

1771

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1806

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## JOSEPH WOODMAN

**November 13, 1771- November 13, 1806**

**1771:** The Sanbornton Congregational Church organized when the newly hired Joseph Woodman is ordained.

**1775-1789:** Building of the first Meetinghouse on Tower Hill

May 21, 1775: Rev. Woodman preaches his first sermon in the Meetinghouse.

The Memorial window (1903) dedicated to Rev. Joseph Woodman is imprinted with these words: *Thou hast put gladness in my heart. I will both lay me down in peace and sleep. For the Lord only makest me dwell in safety.* (Psalm 4:7).

Nathan Taylor fought in the Revolutionary War. The Memorial windows (1903) on the church's front doors are dedicated to Mr. Taylor and his wife Sarah. Their portraits (by Walter Ingalls) hang in the church narthex.

*1775-1783: Revolutionary War*

*1804: Railway steam locomotive invented*

*Presidents Washington, Adams and Jefferson*

1806

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1852

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## ABRAHAM BODWELL

November 13, 1806-June 24, 1852

Known as a peacemaker, well-spirited, with firmness of principle. Preached temperance.

Mary H. Bodwell, organist

**1819:** Organization of the Congregational Sunday School.

**1821: Fiftieth** Church Anniversary celebrated.

**1829:** Town Cemetery turned over to the church.

**1834:** On March 31, the Congregational Society votes to “take down the original Meetinghouse on Tower Hill and build it over into a one-story Meetinghouse.”

September 24, 1834: Dedication of the “new” Meetinghouse.

**1850-51:** Remodeling of the chancel.

In a 1921 address, Rev. Greer read:

*“The frame of the old Meetinghouse composes a great part of the frame of this new Meetinghouse and stands on the same material foundation on which the fathers stood, prayed and worshipped long ago.”*

The Building Committee authorized to sell pews and horse shed lots belonging to the new Meetinghouse, at auction to the highest bidder. Pew #52 is sold for \$37.  
June 20, 1829: Legal separation of church and state in the town of Sanbornton.

*Franklin secedes from the town of Sanbornton.*

*1830's: Sanbornton has a Fire Department and an “engine,” housed north of the Public Library.*

*1826: American Temperance Society formed.*

*President Jefferson through President Fillmore*

1852

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## JAMES BOUTWELL

June 24, 1852-March, 1865

**1856:** New pulpit installed.

**1863:** Steeple bell purchased, cast by Boston Copper Company in 1830.

In the Meetinghouse,  
the Reverend  
and Mrs. James Boutwell  
Memorial window (1903)  
represents the purity  
of Christ with the cross  
adorned with white lilies,  
which also symbolize  
Easter and immortality.

*1853: First woman pastor ordained in the  
Congregational church.*

*1861-1865: American Civil War  
President Fillmore through President Lincoln*

1886

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## MOSES RUNNELS

December, 1865-September 4, 1886

Rev. Runnels was also Town Historian. He wrote two volumes on Sanbornton history and geological formations, including mountain ranges.

**1868:** Members pay for their pews and are taxed ten cents per member.

**1870:** Rear “Singing Gallery” moved to the main floor.

**1871:** Church **Centennial** celebration.

**1880:** First mention of an organ bought by the Ladies Circle (for \$116). It may be the pump organ located in Meetinghouse.

*1869: Tilton secedes from the town of Sanbornton.*

*1875: First telephone built by Alexander G. Bell.*

*1879: Patent for light bulb granted to Thomas Edison.  
President Johnson through President Cleveland*

1887

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1914

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## FERDINAND WARD

July, 1887-May, 1890

*Religion is life and the life of religion  
is to live well and do good.* (Rev. Ward)

## NATHAN PHILBROOK

February 15, 1891-1897

**1897:** New oak pews installed.

*President Cleveland through President McKinley*

## J. NEWTON PERRIN, JR.

1897-May, 1914

**1898-1903:** Renovations made.

**1903:** Twelve stained glass windows made and installed by the Spence Bell Company of Boston. Memorial windows dedicated to two previous ministers, active church members, the Sunday School, and the Christian Endeavor Society.

**1913:** Clock presented to church by Helen J. Morse. Mrs. F.H. Hunkins, organist until 1918.

*1903: First modern fixed wing aircraft by the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, NC.*

*Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson*

*1914-1918: World War I*

1915

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## FREDERICK BALCOM

1915-March, 1918

**1918:** Catherine Currier begins as church organist  
The fee for Harvest Suppers is 50 cents for everyone  
not supplying food.

One Memorial window (1903) over the stairs in the  
narthex (left) shows the entwined letters “S.” This  
window was donated by members of the Sunday  
School.

The guest book table in the narthex was the pulpit  
before 1950

*President Woodrow Wilson*

*1920-1933: Prohibition*

*1928: Penicillin invented*

*1930's: The Great Depression*

1938

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## JAMES GREER

November 13, 1918-June 1, 1922

**1921:** 150<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary celebrated.

## CHARLES N. DAVIE

1924-January 19, 1938

**1926:** Electricity installed in the church.

**1927:** List for the Harvest Supper

8 big pots of baked beans

12 large bowls of red flannel hash

9 recipes of brown bread; 8 dozen doughnuts;

67 pies—fancy apple and pumpkin

4 qts. milk, 1 qt. cream, 4 lbs. butter

2 qts. Piccalilli; Grapes and apples

50 dozen rolls; 25 lbs. sugar purchased

270 people attended from church and community.

*President Wilson through President F. D. Roosevelt*

**1938**

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## **JOSEPH C. HUNT**

**July 15, 1938-July, 1941**

**1938:** Emery Memorial window damaged by hurricane. Clay pot created with broken stained-glass pieces, by church historian, Milly Shaw.

**1939:** Pastor launches Sanbornton Crier, newsletter of church and community.

Church votes to remove the horse sheds and replace them with a suitable fence.

**1940:** Second clock presented to the church by Nelson Smith.

## **JAMES W. NEWTON**

**October 11, 1942-April 21, 1946**

Rev. Newton enjoys directing lively and often amusing church plays.

*President Franklin D. Roosevelt*

*1945: World War II*

**1956**

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## **EDWARD G. ERNST**

**1946-October 15, 1952**

**1946, November:** Church incorporated.

**1949:** Electric organ installed and later sold.

**1950:** Chancel remodeled. Removal of old choir and pulpit platforms. Construction of pulpit, lectern and altar table.

**1951:** Dedication of chancel.

## **WILLIAM T. KEECH**

**April 19, 1953-July 6, 1956**

**1953:** Balcony converted into two classrooms and choir loft expanded.

**1953-1966:** Church shares a minister with the Northfield-Tilton Congregational Church.

**1954:** Tradition of holding a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is started.

*Presidents Truman and Eisenhower*

*1947: Transistor invented. 1950-1955: Korean War*

1957

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1967

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## EDWIN A. OLSON

**1957-April 23, 1961**

*1957: The United Church of Christ formed when the Evangelical and Reformed Church unites with the Congregational Christian Churches.*

## ROBERT H. SARGENT

**July 30, 1961-January 9, 1966**

**1961:** Church votes to become a member of the United Church of Christ.

**1966:** Dennis Akerman becomes the Choir Director.

*Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson*

*1955-1968: Civil Rights Movement*

*1955-1975: Vietnam War*

## JACK JENSEN

**1966-1967**

**Interim Minister**

Professor at Colby-Sawyer College.

Throughout the years, horse sheds on the north side of the church are used for: 1) storage and 2) a fire station in the 1960's. The last horse shed near today's Public Library is used as a manual workshop for school students and as storage for the library.

1968

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1978

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## RICHARD D. CROOKS

January 1, 1968-August 15, 1978

Outstanding teacher and musician.

**1968-1969:** Estey organ, opus # 1284 (1914), transported to the church and installed, with an added organ room.

**1970's:** Junior Choir formed. Mary Rutter leads both Choirs for a few years, then Dennis Akerman resumes as Choir Director.

**1971: Bicentennial** Church Celebration.

Retirement of Catharine B. Currier, organist who served for fifty-three years.

MaryLou Crooks begins as church organist

**1974:** Excavation project started to create the Undercroft. On Christmas Eve, the "Tableau of the Holy Family" tradition begins.

**1976:** Estey pipe organ expanded.

**1978:** Douglas Embree becomes church organist.

*1968: Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.*

*Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter*

*July 20, 1969: Apollo 11 spaceflight lands first humans on the moon.*



**1978**

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## **KAY KENNARD**

**September 3, 1978-December 23, 1981**

“Ratty,” the pastor’s puppet raccoon, is a favorite during the Children’s Word!

**1980:** Undercroft completed for Christian Education, fellowship, community events, and storage. Sound system donated and blue carpet installed in the Meetinghouse.

**1981:** Fiske House acquired for use as a parsonage.

**1991**

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## **SALLY GEPHART**

**October 3, 1982-April, 1986**

**1983:** New well completed and storm windows installed.

## **LEANNE TIGERT**

**September, 1986-November 20, 1991**

**1987:** Estey organ substantially rebuilt.

**1988:** Congregation votes to become a “Peace with Justice” church. One classroom upstairs converted into the pastor’s study.

**1989:** Parsonage expanded and renovated.

**1990:** Handicapped access to church completed.

*Presidents Reagan and Bush*

*1990: World Wide Web invented*

**1992**

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**2002**

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## **LESLIE NORMAN**

**November 1, 1992-June 30, 2002**

Lived in parsonage (425 Sanborn Rd.)

**1992:** Milly Shaw voted to be Church Historian

**1995:** The church “Music Vision” realized, with new hymnals (New Century Hymnal), and choir robes.

**1996:** Memory garden created behind the church, with a granite bench in memory of Janet Norman, late wife of Rev. Leslie Norman.

**225<sup>th</sup>** Church Anniversary celebrated with dedication of Peace Pole.

Lectern Bible also given in memory of Janet Norman.

Lectern. Pulpit hangings given in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Bramble.

**1997:** July 4- Congregation votes to become an “Open and Affirming” Church.

Restoration of clock made by Johnson Brothers, Sanbornton clockmakers in the 1800’s.

Church banner designed by Joy Tilton for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NH Congregational churches.

**1998:** Dennis Akerman becomes the first Minister of Music in NH Conference.

**2000:** The last horse shed is removed!

*September 11, 2001: Terrorist attack on the World Trade Center*

*Presidents Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush*

**2002**

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**2011**

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## **ROBERT BORDEN**

**October 6, 2002-October, 2003**

**Interim Minister**

The church's ceramic Christmas nativity painted and donated by Kay Stewart and Evelyn Merrill.

## **PATRICE FICKEN**

**March 28, 2004-June 28, 2009**

Excellent pianist. Contemplative programs, including Celtic spirituality.

**2005:** "Vision 2008:" Three-year strategic plan

**2007:** Celebration honoring Dennis Akerman's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Minister of Music.

Congregation votes to become a "Green Church."

*President Barack Obama*

## **JEAN O'BRESKY**

**November 29, 2009-November, 2011**

**Interim Minister**

**2011:** Celebration in honor of Elizabeth and Richard Currier, who are "retiring" after many years of service as loyal caretakers of our church building, including hospitality and seasonal decorations.

Church By-laws examined and substantial changes approved by the congregation. The Boards are renamed, with newly described responsibilities.

# 2011

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## RUTH A. MARTZ

**December 1, 2011--**

Lived in parsonage 2011-2014 (425 Sanborn Rd.)

**2011:** Parsonage interior painted, with new carpet.

**2012:** Church chandelier and oil lamps sold.

**2013:**(September) 1000 peace doves folded for International Peace Day. Parsonage exterior painted.

**2013:** Restoration of Memorial windows: Emery window, Alpha and Omega window

**2014:** Metal roof put on parsonage.

Estey organ expanded. Celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Estey organ opus #1284, with a special organ concert. Undercroft painted a new color!

**2017:** Completion of projects approved for an LCHIP Grant: handicapped bathroom, new shutters, and Plexan covering for Memorial windows.

(August) Retirement of Douglas Embree, beloved organist since 1978.

(September) Organist Laura Belanger joins our staff.

**2018:** (September) \$60,000 Campaign approved for Organ Restoration

**2019:** Church sign on front lawn completed

**2020:** (January) Safe Conduct Policy approved

*President Donald Trump*

