

**MANUAL OF THE FIRST CHURCH
OF CHRIST AND NAMES OF
ALL THE MEMBERS: FROM THE
YEAR 1735 TO NOV. 1, 1885**

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Manual of the First Church of Christ and Names of All the Members: From the Year 1735 to
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THEO. W. ELLIS

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1637.

MANUAL

115 17
OF THE

First Church of Christ

AND

NAMES OF ALL THE MEMBERS

From the Year 1735 to Nov. 1, 1885.

COMPILED BY THEO. W. ELLIS.

I asked its people to declare
The name their glorious City bore;
And on the opened gates I saw —
Illustrious shield! "THE LORD IS THERE."

Springfield, Mass.

1885.

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1898

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Historical Sketch.

CHURCH ORGANIZED, 1637. SABBATH SCHOOL INSTITUTED.

1818. NEW CHAPEL AND SABBATH SCHOOL

ROOMS COMPLETED, 1874.

SPRINGFIELD was settled by emigrants from Roxbury in the spring of 1636. The First church was probably organized during the next year, 1637, and Rev. GEORGE MOXON was the first pastor. He had received Episcopal ordination in England, and was dismissed, at his own request, in 1652. Of Mr. MOXON little is known after his return to England; it is believed that he was never again in charge of a church. For eight years following, Mr. JOHN PYNCHON, Deacons WRIGHT and CHAPIN, and others "carried on the public worship." The successor of Mr. MOXON, Rev. PELATIAH GLOVER, of Dorchester, was settled in 1660, and continued in office till his death, at the age of fifty-five years, March 29, 1692. Rev. DANIEL BREWER, a native of Roxbury, and a graduate of Harvard college in 1687, was ordained pastor of the church, May, 1694, and continued in the ministry till his death, November 5, 1733. His age was sixty-six, and the length of his ministry, forty years. Of him, the Rev. Mr. WILLIAMS, of Longmeadow, wrote in his diary: "I bless God for such a neighbor." Rev. ROBERT BRECK, a native of Marlboro, was graduated at Harvard in 1730, and was ordained and set over this church, January 27, 1736. After a ministry of forty-eight years, he died, April 23, 1784, aged seventy. Rev. BEZALEEL HOWARD, D. D., was born at Bridgewater in 1753, was graduated at Harvard in 1781, and was ordained pastor of the church, April 27, 1785. From ill health he resigned the active duties of the ministry in 1803, and was dismissed January 25, 1809. He lived honored and respected in his retirement, and died at the age of eighty-three, January 20, 1837. Rev. SAMUEL OSGOOD, D. D., was born at Fryeburg, Me., February 3, 1784. He was graduated at Dartmouth college, 1805,

read theology at Dorchester, in 1806 was licensed to preach, studied theology at Princeton, N. J., and was ordained and installed over the church, January 25, 1809. He resigned the active duties of the pastorate, May 1, 1854, but continued actively employed in doing good, preaching in vacant pulpits, visiting the poor and destitute of the city, to the time of his death, December 8, 1862, in the seventy-ninth year of his age, and the fifty-fourth of his ministry.

Rev. HENRY MARTYN PARSONS (the seventh pastor) was born at East Haddam, Ct., November 13, 1828, was graduated at Yale college in 1848, and at the Connecticut Theological Institute in 1854. He was ordained and installed, November 15, 1854, and served faithfully as pastor of the church until November 15, 1870, when he was dismissed, at his own request, in order to accept a call from another church.

Rev. EDWARD ALLEN REED (the eighth pastor) was ordained and installed, June 14, 1871, and dismissed to another field, July 15, 1878.

Rev. EDWARD P. TERHUNE, D. D. (the ninth pastor), was graduated at the theological seminary of the Reformed (Dutch) church, and ordained in 1855,—two pastoral charges before his settlement here, viz.: at Charlotte C. H., Va., and Newark, N. J.; installed over this church, April 30, 1879. He was dismissed at his own request in order to accept a call to the Reformed (Dutch) church on Bedford avenue, Brooklyn, May 19, 1884.

Rev. MICHAEL BURNHAM (the tenth pastor) was born in Essex, Mass., and was installed over the First church, February 27, 1885. His previous pastorates were the Central Congregational church, of Fall River, and Immanuel Congregational church, of Boston Highlands.

The history of this church is a noted instance of the permanence of the pastoral relation. From the time of its organization to the settlement of Rev. Mr. REED, a period of two hundred and thirty-four years, the church had but seven pastors, and has been without a settled pastor at different times, in all, only fourteen years. The first six pastors ended their ministry with their labors here; three died in active service, and the average length of pastorate of each was thirty-two years.

ARTICLES OF FAITH,
COVENANT,
RECEPTION OF MEMBERS,
ETC.