

COMMUNITY CHURCH HISTORY

The incorporation of Medway in 1713 included the land we presently know as Millis and Medway. The two sections are often referred to as the East Precinct (Millis), and the West Precinct (Medway). The Black Swamp, a massive area of dense forests and swamps, was the geographical center between both precincts. The First Church of Christ in Medway was established in the more populous area east of the Black Swamp. In colonial days, attendance at church services was an obligation. Services were lengthy, involving both morning and afternoon sessions, with a short intermission to eat, warm up if it was cold, and socialize in the adjacent “noon houses.” Weather was always an issue, but winter was especially difficult due to the cold and lack of heat in the meeting house.

As the population of Medway grew, settlers began building in the West Precinct. Increasingly, as early as 1731, they began to explore alternatives to attending church services and town meetings at such a distance. The Black Swamp was a major obstacle to these settlers and their families, who travelled by foot, wagon, or horseback to attend services in the east. It was difficult, inconvenient, and nearly impossible to travel several miles from home, over rutted pathways, across the often flooded swampy area, to arrive at the meeting house in time to hear the bell ringing, calling all to worship.

Several proposals were made to make it easier for the West Precinct settlers to attend worship services. After failing to find a workable solution, the settlers petitioned the General Court in 1748 for permission to separate from the East Precinct and to build their own meeting house. Once again they cited the long distances traveled, the road conditions in all types of weather, and the dangers of crossing the Black Swamp as reasons for creating a new parish. As required by law they gave evidence that they could build a meeting house and support a “learned gentleman” to serve as pastor. On December 29th, 1748, the court granted the West Precinct (of Medway) the right to incorporate and to build a meeting house; they were, however, to work with the East Precinct (of Medway) in all matters that affected the whole town. Thus begins the history of the West Precinct and the Second Church of Christ in Medway.



The factual information and pictures for this timeline were derived from a number of sources:

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The Early Church

Rev. David Thurston, 1752–1769



1749—Old Meeting House—1816

The First Covenant of the Second Church of Christ in Medway

We who through the wonderful goodness and mercy of God have a comfortable prospect of the settlement of the ordinances of Christ among us do accordingly enter into a church estate and in the fear of God and with a humble sense of our unworthiness to transact with the glorious God and with a humble dependence on the grace of God, covenant with God and with one another...

Original Members of the Second Church of Christ in Medway

The following male members of the church signed the first covenant in 1748. The covenant was reaffirmed and signed again after ordination of Rev. David Thurston in 1752.

Samll. Fisher	Robert Smith	John Pond
Seth Partridge	Nathll. Clark	Jonathan Metcalf
Thomas Adams	John Hucker	George Dening
Ichabod Harding	Benjamin Partridge	Danll. Adams
Danll. Peniman	Ephraim Hill	Ezra Pond
John Pond, Jr.	Nathan Bullard	Benonah Partridge
Samll. Hayward	Nathan Whiting	James Partridge
Samll. Pond	Jonathan Hill	David Pond
Moses Thompson	Moses Hill	Benjamin Wrockwood
Job Plimpton	Danll. Pond	Eleazor Thomson
Elisha Bullard	Nathll. Whiting	Joseph Holbrook

David Thurston—*signature added in 1752*

Church Facts

- 1749** Frame raised for West Precinct Meeting House on Evergreen Street (April 6th).
- 1750** Second Church of Christ in Medway formed (Oct. 4th). Covenant signed by 33 male members.
- 1752** Rev. David Thurston built his house on Drybridge Hill.
- 1753** Captain Nathaniel Whiting and John Pond chosen ruling Elders of the West Precinct Church.
- 1754** Rev. David Thurston admitted to Mendon Association of Ministers.

1745

1750

1755

Medway Facts

- 1745** Sixty-five men impressed to fight in French/Indian War.
- 1750** Evergreen Cemetery established.
- 1750** John Harding settled on land which later became “Breezy Meadows”, home of author Kate Sanborn.
- 1751** First town meeting of West Precinct held (May 15th).
- 1751** Mendon Association of Ministers formed.

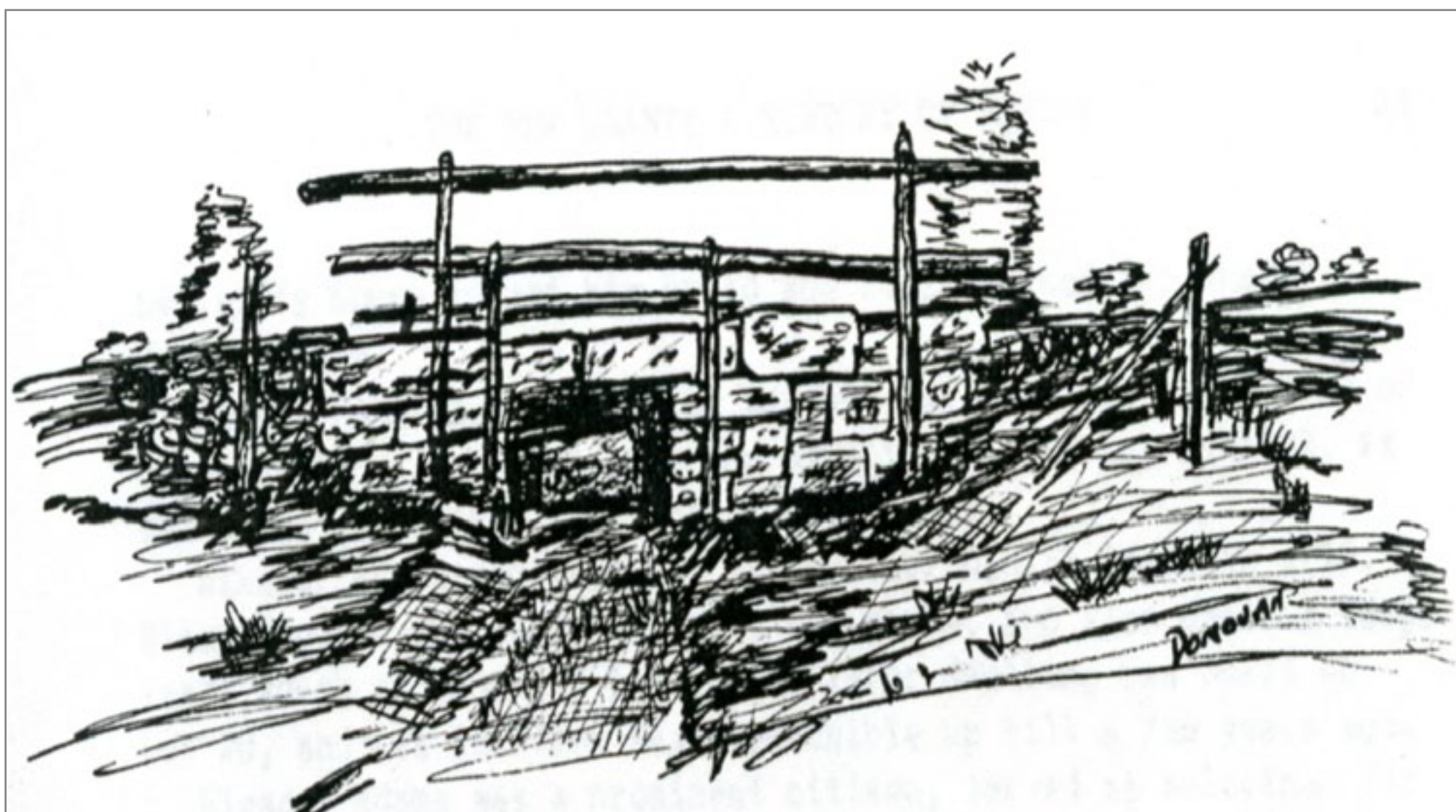
USA/World Facts

- 1741** Jonathan Edwards preached “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” in Enfield, CT during the Great Awakening of c. 1730–1755.
- 1752** Benjamin Franklin invented lightning conductor.
- 1752** Georgian Calendar adopted, making January 1st the beginning of the New Year.

Marker showing site of Old Meeting House



This stone marker stands at the west end of Evergreen Street, as it curves north to join Main Street. West Parish's earliest cemetery lies on the rise beyond it.



The “dry bridge” from which Drybridge Hill got its name. Traces of the old cattle passageway under the Turnpike can still be discerned at Main Street, just west of Holliston Street.

Church Facts

- 1761** Rev. Thurston received an annual salary of 30 pounds old tenor (currency) plus his firewood.
- 1763** Seventy-nine members added during Rev. Thurston's ministry.
- 1768** The church voted to administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of every other month.
- 1769** Rev. Thurston dismissed from his duties due to poor health (Feb. 22nd).
- 1769** A day of fasting and prayer held in preparation of a new pastor being called (Oct. 12th).

1760

1765

1770

Medway Facts

- 1759** An underground crossing, known as Drybridge, constructed under the turnpike (Rte. 109) to allow cattle to pasture on the other side.
- 1765** Medway is the first town in the Mass Bay Colony to take a census. 785 persons recorded.
- 1770** The town voted unanimously to forego the purchase or use of tea.

USA/World Facts

- 1754** Nine year conflict between France and England, known as the French and Indian War, began.
- 1758** Jonathan Edwards, American theologian and preacher, died at age 55.
- 1760** A raging fire in Boston destroyed 349 dwelling-houses, stores, and shops, leaving over 1000 people homeless.
- 1762** The sandwich invented by John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich, England.
- 1766** Daniel Boone traveled to the Kentucky territory through the Cumberland Gap.
- 1770** On March 5th, British soldiers killed five colonists during a disturbance called the Boston Massacre.

Renewal of the Church Covenant

1773

We who through the goodness and mercy of God, have been in an orderly Church state, but now by the overruling providence of God, uncomfortably divided about the sense and proper meaning of our Church covenant; do with a view to the glory of God, and resettlement of the gospel ministry among us Renew our covenant with God and one another; with dependence on the great Jehovah for supplies of grace to enable us to fulfill it. . .

Signers of the 1776 Confession of Faith

We the subscribers, having carefully examined the foregoing confession of faith, do receive it as that which containeth the essential doctrines of the gospel; and therefore, as that to which every person, who is received to our holy fellowship, and communion, must give evidence of the hearty approbation. In testimony of which, we have hereunto set our hands this 25 day of January A.D. 1776

David Sanford	Jonathan Hill	John Pond
Joseph Holbrook	Moses Thompson	Job Plimpton
Moses Hill	Jonathan Metcalf	Joseph Metcalf
Nath. Clark	Samll. Pond	Benjamin Partridge
Ephraim Hill	Ichabod Harding	Joseph Barbur
Daniel Penaman	Nathll. Partridge	Nathan Whiting
Job Plimpton Junr.	Abiel Pratt	



Minutemen confronting the British, prior to the start of the Revolutionary War.

Jonathan Edwards preaching during the Great Awakening.



Rev. David Sanford
1773–1810

Church Facts

1773 *Renewal of the church covenant.*
1775 *Church abolished the halfway covenant.*
1776 *First recorded Confession of Faith was adopted.*
1785 *Nearly 100 new church members added during Great Revival.*

1775

1780

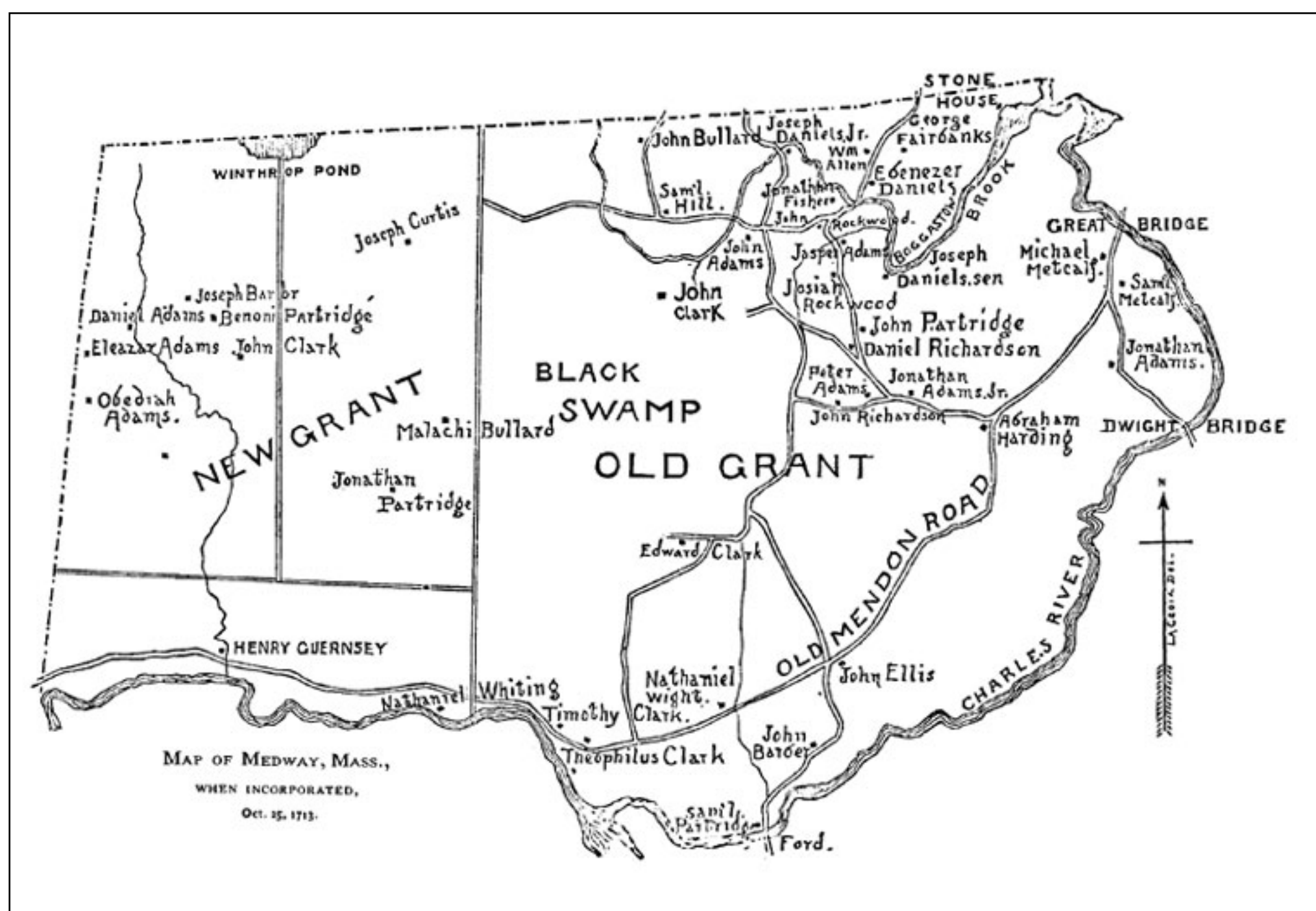
1785

Medway Facts

1775 *Medway ceased to issue the town warrants in His Majesty's name.*
1775 *Twenty-seven Medway militiamen marched to Readville, ready for battle.*
1776 *Over 300 men from Medway served during the Revolutionary War. Thirteen died for the cause of freedom.*
1776 *Rev. Sanford appointed chaplain for the American army.*
1777 *Abijah and Elisha, sons of Rev. David Thurston, both slain in the same Revolutionary War battle.*
1779 *Rev. Sanford appointed as a delegate to form the Constitution of the Commonwealth.*

USA/World Facts

1776 *The Declaration of Independence signed on July 4th.*
1781 *Gen. Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, VA on Oct. 19th, effectively ending the War of Independence.*
1784 *Benjamin Franklin created bifocal glasses.*
1786 *Shay's Rebellion occurred in Springfield, Massachusetts.*
1787 *Constitution of United States of America finished and signed.*
1787 *USS Constitution ("Old Ironsides") launched as part of the US Navy.*
1789 *George Washington inaugurated as first President of the United States of America.*



Medway was incorporated in 1713 and was bounded on both the east and the south by the Charles River. The Black Swamp formed a natural barrier between East and West Medway. In 1884, East Medway residents living in the “OLD GRANT” region petitioned to become the town of Millis.

Church Facts

Original records end in 1779 and do not resume until 1809.



The Major Luther Metcalf house of 1792, now known as the Village Inn



The Drybridge Schoolhouse was typical of small one-room schools located throughout Medway.

1790

1795

1800

Medway Facts

- 1793** *Norfolk County established.*
- 1794** *First year swine not allowed to roam free.*
- 1800** *Population of Medway: 1050*
- 1803** *First Post Office established in town.*

USA/World Facts

- 1790** *The Industrial Revolution began, made possible by innovations in steam power and in the production of iron and textiles.*
- 1792** *The United States Post Office Department established.*
- 1794** *Eli Whitney designed and constructed the cotton gin.*
- 1797** *John Adams inaugurated as second president of United States of America.*
- 1798** *Franz Joseph Haydn composed **The Creation**.*
- 1799** *George Washington died at Mount Vernon, Virginia (Dec. 14th).*
- 1800** *United States of America capital moved to Washington, D.C.*
- 1800** *Library of Congress founded.*
- 1803** *Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of United States of America.*

KNOW all Men by these Presents, That

\$151.00
we, Theodore Clark, Joseph Lovell, Comfort Walker, Moses Adams, and Thomas Harding, all of the First Parish, in the town of Medway, in the County of Norfolk, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, having been duly constituted and appointed the Committee of the said First Parish in Medway, to build for the accommodation of its inhabitants, an house for public worship; with the addition of the standing Committee of said Parish, which is Sylvenus Adams, John Clark, Jr. and Joseph Lovell Richardson, all of said first Parish in Medway, with authority for to sell, and grant deeds of conveyance of the Pews therein, as will appear by reference being had, to the records of the Clerk of said Parish:—And in consideration of one hundred, fifty one dollars, paid to Nathan Jones Jr. Treasurer of said Parish in Medway, or to his successor in said office, by Abijah Richardson, Abijah Richardson Jr., jointly, heirs of said First Parish in Medway:—The receipt whereof, we do hereby acknowledge, have hereby Released, Remitted, and Quitclaimed, and for and in the name of the inhabitants of the said First Parish in Medway, do by these presents, remiss, release, and quitclaim unto them the said Abijah Richardson, Abijah Richardson Jr., jointly, their Heirs and Assigns, during the continuance of said Meeting House, a certain Pew in said House for public worship, numbered on the door of said Pew, in figure or figures, which being No. twenty seven on the lower floor of said house.

no. 27.
To HAVE and to HOLD the said Pew, together with all the privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, to them the said Abijah Richardson, and Abijah Richardson Jr., jointly, their Heirs and Assigns, during the continuance of said house of public worship.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We the said Theodore Clark, Joseph Lovell, Moses Adams, Sylvenus Adams, John Clark Jr., Joseph Lovell Richardson, all inhabitants, and in behalf of the said First Parish in Medway, and its inhabitants, have hereunto set our respective hands and seals, this twelfth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us,

Nathan Jones Jr.
Simon H. Hammon

Theodore Clark
Joseph Lovell
Moses Adams
Sylvenus Adams

September 6, 1816

Abijah Richardson and son purchased
pew no. 27 on the lower level for \$151.

Rev. Jacob Ide
1814–1865



Church Facts

- 1807 Rev. Sanford suffered a paralytic stroke that ended his public career.
- 1813 Construction of Second Church building on Rabbit Hill begun. Church dedicated on April 23, 1814.
- 1815 Ladies Missionary Society formed.
- 1816 Parish House built with timber from 1749 West Precinct Meeting House.
- 1817 Female Charitable Society formed.



The Second Church of Christ in West Medway was constructed on Rabbit Hill by builder Malachi Bullard. This view shows the horse sheds and the 1846 steeple.

1805

1810

1815

Medway Facts

- 1805 First School Committee chosen; six school districts formed.
- 1806 Medway Cotton Manufacturing Company, the third in the country, organized.
- 1810 Beginning of straw goods industry in Medway. Women sewed hats at home.
- 1811 Great boom at Factory Village; 3 mills, 2 large tenements, 1 store and several residences built.
- 1814 Simeon Fuller started the first store in West Medway on “Rabbit Hill”.
- 1816 Known as the year without a summer: frost or snow recorded in every month.

USA/World Facts

- 1805 Lewis and Clark expedition explored the Louisiana Purchase.
- 1808 Ludwig van Beethoven composed the **Fifth Symphony**.
- 1811 First steamboat sailed down the Mississippi River to New Orleans.
- 1812 War of 1812, the second war between Great Britain and the United States, began June 18th.
- 1814 Francis Scott Key wrote lyrics for **The Star Spangled Banner** during British attack on Baltimore.
- 1814 British forces burn Washington, D.C. including the White House.
- 1815 War of 1812 ended with signing of Treaty of Ghent.



The Parish House, built in 1817 on the corner of Main and Franklin Streets, used lumber from the 1749 Old Meeting House.



The Baptist Church was built on the corner of Winthrop and Main Streets in 1823.



Birthplace of William Taylor Adams, author, educator, and statesman. The home on Ellis Street burned in 1893.

**Excerpt from “Balls and Their Consequences,”
A Sermon preached by Rev. Ide, 1818**

“My business is with *Balls as they are practiced, at the present day*. The question, now to be determined, is, whether rational, and accountable beings, capable of the exalted pleasure of serving and enjoying God, destined to a future and an eternal existence, in which they are to receive according to the deeds done here in the body, have a *right* to spend their precious time, in dancing for *mere amusement*; in circumstances too, where they are exposed to peculiar temptations; where the mind is necessarily dissipated; where health and property are often wantonly sacrificed; where hours, consecrated, by nature, to silence and repose, are devoted to hilarity and mirth; and where by common consent, and the laws of fashion, serious reflection and fervent piety have no place.”

Covenant of 1825

Having as we trust chosen the Lord Jehovah, as our God, we now publicly and solemnly give ourselves to him. We acknowledge his right in us, and authority over us. We promise by the assistance of his Holy Spirit to serve him with holy fear and love in all the duties of his appointment, hoping through Christ to receive the forgiveness of our sins, and an inheritance with them that are sanctified.

Church Facts

- 1819** *Weekly Sunday School classes formed.*
- 1825** *A new Covenant and Confession of Faith adopted.*
- 1827** *A revival occurred: 65 new members joined the church.*
- 1830's** *Rev. Ide conducted regular Sunday afternoon services at the Medway Village schoolhouse.*

1820

1825

1830

Medway Facts

- 1815** *Rev. Ide served on the Medway School Committee until 1850.*
- 1817** *West Parish library started at Parish House; Jacob Ide served as first librarian.*
- 1822** *William T. Adams, known as Oliver Optic, famous author of boys' books, born.*
- 1825** *Townspeople paid \$114.28 to assist in building the Bunker Hill Monument.*
- 1830** *Population of Medway: 1756*

USA/World Facts

- 1820** *Maine, once part of MA, became a free state as part of the Missouri Compromise.*
- 1825** *John Quincy Adams from Massachusetts became the 6th President of the United States of America.*
- 1825** *The Erie Canal, linking the Hudson River to Lake Erie, opened for traffic.*
- 1826** *Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on July 4th.*
- 1828** *John Jay Audubon published the first volume of Birds in America.*
- 1833** *Samuel Morse invented the Morse Code for the telegraph.*



Rev. Jacob Ide’s home, located near the corner of Main and Winthrop Streets.



Due to hardship of travelling to West Medway to attend services, a sister church was established in the village to be known as Village Church Congregational. David Sanford, the first pastor, was the grandson of our second pastor.

Men Trained by Rev. Jacob Ide for the Ministry

- Sewall Harding

Zolua Whitmore

George Fisher

James O. Barney

_____ Cone

_____ Morrell

Lucius W. Clark

Charles R. Fisk

John Forbush

Charles T. Torrey

Thomas Edwards

Edmund Dowse

Samuel Uial

Abram Jenkins, Jr.

Joseph H. Bailey

Jonathan Grout

Preston Pond, Jr.

Allen Lincoln

Asa Bullard

James M. Bacon
- David Brigham

John M. Putnam

Henry H. F. Swett

Levi Packard

M. S. Hagar

Gilbert Fay

Cyrus W. Conant

Varnum Noyes

Isaac E. Heaton

Eli Thurston

John Dwight

Charles Chamberlain

Samuel Hunt

Richard C. Spofford

William Phipps, Jr.

William M. Thayer

Horace D. Walker

William S. Leavett

Malachi Bullard

Jacob Ide, Jr.

Church Facts

- 1838

Village Church formed by 32 members of the Second Church of Christ.
- 1846

The high pulpit and the cupola removed; a spire installed.
- 1847

A fence erected around the meetinghouse common.
- 1849

A fair held for two nights in the Parish House. The proceeds devoted to improving the common.

1835

1840

1845

Medway Facts

- 1835

First fire engine brought into town by the Medway Cotton Manufacturing Company.
- 1837

Rev. Jacob Ide awarded the Doctorate of Divinity degree by Brown University.
- 1842

“Dry Bridge” under turnpike abolished at a cost of \$125.
- 1846

A bowling alley built in Medway.

USA/World Facts

- 1835

P. T. Barnum began his first circus tour across America.
- 1838

Cherokees traveled the “Trail of Tears”.
- 1839

Daguerre invented the first form of photography.
- 1840

Oregon Trail first used for massive westward expansion.
- 1846

Mexican War fought to gain California and other southwestern territories.
- 1848

Gold discovered in California.



David Sanford Monument, Evergreen Cemetery

Covenant of 1825

June 24, 1858 Revision of Second Paragraph

We give up our offspring to God in baptism, praying that he would grant them that cleansing of heart which is signified by the washing of water and promising to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Sermon by Rev. Ide on the Semi-centennial Anniversary of his settlement as pastor of the church.

“But by the grace of God I am what I am; and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain.” —1 CORINTHIANS 15: 10.

“Among the numerous texts which have occurred to my mind as suited to this occasion, there is none which meets my feelings so fully as this expression of the Apostle Paul. Compelled as I am, by the nature of the occasion which has assembled us together, to speak frequently of myself, and what I have done, or rather of what God has done by me, I seem to see in this passage something suggestive of what I ought to say, and in the manner in which I ought to speak.

If I am fit to preach the gospel anywhere, duty to God requires that I should acknowledge that it is all of his grace. I remember well when my heart was supremely attached to this world, and when, though restrained by the instruction ...”

Church Facts

- 1853** *The first organ installed.*
- 1860** *Monument honoring Rev. David Sanford consecrated in Evergreen Cemetery.*
- 1862** *George Ide, son of Rev. Jacob Ide, and Herman Sparrow of Medway killed in the Civil War battle at Cedar Mountain, Virginia.*
- 1864** *Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the ordination of Rev. Jacob Ide held (Nov. 2nd).*

1850

1855

1860

Medway Facts

- 1850** *St. Joseph’s Church established on Village Street.*
- 1851** *High School built on School Street.*
- 1853** *First railroad train came into town.*
- 1860** *Dean Library Association incorporated.*
- 1861** *First train on “Air Line” of the NY & NE Railroad arrived in town.*
- 1861** *Nearly 400 men from Medway served in the Union Army and Navy during the Civil War; fifty-two gave their lives.*

USA/World Facts

- 1852** *Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Uncle Tom’s Cabin published.*
- 1853** *Elisha Otis invented safety brake used in modern elevators.*
- 1854** *Republican Party formed for the abolition of slavery.*
- 1861** *Civil War began between the states, fought over differing ideas of slavery.*



Sanford Hall built in 1871. The first floor housed at different times a barber shop, the Dean Library, a bank, a post office and various stores. The second floor was used for meetings and social events. Henry Ward Beecher lectured here in 1881. In 1911 Sanford Hall burned to the ground.



Marker at entrance to Evergreen Cemetery



Rev. Seth W. Segur

Rev. Stephen Knowlton
1865–1872
Rev. Seth W. Segur
1873–1875
Rev. James Bell
1876–1885

Church Facts

- 1866 Major renovations made to sanctuary, increasing seating capacity from 64 to 98 on lower level.
- 1871 Revolutionary section of Evergreen Cemetery deeded to Evergreen Cemetery Association.
- 1872 Four pulpit chairs presented to church that are still in use today.
- 1874 Construction began on a chapel, now known as Fellowship Hall. Completed in 1875.
- 1875 Rev. Segur died suddenly while visiting in Tallmadge, Ohio.

1865

1870

1875

Medway Facts

- 1865 Oakland Street Cemetery dedicated.
- 1869 Medway streets officially named.
- 1870 The town’s first bank, known as the Medway Savings Bank, established.
- 1872 First Sanford Hall dedicated; Dean Library relocated to a portion of first floor.
- 1874 Torrent Engine House #1 built on Main Street.
- 1874 Christ Church Protestant Episcopal established on School Street.
- 1874 St. Joseph’s Cemetery established.

USA/World Facts

- 1865 President Abraham Lincoln assassinated on April 14th.
- 1865 Homestead Act became law, granting 160 acres to early settlers.
- 1867 U.S.A. acquired Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million
- 1869 The Great Peace Jubilee, a multi-day event celebrating the end of the Civil War, held in Boston.
- 1869 Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads joined in Promontory, Utah.
- 1871 Great fire of Chicago nearly destroyed the city.
- 1873 Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis invented “waist overalls” (early levis) from denim fabric.
- 1876 National League of baseball founded.
- 1877 The first telephone line built from Boston to Somerville. First switchboard built in Boston.

Rev. Augustus H. Fuller

1886–1889

Rev. William Carr

1889–1893



**The Main Street, West Medway in 1885,
showing buildings across from the church,
still standing.**

Second Church of Christ

Confession of Faith

1879

We believe in the one living and true God:

In the Father Almighty, Maker and Ruler of heaven and earth, who so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son for its redemption:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who for our salvation became man, was crucified, dead and buried; who rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father; whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:

And in the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, who spake in the Scriptures, by whom alone we, being sinners, are renewed and sanctified; whom, with the Father and the Son, together one God, is supremely to be loved, and alone to be adored:

And in the forgiveness of sins, through repentance and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ:

And in one church of the redeemed on earth and in heaven; in one baptism for the remission of sins; in one communion of the body and blood of Christ:

And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life everlasting.

Amen

Church Facts

1881 *Memorial service held to commemorate the life of Pres. James A. Garfield, the second president to be assassinated (Sept. 26th).*

1882 *A summer storm severely damaged the church.*

1884 *Several members resigned to form the Third Congregational Church.*

1885 *The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor organized.*

1880

1885

1890

Medway Facts

1881 *First class graduated from Medway High School.*

1885 *Millis set apart and incorporated.*

1891 *First concrete sidewalks laid in town.*

1892 *Free Public Library opened in West Medway with 567 books.*

USA/World Facts

1885 *Washington Monument completed.*

1886 *Statue of Liberty unveiled in New York.*

1888 *Eastman's Kodak camera made amateur photography practical.*

1892 *Ellis Island became the chief immigration entry point to the U.S.A.*



Soldiers' Monument erected and dedicated in 1896 by the Grand Army of the Republic.



This 1900 photograph shows the sanctuary decorated to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church.



An open Bible on Jacob Ide's grave stone reads, "But by the grace of God I am what I am", I Cor 15:10.

**Rev. John F. Crosby
1893–1899**

**Rev. George E. Sweet
1899–1901
Rev. George R. Hewitt
1901–1913**

Church Facts

- 1900** *First pipe organ dedicated (April 12th).*
- 1900** *Members voted to heat the church.*
- 1900** *150th Anniversary celebration of the church held (Oct. 3–4).*
- 1901** *The church was incorporated and the name changed from Second Church of Christ in Medway to the Second Congregational Church (Mar. 11th).*
- 1902** *Members of the Third Congregational Church restored to full fellowship.*
- 1903** *Robert Hewitt, 14 year old son of Pastor George Hewitt, drowned while vacationing in Maine.*
- 1906** *Electric wires connected to the chapel for the first time.*

1895

1900

1905

Medway Facts

- 1896** *GAR Civil War Monument in Evergreen Cemetery dedicated.*
- 1897** *The electric railway came to Medway.*
- 1898** *Electric lights installed on Medway streets.*
- 1899** *Jewish synagogue built in West Medway.*
- 1901** *Medway Historical Society organized.*
- 1903** *Rural free delivery mail route established from Medway post office.*
- 1904** *Dr. Ide's monument dedicated in Evergreen Cemetery during "Old Home Day" (Aug. 3rd).*

USA/World Facts

- 1895** *Wilhelm Röntgen discovered x-rays.*
- 1896** *Gold discovered in Yukon's Klondike.*
- 1897** *Boston's subway system completed.*
- 1898** *Explosion of USS Maine in Havana started the Spanish-American War.*
- 1903** *First World Series played. Boston American League team won in five games.*
- 1903** *In North Carolina, the Wright Brothers made the first successful powered airplane flight (Dec. 17th).*
- 1906** *Massive earthquake struck San Francisco, California killing over 3000 people.*
- 1908** *Federal Bureau of Investigation founded.*



Sanford Hall. A new brick structure was built in 1912 to replace the town hall that burnt to the ground in 1911.



This building, across from the church, served as one of two public libraries from 1918 until 1980, when the books were moved to the present location on High Street.



James G. Anderson School, named after the long-serving principal, was dedicated in 1918. The building has been used as a high school, an elementary school, and now condominiums.



Postcard of church, c. 1922,v showing the original horse sheds, behind the church on right.

Rev. Henry F. Burdon
1914–1920
Rev. George E. Brown
1921–1923

Church Facts

- Rev. Hewitt established the custom of Thursday evening services.
- 1910** Church restored the sanctuary to the colonial style.
- 1912** The tradition of the annual church fair started with a two day event.
- 1918** Flag dedication service held to honor men from church who served in World War I. (April 7th).

1910

1915

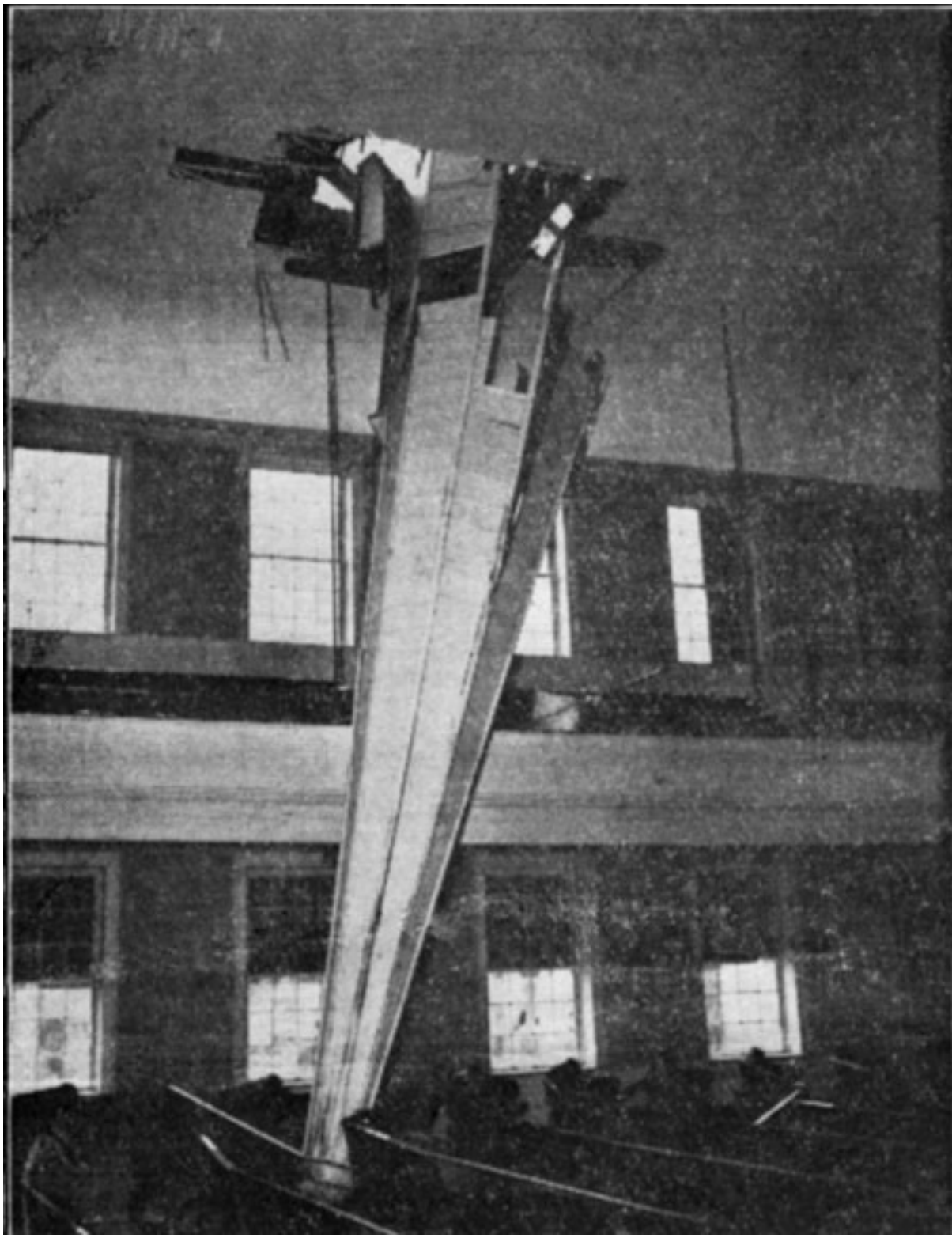
1920

Medway Facts

- 1910** The Chaplain David Sanford Scholarship Fund established at Medway High School.
- 1913** Bicentennial anniversary of the town celebrated.
- 1918** The children of Lydia Thayer donated the building next to the parsonage for use as a public library.
- 1918** William Hewitt, Rev. Hewitt’s son, was killed in France while participating in airplane training exercises during WWI (May 18). A square in front of the church is named in his honor.
- 1922** Medway’s first motorized fire equipment put into service.

USA/World Facts

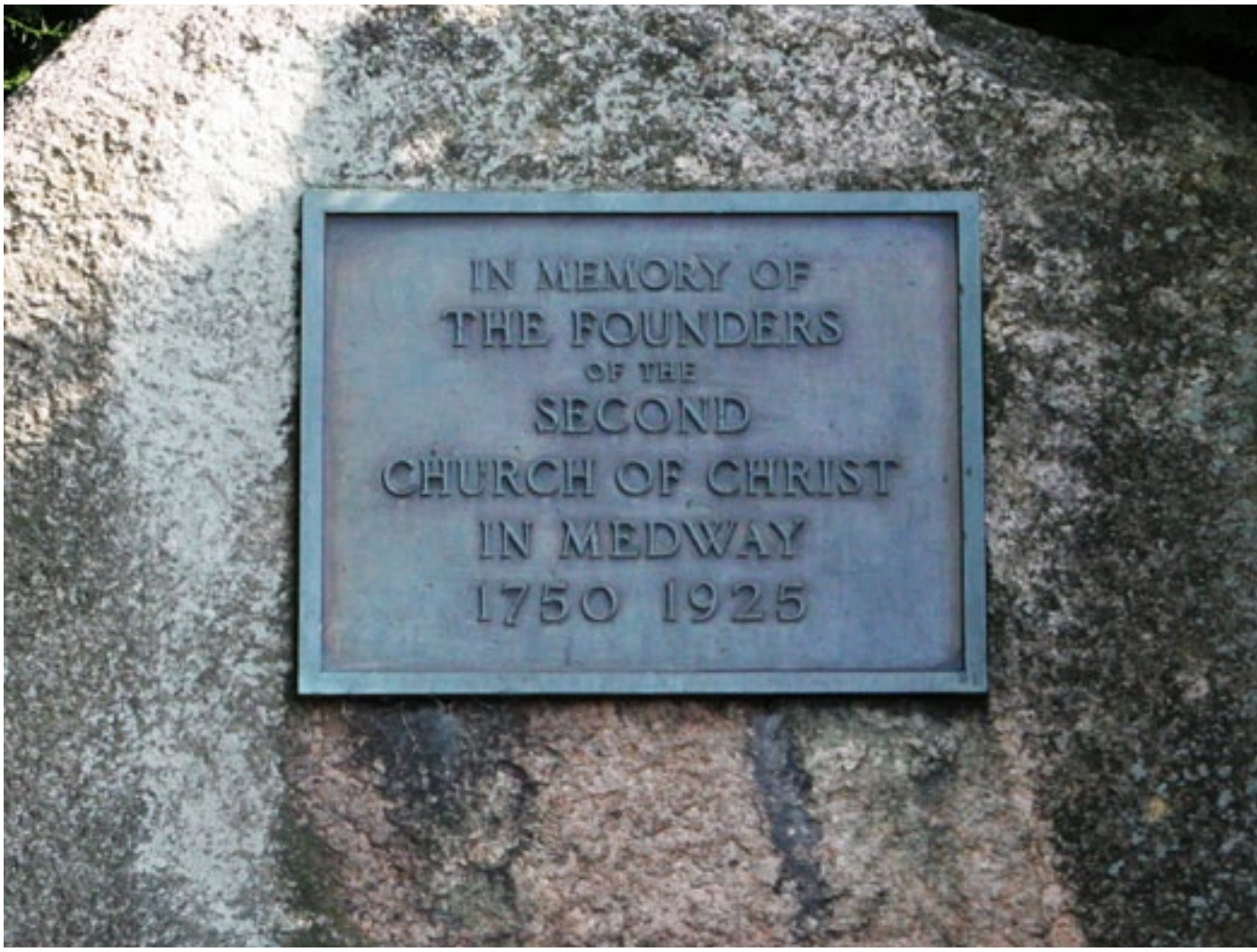
- 1909** Robert Peary planted an American flag at the North Pole.
- 1910** Boys Scouts of America chartered.
- 1912** RMS Titanic sank after striking an iceberg.
- 1912** Fenway Park, home of Boston Red Sox, opened April 12th.
- 1915** Girl Scouts of America established.
- 1916** Albert Einstein published his Theory of Relativity.
- 1917** U.S.A. declared war against Germany.
- 1919** The Great Molasses Flood in Boston killed 21 and injured 150 (Jan. 17th).
- 1919** The 18th Amendment, establishing prohibition, ratified.
- 1920** Panama Canal finished.
- 1920** The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote.



In the 1938 hurricane, the church steeple ripped its way through the roof, crashing into the sanctuary.



Rev. Lawrence R. Howard



Tablet commemorating the founders of the church in 1750. The stone is located on the church lawn.

Rev. David Crockett
1924–1928
Rev. Lawrence R. Howard
1929–1939

Church Facts

- 1925** *The tablet on the front common unveiled during the 175th anniversary of the church.*
- 1926** *An electric blower for the organ donated.*
- 1926** *The Methodist Church disbanded and their members joined the church.*
- 1930** *180th Anniversary celebration of the church held (Oct. 4th).*
- 1937** *187th Anniversary celebration of the church held as a fund-raiser to retire church indebtedness incurred during the depression. (Oct. 21st).*
- 1938** *In September, the steeple crashed into the sanctuary during the hurricane. The point of impact is still visible under a pew near the back of the sanctuary.*

1925

1930

1935

Medway Facts

- 1925** *Medway population topped 3000.*
- 1930** *Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary celebrated at the church.*
- 1930** *Centralization of Massachusetts industry resulted in the town's gradual transformation to a residential community.*
- 1935** *First performance given by the Medway Players.*
- 1938** *The Medway Baptist Church destroyed in Great New England Hurricane.*

USA/World Facts

- 1926** *A. A. Milne wrote **Winnie the Pooh**.*
- 1927** *Charles Lindbergh flew solo across the Atlantic Ocean.*
- 1928** *Penicillin discovered by Alexander Fleming.*
- 1929** *The Great Depression began.*
- 1932** *Radio City Music Hall in New York City opened (Dec. 27th).*
- 1933** *The 21st Amendment to the Constitution passed, repealing prohibition.*
- 1935** *President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act.*



Rev. James A. Dailey



Pulpit—Before and After

Federation Agreement of 1940

Historic Preamble of 1940:

The Second Congregational Church of Medway, Massachusetts, and the Baptist Church of West Medway, churches of West Medway, Massachusetts, in order to better fulfill their common mission to the community, to conserve the resources of the Kingdom of God, and to promote the unity of His disciples for which Christ prayed, do hereby adopt the following Articles of Agreement and constitute themselves the Federated Church to be known as the Community Church.

Ratified and Adopted by:

The Second Congregational Church of Medway, Massachusetts and the Baptist Church of West Medway on the 25th day of June, 1940.

Rev. Merton E. Libby
1939–1940

Rev. Perry E. Haines
1940–1942

Rev. Ivan S. Nowlan
1942–1946

Rev. James A. Dailey
1947–1954

Church Facts

- 1944** *Flag Dedication Service held as a tribute to church members and friends serving in WWII (April 23rd).*
- 1948** *The first church newsletter mailed in March.*
- 1950** *The 200th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the church held (Oct. 7–8).*
- 1953** *Carillon presented to the church.*
- 1953** *After a complete restoration, the pulpit used by Rev. Ide from 1814–1846 presented once again to the church (May 19th).*

1940

1945

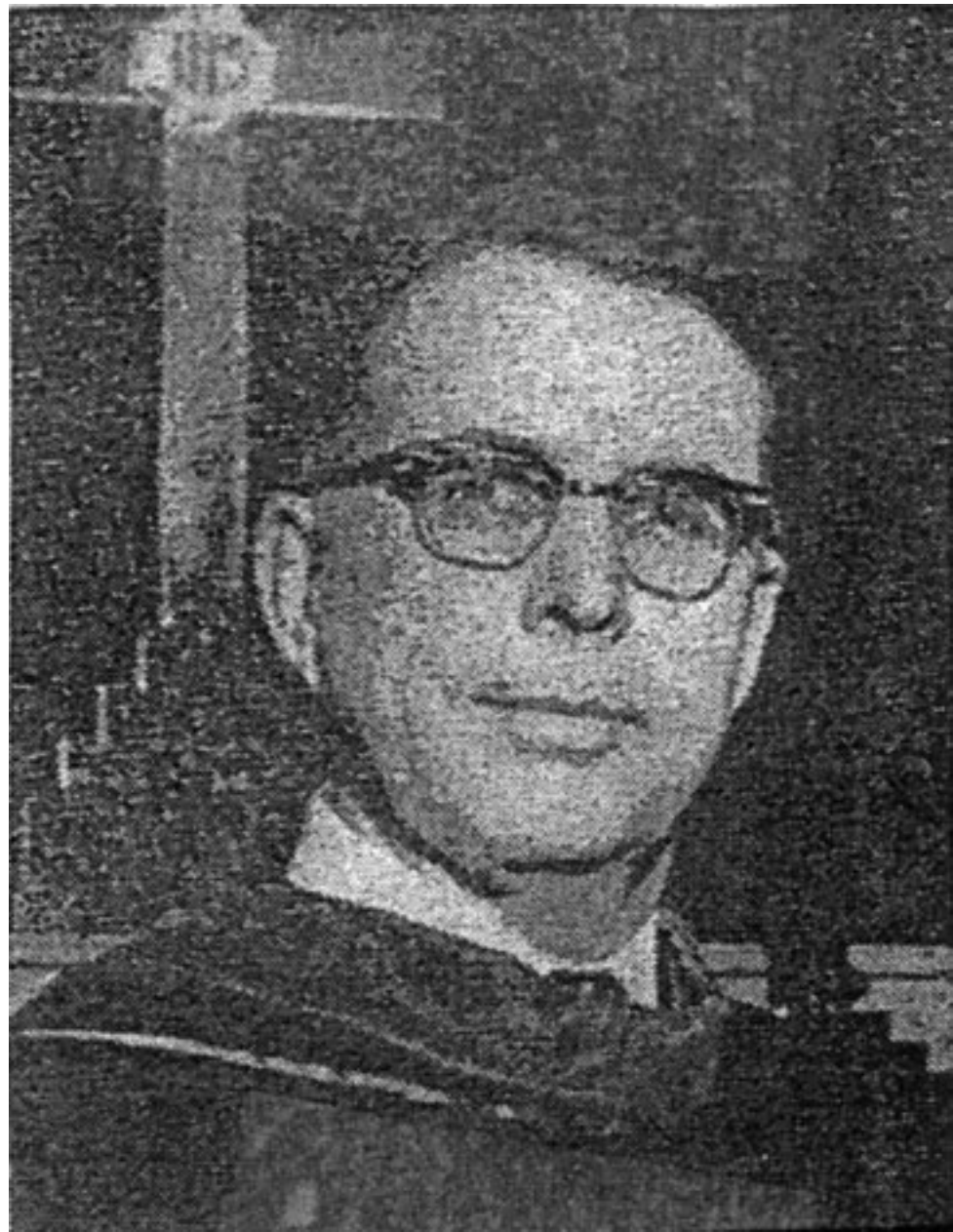
1950

Medway Facts

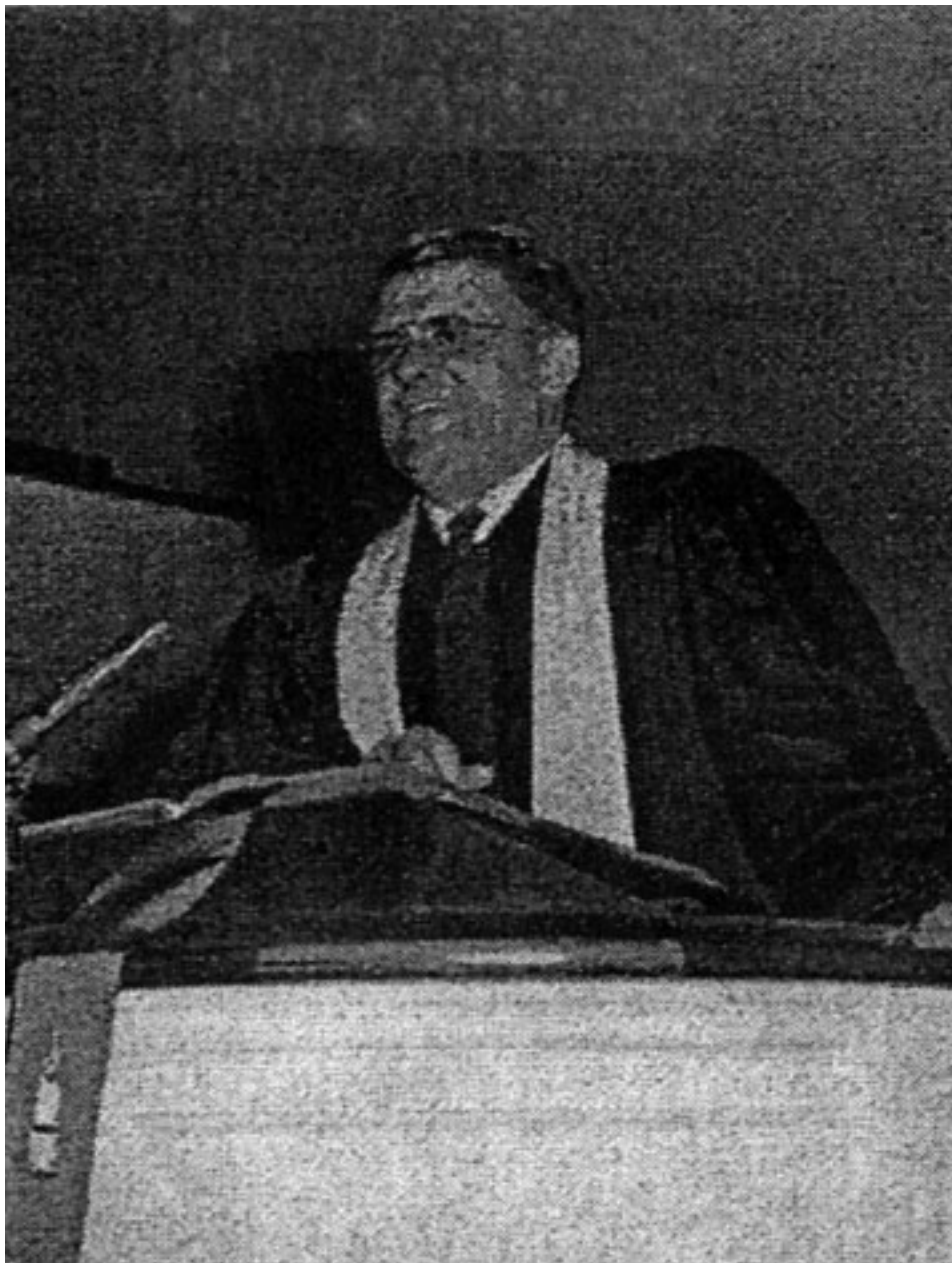
- 1940** *High Street Elementary School built; now used as the Medway Public Library.*
- 1950** *First police cruisers used.*
- 1953** *The dial telephone system installed in town.*

USA/World Facts

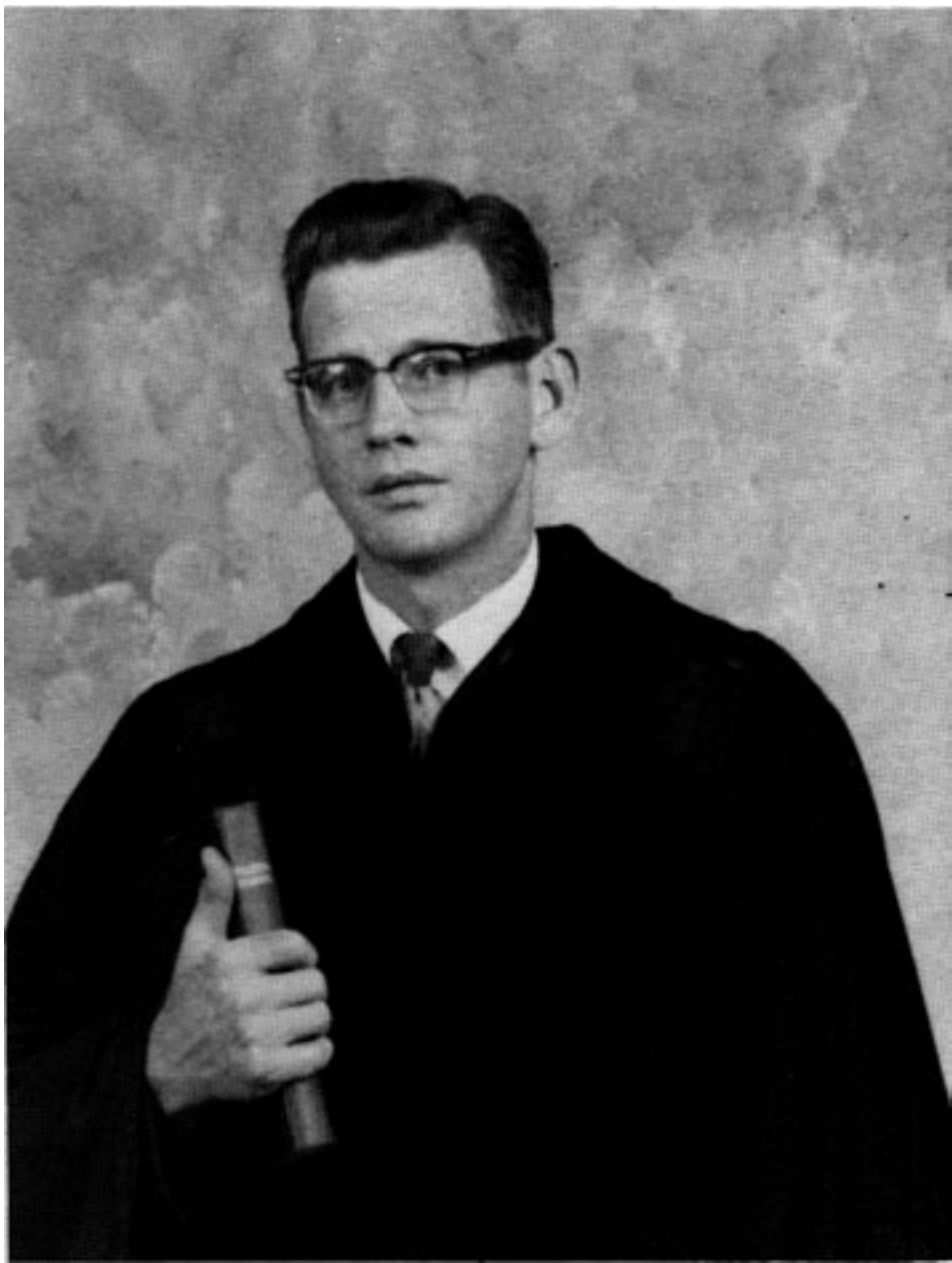
- 1938** *Alfred Butts invented game called “Criss-Crosswords.” Rights sold in 1948 to James Brunot, who marketed the game as Scrabble.*
- 1941** *President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered his Four Freedoms speech (Jan. 6th).*
- 1941** *On Dec. 7th. Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. United States of America entered World War II.*
- 1945** *V. E. Day ended the war in Europe (May 8th).*
- 1945** *The Enola Gay dropped the atomic bomb on Japan (Aug. 6th). Japan surrendered (August 14th), ending World War II.*
- 1948** *Israel became a nation.*
- 1950** *The Korean War began in June and lasted three years.*



Rev. James E. Boyd



Rev. Kroum S. Jordan



Rev. Carl Schultz

Rev. James E. Boyd
1955–1957
Rev. Kroum S. Jordan
1958–1966
Rev. Carl Schultz
1967–1971

Church Facts

- 1955** *VBS cancelled due to a polio epidemic.*
- 1958** *An electric sign erected on the church lawn.*
- 1959** *Esther Saunders Clough retired, having served as the church organist from 1914 to 1959.*
- 1959** *The Betterment Fund used to make many repairs and changes about the church property.*
- 1963** *A vote taken to make the building non-smoking.*
- 1964** *The baptismal font presented on Mar. 29th in memory of Winthrop Giles, Jr.*
- 1965** *Community Church severed our association with the Mendon Conference and the Conference of the United Church of Christ.*

1955

1960

1965

Medway Facts

- 1954** *Medway Elementary School opened; now Francis J. Burke School.*
- 1961** *New Junior-Senior High School opened on Holliston Street.*
- 1963** *“Faith of Our Father’s Day”—Medway 250th Anniversary Celebration observed.*
- 1965** *Medway’s most disastrous fire destroyed the railroad depot, an office building, a boot shop and a two family dwelling (June 4th).*
- 1965** *A shopping center built on Main Street.*
- 1967** *The first traffic light installed in town.*
- 1967** *The North School opened; now the John D. McGovern School.*
- 1967** *The last train arrived in Medway.*
- 1968** *Central post office on Main Street dedicated (Sept. 13th).*

USA/World Facts

- 1955** *Supreme Court ordered school desegregation.*
- 1959** *Hawaii became the 50th state in the Union (Aug. 21st).*
- 1961** *Alan Shepard became the first American in space (May 5th).*
- 1963** *President John F. Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas (Nov. 22nd).*
- 1963** *Heavy United States involvement in the Vietnam Conflict, lasting until 1969.*
- 1969** *Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, Apollo 11 astronauts, became the first two men to walk on the moon (July 20th).*



Handbell ringer Donna Henry and Director Beryl Samia are pictured along with some of their bells.



Josephine Daniels, baptized at age 101. Shown from left to right: Paul Russell, Rev. Spahr, Ms. Daniels, Raymond Wilber.



Feb. 24, 1974. Rev. Spahr shown with eight recipients of the God and Country merit badge. Shown from left to right: Robert Wilcox, Art Hollister, Charles Waldron, Pastor Spahr, Ward Hollister, Edward Waldron, Alan Knight, Brian Rice. Seated (with broken leg) is Donald Bigelow.



Rev. Carl Schultz shown breaking ground for the new Christian Education wing.

Church Facts

- 1969 *The custom of having the chimes play at noon daily and before and after church services established.*
- 1970 *Ground broken for the Christian Education wing; kitchen relocated to its present location in Fellowship Hall.*
- 1973 *Josephine Daniels became the oldest new believer to join the church (Apr. 17th).*
- 1974 *First God and Country merit badges in Medway presented by Rev. Spahr.*
- 1982 *First handbells purchased.*

Rev. Earle L. Spahr
1972–1975

Rev. Donald L. Blanchard
1976–1978

1970

1975

1980

Medway Facts

- 1973 *The new addition to the High School opened; now the Medway Middle School.*
- 1974 *Renovations to the Arthur Choate Memorial Park completed.*
- 1976 *Medway minted a coin picturing the church in celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States of America.*
- 1977 *Tri-County Regional High School opened in Franklin serving the surrounding towns.*
- 1978 *The Great Blizzard of 1978 stranded many residents during the week-long state of emergency.*

USA/World Facts

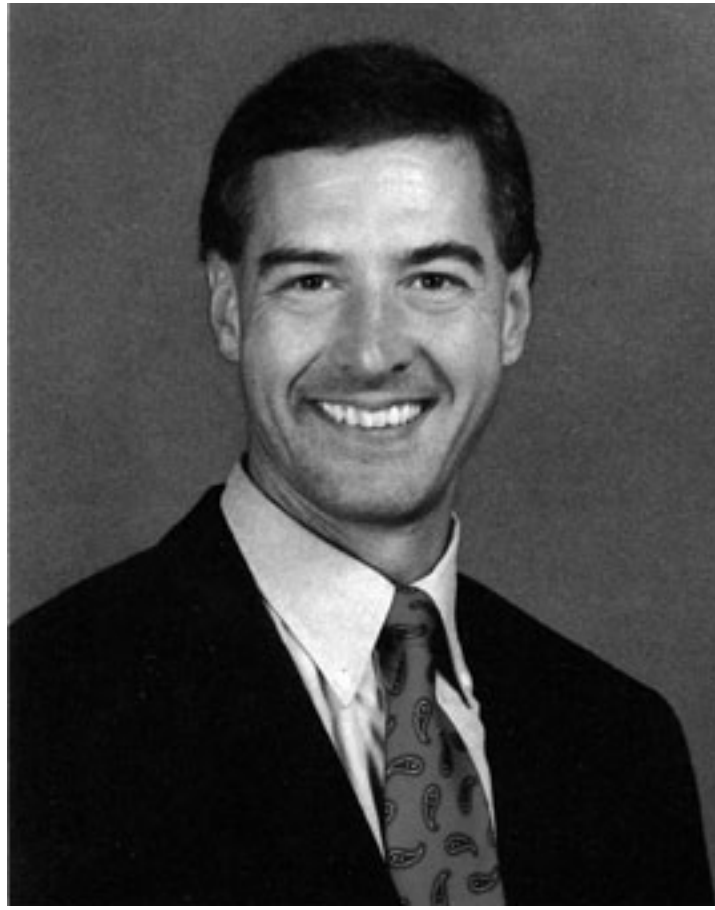
- 1973 *Roe v. Wade decision announced by Supreme Court (Jan. 22nd).*
- 1974 *President Richard Nixon resigned after the Watergate scandal (Aug. 9th).*
- 1975 *First class postage cost 13 cents.*
- 1981 *Space Shuttle Columbia made its first orbital test flight.*

Church Doctrine

1995



Rev. Marvin E.
Derby



Rev. E. Wesley
Chapman

The doctrines of this church shall be those which are taught in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the Word of God. We believe that the Bible is God's infallible written word: uniquely, verbally, and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit. Hence it was written without error in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We accept those large areas of doctrinal teaching which historically have had agreement by all true Christians and which have been set down in the creeds, such as the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the statement of the Council of Chalcedon, the Reform confessions, and the Savoy Declaration.

Rev. Marvin Derby
1979–1988

Rev. E. Wesley Chapman
1988–1995

Church Facts

- 1986** *Women of the Word (WOW) began its weekly Bible study.*
- 1986** *Sanctuary rededicated after complete restoration (Nov. 9th).*
- 1989** *The 175th Anniversary of the present church building observed (Sept. 10th).*
- 1992** *Little Lambs Nursery School started.*
- 1995** *Congregational, Baptist and Community churches merged to become the Community Church of West Medway, Inc.*
- 1995** *Community Church joined the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (4C's).*

1985

1990

1995

Medway Facts

- 1988** *Rabbit Hill designated a National Historic District with the Community Church as the focal point.*
- 1988** *The Town of Medway held its 275th Anniversary Celebration (June 23–26).*
- 1990** *Medway opened new fire station at the intersection of Rtes. 126 and 109.*
- 1991** *Medway opened new police station on Village Street at the site of the old train station.*

USA/World Facts

- 1985** *The seat belt law went into effect.*
- 1986** *The Space Shuttle Challenger exploded killing all seven astronauts on board.*
- 1990** *Wrecking cranes began tearing down the Berlin Wall at the Brandenburg Gate (April 29th).*
- 1991** *Operation Desert Storm started in Iraq.*
- 1991** *The Soviet Union formally dissolved, ending the Cold War (Dec. 21st).*
- 1993** *Internet usage exploded with introduction of HTML and a free tool called the web browser.*



Rev. David Stewart



Rev. David Melvin



Rev. Travis Bond

Rev. David Stewart

1995–2001

Rev. David Melvin

2003–2008

Rev. Travis Bond

2010–



Steeple fire and restoration

Church Facts

- 2001** *250th Anniversary Celebration of the church held (October 21st).*
- 2006** *The church changed its leadership by electing Elders (June).*
- 2008** *The Youth Room in the church basement dedicated (November).*
- 2009** *The church steeple destroyed by fire after being struck by lightning (July 2nd). Worship services held in tent and high school for sixteen months.*
- 2011** *The church celebrated the completion of the Restoration and Renovation of the sanctuary (March 20th).*

2000

2005

2010

Medway Facts

- 2003** *A new shopping mall opened on Main Street. It included the first large supermarket in town since 1989, a McDonalds and a Starbucks.*
- 2004** *Medway High School opened on Summer Street.*
- 2008** *The Medway Village Historic District designated as a National Historic District.*
- 2008** *Town government reorganized under new town charter.*

USA/World Facts

- 2001** *On September 11, terrorists attacked the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.*
- 2003** *Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas during reentry (Feb. 1st).*
- 2003** *Operation Iraqi Freedom began (Mar. 20th).*
- 2004** *Boston Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918.*
- 2005** *Hurricane Katrina, the costliest hurricane in USA history, hit the Gulf Coast (Aug. 29th).*
- 2008** *Global financial crisis and recession led to layoffs and government bailouts.*