

125 Years of Ministry at St. Peter's by the Sea

St. Peter's by the Sea, built in memory of George Mecum Conarroe, was consecrated on July 12, 1897, by Bishop Henry Adams Neely. Summer services have been held continuously ever since with the 125th anniversary of the church coming up in 2022. Sunday worship services are held on Sundays (June – mid-October) at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. The 10:00 a.m. service includes a choir composed of talented singers from the Portland and Boston areas. Plan to attend our festivities to celebrate 125 years serving the coastal communities! Visit our website: www.st-peters-by-the-sea.org for updates.

George and Nannie Conarroe (pronounced "Cuh-NAIR-oh") began coming to the Cliff House from Philadelphia in the 1880s and then built Cragmere on the coastline down from the Cliff House. They desired to build a summer chapel on land nearby referred to as Christian Hill, where open air church services had been held fairly frequently since 1850.

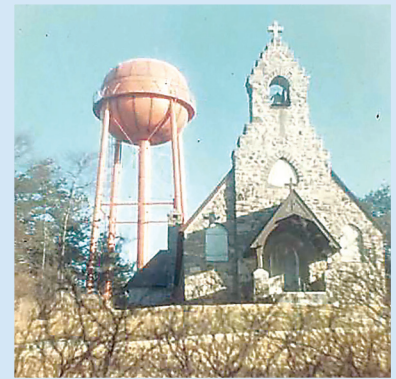
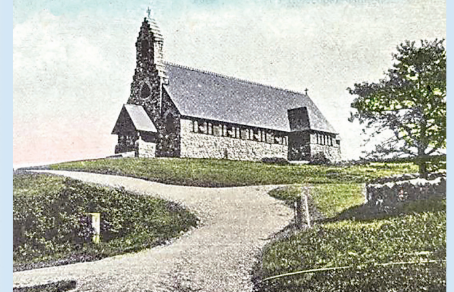
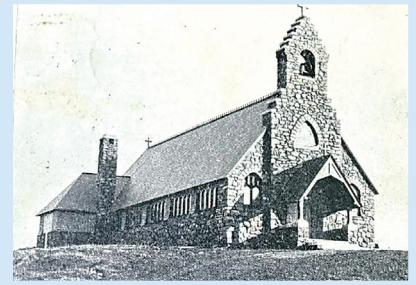
Nannie Dunlap Conarroe also gave the Ogunquit Memorial Library, built on Shore Road in the Ogunquit in the same style as the church, after George's death in 1896. The library was opened to the public in June 1898. Charles M. Burns of Philadelphia was the architect, and Edward B. Blaisbell of York was the contractor. Native stone was used with wood in the H.H. Richardson Romanesque style. Sidney D. Winn of Cape Neddick, a master stone mason, was head mason on the project.

From 1962 to 1992, the Rt. Rev. William H. Marmion, retired bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, was minister in charge, and his brother, the Rt. Rev. C. Gresham Marmion, retired bishop of the Diocese of Kentucky, was his associate during those years.

Since 1992 several retired bishops and other members of the clergy have conducted services from early June through the middle of October and resided in the oceanside rectory, Marmion House. The church is very popular for weddings, and many brides and grooms revisit. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in August 1999. In 2008, the Memorial Garden was created as a place where people's ashes can be buried directly into the earth and their names placed on a large stone in the middle of the garden. It is open to the public for a quiet spot of reflection, and anyone can be buried there.

St. Peter's Guild holds a hospitality hour at the rectory overlooking the ocean after the 10 a.m. service for refreshments and fellowship. All are invited to worship at St. Peter's!

*Below: Founders of St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal Church,
George Mecum Conarroe and Nannie Dunlap Conarroe of Philadelphia, PA.
These portraits are in the Ogunquit Memorial Library.*



St. Peter's by the Sea Over the Years

Top to bottom: 1903; 1934; Year unknown with church attendance overflow in the lawn; Water tower in February 1967; Winter scene in January 2019.