

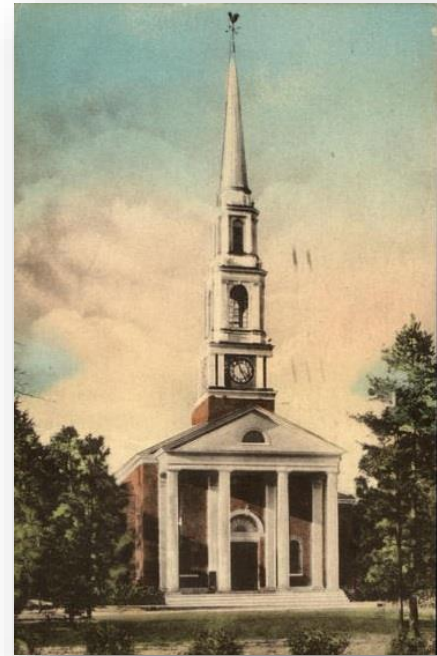


## THE VILLAGE CHAPEL IS REVERED COMMUNITY ICON

The towering pines weren't as tall in 1925. The membership wasn't as large and diverse. However, that beautiful 126-foot white majestic spire could be seen for several miles under a clear blue Sandhills sky.

The Village Chapel's familiar spire stands today as it did over eighty-five years ago: a proud and ageless symbol of a dream of Christian unity for people of various religious persuasions worshipping together.

Once again the well-connected New England Tufts family, founders of the Village of Pinehurst, called upon one of their distinguished friends to provide another missing link for the picturesque community. Noted minister, United States Senate chaplain and author, Dr. Edward Everett Hale of Boston, had founded several religious organizations, including Lend-A-Hand Club, and brought with him a plan for a community church in the thriving village.



Dr. Hale came to preach in Pinehurst in 1898, and in the capacity of its spiritual leader, he assisted in the organization of the early interdenominational group simply known as the Pinehurst Religious Association. He would later serve as the first minister of the Village Chapel, the unpretentious name chosen by the association.

Early writings described initial services at the Holly Inn and then later at the Village Hall. Sunday night gatherings often ended with the singing of "God be with you til we meet again," and soon these special times led to the formation of a seven-person committee, consisting of "not over two members identified with any one form of religion or religious organization." The Tufts/Hale vision was a community where people of different backgrounds could live and worship in Christian unity.

The Village Chapel was built on a prime spot in the center of the Village Green, land donated by the Tufts family for the majestic church. Chapel architect Hobart Upjohn won a Diploma of Merit at an Italian exhibit in 1926 for his graceful plan of what has been called one of the most photographed churches in North Carolina.

It isn't just a church steeped in history and tradition. It is a revered community icon and an awe-inspiring landmark for the Village of Pinehurst.

Simple in design, the church can accommodate 700 people. Architecturally, the lower half is

Southern Colonial and the upper part is New England Colonial. The cornerstone for the Chapel was placed in April 1924 and included a Bible, a Prayer Book, current copies of the local newspaper, maps of four Pinehurst golf courses and a certified copy of the minister's best score on the famed, Donald Ross No. 2 course.

The Village Chapel was completed in March of 1925 at a cost of \$145,000. Aided by a generous gift, along with private matching subscriptions (donations) from the directors of the Pinehurst Religious Association, the Tufts were happy to offer the choice site as the future home of the community's religious landmark.

The original organ, an Austin Organ built in Hartford, CT, was installed in 1924 and dedicated along with the church on March 1, 1925. Nearly 30 years later, a Schulmerich carillon was installed. This musical instrument used paper rolls like a player piano to produce the sound of a bell which was amplified to the four speakers in the steeple. The "chimes" (carillon) are a beautiful part of the Pinehurst charm, as many visitors and golfers will attest, as the steeple faces in all directions. In the early days of the local hospital, patients' windows could be raised so that they could hear the Chapel's carillon.



A newer carillon with bronze bars was gifted to the Chapel in 1988 and is playable from the organ console as well as by a computer. There are eight musical libraries of 100 seasonal hymns for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, along with hymns of joy, prayerful hymns, patriotic songs and hymns of Thanksgiving. The bronze bars are struck and then amplified in the steeple speakers, resonating through the community.

Coincidentally, another Pinehurst landmark, No. 2 golf course, is only a well-struck 'spoon' (3-wood) away from the Village Chapel, and those chimes have been a source of inspiration to many who have walked the fairways of the championship course.

When the late Payne Stewart won the 1999 U.S. Open, the carillon was playing "Amazing Grace." Stewart commented afterwards that when he heard the familiar hymn as he was teeing off at #18, it helped to relax him and he had a good feeling about winning. Ironically, during the '99 Open, John

Shannon, Director of Music at the Village Chapel, felt the carillon should be turned off, so as not to disturb the golfers' concentration. The church Chaplain Edward Galloway disagreed, saying that the carillon was part of the beauty and ambiance of the Village. In a compromise, Shannon programmed one hymn instead of two, but in a mix-up of musical libraries, Christmas music rang out of the Village Chapel's steeple during the June broadcast instead of calming hymns!

It was only fitting then that Shannon played “Amazing Grace” on the organ console, which was amplified from the steeple, during the unveiling of the Payne Stewart statue beside the 18th green several years later.

The Westminster chimes traditionally announce the hour from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. The hymns are scheduled to play on the half-hour. A pealing, a random ringing of Chapel bells which spreads the joy of the carillon throughout the Pinehurst community, occurs at 9:10 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 3:10 p.m. and 6:10 p.m. daily.

Shannon expects that during the upcoming 2014 U.S. Opens, the carillon will probably be playing hymns of joy or patriotic songs.

Longtime Village Manager Andy Wilkison used the Village Chapel steeple as a welcoming landmark when he came for a job interview 25 years ago.

“The location and site of the Chapel is frequently used to tell people they’re in the center of the Village,” he remarked, adding, “along with the chimes, the Chapel is unique to the area. Everyone who walks down those golf courses will have a special feeling that is found only in Pinehurst.”

He recalled a clay-court tennis champion stopping in the middle of his match when the carillon started to play, remarking “Isn’t this beautiful?” before continuing his tennis.

And even in the early 1900s, the beauty of the Village Chapel was recognized.

An early Boston visitor wrote in a lengthy manuscript about her trip to Pinehurst, describing the Chapel and its benefactors, the Tufts family: “You see it straight ahead as you come down the road from the famous Pinehurst Country Club, and the first time this happens you may well be impelled to stop and let the beauty of the church framed by the long-leaf pines possess your soul. The Village Chapel embodies the ideal of Christian unity in such a unique way...a harmony of fellowship that has been a basic principle of the Village since its very beginning in 1896.

“Edward Everett Hale was his (Tufts) warm friend and together they dreamed that in this peaceful spot, an opportunity could be given to prove to Christian people the blessedness of living together in Unity.”

A segment of the motto of Hale’s Lend-A-Hand club might be an adage for this inspirational structure in the heart of the Village of Pinehurst: “Look up and not down, look forward and not back, look out and not in...”