

# First Parish Church names new minister

Members of Westford's First Parish Church have named a new minister to replace the Rev. George E. Downey, who retired two years ago after serving for 25 years. He is Rev. Graham Ward, currently pastor of the First Congregational Church of Hancock, N.H. His official duties will commence in the fall as the congregation prepares to celebrate the erection two centuries ago of its present edifice.

Born on a farm in Canada 57 years ago, Rev. Ward received his early schooling there and earned his B.A. from Acadia University in Nova Scotia. Harvard University Divinity School awarded him an M.A. and he then continued his education at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the National Training Laboratories in Maine, the University of Colorado and Iliff Seminary in Denver.

Prior to his ministry in Hancock, Rev. Ward's other posts include the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, the First Congregational Church at Amherst, First Congregational in Williamstown, West Parish in Andover and several congregations of the United Church of Canada in suburban Montreal.

Rev. Ward was widowed sev-



Courtesy photo

Rev. Graham Ward will begin his new ministry this fall.

eral years ago and now lives in Peterborough, N.H. with his second wife, Katherine Hoffman, mother of three daughters. A native of Wellesley and a graduate of Smith College, she received her B.A. from Bank Street College in New York City and was awarded a Ph.D. degree from New York University. She presently is associate professor and chairperson of the Fine Arts Department at St. Anselm's College in Manchester.

Rev. Thomas L. Bentley of Newburyport has served the parish as interim minister these past two years.

*Contributed by Gordon Seavey*