

Woods Hole Historical Collection
P.O. Box 185
Woods Hole, MA 02543

REGISTER
Church of the Messiah
1852 – 2002

2 boxes

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

HISTORY

The Church of the Messiah was founded in September 1852. The key persons responsible for organizing the Church were Jeremiah Hopkins and Joseph Story Fay. Mrs. Hopkins was an Episcopalian who moved from Boston to Woods Hole and became the keeper of Webster House, known also as the Naushon house, located at the beginning of Parker's Point (later Butler and Juniper Point). It was through his efforts that Bishop Eastburn conducted a service in the old school house in Woods Hole, located on a bluff at the inner end of Little Harbor. In June of 1852, the Reverend Mr. Babcock of Salem conducted another service in the school house which so excited interest in the establishment of an Episcopal Church that twenty-five laymen came together to establish the first church of any kind in Woods Hole. With the exception of Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Fay, every person who signed the original agreement was either Congregationalist or Methodist.

Joseph Story Fay, Woods Hole's first summer resident, became the Parish's greatest benefactor. In October of 1852 he offered three acres of land adjoining the old village burying ground as a site for the church. The contract to construct the church was let for the sum of \$2,474. The original wooden church was built during 1852 on the site of the present stone church and served as the church until 1888.

In 1887, Joseph Story Fay asked permission to construct a stone church on the site of the wooden church. It was built the following year, and the original wooden church was moved a few hundred feet to the north.

The architect of the stone church was W.P. Wentworth of Boston.

The original wooden church served as the Parish House until the erection a modern-style building across Church Street, named Fisher House for Reverend George Fisher. The original church building is used for Sunday School and offices. Fisher House contains the church offices and meeting spaces.

Notes on the windows:

Stained glass windows now in the baptistery were around the altar in the original church in 1853. They were probably imported from England. The cost of moving of these windows from the original church building to the baptistery was a gift of the Reverend Benjamin Gifford as a memorial to his parents.

There is a rose window over the front door. The window over the altar is in the style of John LaFarge (1835-1910, designer of many church windows). This window may have been designed by LaFarge disciple, Margaret Tillinghast, who was also a member of the LaFarge firm..

Windows in the Bell Tower are modern, installed in the 1950s by William Burnham Studios of Wakefield, Massachusetts.

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

SCOPE NOTE

The collection in Box 1 covers the entire history of the Church of the Messiah from its beginning in 1852 and after the erection of the Stone Church in 1888. There are many original 19th century documents in the form of bills, announcements and treasurer's reports. 20th century items include correspondence; many newsclippings, especially noting the installation of various new rectors and their later careers; and histories of the Church. Material also includes the Herb Garden on the south side of the stone church, the Church Exchange and material on the stained glass windows.

Box 2 contains many small newsclippings of weekly church services, weddings, deaths from 1965 through the early 1990s. There are also selected Annual Reports from 1983-1987. There are several original ink drawings for a renovation of the original wooden church building, undated but done before 1896.

BOX LISTS

Last updated 12/7/2010

BOX 1

- 1-1. Handwritten manuscript. "Records of The Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole, Mass. Vol. I. Beginning with the Organization of the Society, September 4, 1852 Ending with record of special Vestry meeting, Mar. 10, 1888". Xerox copy and typewritten copy.
- 1-2. Bills. 1877-1907.
- 1-3. Handwritten manuscript on ledger paper. By-Laws relative to the Church lot... adopted twenty-eight November 1878.
- 1-4. Handwritten manuscript on ledger paper. Report of the Treasurer Jabez Davis, April 22, 1878 through 1880.
- 1-5. Photograph. Black and white photo of watercolor painting by Sarah Bryant Fay of the east side of Little Harbor, including the original church, 1880.
- 1-6. Handwritten manuscript. Bill from J.W. Davis to Joseph Story Fay for repairs, September 1881.
- 1-7. Pamphlet. Treasurer's Account Book from April 1881 - 1885,. Red board covered booklet with lined paper, hand written account listings by E.E. Swift.
- 1-8. Printed financial statements. Financial statement of the Parish of the Church of the Messiah, 1885-1891.
- 1-9. Newsletter. *Occasional Paper*, November 1888. Xerox copies.
- 1-10. Program and tickets. Consecration of the Church of the Messiah, July 2, 1889. Original tickets (2) and copy (xerox) of program.
- 1-11. Handwritten manuscript on ledger paper. Treasurer's Report of Ezekiel E. Swift, April 7, 1890.
- 1-12. Handwritten letter. Letter to the Vestry of the Church of the Messiah from Reverend Martin Kellogg Schermerhorn accepting position as rector, January 15, 1896.
- 1-13. Printed financial statements. Financial statements for 1898, 1900, 1903.
- 1-14. Booklet. Catalog of the Sunday School Library, 1899.
- 1-15. Printed paper. Report of the Cemetery Committee For the Woods Hole Village Cemetery, 1913.
- 1-16. Handwritten letters. Letters to Parish Clerk, Edward E. Swift, about acceptance of

- position as rector, from Reverend James Bancroft, January 12, 1922 and January 18, 1922.
- 1-17. Typed and handwritten manuscripts. Minutes of Vestry Meetings, 1922, 1939, 1940, 1949, 1951.
 - 1-18. Photograph. Sepia-toned portrait of Reverend George Fisher (1839-1926). In cardboard holder. N.D.
 - 1-19. Clippings. Originals (1926) and xerox copies.
 - a. Obituary. "Rev. George Fisher, Had Been Rector at Woods Hole for Many Years."
 - b. "Bishop to Preside At Fisher Funeral".
 - 1-20. Calendar and Program.
 - a. Church of the Messiah calendar, 1936.
 - b. Program, Easter Service, 1936.
 - 1-21. Typed manuscripts. Minutes of Annual Parish Meetings, 1937-1951.
 - 1-22. Typed file card. Comparison of Operating Expenses, 1945-1947.
 - 1-22B. Program. "Victory Sermon", by the Reverend George H. Eliot, August 19, 1945. 2 copies.
 - 1-23. Pamphlet Reports.
 - a. Report of the Treasurer Relating to the Village Cemetery and Churchyard of the Church of the Messiah for the year 1950.
 - b. Statement of Condition of the Church of the Messiah for the year ending December 31, 1950.
 - 1-24. Typewritten manuscripts. (Financial) Statement of Condition of the Church of the Messiah 1951, 1956.
 - 1-25. Typewritten letter. Letter from George A. Griffin to Edward E. Swift reporting the decision of the Vestry to appoint Mason Wilson as rector. N.D. (1951?).
 - 1-26. Card. Announcement of the Ordination of Mason Wilson, Jr. by Bishop Nash, December 16, 1951.
 - 1-27. Program. Centennial Service of Thanksgiving, August 31, 1952.
 - 1-28. Pamphlet. "The Church of the Messiah Through the Ages", An Historical Sermon. Preached by the Reverend Mason Wilson, Rector, August 31, 1952. 4 originals and 1 xerox copy.
 - 1-29. Typewritten manuscript. Report of the Rector to the Parish, January 14, 1952. 2 copies.
 - 1-30. Newsclipping. "Rectory is Completed at Woods Hole." December 1953.
 - 1-31A. Newsclippings, cards and typewritten manuscript.
 - a. Christmas Cards from the Masons 1962 and n.d. and Christmas postcard, 1978.
 - b. Clipping. "Mr. Wilson Weds Bishop's Daughter" (Barbara Prue Sherrill), *Falmouth Enterprise*, January 5, 1960.
 - c. Clipping. Mrs. Wilson with poster for nursing fete. *Falmouth Enterprise*, n.d.
 - d. Clipping. "The Rev. Mason Wilson, Jr., Resigns Woods Hole Pulpit", *Falmouth Enterprise*, n.d. (1961?)
 - e. Clipping. Editorial Page: "A Decade of Successful Leadership", *Falmouth*

- Enterprise*, August 4, 1961.
- f. Clipping (copy). "Rector, Wife Given Farewell Gift", Cape Cod *Standard Times*, August 25, 1961.
 - g. Typewritten manuscript. Christmas letter from the Wilsons, St. Andrew's Rectory, Framingham, Mass. 1977.
- 1-31B. Pamphlets.
- a. The Church of the Messiah: A Brief History. By the Rev. Mason Wilson, Rector. 12 copies. N.D. (1954).
 - b. Clipping. "Church of the Messiah: Cape Cod's Oldest Episcopal Church". By the Rev. Mason Wilson, Rector. N.D. Pages 10-14 from *The Church Militant*.
- 1-32. Historical dates and information about the Church. N.D.
- a. Typewritten manuscript. List of Rectors and important dates. Typed on half-sheet stationary printed at top: "Edward E. Swift, Parish Clerk, Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole, Mass."
 - b. Typewritten manuscript. List of Rectors and important dates, with penciled additional information.
- 1-33. Histories of the Church. N.D.
- a. Typewritten manuscript. Detailed early history of the Church and land acquisition.
 - b. Typewritten manuscript. Church of the Messiah, History of Establishment. Detailed early history of the Church and land acquisition. Signed, George Fisher, July 26, 1918. See next Item (c).
 - c. Envelope for Item b. Labeled: "Church of the Messiah, History of the Church of the Messiah Its Beginning, Selection of Site, Founders, Rectors, etc. 1852-1878 By Franklin L. Gifford". "Please return to Ellen F. Griffin".
 - d. Pamphlet. Cover: The Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, Cape Cod's Oldest Episcopal Church. Founded 1852. Inside text titled: The Church of the Messiah: A Brief History by the Rev. Mason Wilson, Rector. N.D. (after 1952).
 - e. Pamphlet. "The Church of the Messiah Through the Ages", An Historical. Sermon Preached by the Reverend Mason Wilson, Rector, August 31, 1952. (Additional copies, see Item 1-28).
 - f. Typewritten manuscript. The Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole, Massachusetts. 7 pages, no author, no date.
 - g. Typewritten manuscript. Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole, Dorothy Olcott Elsmith. Includes list of memorial gifts. N.D.
 - h. Cover for report. Report of the Profile Committee, The Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole, Mass. Flat cover, no contents.
- 1-34. Newsclipping. "Woods Hole Had 40 Houses When Church Of The Messiah Was Founded in 1852." Falmouth *Enterprise* Mailaway Edition, August 8, 1952. Original and xerox copy.
- 1-35. Typewritten manuscript. Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole, Mass. Constitution. N.D.

- 1-36. Printed announcements (2). Board of officers, Church of the Messiah. No dates (19th century).
- 1-37. Newsclippings.
- a. "The exchange that grew" (Church of the Messiah Exchange). Falmouth *Enterprise*, March 9, 1962. Original and 2 xerox copies.
 - b. "In Her Honor" (Reverend Hoffman and Alice Veeder at a luncheon in her honor), Falmouth *Enterprise*, November 26, 1962. Xerox copy.
- 1-38. Photograph. Church of the Messiah Church Work Association, n.d. (1960s?) B/w photograph 5 x 7 inches. Labeled in back: Left – right standing: Sophie Edwards, Mary Tute, Dorothy Bowen, --- (partially hidden), Mrs. Alton, Dorothy F. Mixer, Rena Howes, Hazel Lillie, Mrs. Keith, Alice Veeder, Mary Shiverick. Seated: Elizabeth Fay, Mary Bridcott, Anne Chambers, Bertha Hill, Mrs. Tate, Christiana Anderson, Margaret Jones.
- 1-39. Program and newsclippings. Re Rev. Edgar Lockwood.
- a. Newsclipping. "Church of the Messiah Chooses New Rector". Falmouth *Enterprise*, September 30, 1960 or 1962. Xerox copy. Original copy of photo in clipping.
 - b. Church of the Messiah Thanksgiving Day program, November 24, 1963.
 - c. Newsclipping. "Former Rector Visits Woods Hole." Falmouth *Enterprise*, 1968.
 - d. Newsclipping. Landmarks. "Former Woods Hole Rector Now Serving With AFSC." Falmouth *Enterprise*, February 22, 1983.
- 1-40. Newsclippings. Re Rev. Charles L. Hoffman, 1971-1982.
- 1-41. Program, Photograph and Typed Manuscripts: Herb Garden of the Church of the Messiah, June 1975-1991.
- a. Program. Dedication Ceremony, Herb Garden, Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, Sunday, June 8, 1975. St. Columba's Day June 9.
 - b. Photograph. Color photograph of new Herb Garden, 1975, 8 x 10 inches. Accession Number 97-3.
 - c. Typewritten manuscript. Brief notes for talk on herb garden, by J.S. Gaines, Spring 1986.
 - d. Typewritten manuscripts. Notes on the Herb Garden at the Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole, Mass. Written for the church news letter by Jennifer Gaines, May 1991. Two copies.
- 1-42. Program and newsclippings. Re Women Priests.
- a. Program. Program welcoming the Reverends Suzanne Hiatt, Carter Heyward and Elsa Walberg, July 20, 1975.
 - b. Newsclippings. Clippings from the Boston *Globe*, Cape Cod *Times* and Falmouth *Enterprise*, July 1975, about the above women priests and the sole church welcoming them on the Cape (Church of the Messiah and Rector Rev. Charles L. Hoffman).

- 1-43. Photographs. Photos taken at the Church of the Messiah of various people, c. 1980.
Contact sheet and 35 mm negatives.
- 1-43B. Booklet. 1983 Directory of the Church of the Messiah.
- 1-44. Program, correspondence and poster for centennial fund drive.
- a. Letter from Stone Church Centennial Fund Committee, August 1987,
with pledge card.
 - b. Poster for Centennial fund drive with repairs and needs diagrammed.
 - c. Program. Centennial celebration of the "Stone Church", July 2, 1989. Two
copies.
- 1-45. Newsclipping, Invitation and Program. Re Rev. Myrick T. Cross, 16th Rector.
- a. Newsclipping. "Bishop Barbara Harris Celebrating Installation At Church of
the Messiah of Myrick T. Cross, 16th Rector", Falmouth *Enterprise*, May 4, 1990.
Original and xerox copy.
 - b. Invitation. Celebration of Our New Ministry, May 12, 1990.
 - c. Program. Celebration of a New Ministry with The Rev. Myrick T. Cross, Ed.D.
May 12, 1990.
- 1-46. Handwritten letter. Letter to the Vestry from Mary Lou Smith, Falmouth
Historical Commission, May 19, 1992 re sodium vapor lights on exterior of
Church. Xerox copy.
- 1-46B. Booklet. The Church of the Messiah Directory 1993.
- 1-47. Correspondence and photographs. Re new stained glass window, 1993-1994.
- a. Typed Christmas letter with one color photo Christmas card from the Hersey
family, 1993. The photo is of the exterior of the Church of the Messiah with the
original window and the letter is about the proposed installation.
 - b. Handwritten Christmas letter with two color photo prints, from Sally Hersey to
Connie Chadwick, 1994. Photo prints, mounted on green paper letter, are of the
new Marine Commemorative window which replaced an original window on the
right side of the front entrance, both exterior view and interior view.
*The Hersey family organized the effort to install the new window and were the chief
contributors to its expense.*
- 1-48. a. Booklet. *Sprintsail*, Volume 10, Number 1, Winter 1996. Issue with two articles
on the Church of the Messiah (Sally Loessel, Art and Architecture of the Church of
the Messiah, and William O. Burwell, The Stone Church of the Messiah in Woods
Hole). Two copies.
- b. Handwritten letter. Letter from Rev. Mason Wilson to Myrick T. Cross about
the above issue of *Sprintsail*, December 11, 1996.
 - c. Typewritten letter. Detailed 9-page letter from Rev. Edgar Lockwood with details
and amplifications of facts and material on the Church. This was reprinted in its
entirety in *Sprintsail*, Volume 11, Number 1, Winter 1997.
- 1-49. Booklet. The Church of the Messiah Master Parish List 2002.

BOX 2

- 2-1. Drawings. Ink drawings of renovations to Parish House, no date. Ink on linen, rolled.
- 2-2. Newsclippings, 1965.
- 2-3. Newsclippings, 1977.
- 2-4. Newsclippings, 1978.
- 2-5. Newsclippings, 1979.
- 2-6. Newsclippings, 1980.
- 2-7. Newsclippings, 1981.
- 2-8. Newsclippings, 1985. Service Write-Ups.
- 2-9. Newsclippings, 1985. Social clippings.
- 2-10. Newsclippings, 1985. Deaths.
- 2-11. Newsclippings, 1985.
- 2-12. Newsclippings, 1986. Service Write-Ups.
- 2-13. Newsclippings, 1986. Activities.
- 2-14. Newsclippings, 1986-1987. Deaths.
- 2-15. Newsclippings, 1986-1987. Weddings and Births.
- 2-16. Newsclippings, 1987. Service Write-Ups.
- 2-17. Newsclippings, 1987. Activities.
- 2-18. Newsclippings, 1988. Service Write-Ups.
- 2-19. Newsclippings, 1988. Activities.
- 2-20. Newsclippings, 1988-1989. Weddings.
- 2-21. Newsclippings, 1989. Activities.
- 2-22. Newsclippings, 1988-1989. Deaths.
- 2-23. Newsclippings, 1989. Service Write-Ups.
- 2-24. Newsclippings, 1985-1989. Diocese.
- 2-25. Newsclippings, 1980s-1990s.
- 2-26. Annual Reports, 1983-1991.
- 2-27. Annual Reports, 1995, 1997.
- 2-28. Newsclippings, 1995. Re Bishop Johnson's Death.
- 2-29. Miscellaneous, 1970s-1990s. Service Programs, Event Programs, Minutes of Vestry, Officers of Church and Vestry, Treasurer's Reports.
- 2-30. Newspaper. *The Episcopal Times*, October 1994.
- 2-31. Typewritten manuscript. Notes from Conversation with Elizabeth Fay, 1993, about old rectory.
- 2-32. Newsclipping and Audio CD.
 - a. "Church of the Messiah History Focus of Presentation", Falmouth *Enterprise*, May 1, 2009. Lecture by Richard Carter on Church and Joseph S. Fay.
 - b. Audio CD of above lecture, repeated August 30, 2009.
- 2-33. Newsclipping. Obituary, Edgar Lockwood, Falmouth *Enterprise*, October 23, 2009. Original and xerox copy.