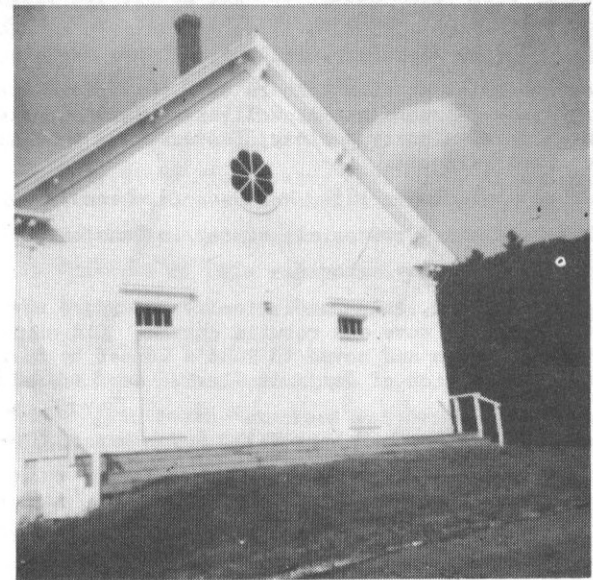


HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

of the



ALBANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1803-1974

ALBANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

- 1803 - Organized "The Church of Christ in Albany," 22 members. Asa Cummings, 1st Clerk and Deacon; Jonathan Holt, 2nd Deacon.
- 1804 - Communion set from Andover, Mass., Pewter flagon, Tankard, Linens, etc.
- 1818 - Asa Cummings Jr., Dismissed to attend Andover Theological School. Became editor of "Christian Mirror" - Maine Congregational publication.
- 1824 - \$500 legacy from Sarah Holt, Andover, Mass., for preaching the gospel in Albany Church. Interest only to be used.
- 1828 - 1842, Rev. Thomas Tewksbury ordained. 45 new members.
- 1839 - First church built at four corners of N. Waterford Road and Cemetery Road. Esrum Kimball, Cellist; pulpit supplied by New Hampshire Missionary Society, Pastors from Bridgton, Waterford and Yarmouth.
- 1856 - Rev. Samuel Gould in pulpit. Melodeon purchased.
- 1874 - Sabbath School and Services all winter in Sanctuary.
- 1875 - Winter Services, 3 new members.
- 1877 - Rev. George A. Bird, Yale Theological Seminary, 4 new members. Voted to move and rebuild church. Old church building taken down and moved to Hunt's Corner by horses and oxen, under direction of Benjamin Clark. Roof framed by fall.
Services that winter in Cole's Hall, (over tavern,) or in Hunt's Corner schoolhouse.
- 1878 - New building dedicated. "A most commodious place of worship." Cost, \$2,000 plus original materials.
Interior rededicated in June, - "Thankful to God he carried us through and we are free from debts."
- 1881 - Winter services, Sabbath School and Missionary meetings.
- 1883 - 75 in summer Sabbath School, 30 families.
- 1884 - Gift of Communion set from North Bridgton Church, 2 Tankards, 4 Goblets, 2 Plates, Baptismal Bowl. Gave thanks for other Church's Christian sympathy. J. S. Richards of Waterford preached, administered last supper.

ALBANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Cont.

- 1885 - Average attendance, 70, Sabbath School, 35. Thursday evening prayer meetings, 14.
- 1886 - Rev. George Tewksbury of Cambridge, Mass. and son, returned for day. Administered Lord's Supper. 1 baptised. The father was first pastor of Church. "His son preached a fine sermon." Average attendance in fair weather, 75.
- 1889 - Sabbath School and Christian Endeavor founded.
- 1890 - Elbridge C. Whitney, Yale Theological School, led largest prayer meeting in many years. In fall, Rev. Wood did good work in getting library. (Another source says 1870, with Mrs. J. H. Lovejoy first librarian.) Library records begin in 1902 when it was rejuvenated.
- 1891 - E. S. Hunt of Bangor Theological School preached and was Supt. of Sabbath School.
- 1893 - In August, State Missionary, Rev. G. C. Wilson here four days with meetings. Preached Sunday Communion.
- 1895 - Attendance rose again, average 65.
- 1896 - E. J. Converse of Yale remained a year for \$2 a week.
- 1903 - State Christian Endeavor Conference held in Albany Church.
- 1904 - First Chorist, Leon Kimball.
- 1906 - Voted to Sell lot in cemetery.
- 1910 - Voted to join North Waterford and Stoneham churches in securing preaching for year. Our share, \$125.
- 1914 - Repaired floor in vestry. Asked Grangers to be more quiet on dance nights as Hunts Corner residents were disturbed.
- 1919 - Mrs. Hazel Wardwell named organist. Held position until her death in 1973. Also church clerk for many years.
- 1925 - Oxford County United Parish organized. Rev. W. I. Bull, Rev. Hilda Ives and Rev. Bertram Wentworth active in work. Treasurer, Rev. A. C. Townsend.
For many years, Albany Church Circle or Benevolent Society put on suppers. Mrs. Annie Bumpus had a grab bag and sold articles for the church. Young people played basketball or enjoyed moving pictures after the supper.

ALBANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Cont.

- 1925 - Sept. 1, Church members worked together to rebuild the home of Abel and Nancy Andrews which had been struck by lightning on that date. A remarkable example of Christian cooperation inspired by Rev. Hilda Ives. As far as is known, only house in Albany rebuilt after a fire. The family re-occupied it February 10, 1926.
- 1926 - Howard Allen and Alta Bird, first delegates to Parish.
Vote of thanks to Rev. Ives and Sunday School class and Ladies Circle, as well as Roy Wardwell, for installing Delco Lighting system in Church and Grange. Henry Merrill class of Portland 500 member Sunday School, sent visitors to Albany church annually for several years.
- 1930 - Albany Church re-roofed.
- 1943 - New batteries for lighting plant.
- 1946 - Papered and painted interior of church.
- 1949 - Resumed winter services.
- 1950 - Wired for electricity. Voted to oppose selling of malt liquor in Albany.
- 1955 - Rev. Hilda Ives gave \$200 for water in Kitchen. Trust fund given.
- 1956 - Voted to discontinue services from Christmas to Easter.
- 1964 - Accepted Constitution and By-laws of United Parish.
- 1965 - Painted church, tuned organ.
- 1971 - Rev. Bertram Wentworth returned.
- 1973 - July 12th, Rev. and Mrs. Bertram Wentworth observed 50th wedding anniversary in the Church Vestry. Capacity audience.
August 12th, adults and students of Camp Nigren attended and presented vocal selections.
- 1974 - History of our "Church on Top of the World," published in April "Maine Life" magazine.
Financial drive for improvements - concrete floor in Vestry and concrete steps in front of church.

PASTORS OF THE ALBANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

- 1823 - Rev. Henry A. Merrill
- 1824 - Timothy Hill
- 1826 - Joseph Weker. Deacons and lay leaders when necessary.
- 1827 - Pulpit supplied by New Hampshire Missionary Society and pastors from Bridgton, Waterford and Yarmouth.
- 1828 - Rev. Thomas Tewksbury called and ordained.
- 1853 - Rev. Isaac Weston
- 1854 - 1855, Rev. Lorrain Reade
- 1856 - 1870, Rev. Samuel L. Gould
- 1871 - Nicholas Pearce, Student
- 1872 - 1873, John E. Smith, Andover Theological Seminary.
- 1874 - Dean R. Atkins
- 1875 - B. F. Chittenden. Yale Theological Seminary.
- 1876 - Frank M. McConaugay, Yale Theological Sem.
- 1877 - 1878, George H. Bird, Yale Theological Student.
- 1880 - George Stearns, Andover Theological Seminary.
- 1881 - W. D. P. Bliss, Harvard Theological Seminary.
- 1882 - Rev. H. H. Hutchinson.
- 1883 - A Mr. Patrick, Yale Theological Seminary.
- 1884 - C. W. Preston, Yale Divinity School.
July 13, Rev. J. S. Richards, Waterford, exchanged pulpits with Mr. Preston.
- 1885 - Rev. D. W. Preston
Rev. J. S. Richards
Rev. Perry
F. G. Webster

PASTORS OF THE ALBANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

- 1886 - George B. Waldron, Hartford Theological Seminary, one Sunday. Rev. George Tewksbury, first fulltime pastor, returned from Cambridge with son. The son preached the sermon.
- 1887 - Fred M. Wiswell, Hartford Theo. Seminary.
- 1888 - Rev. Thomas Beanekoff, N. Waterford.
- 1889 - J. W. Moulton, Yale Theological Seminary.
- 1890 - Elbridge C. Whitney, Yale Theo. Seminary.
In fall, Rev. Wiswell, 1 Sunday,
Rev. Will C. Wood, Boston, 10 Sundays.
- 1891 - Rev. Will C. Wood
- 1892 - J. B. Strong, Chicago Theological Seminary.
August M. Beanekoff
October, State Missionary Rev. G. C. Wilson,
4 days.
- 1894 - Everts W. Pond, Yale Theological Seminary.
Winter, Henry Farrar.
- 1895 - Arthur G. Beach, Yale Theological Seminary.
- 1896 - E. G. Converse, Yale Seminary.
- 1911 - 1912 - 1912, Rev. Elmer Smith.
- 1914 - Mr. Curtis of Bethel, Mrs. Sias of Waterford,
Mr. Chapman of Bethel.

SOME OF THE PASTORS OF ALBANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SINCE 1925

- 1925 - Rev. Wilbur I. Bull served parish until Nov. 1953
Rev. A. C. Townsend served parish until 1932
Rev. Hilda Ives
- 1926 - May, 1930, Rev. Bertram F. Wentworth
- 1930 - 1936, Ralph Brandon
- 1932 - September, 1935, Warren Palmer
- 1933 - Donald Bond
- 1935 - 1938, Rev. George Gledhill
- 1936 - 1937, Rev. Walter Swank
- 1938 - 1942, Rev. Willard Bickett
- 1940 - 1941, Rev. Arthur Weil
- 1942 - 1945, Rev. George Duke
- 1946 - 1949, Rev. Gerald Miller
- 1948 - 1953, Rev. Alvin Strong
- 1953 - 1958, Rev. Herbert Houghton
- 1958 - 1959, Charles Hall
- 1959 - 1963, Charles Schleich
- 1960 - Neal Eichhorn
- 1963 - 1966, Rev. Herbert Stevens
- 1963 - 1965, Norman Rust
- 1966 - 1967, Raymond Scribner
- 1968 - Jan. to Sept., Rev. Bertram F. Wentworth
- 1968 - to date, Rev. Charles S. Kent, parish pastor.
- 1968 - Mrs. Carl Kingsbury
- 1969 - Rev. Bertram F. Wentworth
- 1970 - Rev. George Stebbens
- 1971 - to date, Bertram F. Wentworth

NOTE: Parish pastors often serve more than one church. This includes the Albany Church.