

Deer Isle Sunset Congregational Church Prospectus

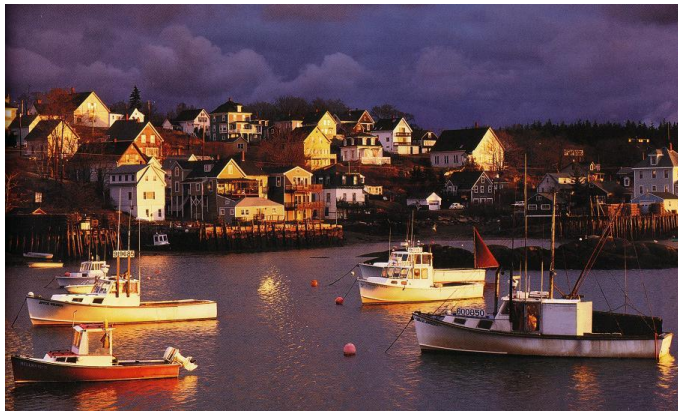
Community

Most people arrive on Deer Isle over the Deer Isle-Sedgwick bridge, a true marvel in engineering finished in 1939. As the second largest island on the coast of Maine, we celebrate the beauty of field, forest, sea and sky. The area is known as a paradise for sailors and all who enjoy the water. The Island Heritage Trust stewards these natural resources through educational classes and preserving acres of land.

The first European settlers came in 1762 and many of their descendants still live on the island. In the summer, the year-round population of 3,016 doubles with the influx of long-time summer residents and tourists. All are part of the glue that keeps the community vibrant. The Historical Society's archives and programs celebrate our culture and history.



We represent an authentic Downeast population of fishermen, entrepreneurs, retirees and others who work hard, value family and find island life rewarding. The local life is built on being able to do many tasks for oneself, but if help is needed, a friendly hand is available. We have two incorporated towns, Deer Isle and Stonington. Leading the state in the harvesting of



lobsters, Stonington Harbor earned 55 million dollars last year. Other than the fishing industry, residents earn income through tourism, education, elder-care and the arts.

The Island is a hub of artistic talent. Not the least of these is the world-renowned Haystack Mountain School of Crafts. The Opera House produces live plays, music, weekend movies and programs for the

schools. The public school houses The Reach Performing Arts Center, where amateur and professional performances are held.

Amenities include grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, libraries and numerous daycares, in addition to a dental clinic, medical center and a non-profit nursing home. The Island Community Center has classes and opportunities for all ages. The volunteer fire and ambulance corps round out some of the basic community services.

An assortment of inns, hotels and bed-and-breakfasts provides hospitality to our numerous visitors. The Island Country Club offers cross-country skiing in the winter as well as golf and tennis in the warmer months.

For an area of our size, we are self-contained and blessed with an amazing amount of rich and diverse opportunities without the hectic pace of a more urban setting.

Congregation

The congregation of Deer Isle Sunset Congregational Church is a diverse community of people with many faith experiences. They worship together in two sanctuaries, a full-sized church building and a summer chapel. Both buildings date from the 1800's. The larger one has a connected parish hall and neighboring parsonage; the chapel has a parish house nearby. The buildings are comfortable, in good working order and loved by the congregation.



The congregation has many seniors and a few families with young children. For the past 15 years they have enjoyed a strong, healthy pastor - parish relationship. They are a caring group who value an open and affirming, meaningful worship. They are motivated to continue supporting a growing music ministry, children's programs, and outreach to their community in an asset based way.



They are aware that they face the challenges of an aging population, connecting and supporting their diverse community and addressing the mismatch between perception of needs and the actual needs of their people.

Pastoral Need of the Congregation & the Community

We are seeking a gifted pastor, someone who is able to inspire people, think critically, work cooperatively and participate in evaluation of our ministries.

We are seeking a skilled pastor, someone who can manage their time, communicate effectively and delegate responsibilities.

We are seeking a joyful pastor, someone who values working for justice, working in partnership with people of all socio-economic backgrounds and working with other clergy in meaningful ways.

Our hopes are that this pastor's love of the congregation will be evidenced in providing meaningful worship, guiding spiritual growth and helping us make the world a better place.

Community Information:

Church Website: www.deerislesunsetchurch.org

Chamber of Commerce: www.deerisle.com

Town of Deer Isle: www.townofdeerisle.org

Town of Stonington: www.stoningtonmaine.org

Haystack Mountain School of Crafts: www.haystack-mtn.org

The Stonington Opera House: www.operahousearts.org

Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries: www.coastalfisheries.org

Billings Diesel and Marine: www.billingsmarine.com