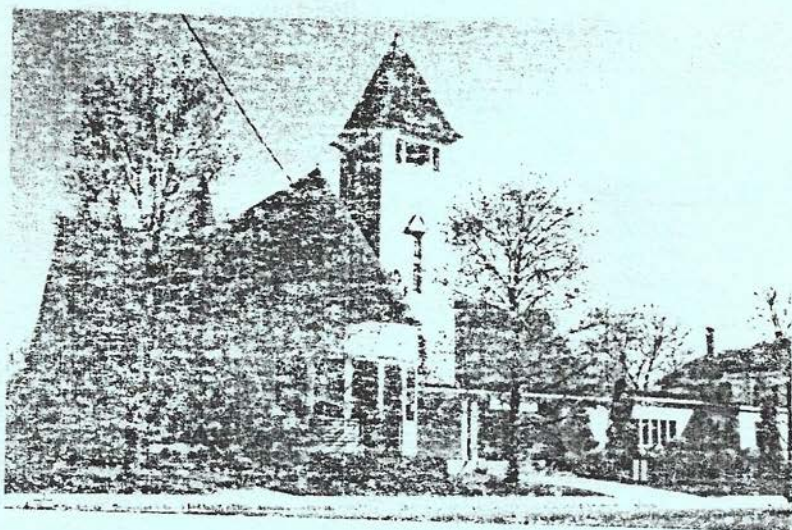


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

733 Main Street
Westbrook, Maine



Celebrating 100 Years
1888 - 1988

BOX
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Dedication

This Anniversary Book is dedicated to all those unnamed Christian workers who have served the Lord in this church for the past 100 years, and to those who will pick up the reins of leadership and service until His glorious return.

Property of Westbrook Historical Society



Our Pastor

Linwood Herbert Welch was born in October 1939 in Sanford, Maine. He received his early education in Rangely and Sanford public schools, graduating from Sanford High School in 1958.

He graduated from the University of Maine in 1972, from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 1977, and received his Doctorate in Ministry from Gordon-Conwell in 1987.

He began his pastoral service in Litchfield, Maine, serving the Plains Baptist Church and the Litchfield Federated Church and has pastored the First Free Baptist Church in Blaine, First Baptist Church of Hallowell, and the Ogunquit Baptist Church. He was called to the First Baptist Church in Westbrook in January 1982.

He and his wife, the former Arlene Harding, have three children: Keith, Craig and Kimberly.

This brief history of the First Baptist Church in Westbrook, Maine, is written on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of our church on October 25, 1888. As any condensed writing must do, it leaves many things untold, and the names and acts of many of its friends and members, both past and present unsung; but their work, as ours, has been unto the Lord, and their glory, as ours, shall not be of men, but of God.

The Lord surely works in mysterious ways, and when, in 1885, there was still no Baptist Church in Saccarappa, He sent to Scotland for the one who would start the work to place one here. To accomplish this, He made use of the needs of the Westbrook Manufacturing Company Gingham Mills for trained personnel from Scotland to instruct their people here in the textile processes.

Among those who came over at this time from Scotland was Mrs. Roger Hilton, a woman who loved the Lord and immediately set out to work for Him here. Seeing the need in Westbrook, she started a Sunday School class of small children in her kitchen on Scotch Hill.

Those who attended at first were mostly Scotch folks, but the class grew rapidly and soon it was necessary to transfer to larger quarters, and the Scotchmen's Football Clubroom was used for a time. Several more times growth forced a move, and the Grand Old Army Hall on Bridge Street, upstairs in a building close to what is now the Cornerstone Restaurant, and then the Oddfellows' Hall were in turn hosts to the Sunday School.

During this time, a number of those attending the Sunday School were also going to the Free Street Baptist Church in Portland, with which several

united. Pastor A.T. Dunn of that church also gave his time to the Saccarappa work, and baptized many converts in the Presumscot River. The group, on becoming large enough, wished to establish its own church here in Westbrook, and was able to acquire a dwelling house and the property on our present site. They tore down partitions in the house and rearranged it to allow room for worship services and Sunday School sessions.

The dwelling, which presently stands on Cloudman Street, was soon moved off the lot; the present church edifice, with its subsequent changes, was built at a cost of \$10,420, and the Denomination was proud to be able to state that it was dedicated free from debt.

A lovely and fitting account of the first dedication service was expressed in the Press on Friday, November 2, 1888, in part as follows:

"On Main Street, Saccarappa, on a beautiful site about halfway between the Methodist and Universalist Churches of Westbrook, is located the new and pretty First Baptist Church of Westbrook, which was recognized and dedicated with fitting ceremonies yesterday. The structure, which was designed by architect John Calvin Stevens, is a unique and beautiful one, very cheerful and inviting inside, complete and convenient in all its arrangements. The church is entered on either side through handsome porticos of different design, and a square tower with pretty balconies rises from the southeastern corner of the edifice. ---J. and J. Philbrook were the builders, and Judge Bonney, Dr. H.S. Burrage, and Rev. A.T. Dunn were the building committee. The steam heating apparatus was put in by Jones and Hitchings; the electric lighting by the Westbrook Electric Light Company, and the beautiful stained glass windows by Reading, Baird, and Company of Boston. ---The church starts out in its good work with twenty-eight members and a bright



First Baptist Church
circa 1890

outlook for future growth."

Among the twenty-eight constituent members were Rev. A.N. Dary and his wife, Carrie, Mrs. M.F. Lincoln of Dighton, Mass., and N.R. Martin, M.D., from the First Church in Portland, with C.A.L. Treadwell from Buxton, and J.C. Morton from the First Church in Clinton, Mass. The other members all came from the Free Street Baptist Church in Portland, and were: Mr. Roger Hilton, Mrs. Maggie Hilton, Mr. Robert Bryson and Mrs. Elizabeth Bryson, Mr. James Boyd and Mrs. Agnes Boyd, Mr. William Thompson and Mrs. Annie Thompson, Mr. Robert Patten and Mrs. Elizabeth Patten, Miss Mary McKay, Miss Maggie McKay, Miss Agnes Ferris, Miss Lizzie Bryson, Miss Isabella Forrest, Miss Lizzie Mason, Miss Mary Canning, Mrs. Jane Murray, Miss Maggie Brown, Mrs. Mary Mossman, Miss Letitia McKay, and Mrs. Harriet Chatham.

At the first meeting, the New Hampshire Articles of Faith and Covenant were approved, and a code of By-Laws was adopted. Rev. Albert N. Dary was chosen to serve as first pastor, C.A.L. Treadwell was elected clerk, and Dr. Martin and Roger Hilton were chosen deacons, and James Boyd, Treasurer.

The first pastor was paid at a rate of \$1,000 per year in monthly payments the first year, but this was reduced in 1889 to \$800 a year.

The new church was now flourishing spiritually, but it was not an easy matter or one to be taken lightly to attain membership in the church then. In the 1890's candidates were called upon to relate their experience with the Lord and give testimony at a regular Business Meeting of the church before they were accepted, as well as to maintain regular attendance and exemplary conduct after their acceptance. Attendance at the Annual Roll Call was required, or a very reasonable excuse for not being

able to attend, and failure to attend or be excused was quickly followed by a visit by the Deacons to ascertain the cause of such gross neglect. If repentance was not made, the member was excluded without further delay for delinquency and failure to walk with the Lord. Then, also, members were called before the church to account for any misbehavior that came to light, and to repent or be excluded, as some were, after a reasonable time for observance of conduct.

In 1891, there were no services held for many weeks due to coldness when the boiler burned out. There was also much difficulty in these years in raising money. Even when the heating plant was finally in operation again, it was only with considerable difficulty that it was reached because the basement was not finished, and for a number of years it was necessary to put on rubber boots or other wear, and slog through the mud and clay of the very wet ground to reach the heater.

It was not until May 1930 that the men of the church got together and dug out the basement and finally poured concrete on the floor. Active as leaders among the men were Leo Bixby, Leslie Timberlake, Charles Stokes, and Perley Plummer.

This, as good as it was, did not completely stop all the dampness, and several subsequent attempts have been made to stop water coming out onto the basement floor. These included putting drainage tiles along the length of the outer walls, surfacing the concrete floor with tiles, and sinking a sump pump into the lowest corner of the basement. But to this day, what is affectionately known as "Dan Spiller's Spring", for he held that there is a spring under the center of the basement, continues to present occasional manifestations of its presence.

The 1890's also brought other woes to the young

church. The shutting down of the Gingham Mills, and the coming of hard times caused many of the best supporting members to remove to other places for employment, and thereby not only the finances, but the spiritual life of the church was greatly diminished. For several years in the middle 1890's, it was a severe trial to uphold the regular services.

Among the various ones who supplied the pulpit on Sunday afternoons, mention should be made of Brothers E.A. Isaac, W.B. Whitney from Newton, Rev. J.B. Bryant of Deering Center, Missionary Nathan Hunt, Harvey Bishop, Jr., of Paris, Pastors Wilson, Ayers, Green and Foss of Portland, and also the Westbrook pastors.

In bringing the church out of this state of foundering, much credit belongs to the State Convention for sending Evangelist J.W. Hatch and his wife in the Spring of 1900, and to the grand work he so earnestly performed by encouraging the members in repairing the meeting house and securing a new pastor. The call was given on September 16, 1900, and accepted October 3 by Pastor George Ilsley who came from Bangor to begin his work on October 7.

Much of the early strength and power in the church is attributed to a group of dedicated men, among them Joseph Burgh, for whom the once active Burgh Brotherhood was named. Mr. A.A. Morrison, Joseph Eaton, Vance Porter, Harvey Bishop, Fred Alden, and Donald Wight were but a few of the outstanding men, as was Thomas D. Smith, whose far-reaching activities in organizing and leading singing groups and Christian Endeavor groups is most noteworthy.

There once existed a most helpful and untiring group called the Ladies' Aid Society, to which the church frequently turned for all sorts of help, cheerfully given throughout the organized life of the

Adrian Walsh
and Family



Gladys Tilton

group. Some of the most notably active ones in this Society were Mrs. Lizzie Burgh, Mrs. Emma West, Mrs. Mina Mitchell, Mrs. C.H. Beckwith, Mrs. Sarah Bailey, Mrs. Anna Morse, Mrs. Sarah Meserve, Mrs. Alice Alden, Mrs. Ada Timberlake, Mrs. Jesse Jones, Mrs. Maud Cobb, and Mrs. Hattie Smith.

Our present Ida J. Bishop Philathea Class is named in honor of one whose inspiring work will long be remembered. Miss Gladys Tilton and her work have left their indelible impressions on the church and Sunday School as well.

In the year 1923, with changing times, it became clear that it would be advantageous to the church to form a corporation. Proceeding with this forward legal step, the church accomplished this purpose with representation before Justice of the Peace Horace H. Towle, Jr., on April 12, 1923. The name of the corporation thus formed is the First Baptist Church in Westbrook, Maine. In 1923 also, the home at 65 Stroudwater Street was purchased for a parsonage.

Changes in the structure of the church edifice have been many, although not many of them have been too obvious. Some of these include excavation of the basement, removal of an entrance to the rear of the building, and its stairway, several changes in the type and number of heating furnaces and boilers, addition of the large left rear room off the front of the sanctuary, deletion of the left front entrance of the church, and several reconstructions of the basement rooms, with still other changes mentioned later.

In December of 1947, a fire broke out in the night from the chimney of the front furnace, and it severely damaged much of the upper part of the church structure. The skill and efficiency of the Westbrook Fire Department played a very large part in saving the structure, however, so that by replacing

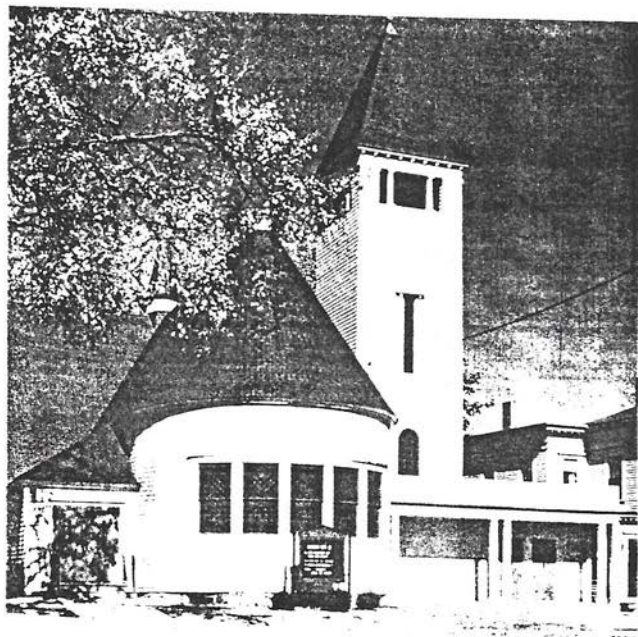
a portion of the roof, and strengthening many of the roof rafters, it was possible to save the building. At this time the high arched ceilings were lowered, and the interior of the church was redecorated, the total cost of damage repairs and redecorating being about \$9,000. The organ, pianos, hymnbooks, and pews were not damaged because of the care of the firemen in getting them all covered.

During the rebuilding and redecorating, services were held in the basement of the Universalist Church by invitation and kindness of those people, for which we are very grateful.

In 1954, more rooms were needed for Sunday School classes, and the basement was reconstructed with Modernfold doors, tile flooring, and new lighting. At the same time, the two old hot air furnaces were removed, and a new forced hot water heating system was installed.

These improvements helped the Sunday School for a while, but continuing to grow as it was, the need was again felt for more adequate facilities. In 1959, the Welch home joining the church lot was purchased, and this with its many rooms provided much more space for the Sunday School, as well as dwelling quarters for the church custodian. At this time, a Baldwin electronic organ was installed by Portland Studios.

The church, also growing and needing more adequate seating and entrances, gave rise to the 1963 project, in which much of the interior of the church sanctuary and vestry were reconstructed, including new lighting, new flooring, new pews, removal of folding doors, and new entrances to the sanctuary, vestry and basement. The left front entrance which had been closed so long was reopened. The bell tower was reinforced at this time also, and the bell which had been silent for 30 years



After the 1963 Reconstruction



The Welch House

was rung for the occasion of our 75th anniversary. This project was carried out under the leadership of Elmer Maye.

This work was done only after a long, careful, and thorough survey of all avenues of life in the church and city, with a view to providing adequate facilities for the church until the Lord provided a way to a new and larger church edifice.

During the 1963 reconstruction program, the church services were held for most of the summer in the Methodist Church through their gracious kindness. Several services were also held in the Universalist Church through their gracious kindness.

The original Communion set which had been packed away for a long time was put on permanent display in April 1964 in a glass cabinet built into the wall of the foyer.

A Memorial Gifts Committee was established in April 1966 to receive and administer funds and gifts given in memory of loved ones, and a Book of Remembrances was put on display in the foyer.

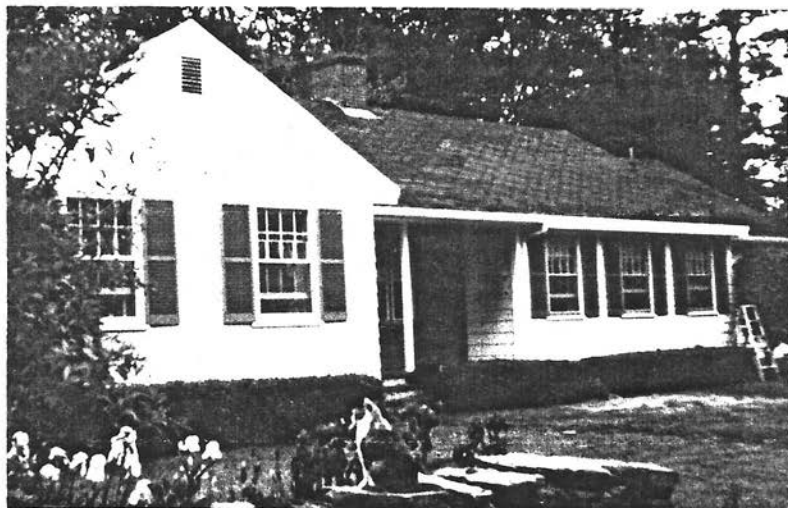
In 1968 the need for a new parsonage was realized and the lovely property at 96 Oakland Avenue was purchased for \$28,000. We received \$17,000 for the older parsonage on Stroudwater Street.

Parking had become a major problem for the church, and the John Hebert property on Main Street next to the Universalist Church became available. We bought the large property with a four family house unit on it for \$15,000 and paid \$10,000 for removing the house and paving the present parking lot.

The outside toolshed in the rear of the church



The Parsonage on Stroudwater Street



The Parsonage on Oakland Avenue

was built for us by the men of the Men's Correctional Center in 1970 under the guidance of Floyd Riley, who also donated most of the material for its construction. Also in 1970, the church installed a new ventilating system for the sanctuary.

In 1972 we established a Scholarship Fund to assist in a small way our students who are candidates for higher education.

Our sanctuary stained glass windows had become quite in need of serious attention, and after repairs to the stained glass itself, large single paned sheets of 1/4 inch plexiglass were placed over all of the sanctuary windows which no longer can or need to be opened because of the new ventilating system.

Early in 1972, a Building Planning Committee, headed by Hugh Morton, was formed to study the possibility of either adding on to the sanctuary or relocating our church. A thorough demographic study was made showing population distribution, growth trends, and other future needs, as well as the feelings of the church's neighbors; and the decision was to build onto the existing sanctuary. The plan as proposed by the Building Planning Committee and Group Design Architects was adopted on November 14, 1973. A capital funds campaign to raise the money for the project was established under the leadership of Mr. Ralph Nichols of the American Baptist Extension Corp. with a goal of \$80,000. The sixteen room Welch house which had housed our Christian Education and Sunday School Departments for about twelve years was torn down to provide room for the new building.

The cost of the entire project was estimated by Group Design at \$244,750. An adequate loan was not available at that time, but after a long delay a loan became available from the Northeast Bank of Westbrook. The contract allowed us to borrow up to

\$138,000 but we did not have to borrow that much due to generous giving by the church. There were eventually three campaigns, for \$100,000, for \$85,000 and for \$37,000 respectively in ensuing years, but we paid off the mortgage in seven years.

At this time, Milton and Edith Gowen created an exact scale model, inside and out, of the entire new church setting. This is still on display in a glass case in our Fellowship Hall.

The new facility was dedicated on September 12, 1976 at a total cost of about \$250,000 and we burned our mortgage in July of 1981 with a memorable burning ceremony.

Through the years of the life of the church with its many improvement programs and needs for both planned and unforeseen repair projects, it has received generous assistance from the American Baptist Convention of Maine and from the Greenough Church Edifice Foundation, for which our deepest gratitude is expressed.

The property directly behind the church building was owned by George Huston and in 1974 he traded that property to us for a four foot wide piece of property adjacent to the west side of the sanctuary to widen his parking lot.

In 1977 the sanctuary was totally insulated for fuel savings and in connection with this, in 1982 four ceiling fans were installed.

A new group, called the Young at Heart, was formed in 1979 by a large group of our Senior Citizens of the church.

Music has always played an important role in our church life. The first instruments were two foot pump organs which were rented for \$7.00 a month and

later purchased for \$140 by the church and Sunday School. The present Allen Computer Organ was purchased at a cost of \$18,255 in March of 1982. Its computer makes it possible for an infinite number of tones and effects to be played on the organ over and above its built-in stop list.

A Nursery School for children ages 3-5 was approved by the church in May 1982, and began operating in September of 1983. This outreach program has proven to be a major source of new members and has become a well respected educational facility in the area.

In 1987 a large new window was installed by members of the Johnson family in the Main Street wall of the Pastor's Office by Phil Maye and Earl Young in memory of William Carl and Alice Clarke Johnson.

In this, our anniversary year, we are also celebrating the twentieth anniversary of our church library, which has grown over the years to a respected and much used facility.

Throughout the years, the church has remained active in the community and in its witness to the world. The Senior High BYF has actively raised funds for the State Baptist Youth Fellowship missions programs through such events as the annual Rock-a-thon. For several years in the early 1980s, we sponsored a refugee family from Afghanistan, under the leadership of Barbara Mills.

The one hundred years of our church life have been marked with spiritual vitality, and some of this is shown in the number of people sent forth to the ministry. Among them have been George McCombe, Paul Alden, Harvey Bishop, Arthur Maye, Florence Marsters, Robert Frederick, Cynthia Grovo, Andrew Magnusson, Wesley Mills.

The outlook for our future is indeed brighter than ever, and as we thoughtfully mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of our church, we look with fresh glowing ardor to the perpetual challenge that the Lord so fittingly gave us when He said, "Lift up your eyes, and look to the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

Pastors who have served this church since its founding are:

Rev. A.N. Dary - October 1888 - November 1897
Rev. J.B. Slocum - December 1897 - May 1898
Rev. G.B. Ilsley, D.D. - October 1900 - October 1913
Rev. A.A. Walsh - July 1913 - December 1922
Rev. B. H. Tilton - May 1923 - October 1945
Rev. C.F. Frederich - May 1946 - October 1960
Rev. G.A. Bourne - November 1960 - March 1967
Rev. Trueman Bray - August 1967 - December 1980
Rev. Linwood Welch, D.Min - January 1982 -

Among the interim pastors who have served this church are: Rev. Whitney, Rev. Charles Berry, Rev. Chauncey Stuart, Rev. Robert Stuart, and Rev. Harrison Nye.

Under fourteen permanent and interim pastors, approximately 1400 people have been received as members of First Baptist Church in Westbrook over the past 100 years.

Saturday, October 22, 1988
6:00 P.M.

Banquet catered by "Lenny's"

Menu:

Stuffed Boneless Breast of Chicken
with Supreme Sauce
Whipped Potatoes Green Beans Almondine
Tossed Garden Salad with dressings
Assorted Dinner Rolls
Strawberry Shortcake
Coffee, Tea, Sanka

7:15 Program

HIS DESIGN

Teddi Wilson, Laurie Meserve
Songs of Praise

Norma Boothby of Norlands Living History Center
presenting an animated history of First Baptist's first
100 years.

Guest Speaker - Rev. Trueman Bray, pastor from
1967 - 1981

100 balloons will be released by Sunday School
children during the Sunday School hour

Sunday Morning Worship

October 23, 1988 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
"Faith of Our Fathers" Faber

Personal Prayer and Meditation

Call to Worship

Processional Hymn #26 (red)
"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Invocation

Lord's Prayer and Gloria Patri

Responsive Reading

Senior Choir "The Lord Almighty" Parks

Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response

Hymn #271 (red)
"Standing on th Promises"

Scripture - Isaiah 6:1-8

Message - "The Vision Renewed"

Offering

Closing Hymn #279 (red)
"Faith of Our Fathers"

Benediction and Choral Benediction

Postlude
"When We All Get to Heaven" Hewitt

Sunday Afternoon

October 23, 1988 3:00 P.M.

Prelude "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
Call to Worship
Hymn #233 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!"
Invocation and Lord's Prayer
Welcome - Dr. Linwood Welch
Scripture - Rev. Gordon Bourne
Special Music

THREE IN ONE

June Hayes, Martha McLean, Marge Scott
"He Never Changes" (McLean)
"All Hail the Power"
In the Garden"

Greetings from Former Pastors:

Rev. Harrison Nye
Rev. Robert Stuart

Recognition of Pastors' Wives - Arlene Welch
Senior Choir "He Reigns"

Greetings from:

The Honorable Philip Spiller, Mayor of Westbrook
Dr. Calvin Moon, Executive Minister of ABCOM
Dr. Calvin Hayes, Cumberland Clergy Association
Rev. Harold Shepard, Westbrook Clergy Association

Recognition of those serving in ministry from our church

Rev. Carleton Mains	Rev. Paul Erskine
Rev. Andrew Magnusson	Rev. Wesley Mills
Rev. Cynthia Grov	Rev. Arthur Maye
Mr. John Hoskin	Mr. George Davis

Closing Hymn #481 "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

Benediction

Postlude "Onward Christian Soldiers"

A reception and sealing of the time canister will follow the service.

1988-89 Church Officers and Committees

MODERATOR	Jerome Clifford
CLERK	June A. Hayes
TREASURER	Charles Baker, Sr.
ASST. TREASURER	Marie Moxcey
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Edna Corkum
MISSIONS TREASURER	Jewel Bailey
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT.	Mary Morrill
ASST. SUPT	Arlene Welch

DEACONS
Brian Winters
Ed Hurd
Todd LaSalle
Roland Brown
Robert Lister
Steven Bailey

DEACONESSES
Ruth Webster
Edith Gowen
Marie Chambers
Marie Moxcey
Jeanne Pagurko
Deborah Frank

DEACON EMERITUS
Arno Noack
Phil Christie

DEACONESS
EMERITUS
Wilma Packard

TRUSTEES
John Farley
John Carmichael
Robert Radley
Nancy Brown
Ralph Spiller
Nina Braley
Milton Gowen
Bruce Libby
Arthur Harrison

FINANCE
Margaret Cushing
Marion Batchelor
Jan Perry
Bernice Nicholson
Walter Braley
Steven Frank
Norman Knapp
Jolene Roop

AUDITORS
Steven Frank
Deborah Frank

PRESS AGENT
Margaret Cushing

MISSIONS

Bruce Ladd
Mildred Noack
Galen Chambers
Chuck Baker
Elizabeth Keniston
Diane Radley
Jewel Bailey

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Jan Perry
Stewart Bragdon
Nancy Brown

NURSERY SCHOOL

Vicki Swan
Cindy Grover
Lee Emerson
David Moxcey
June Hayes
Virginia Skillings
Patricia Libby

FLOWER

Edith Gowen
Mary Leighton
Jan Cramer
Jeannine Lister
Mary Spiller

NOMINATING

Jeanne Pagurko
Ernest Libby
Stan Kowalczyk
Deborah Frank
Margaret Welch
Jeannine Lister
Margaret Cushing

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mary Morrill
Jackie St. Cyr
Stuart Welch
Bruce Cramer
Arlene Welch
John Batchelor
Cindy Grover

KITCHEN

Jeanne Farley
Denise Carmichael
Susan Brown

MUSIC

Patricia Libby
Mary Emerson
Donna Baker
Teddi Wilson
Brian Cramer
Todd LaSalle
Cindy Mills

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Ed Hurd
Dorothy Millett
Hazel Magnusson
Steven Frank
Howard Bean
Florence Mains

ORGANIST

Mr. Joseph Villani

CUSTODIAN

Mr. Sheldon Cushing

ADMIN. ASST.

Margaret Cushing

Acknowledgements

100th Anniversary Committee

Dr. Linwood Welch
Arlene Welch
Jeanne Pagurko
Ruth Webster
Deborah Frank
Sheldon Cushing
Erma Morton
Hugh Morton
Margaret Cushing

Banquet Committee

Ruth Webster
Jeanne Pagurko

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:16-20