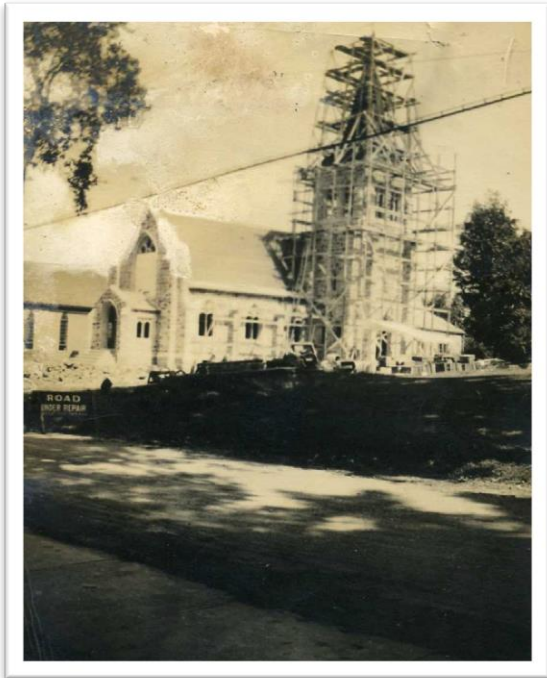


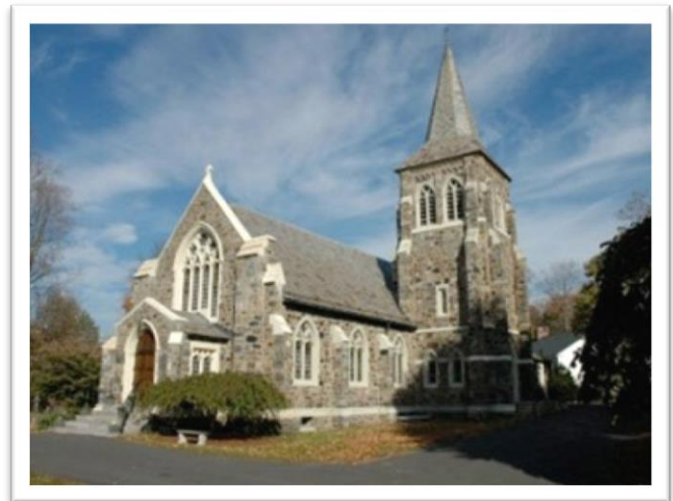
## THE FIRST 200 YEARS

A St. John's Church has stood on the Green in Washington for 200 years. One hundred years after the original wood Church was moved from Davies Hollow to



this site it was deemed too small for the growing congregation. Our Church ancestors undertook the daunting task of building this stone Church in 1916 - during a time of economic depression and on the eve of global upheaval. They succeeded in just one year, laying the cornerstone on May 19, 1917 and completing the Church in time for Easter services in 1918. Designed by Ehrick Rossiter, decorated with paintings by Harry Siddons Mowbray and carvings of Herbert Faulkner, St. John's Church took its place as a community landmark

Nearly 100 years later, as we approach the centennial of the present Church building, it is up to us to take on a similarly daunting task...restoring St. John's historic buildings - the Church and the Rectory, along with the Parish House and the Cottage - at a similarly challenging economic time. God willing, we, too, will succeed.



## THE YEARS 1815 to 1915



Over 260 years ago, St. John's first "congregation" – fifteen families living in what was known as Davies Hollow – began worshipping together according to the Anglican tradition, meeting in one another's homes. By 1794, the congregation had grown and John Davies Jr., the son of one of the original families, gave a portion of his land for a church and a burying ground near the junction of Sabbaday Lane and Romford

Road. Though their services were only occasionally led by itinerant priests, the inspired congregation built a wood-framed church and named it St. John's.

By 1815, the Town of Washington, which by then included Davies Hollow and other settlements of the surrounding area, had grown up around the Green. In that same year, when the St. John's congregation had grown to over seventy members, the parishioners decided to relocate St. John's to a small parcel of land they had acquired on the Green. Moving the wooden church, as well as the rocks and beams which had been its foundation, down Sabbaday Lane and up Green Hill Road was an extraordinary feat involving parishioners, neighbors, friends, as many wagons as could be mustered, and at least twelve teams of oxen, "stretching as far as an eye could see."

The Church was reassembled near its present location, with the choir seats arranged in an upper gallery over the entrance – although music at the beginning was mostly confined to a bass viol and flute. The original burying ground with a monument to John Davies and his family continues to serve as St. John's cemetery. The granite stairs of the original wooden Church are the front stairs of the present stone Church.

## THE YEARS 1915 to 2015



One hundred years after St. John's moved the wooden church to the Green, Washington had become a burgeoning community. The Church's congregation kept pace and was fast out-growing the capacity of the wooden church. One of the reasons for the growth was the influence of Edward Van Ingen who encouraged his New York friends to join him in Washington and build "summer cottages" designed by his friend and architect,

Ehrick Rossiter. Van Ingen's generous patronage led to an unusual concentration of Queen Anne (single style) and Colonial Revival buildings in Washington, all designed by Rossiter, including twenty-five "cottages" (one of which was Rossiter's own residence "The Rocks"), the clubhouse for the Washington Club, the Gunn Library, the Boulders Inn and Holiday House, a retreat for young working women from New York City.

In 1915, Van Ingen, a parishioner of St. John's, convinced Rossiter to design a stone church in the English Gothic Revival style, on land adjacent to the wooden church which Van Ingen arranged to acquire. He solicited the collaboration of his friend and neighbor, Harry Siddons Mowbray, the renowned Orientalist artist, to paint the mural above the Church's Altar, as well as another friend Herbert Faulkner, master wood carver, to adorn the Church with his inspired carvings.

Despite the gloom of war and financially stressful times, the St. John's congregation followed their ancestors' lead in committing to a growing presence in the community. The Church's cornerstone was laid in May 1916, and by Easter 1918 the congregation was worshipping in the stone Church, which continues to be the center of the parish's worshipping life.

## THE YEARS 2015 TO 2017

After 100 years, the Church stood in need of substantial restoration. Although structurally sound, the slate roof needed to be replaced, the mortar repaired and replaced, and all of the windows restored. In addition to the historic stone Church, restoration work also needed to be done on the Rectory (part of it dating from 1750 and one of the three remaining Leavitt houses on the Green), as well as the Parish House and Cottage which was moved from the Gunnery property in the late 1920's and was the early home of the Washington Montessori School.

From 2012 through 2015, as funds were raised, projects were undertaken: the reinforcement of the Parish Hall roof trusses, the restoration of the Memorial stained glass window in the Lady Chapel of the Church, structural and exterior work on the Rectory, the replacement of the boiler and hot water tank in the Rectory and the boiler in the Church, and installation of new temporary covers for the window wells. Most significantly and visibly work on the repair and replacement of the roof began in mid-November 2016.