
Celebrating the 150-year History of Crawford Memorial United Methodist Church

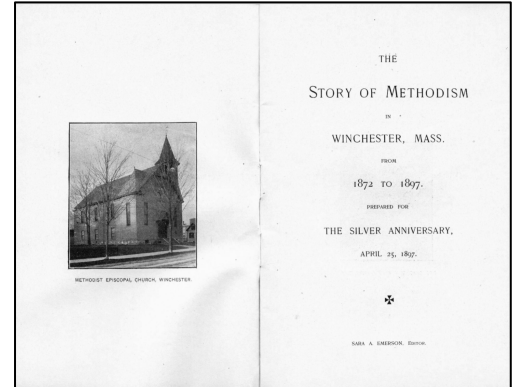
Anniversary Celebrations

Ragnhild M. Bairnsfather, September 2021

25th Anniversary (1897)

Rev. John H. Mansfield & Rev. George H. Perkins

There may have been a day or evening of celebration, but no program bulletin exists that to tell about it. However, the real gift for them and for us was the publication of the history of the church's first twenty-five years. In forty pages, Sara Emerson writes of the beginning of the church, the early founders, when they joined, what they did, and their sterling qualities. There are chapters on the Sabbath School, the Ladies' Social Circle and the Epworth League.



55th Anniversary (1926), Rev. Hiram William Hook, pastor

The anniversary was overshadowed by the dedication of the new building. That program was covered in the May issue of the Crawford Chronicles.

65th Anniversary (1936), Rev. George Alison Butters

The anniversary was celebrated at the Sunday morning service April 19. Among those honored for their long-time membership and participation were James and Ella Johnson who had been members since 1876 (60 years) and who were celebrating their 64th wedding anniversary as well. (They are buried in Wildwood Cemetery.)

A feature of the service was an address by Louisa Holman (Richardson) Fisk (Mrs. Everett O.), of Brookline, who had been a member since 1878. She recounted her memories growing up in the church – monthly Missionary Concerts, so called tableaux, and the student from Boston University – John D. Pickles – who came out Friday afternoons to hold a class meeting with the young people. One by one he asked about their religious life. The disciplinary rule of six months' probation before being received into full membership was strictly observed, she said. Mr. Pickles made calls on Saturday, preached twice on Sunday, and on Monday morning returned to his classes at the College of Liberal Arts.

“Rev. George A. Butters preached on ‘A Modern Deborah,’ taking the life of Lucinda Mason (one of the founders) and comparing her responsive leadership to that of the ancient Deborah.” (Albert Bent).

70th Anniversary (1941), Rev. Roger E. Makepeace, pastor

The Winchester Star of April 18, 1941 carried the usual weekly notices of each church, listing the location, the minister with his address and four-digit phone number, and time of classes and worship. Under Crawford Memorial Methodist Church was “A Friendly Church by the Side of the Road.” The events in the program that followed the dinner on Friday the 18th was written up, which is good since no program bulletin exists in the archives. Vincent Clarke was the toastmaster, Mrs. Norman (Maude) Hitchcock led community singing, and greetings from other Methodist churches were delivered. Albert Bent's brief speech “Looking Back 70 years” was followed by the minister's “Looking Forward 70 years.” Dr. Louis O. Hartman, editor for 24 years of *Zion's Herald*, the independent Methodist weekly, gave the address, “The Religion of Abraham Lincoln.” Out of curiosity, I searched Google and found that Lincoln's father was a Baptist, but that he himself never joined a church, though he frequently invoked scripture in his speeches, writing, and conversations. You can learn more about Lincoln's religious beliefs on the Internet. Certainly, Hartman's address would have been an interesting one.

Bent, in his published history of the church, notes that the dinner was a birthday party and homecoming. It featured a four-tiered cake (created by Mrs. Norman Hitchcock) topped by seventy candles and attracted instant attention. A panorama of the attendees was taken prior to the meal, but no photo of the cake exists.

The *Star* published the entire order of Sunday's service. Dr. Daniel L. Marsh, president of Boston University and for whom Marsh Chapel is named, gave the sermon. Myrtie L. Hodge wrote the four-stanza Anniversary Hymn that was sung to the tune of "America."



70th Anniversary Dinner April 18, 1941 held in Osborne Hall. Norman V. Osborne, for whom the hall is named, is in the first row first person from the left. Next to him is Mildred Dodge, Fred Dodge and Elsie Grey, who was engaged to Sherman Dodge, their son, who was in the army at the time. Some of the people were identified by Ruth Bunzel many years after the event.

75th Anniversary (1946), Rev. Harris E. Heverly, pastor

Celebrations took place from April 18 to April 28. The anniversary service opened with the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday evening April 18th. The returned service men and women communed at the first table and recently joined members knelt at the second table. Rev. Harris E. Heverly on Easter Sunday the 21st "delivered an inspiring Easter message of hope and spiritual awakening – a challenge to each worshiper in the capacity congregation." (Albert B. Bent) A reception and banquet were held on the 24th. Five of our former pastors attended: Dr. Vincent Ravi-Booth (1904-1907), who founded and was trustee of Bennington College in Vermont; Rev. Alliston Gifford (1918-1925); Rev. Hiram Hook (1925-1939); Rev. George Butters (1935-1938); and Dr. Charles Hiller (1938-1939). Among those present was Dr. Howard Chidley, the pastor of the First Congregational Church who represented the Winchester Ministerial Association and said the churches stood for the same ethics, ideals and liberty and the function of the church today was to maintain those ideals. He used "wit and humor with a purposeful demand for invigorating progress in keeping Winchester free from juvenile delinquency." (Winchester Star April 26, 1946) Also attending were Louisa Holman Fisk (Mrs. Everett O. Fisk), a former member who was a founder and first president of the Council of Women of Boston University and Martha Grace Stone, daughter of John C. Mason. Robert MacArthur, representing the Board of Selectmen, spoke of the interest of the community in its churches. Letters of regret were read from former pastors Chaplain Roger Makepeace (1939-1944) who was serving in India; Rev. Russell Cole (1938-1939), president of Cornell College; Dr. Ralph Leonard, grandson of John and Lucinda Mason and Georgiana, daughter of Frank and Winnifred Crawford.



L-R: Rev. Harris Heverly, Louise (Mrs. Wilson) Armstrong, Lillian (Mrs. Wm) Hatch, Grace Snow, Hattie Snow, Sandra Curtis, Milton Powers, Nelson Seeley, Harold Dover, Robert Armstrong, & Vincent Clarke

The closing event was the lighting of three candles representing Crawford's past, present, and future:

- The past, lit by Vincent Clarke, recently returned from overseas service in the army, representing seven of the oldest in years of membership ranging from 63 to 51 years.
- The present: lit by Lillian Hatch (63 years a member) who passed the candle to Pastor Heverly, who passed it to Louise Armstrong, chair of the Board of Education; Chester Koontz, superintendent of the Sunday School; and finally to Jessie Koontz, president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.
- The future: lit by Sandra Curtis, the candle represented the children of the parish.

The anniversary celebration ended with everyone singing, "Blest be the Tie That Binds."

80th Anniversary (1951), Rev. John Snook, Jr., pastor

The celebration was spread over the week of April 8-15, and there was a lot to celebrate. Ray Chase, superintendent of the Sunday School, reported a total enrollment of 167 children. The Active Roll of Members had been built up to 420, an increase of over one hundred during the present pastorate.

Bishop Lewis O. Hartman was the guest preacher on Sunday April 8th. The following Thursday, the Woman's Society of Christian Service held its regular meeting with a talk "The Long Road." A birthday party was held Friday evening that began with a business meeting of the Fourth Quarterly Conference with the District Superintendent presiding – what an interesting combination of events, a party and a business meeting. Miss Mary Hodge gave a toast to the past eighty years, relating its history briefly, as she put it, "At the rate of ten years per minute." Shirley Kuhn "gave an excellent tribute to the present, telling of the cordial welcome experienced by her as a new member." (Albert Bent) The pastor's sermon on Sunday April 15th was "Making Room for Improvement."

90th Anniversary (1961), Rev. H. Newton Clay, pastor

The anniversary celebration was the week of April 9-16. Sunday April 9th, Vocation Sunday, the sermon was delivered by Rev. Guy H. Wayne, Superintendent of the Boston District of the Methodist Church and a long-time friend of Rev. Clay. He took part in Clay's ordination 35 years prior, so this was an observance of that event. Clay was presented with a clerical cape from the church.

On Friday April 14th, a banquet attended by over 200 was held in what is now Gifford Hall but then was called the Social Hall. (The Giffords, who lived in Lexington, attended. Alliston Gifford served as pastor from 1918 to 1925 and was then retired.) Each table was decorated with spring flowers and a small church. But the most talked about decoration sitting on a nearby table was a replica of the original church that stood on Mount Vernon Street that was handmade by Norman V. Osborne who built the present church (pictured, right).



The dinner was catered by Norman Stafford, father of current member Judy Stafford. Following dinner Gloria Maifeld led a community sing that included such favorites as, "In the Evening by the Moonlight," "I've Been Working on the Railroad," "We're Marching to Zion," and "My Wild Irish Rose." Prof. Roland Nadeau, the director of music and organist, led the men's chorus.

After leaving his post here, Nadeau founded the music department at Northeastern. He had a popular radio program on WGBH-FM called "A Note to You," where he lectured and interviewed guests educating all ages in classical music. It ran for thirty-four years until he died in 1997 at age 62 in N.H.

What could be considered the highlight of the evening was the Mortgage Burning Ceremony led by Lester R. Godwin, chairman of the Board of Trustees. Following that Rev. John Snook, minister of Old South Methodist Church in Reading, gave greetings.

The celebration week came to a close with the Sunday morning service April 16th. Bishop James K. Mathews led the ceremony of dedication of the new social hall and classrooms. No Methodist Church property may be dedicated until it is free of debt. Mathews had been a missionary in India where he met and married Eunice Jones, daughter of Dr. E. Stanley Jones, the famous Methodist missionary. Mathews' sermon was "What is the Church." The youth choir, led by Gloria Maifeld, performed the anthem, which was by Bach, Maifeld's solo was by Bizet, the organ prelude was another Bach, and the organ postlude was Pachelbel.

95th Anniversary (1966), Rev. Newton Clay, pastor

If there was a banquet, no pictures or program exists. The 95th Anniversary Sunday was April 17, 1966. Rev. William J. Ogle, district superintendent, preached the sermon "The Witnesses" and confirmed twelve young people into membership. Following the service was a reception honoring the oldest and newest members.

Next month's installment of the Crawford Chronicles will include subsequent anniversaries, plays, performances and events that have made our church special.

OUR LONG-TIME MEMBERS

TODAY WE WOULD HONOR those who have been members for many years. Those who have belonged to this church fifty years or more will be recognized as they are wearing red carnations. They are:

Mr. Milton F. Powers	1894	Miss Edna May Johnson	1900
Mr. George French	1905	Miss Dorothy Armstrong	1907
Mrs. Jennie A. Roberts	1907	Mrs. Hattie Osborne	1907
Mr. Norman V. Osborne	1908	Mr. George H. McMillan	1909
Mr. Ralph W. Hatch	1909	Mrs. Mary H. McMillan	1909
Mr. Frank E. Crawford	1910	Mrs. Edith Armstrong	1912
Mrs. Georgiana Crawford Jenkins	1912	Mrs. Eva M. Larson	1914

Members Forty-five Years or More

Mrs. Pauline R. Hamilton	1918	Mrs. Winnifred Nicholas	1920
Mrs. Elva G. Davis	1919	Mr. Vincent P. Clarke	1921