

Introduction of Dr. Weed by DeWolf Fulton

Welcome again to the Bosworth Lecture Series. Each year heading into the holiday season, we bring the topic of spirituality here to St Michael's Church where our Men's Cub originated under founding member Ros Bosworth.

We want to thank Canon Michael Horvath for providing use of this beautiful church. Please know that tonight we are passing the hat for donations to go to St Michael's and its many programs. Also, many thanks to Marcia Bosworth, senior warden at St Michael's and serving us refreshments immediately following tonight's speaker.

Above the altar here you see an original Tiffany stained glass window of St Michael slaying the dragon from the Italian painter Raphael's work hanging in the Louvre. The window was given by Herbert Marshall Howe in memory of his son John as well as his father, Bishop Mark Anthony DeWolf Howe, who both died in the year 1895.

Bishop Howe presided over the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, but summered here in Bristol at Weetamoe on Metacom Ave. I mention him because in 1880 on the 200th anniversary of the founding of Bristol, he was assigned to write an historic poem for the occasion.

His piece traces Bristol's history with particular and sensitive notice given to Massasoit, King Philip and their role in local history. The Bishop's task was a difficult one for a man of the cloth, on one hand paying tribute to the Natives here well before us, and on the other celebrating the white man's advent and ultimate seizure of those same lands.

The reader can sense his revulsion at our treatment of the Natives. He asks, "Yet lives there one with heart so sere/That from his stony eyes, no tear/On Indian graves may fall? No pity for an outcast race/Upon whose camping-ground, through grace/We hold our Festival?" Then he asks if there be someone to step forward and reconcile these differences, find a silver lining to a bloody history. He asks, "May there not rise some nobler stock/To stand where we have stood/To leave memorials on the rock/Of still transcendent good."

Ladies and gentlemen I offer tonight that our speaker David Weed is just that person, leaving memorials and other markers to pay tribute where it is due. Sunday night David once again told the Native American story at Mt Hope Farm's weekend tribute. There is no one who better keeps the story alive, who more eagerly seeks that transcendent good.

Dr Weed, coordinator of the Sowams Heritage Area Project since July of 2017, has done wonders to preserve this history, establishing numerous markers, and giving regular tours to locations of interest. A humanitarian at heart, he was previously coordinator of the Partners for a Healthier Community in Fall River and a psychologist with the Mass Dept of Mental Health. He holds a degree in clinical-community psychology from the Mass School of Professional Psychology.

We will have an opportunity to ask him questions at the end, but here now to speak to us about the spirituality of the Pokonoket, would you please welcome Dr David Weed.