

**WARREN
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

1869 - 1969

7

The records of Warren Church have not always been as complete as might be desired. During the first twenty years there was no continuous record, and there have been many years since that time when the only report is of annual meetings. Many things must have happened that would now be of considerable interest.

This history does not rewrite our records. It is an attempt to bring together those things which seem of most importance and of most interest. The facts are gathered from our Church records, from Parish records, from minutes of the Women's organizations, and from other sources.

Thinking that it may be of interest to some of our members, and because the nature of an organization is, to a considerable extent, shaped by the community to which it comes, we have attempted to give a picture of the Village of Cumberland Mills, going back to its beginnings. We then give a brief history of our parent Churches, a bit about the founders of Warren Church, and we record chronologically the high spots of the past one hundred years.

Jean Millions, Historian

Miss Jean Millions

WESTBROOK — Miss Jean Millions, 87, of 123 Forest St., died Monday in a Portland nursing home following a long illness.

4/23/79
She was born here, the daughter of Frank and Jennie MacArthur Millions.

Following graduation from Westbrook High School she attended Colby College.

Miss Millions was employed for many years in the office of the S. D. Warren Co. after which she worked for several years in a Portland insurance company office. She retired 22 years ago.

She was a member of the Westbrook-Warren Congregational Church. She also was active in the Warren Congregational Church which her paternal grandparents helped found in 1867.

She wrote the history of the church at the time of its centennial celebration in 1967. For many years she served as Sunday School superintendent and treasurer of the memorial fund and was a member of the former Craigie Class of the church.

She also was a member of the Portland Women's Literary Union and the Windham Historical Society.

Surviving are three nieces, Mrs. Dorothy D. Spencer of Westbrook, Miss Margaret Davis of Princeton, N. J., and Miss Barbara Davis of Estes Park, Colo.

The funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday in Westbrook-Warren Congregational Church. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Congregational Church

1767 1st church Eunice Frye Home site

1832 2nd (Main + Brackett

1869 (Warren ave + Cumb.

1977 810 main st. new Westbrook Warren
Congregational Church dedicated

The Village of Cumberland Mills

The Village of Cumberland Mills - Congin as it was affectionately called by our forefathers - was part of the first Indian land grant in this territory. The Aucociscos, a tribe of the Abnakis, had villages along the Presumpscot - at Lower Falls, at Ammoncongan Falls, and at Saccarabig Falls. On July 27, 1657, Scitterygusset, Sagamore of the Aucociscos, conveyed to Francis Small, fisherman of Casco Bay, "all that upland and marshes at Capisic, lying up along the northern side of the river unto the head thereof, and so to reach and extend unto the river side of Ammoncongan". The price paid for this conveyance was "one trading coat a year for Capisic, and one gallon of liquor a year for Ammoncongan".*

The next year Small sold half of this tract of land to John Phillips and it later came into the possession of Phillips' son-in-law, George Munjoy, for whom Munjoy Hill in Portland is named.

The natives had cleared quite a large area at Ammoncongan on the northern side of the Presumpscot, and had improved it for planting. Here Munjoy and his men planted corn, and for years afterward this was known as the old "Indian Planting Ground".*

It was in this year, 1658, that the name Falmouth was first given to the ancient parish which covered a tract of land extending about twelve miles along the coast and eight miles inland, and including the present Cape Elizabeth, Portland, Westbrook, and Falmouth. The Meeting House for this extensive parish occupied the site of the present First Parish Church, on Congress Street, Portland. As these ancient parishes became large and not easily managed, smaller parishes were set off - so it was with Falmouth. The first separation came in 1733 when Purpoorduck (Cape Elizabeth) was set off and became the Second Parish of Falmouth; later Falmouth Corner was made the Third Parish; and in 1764 the parish of Stroudwater was established, including the present Deering and Stroudwater districts of Portland and the present Westbrook, and became

* Collections of Maine Historical Society, Vol. I, Maine

the Fourth Parish of Falmouth. In 1814 Stroudwater became incorporated as a town, and later in that same year the name was changed to Westbrook in honor of Col. Thomas Westbrook, who had been a prosperous mast merchant - first in Falmouth, and later in Stroudwater. To the old settlers, however, the west end of the town was Saccarappa, and the east end was Congin.

From the first settlement of the white man along the Presumpscot this had been an industrial community. At first there was logging and river driving, lumbering and saw mills. This was rough and heavy work and brought men equal to the tasks - hard working and hard living. There were tanneries, and brick yards and the falls on the river furnished power for the grist mills. Even after the paper mill came to Ammoncongan, the grist mill continued at Lower Falls and one reporter states that even from as far distant as Gorham folks went to Lower Falls with their corn for grinding, traveling by canoe and carrying canoe and cargo around the falls at Saccarappa and Ammoncongan.*

In those days Saccarappa's reputation was not particularly good, but apparently there were some in the community who felt that something could be done to improve social conditions, and their method was a Temperance Society. When this was organized, the writer has not been able to learn but there is a report of their celebration on July 5, 1841, which is, in part, as follows:**

On July 5, 1841, the birthday of American Independence was celebrated "with unusual spirit and in a very becoming manner, by the Washington Independence Temperance Society. The day was ushered in with the ringing of the village bells and a heavy discharge of cannon, making the forests and groves re-echo with their music. As the first faint rays of glimmering light were stealing on the darkness of the East, the village gave evidence that the Jubilee was nigh. From numerous staffs throughout the village, the star spangled banner (glorious emblem of our country's Independence) floated on the breeze. Long lines of carriages and persons on foot, were seen coming from every direction, but the most lovely scene at that early hour, was the Ladies of the village wending their way to the grove to prepare the tables for the festivities of the occasion."

* History of Westbrook, by Isabel T. Ray

** Report in Booklet Form, on file at Maine Historical Society Library

At ten o'clock the procession formed under the direction of Col. George Small, Chief Marshall, and proceeded to the grove, escorted by the Saccarappa Band and the Westbrook Light Infantry, under the command of Lieut. George Warren.

The exercises consisted of music by Band and Choir, Prayer, reading of the Declaration of Independence, Oration, and Benediction, after which "the procession proceeded to the spacious Pavillion where six hundred feet of table was loaded with most choice food and luxuries of the season", and decorated in a tasteful manner by the ladies of the village. It was estimated that between five and six thousand were present and partook of the festivities. After the repast, Toasts were given and then the report states, "The day closed with a calmness and serenity never before witnessed in this village."

The booklet contains, in the back, the pledge of the Society and a long list of the members - all male. No doubt some would find familiar names in that list.

Apparently the efforts of this organization were effective for in 1841 the City of Westbrook, for the first time, voted "No License", and for several years thereafter this "No License" vote continued. Then, in 1867, there is record of a special town meeting which voted for "the suppression of drinking houses and tippling shops".*

In 1852 the Village of Congin consisted of nine houses and a store on the easterly side of the river, and five houses on the westerly side. Where Seavey and the adjacent streets now are, were then woods where boys gathered beechnuts and shot gray squirrels; where Reservoir Street now is, they hunted rabbits; where the Church and storehouse are, were large corn-fields under the care of Mr. Winslow, who at that time was just beginning the experiment of packing sweet-corn.**

Samuel Dennis Warren purchased the paper mill at Congin in 1854; business was good during the war years; the mills expanded; and many full time workers were drawn to the Village. Mr. Warren was ever interested in the welfare of his employees. He had furnished a library on the second floor of the office building, and with his help those in the Village who

* Records of City of Westbrook

** S. D. Warren A Memorial Book (Comment by Charles W. Mace)

were interested in educational advantages for their children were instrumental in securing a larger and better equipped School to replace the outgrown building at the corner of Forest Street. Some "Company" houses had been built on Cumberland Street, but aside from these the homes of the Village had not increased materially when the construction of Warren Church was started in 1868. On the occasion of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Church, Joseph A. Warren presented a picture of the Village as it was in 1869. He showed the simplicity and the difficulties of life in that day. Perhaps its simplicity brought men nearer to God, and its difficulties made them resourceful and courageous.

see pic

THE CHURCHES

The First Church of Westbrook

As early as 1767, fifty-three years before Maine became a State, there was a Congregational Meeting House at Capisic; as a matter of fact, over the years there had been three meeting houses, each replacing the other, situated where the Eunice Frye Home now stands. It was the second of these churches which has commonly been referred to as Parson Bradley's Church, Parson Caleb Bradley having served it for thirty years. The Stroudwater Scrapbook* says that it was in the comfortable, high-backed pews of this church that the staid old ancestors of many Portland people gathered to listen to the two hour-long sermons and to sing the doleful fire and brimstone hymns. We believe there were also in those pews the "staid old ancestors" of some Westbrook people. We know that it was to this Meeting House that some of the children of Congin trudged on Sunday mornings for their Sunday School training. We have heard some of them tell of carrying their shoes and stockings on this long walk, putting them on only when within sight of the church and reversing this performance on the way home. One reporter says it was to keep the shoes and stockings clean.** We have been told that it was because they preferred bare feet to Sunday shoes.

Much has been written about the wit and wisdom of Parson Bradley, but since this story concerns the folks of Saccarappa it is included here. Once, having been invited, without time for special preparation, to occupy the pulpit in a neighboring town, Parson Bradley gave them a rather strong sermon. Finishing, he apologized and told them he hoped they would not take offense; that he had not been given time to prepare a sermon especially for them and that this one had been intended for the people of Saccarap.

The Second Church of Westbrook

In 1832, twenty three members of Parson Bradley's Church asked dismission to form the Second Congregational Church of Westbrook (now known as Westbrook Congregational Church).

* Stroudwater Scrapbook Maine Historical Society Library

** History of Westbrook Congregational Church, written for their One Hundredth Anniversary, by Isabel T. Ray

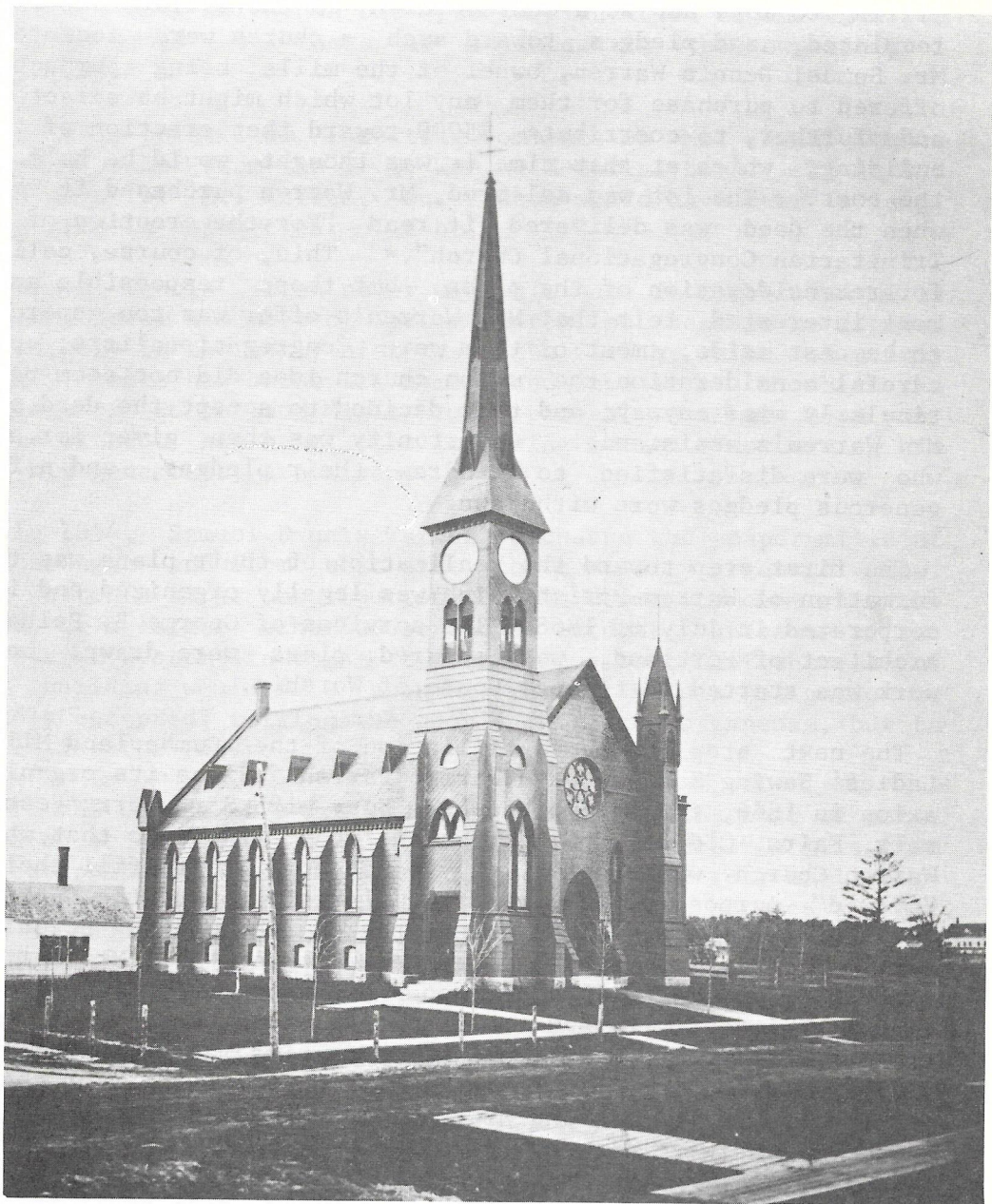
WARREN CHURCH

In 1864 there were in Saccarappa a Congregational, a Methodist and a Baptist Church. Apparently none of these were particularly active as the Congregational Church at that time numbered sixty in its membership, and the Baptist is referred to as "nearly extinct". But, as there was no church in Cumberland Mills, those inhabitants of the Village who were so inclined united with the Saccarappa Churches.

Then, in the summer of 1865, Rev. Joseph Danielson was ordained as pastor of the Congregational Church. Mr. Danielson was young and full of zeal and he brought new life to the somewhat discouraged congregation. Under his direction, prayer services were started at Cumberland Mills and considerable interest in things religious was created in the Village. These prayer meetings were held in the homes until they outgrew such accommodations. Then, a room was prepared for their meetings in a building which stood where the lawn of the Elms now is. As a definite result of this work, and through the efforts of Mr. Danielson, several from the Village were "converted" and became members of the Second Congregational Church - among them, Elisha Newcomb and his wife. Mr. Newcomb was forty years of age at this time. Shortly after his association with this Second Church, he was made a Junior Deacon, and was destined later to fill a large place in the Church in which we are particularly interested.

Perhaps it was the influence of this zealous young pastor and of these prayer meetings which led the women of the Village to band themselves together into the Cumberland Mills Ladies' Sewing Society, which was organized on March 1, 1866, with the object of "raising funds toward furnishing the first Protestant Church Edifice which may be erected in the Village of Cumberland Mills".

In 1867, an Evangelist was engaged to work throughout Westbrook and his influence was considerably felt in the Village. It was then that agitation was started among those of Congregational persuasion to secure a more centrally located House of Worship;



The Church in 1868 - Trees planted - Hitching Posts placed -
Sidewalks laid - Clock not yet installed.

however, the Saccarappa members of the Second Church were not willing to move and so a union church in the Village was contemplated, and pledges toward such a church were accepted. Mr. Samuel Dennis Warren, owner of the mills, being approached offered to purchase for them any lot which might be selected, and further, to contribute \$5000 toward the erection of the building, which at that time it was thought would be half of the cost. The lot was selected, Mr. Warren purchased it, but when the deed was delivered it read "For the erection of a Trinitarian Congregational Church".* This, of course, called for reconsideration of the plans, but those responsible and most interested felt that Mr. Warren's offer was too generous to be cast aside; most of them were Congregationalists; upon careful consideration the union church idea did not seem particularly wise anyway; and they decided to accept the deed and Mr. Warren's assistance. Opportunity was then given for any who were dissatisfied to withdraw their pledges, and a few generous pledges were withdrawn.

The first step toward the realization of their plans was the formation of Warren Parish, which was legally organized and incorporated in July of 1868. The services of George B. Pelham, architect of Portland, were secured; plans were drawn; and work was started on the new House of Worship.

The next step was the affiliation of the Cumberland Mills Ladies' Sewing Society with Warren Parish. Since its organization in 1866, this group had been busy with Strawberry Festivals, Fairs, Old Folks Concerts, and the like, so that when Warren Church was erected they were able to fulfill their "avowed" purpose by contributing largely toward the Church furnishings. As usually happens, the Church building actually cost considerably more than was anticipated, but Mr. Warren matched dollar for dollar all money expended: the ladies continued their activity and their contributions: and Elisha Newcomb and George Hammond, who at that time was Agent of the mills, bore a considerable share of the deficit. For their generosity Mr. Newcomb and Mr. Hammond were given deeds to all pews not otherwise disposed of.

Today, deeds of ownership to pews would seem small recompense for such generosity but at that time a person owning one half pew or more was entitled to vote in parish matters, and

* Deed recorded in Book 381, Page 273, Cumberland County Registry of Deeds.

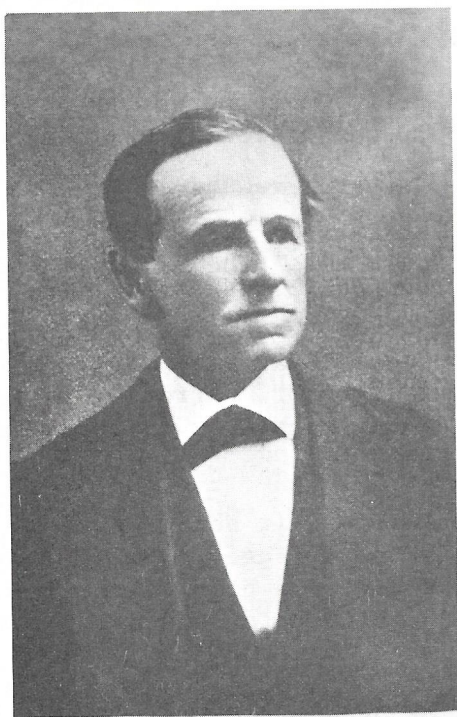
persons owning more than one pew were entitled to one vote for each pew owned - so there was advantage in this ownership of many pews.

At this point I am inserting comments on Mr. Samuel Dennis Warren, taken from the S. D. Warren Memorial Book. If it had not been for Mr. Warren, our Church would have been a long, long time in being clear of debt.

"Samuel Dennis Warren never made his home in Cumberland Mills and was never a member of Warren Church, but because he figured so largely in the early history of the Church, which for nearly eighty years has borne his name, and because a Church in the Village of Cumberland Mills would probably not have been possible without his help, the following comments concerning him and his generosity are given.

"In 1854, Samuel Dennis Warren purchased the paper mills at Ammoncongong and from that date the community began to grow. Mr. Warren's first contribution to the community came when the need of a larger schoolhouse became evident. Because of the "District System" in vogue at that time, about half the cost of the building would fall upon Mr. Warren. This obligation he gladly accepted, telling the people to spare no expense, but to build for the future.

"In the course of a few years it became evident that we needed a house of worship in the village. Being about a mile from Saccarappa, with no sidewalks and poor roads, a very small portion of the people felt inclined to attend the churches at that end of town. A large percentage of the children were growing up without the restraining influence of the sanctuary, and the Sabbath was held in light esteem. Our situation was a peculiar one. Very few felt the importance of immediate effort. Building a house of worship was considered a problem for the distant future, for the greater number of the operatives thought they had all they could do to support their families. Only a few persons outside their number were able, or felt inclined to aid in such an undertaking. Mr. Warren very readily comprehended the situation, and came to the rescue. He made a proposition that whenever we were ready to build, and would raise \$5000., he would give a sum equal to that amount, together with any lot which might be selected in the village, for the building. Such



Rev. Elijah Kellogg - Our First Minister

a generous offer could not go unheeded, so we entered upon the work with new courage and zeal, and soon succeeded in raising the amount required. We selected the lot, Mr. Warren bought it as he had promised, and in due time our house was completed.

"In the meanwhile the Ladies' Sewing Circle had been hard at work raising funds to be used in furnishing the Church. Mr. Warren again entered the race, with the magnanimous proposition that he would put a dollar by the side of every dollar raised for that purpose, until the Church should be thoroughly furnished and complete. This promise was wholly fulfilled in the spirit and to the letter. The wisdom of the course which he adopted was at once apparent. The people were set at work, and in such a way that they felt it to be their own and for their own good."*

"After the completion of the Church building in 1869, there was a small indebtedness, and the ladies of the Society were making an effort, by means of fairs and entertainments, to acquire the amount. During one of those fairs, held on a very stormy evening in March, Mr. Warren was present and assisted by exhibiting a Swiss Singing-Bird, which was a delight to both old and young, and added greatly to the financial success of the evening. On another occasion, a large part of the books, toys, and other things exhibited were presented by him. He was present at the sale, and purchasing the greater part of the items, he distributed them among the children. Such acts were characteristic of him, and are worthy of imitation."**

"As long as this Church remains an organization, we know that the name of S. D. Warren will live among us."***

Note: Does anyone know what the "Swiss Singing-Bird" is? If so, we would like to know.

The first minister to serve this new parish was Rev. Elijah Kellogg, of Harpswell. Mr. Kellogg was a graduate of Bowdoin College and Andover Theological Seminary and now, at the age of fifty-six, he was a forceful preacher and "a unique and interesting figure in the pulpit and in the community". Of him,

From the S. D. Warren Memorial Book:

* Comment by Elisha Newcomb

** Comment by James Graham

*** Comment by H. T. Clark

the following comment has been made: "He used a few gestures reading from notes, and often stopping in the middle of his sermon to tell some anecdote, or tale, pertinent to his subject. When deeply moved, he would cross his arms loosely over the pulpit, and leaning down address the hearers in tones that went straight to their hearts."* He will be remembered as the author of many books, particularly books for boys, among them, Good Old Times and Elm Island Stories.

*United
Apr 18 1870*
#Mr. Kellogg preached the first sermon in the vestry of the unfinished church on the last Sunday of May, 1869. And, on July 8, 1869, being completed and furnished, the church building was formally dedicated. Rev. Elnathan E. Strong, of Waltham, Mass., preached the dedicatory sermon, and ministers from several nearby churches participated in the service. The following is from the Eastern Argus, dated July 9, 1869:

"Dedication of Warren Church - the beautiful church at the village of Cumberland Mills was set apart for divine worship yesterday by appropriate exercises, which were conducted by Rev. Messrs. Bartlett of Saco and Pottle of this city, Rev. Messrs. Tewkesbury, Frink and Dr. Carruthers of Portland, Rev. Elijah Kellogg and Rev. Gates of Buxton. Rev. E. E. Strong of Waltham preached the sermon. The singing was congregational and was very excellent.

"The church is a model one in style, being tasteful, convenient and attractive, and is of the Gothic order of architecture. It is finished in black walnut and oak, with the walls frescoed in the prevailing colors. The auditorium is 40 feet by 60 in size and the accoustic qualities are all that could be desired. The seats are very comfortable, and like the pulpit chairs are upholstered in green rep. The floor is uniformly carpeted. It is surmounted with a steeple and bell.

"The Vestry under the church is conveniently arranged with anterooms for committees, library, etc. In a word the church is an ornament to the village, and a credit to the liberality of its founders, and to Mr. Pelham, the architect. The cost is \$15,000. with the land, of which one half was subscribed by Mr. S. D. Warren, Esq. of Boston, now in Rome, who is a member of the firm carrying on the paper manufactory at Cumberland Mills. George W. Hammond, Esq. is also a liberal donor, as

* Julia E. Rideout, Brunswick

well as several other residents in the locality. Did space permit, we should like to give a more full description of the edifice, but suffice it to say that it is one of the neatest we have seen in the State."

The Sunday School was started on July 10, 1869, and during the next two weeks its organization was completed. Mr. Geo. W. Hammond was chosen as the first Superintendent and Mr. Wm. H. Holston as Assistant Superintendent, Librarian, and Treasurer. Mr. Holston held the office of Librarian and Treasurer until his death in 1925 - a period of 56 years. The appointment of a Librarian at the organization of the Sunday School is interesting. It indicates the value our founders placed on good literature for their children. In this connection there are on file at the Maine Historical Society Library, two catalogs of the Warren Sunday School Library, dated 1882 and 1890, listing four hundred books, with rules for their distribution. At the first regular meeting of the School seventy-nine members were present and eleven classes were formed.

Then, on September 2, 1869, nineteen members of the Second Church of Westbrook, at their request, were dismissed to form the Warren Church. Their letter of request for dismission reads as follows:

Cumberland Mills, July 21st 1869

To the Second Congregational Church of Westbrook,
Greeting,

Beloved Brethren

We, the undersigned members of your Church cherishing toward you the kindest feelings, but thinking that the cause of Christ, our own personal comfort and growth in grace will be advanced by forming ourselves into a new church of the same faith & order, do hereby request from you, letters of dismission & recommendation, as members in regular standing, to be presented the Council convened to organize said Church.

Sincerely desirous of your spiritual growth and prosperity, we remain yours in the fellowship of the Gospel.

Elisha Newcomb
Phebe Jane Newcomb
Geo. W. Hammond
S. A. Cordwell
Lucretia D. Cordwell
Peter W. Files
A. C. Bickford
Salome W. Bickford
Julia E. Libby
Nancy H. Andrews
Jane McFarlane

James Graham
Anney Foy
Geo. Millions
Ellen R. Millions
John Wheeler
Susan R. Wheeler
Isabell Gledhill
Lizzie J. Graham

(This is an exact copy of the original letter, loaned for photographing, by Mrs. Donald K. Saunders, Historian of Westbrook Congregational Church.)

These nineteen were joined by George D. Brown, Mrs. Melissa Brown, Isaiah Manchester, and Mrs. Margaret Manchester, who brought letters from Central Church, Portland, making twenty-three members - the same number as had started the Second Church.

The final step in organization was the calling of an Ecclesiastical Council meeting in Warren Church on Thursday, Sept. 30, 1869, to review the history of the organization, to hear the recommendation of the dismissing churches, to consider the Articles of Faith and the Covenant prepared by these prospective Charter Members, and to formally consummate the organization of Warren Church. It is certain that this must have been a moment of deep spiritual significance for those first members as they assembled to publicly and formally declare their faith and accept their Covenant. The newspaper report of this meeting states: "This church starts with hopeful auguries. The Sabbath School numbers 130, and \$100. a month for current expenses is subscribed." For Sabbath School members this figure shows a gain of 51 in less than three months.

In Mr. Cousins' Historical Sermon,* his comment on the age of the Charter Members is interesting. He states that Elisha Newcomb was the oldest of the group, "with probably the exception of one good sister". He did not say who the "one good sister" was. If Mr. Cousins was correct, our original members were all young men and women, since Mr. Newcomb was in his middle forties when the Church was first organized.

On October 5th, following the regular Tuesday evening prayer meeting, a meeting of the Church members was held for the reading of the Council report and to vote on the By-Laws. Some of the By-Laws seem harsh from modern point of view, but Warren Church grew and prospered under them for a good many years. Not only do these make interesting reading, but they indicate the sincerity and personal habits and beliefs of the first Warren Church members. At this meeting Deacons were chosen - George W. Hammond, and Elisha Newcomb. Stephen A. Cordwell was elected Scribe and Treasurer, and George D. Brown, Peter Files, and George Millions were named as Standing Committee. This Committee, with the Pastor and Deacons, was to examine candidates for admission to Church membership.

* On file at the Maine Historical Society Library (Portland Evening Express of Oct. 1, 1894 - 25th Anniversary Sermon)

So it was that Warren Parish and Warren Church were organized. Warren Parish was the whole body of members and non-members who, under the direction of a Parish Committee, provided financial support and cared for the Church property. Warren Church was the Covenant members, and under their care were the spiritual affairs of the organization. For the purpose of this story of the first hundred years of our Church, Warren Church is used to designate both Church and Parish unless otherwise indicated.

On November 7, 1869, the first babies were baptised in the Church - Stephen Elmer, son of Stephen A. and Lucretia B. Cordwell, and Marcia Gertrude Hyde, daughter of George and Melissa Brown. In regard to Baptism, it should be noted that according to the Articles of Faith accepted and unchanged until quite recent years, it was only believers, in regular Church standing, and their households who might receive the ordinance of Baptism.

In July, 1870, the first Manual was issued, containing the Articles of Faith and the Covenant, with the By-Laws of the Church and Parish, and listing the names of the first thirty-six members.*

Rev. Elijah Kellogg served Warren Church until September of 1870. Mr. Cousins' Historical Sermon contains this compliment to Mr. Kellogg's preaching: "Some of the older citizens of the Village confess today that they were regular attendants upon Mr. Kellogg's preaching and that what they then received has largely sufficed them for public religious instruction during the quarter of a century since his services ended."

During Mr. Kellogg's pastorate, the people had been looking for a settled pastor, and this call went to a young man, twenty-seven years of age, a Maine man, graduate of Bowdoin College, and just finishing his studies at Andover Theological Seminary, Jeremiah Ellsworth Fullerton. Mr. Fullerton received ordination in Warren Church on September 8, 1870, but apparently he was not installed as minister of the Church because he is mentioned as a "stated supply", and again as "Acting Pastor". The record reveals nothing of great moment during the two years of Mr. Fullerton's pastorate, although by its close, on September 1, 1872, the church membership had increased to sixty-five.

* On file at the Maine Historical Society Library

During the year 1872, the clock was placed in the Church tower. According to the Church Manual this was purchased by the citizens of the community, which probably explains why it was always referred to as the "town clock" - not the Church clock.

The first installed pastor to serve Warren Church was Rev. Addison Blanchard - another Maine native and graduate of Bowdoin College. Mr. Blanchard received his theological training at Oberlin, and at the time of his coming to Warren Church was just entering upon the fifth year of his first pastorate at South Bridgton. The people of South Bridgton were loath to part with Mr. Blanchard but after "fraternal conferences between the representatives of the two churches....he and his people saw the hand of the Lord in the call and were willing to permit the change in fields."* Mr. Blanchard was installed by Ecclesiastical Council convened in Warren Church on December 10, 1872.

"Strong in body, active in mind, a large-hearted, cordial, sympathetic Christian, fresh from the experiences of successful work elsewhere, there seemed nothing to hinder a marked advance upon the previous good work" in Warren Church.* Then the churches of Westbrook sponsored another Revival, and from then on, during the five years of Mr. Blanchard's Pastorate there was a steady increase in membership.

In 1873, the Ladies' Sewing Society found themselves ready to make another considerable contribution to the Church - this time toward a pipe organ, payment for which was completed the following year.

It is interesting to note, from the records of those early days, the frequency with which Church meetings were held, usually at the close of the regular Tuesday evening prayer meeting, at times as often as twice a month.

In 1874, the first dismissals are recorded, the vote being to "dismiss without censure and recommend as Christian men" two who had found they were not in accord with the Congregational doctrine, - one to join the Swedenborgian Society, and the other to return to his own people, the Society of Friends. This same meeting voted that the Church Committee call upon a Brother to advise with him in regard to his conduct, and at

* Mr. Cousins' Historical Sermon

the Church meeting the following month, the Brother appeared to answer to the charges brought against him. However, upon his expression of sorrow for his offenses and his promise that he would try to do better in the future, it was voted that he be allowed to continue his membership in the Church. This is the only recorded case of censure.

A word concerning finances during those first years may be of interest. A little account book, begun in 1871, has been preserved. Apparently it was the Parish Collector's book. At the beginning of the record there is the following:

"Agreement - We, the undersigned, hereby agree to pay the following amounts monthly for the support of preaching and the incidental expenses of Warren Church for the year ending January 1, 1872." Then the names follow, with the agreed monthly contributions of each. Most of the pledges were for fifty cents and one dollar per month, though we find one for \$16. and one for \$20. The Sunday morning offerings were given to Missions; money for local expenses was raised by this subscription method. In 1876, it was decided to try an envelope system "for the support of preaching", and a list is recorded to whom envelopes were given. However, after a six months' trial, it was decided to return to the former system and an Agreement again appears in the account book, with thirty-seven signatures and monthly pledges. This report reads: "After six months' trial the sum received by voluntary contributions proving inadequate to the support of the Pastor, it is deemed best to return to our former system and the following persons agree to pay monthly the following sums toward the support of the Pastor and incidental expenses of Warren Church by putting the amount as before in the boxes at the Church door, but writing their names on the envelopes that they may be credited with same."

In 1877, the Organist was paid \$52. per year, and the "blow boy" \$10. per year. In 1879, the Sexton was paid \$75. per year; the Organist \$75. per year; but the "blow boy" still received only \$10.

The Ladies' Sewing Society was still busy and, in 1877, they purchased for the Church the chandelier which some of our older members remember.

Mr. Blanchard's pastorate continued for five years. On November 14, 1877, he was dismissed to take up the work of General Missionary for the Maine Missionary Society.

From November, 1877, to September, 1878, Warren Church was without a settled pastor. In the spring of 1878 a call had been extended to Edward S. Tead, then a student at Andover Theological Seminary. This call was accepted, but Mr. Tead was unable to take up his pastoral duties until fall. During that period the pulpit was supplied by Rev. John G. Wilson of Portland. On September 17, 1878, Mr. Tead was ordained by Ecclesiastical Council and installed as pastor.

During the ministry of Mr. Tead there was a considerable increase in Church membership - and it should be borne in mind that in those days Church membership was not easy; candidates for admission were carefully examined as to their religious views and beliefs, and, as has been indicated, their conduct was subject to censure.

In October, 1880, Mr. Tead started a system of Benevolence-giving which continued for a good many years. The collection for each two-month period was given to specified objects, as follows: January and February to Christian Education and Church Building; March and April to American Home Missionary Society; May and June to Maine Missionary Society; July and August to Miscellaneous Objects; September and October to Foreign Missions; and November and December to American Missionary Association. In his Historical Sermon, Mr. Cousins reports this system as unique to Warren Church but one which he would commend to any church. (It was not until 1920 that all Benevolence money was sent to the Conference for their apportionment.)

A considerable contribution to the Church was made when, in 1880, Mr. S. D. Warren built the parsonage on the lot adjoining the church building, the free use of which was granted to the Minister of the parish.

In June of 1876 Warren Church was host to the Fifty-Fourth Annual Meeting of Cumberland Conference, when some of the subjects for discussion were; Home Influence; Children in the Sanctuary; and, The New Testament Idea of Church Efficiency.

At the Sixty-first Annual Meeting, to which they were also host, the subjects discussed were: The View of the Pulpit from the Pews; Characteristics of Modern Christians; and, the Relation of the Church to Amusements for the Young. It would be interesting to know the contents of the papers presented.

On June 10, 1883, we have the first mention of Children's Day, when Alice Bertha, daughter of Charles and Carrie Sylvester; William Lyman, son of Thomas and Mary Davis; and Wilma Frost, daughter of Erwin B. and Nellie S. Newcomb, were baptised. From that date, for a number of years, Children's Day is given a special item in the records; in many instances the text or subject of the sermon to the children is recorded, and mention is made of an "interesting concert by the children in the evening". Some of our members recall that those concerts were events of considerable importance.

During Mr. Tead's pastorate came the formation of a Young Ladies' Mission Band. The Ladies' Sewing Society had concerned itself with the needs of the local church; it had never felt that its duty extended into the field of Missions. The formation of the new organization was an effort to interest these young women in the wider work of the Church. The records do not state how successful this was, but we fear that these young women did not always keep in mind their high purpose because Mr. Cousins says of them, "It must be confessed that the younger one (Society) has not always remained loyal to its high ideal as a purely mission band".

Also, during Mr. Tead's pastorate, a Children's Mission Band was formed - just when, we do not know. However, this group was in existence in 1884 because some of its members recall saving their pennies to buy shares in a Morning Star, which must have been Morning Star IV, which set sail from Boston in 1884. Mrs. George Brown, one of the Charter Members was guardian, or leader of this group and the meetings were held at her home. (Her home was diagonally across from the Church, where the Fire Station now is.)

In February of 1884, a Young Peoples' Christian Association was organized, its object being "to promote an earnest Christian life among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintance, and to make them more useful in the service of God".

"While copying very closely the leading features of a Christian Endeavor Society, with a conservatism whose wisdom is open to question, the new organization did not take the name or commit itself fully to the great movement which has done so much for the churches."* Frank H. Cloudman was the first president of this organization, which was made up of Active and Associate members, and which met regularly on Friday evenings for prayer services.

Mr. Tead ministered to Warren Church for nearly six years; then this active and forceful young minister received a call to the Prospect Hill Church in Somerville, Mass., and in April of 1884 he left to accept that call. These six years had been good years for Warren Church.

Mr. Tead's successor was chosen in an unusual, but commendable, manner. Before he left, it was decided that in order to avoid the "evils" of candidating, Mr. Tead would invite certain selected ministers to exchange pulpits with him. At that time Rev. Edgar W. Cousins was acting as pastor of the West Church in Portland, and since he was among those being considered and was the nearest at hand, he was the first to receive this invitation, which he accepted with no knowledge that he was being considered for the soon to be vacated pastorate. At the Annual Parish meeting, which was held the following Monday evening, it was voted that they were satisfied to engage Mr. Cousins without hearing other candidates, and within the next two weeks the Church concurred with this vote. So, on May 18, 1884, just three weeks after the departure of Mr. Tead, Mr. Cousins took up his work in Warren Church.

Mr. Cousins was another Maine native, thirty-four years of age, a graduate of Bowdoin, and of Bangor Theological Seminary, with four years' experience in the ministry.

At the Children's Day service in 1887, we have the first record of Bibles being presented to those children who had been baptised in the Church and who had reached the age of seven years. Apparently, this was the first presentation because the age of those receiving the Bibles seems to vary somewhat. They were: Magness Davis, Alice Sylvester, Charles Larrabee, Albert Chandler, Leafy Chandler, John Foye, Ella Millions, and Sarah Millions. The account states that these appeared at the Church

* Mr. Cousin's Historical Sermon

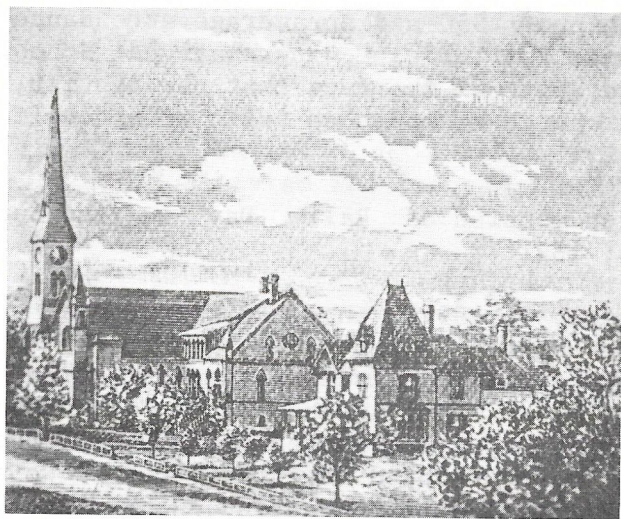
to receive the Bibles, and that later Bibles were presented to Joseph Warren and Mortimer Warren.

By 1886, the Church had outgrown its original building and a two story wing was added. This provided a prayer meeting and Sunday School room and library, and gave increased size to the audience room. The second story provided a room which was used for the Primary Department of the Sunday School as well as for a ladies' parlor, and also a small kitchen. At this time the original building was completely renovated and electric lights were installed. The cost of this entire project was \$9000. exclusive of carpets which were furnished by the women, and the electric lighting which was provided by S. D. Warren & Co. As he had done when the Church was built, Mr. S. D. Warren, this time with his partner, Mortimer B. Mason, met half of the cost of this addition, the remainder being borne by the parish.

At the time of this building project, a new bell was purchased. This bell was heavier (1650 lbs. to be exact) and better toned than the original, and the old bell was given to the Chapel at Sebago Lake.

In May of 1888, the entire community, and Warren Church members in particular, were saddened by the death of Mr. Samuel Dennis Warren - loyal supporter of every good work in Cumberland Mills. At the hour of the funeral service in Mt. Vernon Church, Boston, a memorial service was held in Warren Church, which is reported in detail in the small bound volume entitled, S. D. Warren.

From the record of the Ladies' Sewing Society - about 1879 the name seems to have been changed to The Ladies' Circle - we must conclude that their interest in the welfare of the Church never lagged, and that they never failed in their first purpose. Their meetings were frequent and at almost every one there was a report of some activity completed, or some plan for the next. There were Socials, Musicals, Entertainments, Fairs, and most of the Fairs were two-day, with supper and entertainment each evening. There were Antiquarian Suppers (at fifteen cents), Chicken Suppers (at twenty-five cents), Orange Suppers, Clam Suppers, Pie Suppers - suppers given by committees of the ladies, and suppers for which the ladies selected committees from the men. A record dated March 13, 1890 is interesting:



Parsonage - 1880 Church Annex - 1886

"A clam supper was served by the young married men, and an entertainment was given in the evening. Fifty dollars and ninety cents was received." And, they cleared \$32.20. They paid \$8.00 for 8 gallons of cream; \$6.00 for 12 gallons of clams, and \$1.24 for 14 pounds of crackers. The rest of the food was donated. This same report states that they gave \$150. to the Church. The previous year they had bought a piano for the Vestry, and on two different occasions they had voted money for books for the Sunday School library - \$25. and \$30.

During the pastorate of Mr. Cousins, the growth of the Sunday School was rapid and constant, until at the close of 1890, with a membership of 550 and an average attendance for the year of 303, it was the largest Congregational School in the State of Maine, in spite of the fact that new Baptist, Advent, and Universalist churches had been built within half a mile of Warren Church.

The first mention of Rally Day in the Sunday School is on October 4, 1891.

On February 9, 1892, there is recorded a communication from the Danish Lutheran Congregation of Westbrook, with Resolutions expressing their gratitude to Warren Church. Our people had granted to the Lutherans the use of Warren Church for services until such time as they were able to build their own house of worship. They conducted their services of worship in the afternoons, but their children attended our Sunday School and were members of our classes, which, of course, accounted in part for our large School.

On May 23, 1893, it is recorded that at the Church meeting those present discussed the question of the closing of the World's Fair on Sundays and Resolutions were adopted which were to be addressed to President Cleveland asking that the Exposition gates should not be opened on the Lord's Day, and it was further voted to urge similar action upon other churches that "this great national disgrace and calamity be averted".

In the summer of 1893 a Mission Sunday School was organized in Windham, under the supervision of Deacon William P. Varnum. This was held in a school-house in the Anderson Neighborhood, which building is still standing. This School continued for a

number of years, and from Mr. Varnum's work there and the work of our ministers, several were led to join Warren Church. The annual report of 1894 shows an item of \$22. for team hire in connection with this Windham School. (This School is now a dwelling, just a short distance from the Parson Smith House, toward Westbrook.)

On September 21, 1893, Mr. Cousins left to become Secretary of the Maine Missionary Society, and the Church was again without a resident minister until Rev. David Martyn took up the work on the last Sunday of December, 1893.

In several places in the records mention is made of a prayer service at 9:15 each Sunday morning, and at one such prayer service, on June 10, 1894, it was voted to organize an "Old People's Society of Christian Endeavor", to meet at 9:15 each Sunday morning in the Ladies' Parlor. No further mention is made of this Old People's Society so its success cannot be recorded.

The Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Warren Church was observed on ^{25th} September 30, 1894. Since that date fell on Sunday, three ^{ANNI-} special services were planned in which former ministers parti- ^{VERSARY} cipated. Rev. Edward S. Tead, of Somerville, Mass., delivered the sermon at the 10:30 service. At 3:15 in the afternoon a Union Service was held at which Rev. Edgar M. Cousins delivered an historical sermon, using as his text the words of Samuel, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us". At 7:30 in the evening Rev. Jeremiah E. Fullerton, of Bellows Falls, Vermont, gave an address on the subject, "Looking upward and pressing forward". Because of advanced age and ill health, Rev. Elijah Kellogg was not able to be present, and the other former minister, the Rev. Addison Blanchard, was at this time in Denver, Colorado. This anniversary was further celebrated by a Social on Monday evening, for which the ladies were invited to serve refreshments, and in preparation for which the Parish Committee was invited to have the carpets taken up and cleaned. We assume the Parish Committee complied with the request of the Anniversary Committee: we know that the ladies did since the record stated that "the ladies of the Society served a collation". At this Social Toasts were given - to Warren Church, by Deacon John E. Warren; Warren Deacons, by Deacon Elisha Newcomb; Benevolences, by Deacon James Graham; The Warren Choir, by Frank Cloudman; Warren

Parish, by Erwin Newcomb; Warren Sunday School, by Warren L. Hunt; Warren Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, by Fred A. Alden; Junior Christian Endeavor, by Mrs. Mary E. Melcher; Ladies of Warren Parish, by Mrs. Charles A. Carleton; and Warren Church Aid Society, by Mrs. Henry W. Foster. We wish that these papers had been preserved. Those of us who remember Mrs. Carleton and her manner of expressions, would expect her paper to be particularly enjoyable.

To those of us who are interested in Sunday School work, the figures for 1894 are interesting. With 253 Church members, there was an enrollment in the Sunday School of 481, divided as follows: Senior classes, 177; Intermediate, 157; Primary, 130; Officers, 17. The largest attendance was 344, with an average of 275 for the year - and we believe we are correct in stating that in those days Sunday School continued through the summer. This average attendance is slightly below that of 1890. However, since then the Danish Lutheran Church had been built and it is to be supposed that most of their children had by this time gone from our School.

"A severe trial" (to quote the Clerk) occurred in 1895 - the misrepresentation during Mr. Martyn's pastorage. This "trial" is recorded in detail in the Church records and is not repeated here. Only this paragraph is quoted from the record of January 21, 1896.

"There is no wish on the part of any of us to revive this matter of the past - only to show how wondrously Our Heavenly Father has kept us as his children in the bond of Christian Fellowship through these months of anxiety, and also that in answer to our prayers God has sent us one to be our under Shepherd to lead us (we hope) into larger fields of usefulness and blessing in the years now before us."

Perhaps this note of apprehension is excusable in view of this so recent experience. That this "severe trial" apparently did no real or lasting damage may be further evidence of the true Christian character of the members of Warren Church.

Rev. David Martyn occupied the pulpit for the last time on February 3, 1895.

The following quotation from Mr. Cousins' Historical Sermon may be of interest to some of our members:

"The mention of music reminds us of one who though not a member of this church, stood upon this platform and either individually or with the aid of others led the people in this part of their worship for more than half a score of years. In Mr. J. W. Conant, the pastor found a tireless and courteous assistant, and one ever ready to use his musical ability for his Master's service and the good of his fellowmen."

On June 28, 1895, Rev. William G. Mann began his ministry to the Church, which was to continue until April 29, 1903.

On December 9, 1895, another Mission Sunday School was organized - this time at Nason's Corner, under the supervision of Fred Alden. The Mission at Windham still continued, and for some time Mr. Mann went there in the afternoon for a preaching service, alternating in this work with the minister of the Methodist Church.

On March 19, 1896, the Ladies had a Birthday Party in Cumberland Hall, in celebration of their thirtieth birthday. There was a birthday cake, decorated with candles, "large enough to cut into five hundred pieces so that each person was entitled to a piece". It was a stormy night, but there were a goodly number present. A "New England Kitchen" was presented by some friends from the Westbrook Congregational Church and a "Tom Thumb Wedding, by the little people of Warren Church". The receipts for the evening were eighty-nine dollars and three cents. (Not bad!)

In April of 1898, the Ladies voted to hold a reception for the new Church members and to invite all Church members to attend. How long this continued we do not know. And, on Oct. 13, 1898, the Ladies voted to change the kitchen to the lower part of the Church and to hold suppers in the old vestry. On November 10th the new kitchen was used for the first time.

The sinking of the steamer Portland - that tragic event of November 26, 1898 - took one of the Warren Church members, Miss Rowina M. Heald. Memorial Services for Miss Heald were held in the Church on Sunday, December 18th.

In 1898 a new furnace was installed, and the old one was repaired. In June of 1899 new hymnals were bought for the Church by the Ladies.

In 1901, it is recorded that the Mission School in Windham is "nearly self-supporting". At the 1903 Annual Meeting, Mr. Varnum reported on his work in Windham, and after that no mention is made of this Mission School to which Mr. Varnum had given such faithful service for ten years. It is assumed that this School continued but that they no longer needed our help.

In 1903, the Ladies provided new carpets "for the Chapel".

During Mr. Mann's pastorate the record reveals nothing of great moment, though the increase in membership was quite constant, and the Sunday School was large. One thing we particularly remember is his Children's Sunday services. They were really prepared to include the children, as when he had a crate of little chickens on the platform to illustrate his story; and the Sunday evening programs were done by the children. Mr. Mann's interest was not just with children and perhaps a word concerning his great kindness may not be out of place in this history. Wherever there was illness, sorrow, or need of any kind, Mr. Mann was ready with comfort and with help - material, as well as spiritual.

On November 21, 1903, Rev. Edward E. Keedy was installed as minister. Mr. Keedy was thirty-four years of age when he came to Warren Church - a graduate of Lebanon Valley College of the United Brethren, and of Yale Divinity School, and had just completed about nine years as pastor of the Congregational Church at Hadley, Mass. - his first pastorate. Mr. Keedy was the first bachelor to minister to Warren Church: he was still a bachelor when he left on June 22, 1916. His sister lived here with him.

In 1904, we find the first mention of Lenten Services in Warren Church. These were held for five Sunday evenings, with special music. Whether this was the first recognition of Lent, we do not know, but it is quite probable that it was since the observance of this Holy Season would, no doubt, have been much frowned upon by our original members as a leaning toward Catholicism. On Easter morning, a special musical service was held

at 9:30, with the regular service at 10:30. The record states that five hundred and fifty attended these two services - "the largest attendance ever seen".

We don't know whether a reception to new Church members had been a custom since its first mention in 1898, but it is again voted by the ladies in 1904.

Communion Services were held in the afternoon until September of 1904, when they changed to follow the morning service. (For a while, during Mr. Macdonald's pastorate, these services were again held in the afternoon.)

On December 15, 1904, the Ladies presented to the Church four collection plates to replace the long-handled boxes.

The silver Communion Service, which now ornaments our Communion table, was not always just an ornament. It has been used. The goblets have been passed from one communicant to another. However, on January 1, 1905, by a vote of 73 to 5, it was decided to use individual cups - not following so closely the pattern of the Last Supper, but certainly considerably more sanitary. These individual cups were a gift of the Ladies.

Since the organization of the Church, all money in the loose offerings had been used for Benevolences, but on April 10, 1905, at a joint meeting of the Church and Parish, it was voted that thereafter all loose offerings should go to the Parish, and, at this meeting it was decided to adopt a duplex envelope system so that each contributor might specify how he wished his gift divided between Parish expenses and Benevolences. It was also voted to use pledge cards printed with two columns, "showing amounts from one cent to ten dollars".

In 1905, the pew cushions were considerably worn and the ladies purchased a complete new set. The price was fifty-five cents a running foot.

A new steam heating plant was installed in 1910 to replace the old hot air system. The building was resingled and, to better accommodate the Sunday School, the lower vestry was renovated by laying a hard wood floor, enlarging some of the windows, and putting in a steel ceiling.

On December 10, 1916, the John E. Warren Bible Class was organized. This class continued until World War II disrupted its schedule.

Following Mr. Keedy's departure in July of 1916, Warren Church was without a settled Minister until on the first Sunday of January, 1917, Jonas Taylor began his work. Mr. Taylor received his pre-Theological education in England. At the time of his call to Warren he was preaching at Lincoln, Maine, and studying at Bangor Theological Seminary. He continued his work at Bangor, receiving his degree in December, 1919. On December 18th, at an Ecclesiastical Council convened in Warren Church, he was ordained to the Congregational ministry.

One of Mr. Taylor's first efforts was the organization of a Young Ladies' Choir. Then, the Warren Male Quartet was formed. These two groups not only provided the music for the Sunday evening services but were very generous of their time and talent for entertainments and very beautiful Cantatas.

On February 4, 1919, we have a record of a conference of those interested in Church work and, according to that record about two hundred were present - many young people being in that number. Various matters were discussed, such as improvement of the Church services, and better facilities for social activity. At that meeting the needs for and possibility of securing a parish house were discussed and a committee of three was appointed to, in turn, name a committee of twenty to further investigate this matter. The record contains no further mention of this and it is doubtful if the larger committee was ever appointed. This was not the first time that Warren Church people had given some consideration to a Parish House. The Ladies had talked about it in 1905, and at that time it was suggested that "the house across the street from the Church might be rented and fixed up for that purpose". In 1905 this matter was left for further investigation and a later report but in that case, as in this, no further report was given.

In 1919, the platform was enlarged by removing some of the front pews; the present rail was built; and the rail curtain was hung.

The Fiftieth Anniversary of Warren Church was celebrated on Sunday and Monday, October 5th and 6th, 1919. Rev. Edgar M. Cousins preached at the Sunday morning service, and at the evening service Rev. William G. Mann was the speaker. The Young Ladies' Chorus furnished music for the evening service. A feature of the Sunday School session on that day was the presentation of a gold watch, duly inscribed, to Mr. William H. Holston in appreciation of his service to the School since its organization. On Monday evening the Church parlors were filled to overflowing for the social observance of this Fiftieth Anniversary. Pictures of former Deacons adorned the walls and tables; there were speeches by local ministers; a musical program; and refreshments were served by the Ladies Circle.

Mr. Taylor had been engaged for a period of three years. At the end of that period, on December 23, 1919, at a special meeting of the Church, with eighty-four members present, it was unanimously voted that he be asked to remain.

Mr. Taylor was particularly popular with the boys of the Church and community, and he did outstanding work among them. His prospects for a most successful ministry seemed certain, but on November 5, 1920, he underwent a serious operation, following which he returned to the pulpit for only a short time. Mr. Taylor passed away at the Parsonage on June 22, 1921, at the age of thirty-two years, just one week before his little daughter was born. The following is taken from a news clipping at the time of Mr. Taylor's death:

"Mr. Taylor was considered one of the finest pastors in the history of the Church. He was the possessor of a clear, pleasing voice, a good preacher, a forceful speaker, and a great favorite among the men and boys of the community."

A few months later, Mrs. Taylor, who had endeared herself to the people of Warren Church, returned to her home in England with her young son, Wesley, and baby, Ethel.

During Mr. Taylor's illness, and for some time thereafter, the pulpit was supplied by Dr. Lawrence Phelps, of Bowdoin College.

Rev. Roderick A. Macdonald came to Warren Church on the first Sunday of February, 1922. Mr. Macdonald was a native of Nova Scotia, a graduate of Dalhousie University, and came to Cumberland Mills from a successful pastorate in Calais, Maine. He was scholarly and convincing in the pulpit, and energetic and resourceful outside, and soon had the people launched on a program of Church improvement and of Parish activity.

Mr. Macdonald's program was not only for material improvement, however. He was considerably interested in work with young people. Christian Endeavor Societies, in recent years, had not been particularly successful in Warren Church and one of Mr. Macdonald's first accomplishments was the organization of a Young People's Council for Senior High School boys and girls. His plans included Sunday evening meetings for worship and discussion, dramatics, recreational activity - in fact, a rather complete church-centered program for this age group. For several years there was also an Alumni Young People's Council for those who had finished High School but who wished to continue with a similar program. The High School Council continued until in 1936 it became a group of the Pilgrim Fellowship - the world-wide fellowship of Congregational Christian youth.

The Young Ladies' Choir and the Warren Male Quartet, which had been organized during Mr. Taylor's pastorate, furnished the music for the Sunday evening services until the Sunday evening services were discontinued. Then, the Choir became an important part of the Sunday morning service until they disbanded in 1946. However, there were a number of beautiful Sunday evening concerts by these groups.

Quite early in Mr. Macdonald's pastorate a Junior Choir was organized; then as those children grew older an Intermediate Choir was also formed; and later a Student Choir of High School girls.

We wish we had recordings of some of the musical programs by our Choirs, and pictures of some scenes from the plays by our Youth Group.

At just about the same time the Young People's Council was

formed, the younger boys were organized into a Friendly Indian group - later called the Warren Boys' Club. This group used a Y.M.C.A. program and, under able and interested leadership, they did excellent work for a number of years until Boy Scout Troops replaced this organization. For the younger girls there was Camp Fire, which furnished character building and church centered activity until this, too, was replaced by Scout Groups.

In 1923 the interior of the Church was redecorated - still 1923
in design: a new lighting system was installed, doing away with the chandelier which had previously been electrified: and a pipe line from the mill was put in to conduct steam for heating both church and parsonage. A linoleum was laid in the Vestry, and the ladies purchased a new carpet for the sanctuary. *Interior redecorated*

Since the organ was first placed in the Church, the power had been furnished by "blow boys" and was at times irregular. In January of 1924 the ladies purchased an electric motor for the organ, and the "blow boys" were no longer needed.

The Upper Vestry had not been used for some years and, in order to make additional room for various meetings, it was redecorated in 1924: a new floor was laid: and a fireplace was built. This was a contribution of the John E. Warren Bible Class, and the room was dedicated to the memory of Mr. John E. Warren. At the same time the small room adjoining, which had originally served as a kitchen, was again fitted and furnished for that purpose by Craigie Class - an organized class of the Church School. (Mr. Hugh Craigie was very active in the Sunday School. He was Superintendent for several years, and he taught for many years. He died on May 1 1919, and, in his memory, we took the name - Craigie Class.) *JE 1924 WARREN BOOTH*

After the installation of steam from the mill, the coal bins were no longer necessary, and in 1924 they were torn out and the space made into a room for use of the Kindergarten. *1984 Hildred Thais still active*

The church building originally had an entrance on Warren Avenue and another on Cumberland Street, with narrow stairways inside. In 1926 the present entrance was built, giving



a broad and safe inside stairway: the spire was repaired and its lines slightly changed: a new roof was placed: repairs not anticipated were made: and the building was repainted. At the same time the lawns were rebuilt and the grounds landscaped. This was a big undertaking, and cost was slightly more than \$15,000. The following description of this is from the Portland Evening Express of June 7, 1926:

"Work will commence immediately on the remodeling of the front of the Warren Congregational Church under the supervision of John Calvin Stevens, architect of Portland, at an estimated cost of \$12,000. It is hoped that the entire work may be completed by early Fall. The Warren Avenue entrance to the church will be done away with and the space now used for entering will be utilized for a rest room. The stairs inside the church on the Cumberland Street entrance will be removed and the entrance made level with the floor of the church. The main entrance to the church will be on Cumberland Street, with two side doors facing up and down Cumberland Street. This entrance will be built onto the church as it now stands and extend toward the sidewalk. The church tower will be altered, changing the present lines as far as the belfry.

"Upon entering the church there will be stairs on either side leading to the lower vestry and two rest rooms will be added to the present equipment. After the remodeling, the entire church will be painted and reshingled.

"The grounds will be somewhat changed and beautified with a curved walk running up to the Cumberland Street entrance. The present Warren Ave. side of the church will be enclosed with a barberry hedge extending from the new entrance. Shrubberty and trees will be placed as seen in the above cut. (Sorry, but we can't include the cut!)

"Work as mapped out will be completed too late for spring planting of shrubberty and flowers but that will be part of the fall program."

In 1932, the Westbrook Congregational Church celebrated its One Hundredth Anniversary, to which Warren Church was invited. A feature of their program was an Historical Pageant, in which

some of our people represented former members of the Westbrook Church who had been dismissed to organize Warren Church

From 1887, Bibles had been presented on Children's Day to those children who had been baptised in the Church and who had reached the age of seven years. At the annual meeting in February, 1933, after considerable discussion, it was voted to change this custom and to present Bibles to all children graduating from the Primary Department of the Sunday School.

Until 1937 the walls of the sanctuary had been painted in design, but now they were redone entirely plain, with the ceiling beams painted dark to match the woodwork. In 1937, a ^{W.B.} hardwood floor was laid in the sanctuary, and the women purchased runners for the aisles. * Removed by Walter Beesley & son after 1978

In 1939 the women enlarged and remodeled the kitchen and provided considerable new equipment. (They didn't do it - they just paid for having it done.)

1942 Until 1942 S. D. Warren Co. had furnished the Parsonage free of charge and, since installation of the mill steam, they had also furnished heat for the Parsonage. However, in March of 1942, wishing to dispose of the Parsonage, they offered it to the Church at a reasonable figure and it was voted to purchase it.

At the annual meeting in 1942, the first Deaconesses were appointed. They were Mrs. Annie Graham Cartret, and Miss Jessie McFarland.

Since their formation, Warren Parish and Warren Church had existed as separate organizations, uniting in all matters of mutual concern. On May 11, 1943, these separate organizations ceased to be, merging by incorporation as Warren Congregational Church. By this act a new Constitution was necessary and was accepted at this incorporation meeting. This new Constitution replaced that which had existed with little change since the formation of the Church.

On October 1st and 2nd, 1944, Warren Church celebrated her Seventy-Fifth Anniversary. At the morning service on October 1st, the Rev. Rodney W. Roundy, Superintendent of the Cumber-

land Conference preached a sermon on The Church, and in the afternoon a Vesper Communion Service was held. On Monday evening a Church Family Supper was served by the Women's League, following which all went to the sanctuary where the evening's program was presented. Following a brief song service, greetings were extended by Dr. Harry E. Townsend, for the Churches of Westbrook, and by Rev. Edwin E. Shuman, for the Westbrook Congregational Church. The history of Warren Church, Warren Parish, and the Women's organization was reviewed: Mr. Joseph A. Warren described the Village of Cumberland Mills of 1869, and Mrs. Charles B. Graham presented a paper on Warren Personalities. As part of the plan for this celebration, all the children (there were two living at this time - Stephen E. Cordwell and Jane S. Bickford) and grandchildren of our Charter Members had been contacted and a sum of money had been contributed by them for a bronze tablet - this tablet to bear the names of the Charter Members and to be placed in the Church. Due to Government restrictions on the use of bronze for civilian purposes at this time (World War II) the tablet could not be obtained until later but the fund was presented at the close of the service.* Also presented at this time was an album containing copies of photographs of the Charter Members, all but two having been secured. Upon completion of this program, an exhibit of articles of historical interest was enjoyed, and a period of fellowship followed.

On February 3, 1947, a reception was held in honor of Mr. Macdonald's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary with the Church. About three hundred parishioners and friends were in attendance and a purse was presented to Mr. Macdonald in appreciation of his long service to the Church.

Mr. Macdonald completed his pastorate on June 30, 1947, resigning to accept a call to the Congregational Church at Kittery Point. After his twenty-five years of service, Mr. Macdonald left with the good wishes of the people for success and happiness in this smaller parish.

Following Mr. Macdonald's departure, Warren Church was very fortunate in securing for the summer months the services of Dr. E. A. E. Palmquist, of Narberth, Pa., who was summering at Falmouth Foreside. Dr. Palmquist was a retired executive officer of the Philadelphia Federation of Churches. At the end of the

* Dedicated Nov. 18, 1945

two month period for which he had been engaged, at the urgent request of the people, Dr. Palmquist agreed to remain until such time as a permanent minister might be secured. Perhaps it was because the people were so well pleased with Dr. Palmquist that so long a time was taken in securing that permanent minister; anyway, he remained with the Church until September 1, 1948. During that time Dr. Palmquist's untiring work in Church and community, his many visits in the homes, his contagious humor, his deep spiritual qualities, and his interest in the people and their problems made his value to the Church, during this year of his ministry, almost inestimable. We feel sure that those young folks in Sunday School at the time remember him well.

In October of 1947, Maine was visited by a terrible conflagration, or rather, a series of conflagrations, because hardly a section of the State escaped. One of the most serious fires was in Brownfield, where practically every building in the town was wiped out. After the immediate horror of their experience had passed, the people decided that one of their very first projects would be the rebuilding of their Church. On November 14, 1947, Warren Church people made a special offering for this project and \$300. was sent to the minister of the Brownfield congregation for their building project.

On November 26, 1947, a Union Thanksgiving Service is worthy of note. This was a colorful affair, with a procession of the local clergy and with excellent music furnished by the Warren Men's Singing Club - an S. D. Warren mill organization.

After working under the Constitution of 1943 for a few years many changes were deemed necessary, and in 1948 an almost entirely new Constitution was proposed and adopted at the Annual Meeting. Outstanding features of this new Constitution were the creation of a Board of Benevolence and an Usher Committee; and a plan for rotation of Deacons, Deaconesses, and certain Boards and Committees. The previous Constitution had made similar provision in regard to Trustees. The revised constitution also created the office of Deacon Emeritus and on April 4, 1948, Deacon Walter E. Swett was named as the first Deacon Emeritus.

At a Church meeting on February 19, 1948, Rev. Cornelius

Clark, D. D., Minister of the Congregational Christian Conference of Maine, presented the pros and cons of the proposed merger of the Congregational Christian and the Evangelical and Reformed churches. At another Church Meeting on March 18, 1948, further discussion of this question was held. This time the affirmative was presented by Rev. James Lancaster, Assistant Minister of the Woodfords Congregational Church, and the negative by Rev. Jefferson Neal, of Kennebunkport. Then, on March 22, 1948, a Church meeting was called to vote on this proposed merger and with forty-nine votes cast, forty-one voted against, and eight voted for the merger. On the question - if the merger went through would Warren Church go along with the majority - there were not a sufficient number of affirmative votes to carry.

Dr. Palmquist's constant prayer that Warren Church might be guided to that Under Shepherd who might lead our people in their work, and that the proper Under Shepherd might be guided to Warren Church was, we feel sure, answered when Rev. Clarence H. Clark accepted the Church's call. Mr. Clark is a graduate of Bates College and Bangor Theological Seminary, with graduate work at Hartford Theological Seminary, and he came to Warren Church from a pastorate in Newport, New Hampshire. This was a returning to Maine for Mr. Clark since he had previously held pastorates in this State.

On Sept. 5, 1948, Mr. Clark preached his first sermon as our pastor, and Dr. Palmquist and Mr. Clark served communion. Following this service, a reception for Dr. and Mrs. Palmquist was held in the Parsonage garden. Mr. Everett P. Ingalls presented a purse of money to the Palmquists and expressed the gratitude of Warren Church for the services they had rendered during the past year.

On October 7, 1948, by the Cumberland Conference assembled in Warren Church, Mr. Clark was installed as our minister. The usual examination and routine business connected with such installation was transacted in the afternoon; supper was served to delegates; and formal public installation services were held in the evening. Rev. Hilda Ives, with whom Mr. Clark had been associated in the Presumpscot Larger Parish, preached the installation sermon.

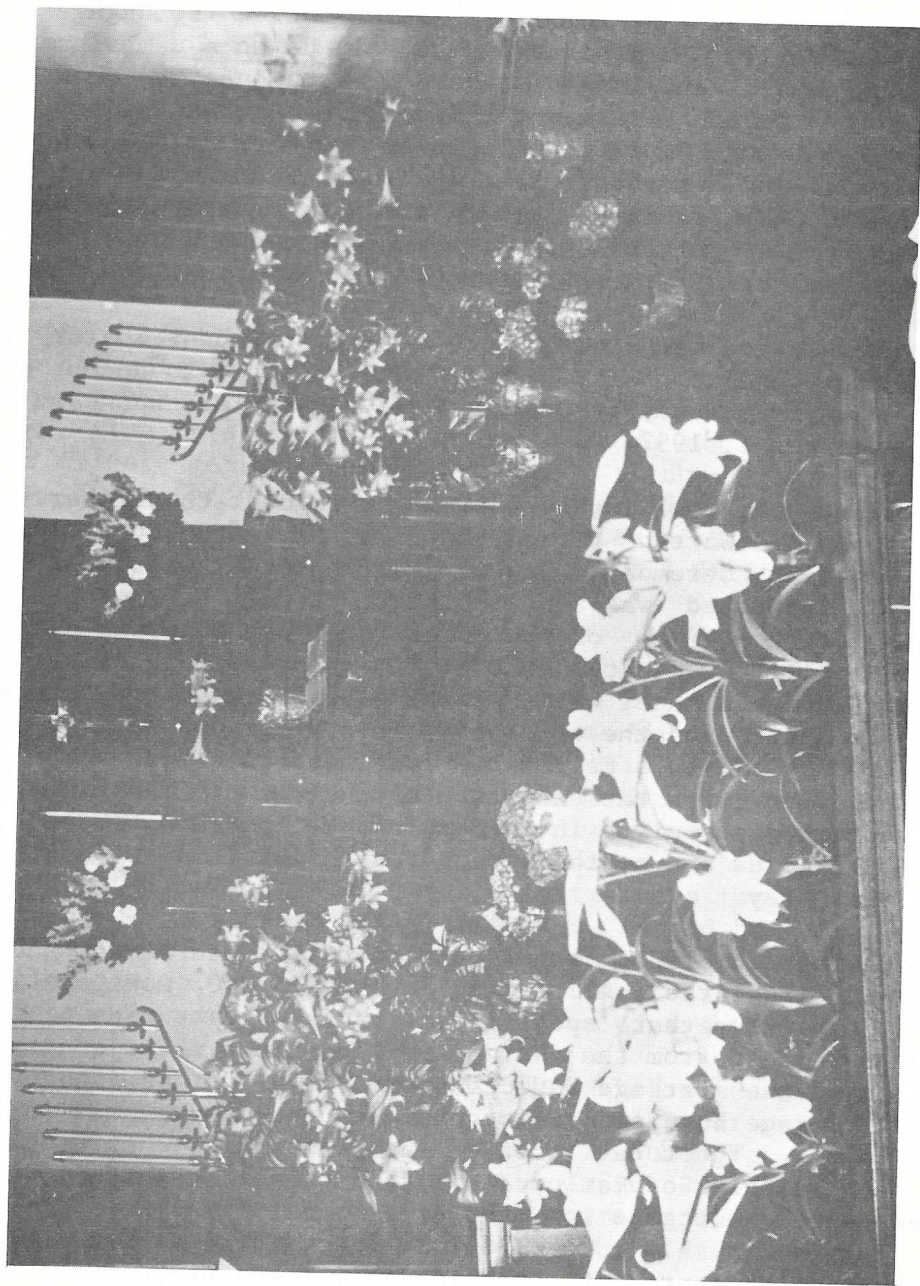
On November 6, 1948, a Church meeting was called to reconsider the Merger. Deacon Leigh Flint reported on the meeting at Oberlin to which he had been a delegate and Mr. Clark asked for a unanimous affirmative vote. Twenty-three votes were cast: twenty-two affirmative, one negative.

During Mr. Clark's pastorate major accomplishments were a new Chancel, and definite plans for a Parish House. Perhaps it was because the organ needed to be replaced that the Chancel gained precedence over the Parish House. A triangular strip of land, adjoining the back of the Church lot, was purchased so that a small addition might be built to house the organ pipes and thus enlarge the chancel. (Deed dated Sept. 6, 1946.) However, it was not until early in the summer of 1950 that construction was started. Work was completed and the Organ and Chancel dedicated on November 12, 1950. Rev. R. A. Macdonald participated in the Dedication Service.

Reports from Sunday School Superintendents, beginning in June of 1948, stressed the need for more classroom space. In February of 1949 it was decided to try a divided session - High School and Junior High classes meeting at 9:45 and the younger groups meeting during the Church hour - at eleven o'clock. Even this plan did not entirely solve our problem and we arranged for use of the Warren Memorial Library for some classes. It must be remembered that teaching methods had changed over the years and it was no longer possible to have classes scattered through the Church auditorium, the platform, the balcony, and the vestry - upstairs and downstairs - as they once were.

Until Parish House was sold to City of Westbrook for use as Police Station.

1905
1919
New
Parish
House
In this History we have included record of Church meetings in 1905 and in 1919 when the need for a Parish House, for both Sunday School and social events, was discussed - some socials had been held in Cumberland Hall, and some plays had been presented there. Discussion continued but no action was taken until the early 1940's when Architect, John Calvin Stevens was engaged to draw a plan for extension of the Church building on the Parsonage side for a Parish House. We find no further reference to this until the Annual Meeting in January, 1955, when a Planning Board was appointed "to study the needs for a Parish House, and ways of meeting those needs". Apparently this Committee made a study of Mr. Stevens' plan because at a special Church meeting it was reported that "after considerable investigation it was found impossible to build onto either the



Chancel - Dedicated 1950

Church or the Parsonage".

At a meeting on June 20, 1955, it was voted to engage the Wells Fund-Raising Organization to help us on a campaign for that long-needed and long-discussed Parish House. The Wells Organization wanted no plan for the building - that was to come later. The Canvass for funds began on November 23, 1955. On February 13, 1957, by vote of the Trust Fund Board and the Church, \$16,500. from the Trust Fund was made available for purchase of the Leighton property, which adjoined the Church property. On this, the Parish House was to be built.

Mr. Clark received a call to the Congregational Church in Wells, Maine, and as of May 31, 1957, he resigned to accept the call. He was succeeded by Rev. Herbert W. Keebler, who came to us on September 1, 1957.

On Sunday, June 2, 1957, following our regular Church service, Mr. Joseph A. Warren turned the first shovelful of dirt in a Ground-Breaking Ceremony, and our Parish House was under way. Douglas K. Goodspeed was the Architect, and O. G. K. Robinson, the Contractor. Much of the interior finishing was done by Adrian Lowell, our Janitor at that time; interior painting was done by volunteers under the direction of James C. Doucette and William Knudsen; and the tile on the top floor was laid by John Milliken. The Women's Fellowship furnished the Kitchenette and also the Parlor, with the exception of the piano. The piano was purchased through gifts in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Warren by friends and by their daughters - Josephine W. Cole and Lois W. Humphrey.

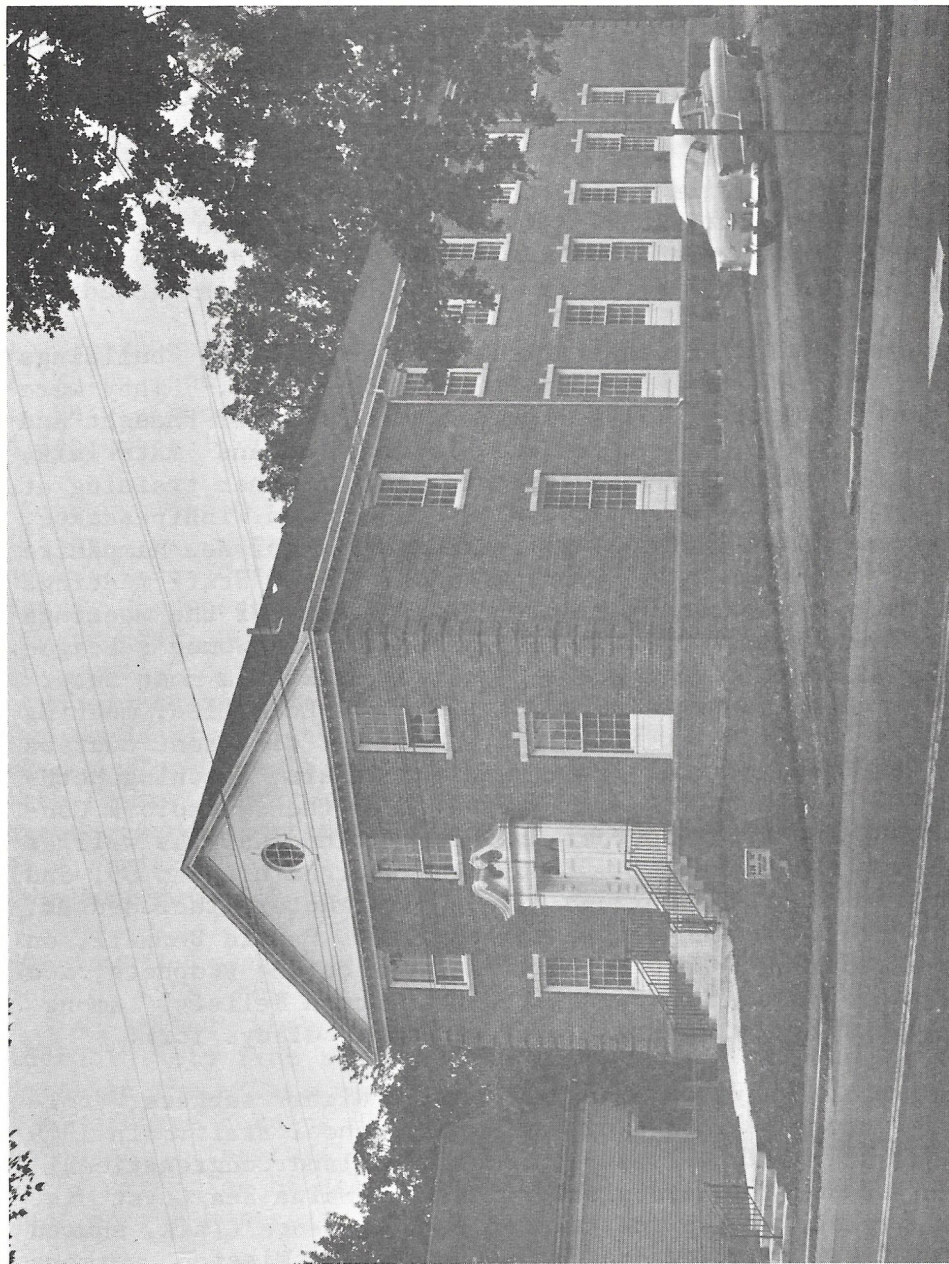
On September 14, 1958, the Parish House was dedicated, and in October of 1966 the last payment on a \$75,000. mortgage was made. We believe that special mention should be made of the considerable help from the Women's Fellowship - their contribution toward the mortgage reduction was \$18,477. On January 8, 1967, a Mortgage Burning Service and Open House were held in the Parish House. The total cost of land, building, furnishings (with the exception of Parlor and Kitchenette furnishings), and interest on the mortgage was \$190,677.78.

Another building project, considerably less pretentious than the others but quite important, was a Minus-Three room in the

Church. With the completion of the Parish House, the room in the Church which had been used for Kindergarten was converted to a Nursery for the care of little ones during the Church service. The room was repainted, new linoleum laid, cupboards built, and suitable furnishings provided, including cribs for the littlest ones. This was accomplished mainly through the efforts of Mrs. Everett Ingalls, with carpentry done by Joseph Small. Mrs. Ingalls was also responsible for something perhaps even more important than the room. She secured the services of Eleanor Griffiths, a Graduate Nurse, who supervised the care of the little ones and continued in that service until the end of December, 1968, when the Nursery was closed.

From this record one might think that for years "buildings" had been the sole concern of Warren Church people. They were not, for throughout these years a great deal of thought and study had gone into improved teaching methods and materials. Some of us were getting leadership and teacher training at Religious Education Camps at Cobbossecontee and Winnepesaukee, and also at summer sessions at the University of New Hampshire. Beginning in 1946, we had monthly Sunday School Staff meetings which continued for eight or nine years - many of the meetings starting with supper provided and served by the Women's League. In 1949 our Board of Religious Education started a most interesting program - an Institute of Religious Education, meeting one night each week for six weeks, with two different courses each night - one course, Bible, and the others, Teaching Methods and Work with Children. Several from the Westbrook Congregational and Prides Corner Churches joined us, as well as some from other Churches. Enrollment went as high as 65, and the program continued through 1956. Instructors included Dr. Reyborn Zerby, on the Old Testament; Rev. Harold Bonnell, on the New Testament; Rev. Herbert Stevens, on The Prophets; and Rev. Winston Clark, on Fundamental Christian Beliefs. Among other instructors were Mrs. Zerby, and Rev. Gladys York.

During these years we also had "Family Night" suppers, followed by programs planned by the Sunday School staff. In 1949 Rev. Nathaniel Gupstill of the South Portland Congregational Church, at one time associated with the Maine Sea Coast Missionary Society, with the help of Rev. Clarence Clark, showed slides of the many out-posts visited by the Mission workers



\$18,477 Women's Bldg.
 ship + furnishings
 Parlor + Kitchenette
 THE PARISH HOUSE COMPLETED IN 1958 Total Cost \$190,677.78 pg. 42

and of "The Sunbeam" (The Mission boat) on its travels. This led to our Christmas gift project for the Mission, in our Sunday School, which continued until 1967 when their plans for distribution of gifts were changed. Perhaps some will remember when a group of our boys and girls were taken to a Portland wharf for a visit on board The Sunbeam.

In 1950 the Sunday School, and the Church, sent Jean Millions as a delegate to the World Council of Christian Education in Toronto, Canada. Her niece, Dorothy Davis, furnished automobile transportation. This was a week-long Convention, with Divisional discussion meetings morning and afternoon, and Plenary Sessions in the evening. The newspaper report of the first evening meeting states, "Never in its long history has Toronto Coliseum housed such a gathering as last night when 4,729 delegates from 61 nations met to praise God and to take counsel as to the means by which they might win the World to Him". This was an experience we can never forget.

Beginning in 1951 we had several very enjoyable entertainments by our young people. In 1951, it was a "Cherry Blossom Festival", with a Japanese guest - Miss Yasuka Narutomi, a student at Gorham State College. The "Mexican Fiesta" was in 1952, with a Mexican Supper and a Mexican program. In 1955 the theme was India, with a University of Maine student from India, Om Aggarvala; and in 1956 we had a "Totem Pole" supper and the theme of the program was "The American Indian".

The first reference to an organization for our older Church people was in the fall of 1958. Mr. Keebler was very much interested in this and got many of the ideas for such an organization from visits with the Woodfords Church Group. Our Senior Friendship Club was organized in 1958 and as we write this, in 1969, it is still very active.

Rev. Herbert Keebler resigned as of August 1, 1960 and Rev. Morten Sorensen, who had recently retired, became our Interim Minister. Mr. Sorensen, a native of Iceland, came to Maine when he was quite young and received his ministerial education

in Maine. Both Rev. and Mrs. Sorensen were very friendly and very helpful with both old and young. One thing is of particular interest to many of us. On a Sunday evening, early in December, Mr. Sorenson and a few other adults went to the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Grant with our Senior High Pilgrim Fellowship group where, with our help as costumers, the EP. Frs enacted the Christmas story - in the field and in the barn - for slide-taking by Ed. Bicknell and Don Robinson. These slides, with Bible selections thrown on the screen, and Christmas carols, made a very enjoyable Sunday evening service. We were asked for a slide and for a report on this pageant for publication in The Church School Worker.

Mr. Sorensen was our minister until Rev. Floyd Kinsley came the first of April, 1961, but both Mr. and Mrs. Sorensen have maintained their interest in our Senior Citizens Group and in the people of Warren Church.

In October of 1963 the Constitution Committee was asked to create the office of Historian, looking toward the 100th Anniversary of the Church.

In the summer of 1964 Mr. Wieslander did a plaster repair job in the front hall and chancel, and the interior of the Church and the hall were painted by Mr. Rosenblad. The Rose Window needed some attention and it was crated and taken to Boston for repair. Also in 1964, the Women's Fellowship purchased a new carpet and new furniture for the Minister's room.

*Sept. 1
New
Church* In 1965, Dr. Dwight Leighton, of Yarmouth, asked help from the Church in raising funds for Mrs. Jonas Taylor, widow of our former minister, to return to Westbrook for a visit. Mrs. Taylor had made her home in England since shortly after her husband's death and Dwight had visited her there. Dwight had grown up in the house which stood where our Parish House now is and he felt very close to Mrs. Taylor and her family. We made the contribution and, with Dwight's generous assistance Mrs. Taylor was able to make the visit, and we were very happy to have her with us. (May 26th through June 15th)

In December of 1965 Donald Leighton suggested that the Steeple tower should be checked. He believed it was out of plumb. An exhaustive examination was made and several ways of correct-

ing the slant were suggested, but at a Church Meeting on June 23, 1966 it was decided that the Steeple should be taken down. So, on June 28th, the Steeple was removed down to the square, shingled section and on the 29th the lower part was taken, including the bell which was placed in the S. D. Warren Salvage building. (Sad days for all of us.)

The outside of the Church had been in poor condition for a number of years. Paint would not stay on. Several painters were consulted and various suggestions were made by them, most of them suggesting that some kind of siding be used. What to do about it has been a much-discussed question.

At a special meeting of Church members, on the evening of June 23, 1966, the question of possible Merger with the Westbrook Congregational Church was discussed, and it was decided to appoint a committee to meet with a similar committee from the Westbrook Church - if that Church would consider so doing. Westbrook voted to appoint such a committee. These two committees, each with seven members, met together quite frequently and there were also joint meetings of the regular committees.

At the Annual Church Meeting on January 18, 1968, we voted "Yes" on the Merger. And, at their Annual Church Meeting, also in January, the Westbrook Congregational Church voted for the Merger. Since that time there have been meetings of the so-called "Steering Committee" which consists of three persons from each Church - this Committee to report to the Churches, in joint meeting, every three months. The first meeting was held in Warren Church on May 24, 1968. The plan presented by the Committee is that both congregations should meet together in the Westbrook Church for the Sunday morning service, with Sunday School divided between the two Parish Houses. The last paragraph of the Merger Committee's report reads:

"It is Recommended:

"That when steps have proceeded so that the Congregations are one corporation the two congregations use the sanctuary of the Westbrook Congregational Church, both parish houses, and parsonages, looking forward to the building of a new church plant on a new site in the distant future."

Warren Church members voted to delete the word "distant".

Oct. 1977
810 main
ST.

On Sunday, September 27, 1968, Rev. Floyd Kinsley read his resignation, to be effective on October 27th. Following the service on that date a "Get-Together" was held in the Lower Vestry, that members and friends might extend thanks and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Kinsley.

Rev. Clarence Clark, our former minister, had quite recently retired from the Church at Wells and had established residence in Portland, and, fortunately for us, he was willing to serve as our Interim Minister, beginning on November 1st. During November and December, Rev. Stanley H. Hyde worked with Mr. Clark, doing some visiting and preaching some sermons.

On Monday evening, June 2nd, 1969, there was a well attended meeting in our Church - at the same time a similar meeting was being held in the Westbrook Church - for a final vote on the Merger of our Churches. In our Church the vote was seventy-six (76) for the Merger, and fifty-two (52) against. In the Westbrook Church, the vote was sixty-four (64) for the Merger, and thirty-two (32) against.

We sincerely hope that the Merger of our congregations will be successful and that the young people particularly will be helped thereby.

On September 28th we will celebrate our 100th Anniversary - one hundred years which we, our parents, our grandparents, and our great-grandparents, have appreciated and enjoyed.