

# Ground Breaking Ceremonies Held For New Provincetown Church

March 14, 1959

With approximately 150 townspeople in attendance, the first spade of earth was turned in ground breaking ceremonies for the new Provincetown Methodist Church on Shankpainter Road last Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The Rev. Gilman L. Lane, pastor of the church, acted as master of ceremonies for the services. After giving the prayer of Thanksgiving and leading those present in the Lord's Prayer, Rev. Lane called upon Selectman John C. Snow, representing the Town government, for a few words. Mr. Snow said that it was "a day of great rejoicing for the entire town. Ours is a town," he said, "where we all live together, regardless of race, or creed, and we offer you our congratulations in behalf of the town officials and its citizens." He concluded by saying that "we wish you the best of luck and many successful and prayerful moments on this spot." Other Town officials present were Selectmen Joseph Bent, Frank Henderson and Francis Santos, and Town Manager James V. Coyne, Jr.

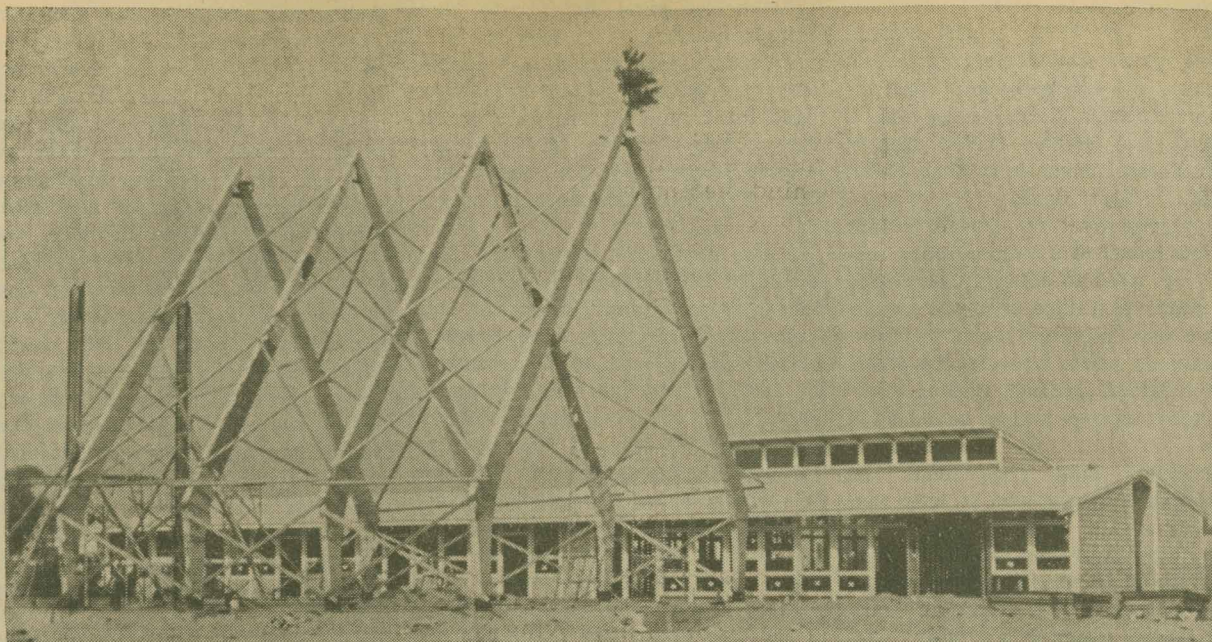
committee and permanently hung in the church. The event was covered for television, and the film appeared locally on WBZ-Channel 4, Boston, Sunday evening at 11 p.m.

In commenting later on the event as a whole, Mr. Lane stated that "the church, as the first new Methodist structure to be built in nearly 100 years in Provincetown, will show that the people of the community are definitely interested in the project."

Construction for the present will be concentrated on the educational wing of the building, which will contain four completely equipped classrooms, with blackboards, bulletin boards and cabinets, servicemen's and church lounge and church offices. Also a choir room, completely equipped for both adult and junior groups, kitchen, heating room, toilet facilities, service entry for deliveries and a sacristy for storage of chancel equipment.

Other features incorporated into this wing will be a new fire alarm protection system, coat racks lining the corridor, drinking fountain, and the additional safety features which provide exits from each individual room. The entire building has been highly praised by the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety as conforming to the latest in public safety features.

## WORK BEGUN ON MAIN CHURCH STRUCTURE



The last of four laminated wooden arches forming the structural basis of the new Provincetown Methodist Church, was raised into place last week. Work of grading in front of the church building will begin this week to make a circular driveway to allow cars to drive to the front doors of both the church and the educational wing and fellowship hall. Pine tree atop front arch was placed there by workmen who informed us that it was a custom in Germany signifying they were ready to nail on the roof and also meant a celebration with a party.

With the raising last week of the last of four laminated redwood arches into place, a major step was reached in the construction of the new Provincetown Methodist Church. This week work on grading and preparing a driveway and parking area will begin in anticipation of the date in the near future when church services will be held in the adjacent Fellowship Hall.

Visitors are welcome at any time at the site of the new church, according to Rev. Gilman Lane, pastor of the church, but parents are asked to accompany children in the area so that there will be no danger of anyone getting hurt.

Though at first sight the church design is startlingly modern, especially to those accustomed to the traditional design of New England churches, upon further examination, and particularly regarding the materials to be used in construction, it may be seen that the new church has been designed to harmonize with its Cape Cod setting. In the manner which is now common to architects of modern buildings, the designers from the Cambridge firm viewed the new church site from all possible angles, including a view from the top of the Pilgrim Monument, where they took into consideration the

way the church will look from above, as well as on the ground level.

Many factors determine the design of a building and the cost is always a primary one. In the case of the new Methodist Church, cost was an important determinant, and use was made of a simple design, with the roof rising to a direct peak, and the tall cross below it, both unornamented and expressing symbolically a steeple or tower. At the same time, by eliminating an actual steeple the total cost of the building was decreased appreciably.

The nave, or central portion of the new church will be roughly 32 feet wide by 64 feet long, and will be 30 feet high at the peak, and will be formed of laminated redwood arches exposed on the inside. The chancel, or part of the church which contains the altar and choir will be divided so that the choir pews will be on both sides of the altar. The cross on the clear glass front of the church, will be of wood, lit indirectly from below, and it is hoped to have a stained glass window, similarly lit, on the wall behind the altar.

Cushioned pews of traditional form, finished in a driftwood color will furnish seats for approximately 140 worshippers in the nave of the church,

with additional seating space provided for in the narthex, or portion of the church nearest the entrance, which will bring the total seating capacity, including the chancel, to about 200 persons.

Carpeting will cover the chancel floor and the center aisle of the church, placed over a vinyl covering of a sand color. The outside of the building will make use of Cape Cod shingles, permitting them to weather naturally to gray, and of vertical siding painted white. Below the lower edge of the roof, and not seen in the architect's drawing, will be clerestory windows, which will receive natural light reflected from a bedding of shells at the ground level, and all artificial lighting within, will be indirect.

To the right of the church building, in the drawing, is an enclosed corridor, which will have picture windows on the side away from the street, looking out on a prayer garden and outdoor chapel. Benches will be provided in the garden, which will be landscaped according to the architect's design, where it is hoped during the summer, people will come to meditate in quiet.

The corridor will connect directly with the other buildings forming the church complex, and these include six

classrooms, a Fellowship Hall, a modern kitchen, a choir room, a boiler room, a general church office and a pastor's office.

At the present time, the general plans of the new building do not include the construction of a new parsonage, and the parsonage on Center Street will be continued in use. If however, it is found later that the work is proceeding well within the allowed budget, a new parsonage may be built on the same site. The church has also been designed so that it can easily be expanded if necessary, in the future, and this would be done by separating the structure at the chancel, moving that section back, and inserting an addition at that point.

Off-street parking accommodations for from 75 to 100 cars will be made on the Brown Street-Shankpainter Road corner as well as at the back of the building.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1959

### Work Started On New Church

Cement footings for the new Methodist Church on Shankpainter Road in Provincetown have been poured and completed by the contractor. Forms for foundation walls are now being erected and cement for these walls will be poured during the week, weather permitting. The work is proceeding on schedule and the parish hall and educational wing units will be completed first while the laminated arches for the church nave are in transit from the mid-west. Memorial gifts for church furnishings are now being received by the Building Committee. Further information may be obtained by contacting the church office. Interior decoration for the church nave will be in two shades of driftwood, attractively lending itself to its Cape Cod environment.