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# A Space for Faith

*The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England*

By Paul Wainwright

Peter E. Randall Publisher  
National Book Network  
[<http://www.aspaceforfaith.com>]

Publication date – February 2010  
\$60.00, 128 pgs, cloth+jacket,  
77 duotone photos, 9" x 10.5"  
ISBN# 9780981789859

- Artistic images shot with natural light, using traditional camera and darkroom techniques
- Explore the space, craftsmanship, mystery and “presence” of these historic structures
- Includes every remaining meetinghouse in original or near-original condition
- Interests: American history, religion, travel, architecture, photography, art, New England

*A Space for Faith* uses elegant black and white photographs to explore the buildings that served as the social, municipal, and religious centers of New England’s earliest towns and cities. Built by a society that originally did not distinguish between church and state, New England’s meetinghouses met the needs of both and provided the setting for the birth of town-hall democracy.

Using a large-format view camera and hand-processing all images with traditional darkroom techniques, photographer Paul Wainwright has created eloquent works of art that reflect the faith, the pragmatism, the aesthetics and the workmanship of our colonial ancestors. The book includes:

- An essay by Peter Benes, director of the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife
- A foreword by Brent D. Glass, director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History
- Commentary by William E. Williams, curator of photography and chair of fine arts at Haverford College

## Praise for *A Space for Faith* . . .

*“Paul Wainwright’s photographs are caretakers of memory and history.”*

- *Yankee Magazine*

*“The photographs are as artful as the structures they depict, and should go a long way toward sparking and renewing interest in preserving these magnificent old structures.”*

- **Dale W. Kuhnert, Former Editor, *Down East Magazine***

*“The book cannot help but increase popular interest in and understanding of these once ubiquitous and iconic symbols of New England and her history.”*

- **Thomas Kelleher, Curator, Old Sturbridge Village**

## From the Introduction

“I feel a ‘presence’ whenever I am in one of these places – not in a haunting way, but with a sense of wonderment about the people who built and used them. My photographs of these structures are devoid of people, yet to me they are all about our nation’s ancestors, whose lives – the day-to-day joys and cares – are not much different from mine today. Sometimes when I am in one of these meetinghouses I love to sit and contemplate those who came before me. I wonder how many others have had the same experience.”

## About the Author

Paul Wainwright is a photographer based in Atkinson, New Hampshire, who works in a traditional manner utilizing sheet film, a large-format view camera, and silver gelatin printing. His work has appeared in numerous juried competitions and solo exhibitions, and is included in the permanent collections of both private and corporate collectors, including Fidelity Investments and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

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