250 th Anniversary



AUG. 10 1744

AUG. 7 1994



*Looking back
with gratitude*

*Looking forward
with faith*

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ~ STOUGHTON
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WMS

**TWO HUNDRED FIFTY YEARS
OF THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1744 - 1994**

**Amy P. Fowler
Church Historian**

dedicated to

*those faithful men and women
who were the Church in their day
who are the Church in the world today
who will be the Church of tomorrow*

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

With the destruction by fire of the Washington Street church building, the church records were also destroyed. As a result, the church narrative cannot be complete. Of necessity, other available sources were used to fill the gaps whenever possible.

The earliest record books of Stoughton's Third Precinct, including church, parish and treasurers's ledgers yielded valuable information for the years 1743-1822. For a period of time the whereabouts of these records was unknown. They are held presently by the Stoughton Historical Society. I have relied on historical sketches written by others at a time when the records were available to them. At other times, newspaper accounts were the sole source of information.

My gratitude goes to Dr. Harold F. Worthley, Executive Secretary and Archivist of the Congregational Christian Historical Society, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts and to the staff of the Stoughton Historical Society, in particular Alice Petruzzo, Archivist and Howard Hansen, Historian. Further thanks go to Helen Dawson for her research on the women of the church and her help in scanning forty years of the Church's annual reports, and to Doris F. Emery, Church Clerk, for her support and willingness to search out specific information.

To Nancy Dennehy for her enthusiasm, tireless typing and suggestions; to Diana Geigis for her offer to proofread; to Walter Fredericksen for designing our cover and to my husband, Cliff, for his microfilm viewing, his encouragement and patience even when other tasks went undone, I give my deep and heartfelt thanks.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being,
creates man in his own image
and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,
he has come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues and races.

He calls us into his Church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
his presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

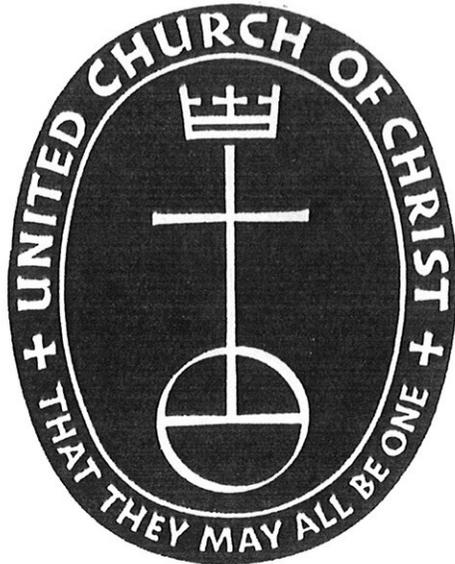
Approved by the Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ held in Oberlin,
Ohio, July 5-9, 1959.

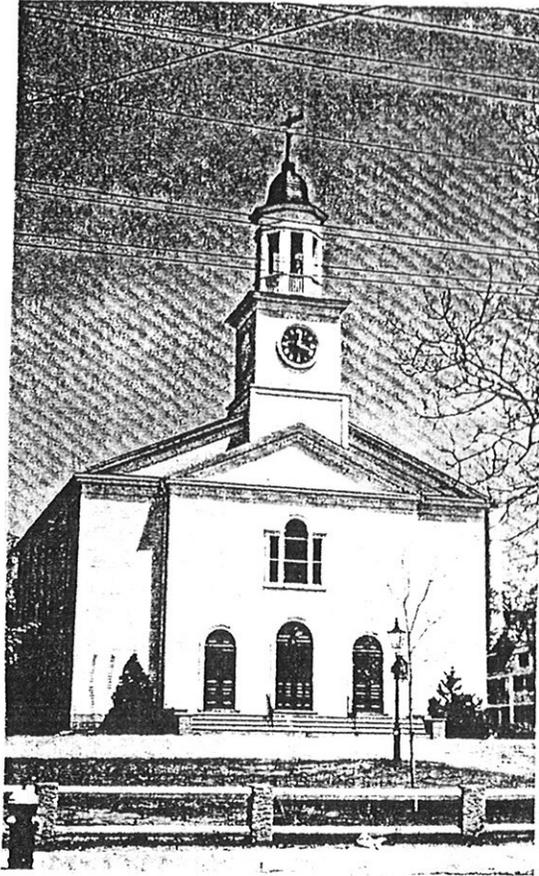
THE EMBLEM OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The emblem of the United Church of Christ is based on the ancient Christian symbol known as the Cross of Victory or the Cross of Triumph.

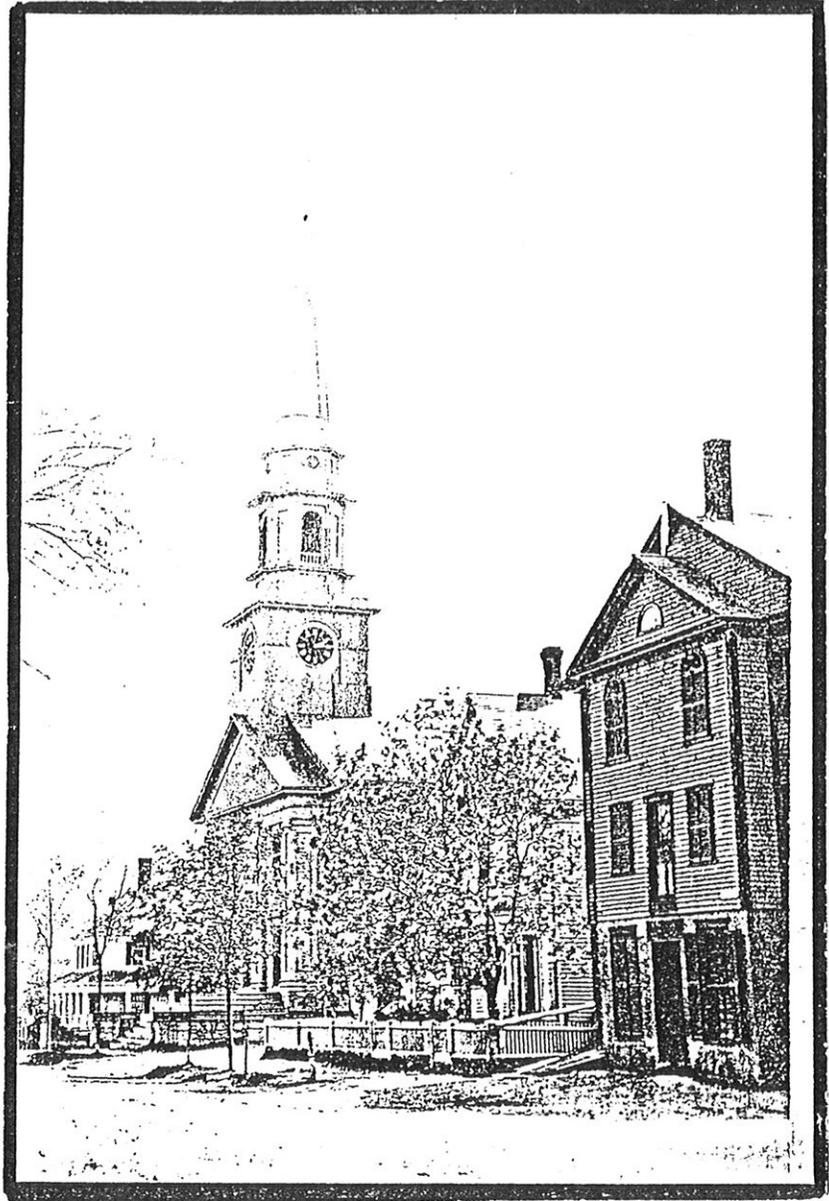
Traditionally, this symbol--the cross surmounted by the crown and all of it atop the orb--signifies the Kingdom of the risen Christ over the world. The orb, representing the world is divided into three parts to signify the command of our Lord to his disciples: "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

For the United Church of Christ, this emblem, rich in the traditions of the past and alive with the hope of the future, is particularly appropriate. For this reason, there appears on the perimeter of the emblem both the name of the church and the text, "That they may all be one."



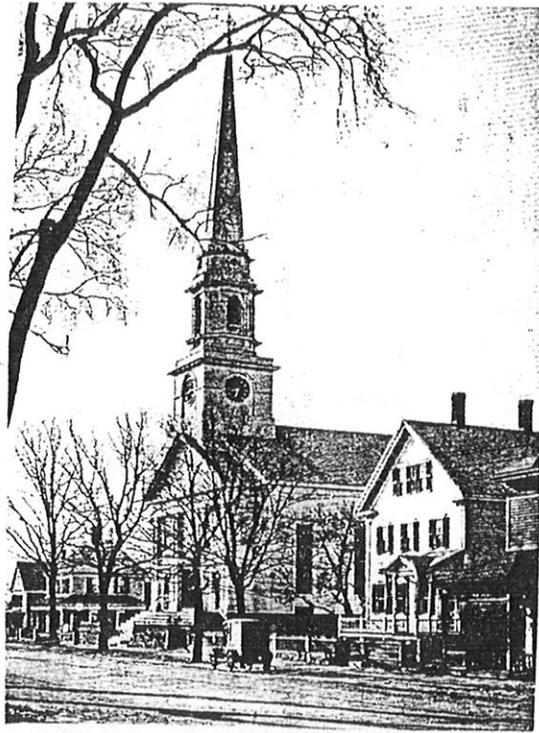


1806 Meeting House

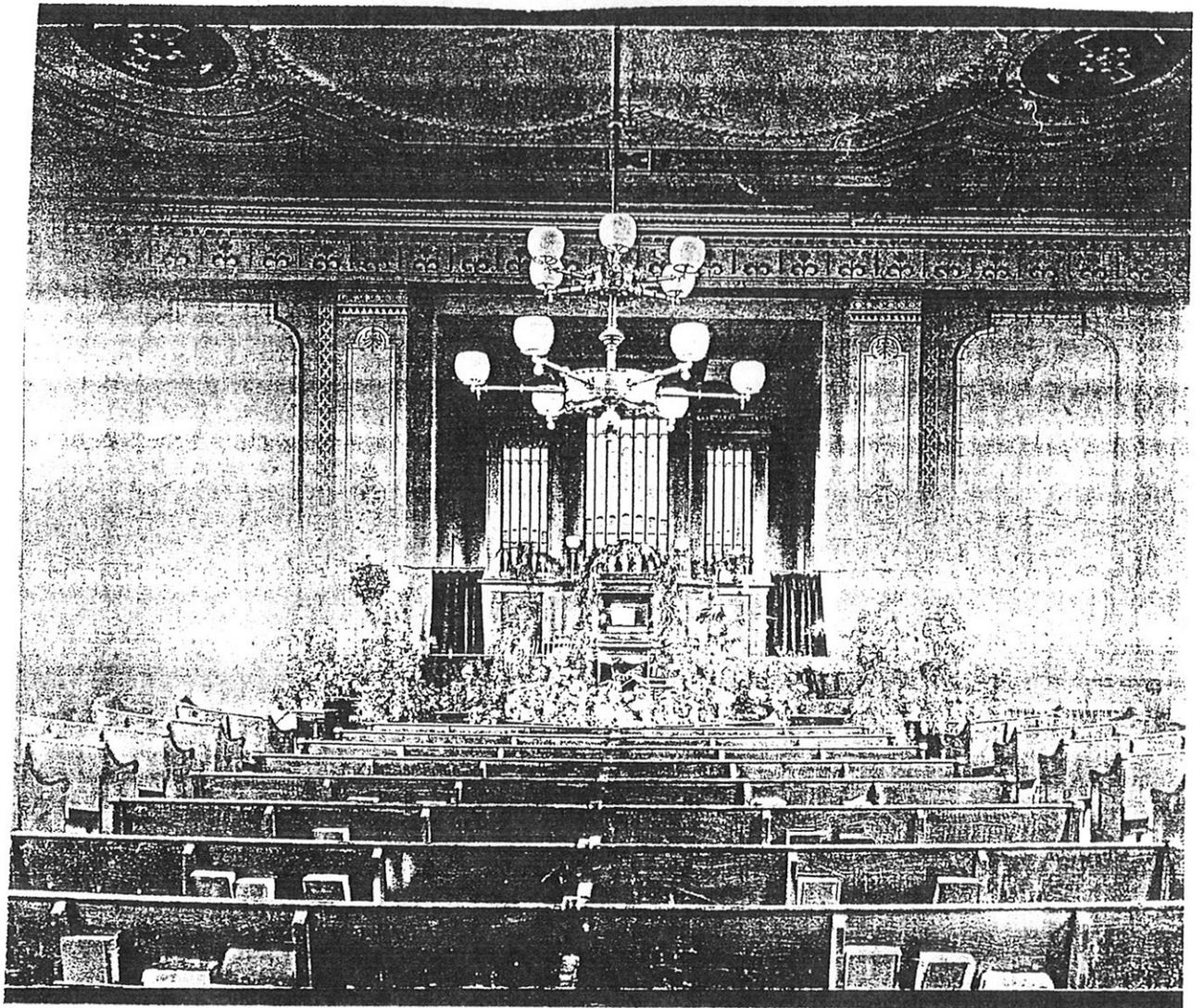


1825 Church Building
near 825 Washington Street
(see page 7)

1852
Church
Building

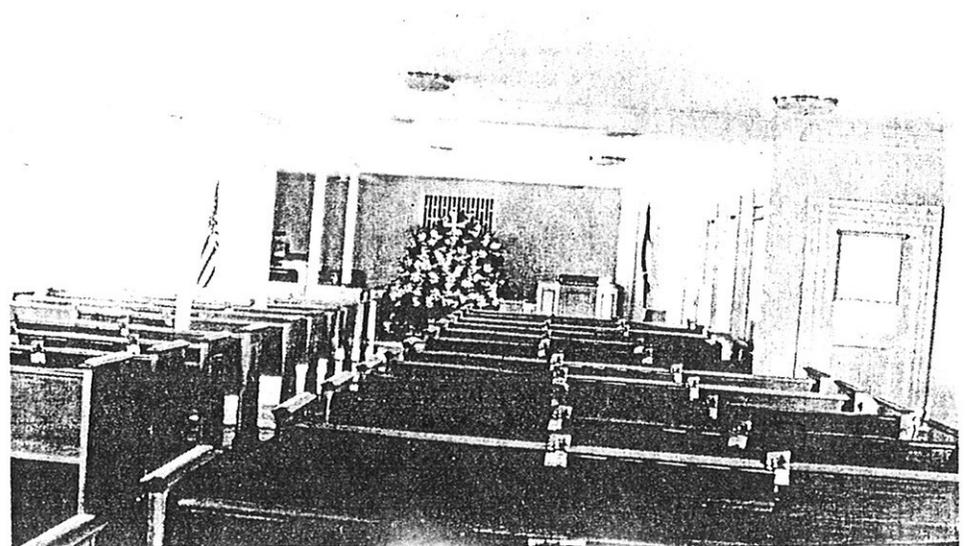


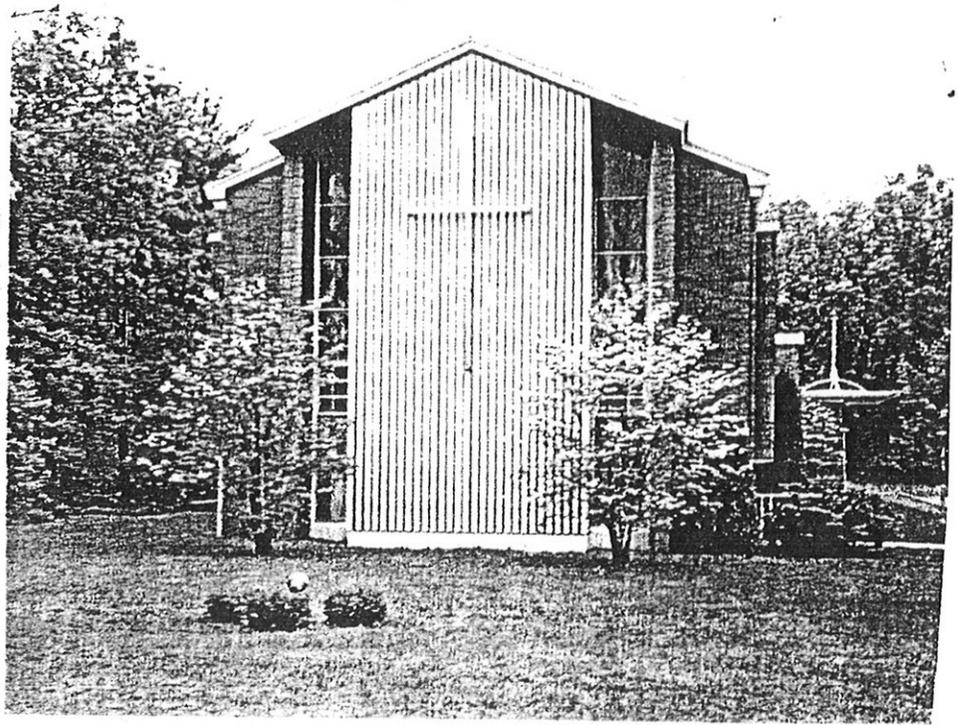
825
Washington
Street





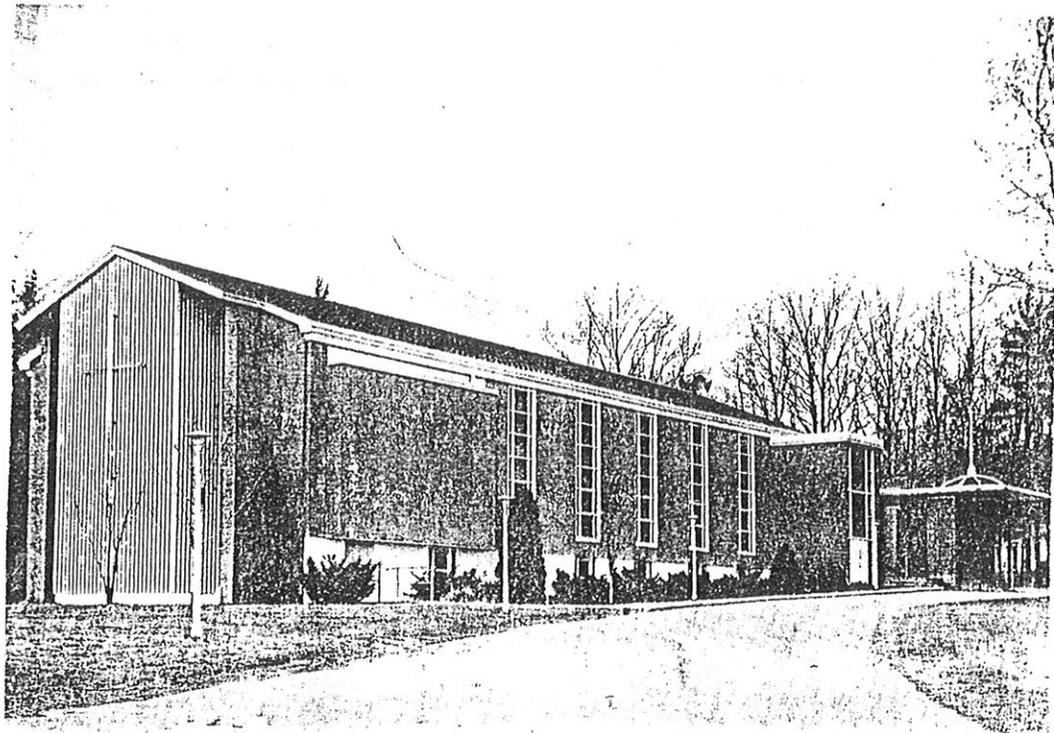
1949 Church Building
30 Pearl Street





1958 Church Building
76 Pierce Street





OUR SIX HOUSES OF WORSHIP

When it is said the Stoughton church gathered on August 10, 1744, the reference is not to a building, but to a group of Christian people who adopted the Covenant and Platform of Discipline; i.e., they were said to have "owned the covenant" of the synod which met at Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1648.

Stoughton's new third precinct, formed November 9, 1743, had no building in which to conduct town affairs or worship God. The houses of the precinct residents were used for this purpose and would continue to be used in this way until a meeting house was built.

In the past two hundred and fifty years, the members of this congregation have counted six different houses of worship as their church homes:

Church of Christ in the Meeting House (1744) on the Green
Stoughton Center

At this point in time, the structure in which the members of the parish met to conduct town affairs and the one in which they gathered to worship God was one and the same, hence the term "meeting house."

On December 25, 1743, it was voted to build a meeting house thirty-five feet by forty-five feet on land owned by Daniel Talbot and located on the site of the present First Parish Universalist green. On January 25, 1744, a committee was formed to inspect and take care of building a meeting house. The entry also stated, "The committee named shall as sune as can with convenience gather the money and materials of each man according to what he has subscribed and shall agree with workmen to frame and erect said meeting house." The granite boulder to the right of the present church edifice reads, "On this spot the first meeting house in Stoughton was raised June 18, 1744." It would appear the date refers only to the actual raising of the walls. In those days it was common practice to frame a whole side of a building on the ground and then to literally "raise" it to an upright position with long poles, ox chains and the sheer strength of all the assembled men and boys.

No photograph exists of this building, but we can be reasonably sure the architecture was simple and basic. In June, 1748, the parish record states a committee was appointed to finish the meeting house. In that year it was voted to build a pulpit with a canopy and a deacon's seat and to take away both men and women's hired seats to make space to build pews.

In 1750, the treasurer's book lists the twenty-one persons "that had the liberty of building a pew in ye meeting house belonging to the third precinct in Stoughton." Rates varied

from eighteen to thirty pounds. Pews were usually assigned according to age, honorable standing of the person or the amount a person contributed to the ministerial rate (support of the minister). The more desirable the seating, the more costly it was to purchase the pew deed.

In March, 1752, there is a reference to "boards and lime." Perhaps this relates to the plastering of the walls. We know plastering did not occur at the time of the original construction.

The Stoughton News-Sentinel of 1873 contains an article describing the discussion and agitation among the residents concerning the planting of permanent shade trees around the meeting house lot. A subscription list was passed among the male residents and eighteen trees were promised. The record of March 24, 1783 states, "We whose names are hereunto subscribed do voluntarily engage to set out and properly secure ye number of buttonwood trees, annexed to our names for shade on ye meeting house lands, agreeable to ye direction of ye precinct committee." A neighbor was incensed by the plantings which would cut off her view of the town if allowed to grow. She is said to have persistently poured boiling water about the roots and base of a particular offending young sapling and caused it to die!

The first baptismal service took place on May 23, 1745, almost a year after the meeting house was raised. The last baptism in the building occurred sixty-three years, almost to the day, later. On May 22, 1808 Mary Ann and Dolly Hodges Waters, daughters of Zebulon Waters, were baptized.

Church of Christ in the Meeting House (1806) on the Green Stoughton Center

As early as 1801, the building of a new meeting house was being considered. In the warrant for town meeting on March 9, 1801, Article IX reads, "To hear ye report of ye committee that were to draw a plan for a new meeting house."

One common method of fund raising for a structure of this kind was to sell pews ahead of time. The records state pews were sold a total of four times before the meeting house was actually built.

Lemuel Drake was the current owner of the land adjoining the meeting house property, the land owned by Daniel Talbot in 1743. Mr. Drake had answered the call to arms at the Lexington alarm, April 19, 1775. At the time of Mr. Drake's unexpected death, September, 1805, a committee had been chosen to meet with him in regards to securing additional land to enlarge the lot for the new meeting house. For the sum of fifteen dollars, Mr. Drake's widow, Abigail (Wadsworth) Drake, agreed to sell a quarter acre, thus making the total acreage one acre, twenty-three rods. In addition, Lemuel Drake's

will left to the parish land, buildings and a large quantity of wood. The parish rented and/or sold this property, realizing a profit of \$811.84 with which they purchased a bell and a clock for the new meeting house as stipulated in Mr. Drake's will.

In late 1805, Mr. Israel Richmond of Middleborough was hired to build the meeting house. The building was to be fifty-eight feet square and be located near the first meeting house. A large portion of the original lot became the yard of the new building.

The meeting house was raised on July 2, 3, and 4, 1806. We know construction continued well into 1808. An entry in the treasurer's book, dated March 10, 1808 shows \$3.77 paid to Mr. Jabez "in full for fifty-eight feet of white oak timber found for the parish." On May 23, 1808, the meeting house was formally accepted by the parish. On July 3, 1808, the first baptism took place, that of Elijah, son of Elijah Atherton. In 1816, a gift of a stove was made to the church by William Austin.

This house of worship, which became First Parish Universalist Church, stood on the green in Stoughton square for the next one hundred fifty-eight years. Destruction of the building by fire on June 29, 1966 was a great loss to the entire community.

First Congregational Church and Society (1825)
near 825 Washington Street

The third house of worship of this congregation was built after the separation from the parish in 1822. The structure was no longer a meeting house where both civic and ecclesiastical affairs were conducted, but a building which housed a church. However, the term "meeting house," continued to be used. On some old town maps, the church is designated the "Orthodox Meeting House."

On July 10, 1822, a committee composed of Deacon Samuel Tolman, Deacon Nathan Drake and Samuel Wales, certified a list of sixty persons as "members of the Religious Society the Town of Stoughton, called the First Congregational Church and Society in Stoughton." It was necessary to present this certified list to the town clerk, Richard Talbot, in order that the persons who had "signed off" would no longer be taxed to maintain the parish meeting house or support its minister.

By 1824, the congregation was ready to build a church of its own. Benjamin Clapp was the builder. The dimensions were thirty-two feet by thirty-two feet. The church lot had been purchased in two parcels. Forty-three square rods were secured from William Holbrook for fifty dollars and twelve square rods from Dr. Peter Adams (son of Rev. Jedidiah Adams) for fifteen dollars. The location was on the westerly side of the road leading south from Stoughton meeting house to Taunton, a little less than one-tenth mile from Stoughton center.

In July, 1824, the foundation was laid. There was no basement. On June first of the following year, the new church building was dedicated.

At a meeting held on March 18, 1833, it was voted to use, for a year, the bell which had been loaned by members of the congregation. At the end of that time a new bell was ordered which was to weigh more than one thousand pounds. On April 7, 1834, it was voted to accept the new bell weighing one thousand ninety-four and one quarter pounds at a cost of \$330.38 which included yoke, iron wheel, frame and installation.

In August, 1834, the treasurer was authorized to obtain insurance on the meeting house. In April, 1836, there is the first mention of ushers to seat those who did not own seats. In March, 1839, a committee was formed to procure a stove to heat the meeting house.

In a Stoughton News-Sentinel article of a later date, Mr. Samuel Curtis recalled he was present at the raising of the 1825 church and, contrary to custom, no liquor (grog) was served. From the same article, Mr. M. M. Porter recalled the choir gallery being on the end of the building next to the street. Mr. Porter also remembered "blowing the organ" (pumping the bellows full of air) for a Mrs. Dr. L. W. Puffer, organist. The pulpit was located at the opposite end of the building. Later records show both bell and organ were sold to fund an organ for the next structure.

When the congregation had outgrown this building, it was sold to Willard White for \$450.00 along with an adjoining piece of land, price unknown. The transaction is noted in the article of incorporation registered at the Dedham court house, July 27, 1896.

Eventually, the 1825 church building was placed on skids and rollers by a Boston contractor. The building would be hoisted onto the first floor of White's Market to become the upper floors of that building. The location was the corner of Railroad Avenue and Washington Street.

A story is told of one night when the building was on the rollers it began to move, caused either by the force of gravity or the wind. Fortunately, the townspeople discovered the predicament and were able to shore the building up by planting braces against it, else it would have been demolished then.

An 1885 Sanborn-Perris map of Stoughton shows this building with the first floor labeled as a fish and oyster market, and the upper floors (actually the original 1825 church building) labeled as skating rink and club rooms. In the early morning hours of October 5, 1897, White's Market was totally destroyed by fire, taking with it the last remnants of the 1825 church building.

First Congregational Church and Society (1852)
825 Washington Street

By March, 1851, it was evident the needs of the congregation had outgrown the 1825 church building in spite of an 1842 addition. A committee of nine men was commissioned to decide whether a further enlargement of the 1825 structure was equitable or whether a completely new building was the better plan. The alacrity with which this committee discharged its duties is evident in that by April twenty-eighth, the church meeting, on the recommendation of the committee, voted to build a new edifice on the site of the old one. The search committee then became the building committee with Nathaniel Morton as chairperson.

The dimensions of the new building were to be fifty-eight feet wide by seventy-five feet long; the architect, a Mr. Reynolds, the contractor, a Mr. Bartlett. The cost was not to exceed \$18,000.00, including a large pipe organ and vestry. The bell was cast by George H. Holbrook of West Medway in 1851.

Nine months to the day later, on January 28, 1852, the building was ready for the dedication service. This feat was accomplished in spite of the additional delay and expense of blasting ledge and hauling rock away in order to build a basement.

The structure was a wooden colonial resting on a brick foundation. There was a steep and formidable set of stairs at the front of the church, a strong contrast to those which would be required by modern building codes to accommodate the physically challenged. It would seem only those persons strong of heart and limb were able to negotiate "this hurdle" to enter the church doors. The total cost was \$13,258.80. The furnaces were not installed until 1867 at a cost of \$316.55.

The 1885 Sanborn-Perris map diagram of the church shows a one hundred foot spire. A local newspaper article described the steeple as a "guidepost for land mariners . . . a light set upon a hill that cannot be hid." The four-faced steeple clock was given to the church in the spring of 1874 by Ebenezer Wales Tolman, Esquire.

In 1879, the walls were refrescoed by Mr. Louis Fischer of Canton. The summer of 1881 saw the installation of eight stained glass windows reportedly at a cost of fifty dollars each. One account says the windows were installed by a Samuel West of London.

In 1894, an alcove was constructed in back of the pulpit. The organ and the choir were transferred from the rear balcony to the front of the sanctuary. Also, in that year, the church bell began to be used as a fire alarm; a practice which continued for several years.

In March of 1902, the steeple was found to be unsafe. The work of straightening and strengthening the spire was completed in two months by the contractors, Isaac Blair & Co. of Boston under the direction of architect Winthrop Alexander.

In June of 1905, a church improvement campaign was launched. A major change was to add a kitchen with a sink! Town water was piped into the church and electric lighting was installed throughout the building to replace gas lighting.

In 1922, in preparation for the centennial observance of the separation, an even more extensive renovation to the church plant was planned. Changes included a steam heating plant, remodeling the vestry, repairing and improving the pipe organ, etc. The basement was partitioned by folding dividers which could be opened up to form an assembly hall. Later a stage would be added to be used for dramatic presentations and entertainment. However, the project became much larger than anticipated and cost \$38,000.00. It was not until January, 1924 that the actual celebration activities could be carried out.

On July 9, 1937 the steeple just above the bell deck was hit by lightning. Only the prompt and capable work of the fire department saved the building from total destruction. The hurricane of 1938 caused extensive damage to the steeple, roof rafters and stained glass windows. In 1940, the trustees reported the sills were rotting and in need of repairs with an estimated cost of \$6500.00. Early on the morning of March 9, 1942, the church building was totally destroyed by fire of unknown origin.

First Congregational Church (1949)
30 Pearl Street

After the fire in the 1852 church building on Washington Street, it would be seven and a half years before the congregation would again have a church home of their own. The total amount realized from fire insurance and sale of the Washington Street site was \$23,672.40. On November 23, 1948, the church voted to purchase from the estate of Mrs. Josephine Swan, widow of Dr. Charles L. Swan, Sr., the land and buildings located thereon at 30 Pearl Street. The property included about an acre of land with one hundred twenty-five feet of frontage, a homestead of twenty rooms, a small, four room building which had been used by Dr. Swan as an office, plus a garage and barn in the rear. The cost was \$14,000.00. The deed was passed December 27, 1948.

On December 30, 1948, Reverend Hughes conducted a song and prayer service at the new location. God's blessing was asked upon the transition from a private residence to a house of worship.

E. C. Rose and Son, a contractor from Braintree, was hired to remodel the building for a price not to exceed \$18,000.00. On May 10, 1949, the remodeling work began. The first floor of the homestead was converted into the church sanctuary and offices. The second floor became a large social hall, which could be divided for Sunday school class space, a church parlor and kitchen. In July, the men of the church converted the former doctor's office building into a parsonage for the new pastor, John Gibson, and his bride, Margie.

The church program that fall was held at the Trinity Episcopal Church. On October 30, 1949 the Pearl Street building was ready for its first worship service. The dedication service was held on November 20, 1949; the building was filled to overflowing.

Eventually the garage was weatherized to accommodate the Sunday school classes. Later, still more room was needed and the parsonage was taken over for this purpose. Rev. and Mrs. Gibson moved to the newly purchased property at 106 Prospect Street in the summer of 1950.

In spite of two worship services and double sessions of Sunday school, the Pearl Street church was not adequate for the Congregation's needs. At a church meeting held June 9, 1953, the members voted to build a new church.

For the next five years, the Pearl Street church continued to be our house of worship. The final worship service of our congregation was held in that place on August 10, 1958. The property was sold to Ahavath Torah Synagogue for \$30,856.98. The final papers for the transaction were signed on October 16, 1958.

First Congregational Church (1958)
76 Pierce Street

At the church meeting held on June 9, 1953, a church building committee of five members was nominated and elected. Their first business was to procure a suitable building site. On February 17, 1956, after much study and research the building committee took a six-month option to buy from Mr. and Mrs. Amos Fredericks approximately four acres of land on the northerly side of Pierce Street.

At a church meeting held March 6, 1956, the members voted to purchase the property for \$20,000.00. At the same time, the organization of ten working committees was approved. Each committee would work on a particular phase of the church's life to ascertain needs and recommend plans for construction. An executive committee would be composed of the five members of the building committee plus the chairpersons of each working committee. Rev. Hugh P. Hughes, pastor emeritus, was named honorary chairman of the executive committee.

On August 16, 1956, the papers were passed and the deed to the property was turned over to the church. The site was dedicated October 14, 1956. In June, 1957, Children's Day exercises were held at the new property site.

Upon recommendation of the plans and construction committee, the architectural firm Lange and Lambert (Bernard Lange, Anthony Lambert) of Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts was engaged. The contractor was Sawyer Construction Company of Burlington, Massachusetts.

Plans were for the church to be built in two stages. The first would include the religious and church office section with a provision for thirteen classrooms. The second stage would be the social area and twelve more classrooms. There were also plans for an eighty-two seat chapel, but this part of the plan was abandoned.

The structure would be contemporary in design. The ceiling of the church and chancel would be of exposed wood. A large cross would hang on the back wall of the chancel with colored-glass windows on either side. The nave was designed to seat three hundred eighteen people; the balcony would seat seventy people and the choir could accommodate thirty-eight. The church plant would include a modern kitchen, kitchenette, living room, fireplace and assembly hall. A ground-breaking service was held October 13, 1957.

After the last worship service at Pearl Street, outdoor services were held at the Pierce Street site. On August 31, the batter boards were in place and worship was held on the actual spot where the new building would be erected. Later, services were held within the ground floor; the last of which was October 5, 1958, when Rev. Leeds Gulick, missionary from Japan, gave the sermon.

On October 12, 1958 the cornerstone ceremony was held and the new church building was dedicated. Seating for the evening service was provided by using old pews from the Trinity Episcopal Church, pews from the former Jewish Synagogue, which originally came from the Immaculate Conception Church, and a number of chairs. The nave was filled to capacity.

A service of dedication for the church furnishings was held October 11, 1959. The communion table, lectern, pulpit and pews, all of which were constructed of solid Michigan oak, were included in the dedication. Two years later, on October 15, 1961, there was a dedication for the new parsonage at 92 Pierce Street. The property had been purchased the previous May from Mr. John Deacon.

In December of 1964, the large metal cross and spotlight were installed on the outside of the church building on the wall facing Pierce Street. This was accomplished largely through the efforts and funding of the "Wedded Ring."

In October, 1965, the newspaper reported plans for the proposed addition to the church and the start of a \$150,000.00 building fund campaign. Six years later, at the annual meeting of December, 1971, a committee was elected to investigate the possibilities of going forward with the enlargement of the church plant. At the adjourned meeting in January, 1972, the members voted to proceed with Plan A of the expansion committee's report. Plan A was the adaptation and simplification of the architect's original plan for the second stage of building. The estimated cost of the basic shell was \$92,000.00.

Five years later, March 1, 1977, the members voted to start construction. The plan included the fellowship hall, kitchen, rest rooms and a full basement. Also included was

the fireplace room and minister's study with classrooms below. Ground-breaking took place following the worship service on April 24, 1977. After a wait of twenty years, using another modified plan, the 76 Pierce Street Church building expansion project began to become a reality. Thirteen months later, May 24, 1978, the service of dedication was held.

Through the years, the Boy Scouts of Troop 57, working for their Eagle Scout awards, have made innumerable contributions to the church property. One of the most ambitious was the building of the outdoor chapel by Scout Michael Ferrini. The chapel was dedicated May, 1983.

A major change in the sanctuary occurred in the fall of 1986 when the solid colored glass windows on either side of the chancel were replaced by vibrantly beautiful stained glass windows of modern design. Each window depicts a Christian symbol central to our faith. The windows are the work of artist-designer Richard Buswell, who, as a baby, was baptized by Rev. Thomas in our Pearl Street building. The windows were dedicated during the worship service of November 23, 1986. They were funded by the gifts of many members and friends of the church. The gifts were given "in honor of" and "in memory of" loved ones and were so noted in calligraphy on beautiful hand-decorated pages placed in the Memorial Book on display in the vestibule.

In 1993, the appearance of the chancel was greatly altered by the placement of a new, blue-pleated dossal curtain. This replaced the original curtain which was a hand-woven fabric of a block design in beige, rust and brown tones with strands of gold thread dispersed throughout.

As we come to the end of this chapter about the six buildings in which we have worshipped, we look back with gratitude to all those men and women who have served as trustees over the years. To them, we owe a vote of thanks for overseeing the maintenance of building and grounds in order that the congregation could "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

II

OUR PASTORS

When in October of 1949, the congregation prepared to move into its newly remodeled church building at 30 Pearl Street, the local newspaper, Stoughton News-Sentinel, considered it historically appropriate and of current interest to publish a two-page article with the headline, "History of Congregational Church is Written in Lives of Ministers". The credit for gathering and writing the material went to Charles N. Chase (1871-1952), a dedicated layman of the First Congregational Church of Stoughton.

As we celebrate our 250th Anniversary, I have researched and updated the material. In doing so, I have tried to use the information Mr. Chase would have included and to retain his style of writing.

During the two hundred fifty years, there have been twenty-seven ministers who have accepted the call. They have delivered their sermons in six different houses of worship.

Rev. Jedediah Adams
1746 - 1799

He was born in old Braintree (in that part now Quincy), Massachusetts on January 21, 1710, being the seventh child of Captain Peter and Mary (Webb) Adams. Captain Peter was a grandson of Henry Adams who came from England with his family about 1632. From Henry Adams were descended the two presidents of the United States--John Adams and John Quincy Adams and also Samuel Adams, the patriot.

Rev. Jedediah Adams was graduated from Harvard in 1733; he then studied for the ministry and was settled in Stoughton, as pastor, February 19, 1746. He was married on May 1746 to Mary Marsh, daughter of Rev. Joseph and Anna Marsh of Braintree. Mary died in Stoughton December 27, 1766; her husband, Rev. Jedediah, died February 25, 1799, aged 89 years.

They had five children, all born in Stoughton; two of whom, Peter and Jedediah, died young. The second child, Mary, born February 21, 1751 married July 8, 1769, John Atherton of Stoughton. The third child, Hannah, born April 4, 1753 died in Stoughton, August 1, 1848, unmarried.

The fifth and last child, also named Peter, was born, June 3, ¹⁷⁵⁶1876, married in 1805, Sarah Johnson, daughter of Lewis and Mary (May) Johnson of Stoughton. Peter Adams graduated from Harvard College in 1778; he studied medicine with Dr. Ephraim Wales of Randolph, Massachusetts.

Dr. Peter Adams was the first regularly settled physician in Stoughton; he was also the first master of Rising Star Lodge, A.F. and A.M.. and was often termed "Peter, Esq."

Peter moved back to Quincy and died there September 26, 1832; his wife, Sarah (Johnson) Adams, died August 28, 1833.

Rev. Edward Richmond
1792 - 1817

Edward Richmond was born in Middleboro, Massachusetts June 29, 1767, the eighth child of Edward and Reliance (Paddock) Richmond of that town. He graduated from Brown University in 1789 and was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1815.

He was installed December 5, 1792 as colleague pastor, with the aged Rev. Jedediah Adams, over the church in Stoughton. It would appear Mr. Adams, who was eighty-two years of age at this time, was never dismissed from the pastorate but retained the office until his death in 1799; but, of course, the active preaching and pastoral work during this interim fell upon Mr. Richmond. The latter remained as pastor of the Stoughton church until January 15, 1817, when he was called as pastor of the Third Parish Church in Dorchester (Unitarian), becoming the first regular minister of the new church on June 24, 1817.

He was married first, October 2, 1793, to Lucy, daughter of Rev. Joseph Palmer of Norton, Massachusetts. Lucy was born February 8, 1769 and died June 10, 1810, leaving two daughters. He married secondly, Sarah, daughter of Dr. Samuel Manning of Ipswich, Massachusetts. She was born March 10, 1779 and died September 17, 1816, leaving one daughter. Mr. Richmond was married for the third time, late in life, to a Mrs. Sargent.

Dr. Richmond continued with the Dorchester Church until May 13, 1833, when he resigned on account of a "paralytic affection." He then removed his residence to Weymouth, Massachusetts where he passed away April 10, 1842. He was undoubtedly a remarkable man and a long obituary was published in the *Register and Observer of Boston* claiming for him every good quality.

In the genealogy of the "Richmond Family" (page 106), a romantic love story is told of Edward's daughter Lucy Palmer Richmond and William Austin, a sea captain, whom her father would not allow her to marry. She died October 25, 1816, aged twenty years. Dr. Richmond afterwards was accustomed to calling Captain Austin his "son." With her father's permission, Capt. Austin erected a headstone to Lucy's memory in Stoughton.

During the pastorate of Mr. Richmond, the new (second) church building was completed. The first building stood near the present Universalist Church and its site is marked by a large boulder with suitable inscription.

Rev. Ebenezer Gay
1818 - 1822

He was born in Walpole, Massachusetts October 11, 1792, the son of Calvin and Joanna (Kinsbury) Gay. He graduated from Harvard College in the class of 1814; many men who later became very prominent, were members of this class and Mr. Gay lived to be the last survivor. After leaving college, he studied theology with a couple of noted clergymen of the day and was called to the pastorate of the church in Stoughton where he was ordained January 17, 1818. Here he remained four years.

This was at a time when great dissensions were occurring in nearly all of the Congregational churches in New England. Due to the teachings of Jonathan Edwards and other prominent divines, the churches were being split into those who adhered to the orthodox views and those accepting the liberal doctrines. Stoughton was no exception to this rule, but the controversy here was mild and considerate in comparison with other towns, the histories of which the writer has studied.

On July 16, 1822, Rev. Mr. Gay was dismissed from the pastorate, but he held staunchly to the orthodox views. On July first of that year, the vote for separation was passed and the majority of the church members went with the new orthodox organization.

In 1823, Mr. Gay was called to Bridgewater, Massachusetts and settled over the new Trinitarian Congregational Church (organized in 1821) as its first pastor. That organization was at first located at the southern part (Titicut) of the town, but some years later moved to Central Square. Mr. Gay, greatly interested in the cause of education, was made a trustee of Bridgewater Academy in 1824, serving in this capacity many years. He served one year (1843) as representative from Bridgewater in the General Court.

He married May 13, 1818 Laura Saunders of Wrentham, Massachusetts; they had five children, the two oldest being born in Stoughton, the other three in Bridgewater. Two of the sons, Joshua, who was born in Stoughton, and Ebenezer, Jr., became Congregational ministers.

Mr. Gay remained pastor of the Bridgewater church for nearly twenty years and, at his request, was dismissed in 1842. He remained in residence in Bridgewater until about ten years before his death when he moved to Tomkins Cove, New York, where he spent the remainder of his life at the home of his namesake and youngest son, Rev. Ebenezer Gay, Jr. Ebenezer, Sr. passed away March 23, 1886 at the age of ninety-three years.

Rev. Calvin Park
1826 - 1840

Calvin Park, son of Nathan and Ruth (Bannister) Park, was born in Northbridge, Massachusetts September 11, 1774. Calvin's elder brother, Thomas, had graduated from Brown University in 1789, and Calvin, with a great love for learning, resolved to go through the same college. He entered Brown University in 1793, graduating with distinguished honors in 1797; later, in 1818, Brown conferred upon him what was then the rare honor of Doctorate of Divinity. The three years following graduation he studied theology under noted clergymen, and, in 1800, was appointed an instructor in the college from which he was graduated. He held several professorships there until he came to Stoughton in 1826, having been called to the pastorate of the new Congregational Church there. He was installed on December 13, 1826.

Dr. Park had a marked fitness in his character as a man and as a preacher. He closed his labors in the Stoughton church in 1840, but continued to reside in Stoughton. For many years he served on the school committee of the town. Park Street was named for him.

Dr. Park was married in 1805 to Miss Abigail Ware of Wrentham, Massachusetts. They had three sons; all were born in Providence, Rhode Island and all were educated at Brown University. Their names were Harrison Greenough, Edwards Amasa and Calvin Emmons; they all entered the ministry and became honored and useful Congregational clergymen. Mrs. Abigail (Ware) Park died in Stoughton on September 21, 1836, aged sixty-two years and was buried in Wrentham.

Dr. Park married his second wife, Miss Lucinda Hodges of Easton, Massachusetts on November 30, 1837. She was a great-aunt of the Misses Hodges (well-known to many in Stoughton) who lived in the old homestead adjoining the Congregational Church. This building is now the Great Army Republic Memorial.

Dr. Park died in Stoughton January 5, 1847, a little more than seventy-two years of age. His widow, Mrs. Lucinda Park, continued to live in Stoughton, surviving her husband over twenty-five years. She passed away May 6, 1872.

Rev. Henry Eddy
1840 - 1844

The subject of our sketch was born in New Britain, Connecticut October 1, 1805, being the second child of Thomas and Abi (Lewis) Eddy. Henry Eddy entered Yale College in 1828, graduating in 1832. He then studied one or two years at Andover; then he transferred to the Theological Seminary at New Haven where he completed his studies in theology. His first pastorate was at West Granville, Massachusetts being ordained there February 16, 1836. Serving there for three and one-half years, he was dismissed on September 25, 1839.

He received a call to the Stoughton Congregational Church October 6, 1840 and was installed November 4, 1840. He terminated his labors here in Stoughton August 13, 1844, going to Turner, Maine for about two years, then going to Kennebunkport, Maine where he served two or more years. By this time he had been in the ministry for nearly fifteen years and, finding his voice failing, he thought it best to prepare for another profession. He resigned his Kennebunkport charge and returned to Connecticut. He entered the medical school at Yale College and received his degree in 1851. While prosecuting his medical studies, he supplied the Congregational Church of North Guilford, Connecticut from January 1849 to March, 1851.

Rev. Eddy then moved to North Bridgewater (now Brockton), Massachusetts practicing medicine there and in East Stoughton (now Avon). He was greatly interested in the temperance movement which was growing at that time. He continued to reside in North Bridgewater until his death September 23, 1872, at the age of sixty-seven.

Rev. Mr. Eddy married January 25, 1836, Cornelia Wood, daughter of Rev. Luke Wood of Clinton, Connecticut. She died February 6, 1842, leaving one daughter. Mr. Eddy married, secondly, August 22, 1843, Sarah Hayward Torrey of North Bridgewater, a teacher. She was the daughter of Turner and Sarah (Snell) Torrey.

One son, Henry Turner, was born in Stoughton June 9, 1844 while Mr. Eddy was pastor here; later, three other children were born, the two youngest dying in youth.

Henry Turner Eddy prepared for Cornell University where he received a degree in civil engineering in 1870 and a Ph.D. in 1872. He served at Cornell as instructor of civil engineering and mathematics. He later went to Princeton University as associate professor and then for several years was professor of those subjects at the University of Cincinnati. He was then elected president of the Rose Polytechnic Institute at Terre Haute, Indiana, where he had a successful administration.

Rev. William M. Cornell
1846 - 1850

William Mason Cornell was the second child of Dr. William M. and Abigail (Briggs) Cornell and was born October 16, 1802 at Berkley, Massachusetts. His father was a practicing physician in that town and later moved to New York state.

Mr. Cornell graduated from Brown University in 1827. He took a partial course in medicine; then decided to study for the ministry. He was ordained in 1830 and filled several pastorates. About 1839, his voice began to fail and he decided to resume his medical studies, graduating with the degree of M.D. in 1844. He practiced in Boston, and for three years was editor of the *Journal of Health*.

Rev. Cornell served as pastor of the Stoughton church for nearly four years from June 11, 1846. He then went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he filled the chair of anatomy and physiology at Western University (now the University of Pittsburgh). He also wrote many books on a variety of subjects. He married Emmeline Lord of Weymouth, Massachusetts on January 18, 1822; she died December 12, 1886. They had no children. He married, secondly, Annie Reese of Montreal, Canada on October 11, 1887. Dr. Cornell passed away in Boston April 14, 1895.

Rev. Albert Perry
1851 - 1856

Albert Perry was born in Rindge, New Hampshire on December 17, 1820. He was the second child of Chauncey and Abigail (Stearns) Perry. The father and his family moved to New Ipswich, New Hampshire when Albert was three years of age. Two of the other sons became clergymen.

Rev. Albert Perry graduated from Andover Theological Seminary in 1850 and was ordained and installed pastor of the Congregational Church in Stoughton January 8, 1851. Here he served until March 13, 1856 when failing health compelled him to relinquish his pastorate and remove with his family back to New Ipswich, where he spent the remainder of his life, passing away in that town June 17, 1862 in his forty-second year.

It was during Mr. Perry's pastorate that the new church edifice was built and dedicated. This event took place on Wednesday, January 28, 1852. For a long description of the construction and dedication of this meeting house see article by the writer in Stoughton News-Sentinel of January 27, 1927. This was the building totally destroyed by fire on March 9, 1942.

Rev. Albert Perry married May 12, 1853 Sarah B. Mills and two children were born to them in Stoughton: Mary Alice, born April 27, 1854 and Herbert Mills, born November 7, 1855. The daughter died in New York April 12, 1883, aged twenty-nine years. She had shown great literary talent--having written three books and left another partly written. The son graduated from Harvard in 1880 with honors in mathematics and natural science. His superior scholarship gained for him a position and salary as a fellow of John Hopkins University until 1883. His health failing, he was obliged to leave his beloved studies and went back to the old farm in New Ipswich for about eight years. Following, he was cared for at White Plains, New York where he passed away May 8, 1898.

The widow, Mrs. Sarah B. Perry, survived her husband for over fifty years; for many years Mrs. Perry served as matron of a home for the friendless on Randall's Island, New York. Later, in Boston, she was engaged in literary work and publishing Bible studies for school work. The latter years of her life were spent in Stoughton where she passed away

November 4, 1913 at the age of eighty-five. Mr. Perry, his wife, daughter and son are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Stoughton.

Rev. Thomas Wilson
1856 - 1876

Thomas Wilson, son of Claudio and Margaret (Downie) Wilson, was born in Paisley, Scotland June 15, 1822. He came to this country when he was seven years of age with his father and family and they settled in Lowell, Massachusetts. There, Thomas attended the public schools and Lowell High School; he then entered Dartmouth College, graduating in 1844. He graduated from Andover Theological Seminary in 1847.

In January 1848, Thomas was called as pastor of the Congregational Church in Palmer, Massachusetts. His ministry there was very successful; he remained until July 1, 1852, when he asked to be dismissed, having received a call to the church in Westford, Massachusetts, staying there until February 3, 1856. A call had been received from the Stoughton Congregational Church where he was installed March 13, 1856 and served for twenty years until March 13, 1876, the second longest pastorate in the history of this Church at that time.

Owing to ill health, Mr. Wilson rested from his labors; then, in 1877, he assumed the pastorate in Eaton, New York where he served for fifteen years. He then moved to Waterville, New York without pastoral charge and his death occurred there December 11, 1899.

Mr. Wilson married September 19, 1848, Sarah E. Haskell of North Brookfield, Massachusetts. She was born September 19, 1830 and died in Stoughton August 17, 1863, leaving five children. The oldest daughter, Isabella, became the wife of Rev. James Horace Pettee. Rev. and Mrs. Pettee served as missionaries to Japan for forty years. The youngest daughter passed away at the age of four and one half years. The youngest son, Thomas Blanchard, died at the age of twenty-three. One son, Claude, became a physician and settled in Waterville, New York and the other son, Daniel, was, for many years, a successful druggist in Chicago.

Rev. Mr. Wilson married, secondly, Mrs. Ellen Perkins Fellows of Buffalo, New York. She was born February 20, 1829 and died of pneumonia at Waterville December 11, 1899, aged over seventy-seven years. Mr. Wilson is buried, together with his two wives and youngest son and daughter, in the Evergreen Cemetery in Stoughton. In their lot is also buried their faithful, Negro servant, Amanda Mosely. "Mandy," as she was known (perhaps still remembered by some of our oldest citizens), was born a slave in Virginia; she died in Stoughton, October 18, 1870, aged twenty-five years.

Rev. John Herbert
1876 - 1878

He was born in Wentworth, New Hampshire on November 2, 1849, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Herbert. The father conducted a law office in Rumney, New Hampshire. When John was twelve, his parents moved to Boston and he graduated from English High School in 1867 at the head of his class. Herbert graduated from Dartmouth College in 1871. Soon after, he was appointed principal of Appleton Academy at New Ipswich, New Hampshire, a position he held until 1874, when he resigned. He then studied law with his father in Rumney and was admitted to the New Hampshire Bar in 1875. After practicing law for awhile, John decided to enter the ministry. To prepare, he went to Andover Theological Seminary.

In 1876, Rev. Herbert became pastor of the church in Stoughton. This pastorate he reluctantly relinquished July 7, 1878 because of trouble with his throat. A year of travel in Europe, Egypt and the East failed to give relief and he was compelled to abandon the ministry.

In 1880, he opened an office in Boston for the practice of law. Notwithstanding the exacting duties of his profession, he gave much time to Christian and public service, belonging to and working in official capacities in many such organizations.

On August 1, 1872, Mr. Herbert married Alice C. Guy, who was a teacher at Appleton Academy when he was principal. They had two children, a boy and a girl. For his second wife, Mr. Herbert married Blanche E. Ruscoe. They had one son.

Rev. Mr. Herbert lived for over forty years in Somerville, Massachusetts, but moved to Winchester, Massachusetts some four years before his death which occurred on March 27, 1927.

Rev. D. Olin Clark
1879 - 1882

Daniel Olin Clark, son of Daniel and Laura (Woodward) Clark, was born in Buckland, Massachusetts August 31, 1852. He attended Boston University for a time, then entered Bangor Theological Seminary from which he graduated in 1878. He was ordained June 20, 1878 in New Sharon, Maine. Later, he became pastor of the church in Farmington Falls, Maine and served there until 1879 when he became active pastor at Stoughton, serving from September 1, 1879 to January 1, 1882. It appears he was never installed and, during this period, Mr. Clark was interested in publishing a church paper called "The Mirror." This occupied a great deal of his time and attention and was probably the reason he was unwilling to accept as settled pastor. In 1882, Mr. Clark accepted a call as pastor of the Congregational Church in Manchester, Massachusetts, staying there until February 6, 1885. He served as pastor at Warren, Massachusetts from 1886 to 1891. When he

resigned, Rev. Clark continued to reside in Warren for some three years. He then moved to Worcester, Massachusetts where he entered into some business enterprise.

Mr. Clark married in Manchester, Massachusetts April 26, 1883, Miss Hattie W. Arnold of Westboro, Massachusetts. He passed away in Worcester April 13, 1907 following an attack of pneumonia.

Rev. Caleb L. Rotch
1882 - 1890

Caleb Lamb Rotch was born on Martha's Vineyard June 9, 1855, the son of Francis and Eliza (Wilkins) Rotch. After thorough preparation, he entered Boston University School of Theology from which he graduated in 1879. He then located in New Sharon, Maine.

On April 21, 1882, the Congregational Church in Stoughton extended him a call to become its pastor. This was accepted by him and Mr. Rotch was installed on October 18, 1882. Serving faithfully for some eight years, Mr. Rotch resigned on January 10, 1890, the same to take effect on April 1, 1890.

1894 - 1898

On March 8, 1894, the local church, for the second time, extended a call to The Rev. Mr. Rotch to become its pastor which he consented to do. He served over four years in this second term. During this term of service, a question which had been agitating the Church for some time was decided. The Church was incorporated under the Laws of Massachusetts. The certificate of incorporation No. 6799 was issued by the secretary of the Commonwealth on June 16, 1896.

Mr. Rotch handed in his letter of resignation June 30, 1898 to take effect at the next annual meeting in October. After leaving Stoughton, he held several pastorates in the west; returning east, he served several parishes in Vermont and Massachusetts.

Mr. Rotch passed away on September 26, 1935 at age eighty years. His gracious widow, Mrs. Leah Rotch was living on Pleasant Street in 1949.

Rev. Samuel B. Cooper
1890 - 1892

The subject of this sketch was born in Guiseley, England in 1857, the son of John and Jane (Bolton) Cooper. The church in Stoughton extended a call to The Rev. Mr. Cooper, then of Jefferson, Ohio, to become pastor for one year from April 1, 1890. This call was extended March 2, 1891 for another year and he served until the last of May, 1892.

Rev. Samuel B. Cooper married for his second wife Elizabeth Roberta Capen of Stoughton on September 18, 1889. She was the daughter of Robert P. and Cynthia (Brett) Capen.

Rev. E. P. F. Dearbon
1892 -1893

The writer regrets having very little information about this pastor. However, on June 13, 1892 a call was extended by the Stoughton church to Rev. Mr. Dearborn, then of Chelsea, Massachusetts. This was accepted by him and he served as pastor until July 1, 1893. For several years, Mr. Dearborn served as chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Good Templars of Massachusetts.

Rev. Henry E. Bray
1899 - 1902

Henry Edmund Bray was born in Brighton, Massachusetts February 14, 1861. He was the son of Thomas P. and Sarah A. (Smith) Bray. After graduating from the public schools in Brighton, he took a special course at Bowdoin College. He then entered Bangor Theological Seminary from which he graduated in 1887.

In 1888, The Rev. Bray assumed the pastorate of the Congregational Church in Wareham, Massachusetts and was ordained there on January 30, 1889. He held the pastorate at Leominster, Massachusetts 1889-93 and at West Rutland, Vermont 1894-96. He then resided in Framingham, Massachusetts for a couple of years when he received a call from the Stoughton church on May 4, 1899. He served as pastor here until the spring of 1902. After leaving Stoughton, he had pastorates in Taunton, Massachusetts and Sherborn, Massachusetts.

At various times, Mr. Bray served the Anti-Saloon League and the Anti-Tubercular Society. During World War I, Mr. Bray resigned his pastorate and entered the work of the Y.M.C.A. For a long time, he represented the Near East Relief covering southeastern Massachusetts.

Rev. Bray married Sarah M. Corey at Bristol, Rhode Island August 5, 1889. We have not the date of Mr. Bray's death, but his widow, died in Framingham December 27, 1947, aged eighty-six years. They had a daughter, Madeline, and a son, Edmund G.

Rev. Thomas Bickford
1902 - 1907

Thomas Bickford was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts December 30, 1854, son of Thomas and Temperance (Foster) Bickford. He was graduated from Hamilton College and then from the Theological Seminary at Hamilton, New York. He held various pastorates in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont before coming to Stoughton. On November 20, 1902, the Stoughton Church engaged Rev. Mr. Bickford as supply pastor and on March 5, 1903 a call was extended to him to become pastor.

It was not until 1906, however, that the plan for establishing a school for girls, unique in its purpose and method, was put into execution. Beginning modestly, in a surprisingly short time, he, ably assisted by his daughter, Faith, developed a large school known as the Sea Pines School of Personality for Girls located at Brewster on Cape Cod.

Mr. Bickford married Anna, daughter of Anson and Electa (Bowen) Searl. They had two daughters---Faith and Addie Frances.

On February 15, 1907, Rev. Mr. Bickford tendered his resignation as pastor to take effect May 1, 1907. He, together with his wife and two daughters, devoted their entire lives to the school.

Mr. Bickford died suddenly in Boston, July 6, 1917. After his death, the school was continued by his family.

Rev. Abram L. Bean
1907 - 1912

Abram Lincoln Bean was born in Fairview, Illinois February 10, 1862, the son of Peter and Barbara (Brandt) Bean. He completed his college courses in New York which fitted him for the ministry in which calling he was engaged for nearly a half century. Mr. Bean had served as pastor of Congregational churches in Assonet, Lynn and Taunton, Massachusetts before the Stoughton church gave him a call on May 17, 1907.

After five fruitful years in this pastorate, he resigned on July 30, 1912 going to Southbridge, Massachusetts. After serving there many years, he went to Barrington, Rhode Island. He retired in March, 1937 to his quiet and peaceful home overlooking the Assonet River. During his retirement, Mr. Bean made frequent visits back to Stoughton and kept posted on the welfare of the church in which he was deeply interested.

He married Isabel Read. Mr. Bean passed away after a sudden illness at his Assonet home June 27, 1940 at the age of seventy-eight. Besides his widow, he left four daughters and two sons.

Rev. F. T. Mayer-Oakes
1912 - 1917

Frederick Thomas Mayer-Oakes was born in Biddulph, Staffordshire, England September 29, 1881, the second son of John Thomas and Alice Mayer-Oakes. His early education was gained in the public and private schools of his day. After coming to the United States, he was graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, from Kansas City University in 1905; later pursuing graduate studies in his alma mater, he received his Ph.D., cum laude, in 1910. In 1911, he received a Doctor of Sacred Theology; he received his Doctor of Divinity from Chicago Lutheran Seminary.

Rev. Mayer-Oakes began his work in the ministry at the Congregational Church in Berlin, Massachusetts in December, 1909. The Stoughton Congregational Church extended a call to him December 31, 1912 and he remained here nearly five years. These were eventful years of faithful service. Miss Mary E. Macomber served a portion of the time as his assistant and she was ordained during his pastorate.

On August 8, 1917, Dr. Mayer-Oakes presented his letter of resignation having accepted a call to the First Congregational Church in Geneseo, Illinois. Remaining there until 1920, he went to a pastorate in Oskaloosa, Illinois serving for six years; then he went to the church in Galesburg, Illinois.

In 1928, Dr. Mayer-Oakes went to Whiting, Indiana, serving seven years until 1935. He then accepted a call to Pekin, Illinois, remaining there for seven years. Called to Fonda, Iowa in 1942, the pastorate there lasted six years. On January 1, 1948, he began his pastorate in Emmetsburg, Iowa.

In September, 1910, Dr. Mayer-Oakes was united in marriage to Margaret C. James, B.A., the only daughter of Rev. T. James of Newfoundland. They have two sons and one daughter.

Rev. Mary F. Macomber
1914 - ?

She was born in Stoughton June 22, 1869, the daughter of Thurston and Maria (Billings) Macomber. Educated in the schools of Stoughton and at a commercial school in Boston, Mary became a teacher of commercial subjects in high schools for twelve years. Ill health compelled her to resign. After a couple of years of much needed rest, Mary entered missionary work for five years in Stoughton and then was sent into rural Maine.

Feeling the need of more extensive preparation for the work of the ministry, Mary attended Gordon Bible College for a time and also took courses at Boston University School of Theology. She served in several pastorates in Maine under Methodist jurisdiction and later in churches under the Congregational Home Missionary Society.

During the pastorate of Dr. Mayer-Oakes, Miss Macomber was serving as superintendent of the Sunday school. She was ordained to the ministry on May 22, 1914. On January 16, 1914, the Church voted "that she be recognized as assistant pastor for this Church until such time as she shall have a pastorate for herself."

Rev. Macomber was called to the Congregational Church in Lanesville (Gloucester), Massachusetts. She held several other pastorates before retiring in 1937. Rev. Miss Macomber died June 25, 1940 at the age of seventy-one.

Rev. A. Edward Martin
1918 - 1926

Alonzo Edward Martin, son of Alonzo G. and Jennette (Skinner) Martin, was born February 21, 1867. Living in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, he attended the Academy there. Being interested in Y.M.C.A. work in St. Johnsbury, he obtained a position with the Charlestown, Massachusetts branch of the Boston Y.M.C.A. in 1891. He remained there several years.

One June 30, 1896, Mr. Martin married Bertha Stowell (class of 1889, Wellesley College). At the time, she was teaching in the Stoughton High School. They started housekeeping in Stoughton and he began studying the ministry. After three years of preparation at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Mr. Martin's first pastorate was at Minturn, Colorado. He was ordained there in 1901. After four years in the west, he returned east in 1905, becoming pastor in West Townsend, Vermont for five years. He continued to fill several pastorates in Vermont and Massachusetts. From Ludlow, Massachusetts he was called August 13, 1918 to the church in Stoughton where, on October first of that year, he entered upon a very successful pastorate.

Since the year 1922 would see the one hundredth anniversary of the separation of the two church organizations, it was decided to make very extensive and necessary repairs and alterations in the church building in commemoration of the event. After the construction was entered upon, it was evident the work would not be completed before 1923. Thus, the centennial anniversary exercises were not held until the week of January 13-20, 1924. The total cost of the improvements was over \$38,000.00.

Mr. Martin resigned April 13, 1926 going to the pastorate of the Congregational Church in Worcester, Massachusetts. Later, Mr. Martin accepted a call to the church at Phillipston, Massachusetts and passed away while serving the church. Mr. and Mrs. Martin had six children---four sons and two daughters.

Rev. Hugh P. Hughes
1927 - 1949

Hugh Perry Hughes was born in Carnarvon, North Wales in 1868, the son of Rev. Thomas Hughes, a Methodist clergyman. His grandfather, Rev. William Hughes, was a Presbyterian clergyman. The subject of our sketch received his early education in the public schools of his native place, later graduating from Carnarvon College and North Wales University.

When Mr. Hughes came to the United States, late in the nineteenth century, he spoke only Welch. After taking supplementary work at Chicago Theological Seminary, he served as a missionary in the mining region of the northwest. About 1898 or 1899, he was ordained into the ministry and was called to a church in Fulton, New York where he served for four years. It was probably about this time that Rev. Hughes married Gertrude McCall (1876-1921) of Michigan. She was the mother of Mr. Hughes' only child, a son, Gwyn. Gwyn was a 1926 graduate of the University of Michigan and later served with distinction in World War II and Korea.

Mr. Hughes' second pastorate was at the Saxonville (Framingham, Massachusetts) Congregational Church. During his ministry there, great alterations and improvements were made to the church building and equipment.

From Framingham, Mr. Hughes accepted a call to Woonsocket, Rhode Island where he served thirteen years. In 1917, during World War I, he resigned to become a Y.M.C.A. chaplain and was stationed at Fort Leavitt in Portland, Maine. At the end of the war, Rev. Hughes was retained to organize the industrial work for the War Council.

From 1920-1927, Mr. Hughes supplied the pulpit of the First Parish Church in Yarmouth, Maine. It was during this period, after the death of his wife, Gertrude, he married Florence Stimson (1879-1929), a native of Portland, Maine.

In the late spring of 1927, a call was extended to Rev. Hughes by the Stoughton church which he accepted. The family moved to Stoughton in early September to begin a work which would last for twenty-two years.

Two years after their arrival in Stoughton, Mr. Hughes once again became a widower. The newspaper accounts of the death of Florence Stimson Hughes tell of a most gracious woman who, in such a short time, endeared herself not only to the church family but to the whole community.

During Rev. Hughes' pastorate in Stoughton, many events took place and the membership of the church steadily grew to the largest in its history. He deserves special commendation for the loyalty and faithfulness which he displayed in keeping the congregation together after the March 1942 fire.

Mr. Hughes read his letter of resignation in early December, 1948 to take effect Sunday, February 6, 1949. On October 24, 1951, Rev. Hughes was named pastor emeritus, by a unanimous vote of the church, in recognition of his long, dedicated years of service. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes continued to live in Stoughton and remained active members of the Church.

During the early years of the Stoughton pastorate, Mr. Hughes married for a third time to Elsie L. Grey (1894-1988), daughter of Harry L. and Emma (Perry) Grey, also of Portland, Maine. This faithful little lady was to be his helpmate for all the remaining years of his life. Rev. Hughes died October 26, 1956; Mrs. Elsie Hughes died April 8, 1988 at the age of ninety-four. The graves of Rev. Mr. Hughes and his wives are all located in the Hughes plot at Riverside Cemetery, Yarmouth, Maine.

Rev. John H. Gibson
1949 - 1951

John Henry Gibson was born June 11, 1926 in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, the son of Matthew and Emma Gibson. He graduated from high school in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, class of 1944. In 1947, Mr. Gibson graduated from Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1950, he graduated from Boston University with a bachelor's degree in sacred theology. Mr. Gibson attended graduate school at that university from 1949-1951.

On August 4, 1949, Mr. Gibson married Margaret Botwright of Altoona, Pennsylvania. "Margie," as she was called here in Stoughton, also graduated from Dickinson College and attended Boston University, a background which equipped her well for a role in Christian education.

In May, 1949, John Gibson became a deacon in the Methodist Church. On May 31, 1949, our church voted to extend a call to him to become the pastor. He began his duties on September 1, 1949.

After seven years without a church building of their own, our parishioners looked forward with joyous anticipation to a return to normalcy at 30 Pearl Street. This challenge of new beginnings for both church and pastor was one to which the young couple responded with youthful energy and enthusiasm.

Their gifts of knowledge and organizational skills were enhanced by the steady and abiding faith demonstrated in Mr. Gibson's sermons and programs. In the first year of his ministry, the church budget was doubled and the benevolent giving tripled. In the first sixteen months of his ministry in Stoughton, one hundred and five persons joined the Church. Indeed, a new era in the life of the Stoughton church was off to a good start. At the end of two years, Mr. tendered his resignation to become effective August 31, 1951.

John Gibson was ordained in Seattle, Washington on February 27, 1952. Before coming to Stoughton, Mr. Gibson had served as Minister to Youth, Leighton Street Congregational Church, Lynn, Massachusetts, 1947-1949. He left Stoughton to become Minister of Christian Education at Plymouth Congregational Church, Seattle, 1951-1955. Next, Rev. Gibson was Associate Minister for Christian Education of the Washington-North Idaho Congregational Christian Conference with headquarters in Seattle, Washington, 1955-1959. Rev. Gibson then returned to Plymouth Congregational Church where he was Associate Minister and Church Administrator, 1959-1990.

From 1990 to the present, Mr. Gibson's work is as a church financial/stewardship consultant. This ministry is a vital one to the life of the church in the world. Those churches whose members are called to a high sense of stewardship are able, not only, to meet their own financial obligations, but also, to develop a variety of outreach ministries.

Margaret and John Gibson are the parents of five children. Their first, Kent Lee, was born in Brockton, Massachusetts in 1951. The other four were born in Seattle: Kay Ann, 1952; Scott Fred, 1955; Sue Ellen, 1959 and Alan Wayne, 1963.

Rev. Valery E. Sundt
1951 - 1953

Valery Edwin Sundt was born on December 3, 1917 in New London, Connecticut, the son of Edwin E. and Hazel D. (Gautreaux) Sundt. He graduated from Suffield Academy, Suffield, Connecticut in 1936, from Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1940 and from Yale Divinity School, New Haven Connecticut with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1943.

On March 7, 1936, Mr. Sundt married Isabelle Holloway, the daughter of George F. and Jennie (Hathaway) Holloway. The Rev. Sundt was ordained on April 2, 1943 by the Ashford Association of Baptist Churches in Willington Hill, Connecticut. The Reverend and Mrs. Sundt became the parents of six children, George Hall, 1942; Susan Jane, 1944; Sara Lou, 1946; Gaylord Edwin, 1947; Deborah Jean, 1949, and Karen Nieda, 1953.

Before accepting the call to the Stoughton church in July, 1951, Mr. Sundt served as Minister of Education at the First Congregational Church in Meriden, Connecticut from 1943 to 1945; as pastor of the First Congregational Church in Lyme, Connecticut from 1946 to 1948; as vice principal of the Shanghai American School in China from 1948 to 1950 and interim pastor of the Community Church, Shanghai, China from 1949 to 1950.

During the Sundt family's Shanghai sojourn, the civil war raging in China resulted in the Communist Chinese take over of the city. The occupation of Shanghai and the resulting exodus of both students and faculty eventually resulted in the closing of the school. The Sundts left Shanghai in September, 1950; the last American family with children to leave.

In April, 1953, Mr. Sundt was commissioned a lieutenant in the Navy Reserve Chaplain's Corps to become effective June 25, 1953. His resignation as pastor of the Stoughton church had been tendered to take effect on July first of that year.

For the next twenty-one years, the Reverend Sundt's work in the chaplaincy program continued. Outreach to both Navy and Marine Corps personnel took Mr. Sundt to many areas of our country as well as to distant lands and continents. He retired with the rank of Commander on July 31, 1974.

During Mr. Sundt's early years of military service, his wife, Isabelle, died. He later married Mary Rita (Panico) Rowland, widow of Sumner Rowland of Roslindale, Massachusetts. This marriage ended in divorce. On October 28, 1963, Reverend Sundt married Patricia Lee (Seigler) O'Brien, widow of Harry F. O'Brien, in Indian Head, Maryland. The officiating clergyman was the Reverend Gordon Gautreaux, Mr. Sundt's uncle.

After retiring from the Chaplain's Corps. Mr. Sundt became pastor of Morningside Church (UCC) of Jacksonville, Florida. Upon completion of his duties in that pastorate (1974-1979), Mr. Sundt was named pastor emeritus.

Other community service in the Jacksonville area included chaplain at St. John's River Hospital, a psychiatric facility; member of the Northeast Florida Advisory Council on Alcoholism; and member of the Interfaith Council of Jacksonville. In 1994, The Reverend and Mrs. Sundt still reside in Jacksonville and attend the Arlington Congregational Church in that city.

Rev. Charles C. Thomas
1953 -1955

Charles Cecil Thomas was born on August 27, 1920 in Lee County, North Carolina, the son of William Abner Thomas and Montie Belle Bailey. He graduated from high school in Broadway, North Carolina in 1938; from St. Lawrence University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1943, and from the same university with a divinity degree in 1944.

On July 10, 1944, Mr. Thomas married Alexis Marie Smith, the daughter of Eugene B. and Hattie H. Smith at the Congregational Church of Rensselaer Falls, New York. On September 27, 1944, Mr. Thomas was ordained at the Shallow Well Congregational Church in Sanford, North Carolina. The Thomases became the parents of three daughters, Dorlo Josephine, 1945; Sarah Alexis, 1947 and Deborah Sue, 1949.

Before accepting the call to the Stoughton church in October, 1953, Mr. Thomas served pastorates in Asheboro, North Carolina, Hornell, New York and Norfolk, Virginia. Reverend Thomas is remembered as a kind, caring pastor and Alexis, as an enthusiastic

and dedicated pastor's wife who took an active role in the life of the church. Reverend Thomas tendered his resignation effective December, 1955.

For the next twenty-seven years, Mr. Thomas worked as a senior director with Ketchum, Incorporated, professional fund raisers specializing in work with colleges, churches and church related institutions. Mr. Thomas retired on September 1, 1983. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas currently live in Linville, North Carolina.

Rev. Robert J. MacLeod
1956 - 1962

Robert Jeffrey MacLeod was born on April 27, 1918 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the son of Neil C. and Mary (Gray) MacLeod. He graduated from Marietta College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1942 and from Andover Newton Theological School in 1946 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree. Reverend MacLeod was ordained on March 8, 1946 at the First Congregational Church of Boylston, Boylston, Massachusetts. On October 12, 1949, Mr. MacLeod married Nancy Fay, the daughter of Alfred L. and Henrietta (Davidson) Fay at the First Congregational Church, Washington, D.C. The MacLeods became parents of Roderick Paul, 1950; David Jeffrey, 1952; Bruce Philip, 1956 and Judith, 1961.

Reverend MacLeod accepted the call to the Stoughton church in August, 1956. Prior to that, Mr. MacLeod served as pastor of the First Congregational Church of Boylston, 1945-51 and the South Congregational Church of Newport, New Hampshire, 1951-56.

During his years as pastor and teacher at the Stoughton Church, Mr. MacLeod not only led the members of the congregation in their spiritual journey, but also in their physical journey which took them from the church building at 30 Pearl Street to the present edifice at 76 Pierce Street. It was a challenging and demanding task, yet a fulfilling one. During the Stoughton pastorate, Mr. MacLeod also served the community as Protestant chaplain for the fire department. Rev. MacLeod tendered his resignation as pastor of the Stoughton church effective late February, 1962.

After leaving Stoughton, Mr. MacLeod served as pastor of the Congregational church in Middleborough, Massachusetts and Newburyport, Massachusetts and as interim pastor in Wrentham, Massachusetts. He has also served on the faculty of Pilgrim Fellowship summer conferences and as clerk of the Boston Seaman's Friend Society.

At the present time, Rev. MacLeod is Minister of Visitation at the First Congregational Church of Auburn, Massachusetts, a position he has held since 1984. The MacLeods live in Millbury, Massachusetts.

Rev. Richard K. Bailey
1962 - 1969

Richard Kenneth Bailey was born on August 7, 1924 in Springfield, Massachusetts, the son of Harold S. and Grace E. (Anderson) Bailey. His early education was in the Springfield school system culminating with his high school graduation in 1942. From December, 1942 to December, 1945, Mr. Bailey served in the U. S. Army Signal Corps.

In 1946, Mr. Bailey started a two-year, pre-theological course at Bangor Theological Seminary. These studies, taught by professors from the University of Maine, were to prepare for pastoring a student church. Upon completion of the course, Mr. Bailey was awarded a diploma. It was during this time that Mr. Bailey married Jane E. Allan, daughter of George M. and Isabelle (Bridgeford) Allan. The wedding took place at the First Congregational Church of Springfield, Massachusetts on June 14, 1947.

Mr. Bailey continued his studies at Bangor Theological Seminary and completed the requirements for a divinity degree in 1952. However, the seminary withheld the awarding of the degree until he completed an additional two years at the University of Maine. Finally, in 1954, Mr. Bailey received the divinity degree from the seminary and the Bachelor of Science degree from the university.

From 1948-54, Mr. Bailey served as student pastor at the Kenduskeag Union Church in Kenduskeag, Maine. On November 28, 1954, Mr. Bailey was ordained at the First Congregational Church in Hadley, Massachusetts. He served as pastor of that church from 1954-57. In May, 1957, Rev. Bailey joined the U. S. Army, Massachusetts Army Reserve National Guard Chaplain Corps. He retired from this unit with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in May, 1977. From June, 1957 until July, 1962, Mr. Bailey served as pastor of the First Congregational Church of Clinton, Massachusetts. Also, in 1962, Rev. Bailey earned the Master of Divinity degree from Bangor Theological Seminary.

In August, 1962, Reverend Bailey accepted the call to the First Congregational Church, UCC of Stoughton, Massachusetts. He served as pastor until July, 1969. It is of interest to note Mr. Bailey's maternal grandfather had been proprietor of a drug store, located in Swan's Block on the northerly corner of Wyman Street and Washington Street, for a period of four years near the turn of the century. The members of the family during their Stoughton sojourn were congregants of the 1852 church.

A recurring theme in Mr. Bailey's annual reports denotes worship as the reason for the church's very existence and the source of a church's growth, strength and outreach in the community and the world. During the Stoughton pastorate, Rev. Bailey served on several committees of the Pilgrim Association. In addition, Jane Bailey served as president of Pilgrim District Women's Fellowship. In the community, Mr. Bailey was an active member of the Stoughton Clergy Association, an officer in the Stoughton Citizens Housing Corporation and a director of the Interfaith Housing Corporation.

Upon leaving Stoughton, Rev. Bailey became senior pastor at the First Congregational Church in Chatham, Massachusetts. He served until June, 1985. From March, 1988 until August, 1992, Rev. Bailey was associate pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Harwichport, Massachusetts.

Presently, the Baileys live in Harwich, Massachusetts where Mr. Bailey is president of the Harwich Clergy Association and co-chair and coordinator of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and Widowed Persons Service of Cape Cod. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey are the parents of Joanne E., 1953; Richard K. Jr., 1955 and Robert A., 1958.

Rev. Walter N. Stone
1965 - 1967

In August of 1965, during the pastorate of Rev. Richard K. Bailey, Walter N. Stone was called to our church as associate minister. Mr. Stone was born in Gardner, Massachusetts and attended the public schools of that city. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, West Virginia and a theology degree from Boston University School of Theology in 1965.

Mr. Stone was a communications specialist in the United States Air Force for a period of time. From 1961-65, Mr. Stone served as youth minister at Holy Trinity Methodist Church in Danvers, Massachusetts. In 1965, he was ordained a deacon in the Methodist Church. Mr. Stone also completed twenty years as an active scouter in the Boy Scouts of America in 1965.

The main focus of Mr. Stone's pastorate in Stoughton was as a youth minister. He and his wife, Andrea, whom he married in December, 1963, brought their youthful energy and enthusiasm, their knowledge, commitment and support to the young people of our church that they might learn and grow in the Christian faith and way of life. Mr. Stone was ordained in our church on December 4, 1966.

Upon leaving Stoughton in August, 1967, Rev. Stone became pastor of the Federated Church, Marlborough, New Hampshire and later the pastor of Rollstone Congregational Church, Fitchburg, Massachusetts. The Stones are parents of three daughters, Gayle, Kim and Bonnie and one son, Bryan.

Rev. Ernest O. Geigis
1970 - 1995

Ernest Otto Geigis was born in Boston, Massachusetts on August 22, 1933, the son of Ernest and Lucy (Schurhoff) Geigis. His early education was in the Boston school system, culminating in graduation from Boston Latin School in 1951. In 1955, Mr. Geigis earned

a Bachelor of Arts degree (summa cum laude) from Boston University where he was an Augustus Howe Buck scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

In Marsh Chapel, Boston University on June 9, 1956, Mr. Geigis married Diana Ruth Santoro, daughter of John and Tomasina (Grana) Santoro of East Boston. The young couple had met at the university as students. For three months in the summer of 1957, the couple resided in Arion, Iowa where Mr. Geigis served as student minister of the Arion Congregational Church. During the seminary years, Mr. Geigis also served as student minister in Chatterton Hill Church, White Plains, New York and Paramus Congregational Church in New Jersey.

In 1958, Mr. Geigis received a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. On June 1, 1958, Ernest was ordained in the church of his youth, West Roxbury Congregational Church, West Roxbury, Massachusetts.

Reverend Geigis served the Westhampton Congregational Church, Westhampton, Massachusetts from 1958 to 1965 and the Community Church of Watertown, Watertown, Massachusetts from 1965 to 1970.

Rev. Geigis received the call to First Congregational Church of Stoughton UCC in November, 1969 and began his pastorate on January 19, 1970. His installation by the Pilgrim Association of the United Church of Christ was held on Sunday evening, September 27, 1970.

In 1972, our church became an official learning center for the teaching parish program developed by Andover Newton Seminary two years earlier. The program was designed to give the seminarian an overall training experience in parish ministry rather than training with a primary emphasis on youth work. In 1978, Rev. Geigis received the prestigious "Walter A. Telfer Award for Excellence in Supervision" from the seminary. To date, Mr. Geigis has supervised twelve seminarians through this field education experience.

Mr. Geigis guided the church through the building program which saw the completion of the fellowship hall and other associated room additions. He preached at the first outdoor worship service in our own "Cathedral in the Pines." He has been a loyal supporter of the church's scouting programs and a member of the handbell choir.

In Pilgrim Association activities, Rev. Geigis has participated actively, serving on committees and as moderator in 1978. At the state level, Mr. Geigis served on the search committee to call a new conference minister and president. At the national level, Mr. Geigis served twice as the Massachusetts delegate to General Synod. In the community, Mr. Geigis has been an active participant in Stoughton Clergy Association and served as its president.

All of these activities were in addition to his primary role of pastor and teacher, where his leadership and guidance provide direction to the congregation's spiritual pilgrimage. His

special gift of caring shown in times of joy and sorrow has been truly a blessing to the members and friends of the church.

When Mr. and Mrs. Geigis came to the Stoughton parsonage, they brought with them two young daughters, Deborah (1963) and Priscilla (1965). Both girls received their public school education in Stoughton and graduated from Stoughton High School. In May, 1985, Deborah graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism from Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Communications. Deborah's early writings were for magazines, but she has since gone on to do free lance newspaper writing. Currently, Deborah is pursuing a master's degree in creative writing at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina.

Priscilla graduated magna cum laude in May, 1987 from Connecticut College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in government. In 1990, she received a Master's of Government Administration degree from the University of Pennsylvania; in May, 1992, Priscilla received the degree of Juris Doctor from Northeastern University's School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts. She was admitted to the bar and sworn in as an attorney on December 15, 1992. Currently, Priscilla is the assistant general council for the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In choosing the law profession, she is following in the footsteps of her maternal grandfather.

During the Stoughton pastorate of Mr. Geigis, Mrs. Geigis completed twenty-two years as a gifted and well-loved first grade teacher at the Helen H. Hansen School, formerly the Chemung School, in Stoughton.

SEMINARIANS
First Congregational Church of Stoughton

Charles W. Barnes	1951 - 1953
Charles Ham	1954 - 1955
Clarke B. Schaaf	1955 - 1957
Robert F. Hardina	1957 - 1959
Joseph T. Runner	1959 - 1961
Luther Jose'	1961 - 1962
A. William Kish	1962 - 1965
David L. Robertson	1967 - 1968
Mrs. Karen Zinke	1968 - 1969
Karl Kindt	1969 - 1970
Frederick W. Rogers	1970 - 1972
Ronald M. Patterson	1972 - 1974
Karen Sorenson Schmit	1976 - 1977
Edward T. Church, III	1974 - 1976
Charles H. Ericson	1977 - 1980
Blake Joslin	1981 - 1982
Janet L. Bryant	1982 - 1983
Bruce Arbour	1983 - 1984
Phillip R. Winders	1984 - 1988
Charles Newton Lindley	1988 - 1989
Paige Besse-Rankin	1989 - 1990

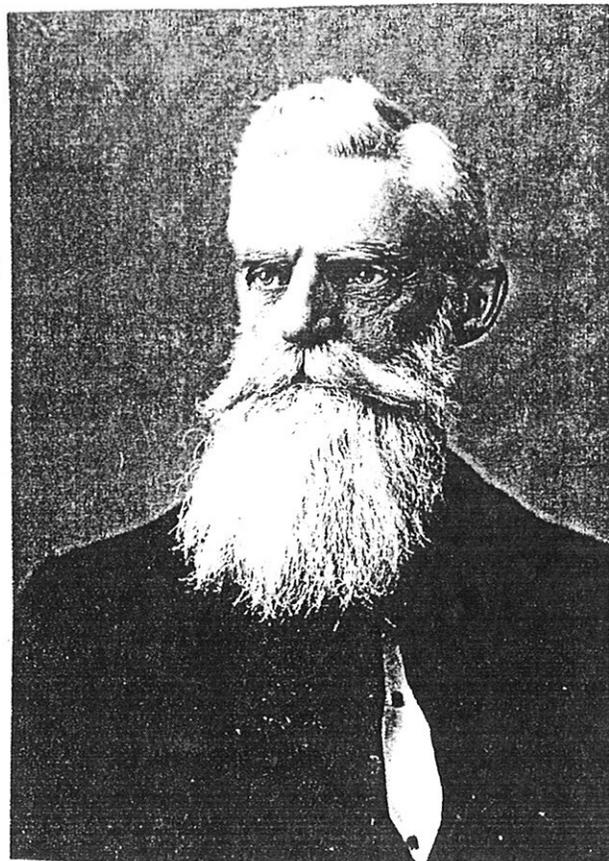


The Rev. Ebenezer Gay
1818-1822



*Yours Truly, &c.
Wm. M. Cornell*

The Rev. William Mason Cornell
1846-1850



The Rev. Thomas Wilson
1856-1876



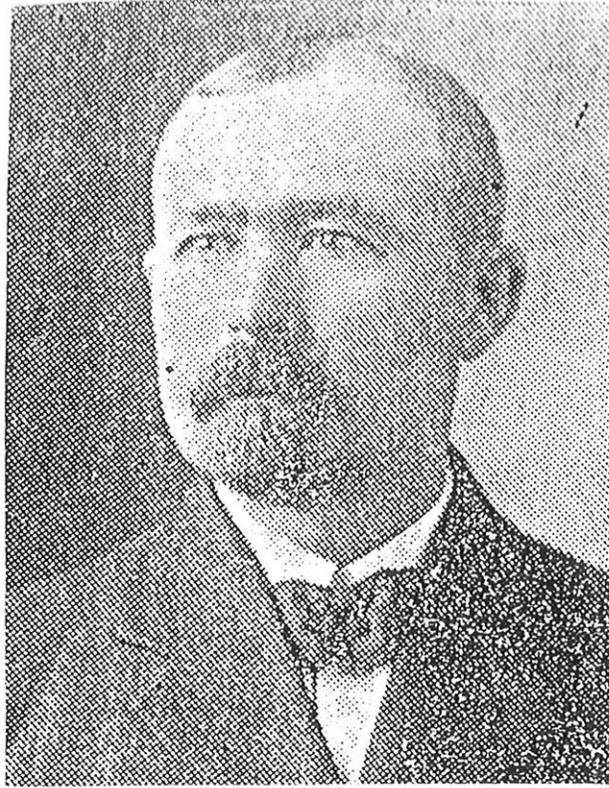
The Rev. John Herbert Sr.
1876-1878



The Rev. Henry E. Bray
1899-1902



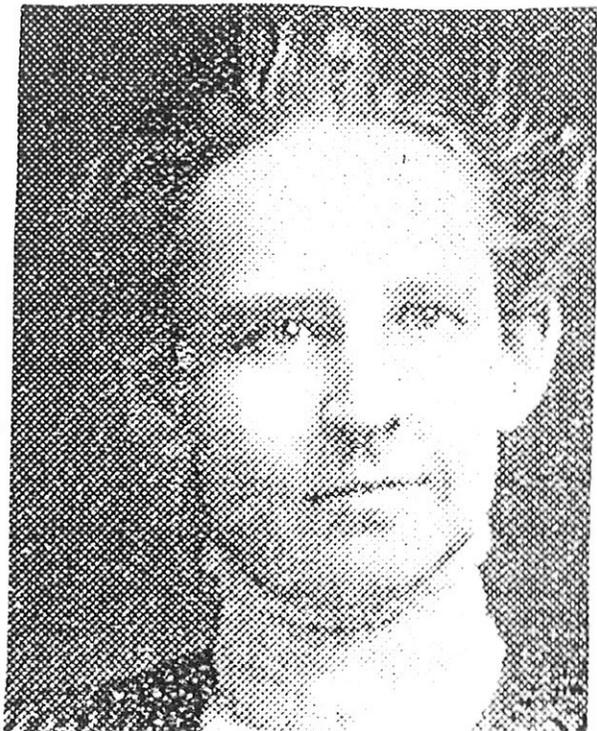
The Rev. Thomas Bickford
1902-1907



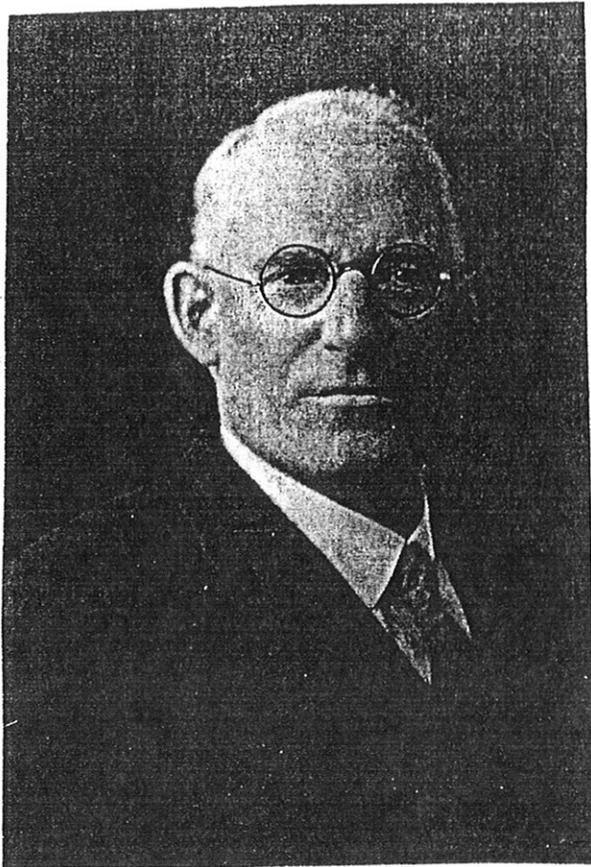
The Rev. Abram L. Bear
1907-1912



The Rev. Dr. F. T. Mayer-Oakes
1912-1917



The Rev. Mary Macomber
1914-?



The Rev. A. Edward Martin
1918-1926



The Rev. Hugh P. Hughes
1927-1949



The Rev. John H. Gibson
1949-1951



The Rev. Valery E. Sundt
1951-1953



The Rev. Charles C. Thomas
1953-1955



The Rev. Robert J. MacLeod
1956-1962



The Rev. Richard K. Bailey
1962-1969



The Rev. Walter N. Stone (Associate)
1965-1967



The Rev. Ernest O. Geigis
1970-1995