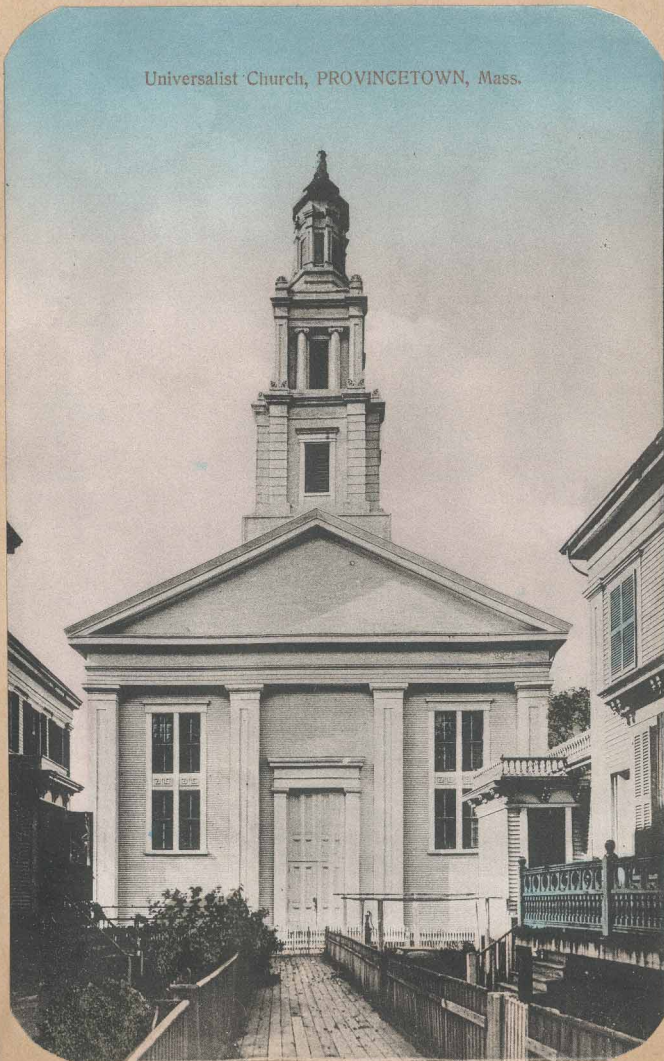


Photo by John R. Smith

Universalist Church, PROVINCETOWN, Mass.



- About 1900 -

November 3, 1949

## Century Of Cape Weather Has Hurt Fine "Sir Christopher Wren" Spire

**Church Of Redeemer Parish Faced By Serious Situation  
In Preserving One Of Town's Outstanding Attractions—  
Dr. Milburn Calls For Faith To Carry On—Church  
Should Be Community Center, He Feels**

Unless extensive and costly repairs can be made to the beautiful steeple of the Church of the Redeemer, considered one of the most lovely among all New England edifices, Provincetown and Cape Cod may lose this important attraction, it was learned at a meeting of the church trustees Sunday morning following the farewell sermon of Dr. Ulysses S. Milburn who has been Summer pastor for the last seven year.

At present the graceful tower is being strengthened and shored on the inside by rough timbers at a cost of several thousand dollars, it was pointed out by Mrs. Ina Snow, secretary of the trustees, Sunday, but the exterior is sadly in need of extensive repairs due to deterioration during the 102 years that have passed since the church was built. Much of the woodwork has rotted and must be replaced, it was reported. And because the moldings and ornamentation were made especially for the design they can not be obtained from stock millwork but must be made up from the original patterns.

How much this may cost can not be determined until an expert examination is made of the entire tower. Back in 1847 when plans were first being made for the present edifice the parishioners were firm in their determination to have a good, substantial and serviceable building which should be "in the most modern style" and that is the kind of structure that came out of their plans. But now a parish which has dwindled to a handful is faced with the problem of perpetuating the masterpiece they created.

At the conclusion of his sermon on Sunday, Dr. Milburn called upon "the remnants of the congregation to make their faith strong to carry on." He said that when the church was new its pews which could accommodate 480 people were filled and overflowing for Sunday service while now there are but some twenty families in the parish. He deplored the fact that the church must be closed during the long period when Provincetown is without its seasonal visitors. He felt that it should be for the town, throughout the year, a true community center, offering a place for various present

activities and creating further cultural attractions.

Dr. Milburn pointed out that the Parent-Teachers Association is looking for a meeting place where refreshments might be enjoyed after business sessions, and he mentioned the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts as groups that might use the lower section of the building. He maintained that keeping the church open would, of itself, benefit the building, but of even greater importance would be the service it could give to the town in enriching the community and its people.

"This church should be used," Dr. Milburn said, "and there is need for just this sort of center in Provincetown."

Townpeople, Cape Cod visitors, in fact all who cherish the keepsakes of earlier years should be vitally concerned with the preservation of the example of architectural perfection which the edifice of the Church of the Redeemer is generally conceded to be, Dr. Milburn said.

The Church of the Redeemer is rated as one of the best examples of New England church architecture in the country. Its steeple is generally referred to as the "Sir Christopher Wren tower" because its style follows that often used by the famous English architect. As a subject for Summer camera fans it actually rates at the top of the list of all Provincetown items, according to Walter Stiff who has developed and finished many thousands of pictures for visitors. It has also been sketched and painted from many and varied angles, and every Summer many hundreds of visitors are shown about the interior and to the auditorium with its most unusual fresco work.