

## **Moments in Our History**

### **(Excerpts from the Dissenting Church of Christ at St. John's 1775 – 1975)**

#### **Worship (Part 3)**

What of the sermon? In his Will, Jones mentions some of his books. They tell of preaching that was strictly Biblical. ... In his Life of John Jones, Greatheed gives us a not uncritical picture of Jones as a preacher:

“Without the recommendation of learning or eloquence, his addresses from the pulpit were highly instructive and impressive, the subjects of them being usually adopted from the closest state of his hearers' minds, and their delivery being marked with genuine humility, profound seriousness, and fervent affection. The preacher often seconded his admonitions with tears, and drew them from the eyes of his audience. If either in his conclusions or his purpose, the accuracy of his judgment might sometimes be questioned, no doubt could at any time reasonably be entertained of his integrity or benevolence.”

There would be no offering at the Meeting House. Coins were in short supply and the congregation, for the most part, would have no money. The prosperous members like Parker and Phillips would pledge to pay the stipend and provide for the upkeep of the Meeting House. Later, there would be “pew rents” and retiring collections for “special and missionary purposes.” The offering plate, usually flanked by Deacons, would be at the door. The practice of voluntary contributions was not introduced until May 1827.