A guide to the Cathedral of the Pines
The Cathedral of the Pines (CotP) 236 acre campus overlooks Mt Monadnock, which is 3165 feet high and the most climbed mountain in the western hemisphere. The CotP campus offers its visitors breathtaking panoramic views. For the millions of people who have climbed Mt. Monadnock over the years, including Thoreau, Emerson, and their literary kin, and for those who have viewed the peak from the Cathedral of the Pines, the mountain has been and continues to be a source of inspiration and reflection and a symbol of spiritual and environmental awareness.

This bolder with plaque, located next to the flagpole at the entrance to the Cathedral honors the founders.
The Nature Preserve of the Cathedral is made up of walkways, walking paths and hiking trails. Inviting gardens line these paths and walkways.
Hilltop House

The Hilltop House, built in 1949, for clergy, choirs and small services, had an addition built in 1982. This addition accommodates up to one hundred twenty-five people, during inclement weather, for services or weddings. There is space to exhibit memorial gifts, items of interest and a collection of flags. Guided tours of the Cathedral begin in this room.
Hilltop serves as the visitor’s center of the Cathedral. The farm tools on the wall were from the barn at Cathedral House. The picture on the mantel is of Lt Sanderson Sloane, in whose memory the Cathedral was built. There are many stones and artifacts throughout the walls. Guides for these are on the table in the room. Most interesting is the Blarney Stone from Ireland and the stone from the death camp of Auschwitz.

Hilltop House contains an area where indoor weddings can be held and also serves as a venue for the Cathedral’s Annual Meeting.
Pictured above is a Jewish reading table. Sitting on top is a replica of the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant was hand carved, originally from Portugal, and brought to New York by Portuguese Jewish Immigrants. Inside are two Torahs, one over 400 years old from Portugal, the other a travel Torah from Israel.

The Ark was donated in memory of the four military chaplains who went down with the USS Dorchester in 1943. The chaplains gave their life vests and their lives to four men who were on the ship.
Pictured below are Good Karma Flags. This string of 9 flags stitched together depicts symbols of faith for nine of the major religions of the world. It is generally on display in the Hilltop House in front of the Chaplain’s Altar. The flags were designed by Byron Allen and handcrafte in Indonesia. It was donated to the Cathedral by members of the Bahá’í. The Bahá’í is not a well know faith. There are three core principles of Bahá’í teachings and doctrine: the unity of God, that there is only one God who is the source of all creation; the unity of religion, that all major religions have the same spiritual source and come from the same God; and the unity of humanity, that all humans have been created equal, and that diversity of race and culture are seen as worthy of appreciation and acceptance.

The nine religions are, from left to right:

- Hinduism
- Native Wisdom
- Sikhism
- Judaism
- Unity of All
- Buddhism
- Islam
- Christianity
- Taoism

Pictured below are three windows of Hilltop House looking west towards the Cathedral. The stained glass windows are symbols for the WAVES Women’s Organizations that support the Marine Corp (left) and Woman’s Army Corps (center).
The Chaplains’ Altar is a memorial to 3 service chaplains:

- Reverend Walton S. Danker, former rector of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Worcester, MA and the first American Chaplain killed in action in World War I;
- The Reverend Thomas A Shanahan
- Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, noted and beloved Chaplain of World War II

Both Father Tom and Rabbi Gittelsohn have done much to forward the Cathedral as a place of worship for all people. Parishioners and friends of St, John’s Church voluntarily contributed generously towards the cost of the construction of this altar. The stones in this altar were gifts to the Cathedral and their significance can be found in the guide to the stones.
This statue of the Crucifixion is named which stands for “Behold the Man”. It was sculpted by Leonard Craske, who is most famous for sculpting the Fisherman at the Wheel in Gloucester, MA. He created this statute under contract to the US Government as a World War I monument at Arlington National Cemetery. After he finished this model, Craske, for some unknown reason, didn’t like the final arrangement so he broke the contract and never delivered the statue. He spent the next 25-years looking for a suitable home for the model. When he visited the Cathedral of the Pines in 1950 he immediately decided this was the place he wanted it to be, so he willed it to the Cathedral and died 3-weeks later. Shortly after the Cathedral received the statue and its mold, assuring that no other copies would be cast. The statue is not only a crucifixion but it also has a soldier at Christ’s feet sculpted to represent the point that they both gave up their lives for us. There is no indication that describes what nation he fought for, nor his rank. The soldier has the same wound in his side, as that as Christ on the cross. In most renditions of the crucifixion Christ’s head is bent forward, but in this rendition he is looking sideways at the soldier who is extending his hand.
Women’s Memorial Bell Tower

The Women’s Memorial Bell Tower, cresting Cathedral of the Pines knoll, 1400 feet above sea level, is one of the most prominent features of the campus. The 55 foot stone bell tower is dedicated to American women, both civilian and military. It was built in 1965-66 and officially dedicated on May 28th, 1966. At that time was the first memorial to recognize the patriotic American Women who have served the nation.

Dr. Artland A. Dirlam, of Boston, Massachusetts, President of the Church Architectural Guild of America, provided the Memorial Bell Tower working drawings and refinements of the design by The Founder.

Joseph K. Tucker, of Milford, N.H., made the wrought iron gates for the Tower, as well as the rail gates for the Altar of the Nation and the Chapels.

The pillars of the Memorial Bell Tower are the stones taken by the "Old Timers" from the fields of the farm of which the Cathedral knoll is a part. Each year, from 1760 on, before seed could be put into the ground, crops of rock had to be removed. These are the stones they rejected. Little did those pioneers of 200 years ago realize their efforts would be memorialized here, that they would have a part in the Cathedral of the Pines project, now of significance to the whole world. Each rock is a reminder of the heroic struggle by the early settlers to secure freedom and the right to worship their Creator in their own way. These stones, bound together in the Memorial Bell Tower also symbolize the strength and unity of a grateful Nation.

The Carillonic "English" bells were given by the Kiwanis Clubs of New England in 1951. The "Flemish" bells are the gift of Sara A. Thummel of White Plains, New York. The Sheffield steel "Angelus" bell is the gift of John T. Cavanaugh of Hartford, Connecticut. The larger, 1800 pound Sheffield steel bell was cast by the Vickers Company in England in 1866 and it hung for many years in the old City Hall Tower, Keene, N.H.

What to put in the center of the tower was left to Dr. Sloane. For months he considered what would be most appropriate. A statue of a woman would be natural but detract from the drawings on the tablets over the arches. Scanning through a concordance of the Bible for one of the references to the "waters of life," the answer to the problem was solved. In the very last chapter of the last Book in the New Testament - Revelations XXII: 1, 2 - the first verse mentions the "waters of life." The second verse gave the answer: "...the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nation."

The trunk of the fountain's Tree of Life outlines the rear of a woman's body, emphasizing her backbone, her courage, stamina and determination as the mother of men. The twelve fruits on the tree are: breadfruit, pear, fig, peach, olive, orange, avocado, apple, lemon, cherry, pomegranate and plum. Each of the twelve sections of the tree bear leaves fitting for the particular fruit of that section. Water flows through the trunk and sprinkles over the tree. So came into being the Memorial tribute to the women nurses of the Armed Forces.
The **Tree of Life** is located in the center of the Bell Tower
Norman Rockwell, designed the four plaques featured on the outside of the tower. This picture was taken in his studio in Stockbridge, MA.

Norman Rockwell’s son Peter, cast the plaques in his studio in Rome.

The above picture is of Peter sculpturing the figure of the Pioneer Woman.

Peter has visited the site a number of times.

There is a “Bluebirds of Happiness” included in the tree.

The base of the Waters of Life fountain is granite from NH. The “Tree of Life” was designed by the cathedral’s founder, Douglas Sloane, and sculptured by Jarl Hesselbarth, of Hyde Park, NY. It honors American wartime nurses. The trunk of the tree is shaped like a backbone to symbolize women’s stamina, determination, and courage as the mother of mankind. The tree bears twelve fruits to represent the women being the bearer of our children.
Four Plaques

There are four plaques, located on the tower, one each side, and each represents a different contribution women of this country have made to the nation.

Over the west facing arch

**Women of the Combat Forces.** *Reading from bottom up (right to left):* Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Corps and Coast Guard.

The initials of Norman and Peter Rockwell appear on the lower right side of this plaque.

The five woman who modeled for this plaque visited the Cathedral for the Tower's dedication. They have returned since then.

Over the south facing arch

**Pioneer women** as well as men cleared the forests and plains and helped carve America from the wilderness. Recalled is the decision forced on both the pioneer man and his wife on receipt of the call for the man to help his Country. Both realized the possibility of never seeing each other again, both realized the woman would be left absolutely alone, no near neighbors, no roads, no telephones to summon aid. Neither hesitated. Many of these earliest women settlers sacrificed their lives defending their homes and children while their men were answering their Country's call to duty.
Over the east facing arch

*Sister of Charity*. In the wars of 1812 and between the States, many nuns of different Roman Catholic religious Orders served the wounded and dying on the battlefields.

*Salvation Army "Lassie."* These women and those of the Y.M.C.A. serving in the canteen work were not spared when the bombs fell.

*Entertainer*. Many of these women (among them Grace Moore and Carole Lombard) sacrificed their lives in the effort to boost the morale of the troops and support the war effort.

*War Correspondent*. Killed getting the news so that the troops and folks at home might be kept informed of events.

*Riveter*. Many of these women released men for combat duty and took their places in the shipyards, munitions and aviation plants, as well as in shops, factories and on the farm, producing the sinews of war. Through tragic accidents or over-exertion these women sacrificed their lives in war work.
The Boulder

The Boulder is placed on the approximate site on which Sandy, had he come home in body, would have built his home. It is also the site of the first memorial service on the property.
The site was originally named “Interlaken”, as the property is surrounded by three small lakes. On entering the cathedral visitors must pass through the two stones shown here. The boulders mark a divide. The waters on the parking lot side of the property flow into the Merrimack River, while the waters on the cathedral side flow into the Connecticut River.

The stone on the left is engraved “Thou Shalt Love the Lord Thy God.
The stone on the right is engraved “Thou Shalt Love Thy Neighbors as Thy Self.”
The first service was held in this Cathedral in August of 1945. Since then forty-four different faith traditions have held their services here, each in their own way.

Mt. Monadnock, seen in the distance, is 3165 feet high. Name means mountain that stands alone. It is the most climbed mountain in the U.S., second in the world after Mt. Fuji in Japan. The mountain was not visible when Sandy chose to put his house on the knoll. It became visible after extensive tree damage suffered in the Hurricane of 1938.

After the hurricane the Cathedral had large pines extending down almost to the altar. These pines were destroyed in the ice storm of 2008. The Cathedral was extensively rebuilt after the ice storm with generous donations from Cathedral supporters.
This bench on the knoll was donated to honor Alan Clapp’s volunteer service to the Cathedral
Altar of the Nation

The Altar of the Nation was the first appointment to be built on the Cathedral of the Pines knoll. Dedicated on Sept 8, 1946 as a memorial to the WWII dead of NH and a shrine to the National Society of the Sons of the American revolution. On Sept 7, 1947, rededicated as a memorial to all war dead.

The stones for the foundation came from a stone repository at the base of the knoll. Stones from every state donated by the state chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution, and every President since President Truman are incorporated in the Altar. Louisiana gave the cannon ball to the left instead of a stone, matched with one from the Battle of Bennington on the right.

In 1957, Congress recognized the Altar of the Nation by unanimous vote as a memorial for all American war dead.

The cross is NH granite quarried in Fitzwilliam, NH. Donated by Sandy’s brothers, Douglas and John, in memory of their fallen brother.

Adorning the top of the altar are three slabs of Verde Antique marble coming from a quarry in Cardiff, Maryland through which runs the Mason Dixon line. The three slabs represent the North, South, and Union. They are held together by cement mixed with soil from Mt. Zion in Jerusalem, given to the cathedral by Jewish friends.

From 1760, when the first of the Old Timers came onto this land, until 1937 when
the Sloanes bought this farm, the main parking field, then known as the "five-acre-piece", was plowed. Each year, before seed could be planted, a crop of rocks had to be removed. These the Old Timers placed on the stone dump. Visitors to the Cathedral are reminded that the Old Timers could not have realized they were instruments in God's plan to create Cathedral of the Pines.

While the stones were being assembled to build the Altar, Douglas Sloane, founder of the Cathedral of the Pines, could not help but recall the message which these stones now have for hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Cathedral of the heroic efforts of the Old Timers in their search for better living, freedom, the privilege of worshiping God in the way and manner of their choice.

At the time preparations were being made to build the Altar Dr. Sloane was active in the New Hampshire Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Harry E. Sherwin was Secretary of the State organization. Dr. Sloane suggested to Mr. Sherwin that he invite all of the state societies of the Sons of the American Revolution to contribute stones to be incorporated into the Altar of the Nation together with these local rocks. This was done. Most of the State stones were contributed by the S. A. R societies from the state. Here the tributes from every state and every territory are bound together to express the strength and unity of a grateful people in this memorial for all American War Dead.

Of interest, the money to build the Altar of the Nation came from Sandy. When Sandy, for whom the Cathedral of the Pines is a memorial, began playing football for Newton High School, his father was persuaded to take out a life and accident insurance policy on the boy. When Sandy reached his majority Dr. Sloane said to him, "Here, Sandy, is the policy with premiums paid to date. Keep it or cash it as you choose."

Sandy replied, "Thanks, Dad, but you have been paying the premiums so far and if you'll continue paying them I'll appreciate this gift all the more later on." It was the money from this policy, Sandy's own money, which paid for the construction of the Altar of the Nation.

The Altar of the Nation was the first appointment to be built in the Cathedral of the Pines after word was received that Sandy would not be home in body. The Sloanes had planned
building an out-of-door chapel over the ridge to the north of the farm house. Rocks were collected for this purpose in the spring of 1938, long before Sandy left for war duty. He knew about this plan. As a pilot of a B-17 bomber based in England, he wrote asking that nothing be touched until his return for he wanted his share in the doing.

Begun in a very simple way, the Altar of the Nation has become one of the most significant war memorial in the world. In 1957 the Congress of the United States voted unanimously to recognize this Altar as a memorial for all American War Dead. In London, England, the British Empire has the Centotaph honoring all their War Dead but only this Altar of all national memorials recalls the debt we owe the Creator of all the lives sacrificed that we might be here. Only through the Altar of the Nation are all American War Dead, those of the combat forces and those in different uniforms but not of the armed services, given recognition.

Before this Altar in Cathedral of the Pines have served those of 44 different faiths, each in its own way, acknowledging the One God. The Altar of the Nation is used in turn by different faiths as would be an altar on the battlefield or battleship in time of war.

- For the Jewish Services a shield is placed in front of the Cross and placed on the center of the Altar is the Holy Ark of the Covenant. The Menorahs (branched candle sticks) are placed at the ends of the Altar and the Reading Table in the center of the congregation as it would be in the temple or synagogue. At such times the Cathedral is the Temple.

- For the Roman Catholic Services the crucifix, monstrance, letters, candles were placed on the Altar.

- For the Eastern Orthodox Services the portraits, (icons) the candles and their appointments are placed on the Altar.

In the riser of the top step of the Altar of the Nation are the bronze plaques which we were asked to accept by the many national patriotic organizations represented. Not one of those tributes was solicited. At the far right of the Altar, facing it, are two plaques resting comfortably side by side; the C. S. A. plaque given by the Salem, Virginia Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy and officially dedicated here by the President-General of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and beside this bronze memento is the G. A. R. plaque. Honored equally here are the Boys in Gray of the south and the Boys in Blue of the north.

In the riser at the left of the Altar, facing it, is the Y. D. stone from Belleau Woods and the Canadian Legion stone from Vimy Ridge. These stones, side by side, recall the neighboring countries living and working together in peace, also the sacrifices of lives of those of many countries that we have our Freedoms.

All Presidents of the United States since Harry Truman have donated a stone of significance to the Altar. So too, have: Fleet Admirals Leahy, Nimitz, Halsey; Generals of the Army Marshall, MacArthur and Bradley; Generals I. D. White, Ridgway, Doolittle, Mark Clark and Admiral Robert S. Carney. In this Altar are stones as memorials for Admirals Marc A. Mitscher, Richard E. Byrd and Forrest Sherman and General George Patton.

In the lower center of the Altar of the Nation are three stones, representing three major faiths and given by Protestant, Catholic and Jewish Chaplains. Chaplin the Reverend Edwin T. Cooke, Methodist, gave the stone from Okinawa; the Reverend Fr. Thomas A. Shanahan, S. J., the stone (which has been blessed) taken from the site of the first celebration of the Mass in all the Far East, that Mass celebrated by the chaplain in the expedition of Ferdinand Magellan, the first man to sail around the world. The stone from the Negev was
presented by Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, the Marine Corps Chaplain who buried the American boys on Iwo Jima.

The three large slabs of "Verde Antique" marble, each weighing more than half a ton, forming the top of the Altar of the Nation, came from the quarry in Cardiff, Maryland through which runs the Mason-Dixon Line. The three slabs, therefore, symbolize the North, South, Union; Protestants, Catholics and Jews; the Trinity. Mixed with the cement binding these stones to the Altar is Holy Soil from Mt. zion in Jerusalem, given by Jewish friends.

The cannon ball on the top step of the Altar at left, facing Altar, was sent by the Louisiana State Society S. A. R. for there are no stones in Louisiana. By permission of the U. S. Government this cannon ball was taken from the Chalmette National Park, site of the last battle of the War of 1812.

The cannon ball at the right, facing the Altar, was brought back to this farm by Moses Hale from the Battle of Bennington, Vt. The cannon balls represent the tributes of the North and of the South; the instruments of death where they belong, at the foot of the Altar.

The history of America is recounted in the rocks of historic and geologic interest in the Altar of the Nation. The Cross is the New Hampshire stone of Fitzwilliam granite, New Hampshire being the Granite State. The Cross is the gift of Sandy’s brothers, Douglas IV and John II.

Publications are available to show the location and describe the relevance of the various stones that make up the Altar and visitors with time might find these interesting.
The field-stone pulpit, like the Altar was built in 1946 and is dedicated in memory of the Pioneers who blazed the trails of religious freedom and freedom of speech and in gratitude to the men and women of Rindge who served their Country in time of battle, who served and still serve in their homes, on the farms or in the several places to which they have been called.

Medallions represent Veterans groups and fraternal organizations.

The stone top of the Lectern was from the founders summer home on Cramer's Point, jutting out into the waters of Lake George, NY. During the summer of 1935, while walking along the rocky shore of the point, Mr and Mrs Sloane came upon this stone shaped like an open book. It created in their minds, well before the concept of the Cathedral, an urge for an out-of-door chapel. It was originally planned to be located on their Newtonville MA property but was later moved here.

Collected and contributed by Kenneth E. Crouch, of Bedford, Virginia, and now incorporated into the Lectern with the prayer "that American blood will not have been shed in vain" are soils from most of the major battlefields, of World War II, also soils from Appomattox, the Alamo, Jamestown, Virginia and from under the cabin birthplace of Booker T. Washington. The late President of Czechoslovakia, Dr. Edward Benes, sent soil from Lidice.
Baptismal Font

Dedicated to the memory of Sanderson Sloane, Jr., born on October 21, 1943, and died on June 17, 1946 at the age of 3, the only child of Sanderson and Margaret Allen Sloane.

For services of Baptism or Christening, we use an Alabaster Bowl which was donated by Mrs. Harry (Ethel M.) Scott, Townsend, Mass., brought from Egypt by her husband's grandfather, Nelson Scott, many years ago.

The Baptismal Font was built in 1948 and on June 5th, 1949, it was dedicated to the greater Glory of God and used for the first Baptism by the Rev. H. Robert Smith, D.D., who at this time baptized Sandra Diane Robbins, infant daughter of Harold E. and Aubrey Robbins of West Rindge, New Hampshire.
Credence Table

The Credence Table, located just to the right of Altar of the Nation, is made from a block of marble from Marble Mountain in Da Nang, the site of a local Buddhist monastery. The marble was personally presented to the Cathedral by General Frank E. Garretson on behalf of the United States Marine Corp in memory of their men who sacrificed their lives in Vietnam.
Sandy’s Grave

The Grave of Sanderson Sloane is located to the right of the Sloane Family Cemetery and is the closest one to the Cathedral’s Altar
The Family Cemetery is for family members and trustees.

Sandy’s grave – remains were recovered from Koblenz, Germany. He and Sandy Jr. are both buried here together.
The cemetery is for cremated remains only. Anyone can purchase a plot and be buried here. The gravesites are all marked with similar plaques, treating everyone as equal. The contents can be designed as requested.
Zen Garden

The Zen Garden was designed and installed by volunteers.
The area behind the Altar of Nations was built as a “Garden of Remembrance” during the summer of 1954. It was a place where people would come to spread the ashes of their loved ones. The Cathedral of the Pines later started the cemetery now on the property to bury ashes, each with its own marker. The name remains and with the help of volunteers the garden has been maintained and occasionally rebuilt, last in the summer of 2014.
The Mothers' Chapel was built in 1961. The Chapel and Garden of Remembrance above it are a tribute to all Mothers. It is dedicated to Peg Brummer, Sandy’s sister. And maintained by the Rindge Woman’s Club.

It provides accommodations for small groups to hold services and for private meditation.
The Altar in the St. Francis Chapel was dedicated in 1962 by the Reverend Dr. H. Robert Smith, Protestant Episcopalian, of Rockport, Mass., as a memorial for His Excellency, the late Roman Catholic Bishop Matthew F. Brady of Manchester, N.H.

The statue pictured bottom right is Our Lady of Monadnock.
St Francis Prayer

This monument was donated by the Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont Lodges and Chapters of Loyal Order of Moose. It was dedicated in May, 1981.
The Monolith, on which are inscribed the Ten Commandments, and the mound to recall Mt. Sinai were presented by the New England Aerie of the National Order of Eagles.
The Cathedral House, as seen from the parking lot, and the surrounding land that now forms the Cathedral of the Pines, was purchased by Douglas and Sibyl Sloane of Newtonville, MA in 1937 as a summer vacation home. Until then they had vacationed in Lake George, NY. The home was originally called Interlaken because it is surrounded by four lakes and ponds. Dr. Sloane was a financier, Dr. was an honorary degree. They moved here permanently in 1940.
The flagpole beside the Woman’s Memorial Bell Tower was donated by United Commercial Travelers of New England in 1953 to honor their deceased members. When the flagpole rusted (see above) it was replaced with a fiberglass pole through donations by them in 2013.

The base of the flagpole has a face for each of the six New England states as can be seen in the picture below.
There is a picnic area next to the administration building. Visitors are welcome to use this area and groups can reserve it in advance. The adjacent building opens up to allow similar facilities under a roof in inclement weather. Other picnic tables are available on site as well.
There is a 1.5 mile Stearns-Upton Family Trail which starts between the Mother’s and St Francis Chapels and leads through the woods to Grassy Pond. It is marked by a sign showing the trail map and shown on this map with red dots. Picnic tables located on the trail. There is also a 2.5 mile trail to the east of the main campus which starts near Hale Hill Road below the Parking lot and continues around Emerson Pond and up across Shaw Hill Road. There is a link which can be used for shorter hikes on this trails. This is shown on the map by green dots.
The Museum, located in the basement of the Hilltop House, is open to all at no charge. Unfortunately at this time it is undergoing renovation and is not open to the public. We expect to be open for the 2016 season. In 2015 we installed new heating, air conditioning, updated the electrical systems, eliminated a mold problem, and have made many cosmetic improvements. We welcome donations that will help us complete this renovation and have a special donation box for this purpose.
The gift shop located adjacent to the Bell Tower and Hilltop House is staffed by volunteers during busy times and by the staff on an as call basis during less busy times. When visiting the site, should you want to look into the gift shop, you can call the office at the number posted and we will be glad to open for anyone. We have a variety of products for sale. We recommend publications which describe the Cathedral, its history, a guide to the grounds and a guide to the stones, all of which will enhance your visit and provide you something to remember.
The Cathedral of the Pines is a nonprofit organization. We charge no fees for visiting the site and are therefore supported largely through donations. There are a number of donation boxes around the site, some located next to the exits. If you enjoy your time at the Cathedral consider dropping a donation into the box.

All faiths, one family, one earth
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