

Welcome to The Church on the Cape



For one hundred and fifty one years, the Church on the Cape has remained a continuing source of unity and inspiration to the residents and friends of Cape Porpoise. Through devotion and self sacrifice, the church structure has been continually maintained, improved upon, and made more beautiful.

Through hard work and dedication, we have contributed to those in need both at home and abroad. Through inspirational leadership and a faithful congregation, the lives of all of us have been touched and made better, and a sense of community and neighborly concern has prevailed throughout the years. Although in name and supervision the church is Methodist, its doors have always and will always remain open to all regardless of differences in creed.

The fisherman of Cape Porpoise have often made use of the steeple when they returned from the sea. It is their beacon and their guide. So too has it been a beacon and inspiration to all whose religious life has been touched and shaped by our church by the sea.

Thomas E. Bradbury

"...til, long years passed, the Cape could boast Her village Church beside the way, and nearer to the rocky coast."

Helen Ward Nunan - circa 1900

Ministers at the Church on the Cape, UMC, 1853-2008

1853-55	Rev. Kinsman Arkinson
1855-57	Rev. Elbridge Gerry
1857-58	Rev. John Collins
1858-59	Rev. Benjamin Freeman
1860	Rev. J. Perrin
1861-63	Rev. Benjamin Lufkin
1863-65	Rev. Solomon Gerry
1865-67	Rev. Asbury C. Trafton
1867-70	Rev. Jabez E. Budden
1870	Rev. J.P. Baxter
1871	Rev. A. Desbrisay
1871-72	Rev. F.S. Dresser
1873	Rev. C.M. Ward
1874	Rev. W.P. Merrill
1875-77	Rev. Charles Andrews
1877	Rev. A.T. Hillman
1878	Rev. John Cobb
1879	Rev. Benjamin Freeman (shared with Kennebunkport)
1880	Rev. Woodbury P. Merrill, Rev. David R. Ford (supply)
1881-83	Rev. Daniel R. Ford
1883-85	Rev. Alvah Cook
1886	Rev. J. Nixon
1887	Rev. Onville H. Stevens
1888-91	Rev. Francis Grosvenor (shared with Kennebunkport)
1891-93	Rev. F.A. Bragdon (shared with Kennebunkport)
1893-95	Rev. G.I. Lowe (shared with Kennebunkport)
1895-98	Rev. H.L. Nichols (shared with Kennebunkport)
1898	Rev. Leonard H. Bean (shared with Kennebunkport)
1899	Rev. E. Bean (supply-shared with Kennebunkport)
1900-04	Rev. Insley A. Bean (shared with Kennebunkport)
1904	Rev. C.P. Skillings (shared with Kennebunkport)
	Rev. Roscoe Tarbox (summer-shared with Kennebunkport)
1905-08	Rev. Elfred Leech (shared with Kennebunkport)
1908-10	Rev. William Wood (shared with Kennebunkport)
1910-16	Rev. Thomas P. Baker (shared with Kennebunkport)
1916	Rev. G.H. Gray (supply)
1917-20	Rev. Norman W. Lindsay (supply)
1920-21	Rev. S. Elfred Leech
1921-25	Rev. Forest L. Littlefield
1926	Rev. Frank Oldridge
1927-29	Rev. Walter A. Smith
1929-31	Rev. Zebedee Andrews
1931-35	Rev. Charles L. Whynot
1935-38	Rev. William R. Patterson
1938-42	Rev. Fred M. Staples
1942-43	Rev. Elijah Mercer
1944	Rev. Arnold Tozier (supply)
1944-47	Rev. Marvin R. Green
1947	Rev. Guy Wilson (supply)
1948-49	Rev. John Edwards
1949-50	Rev. Gerald C. Milliken
1950-51	Rev. Eldridge E. Brewster
1951-56	Eugene Shrigley
1956-58	Rev. Clevis A. Laverty
1958-62	Rev. Henry Megert
1962-64	Rev. Russell J. Peppe
1965-66	Rev. Luther Jose
1966	Rev. William Malpass (supply)
1966-70	Rev. Fred Holmberg (shared/Christ Church, Kennebunk)
1970-93	Rev. Lamar Robinson (shared/Christ Church, Kennebunk)
1993-99	Rev. Sherwood Treadwell
1999-00	Rev. Jo Bennett
2000-02	Rev. Bill Gardei
2002-	Rev. Dr. Ruth Merriam

CHURCH ON THE CAPE

A United Methodist Church



1857-Present

The Rev. Dr. Ruth Merriam

Pastor

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Our History



The first church was erected in 1727 on the corner where Route 9 swings into the Mills Road. Here, for the next thirty years, the religious affairs of the community were served. However, as the years passed by, the western part of the town along the river, had increased in population faster than the Cape. Therefore, calls were made to change the location of the church to a more central position. When this motion was defeated, drastic measures were initiated. On the night of April 28, 1763, some men from the western sector persuaded two boys to set fire to the Cape church. The building was totally destroyed.

The boys were soon found out yet were not prosecuted for it was realized that the real blame rested with those men who had directed them. Thus, the major controversy involved where the new church was to be built. Following the recommendation of a special town meeting and a committee of three disinterested men, two from Saco and one from Wells, it was decided to build on Burbank's Hill. This site is where the present First Congregational Church now stands in the Town House section of Kennebunkport. The residents of the eastern part of the Cape were vehemently opposed to this arrangement, but it was clear that the Cape had lost the ascendancy it once held in town affairs. In its indignation, the Cape ceased to be actively involved with the church until the Methodist Conference took an interest in the area around the year 1810.

By the year 1820, the nucleus of a future congregation had been formed in Cape Porpoise. Lacking the numbers to establish a separate church, converts to the Methodist Conference met in private homes or in the schoolhouse and were accepted as members of the church at the Port village. Until a new church could

History...continued

be built, services at the Cape were held on Saturday nights.

It was in the summer of 1856 when George Fletcher, Thatcher Hutchins, and Joseph Huff, the trustees of the "Church on the Cape," borrowed \$400 from James Huff in order to purchase the land and lumber necessary to erect a church building. The building lot was purchased from George Wakefield.

By April, 1857, the building had been completed, and on the 30th day of that month, William Farrington preached the dedication sermon. Reverend John Collins was the minister.

Within a short time, the trustees met and paid back the money and interest borrowed from James Huff. The finished church, without vestry, steeple, clock, or bell, had cost \$1,500.

Little change was made to the building until 1898. In that year the vestry was added. The steeple was completed in November, 1902, and the bell was donated in that same year by a summer resident, Mr. Frank A. Allen. It was rung for the first time on November 19, 1902. The church clock was added in 1910. Mr. Allen is said to have made a generous gift towards the \$660 cost of the clock, but a part of the money was also raised by public subscription. The clock first sounded over Cape Porpoise on October 22, 1910.



In September, 1956, the adjoining land to the church was bought from the heirs of Arthur Nunan. This land was cleared, and in 1960 was the site on which the ladies' parlor was constructed. In that same year, additional Sunday School classrooms were built upstairs.

Changing demographics led to a gradual decline in church attendance and activity in the ensuing years. But in 1993 a bold decision was made to attempt to bring the church back to its original vitality. Recognizing its traditional role as the source of community inspiration, the congregation reached out to all those who called this town home, whether year round or for a season. They drew upon the abilities, time and talents of those with widely ranging

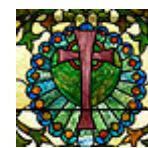
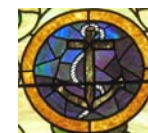
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backgrounds and experiences. Together a new church evolved, with native and newcomer alike sharing their sense of community and spirituality.

An addition was added in 1994, which housed the office, pastor's office and Cargo Shop. Another addition and many improvements were finished in the fall of 2007, including moving the offices, adding an elevator, a full kitchen, music room, more Sunday School space and the Carl G. Bartlett fellowship Hall. Our church continues to gather a congregation unequalled in ability and enthusiasm. Thomas. E. Bradbury



Our Stained Glass Windows



In 1908-1909 six memorial stained glass windows were added to the sanctuary. Four were given in memory of individuals: Christina Langsford, Richard J. and Caroline E. Nunan, Emily S. Nunan, and Clara A. Sylvester. The remaining windows were the gift of the Ladies Circle.

The two middle windows which depict Jesus were designed by the famous artist Alfred Hermann Schraff who won a medal for his stained glass at the Colombian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. All six windows were constructed by Cyrus Hamlin Farley of Portland.

In November of 2008, the *Angel of Hope* window was dedicated to Pastors Sherwood Treadwell, Bill Gardei and Ruth Merriam and placed in the Fellowship Hall. Artist Susan H. Pratt-Smith of Northwood, NH, designed the Tiffany-style window. This was a gift from Annie and Bill Hidell.

Our stained glass windows continue to provide beauty and ever changing color and light for all who enter or pass by our church.