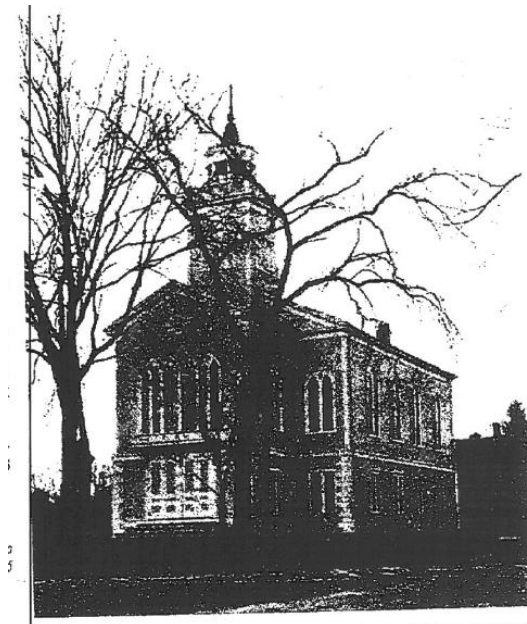


Our History
Second Congregational Church
42 Highland Ave
Cohasset, MA

The Second Congregational church was organized in 1812 by twenty-seven former parishioners of the First Parish Church. For approximately four years, services were held in a schoolroom. Nichols Tower, one of the original founders, owned large tracts of land around the Common and Little Harbor and gave a piece of land for the new church directly opposite the old church. To some, "To put up a rival church so near was called...a bare-faced effrontery..."

The parishioners were not deterred and a church was built at a cost of \$3,500. Church records report that one faithful woman would attend services in the evening in secret by throwing her shawl and hat out an upper story window, then leaving the house unobserved. The original building had sixty pews that cost \$60 each, and subscribers received deeds to their pew. The money went toward the cost of construction, which nearly exhausted the church finances. The Massachusetts Domestic Ministry sent the first regular minister in the new building. Had they not promised the aid of a Congregational minister, the new church might have become a Baptist church as several of the principal members held Baptist beliefs.

The church building has undergone many changes over the years. A fire ravished the building in 1928 after which the building was remodeled and enlarged.



Annals of the Church

- 1824, Nov. 24. Church organized with twenty members by an Ecclesiastical Council in home of Deacon Thaddeus Lawrence, Summer Street. Preceded November 1, 1824 by a Female Evangelical Society, which was the origin of the Ladies' Benevolent Union.
- 1825, Jan. 27. Church building dedicated.
- May 8. First Sunday School in the Church
- 1834, Feb. 20. First mention of vestry in the records (This early vestry was made by exaction in the cellar).
- 1835, Mar. 27. Parish incorporated as "Second Congregational Society in Cohasset"
- 1855 Church lengthened twelve feet and vestry enlarged.
- 1857 First pipe organ installed. (Bass viol used 1825-1850. Seraphine and cabinet organ used in interval.)
- 1871 Parsonage on Sohier Street built.
- 1878 Church raised one story. (Vestry beneath and projection in front added.)
- 1881 Weekly offering system adopted.
- 1884 Curved pews installed, replacing former square pews.
- 1893 Belfry repaired, interior decorated, electrical lighting installed.
- 1896 New organ.
- 1899, Nov. 24. Celebration of seventy-fifth anniversary.
- 1908, Jan. 7. Men's League organized.
- 1915 Creed of National Council of October, 1913, adopted.
- 1918 First Every-Member Canvass.
- 1921 Organ moved to rear of pulpit. Interior decorated. Vested choir organized.

- 1922 Free pews inaugurated.
- 1924, Nov. 24. Celebration of one-hundredth anniversary.
- 1925-1926 Front of church remodeled with additions and main stairway re-arranged. Budget system adopted.
- 1927, Apr. 12. Incorporation of "Second Congregational Church in Cohasset," superseding the "Second Congregational Society in Cohasset." New constitution and by-laws adopted.
- 1928, Jan. 19. Disastrous fire, necessitating restoration of church with additions and new organ. Worshipped with First Parish Church. Re-opening service, July 1, 1928.
- 1930 The new manual and by-laws were printed.
- 1940 Resignation of Rev. Fred V. Stanley who served the Second Congregational Church of Cohasset for a quarter of a century.
- 1941 Sale of parsonage on Sohier Street. New parsonage built on Red Gate Lane.
- 1942 Church Magazine, "The Hourglass" first published.
- 1942 The Women's organizations of the church were federated under the name "Women's Federation" with a federation board to govern business matters.
- 1946 New rubber tile floor installed in vestry, Kodachrome projector presented by Women's Federation, modernization of heating system.
- 1948 The first ordination held in this church was that of Rev. Quentin Leisher on January 25th.
- 1949 Interior redecorated throughout and new chairs bought for the vestry.
- 1949 Celebration on the one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary.

The Congregational Church
Cohasset, Massachusetts
Greater Boston
Rev. QUENTIN LEISHER, Pastor

Sunday, November 13th, marks the beginning of a week's observance of the 125th Anniversary of the Second Congregational Church in Cohasset. There will be a special sermon by the pastor, the Reverend Quentin Leisher. His subject will be, "March on Ye Conquerors."

Tuesday evening, November 15th a catered Anniversary Dinner will be served in the church vestry. The program which will follow the dinner will include: a brief history of the church by the Reverend Fred V. Stanley, Pastor Emeritus; a motion picture entitled, "And Now I See" starring Ralph Morgan; and, in conclusion, a discussion of the church today- its present work, needs, and plans for the future.

On Sunday, November 20th, special services for morning and evening have been planned. At the 11:00am service the pastor will preach on the theme, "Forward Through the Age." In the evening, 7:30pm, Dr. Albert Buckner CPE, President of the Congregational Conference of Mass., will be the guest speaker. The Reverend Lester G. Myers of the Porter Congregational Church, Brockton, Mass., will bring the greetings from the Pilgrim Association of Congregational churches. The Reverend Austin Rice, Pastor of the Congregational Church in Scituate will deliver the evening prayer. The Reverend John Prescott Robertson, Pastor of First Congregational Church in Braintree will read the Scripture Lesson. The Reverend Fred V. Stanley, Pastor Emeritus of the Second Congregational Church in Cohasset will lead in the reading of the Responsive Reading.

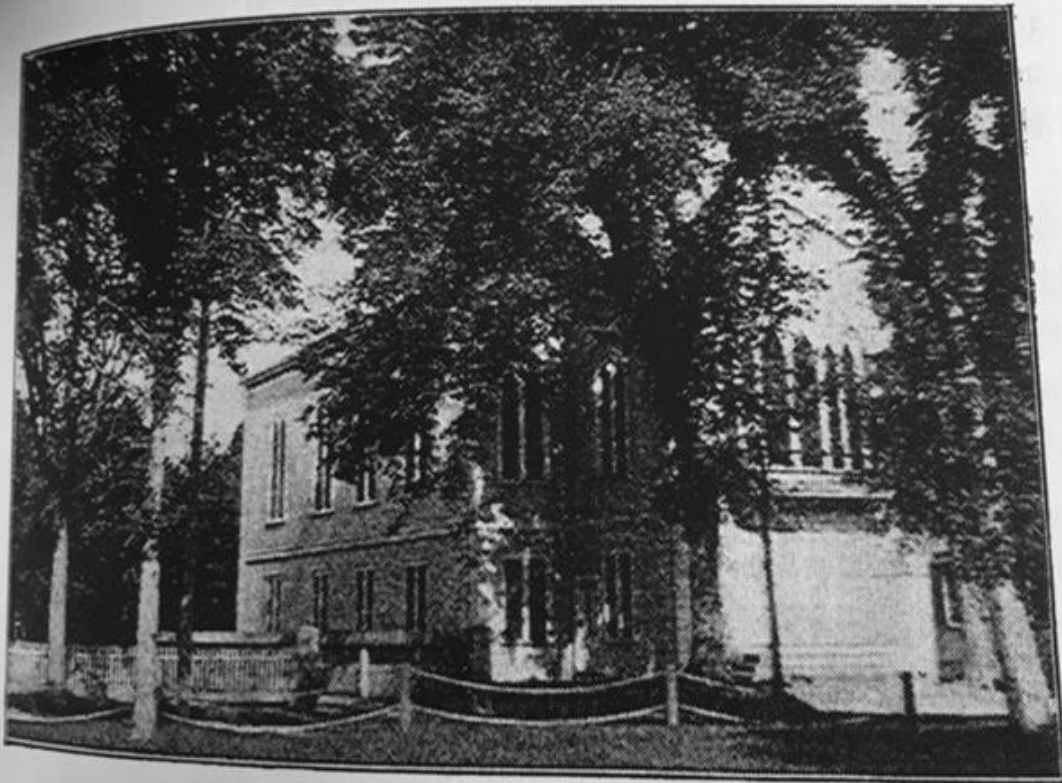
A choir of sixty voices will present three anthems: Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee: by Bach; "O Saviour of the World" by Goss; and the Hallelujah chorus from Handel's Messiah. The music will be under the direction of Mr. Samuel Bates with G. Warren Bates pressing at the organ.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend these anniversary services.

**Retyped letter- originally penned in 1949.*



At left the Town Hall and Second Church as they appeared up to the mid-twenties, and at right as they appear today. The Town Hall was rebuilt in 1925, the church after it was ravaged by fire in 1927.



Photo, Harriet A. Nickerson.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. BUILT 1824.

List of Pastors

Rev. Aaron Pickett	1826-1833
Rev. Martin Moore	1833-1841
Rev. Daniel H. Babcock	1842-1847
Re. Fredrick A. Reed	1848-1866
Rev. Calvin R. Fitts	1868-1870
Rev. Moody A. Stevens	1871-1878
Rev. Granville Yager	1878-1883
Rev. John W. Savage	1883-1890
Rev. E. Victor Bigelow	1891-1901
Rev. Charles Wolcott Merriam	1901-1904
Rev. Frank Barr McAllister	1904-1915
Rev. Fred Veston Stanley	1915-1940
Rev. Robert W. Little	1941-1947
Rev. Quentin R. Leisher	1947- 1950
Frank A. Chatterton	1950 – 1972
John M. Benbow	1973 – 1986
Gary A. Ritts	1987 – 2016
Dr. Rev. David Stryker	2016 – 2018
Dr. Rev. Karen Bailey-Francois	2018 -

Original Members of the Church, 1824

Thaddeus Lawrence	Mrs. Zenas Stoddard
Jarius Pratt	Salome Bates
Thomas A. Davis	Lucinda Pratt
Hannah Kent	Susan Lincoln
Ann Jane Bates	Ruth Bates
Caroline Lothrop	Anna Tower
Susan Stoddard	Mrs. Hannah Delano
Hannah Stoddard	Mrs. Abigail Pratt
Ann B. Bates	Merriel Souther
Abigail Joy	Anna Stoddard



Second Congregational Church

- Greek Revival style church built in 1825.
- Was also known as the “Orthodox” church.
- E. Victor Bigelow, author of the first *Narrative History of Cobasset* (1898), was a pastor here.
- Church services are held on the second floor; first floor is an assembly hall.



Easter Sunday 1955 at Second Congregational Church. In their Easter finery, back row: Clark Chatterton, Jean MacDonald, Carol Blossom, Carolyn Pratt, Keith Megathlon, the Rev. Frank B. Chatterton; front row: Nancy Orr, Heidi Lincoln, Ann Chatterton, Nancy Cooney, Caroline Cooney.



Two young models in one of Elizabeth Bristol's fashion shows at Town Hall, a feature of Second Congregational Church's June Festival, which was the major fundraiser for the church. The event was a Community Fair and included: a square dance on the green with a professional caller, a Square Dance Queen competition, a trained chimpanzee that did tricks, a miniature ferris wheel, a merry-go-round, pony rides, and more.