



The Universalist Meeting House
of
PROVINCETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

THE PROVINCETOWN CHURCH

Church of the Redeemer

Organized in 1829

Sunday Service at 11 A. M.

Other Services as announced.

THE MEETING HOUSE

Open to Visitors, free, week days,
during July and August, 2 to 4:30 P. M.

Erected in 1847.

Front and Tower copied from a
design by Sir Christopher Wren.

Interior: Decorated in 1847 by Carl
Wendte, a young German, with Italian
training in art. Attention is called to
the fine architectural designs on
straight walls.

Note also the dignified mahogany
pulpit.

Pews, painted white with uphol-
stered backs and with mahogany rail-
ing and arm rests. Ivory medalions on
pew ends carved from whale's teeth.

Chandelier, (Sandwich glass), clock
and communion plate are of 1847. The
organ was installed in 1850.

Seats 408.

This church is supported by voluntary
contributions. While all services are free, your
gift is appreciated.

THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AMERICA

Was organized in the last quarter of
the Eighteenth Century. It was—and
still is—based upon the faith of the
Universal Fatherhood of God and the
Universal Brotherhood of Man; and
complete triumph of Good over Evil.
It has been a pioneer in Theological
Liberalism.

Universalists do not have an "Offi-
cial" Creed, but do have a Statement
of Principles, which have several times
been changed, since the adoption of
the first one in 1803. This constitutes
a Bond of Fellowship, uniting the
members in a "common purpose to do
the Will of God as Jesus revealed it."
The following Statement was adopted
at Washington, D. C., in 1935.

We avow our faith—

In God as Eternal and All-Conquering Love,

In the spiritual leadership of Jesus,

In the supreme worth of every human per-
sonality,

In the authority of truth known or to be
known,

And in the power of men of good will and
sacrificial spirit to overcome all evil and pro-
gressively establish the Kingdom of God.

Then follows the great "Liberty
Clause":

"Neither this nor any other statement shall
be imposed as a creedal test, provided that the
faith thus indicated be professed."

WE TEACH

The Fatherhood of God
The Brotherhood of Man
The Divinity of Human Nature
The Spiritual Leadership of Jesus
The Religious Trustworthiness of the
Bible

The Certainty of Just Retribution for
Sin

That Punishment is Sure and Reforma-
tory

That Sin is a Perverted Good

That Salvation is Character

That Evil Will be Overcome

That Religion is a Growth

That God Will Succeed.

My own hope is, a sun will pierce
The thickest cloud earth ever
stretched;

That, after Last, returns the First,
Though a wide compass round be
fetched:

That what began best, can't end worse,
Nor what God blessed once, prove
accurst.

—Robert Browning

He drew a circle that shut me out—
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in.

—Edward Markham



The Interior taken
by John R. Smith in
1941

CAPE COD STANDARD-TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 13, 1947

Romantic History of Cape-end Church Began 100 Years Ago

PROVINCETOWN, Aug. 13—This
is old home week for Provincetown
Universalist Church where the 100th
anniversary of the erection of the
meeting house is being celebrated.

This old meeting house has a ro-
mantic history that begins early in
the 19th century. The scene was a
strip of sand—the crooked finger
of the tip of the Cape. The two
little girls playing near the shore
were Sylvia and Elizabeth, daugh-
ters of Prince Freeman, direct de-
scendants of the Mayflower, Gov-

ernor Prince and Elder Brewster.

Strange objects were often washed
ashore here and that day the two
youngsters discovered something
black floating in the surf. With a
piece of driftwood they pulled it
ashore.

Book Discovered

It was a leather-bound book,
soaked but intact—"The Life of the
Rev. John Murray: Preacher of Uni-
versal Salvation." John Murray was
the founder of Universalism.

Books were scarce in Province-
town in those days when mail came
from Boston by horseback only once
a week. So first the family, then
the neighbors, and finally many
others in the community read the
book and were impressed by its
message. Desiring a church where

it could be preached, a "respectable
number" of persons met and found-
ed a new religious society, later to
be known as the Universalist So-
ciety in Provincetown.

The present building, built in 1847
when the society outgrew the origi-
nal structure, was constructed to
conform to the members' wish that
this edifice be second to none in
elegance and beauty on the Cape,
if not in New England.

Artists Favor Tower

The Christopher Wren Tower on
the meeting house has been photo-
graphed, engraved, sketched and
painted more than any other build-
ing in the quaint old town. Art
enthusiasts have seen it in paint-
ings in far-off exhibitions. It has
been described in literature as one
of the finest colonial churches in
America.

The artist who decorated the im-
pressive interior of the meeting
house was a young German emi-
grant, Carl W. Wendte, who had
Italian training in art and was a
specialist in the field of fresco and