

Our Memories of First Church

First Church Baldwin was a very important part of our lives as we grew up and became responsible adults in this semi-rural community (population approximately 5,000 in 1930). I have been involved in the life of First Church Baldwin for more than 65 years. Tom was born in Jamaica, Queens in 1923 and moved to Fairview Avenue, Baldwin in 1925. I was born in Willimantic, CT in 1924 and my family moved to Waverly Place, Baldwin in 1929. Both Tom and I attended Sunday School but did not know one another because classes were segregated. The classes were held in the basement, boys on one side and girls on the other. When we were about 10 years old, the Baldwin Theater was built next to the church much to the horror of the Trustees! We were both confirmed by Dr. Arthur Bouton. I joined the Choir in 1941. When WWII broke out, most of the young men in our congregation and a few women enlisted in the service. We had an active MYF group called "YAMS" (young adult Methodists) who kept in touch with these members via a Newsletter. In February 1946, we held a "Homecoming Party" and several came back to become active members. It was at this time that Tom and I started dating and we were married on 5 September 1948 by Dr. Henry Whyman. After Tom received his MA degree in Biology from Hofstra University in 1951, we bought a home on Alhambra Road, Baldwin. Along about this time, the Mer-Mars (Merry Marrieds) were organized and Tom and I were the First Presidents. Over the next 48 years, we were actively involved, serving on many committees and we enrolled our sons, Tom and Dave in Sunday School. In the last few years I joined the District Choir which put on several concerts to raise money for Far Rockaway. This was a most enjoyable and rewarding experience!

When we left Baldwin on 31 August 1999 to join our sons in Rhode Island, it was a difficult time for us to leave our church and friends at First Church. I was still singing in the choir and Tom was Head Usher. We were pleasantly surprised to find a Methodist Church only 5 minutes down the road and were warmly greeted by the Pastor and congregation. Tom is Head Usher and I am singing in the choir! Some things never change!

*Dorothy and Tom
Fetherston*