

1844

1944

One Hundredth Anniversary

of the

Founding of the

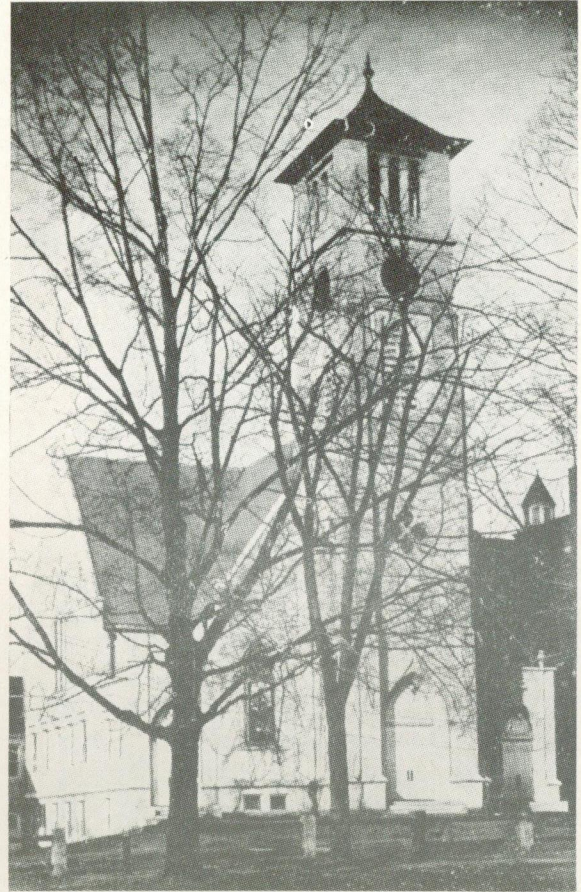
First Congregational Church

of

Clinton, Massachusetts



November 26 --- December 1, 1944



PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING

Cornerstone Laid May, 1898

Dedicated, May 28, 1899

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

World War I

Aitken, Frederick S.	Hamilton, Harold D.	McNeilly, Harry
Burns, Maurice C.	Hamilton, Arthur K.	Munro, Leon J.
Chase, Gilman L.	Hayter, David C.	Maitland, W. Maurice
Derrick, Glendon R.	Hayes, Douglas J.	Nye, Laura A.
Dix, Irvine W.	Herrmann, Charles C.	Osgood, Edward
Engberg, Hjalmar L.	Johnston, William	Shaw, William H.
French, Paul M.	McLeod, George, Jr.	Stevenson, Warren E.
Garrity, Kenneth E.	Martin, Clinton H.	Schobert, William
Hamilton, James	McCarty, Harold D.	Steele, George B.

World War II

Names on Service Honor Roll as of Oct. 15, 1944

Baer, William G.	Jaquith, Lester G.
Bartlett, George M.	Jaquith, Wilbur M.
Bassett, Earl	Johnson, Allan C., Jr.
Bassett, Edward S.	Johnson, George E.
Bassett, John D.	Jurentkuff, Karl F.
Bates, John B.	Kilgour, Vernon
Bergstrom, Carl E.	LaBrack, Kenneth L.
Braunhardt, William C.	*LaBrack, Louis E.
Brodrick, Earl C.	Lowe, Gilbert F.
Brodrick, Robert W.	McDonnell, Edward F.
Carville, Lendell P.	McKnight, Roger J.
Colburn, Clinton S.	Miller, David H.
Cross, Merrill M.	Milyaro, William
Davidson, Warren R.	Munter, John
Densmore, Edgar R., Jr.	Murdy, Francis R.
Densmore, Harold C.	Pedersen, Linwood H.
Duncanson, William McA.	Perkins, Sidney F., Jr.
Duncanson, William McA., Jr.	Ramig, Charles, Jr.
Fagan, James F.	Ramig, Howard E.
Fraser, J. Perry	Ramig, Kenneth M.
Garber, Kenneth S.	Riley, Fontaine E.
Gardiner, John F.	Rockwell, Roy T.
Gardiner, Thomas	*Russell, Earle L.
Gardner, Richard D.	St. Jacques, Henry
Garland, Donald	St. Jacques, Walter A.
Garland, Thomas	Sargent, Earl W.
Garland, William T.	Schneider, Frederick W.
Gebhardt, Christine N.	Shaw, James F., Jr.
Gebhardt, Ernest	Der Stepanian, Joseph
Gibbs, William W.	Stevenson, William B.
Greenwood, Virginia M.	Taubert, Phyllis J.
Hager, Elizabeth B.	Thompson, William G.
Hager, Roger C.	Trautner, Fred H.
Hamilton, James, Jr.	Underwood, Francis E.
Hanna, James, Jr.	Underwood, Harry G.
Hanna, Robert	Underwood, Leon E.
Hanna, William H.	Van Train, William A.
Haroian, John N.	Van Train, William A., Jr.
Heinold, Howard	Windle, Chester D.
Heinold, Kenneth	Yalian, Richard
	Yule, Thomas

* Killed in action



PASTORS

Rev. J. M. R. Eaton, 1845-1847
 Rev. William H. Corning, 1847-1851
 Rev. William D. Hitchcock, 1851-1853
 Rev. Warren W. Winchester, 1854-1862
 Rev. Benjamin Judkins, 1862-1867
 Rev. DeWitt S. Clark, 1868-1878
 Rev. Charles Wetherby, 1879-1884
 Rev. Darius B. Scott, 1885-1892
 Rev. William Wells Jordan, 1893-1921
 Rev. Nathan H. Gist, 1921-1943
 Rev. E. Maurice Bussey, 1944-

Asst. Pastors

Rev. Stanley Marple, 1922
 Rev. Charles T. Alexander, 1922-1924
 Rev. Orville Davis, 1924-1925
 Rev. Andrew Miller, 1925-1926

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday, November 26, 10:45 A.M.

Organ Prelude—"Intermezzo" (from "Cavallerie Rusticano")
Violin and Organ *Mascagni*

Processional Hymn—"Holy, Holy, Holy" No. 1

Call to Worship (Minister and Choir)

Doxology—one stanza of "America"

Invocation—"Lord's Prayer" — "Apostle's Creed"

Children's Sermon—"The St. John's Fund"

Hymn—"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" No. 177

Responsive Reading— No. 626

Gloria Patri

Scripture Lesson

Anthem—"How Lovely are the Messengers" (from
"St. Paul") *Mendelssohn*

Pastoral Prayer

Response—"Lead Me Lord in Thy Righteousness" *Wesley*

Offertory Solo—"God is a Spirit" *Scott*
Mrs. Ruth Marquardt Redstone

Prayer of Consecration

Sermon—Faith of Our Fathers *Dr. Horace F. Holton*
Secretary, Board of Pastoral Supply, Boston

Prayer

Recessional Hymn—"When Morning Gilds the Skies" No. 41

Benediction

Organ Postlude—"Hallelujah Chorus" (from "the Messiah")
Violin and Organ *Handel*

Victoria Der Stepanian, Violinist

Mrs. Franklin J. Crosson
Organist and Choir Director

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Sunday Evening, November 26, 7:30

Organ Prelude—(a) Evensong *Johnson*
(b) Ode to the Evening Star *Wagner-Meare*

Processional Hymn—"The Church's One Foundation" No. 391

Invocation

Scripture Lesson

Birthday Greetings *Rev. T. Frederick Cooper*
President, Clinton Ministers' Association

Anthem—"Gloria" (from "The Twelfth Mass") *Mozart*

Prayer

Response—"Seven-fold Amen" *Stainer*

Offertory—"Evening and Morning" *Spicker*

Sermon *Dr. Walter A. Morgan*
Pastor, Chestnut Street Congregational Church, Worcester

Prayer

Recessional Hymn—"Love Divine, All Love Excelling" No. 270

Benediction

Organ Postlude—"Zadok the Priest" *Handel*

Miss Eva Baker, Ella Kennen Hudson	SOPRANOS
Elsie Forsberg Nelson	ALTO
Clarence Stanton Harold Southwick	TENORS
William L. Mitchell David Simonds	BASSES

YOUNG PEOPLE'S NIGHT

Tuesday, November 28, 1944, 7:45 P. M.

PROGRAM

Vocal Duet Flora Wittig and Marian Lamy
Guitar Selections Robert Baer
Accordion Selections Rose Zadroga
Xylophone Selections George Donnelly
Play—"While the Toast Burned"

Herbert Canby George Stank
Ruth, his wife Edith Walker
Herbert, Jr. William Cadoret
Mary Lou Jean Lamy
Grandmother Canby Marilyn Schobert

Social Hour Refreshments

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Wednesday Evening, November 29, 7:30

PRAYER MEETING NIGHT

Organ Prelude—"Pastorale in A Flat" Parker
Processional Hymn—"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"
No. 224

Invocation
Hymn Singing
Scripture Lesson
Anthem—"The Heavens are Telling (from "The Creation")"
Haydn-Lorenz

Voluntary Prayers
Litany No. 580
Solo—"Grant Me Dear Lord, Peace of Mind" Stickles
Miss Vernice Coolidge

Sermon—"Men and Women of the Church in the Last Fifty
Years"
Rev. Thomas W. Davison

Prayer Rev. Frederick Brown
Recessional Hymn—"Onward Christian Soldiers" No. 399
Benediction

Organ Postlude—"Recessional" Roberts
Mrs. W. L. Persons, Guest Organist
Miss Vernice Coolidge, Soloist

FAMILY NIGHT

Friday Evening, December 1

Supper 5:00 to 6:45

Community Singing

Shrewsbury Men's Glee Club

(a) Brothers, Sing On Greig
(b) John Peel Andrews
(c) Stout Hearted Men (from "Rose Marie") Romberg

Address Dr. Orville L. Davis
Principal, Leonard Theological College

Men's Glee Club

(a) Laudamus Protheroe
(b) Dear Land of Home "Finlandia" Sibelius
(c) Thanks Be To God Dickson
William L. Mitchell, Director
Marthajane Mitchell, Accompanist

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Benediction

Immediately following the first supper serving, all are asked to retire to the auditorium for an Organ Recital until the program begins in the vestry at 7:30. The children will be entertained in the Ladies' Parlor.

ORGAN RECITAL

Mrs. Franklin J. Crosson at the console

Marche Des Girondis Clark
Humoreske Dvorak-York
Sextet from "Lucia" Donizetti-Browne
Romanca Gounod-Baldwin
Andantino Lemare
The Londonderry Air (Traditional) Arr. by Sanders
King Dream and His Love Gruber-Baldwin
The Lost Chord Sullivan-Spark
Swing Low Sweet Chariot (Negro Spiritual) Arr. by Archer
Roll Jordan Roll (Negro Spiritual) Arr. by Archer
Offertoire in A Flat Read

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The One Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of the First Congregational Church in this town is being observed with a special series of events.

Let us, if we can, put aside the cares and worries of a war-torn world and go back a hundred years to the little village of Lancaster where we find the people attending services in a small chapel. This society was the First Evangelical Church which was organized in February 1839, and in 1844 had twenty-six members from Clintonville.

Ten years before the town of Clinton was incorporated, a Sabbath School was established in the brick school-house at the foot of Church Street and so the Evangelical Church was the immediate and specific outgrowth of this Sunday School.

The next recorded place of the society was a chapel at the southwest corner of Main and Sterling Streets. On November 14, 1844, a council was held at the home of H. N. Bigelow and it was voted that the church be called the Second Evangelical Church of Lancaster. As there were no pews, setees were used. The seating capacity was two hundred and the room was heated by box stoves. Rev. J. M. Eaton was invited to be the first pastor at a salary of five hundred and fifty dollars. He remained a little over two years, concluding his services in 1847. Thus was begun our first independent religious society with a complete organization.

Education and the church went hand in hand, and we find Rev. Mr. Eaton serving as a member of the School Committee in Lancaster from this district. The membership at this time was forty-one.

The congregation became so large that in March 1846, it was voted to build an addition. In April this vote was reconsidered and it was again voted to sell the chapel and erect a new one on Walnut Street for temporary use.

H. N. Bigelow gave the land upon which the church was built and contributed largely to its support. The building was dedicated January 1, 1847. There was little architectural beauty to this building and it was commonly referred to as "The Lord's Barn". It sat back from the road much farther than the present church.

The second minister was Rev. William Corning. He was ordained December 8, 1847. His sermons were marked by a vein of originality and were appreciated by all the congregation. The fact that after his pastorate in Clinton, he was called as a

supply for months to the celebrated Park Street Church in Boston, gives a good idea of the general ability of the man. He served as chairman of the School Board and one of our school buildings is named Corning for him.

In 1849, a large proportion of the church-going population attended this church. The social, educational, religious as well as political matters were largely associated with the vestry of this church. It was here that the first town meetings were held.

From 1851 to 1853, Rev. William Hitchcock served as pastor. He was a man of wonderful sweetness and gentleness of character. He was the embodiment of grace and goodness. He, too, was a member of the School Committee and was the last of our ministers to serve in that capacity.

The pastor following the Rev. Mr. Hitchcock was Rev. Warren Winchester, serving from 1854 to 1862. Rev. Mr. Winchester was a man one remembers with interest for his delightful social qualities, his friendly sympathy, his uniform kindness of spirit and courteous manners.

In 1858 a building committee was appointed, consisting of H. N. Bigelow, Gilbert Greene, and C. W. Worcester and they were to make alterations, enlargements and repairs, agreeable to plans submitted and adopted at a previous meeting. Work was carried on during the summer months and the dedication took place February 2, 1859. The auditorium was 93 feet by 45 feet with a seating capacity of six hundred fifty. It was lighted by gas. The frescoes, the Brussels carpets, the pews, the pulpit and the organ gave more beauty to the church than had ever been seen in any house of worship in Clinton.

The organ cost fourteen-hundred dollars and was donated by H. N. Bigelow. It remained for a time his private property.

The bell placed in the tower was also given by E. B. and H. N. Bigelow. A new clock was given by the business men at a cost of four hundred and fifty dollars. This clock and bell were of great value to the community at large. During the period of remodeling, services were held in the Town Hall.

Rev. Benjamin Judkins was the pastor from 1862 to 1867. He had the ordinary equipment of education and good personal qualities for success in his work. He was gifted with a fine commanding voice of great volume.

Next came Rev. De Witt Clark from 1868 to 1878. After leaving Clinton, he went to Salem, Mass. The parsonage on Prescott Street was built during Rev. Mr. Clark's pastorate.

Next came to the church, Rev. Charles Wetherby who remained from 1879 to 1884. Rev. Mr. Wetherby was greatly

honored as he filled a large place notably well in all respects. When he removed to Milford, the whole town felt his loss.

Rev. Darius Scott, a much beloved leader of his flock, served the church as pastor from 1885 to 1892.

From 1893 to 1920, for more than a quarter of a century, Rev. William W. Jordan was the pastor. He endeared himself not only to his own people, but to the entire community. His life was an inspiration to all who knew him and his memory will linger long in our hearts.

During Rev. Mr. Jordan's administration, the present church edifice was erected and dedicated May 29, 1899. The church was incorporated under the new name of "The First Congregational Church."

To this church was given an unsolicited gift, the donor being either the architect or the builder, we do not know which. This gift was "our echo." After trying out different devices, it was finally eradicated at quite an expense to the church.

Rev. Nathan H. Gist, the tenth pastor, served from 1920 to 1943. He inspired us by the many progressive interests of his active life. The composition of his sermons showed a remarkable aptness, a keen logical quality of mind and persuasiveness in the application of truth.

During his administration dark clouds began to gather and the whole country experienced the worst depression of its history. The wheels of the Lancaster Gingham Mills and Bigelow-Sanford Mills ceased to turn and it seemed that Clinton was doomed. The membership of this church was greatly depleted as many of its active members moved to other towns and cities. But every cloud has a silver lining and Clinton after some years came back to normalcy.

Rev. Frederick Brown acted as substitute pastor until the present pastor Rev. E. Maurice Bussey was installed. Rev. Mr. Brown endeared himself to the congregation during his short stay with us. We were very fortunate in securing Rev. Mr. Bussey and under his leadership will have a very progressive growth both in numbers and spirituality. The membership of the church at the present time is four hundred fifty with one hundred fifty non-resident members.

Four assistant pastors served the parish during Rev. Mr. Gist's pastorate. They were, Rev. Stanley Marple, Rev. Orville Davis, Rev. Charles Alexander, and Rev. Andrew Miller, and also two missionary pastors, the late Dr. J. S. Chandler and Dr. A. J. Saunders, now retired and residing in Australia. Dr. Saunders who severed his connection with the church in 1944 had served for forty years.

At the annual meeting in January, 1944, our church voted to take a share in the support of Miss E. Marie Crosby, a teacher in Mean's School at Dondi, and Miss Florence C. Malcolm who has charge of the educational work in the boys' school at Chil-esso, both in West Africa; also in the Lu Ho Middle School, Sian, Shensi, West China. Rev. James Hunter is in charge of this school.

Two young men who received their early training in our church and Sunday School entered the Christian ministry, — Rev. Thomas Davison and Rev. John Manter.

The charter members numbered fifty-one and all have passed on to their reward. Mr. Levi Greene, the last survivor, passed away September 17, 1908 at the age of 92 years.

The Presbyterian congregation went out from our church in 1894. Their church was dedicated May 6, 1894. The German people formed their own group in 1887.

From the beginning of this church there has been a constant if not a rapid growth. This church, the first church of the community, exercised a large influence in shaping the character and history of the town. This was especially true of the first quarter century of its life.

The years will come and go and others will occupy these places and perform these duties. On celebrating this One Hundredth Anniversary may we all serve God here with a richer record and a more glorious future; and may they be able to say of us, as we here say of those who have gone before us, "They were faithful to God and their fellowmen." Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, yea and forever.

MISS ELNORA SUTHERLAND.

In Memoriam

H. N. BIGELOW, 1812-1868

To him, more than to any other person, we are indebted for his untiring efforts in establishing our church. He gave liberally of his time and his money.

May the Lord rest his soul.

51 Charter Members

Nov. 14, 1844

Emily Bigelow
 Polly Bigelow
 Abigail Childs
 Ira G. Childs
 Susan Eaton
 William Eaton
 Enoch K. Gibbs
 Martha L. Gibbs
 Levi Greene
 Lucy Greene
 Sophia Greene
 Hannah Harris
 Levi Houghton
 Eliza Houghton
 Eliza E. Houghton
 Adeline E. Howe
 Eliza Hunt
 Jonas Hunt
 Louisa E. Jewett
 Anson Lowe
 John Lowe, Jr.
 Lorinda Lowe
 Mary Lowe
 Haskell McCollum
 Sylvia McCollum

Charles Miller
 Hiram Morgan
 Lusina L. Morgan
 Abijah Nichols
 Mary E. Nichols
 Mary Ann Osgood
 A. H. Parker
 Elizabeth S. Parker
 Joseph B. Parker
 Mary A. Parker
 Nathaniel Rice
 C. K. Sawyer
 Eliza H. Sawyer
 Joseph T. Sawyer
 Mary E. Sawyer
 Nancy H. Sawyer
 Betsy Stone
 George W. Wakefield
 Maria Wakefield
 George H. Wheelock
 Roxanna Wilcox
 Almira Worcester
 Mary B. Worcester
 Sampson Worcester
 Hannah H. Wyer
 James P. Wyer

MEMORIAL GIFTS

What better time to act on the thought
 that SOMEDAY you would make a special
 contribution to your church.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS GOVERNMENT BONDS CASH

Immediate Needs

Fellowship Room Addition Furniture
 Oil Burning Furnace

Kenyon P. Bartlett
 Mrs. Arthur H. Lamy
 Robert Duncanson

21 Elm St.
 504 Wilson St.
 285 Water St.

Gift Committee

DEACONS

Joseph B. Parker, 1845-1874
 Ira G. Childs, 1845-1848
 Hiram Morgan, 1848-1860
 Rev. Wm. D. Hitchcock, 1873
 John Orr, 1869-1885
 Charles P. Bigelow, 1873-1877
 Charles C. Murdock, 1873-1896
 Caleb K. Sawyer, 1877-1883
 Lester J. Carter, 1877-1893
 Peter T. Kittredge, 1883-1887
 Frank P. Breed, 1885-1925
 Robert F. Patterson, 1887-1890
 Ambrose G. Stickney, 1890-1902
 George W. Meldrum, 1893-1903, 1925-1934
 Charles D. Copp, 1897-1901
 Joseph McGown, 1901-1918
 Hiram A. Miller, 1902-1903
 Charles W. Wells, 1903-1905
 Ephraim McRell, 1905-1921
 Charles E. Smith, 1907-1931
 Gorham Sprague, 1911-1914
 Edwin L. Harris, 1911-1932
 Lemuel D. Russell, 1915-1939
 John Martin, 1919-1926
 Edward G. Osgood, 1922-1924
 Samuel Cairnduff, 1926-1932
 ♂ Edward W. Breed
 * Benjamin D. Richter, 1928-
 * Edward P. Sawtelle, 1931-
 Frank J. Wells, 1932-1937
 Robert Shuter, 1935
 George H. Hayter, 1937-1941
 Edward J. Stevenson, 1937-1939
 Charles Miller, 1939-1940
 ♂ James Hamilton, Jr., 1940-
 ♂ Kenneth M. Ramig, 1940-
 ♂ William W. Gibbs, 1940-
 ♂ Albert E. Jewett
 George D. Dunsmore, 1940-1943
 ♂ Thomas Aitkin, 1941-
 * Douglas J. Hayes, 1943-
 * Mrs. William Braunhardt, 1944-
 * Miss Sarah Hamilton, 1944-
 * Mrs. George E. Seabury, 1944-
 * Mrs. Norris S. Bryant, 1944-

* Active
 ♂ Honorary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Mr. E. P. Sawtelle
Vice Chairman Mr. J. D. Hamilton
Secretary Mrs. E. E. Vattes
Treasurer Mr. B. D. Richter

Mr. E. P. Sawtelle
Mrs. E. E. Vattes
Mr. B. D. Richter
Mr. J. D. Hamilton
Dr. Ruth E. Seabury
Mrs. Helen Edmands
Mrs. James Hamilton, Sr.
Mrs. Charles Ramig, Sr.
Dr. C. R. Abbott

Mr. E. E. Vattes
Mr. Norris Bryant
Mr. Carleton Kennedy
Mr. Kenyon P. Bartlett
Mr. Arthur Baer
Rev. E. M. Bussey
Miss Ruth M. Lowe
Mr. Thomas Shuter
Mrs. Robert Duncanson

SUB-COMMITTEES

Speakers

Rev. E. M. Bussey
Mr. Robert Donald
Miss Edith Walker

Album

Mr. Walter Dunn
Dr. Ruth E. Seabury

Hospitality

Miss Sarah Hamilton
Mrs. William Braunhardt
Mrs. Arthur Lamy
Mrs. Everett H. Gutman
Miss Ethel M. McCutcheon
Mrs. Lester H. Gibbs
Mrs. Warren Goodale

Music

Mrs. James Hamilton, Sr.
Dr. Ruth Seabury
Mr. Robert Hamilton

Gifts

Mr. Kenyon P. Bartlett
Mrs. Arthur Lamy
Mr. Robert M. Duncanson

Decorations

Mr. E. W. Breed, Hon. Chrm.
Mr. Ralph Breed
Mr. Carleton Kennedy
Mr. Arthur Baer
Mr. Thomas Shuter
Miss Elizabeth Mary Hamilton

Historians

Mr. E. H. Jaquith
Mrs. E. W. Breed
Mrs. W. Irving Dunn
Miss Elnora Sutherland
Miss Marian Lamy
Miss Jean Lamy
Miss Flora Wittig
Mr. K. P. Bartlett
Mr. Walter Dunn

Printing Programs

Mr. Norris Bryant
Mr. D. J. Hayes

Guests and Visitors

Mrs. George Seabury
Mrs. E. H. Jaquith
Mrs. James Shaw

Publicity

Mrs. Shirley Bartlett
Miss Jessie Sutherland
Mrs. William Ramig
Mrs. J. D. Hamilton

Young People

Mrs. Norris Bryant
Mrs. Charles Ramig, Sr.
Mrs. E. M. Bussey
Miss Jacqueline Cadoret
Miss Alice Duncanson
Miss Ruth Taubert
Mr. Kurt Schneider

Supper

Mrs. George Spencer, Chrm.



This building, without tower and front porches, was the first upon the present site on Walnut St.