



1952

In his anniversary sermon, Mr. Gerrish stressed that the Birch Harbor Baptist Society should be proud of the fine church which was started a half century ago by a small group of determined workers.

Present officials of the church are, pastor, Herman Gerrish; Herman Faulkingham, deacon and trustee; Orton Myrick, trustee and usher; Ulrika Faulkingham, deaconess, Fannie Rice deaconess; Jessie Myrick, clerk; Elsie Lindsey, secretary; Alberna Backman, first organist; Geneva Bunker, first organist; Edith Davis, second organist; Pluma Backman, superintendent of Sunday school; Jennie Woodward,

cradle roll superintendent and Gwendolyn Myrick, Sunday school secretary.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRCH HARBOR CHURCH—Shown above as the Birch Harbor Baptist church celebrated its 50th anniversary Tuesday are, front row, left to right: Pluma Backman, Sunday school superintendent; Geneva Bunker, 50-year organist; Henry Crane, Lamoine, first janitor; and Elsie Lindsey, secretary. Second row: Jennie Woodward, cradle roll superintendent; Ulrika Faulkingham, deaconess; Gwendolyn Myrick, Sunday school superintendent; Edith Davis, second organist; and Alberna Backman, first organist. Third row: the Rev. Herman Gerrish, pastor; Herman Faulkingham, deacon and trustee; Orton Myrick, usher and trustee; and Jessie Myrick, clerk. (Crane photo)

Church Observes 50th Anniversary At Birch Harbor

BIRCH HARBOR, Dec. 12 — A turkey supper followed by a fellowship service was held at the Birch Harbor Baptist church Tuesday evening in observance of the 50th anniversary of the building of the church.

The Rev. Herman Gerrish of Winter Harbor conducted the service. During the discourse he read a history of the church beginning with the record of the first meeting of a small group of Baptists on February 19, 1902 at the home of A. J. Lindsey when they incorporated the society that later erected the church.

The little group voted to become an incorporated society to be known as the Birch Harbor Baptist church society. Charlotte A. Wescott was elected president; Eliphalet A. Pettee, vice president; Laura E. Hancock, clerk, and Charlotte Crane, treasurer. A business committee was elected consisting of C. A. Wescott, C. A. Crane, F. W. Coombs, L. C. Davis and L. E. Hancock.

On February 20, 1902, the committee met at the home of C. A. Wescott and it was voted to build a church 25 by 35 feet with 12-foot posts, and a square pitch roof. On February 26 a hauling bee was arranged to move enough stone for the foundation, and on March 7, another bee hauled the needed lumber from Winter Harbor.

A committee meeting on April 2 voted to hire Charles Whitney of Gouldsboro to build the church at a wage of \$1.75 per day and board. On April 15, a shingling bee was held to cover the roof of the church.

The workers were rewarded with a dinner and supper at the home of F. W. Coombs. The church was nearly completed by Oct. 14 and James Webber of Winter Harbor built the chimney without compensation.

COST \$457.49

When completed the church cost \$457.49 and it was insured for \$600. at a cost of nine dollars. A bell was purchased for \$26.70 plus twenty-five cents for a bell rope. Later a new organ was bought for \$40.75. The bell is still in service but the organ was replaced some years ago. A vestry was attached to the church in 1912. Pews were installed in 1907.

The church was dedicated in 1907 and the dedicatory sermon was preached by Irving B. Mower, D.D. The first regular pastor of the church was the Rev. Alton Mayo, who was hired for three years starting in June, 1903. He was paid a salary of \$50 a year for a sermon every alternate Sunday. He was succeeded by the Rev. Ephriam Drew who served the church for nine years at a salary of \$75 per year for a sermon every alternate Sunday.

Only two people who had a part in the beginning of the church were present at the anniversary meeting. They were Henry Crane of Lamoine who acted as janitor when the church was first built, and Mrs. Alton Bunker who has been church organist for all of the 50 years. The first vice president, Eliphalet Pettee of Seal Harbor was unable to be present, and another 50-year member, Mrs. Fannie Rice of Birch Harbor, is spending the winter with her daughter in Missouri.

A modern oil heating system was installed in the church this year and the turkey supper was served free as a thanks offering for those who contributed to the purchase of the furnace.