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Program of Dedication and Historical Sketch : The Congregational Church of Winthrop Maine, Wednesday, April 5, 1905

Winthrop Congregational Church

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Program of Dedication

AND

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Congregational Church

OF WINTHROP, MAINE

Wednesday, April 5th, 1905
Program

Preludes—Andante in D-minor, Mozart
  Cavatina, Raff
  Levi Ronald Jones and Mrs. L. Ellwood Jones

Doxology

Invocation

Anthem,—"Praise Ye the Father" Gounod
  Choir

Reading from the Scriptures—Rev. J. Langdon Quimby
  Pastor Congregational Church, Gardiner

Offering

Contralto Solo—"The Golden Threshold" Lohr
  Mrs. Ronald C. McIlroy (with Violin obligato)

Sermon—Rev. Percival F. Marston
  Pastor Pine Street Congregational Church, Lewiston

Hymn 223
Order of Dedication

"The Congregational Church of Winthrop"

Pastor—I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.
People—Our feet shall stand within thy gates.
Pastor—How amiable are Thy Tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts; my soul longeth, yea even fainteth, for the Courts of the Lord.
People—Blessed are they that dwell in Thy House, they will be still praising Thee.
Pastor—Holiness becometh Thy House, O Lord, forever.
People—Which is the Church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
Pastor—to the one God, Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth—
People—We dedicate this Church.
Pastor—to Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord and Savior—
People—We dedicate this Church.
Pastor—to the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Guide—
People—We dedicate this Church.
Pastor—for the worship of Him who is Spirit, in spirit and in truth; for the preaching of the Gospel of God in its fullness; for the proclamation of our Lord Jesus Christ as the Savior from sin—
People—We dedicate this Church.
Pastor—for all works and words that give help to man in his daily needs; for the instruction and training of children and youth; for the winning of those who are strangers to the covenant of promise; for the upbuilding of God’s Kingdom in all the earth—
People—We dedicate this Church.

Pastor—As a place of assembly for the people of God, under the name of The Congregational Church of Winthrop separating it from all unhallowed uses—

People—We dedicate this Church.

All—And we consecrate ourselves anew to Thee our God and Savior, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication—Rev. Chas. Harbutt,
Secretary Maine Missionary Society

Response—Choir

Hymn 35

Address—Normal Evangelism in the Modern Church,
Rev. E. L. Marsh,
Pastor Congregational Church, Waterville

Benediction.

The Choir

MISS MARGARET McILROY, Soprano
MRS. RONALD C. McILROY, Contralto
RONALD C. McILROY, Tenor
ALBERT H. WEBB, Basso
MRS. L. ELLWOOD JONES, Organist
assisted by
LEVI RONALD JONES, Violinist
The Congregational Church of Winthrop was organized with twenty
seven members on September 4, 1776, at the Inn of Mr. Squier Bishop.

It is among the earliest Congregational Churches in Maine organized
away from navigable waters, and is, with one exception, the first of any
denomination gathered in the region now comprising the counties of
Kennebec, Franklin, Somerset, Penobscot and Piscataquis.

The Church had only occasional preaching for the six years following
its organization, Jonathan Whiting, Esq., who was elected Moderator at
that time, standing as its official head. On January 2, 1782 Rev.
David Jewett was installed to a brief pastorate which ended with his
death in February 1783.

It was again without a pastor until 1800 when Rev. Jonathan Belden
was ordained. He remained with the Church until 1805 when ill
health compelled his retirement.

With the ordination of his successor, Rev. David Thurston began a
long and successful pastorate of more than forty-four years. Mr. Thurs­
ton was ordained February 18, 1807 and dismissed October 15, 1851

Fourteen pastors and acting pastors have succeeded him, making a
total of seventeen in the more than 129 years of the Church's existence.

The present acting pastor Rev. A. K. Baldwin began his labors July
20, 1902.

The total membership of the Church since its organization is 703
327 of these being added during the ministrations of Mr. Thurston.

The present membership is eighty-five.
The Church was incorporated under the laws of Maine on March 18, 1895.

The Sunday School connected with the Church, and which is believed to be the oldest in the State, was organized by Mr. Thurston, August 7, 1808.

The first building occupied by the Congregationalists of Winthrop as a house of worship was one which the town voted to build in 1774. This was located on the ministerial lot, near the present home of Mr. Fred Bearce. It was never completed and was not used except in summer. For this reason the installation of the first pastor, Mr. Jewett, took place in the barn of Mr. Squier Bishop, and there, the following winter his funeral was also held. This building was finally sold and torn down.

In the summer of 1786 the town erected another building which was used jointly as meeting house and town house. It was situated on what is known as "The Old Town House Hill." No record is found of any dedication. In 1800 it passed into the hands of the First Congregational Society, but was still used as a town house, and when abandoned by the Society in 1825 reverted to the town. On August 7th of that year the last religious service was held there, and three days later the third meeting house, and the one occupied by the Church for the next seventy-nine years, was dedicated, the sermon on that occasion being preached by the pastor, Mr. Thurston, from Exodus 20:24. The last service in this building was held on November 6, 1904.

The building dedicated to-day thus becomes the fourth house of worship occupied by this Church.
Officers of the Church and Associate Organizations

Pastor
REV. A. K. BALDWIN,

Deacons
A. J. CROWELL ALFRED JEWELL J. T. BOURNE

Clerk
MISS LOUISE BENJAMIN

Treasurer
J. H. McILROY

A. J. CROWELL A. J. CROWELL
WILLIAM ADAMS MRS. E. D. KIMBALL
MRS. C. A. COCHRANE J. H. McILROY J. M. TOWLE

Business Committee
A. K. BALDWIN A. J. CROWELL
WILLIAM ADAMS MRS. E. D. KIMBALL
MRS. C. A. COCHRANE

Sunday School
MR. W. T. ADAMS, Superintendent

Ladies’ Circle
MRS. F. W. WADSWORTH, President

Ladies’ Auxiliary
MRS. JOHN FOSTER, President

Young People’s Society Christian Endeavor
B. S. STACKPOLE, President

The Adelphi
RALPH RUMMELS, President

Choir
MISS MARGARET E. McILROY, Soprano RONALD C. McILROY, Tenor
MRS. RONALD G. McILROY, Contralto ALBERT H. WEBB, Basso

Organist
MRS. L. ELLWOOD JONES

Violinist
LEVI RONALD JONES

Head Usher
J. W. BUTNAM