



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EAST HAMPTON
A SERVICE OF REDEDICATION FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE
SESSION HOUSE

September 19, 1982

three o'clock

Built 'up street' in 1858;
Moved to the lawn area of the Church in 1905;
Moved to it's present location in 1926, when
it was significantly enlarged;
Remodeled with small interior rooms at various
times;
Totally renovated and modernized inside, with
a new major entrance, ramps, and landscaping
on the outside, in 1982.

The Rev. Fredrick W. Schulz, Pastor

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EAST HAMPTON .
120 Main Street
East Hampton, New York .

REDEDICATION OF THE SESSION HOUSE

September 19, 1982

three o'clock

OPENING REMARKS: The Rev. Fredrick W. Schulz, Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP

MINISTER: "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

PEOPLE: "UNLESS THE LORD WATCHES OVER THE CITY, THE WATCHMAN STAYS AWAKE IN VAIN." (Ps. 127:1)

MINISTER: "This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Ps. 118:24)

PEOPLE: "THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US; WE ARE GLAD." (Ps. 126:3)

MINISTER: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name." (Ps. 103:1)

PEOPLE: "BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL, AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS." (Ps. 103:2)

MINISTER: "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; and let them say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns'." (I Chron. 16:31)

PEOPLE: "LET THE PEOPLE PRAISE THEE, O GOD; LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE THEE." (Ps. 67:3)

HYMN "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone;
Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever, and her confidence alone.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son;
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever One;
One in might, and One in glory, while unending ages run! Amen

PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF THE KEYS (To Clerk of Session and President of Trustees)

Mr. Stuart Quarty, Architect

We have sought to use our gifts to design and renovate a building of quality, usefulness, and significance for the Church; and to build it honestly and well.

Mr. Ralph Werntgen, Contractor/Builder

We take pleasure, therefore, in presenting to you the keys to this newly renovated Session House. May many people, young and old, and through the years to come, find its open doors a threshold to the strength, beauty, and truth of God.

LITANY OF DEDICATION

MINISTER: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be unto our God, forever and ever.

PEOPLE: BLESSED BE THE LORD GOD WHO DOES WONDROUS THINGS, AND BLESSED BE HIS GLORIOUS NAME FOREVER. MAY THE WHOLE EARTH BE FILLED WITH HIS GLORY.

MINISTER: Being graciously prospered by the hand of God, to begin and finish this work, which in His providence He called us to do,

PEOPLE: WE DO NOW WITH JOY AND GRATITUDE SOLEMNLY REDEDICATE THIS SESSION HOUSE.

MINISTER: To the glory of God the Father, to the honor of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to the praise of the Holy Spirit,

PEOPLE: WE REDEDICATE THIS SESSION HOUSE.

MINISTER: For the task of Christian Education and growth in the faith for children, youth, and adults,

PEOPLE: WE REDEDICATE THIS SESSION HOUSE.

MINISTER: For the meetings, fellowship, projects, and work of the Women's Association,

PEOPLE: WE REDEDICATE THIS SESSION HOUSE.

MINISTER: For the meetings of Elders, Deacons, and Trustees, who pray, plan, and plot for the future course of our Church family,

PEOPLE: WE REDEDICATE THIS SESSION HOUSE.

MINISTER: For the fellowship of the whole Church family through dinners, programs, and other affairs,

PEOPLE: WE REDEDICATE THIS SESSION HOUSE.

MINISTER: For the Church and Pastor's offices, the hub of communication for our Church life together,

PEOPLE: WE REDEDICATE THIS SESSION HOUSE.

MINISTER: For whatever further uses of Church and community that may be requested and approved,

PEOPLE: WE REDEDICATE THIS SESSION HOUSE.

MINISTER: "I appeal to you, therefore, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your spiritual worship." (Romans 12:1)

PEOPLE: AND NOW AS A CONGREGATION GATHERED BY THE WORD OF GOD:
IN COMMUNION WITH OUR LORD, AND HIS CHURCH THROUGHOUT THE WORLD;
IN GOODWILL TOWARDS THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, AND IN LOVE TOWARD ALL NATIONS;
IN CONCERN FOR PEACE, MERCY, TRUTH, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS UPON THE EARTH;
IN GLADNESS FOR THIS BUILDING AS A POWER FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, FELLOWSHIP, AND A PLACE TO WORK FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD;
AND IN GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S MERCIES TO US, WE OFFER OURSELVES ANEW TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD, TO THE STUDY OF HIS WORD, AND TO THE SERVICE OF HIS KINGDOM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AMEN!

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS:

Mr. Raymond Dargan, Vice Moderator, Presbytery of Long Island
The Rev. James Pierce, Presbytery Executive, Presbytery of Long Island
Mr. Stuart Quarty, Architect
Mr. Ralph Werntgen and Mr. Richard Worthington, Contractors/Builders
Mrs. Mary Fallon, Supervisor, Town of East Hampton
Mr. Edwin Sherrill, Trustee, Village of East Hampton
Mr. Thomas Scott, Chief, East Hampton Town Police
Mr. Glen Stonemetz, Chief, East Hampton Village Police
Mr. Robert Freidah, Superintendent, East Hampton School District
Mr. Christopher Sarlo, Principal, East Hampton High School
Mrs. Helen Rattray, Editor, "The East Hampton Star"
Reverend Clergy of the Churches in the Town of East Hampton

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHURCH

Child: Amanda Michne
Youth: Shannon Barnett
Parent: William Barnett
Older: Elsie Garretson
Pastor: Rev. Fred Schulz

DECLARATION FOR THE OPENING AND USE OF THE SESSION HOUSE
DOXOLOGY!
BENEDICTION

Following the benediction, all are invited to tour the building, inside and out, and then enjoy a reception in the Ladies' Parlor prepared and served by members of the Women's Association.

Many people, too numerous to name, receive our thanks for the final completion of this project...from building committees in the past, to those who served in more recent years; to the architect, builders and their helpers; decorators, fund-raisers; those officers and members who continued to prod until the project was approved and begun; to every member and friend who have pledged the money necessary to even think of beginning such an undertaking. Our thanks to all, for a job well done!

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SESSION HOUSE

the Session House began its life on the west side of Main Street, somewhere in the vicinity of what is now White's Drug Store, in 1858. It was used constantly for meetings of the Session, congregation, prayer, and Sunday School.

In 1905, it was moved from 'up street' to the corner of Davids Lane and Main Street, and set on the large grassy area. In 1926, it was moved to its present location, facing Davids Lane. At that time a high foundation was placed under it, which became the downstairs area. The Ladies' Parlor above, and a large kitchen below, were added at this time.

A bell was salvaged from the 1858 shipwreck of the "John Milton", a 1445 ton vessel whose captain reportedly mistook Ponquogue Light for the Light at Montauk, unaware that the Lights had been changed six weeks previous. In a blinding snowstorm, the captain turned north into what he believed to be open water, and crashed on the rocks about five miles west of Montauk Point. All thirty-three men on board perished, and the massed burial was conducted by the Pastor of the Presbyterian Church. When the wreckage of the "Milton" was viewed, the only visible part was the bow, with the ship's bell, poised upon two beams, still tolling.

The bell was purchased by G. Jefferson Mulford and J. Madison Hunting, and presented to the Session House, where for generations it called children and youth to Sunday School from the tower. In 1976, the bell was removed to be part of our Church's national Bicentennial exhibition.

In 1866, Rev. Stephen Mershon left East Hampton, having been Pastor of the Church for 12 years. The Session House and the present Church were built during his pastorate. In his farewell address (printed), he mentions the Session House twice. "Though at the first inception of the project, the building of the Session House was openly denounced as 'The wildest scheme that was ever heard of', still it was built; God blessed it to the conversion of many souls...." (Pg. 17) "...the funds were raised and the work was done, which built for you yonder Session House which has been owned by God, and made a rich, rich blessing to many immortal souls. They regret not the cost of building, or settees, or carpet, or chandelier. For they who pay the bills and enjoy the blessing are content...surely others have no right to complain. I am thankful, those who attend your evening services are thankful, that that house is there. I thank God that it stands as one of the people's monuments of that period." (Pg. 13)

Over the years the Session House has been used for a variety of uses: Officer meetings, prayers, Women's activities, study groups, Sunday School, public school, the Wareffort, Scouts, worship for the Jewish Center, diners, a nursery school, and a host of other Church and community groups. It is our hope that the present building will take us beyond the 21st century!