

1802 - 1952

METHODIST CHURCH

WEST SCARBORO, MAINE



150TH ANNIVERSARY
AND
RE-DEDICATION

1802 - 1952

REV. ESTHER A. HASKARD

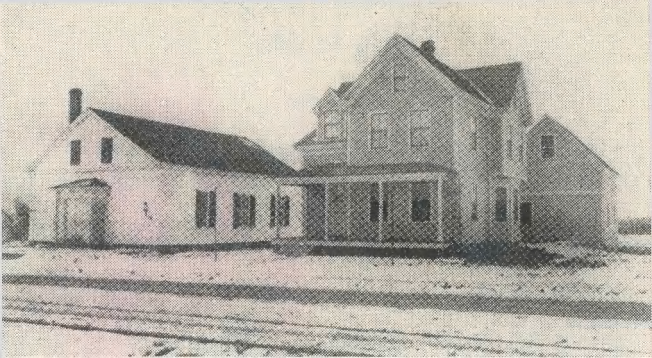
Pastor



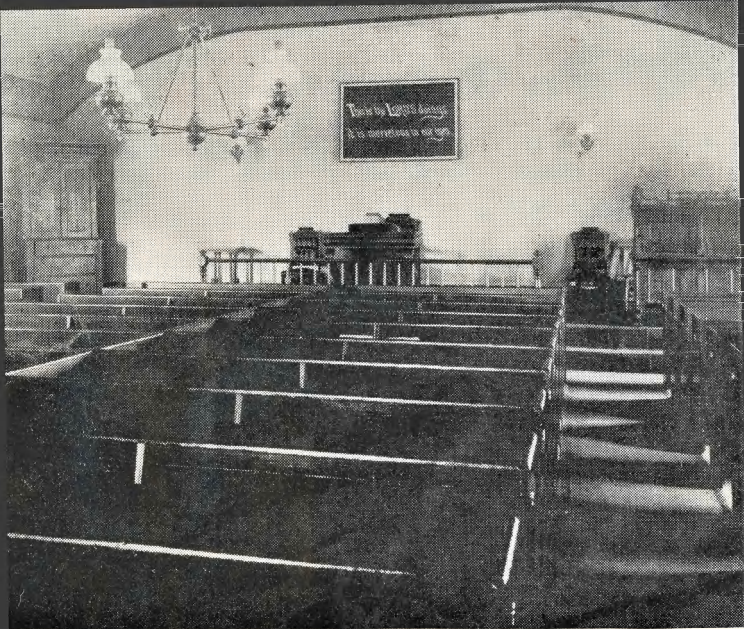
Pastors Who Have Served Here

Asa Heath	1804-1805	Jesse Harriman	1843
Joseph Farrer	1806	J. L. Frazier	1844
Lewis Bates	1807	Henry L. Linscott	1845
Samuel Hillman	1808	E. F. Blake	1846
Enoch Jaques	1809	C. C. Covell	1847-48
J. Spaulding	1810	F. C. Ayer	1849
William Frost	1811	Uriah Rideout	1850
Philip Ayer &		John Cobb	1851
J. Iverson	1812	S. S. Cummings	1852
Eli Baker &		William H. Strout	1853
L. Frost	1813	Alpha Turner	1854
L. Bennett &		Edward Davis	1855-56
E. W. Coffin	1814	F. C. Ayer	1857
A. Lummis	1815	J. M. Woodbury	1858-59
Robert Hayes	1816	Benjamin Freeman	1860-61
J. L. Chandler	1817	W. C. Stevens	1862
J. F. Adams	1818	O. M. Cousens	1863
J. W. Hardy	1819	W. Chritchett	1864
Calif Fogg	1820	Henry Martin	1865-66
Asa Heath &		Marcus Wright	1867
J. Jaques	1821	Alva Hatch	1868
J. L. Bishop	1822	J. A. Mason	1869-70
John Briggs	1823	E. Amos	1871
Silas Frink	1824	Jacob Lord	1872
Phillip Ayer	1825	Alvah Cook	1873
R. E. Schammihorn	1826-27	Charles Andrews	1874
D. Fuller &		Jabez E. Budden	1875
D. Crockett	1828	Thomas J. True	1876
Ansel Gerrish	1829	H. F. A. Patterson	1877
J. W. Atkins	1830-31	Alfred I. Hillman	1878
Thomas Greenhalgh	1832	Kinsman Atkinson	1879
A. P. Hillman	1833	J. M. Woodbury	1880-81
I. W. Moore	1834	John Cobb	1882-84
Gorham Greely	1835	E. K. Colby	1885-86
F. Gavitt	1836	M. B. Pratt	1887-88
John Rice	1837-38	Charles A. Radcliffe	1889
John Simpson	1839	C. Everett Bean	1890
F. Massenne &		B. Freeman	1891-93
J. Stone	1840-41	J. R. Remick	1894
John E. Perry	1842	T. L. Hoyle	1895

T. C. Chapman	1895	A. H. Miles	1921
T. C. Chapman	1896	George Rideout	1922
F. W. Smith &		Richard Bailey	1923-25
J. W. Lewis	1897	Elwin L. Wilson	1926-29
Walter Canham	1898	W. H. H. Taylor	1930
J. A. Ford	1899-1901	Zebedee Andrews	1931
J. Nixon	1902-03	William Patterson	1932-35
W. H. Varney	1904	Ernest F. Doughty	1936-43
Alexander Hamilton	1908	Robert W. Holcomb	1944-45
Herbert D. Knowles	1912	J. R. Howse	1946-47
Roy Kimball	1913-16	Harry Whiteley	1948
William Baker	1917	Esther A. Haskard	1949-
Richard Welch	1920		



Built 1839. As it appeared until renovated in 1907.



Interior of church before 1907 renovation.

An Historical Sketch

EARLY DAYS

Methodism in Scarboro began in the Great Revival of 1800, as a result of the preaching of the Rev. Asa Heath of the Portland Circuit; which latter extended as far west of Portland as Methodist influence had as yet penetrated. It was in the days of Jesse Lee, the pioneer of the Methodist Church in New England. At that time, there was only one Methodist Conference for all the New England States; and the Province of Maine was just one district of that Conference, with Joshua Taylor as Presiding Elder, the office now called District Superintendent.

Rev. Asa Heath preached the first Methodist sermon in Scarboro in the home of Samuel Waterhouse on Beach Ridge. His preaching evidently won a ready response, for two years later, in 1802, a church was organized, and Mr. Heath moved his family out from Portland to become its first pastor. An interesting sidelight is that the census of that year gives the population of Scarboro as only five less than Portland. The historical sketch of the West Scarboro Methodist Church, appearing in the "Portland Evening Express" Friday, October 24, 1902, on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary, says of Asa Heath: "His saintly character, his zeal and wisdom, greatly endeared him to his flock." And it adds: "His last words (in 1860) were, 'All bright, shining.'"

In 1803, Timothy Waterhouse and others petitioned the General Court to incorporate the Methodist Society to include Scarboro, Buxton, and Saco.

The first Stewards of the church were: Richard Waterhouse, James Foss, Isaiah Milliken, Nathaniel Boothby, and Wentworth Dresser. Richard Waterhouse was one of the converts of the Great Revival of 1800; and thereafter, he and his wife Betsey always extended the cordial hospitality of their home to all Methodist itinerants (traveling preachers). Theirs was undoubtedly the home in Scarboro which Allen's "History of Methodism in Maine" refers to as the frequent stopping-place of Jesse Lee. In their Family Record appears this item: "He (Richard) united with the Methodist Episcopal Church in early life and, on organizing the first Methodist Church in Scarboro in 1802, was chosen one of its officers, and retained his office until his death."

SURPRISING FLUCTUATIONS IN MEMBERSHIP

The early membership records seem, at first, quite startling. By 1805 there were 85 members; by 1818, 400; while in 1822, the number had dropped to 194; but by 1827 it had risen again to what is probably its all-time high of 515. In 1836 it was 81; in 1886, only 29; and in 1902, 62. The present membership is 160. These rapid fluctuations in the early days can be accounted for partly by revival movements, or lack of them. But another important factor is that, at one time or another, the Scarboro circuit has included Saco, Biddeford, Buxton, Kennebunk, Gorham, and Cape Elizabeth. As these were separated and formed new parishes, inevitably it meant, in those years, a sharp decrease in the membership of the West Scarboro Church.

NINETY-FOUR PASTORATES IN 150 YEARS

Another interesting thing to contemplate is that during the Church's first hundred years, it had seventy-five different pastors. This was largely because Methodism in the early days had a one-year limit to the time a pastor could serve a church. In the past fifty years, there have been nineteen pastors, including the present and only woman pastor, to date, Esther A. Haskard.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

But little data is available concerning Church organizations in early years. There were Class Meetings, of course; each church member being assigned a Class Leader, who met with his class once a week for spiritual counseling. The first Sunday School seems not to have been organized until 1826.

Coming down to fairly recent years, a Women's Class in the Sunday School was organized under the name of Bible Searchers' Class. This group functioned for years. The pulpit Bible was presented to the Church by this Class, in memory of its founder, Mrs. Celia Pillsbury. Epworth and Junior Leagues flourished greatly during certain periods. In 1907, The Epworth League, consisting of adults as well as youth numbered 62 members; and the Junior League 30. For many years, The Sisterhood, organized in 1910, with Mrs. Marcia Moulton as its first president was the sole women's society of the Church. In 1936, the Friendship Club was organized, through the efforts, and under the leadership of the pastor's wife, Mrs. Ernest F. Doughty. In 1950, the Friendship Club re-organized as a Woman's Society of Christian Service, though retaining its former name. Two years ago, a Men's Club was organized.

CHURCH BUILDINGS

The first meeting house the Methodists worshipped in was an abandoned Congregational Church, located, probably, near the present Soldiers' Monument at Dunstan Corner.

The first church the Methodists erected was built in 1810; and the present one in 1839. At first it was a one-room church. In 1907, while William Varney was pastor, extensive renovations were made, completely changing its appearance both outside and in. An extant photo of the old interior as compared with the present-day sanctuary shows what a face-lifting this really was. And the change in the exterior was perhaps even more notable, for the present belfry and front steps were built at that time. Inside, the old-fashioned straight-backed pews were replaced by modern ones; and the stained-glass Memorial Windows were added. The total cost of the renovating was \$2700, \$300 of it being given by the Church Aid Society of the Conference. H. L. Pillsbury was master carpenter. The re-dedication service was held January 1, 1908.

During the ministry of Richard Bailey, a fund was started by the Epworth League for the purpose of building a Gymnasium. Instead of that, however, a Parish House was built during Elwin L. Wilson's pastorate in 1928. It consisted of a small kitchen, and a large, well-lighted, pleasant room, with a stage, which served many purposes — as an assembly room for one department of the Sunday School, and for meetings of many and various groups of the church and community, for plays, and for suppers. Guy and Ralph Pillsbury were the builders.

In 1950, the entire church was redecorated inside; and the next summer the church and parsonage were painted, on the outside.

On the 20th of January, this year, 1952, quite an ambitious remodeling program was undertaken, entailing excavating under the Parish House, and the part of the cellar of the main church, which had not previously been excavated. The remodeling project includes a vestry 30x30 ft. and a well-equipped kitchen 15x24 ft. under the main church, an oil-burning furnace, toilet facilities, a 40 car parking lot in the rear of the church, with entrance from Church St., and an exit beside the main entrance to the Church. It also includes two new stairways — from the front vestibule to the new vestry, and from the Parish House to the basement below. The basement under the Parish House has been made into an attractive room with an open fire-place. Later, one end will be partitioned off into classrooms, and the other into a parlor. The project also includes hard-surface walks from the church to the parsonage and the parking lot, a sidewalk in front of the entire church property, and re-seeding

and landscaping the grounds. The work has been done, without any indebtedness, through the generous contributions of labor, materials, and money by many church members, especially Mr. Joseph Knight, and many well-wishers in the community.

PARSONAGES

It was not until 1831, when John W. Atkins was pastor, that the building of a parsonage was attempted. And at first, only the ell of the house was built; the main part being completed in 1858, during the pastorate of J. M. Woodbury. This house, next to the present IGA Store at Dunstan Corner, was sold when the present parsonage was built in 1898, while Walter Canham was pastor. The historical sketch appearing in 1925 in the "Portland Evening Express & Advertiser" says of it:

"Ground was broken for the new building in 1898; and this was completed in season to become the home of Rev. Walter Canham a short time before his labors on the charge were closed in the Spring of 1899. To Mr. Canham's energy and financial liberality much of the credit is due for the success of the undertaking."

When the old property was sold, a piece of marshland, belonging to the same, was retained. At present, this yields the church a small amount yearly for sign-board rental.

ANNIVERSARIES AND DEDICATIONS

The One Hundredth Anniversary was celebrated Thursday through Sunday, October 23-26, 1902. Bishop Mallalieu preached at 7:30 Thursday evening.

The Re-dedication Services, after the renovating in 1907 lasted from Wednesday to Sunday, with the Dedication Service itself on January 1, 1908.

A featured article in the Portland Evening Express & Advertiser for March 14, 1925 carries the caption: "Scarboro Methodist Church Nearly Century and Quarter Old." This appeared, of course, two years previous to the One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, and it makes no mention of any Anniversary Celebration.

The One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary will be celebrated with a Banquet on Friday evening, December 12th at 6:30 in the new vestry. Tables for children, at half price, will be set up in the new room under the Parish House. On Sunday, the 14th, Bishop Lord, of the Boston Area, will preach the Anniversary Sermon at 10:30, and will re-dedicate the church at 3:30 in the afternoon. Following the Dedication, there will be an Open House, that our friends may see our improvements, and

a Tea, served by the Youth Fellowship. In the evening, at 7:30, there will be a Praise Service, led by the pastor, with sermon by the District Superintendent, Rev. Charles Parkin, of Portland.

SPIRITUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

These are always harder to tabulate than building projects and anniversaries. The Church's real mission, however, is to make the community and the world more Christian. Through the years, the West Scarboro Methodist Church has known periods of great spiritual power and influence; and has at all times exerted an influence for God and righteousness.

The Church has had some part in influencing at least three young men to enter the Christian ministry. These are: in the early days, Rev. Stephen Waterhouse, son of Moses and Polly; and in recent years, Rev. Gerald Miliken, now serving in Conway, N. H., and Rev. Herbert Adams, present pastor of the Blue Point Church in Scarboro.

A recent expression of the Church's worldwide Christian concern was its resettling of a D. P. family from Latvia.

Officials of the Church for 1952



TRUSTEES

Joseph Knight, Clarence Lary, Lawrence Thurston, Gerald Pillsbury, Edgar Thurston, Raimond Holt, Fred Nelson, Ernest Plummer, Gerald Sargent.

STEWARDS

Mrs. Arthur Blanchette, Mrs. Carl Carter, Mrs. Harriett Delaware, Mrs. Fay Downing, A. W. Hodgman, Mrs. Henry Heyward, Mrs. Raimond Holt, Mrs. Joseph Knight, Mrs. Kenneth Laughton, Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Leary, Mrs. Roy LeGacy, Mrs. Archie Merrill, Mrs. Oliver Milliken, Mrs. Marian Moulton, Mrs. Fred Nelson, Mrs. Ernest Plummer, Agnes Plummer, Mrs. Harold Scamman, Mrs. Florence Sprague, Mrs. Edgar Thurston, Mrs. Agnes Thurston (deceased) Mrs. Lawrence Thurston, Mrs. Wilfred Patnaude, Mr. & Mrs. Chester Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. Horace Maxcy, Mrs. Carl Deis, Mr. & Mrs. George Parker, Mahlon Parker, Mrs. Alida Brown.

OFFICERS

Lay Leader, Mrs. Joseph Knight.
Lay Member of Conference, Joseph Knight.
Reserve Lay Member, Mrs. Marian Moulton.
District Steward, Joseph Knight.
Reserve District Steward, Mrs. Marian Moulton.
Recording Steward, Miss Agnes Plummer.
Communion Steward, Mrs. Raimond Holt.
Church Treasurer, Gerald Pillsbury.
Benevolence Treasurer, Raimond Holt.
Financial Secretary, Mrs. Ernest Plummer.
Sunday School Superintendent, Agnes Plummer.
President Friendship Club (WSCS), Mrs. Roy LeGacy.
President Men's Club, Roy LeGacy.
President Youth Fellowship, Ancyl Thurston.
President Trustees, Joseph Knight.

Gifts and Memorials

Set of Pulpit Chairs given by Mrs. Marcia Moulton; date unknown

1907

Windows in Memory of:

Richard & Betsey Waterhouse, by their descendents.
Martha Pillsbury Milliken, by her descendents.
Charles & Eunice Pillsbury, by their descendents.
Helen & Ora C. Roberts, by Willard Fenderson.
Nathaniel Boothby, by Mrs. Swett and Boothby descendents.
Mrs. Abbie T. Guptill, by Samuel Guptill.
Timothy and Priscilla Harmon.
Major Frank & Julia A. Moody, by Moody Sisters.
Jesse & Sarah Newcomb, by Fred Newcomb.

Windows given by:

Mrs. Mary E. Knight.
The Junior League.
The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

Pulpit (used in old church) given by Mrs. Towle of Portland.
Weather Vane on steeple, by Susie, Amy, & Mildred Pillsbury.
Bell, by Isaac C. Baker.
Furnace (long since worn out) given by Mrs. Annie Moulton.

1946

Altar Set of Cross and Candelabras and Pulpit Bible, in memory
of Mrs. Laura Milliken,
given by the Bible Searchers Class.

1949

Set of Pulpit Chairs, secured through efforts of Mrs. Viola
Blanchette.

Among the contributions were gifts in memory of:

Rev. Harry Whiteley, by Mrs. Sara T. Whiteley (the desk
chair).
Mrs. Olive Laughton, by Kenneth Laughton.
George Knight, by Mrs. Ina Knight.

Mr. & Mrs. George Boothby, by Mrs. Agnes Thurston.
Stanley Thurston, by Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Thurston.
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Higgins, by Miss Ethel Higgins.
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Pillsbury, by Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Blake.
Mr. & Mrs. William Graffam, by Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Graffam.

1950

Lighting Fixtures in Memory of Mrs. George Holt, given by the Holt Family.

A new Carpet, secured through the efforts of a Rug Fund Committee, consisting of: Mrs. Roy LeGacy, Mr. Clifford Leary, Mr. Elwood Murray, and Mrs. Herbert Lawrence.

1951

A Bequest of \$2500 given by Milton Moulton (which made possible the installing of an oil-burning furnace in 1952).
A set of pewter Vases, given by Mrs. Frank Leary.

1952

Communion Table in Memory of Rev. Ernest F. Doughty, by Mrs. Doughty.
Dossal, given by the Friendship Club.
Bronze Offering Plates, given by the Men's Club and the Choir.
Altar Vases, given by the Sunday School.