



SERVICE OF RE-DEDICATION  
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GEORGETOWN



SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 1974

The Rev. Philip H. Southwick, Minister  
Miss Lucile Tuttle, Organist

PRELUDE

Organ

"Noels for the Flutes" d'Aguin

String Quartet arr. by

"Adestes Fideles" A. Pochon

"Opus 76, No. 5, Largo" F. J. Haydn

INTROIT "The Church's One Foundation" #260 vs  
CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Kathy Magown

\*HYMN NO. 97 "God of our Life"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Eternal God, we come to worship You today wanting the faith our forefathers must have had in You. We praise You for every memory today brings back to us - of faith, of fellowship, of humane service, of Christlike character associated with this church or other churches we have known. We appreciate the sacrifices willingly made by those who preceded us and found refreshment, comfort, hope, and peace for their lives. We would face the challenge of the gospel and overcome the world as it is today, through Your strength.

Make us more aware of Your goodness, more conscious of Your love that surrounds us like the air we breathe, more receptive to Your power that sustains us like the ground on which we walk. We want to be guided by Your son, the light for our world. Grant us the vision to see our needs and those of our children. May this church's ever enlarging past be an inspiration to the present and a



prophecy to the future. Amen.

STRING QUARTET A. Dvorak  
"American Quartet, Lento"

SCRIPTURE Psalm 84:1-7, 10-12

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE  
OFFERTORY MUSIC BY QUARTET A. Borodin  
"Quartet No. 2, Nocturne"

\*HYMN FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION (insert)  
"All People That On Earth Do Dwell"

ACT OF RE-DEDICATION  
PRAYER OF RE-DEDICATION

Rev. A. Karl Phillippi

\*HYMN "Lord Thou Hast Taught Us..."  
Tune 1 (see insert) Mrs. Alfred D. Noyes

MEDITATION "If These Walls Could Speak"

STRING QUARTET Arr. by A. Pochon  
"The First Noel"

\*HYMN NO. 366 "God of Grace and  
God of Glory"

BENEDICTION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

\*POSTLUDE Bach  
"Rejoice Now Christian Souls"  
\*Congregation Stands

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THE FLOWERS WHICH GRACE OUR SANCTUARY  
have been placed in memory of  
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Allen  
from Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sheehan and  
Mr. & Mrs. G. E. Hall



THE ACT OF RE-DEDICATION  
of the  
MEETING HOUSE OF THE FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of  
GEORGETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS  
December 8, 1974

Minister: We are and always have been in awe of the ancient. Perhaps this is our way of relating ourselves to God, His universe, and life itself.

Congregation: For 100 years this building has been the gathering place of our congregation for worship, fellowship, and social concern. It has sheltered us: it has been a beacon and symbol to us of what we hold valuable in our lives. Eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, the same yesterday, today, and forever: we meet in this place of many memories to pray with gratitude for Your faithfulness, Your inspiration, and Your strength.

Minister: This building is more than stone and mortar, wood and glass. It is our meeting place, a place where we meet God in each others' lives. We admire its structure and its longevity, but even more we respect and celebrate what has taken place here for 100 years.

Congregation: If these walls could speak they would tell of songs of joy and of sadness, times both good and bad, incidents worthy of celebration, events requiring confession and reformation. Here we baptize our children, here we commit ourselves to live the Christian life to the best of our insight and ability. Here we come to be joined in marriage; here we



can focus upon our concerns and problems, our hopes and dreams; and here life as we know it has its end celebrated in the Christian funeral. May this building serve our needs and help us serve God and our fellow men with faithfulness and vigor. May we be determined that this building serve the needs of the community rather than that it be preserved for posterity. May it house the Spirit of Christ in its congregation.

Minister: We must not become lost in what has been, no matter how impressive. The past must be our school master, but not our task master. The past must challenge us not to simply repeat the past, but to grow and be our own people, - the people of God for our time.

Congregation: Thus we re-dedicate not simply a structure, but all that it symbolizes. We re-dedicate ourselves to make this house, a house of peace, a house of love and forgiveness, a house whose strength lies not in its walls, but in its occupants. We, as have all who have lived in this house, offer ourselves repeatedly to the task and mission of Christ's church. Accept, O Lord, this pledge of personal re-dedication. We are the buildings, the arts and craftsmanship of Your spirit, through which Your word of reconciling love must flow.

Minister: We are one house of worship among others in our community and country. May our act of rededication and celebration on this great day draw us closer to each other and increase our effectiveness for God's Kingdom.

Congregation: So be it, Lord. Amen.





REDEDICATION SUNDAY  
CHURCH FAMILY DINNER

DECEMBER 8, 1974

MENU

REV. CHANDLER CRANBERRY JUICE AND  
SHERBERT

ROAST BEEF VICTORIANA

PIOUS PEAS  
AND ONIONS

SOUTHWICK SQUASH

BIBLICAL BAKED POTATOES

ULYSSES S. GRANT GARDEN FRESH SALAD

REVERE ROLLS

- choice of -

HANNAH DUSTIN INDIAN PUDDING

PEABODY PUMPKIN PIE

REV. ISAAC BRAMAN ICE CREAM

CENTENNIAL COFFEE

REV. MARSH MILK

BOSTON TEA

NOSTALGIC NUTS

REV. BEECHER MINTS





# P R O G R A M

GRACE                      Rev. Philip H. Southwick

FAVORITE SONGS                      Mildred Gangloff  
   Dominic DeFilippo

ROAST BEEF DINNER

CHURCH HISTORICAL NOTES

Wilhelmina M. Marble  
Homer K. Tapin

COMMUNITY SING

"Songs of Yesteryear"

CLOSING PRAYER                      Rev. Southwick

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The plants decorating the Vestry are  
with the compliments of Mr. Kenneth  
Nunan.

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Members of the Girl Scouts, Cadette  
Troop 455, are serving the dinner.

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This Centennial Dinner was prepared by  
Mrs. Joseph Sheehan and Mr. & Mrs.  
George Kelly.



The Georgetown Advocate continued from the  
December 23, 1874 issue:

"The building is 90 ft. in length and 55 ft. in width. The Tower rises to the height of 100 ft. from the ground, the spire rises fifty feet above the belfry.

"The services were announced to begin at 2 P.M., but long before that time the road was thronged with people, some in carriages, some on foot, but all eagerly pressing toward the main entrance. The scene within was indeed beautiful and gladdening.

"The exercises began with a voluntary on the organ, whose majestic tones rolling through the house, prepared the audience for the fine rendering of the opening chorus, "Mighty Jehovah", by the united choirs. The invocation was given by the Rev. C. T. Lyford of the Baptist Church, Scriptures from I Kings VI Chapter, by the Rev. D. D. Marsh of the Memorial Church, Dedicatory prayer by Dr. Seeley of Haverhill and the Sermon was given by the Rev. J. H. Ecot of Augusta, Maine."

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When the Church was dedicated, the Rev. Charles Beecher was the senior pastor (he was one of the celebrated Beecher family). Rev. Beecher was extremely controversial; his doctrines led to a split in the church and so on December 17, 1874, the date of the Dedication, Rev. Beecher was on sabbatical leave in Florida and his Associate, the Rev. Thomas R. Beeber, was actually in charge of the Church.

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SOME HISTORICAL NOTES FROM THE  
GEORGETOWN ADVOCATE

The Georgetown Advocate, Wednesday,  
November 11, 1874

"The old bell (referring to our 1815 Paul Revere Bell; purchase price, \$54.57!) that has swung in the old steeple for so many years was successfully lowered to the ground on Wednesday last and is about ready to swing again in the new tower.

"It will be missed by the denizens in the east part of the town at the hours of its customary ringing and also sadly missed should a fire break out in that locality.

"The organ for the new church has arrived and is being placed in position."

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The Georgetown Advocate, Wednesday,  
December 16, 1874

"The Farewell Services for the Old South Church were held on Sunday last."

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The Georgetown Advocate, Wednesday,  
December 23, 1874

"The Dedication Services of the First Congregational Church - called the First Congregational Society - on Thursday last."

"The corner stone of this building was laid October 7, 1873"