

## **History – Greenville Church**

### Highlights in the First Century of the Union Church

1858

Christianity comes to Greenville with the early settlers. Services were held at a school house on the East Road called the Greenville Meeting House Society. Visiting ministers of all denominations preached here.

1859

The first church building, destined to become the Union Church, was built with the support of members of all denominations.

1869

James Cameron, a Presbyterian layman, was instrumental in the gathering of the Union Church, and served it in a pastoral capacity until 1871.

1873

Rev. Charles Davison of Monson accepted a call to be pastor of the Union Church and served for a quarter of a century. There is a memorial window in the Sanctuary in his memory.

1874

The Laura T. Davison Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. Charles Davison, and continues to serve to this day.

1899

The Rev. James H. Peardon accepted a call as the pastor of the Union Church; during his ministry, the People's Methodist Church was formed.

1903

During this period the Union Church was rebuilt, the original building being raised and turned 90 degrees. Rev. Mr. Buchanan served as pastor followed by Rev. Mr. Raymond A. Fowles.

1910

Rev. Harry C. Vrooman began his labors as pastor on May 1 and also served the little church at Chesuncook.

1912

The Ready Workers Society was formed, as a group which has done much good in the community and for the church.

1923

Through the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Lyman Blair the grounds surrounding the church were beautified. The Ready Workers made needed changes and repairs on the building.

1924

A cobblestone portico was erected by Mr. Blair as a memorial to Mrs. Blair. The organ, which had been operated by hand-propelled bellows, was provided with a motor.

1937

The First Budget Committee conducted a house-to-house canvass which resulted in our present pledge system.

1941

The Rev. Robert Mayhew accepted a call to be the minister of the Union Church. During his pastorate a new furnace was installed, the chancel was made more attractive, rest rooms were provided, and other changes were made.

1942

A memorial carillon was installed in the church tower in remembrance of her husband by Mrs. Bernice Young.

1943

Memorial candlesticks were given by Mrs. May Crowley.

1944

The first communion set used in Greenville was presented to the church by Mrs. Henrietta Clark Gould, it having been brought to Greenville by her great grandfather, Stephen Darling, in 1835, and used in religious services at the old schoolhouse on the East Road.

1947

A Hammond electric organ was installed and dedicated on April 20th with a recital by Hugh Sawyer and the choir.

1957

Two communion plates were presented to the church by O. C. Harvey and family and Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Harvey.

1958

A pulpit Bible was presented to the church by Miss Gretchen Hamilton.

1959

The gift of a linen tablecloth and napkins for the communion table was given in memory of Elizabeth Ells by her family. Repairs were made on the beautiful church windows.

1961

A new 50 star flag was dedicated and presented by Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Anderson and Ronnie in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Bert Buty. Mr. John Tolman accepted a call to become the new pastor and was ordained in the Union Church in December.

1962

The new church carpet was dedicated, given by Mrs. Eva Davis and Wayne in memory of Roy Davis. Four round brass offering plates were given by Mrs. Mabel Roberts in memory of her husband. Rev. Robert Mayhew presented two brass flower vases in memory of his mother. Earlier, he had presented a pair of wrought-iron candelabra in memory of his parents.

1963

Several religious pictures were presented to the church school in memory of Wilbur Cole by his family. Soundproof carpet was installed in the nursery. 20 new youth song books were given in memory of Mr. Guy Crockett.

1964

The interior of the church was painted. Two Sunday School rooms were remodeled into an outer office and a Pastor's Study. The Fireplace Room was remodeled. Rev. William R. Booth accepted a call to become our pastor after serving as a missionary in Africa for 17 years. A Junior Choir was formed, and a book room was made available with Miss Gretchen Hamilton in charge.

1965

The exterior of the church was painted. Office furniture was given by Mrs. Julia Sheridan in memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Crafts. New Pilgrim Hymnals were given to the church.

1967

Rev. Booth accepted an appointment to the position of Associate Minister of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ. An older youth camping program was started at Masterman Farm. For the first time, the total youth fellowship program was combined with the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

1968

Rev. Hamel and his family began their work in the church in January. During the year a Trust Fund was added to the Church's endowments from the estate of Mrs. Mabel Roberts. Mrs. Philip Sheridan gave carpet to be laid in the hallway. Mr. Delmont Ward installed it and donated the underlay. Tony Bartley gave materials to panel the Vrooman Chapel and with volunteer help remodeled it. John Richards laid carpeting in the choir loft.

1969

The Centennial of the Church was celebrated in a series of events: The Vrooman Chapel was re-dedicated; former pastors preached during the month of August; new Altarware was presented, and indoor-outdoor carpeting was laid at the entrance to the church.