

Centre Church. This church was embodied, March the 8th, 1826, consisting of 25 members, 6 males and 19 females. The Rev. Hainan Rood, the first pastor, was a son of Thomas D. Rood of Jericho, Vt. He fitted for college partly at Shoreham, Vt and partly at the Academy in Middleburg. After graduating, he was two years Preceptor of the Academy at Montpelier, and one year tutor at Middlebury College. He completed his Theological course, in the Seminary at Andover in 1825, and first preached at Gilmanton, Oct. 22nd of the same year. During his ministry, which continued about three years and a half from his ordination, 11 were received to the church, 10 by profession, and 1 by letter. Mr. Rood was installed in New Milford, Ct. April 21st, 1830, and dismissed July 28th, 1835. He was inaugurated Professor in Gilmanton Theological Seminary, Sept. 9th, 1835, which office he held a little more than 8 years, and resigned in November, 1843. Prof. Rood was married to Frances Susan Moody, daughter of Stephen Moody, Esq. Nov. 29th, 1827. Their children are Susan Hooper, Mary Jane, Stephen Moody, Henry Edward, and Frances Gracia Merwin. Prof. Rood has published an ordination sermon, and several articles in the Biblical Journal, a periodical which he conducted two years. Rev. Daniel Lancaster, the second Pastor, was the son of Ebenezer Lancaster of Acworth. He commenced his studies preparatory to entering college in Aug. 1814, at Chesterfield Academy, then under the instruction of Mr. Otis Hutchins, a graduate at Dartmouth College in 1804. After leaving College, he taught one term in Boscawen, West Parish, entered the Theological Seminary at Andover in Nov. of the same year, and closed his course of Theological study in the Autumn of 1824. He first preached in Gilmanton on the first sabbath in Jan. 1825, and remained as a supply with the first church 3 months. On the 11th of April, he received a call, and returned a negative answer. The call was renewed with some modifications in July, and on the 21st of Aug. he returned an affirmative answer. During his ministry, the church was considerably enlarged, but the formation of the two adjacent churches, one at the Centre, and the other at the Iron Works Village so weakened the Society that his support failed, and he was dismissed. For two years previous to this, in 1830 and 1831, he had preached to the Centre church one half of the time. In 1831, a revival was enjoyed, and 28 were added to the church. In Aug. 1832, Mr. Lancaster removed to the Centre Village, and continued as stated supply until he was installed. In 1834, there was a revival, and 36 were added to the church. In 1836, there was another season of refreshing from the Lord, and 40 were gathered into the church. In 1838, the Lord again revived his work, and 52 were added to the church. The whole number received since the church was formed is 243.

Mr. Lancaster married Anne Elizabeth, daughter of John Lemist of Dorchester, Ms. Aug. 29th, 1827. She died Aug. 27th, 1829, aged 28 years. He married Eliza G., daughter of Daniel Greely, Esq. Foxcroft, Me. Feb. 14th, 1831. His children are Mary Ellen Grant, who died, Anne Elizabeth, Frances Jane, and Daniel Greely.