

NEW CHURCH FACILITIES will provide . . .

- . . . A church nave to accommodate up to 200 worshippers.
- . . . A general church office to administer the program of the church with a pastor's private study for counselling and study.
- . . . A Christian education wing with proper classroom facilities.
- . . . A church lounge where persons may relax informally.
- . . . A Fellowship Hall for the social activities of the church and community with a modern kitchen with complete facilities for adequately serving suppers.
- . . . A Servicemen's Center, utilizing the lounge and Fellowship Hall to provide for service personnel in this area.
- . . . A choir room with facilities for junior and adult choirs.
- . . . A prayer garden and courtyard for Summer use.
- . . . Ample off-street parking for more than 75 automobiles.

History Repeated In Church Symbols

The nave of the new Provincetown Methodist Church is placed in approximately an east and west position. This is symbolic of King Solomon's Temple as recorded in the Bible . . . The furnishings of the new church have specific functions to perform.

The divided chancel makes possible the central part of all worship in the altar. With pews for the congregation on either side of a central aisle, there is always kept an unobstructed path to the altar. The altar is symbolic of the ancient altars used by the patriarchal fathers in the Old Testament to lay their sacrifices upon. Upon the new church's altar is the Latin cross, a memorial cross brought from the former church. Likewise, the candlesticks on the altar are memorials from the former church building.

The divided chancel makes the altar the central point for worship. The lectern provides the opportunity for conducting the service of worship and enables the pastor to carry out the duties of his office. Opposite the lectern in the chancel is the pulpit. It is at the pulpit that sermons are delivered. The communion rail separates the congregation from the altar and the chancel. The communion rail is equipped with a gate. During the time when there are no services the gate is kept closed.

The steep pitched roof of the

nave with its strong supports of laminated arches represents the invetred form of the hull of a ship. Although modern in design it is symbolic of a ship's hull if one looks closely at its design and represents the individual's ship of life.

Specially Designed Pews

The furniture for the church nave arrived in Provincetown the Sunday before Easter afternoon, after an anxious congregation had long awaited the arrival. Installation began Monday morning and was completed Wednesday. The furniture, made by the Endicott Church Furnishing Co., Warsaw, Indiana, was accompanied on the trip by Ray Smith and Homer Shaffner, workmen, who made the installaion.

Designed by the architect, the furnishings are of red oak stained in a driftwood finish called sandalwood. The pews are upholstered with a vinyl plastic naugahyde fabric, with sponge rubber lining, and are of a wine color. The fabric is guaranteed for 25 years.

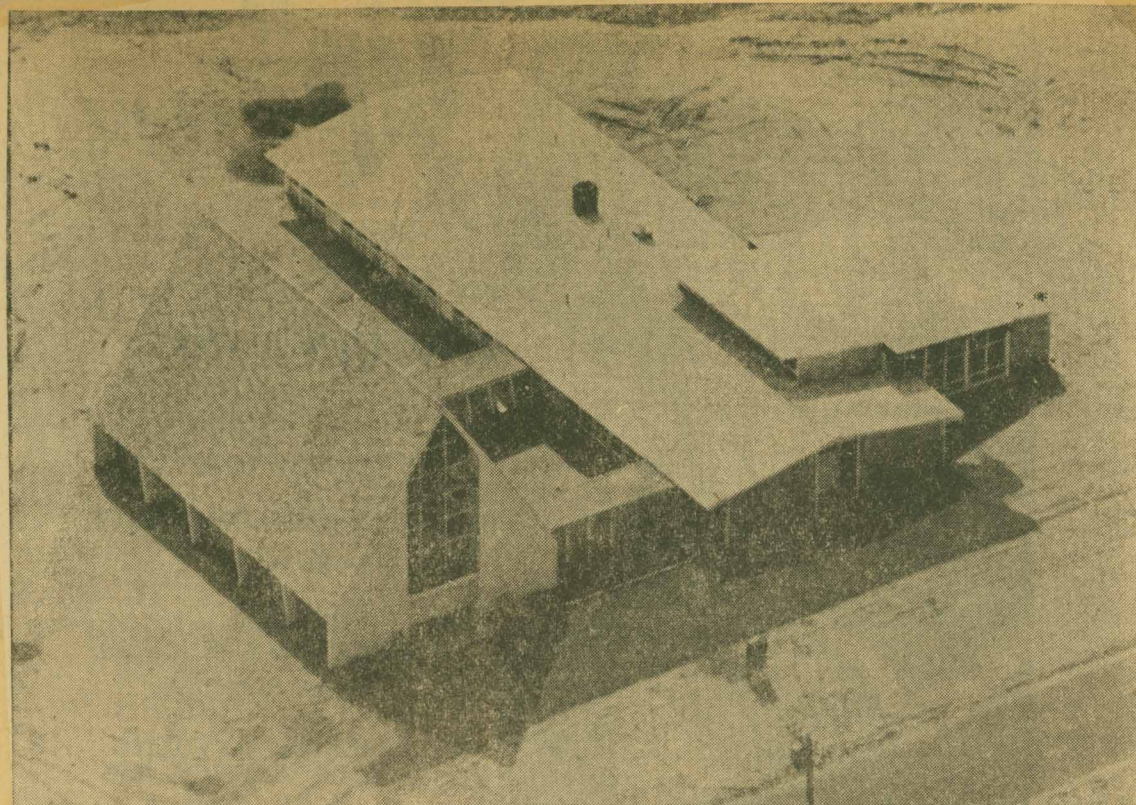


Photo by Dan Bernstein

This air view of the Provincetown Methodist Church was made possible through the cooperation of Antone D. Pereira of the Provincetown-Boston Airline.

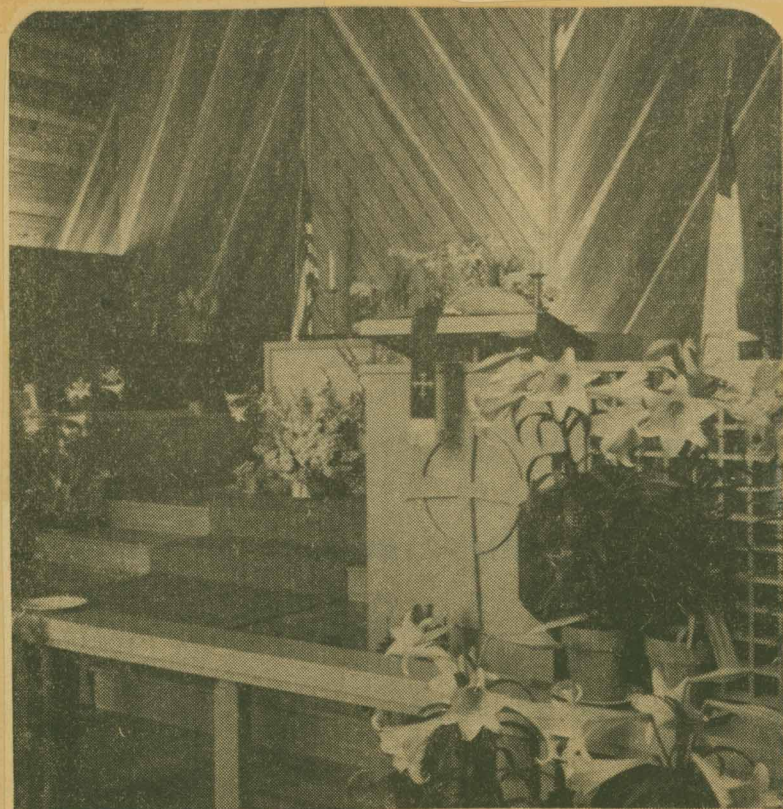


Photo by Dan Bernstein

The chancel of the new Provincetown Methodist Church was almost filled with Easter flowers for the first service on Easter morning. The church itself, was also crowded with members and friends for the historic occasion.

Early Cape Methodists Were Opposed First Church Lumber Was Burned

The history of any New England town is written in its churches. The first parish of Provincetown had its roots in that group of Pilgrims in Scrooby, England, who prided themselves that they were separatists,—separate from worldliness, separate from priests and bishops, separate from other congregations. For this they suffered exile.

The parish was the town. The meeting-house was the town house, the minister was supported by a tax levied on real estate. This was in the beginning. Even yet ecclesiastical authorities who forget the prerogatives of parishes are sometimes saddened. The first meeting-house was fathered by the Province for its own child "The Province Lands". The General Court appropriated in 1715 \$150 for a meeting-house to be 32 by 28 feet with galleries on three sides, the inhabitants to pay the remainder of expense and to keep the premises in order.

Near Shank Painter

They built it near the old cemetery, not far from Shank Painter pond. They enlarged and rebuilt until they had the "Old White Oak" built of timber from the hills, some of which is in the frames of the present Church of

Pilgrims next to the present town hall.

The first "regularly settled" minister was Rev. Samuel Parker and he was pastor to the whole town for many years. His grace is in the old cemetery.

In his day came the Methodists, "The New Lights".

A preacher of this faith and doctrine, Capt. William Humbert, forced by adverse winds to seek shelter in Provincetown Harbor, came ashore from his ship in 1793.

While he was in port he held a meeting to expound the doctrine of Methodism. This meeting was held in the forerom of Thomas Rider's house. This house was located at the site that is now Adams Drugstore, then called "North Meadow Gut" afterward called "Mud Alley," now known as Gosnold Street.

Though the town vowed in Town Meeting that no Methodist Meeting-House should be built here, the new converts sent to Maine for lumber in order to build. When the vessel arrived the men unloaded the lumber at high tide on the shore.

Lumber Burned

During the night, the opposition came and sawed the lumber into short lengths then carried it to the top of High Pole Hill (where the Pilgrim Memorial Monument now stands) made a bon fire of it and dopped it with an effigy of Jesse Lee, a noted Methodist preacher.

Undaunted, the Methodists got another shipload and this time undisturbed built their meeting house near the foot of High Pole Hill (as it was then called).

The Center Methodist Church was built in 1860 at the corner of what is now Center and Commercial Street Centenary Church (Methodist).

Differences of opinion became so strained among the members of the Center Church that some members withdrew to form another church which was culminated in the building of the Centenary Methodist Church in 1866.

Tragedy Strikes

The Center Church had a beautiful tapering steeple so the Centenary Methodist determined to outdo the Mother church and had their steeple made one foot higher. It was disastrous for them for the steeple was struck by lightning; but being too high for a stream of water to reach the fire, the structure was burned to the ground.

Another modest, convenient, pleasing chapel without the tall steeple was built.

For economic and other reasons the church property was sold and is now occupied by the First National Bank of Provincetown at the corner of Winthrop and Commercial Streets.