



ST. JOHN'S - ON-THE-LAKE ASSOCIATION

BEAR ISLAND, LAKE WINNEPESAUKEE NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dr. Bertram J. L. Sauerbrunn, President

Rev. Richard S. Martin, Chairman, Services Committee
Stepney Depot RD, Monroe, Connecticut

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On high ground near the Southern end of Bear Island, St. John's Chapel tower overlooks the Western part of Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire. In years gone by Episcopalians and their friends came from many islands and worshipped God according to the Book of Common Prayer in that beautiful setting.

But with the second World War, and some other circumstances, services were largely discontinued. Bishop Hall of New Hampshire thought it might be best to sell the property for what it would bring to help the Church in near-by Meredith become better established.

However, some who had known the Church when it was active, and some others newly come to vacation on Bear Island joined forces to endeavor to save it as a community center for summer worship, and Bishop Hall gave his approval for a year's trial. This was done in 1955.

A full schedule of eight weeks was arranged with vacationing and visiting clergy of the Episcopal Church engaged for services of Holy Communion and Morning Prayer, with some camp services as well. Services were well attended, a large part of the congregations being those who had gathered for informal hymns and worship in the last few years, including a great many children, and with many denominations represented. Indeed, when an accident laid up one of the clergy who was involved on two Sundays, two Methodist ministers from the Island supplied our need.

It is our intention this year to accent the family nature of our services, and to include some non-Episcopalian clergy from among our neighbors in our plans from the start. The association agreed that it would be appropriate to provide for up to half of the Sundays in such a manner. Bishop Hall has written indicating his approval of this plan. We shall of course schedule some services of Holy Communion when an Episcopal priest is available.

We want above all for the summer residents of the islands to find and enjoy the warm fellowship we have known in the past, and that we may all grow in Christian knowledge and grace through our common worship of the God and Father of us all. And we devoutly hope that ministers residing on Bear or nearby islands will gladly respond to invitations to assist us toward that end.

Richard Martin

Chairman, Services Committee