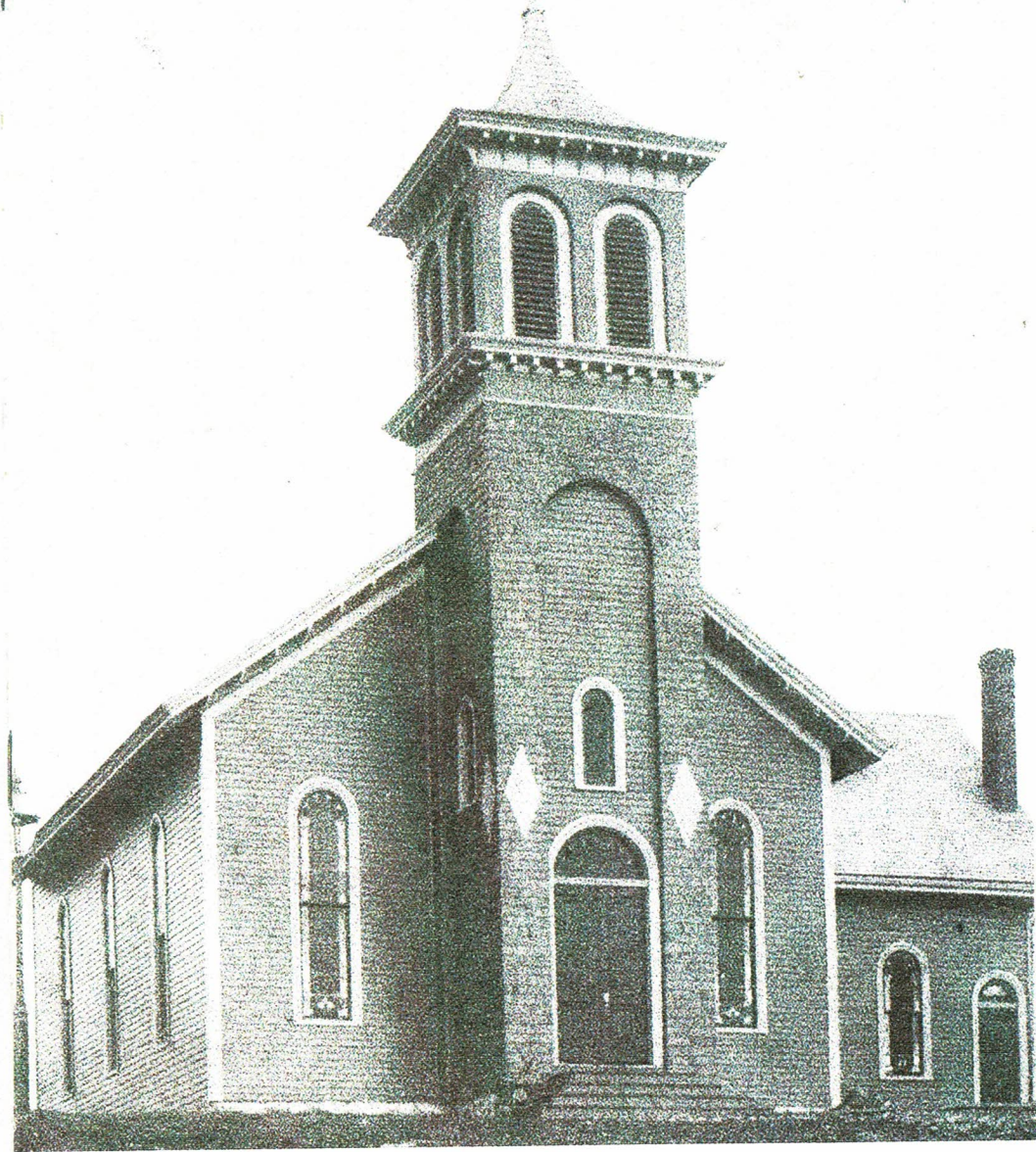


*Brackett Memorial
United Methodist Church*

*1861-2011
150th anniversary*



Brckett Memorial United Methodist Church

1861 - 2011

The evolution of the Brackett United Methodist Church over the past 150 years requires an understanding of the Methodist Church movement, island dynamics and history, and the vision and energy of the church's leaders and members.

The early inhabitants of Portland and the islands were Anglicans. They came from England to the New World for trade and adventure; and unlike the settlers around Massachusetts Bay, they were not dissenters from the Church of England. In 1633 Peaks Island (Pond Island) became part of George Cleeves' vast domain. About 1660 he leased Pond Island to his son-in-law Michael Mitton for sixty years. By 1676 King Phillip's War was raging, natives attacked the settlement with all their fury, brothers Thomas and Anthony Brackett, who had married Cleeves' two granddaughters, Mary and Anne Mitton, lost their lives. In 1728 Joshua and Anthony Brackett, grandsons of Thomas and Mary Mitton Brackett, returned to claim their share of Cleeves' property which included Peaks Island. However, the Waite family, claiming land through

another grant, waged a legal battle with the Bracketts.

A court decision, in 1763, gave seven-ninths of Peaks Island to the Bracketts and two-ninths to the Waites. Henry Trefethen of House Island bought the Waite title in 1843.

It is well to pause and consider that life around Casco Bay has not always been as it is now. Picture a stone refuge at Peaks Island and the few inhabitants living fearfully, fleeing from attacks by the natives. The scattered log cabins have dirt floors with small apertures for windows and outdoor stoves formed in natural rock where women baked their bread and raised their families. There were no roads, only winding paths. Men fished, hunted wild ducks, farmed, and tended sheep. At the time of the American Revolution there may have been as many as eight dwellings on the island built with hand-hewn timber that replaced the log cabins. It was an isolated existence and people lived precariously, guarding against the rigors of climate. It was an adventure to cross the Bay to the mainland. It is not surprising that

A brief history - compiled by Jessie Trefethen and Jerry Garman

life went on for two hundred years without a church. Rev. Jesse Lee, "Apostle of Methodism", traveled from the Connecticut River to Maine expanding the Methodist movement throughout New England in 1783.

There is no record of a church service on Peaks Island before the nineteenth century. The old schoolhouse built in 1832 was used for Sunday service until the completion of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1861. Records indicate that Methodist minister Stephen "Father" Bennett rowed bi-weekly from Chebeague Island to preach to the eight families on the island. By 1847 there were sixteen homes and over thirty by 1860. Prayer meetings were held in these homes. Some islanders were members of Portland's first Methodist Church located on Chestnut Street. There is a word-of-mouth story that Henry Brackett and Henry Trefethen met one day, by chance or prearrangement, and counted the growing number of possible church members on Peaks Island. They agreed that the island should have a church and made pledges to build one on Meeting House Hill, overlooking

the school. Other people gave money, time, labor and even loads of dirt. This small church had a simple white interior, with a delicate white balustrade in front of the altar and white, straight-backed pews purchased by each family. The choir gallery was at the entrance wall which housed the choir and the melodian. Kerosene lamps suspended overhead and located on each wall provided illumination for the church. The building was heated by two pot-bellied coal burning stoves. Begun on 1860, it was finished and dedicated July 26, 1861 as the Methodist Episcopal Church, although some people had wished it to be non-sectarian. The church had a value of \$3,200 and included thirty-nine church members, five probationers, fifteen officers and teachers and one hundred and five Sunday school scholars. The first parsonage was built in 1873 on Pleasant Avenue, and the Pond Cove Cemetery was incorporated. A bell, donated by "The Willing Workers", was installed in the steeple in 1886 to call worshippers to church and also served as the island's fire bell.

As a result of a 1902 bequest from

Ministries

the Henry M. Brackett estate, the church was remodeled and enlarged. The interior was changed, the choir moved to the front and more comfortable pews were added. With the addition of the vestry the church was renamed the Brackett Memorial Church in honor of one of the oldest families, direct descendants of the Cleeves and Mittons. The second parsonage was built adjacent to the church in 1938. The addition of the Fellowship Hall in 1958 and the acquisition of the third and present parsonage in 1972 created the present physical configuration of the Brackett United Methodist Church.

We have celebrated our 78th, 90th, 100th, 135th and now the 150th anniversary of this little white church on the hill. Each period recognizes the contributions of many individual leaders and groups such as: the Peaks Island Sewing Circle, Women's Foreign Missionary Society, the Men's Organized Bible Class, the Mother's

Club, the Couples Club, the Ladies Circle of Willing Workers, the United Women's Mother's Club, the Cub Scouts, the Girl Scouts, and numerous musical singing groups and choirs. The church, now organized under a committee system and directed by a Church Council, faces the same challenges as our predecessors: summer/winter congregations, aging membership, high maintenance costs, budget constraints, and the changing leadership. Fifty-one different ministers have served our church in our one hundred and fifty-year history. In addition to baptisms, marriages and funerals each ministry has focused on the true stewardship of the church, the island and the world.

Our Mission Statement

We are called to be an inclusive, diverse and caring Christian community: worshiping, praying, witnessing, reaching out to all people on the island and beyond, daring to grow and change as God calls us.

The Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church is currently involved in the following:

Worship and Music Ministries

Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Special Worship (Taize'), Contemplative Prayer, Easter Sunrise Service, Blessing of the Animals, Christmas Eve, Tenebrae and other Holy Days.

Community Ministries

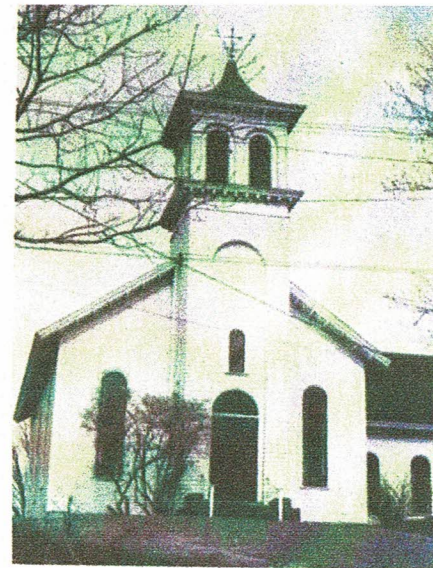
Thrift Shop, Tween Night, Church Suppers, Fairs and Rummage Sales, Serving Area Homeless, Immigrants and Refugees, Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Global Ministries

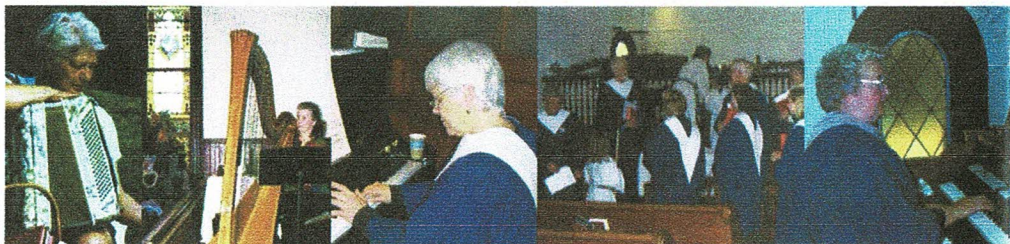
Haiti Health Kits, Zimbabwe Missions, UMCOR (United Methodist Church Out Reach), One Great Hour of Sharing and Church World Service Blankets, Nothing but nets for malaria prevention.

Education Ministries

Environmental Stewardship, Weekly Sunday School, Eco Camps, Weekly Scripture Studies and Bibles given to all 3rd Graders, Community discussion groups and interfaith dialogue



In the past 150 years the "white church on the hill" has offered comfort to islanders through Civil and World Wars, depressions and recessions, and civil rights movements. Its open door policy has played an important role in creating the Peaks Island community. This church is committed to direct our energies and resources in the fulfillment of missions that will offer witness of our stewardship to the church, the community and the world.



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1846; d. Feb. 6, 1937

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8, 1870

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| Wm. T. Jones | 112 |
| \$45 | \$8 |
| R. J. Sterling | 41 |
| \$45 | \$5 |
| 40 | |
| W. G. Brackell | 39 |
| \$45 | \$3 |
| John Fickett | 39 |
| \$40 | |
| Wm. Dejeuxen | 38 |
| \$40 | |
| W. G. Brackell | 37 |
| \$35 | \$425 |
| 36 | |
| Robt. Sterling | 35 |
| \$30 | 1012 |
| L. S. Dejeuxen | 35 |
| \$25 | 712 |
| 34 | |

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| 24 | \$25 | \$25 | 23 |
| 25 | \$50 | \$50 | \$3 |
| | | Wm. T. Jones | 22 |
| 26 | \$55 | \$12 | \$55 |
| | | W. G. Brackell | 21 |
| 27 | \$85 | \$12 | \$15 |
| | | John Sterling | 20 |
| 28 | \$55 | \$5 | \$55 |
| | | W. G. Brackell | 19 |
| 29 | \$55 | \$3 | \$55 |
| | | John Sterling | 18 |
| 30 | \$50 | \$50 | \$50 |
| | | Wm. Dejeuxen | 17 |
| 31 | \$50 | \$50 | 1825 |
| | | W. G. Brackell | 16 |
| 32 | \$45 | \$1250 | \$45 |
| | | W. G. Brackell | 15 |
| 33 | \$40 | \$50 | \$40 |
| | | Wm. Dejeuxen | 14 |

Library

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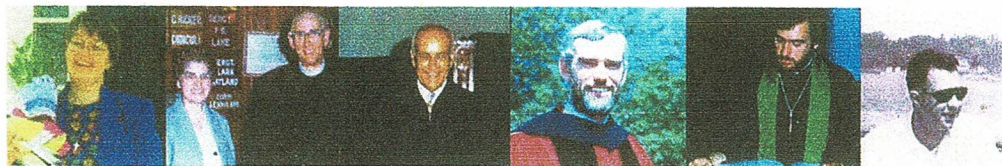
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\$50 \$6
44 C. E. Trufelthun
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45 A. G. Sterling
John Sterling
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S. M. Torrington
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W. Trufelthun
3 \$50 \$11
Sarah M. Torrington
W. G. Brackell

Record of Pastors

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <i>W.N. Richardson</i> | <i>1860-1862</i> | <i>Ambrose B. McAlister</i> | <i>1927-1930</i> |
| <i>Charles W. Blackman</i> | <i>1862-1864</i> | <i>Arthur F. Pedler</i> | <i>1930-1935</i> |
| <i>Joseph Hawks</i> | <i>1864-1865</i> | <i>John Singleton</i> | <i>1936-1938</i> |
| <i>Benjamin Freeman</i> | <i>1865-1868</i> | <i>Percy Ridlon</i> | <i>1938-1940</i> |
| <i>Asbury C. Trafton</i> | <i>1868-1871</i> | <i>Harry Whiteley</i> | <i>1940-1948</i> |
| <i>J.H. Trask</i> | <i>1871-1873</i> | <i>Orville C. King</i> | <i>1948-1950</i> |
| <i>John C. Perry</i> | <i>1873-1876</i> | <i>Joseph Griffiths</i> | <i>1950-1954</i> |
| <i>Hezekiah Chase</i> | <i>1876-1879</i> | <i>John Neff</i> | <i>1954-1957</i> |
| <i>True P. Adams</i> | <i>1879-1882</i> | <i>Richard Davis</i> | <i>1957-1960</i> |
| <i>Charles F. Parsons</i> | <i>1882-1885</i> | <i>Patrick Wolfe</i> | <i>1960-1962</i> |
| <i>J.B. Lapham</i> | <i>1885-1888</i> | <i>Robert Burton</i> | <i>1962-1965</i> |
| <i>Kinsman Atkinson</i> | <i>1888-1889</i> | <i>George Fallan</i> | <i>1965-1967</i> |
| <i>John Collins</i> | <i>1889-1893</i> | <i>Robert E. Blake</i> | <i>1967-1969</i> |
| <i>Frank W. Smith</i> | <i>1893-1897</i> | <i>Norman Catir</i> | <i>1969-1972</i> |
| <i>William S. Jones</i> | <i>1897-1900</i> | <i>John Bachman</i> | <i>1973-1974</i> |
| <i>L.W. Bean</i> | <i>1900-1900</i> | <i>Michael E. Davis</i> | <i>1974-1976</i> |
| <i>N.A. Sherman</i> | <i>1900-1903</i> | <i>Henry Huddleston</i> | <i>1976-1978</i> |
| <i>Daniel R. Ford</i> | <i>1903-1907</i> | <i>Linda Littlefield</i> | <i>1978-1980</i> |
| <i>H.E. Leech</i> | <i>1907-1907</i> | <i>Gary Chamberlain</i> | <i>1980-1984</i> |
| <i>Woodbury C. Merrill</i> | <i>1908-1908</i> | <i>Phyllis C. Dodd</i> | <i>1984-1986</i> |
| <i>Eugene W. Kennison</i> | <i>1908-1910</i> | <i>Delena A. Gilman</i> | <i>1986-1988</i> |
| <i>Edbridge Gerry</i> | <i>1910-1912</i> | <i>Theodore R. Poland</i> | <i>1988-1992</i> |
| <i>Wilmot P. Lord</i> | <i>1912-1914</i> | <i>Charle Hale</i> | <i>1992-1995</i> |
| <i>John E. Clancy</i> | <i>1914-1921</i> | <i>Johanne Dame</i> | <i>1996-2003</i> |
| <i>William H. Varney</i> | <i>1921-1927</i> | <i>Casey Collins</i> | <i>2003-2006</i> |
| | | <i>Desi Larson</i> | <i>2007-</i> |



Church Chronology

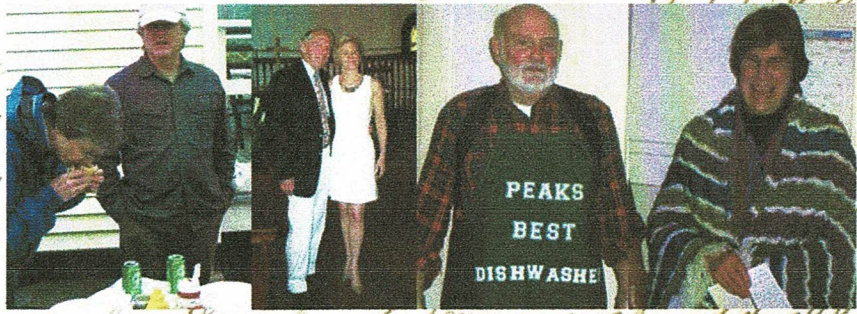
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| <p>1783 Rev. Jesse Lee "Apostle of Methodism" in New England</p> <p>1820 Maine becomes a state</p> <p>1826 Rev Stephen Bennett, pioneer minister, would row from Chebeague Island each Sunday. Some islanders were enrolled in Portland's Chestnut street Methodist Church.</p> <p>1832 Religious services held in PI first school opposite the present firehouse</p> <p>1854 First meeting of the Mothers Club (11 members)</p> <p>1859 8,000sf Meeting House lot and right of way, Sam Trott, Skillins \$40</p> <p>1860 Building started on Meeting House Hill (value \$3,200) Loft for choir and melodeon, white, strait-backed pews rent for \$5</p> <p>1861 Methodist Episcopal Church dedicated 7-25 (39 members, 5 probationers, 15 officers and teachers, 105 Sunday school scholars). Rev. C.C. Cone preached dedication sermon</p> <p>1870 Pew assignment plan. Pews sold for \$25-55 with annual maintenance fee of \$3-13</p> <p>1873 Pond Cove Cemetery Incorporated</p> | <p>1873 Parsonage built on Pleasant Ave (old Ventres house), \$1,000.84, 23x32, 4BR, K, sitting room and basement</p> <p>1877 Women's Foreign Missionary Society formed Stained-glass window dedicated to Mrs. Eliza A. Jones</p> <p>1886 Bell given by Willing Workers Society (served as island fire alarm)</p> <p>1897 Christian Endeavor started</p> <p>1902 Church remodeled and vestry added</p> <p>1903 Became Brackett Memorial Church</p> <p>1905 747 sf front lawn, Liddy, W Frazer</p> <p>1915 Gas installed in church</p> <p>1916 Shingle one side paint the other side, one coat</p> <p>1921 Lot with cottage lots 17 & 18, Dunston, McGonical</p> <p>1922 Easterly side of Pleasant Street with building, PI Sewing Circle</p> <p>1927 Install pulpit light and light in Pastor's study</p> <p>1931 \$2,000 mortgage on parsonage built next to church</p> <p>1932 Presentations of Kitty Grant's plays: "The Peabody Pew" and "Rosemary Of the Island" as fund raisers</p> | <p>1938 Parsonage shingled \$198, New furnace 78th Anniversary John Singleton Pastor</p> <p>1940 New Baldwin Electronic organ</p> <p>1941 Purchased garage Pleasant Ave. parsonage sold to Florence J Ventres Mortgage discharged, Preachers Aid Society</p> <p>1942 IRS 101 (S) Tax Exempt Status</p> <p>1947 Sunday school in parsonage, nursery in robe room</p> <p>1948 Pleasant & Church street 6,970sf lot purchased Note: Spar Cove cottage was purchased for the church Buy two lots behind church 10,000sf, side of church 5,000sf</p> <p>1949 Purchased mirror for organ</p> <p>1950 New oil furnace (no coal) adjust janitors pay 90th anniversary Joseph Griffins Pastor</p> <p>1950 Boy Scouts</p> <p>1951 Women's Society of Christian Service organized (29 members) PI Christian Community Center planned 90th Anniversary Joseph Griffiths Pastor</p> <p>1954 \$20,000 Building Fund Campaign for a new parish hall</p> <p>1955 Considered purchase of the Avenue House and Mr. Files store Married Couples Club formed</p> <p>1956 Purchase lots 87-M-7 & 9 from George Alexander for \$100 Building crusade: \$13,000 pledges, \$9,400 cash Lumber obtained from Knickerbocker Hotel garage \$3,000 note 10yrs @4 % (Div. of National Missions)</p> <p>1957 Remove garage, concrete walks and toilets added</p> <p>1958 New hall built and named Memorial Hall, painted light green with white trim Gene Trott donates piano, Mary & Mabel Daveis donate new kitchen, Alonzo Foss assisted in constructed hall</p> <p>1959 Larger burner installed</p> <p>1960 Floors sanded and refinished in Memorial Hall Old reed organ disposed (purchased used from St. Joseph Academy in 1940 for \$300) 100th Anniversary Patrick Wolfe Pastor</p> <p>1960 New gas stove</p> <p>1961 Troop 179 Girl Scouts, Troup 178 Brownies Paint steeple and fellowship hall, new church sign \$50</p> |
|---|---|---|

- 100th Anniversary
Patrick Wolfe, pastor
- 1962 Real estate tax on lot 87-M-9
- 1963 Florescent lights installed in fellowship hall, new spinet organ with full pedals
- 1964 Walls and ceiling painted, add steps to stage \$565
- 1965 New furnace \$630, 125 hymnals
- 1966 New cold air ducts, and kitchen stove
- 1967 7,585 sf & 7,585 lots 13 & 14
- 1968 Property behind church given by Mr. Hall, new fence, paint church \$885
Became Brackett United Methodist Church
Paint church, roof bell tower
- 1969 Dedication of altar in memory of Elizabeth & William Peffle
- 1970 Remove parsonage, re-lead stained-glass windows, replace main door plus three other
- 1971 Alco siding church \$1,609
- 1972 Current parsonage (home of Mrs. Cody Green) inherited by Mrs. Randall and given to Church and remodeled with new back steps.
- 1973 New sump pump
U. M. Women's Club (youth program)
- 1975 Kitchen and storeroom replaced \$4,168
Burn parsonage mortgage \$3,371
- 1976 Pack 76 Boy Scouts
Six inch foil insulation \$1,500
- 1980 Eleven inches of insulation for hall and kitchen
- 1981 Cathedral chimes donated by Kenneth Varney
Hot air furnace \$2,200
- 1982 Roof over handicapped ramp
- 1984 Vinyl siding \$9,750, insulate church \$3,500
- 1985 New roof parsonage \$2,400
- 1986 New bell, fans, public address system \$1,600, back door, swinging doors with glass

- 1988 Roof replaced on church
- 1989 "PI Rocks" youth music
- 1990 John Zemanek refurbishes church bell
- 1995 New front door church in memory of Myrtle Peffle, new siding, porch and dormer for parsonage
- 1996 135th anniversary Joanne Dame pastor
- 1997 Teak bench in memory of Mardiann Green, new stage barriers
- 1998 Emergency lights, East and rear of parsonage re-shingled
- 2000 Parsonage: new refrigerator, electric stove, hood, 100 amp service, front yard fence.
Church: new refrigerator
- 2001 Handicap bathrooms, new sign
- 2003 Church: Two new furnaces church, two new electric stoves, electric water heater, re-wire kitchen.
Parsonage: new furnace, relined flue, kitchen floor, rug, storm door
- 2004 New washer/dryer, front/back porch rebuilt
- 2005 Church: new piano, new organ, steeple and trim painted, plastic barriers for stained-glass windows, new railing entrance, 9/11 memorial banner created
- 2007 Portable generator, new wiring and switch board vestry.
Low flow toilet parsonage
Energy audit for church
- 2008 Green Teams: New windows parsonage, ridge vent installed, insulate church and parsonage, new light fixtures fellowship hall, installed phase I of sound system, low flow toilets
- 2009 New roof (mid church)
- 2010 New windows parsonage
Fellowship hall re-painted
- 2011 Energy windows for fellowship hall
150th anniversary
Rev. Desi Larson

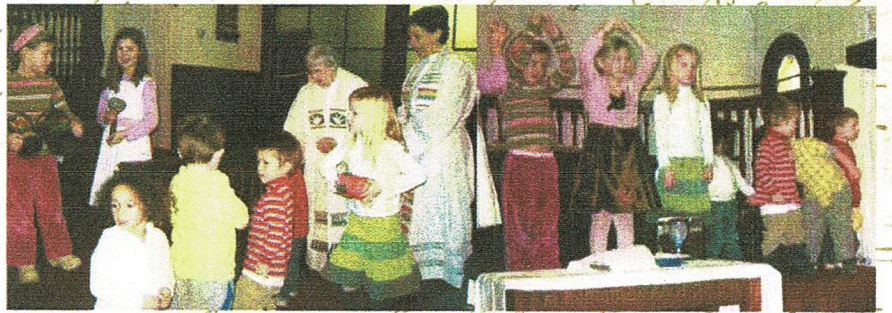


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The Church Today



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meeting
The Church's Future



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The Church's Future

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