

# CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH - 1906

## TWO CHURCHES BECOME ONE

### Early Churches

One of the earliest references to a Methodist congregation in the community is recorded in the journal of William Black, who preached to a large group of people in Bay Roberts on August 21, 1791. The first Methodist Church opened in 1824. By 1900 there were two churches, one in the East and one in the West. On December 29, 1902 it was agreed that a central church would be built at Beachy Cove.

### Current Church

The corner stone of Central Methodist Church was laid on August 7, 1905. William T. Bowering was the master builder and Samuel Mercer was in charge of interior decoration. The Church, over 100 ft long and seating 1000 people, was completed and opened for worship on May 6, 1906. On the first Sunday in March, 1917 Central Methodist Church was extensively damaged by fire. Members of Central Church as well as people from the Church of England who were on their way to morning service helped to save the building.



The Central Methodist Church as it was originally constructed.

Photos from: "The Church on the Hill."



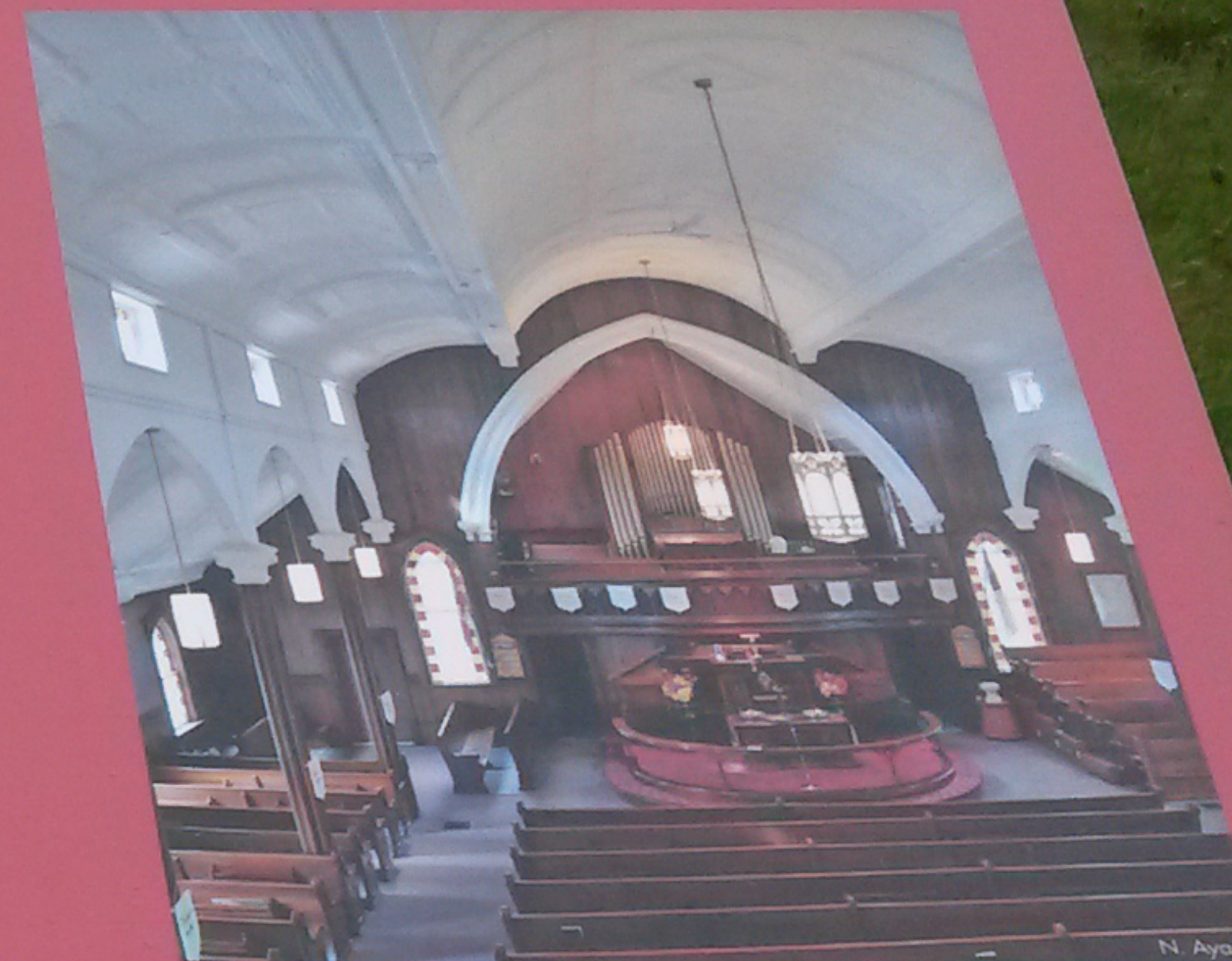
In 1941 the tall stately tower was lowered and in 1974 both towers were removed.

SOURCE  
"THE CHURCH ON THE HILL" BY WILFRED S. MERCER &  
REV. J.G. BURTON  
THE BAY ROBERTS HERITAGE SOCIETY



N. Ayad

A chapel organ was installed in the singing gallery, and later replaced by a pipe organ built in 1919 by Estey Organ Company of Brattleboro, Vermont. It was purchased by Ayre & Sons Ltd. in St. John's and shipped to Bay Roberts. It was pumped by hand until an electric pump was installed.



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The furniture of highly polished red oak was supplied by Globe Furniture Company of Canada

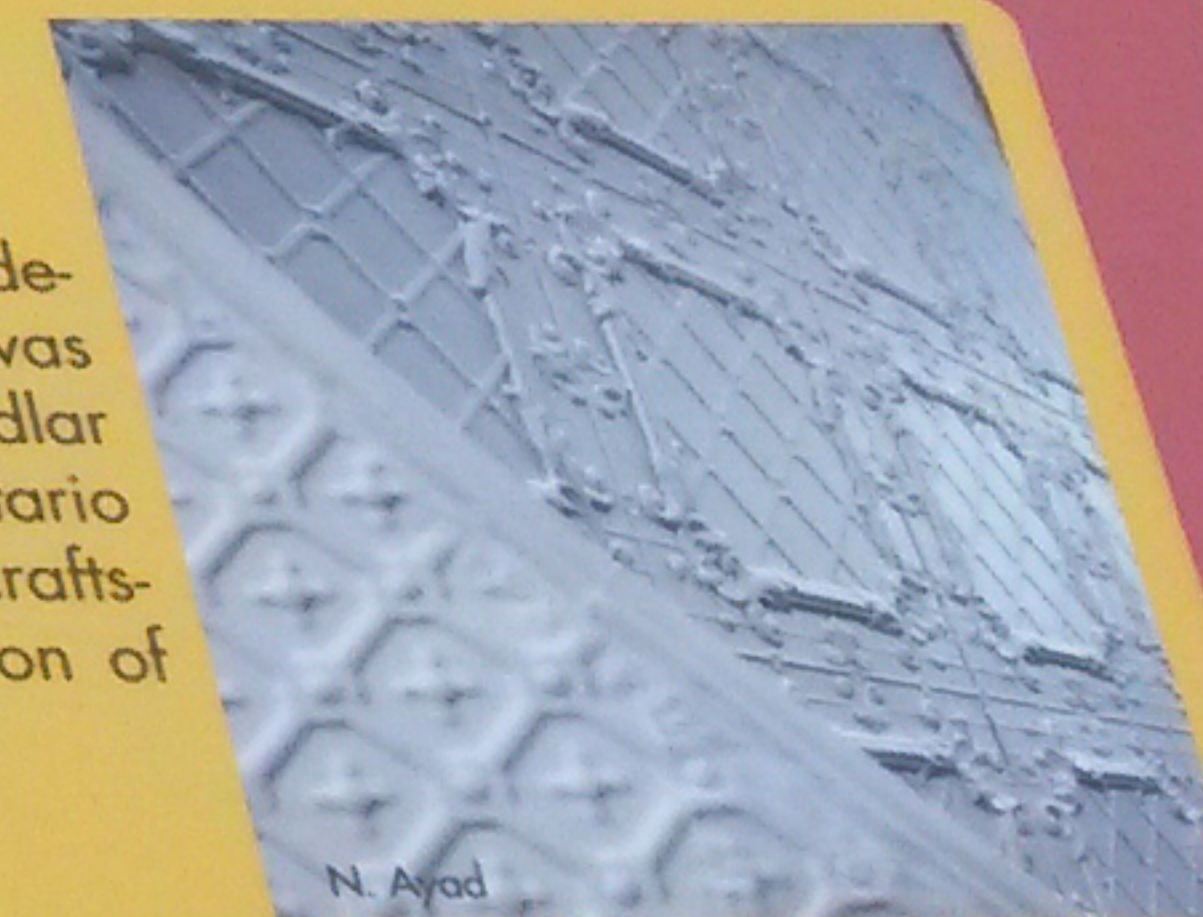


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The Communion Table was built by William T. Bowering and presented to the Church by the East Sunday School

### Ornate Tin Stamped Ceiling

The striking ceiling, designed in stamped tin, was constructed by Pedlar People of Oshawa, Ontario and painted by local craftsmen under the direction of Samuel Mercer.



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