

# Profile of Church of the Ascension Hayward, Wisconsin

The Church of the Ascension in Hayward, Wisconsin was started in July of 1885 by the Rev. A.B. Peabody, missionary to the northern part of the Diocese of Milwaukee. Our current building was built in 1912 as a wedding chapel for the daughter of Thomas Whitten, manager of a local lumber company. He later donated the land and building to the Diocese. The first Eucharist was held on Ascension Day 1912. The church was closed for several years in the late 1920's due to the distance from the Diocese of Milwaukee. When the Diocese of Eau Claire was founded in 1931, services were held again. The first resident priest was Fr. Richard C. Warder who covered the Spooner-Hayward and Springbrook areas. Fr. Warder's family still lives in the area.

Our rectory was built in the late 1950's. It was named The Peabody House after Rev. Peabody.

## Our Church Today

We currently have a 5 person Vestry and a secretary/treasurer, a 5 person Alter Guild, and a full time organist.

Our Woman's group, Episcopal Church Women (ECW), has not been active due to the Pandemic but it has been instrumental in raising money for various projects in the church. Our big fund raiser is our rummage sale. They also help with funeral lunches and other church related events.

## Outreach

Ascension is part of a community of churches that runs Operation Christmas that provides Christmas presents and food baskets to families and individuals in need in our community. We are also involved in Community Dinners where we prepare a meal for anyone who wants to come. There is no cost to participants, donations are appreciated. We make Prayer Quilts for those who need our prayers. We also make donations to other community organizations.

## Our Rectory

The Peabody House was recently renovated in 2019/2020. It is a 3 bedroom, 2 bath house with an attached garage and full basement. Located next to the church, it is a homey place used for meetings when not occupied by a rector. The house is located in downtown Hayward, within walking distance from our historic Main Street and is diagonally across from Shue's Pond.

Hayward and Sawyer County

Hayward is the county seat of Sawyer County with a population of 2577. The America Birkebeiner ski race, an international race held every February. Summer brings many festivals to Hayward including the Lumberjack World Championship. There are over 300 miles of mountain bike trails including 130 miles of single track of which 70 miles is groomed for Fat Biking in the winter. The CAMBA trails run for Hayward to Washburn. There are also 100's of miles of ATV trails to enjoy.

If the outdoors isn't all you are looking for, there is a vibrant arts community in the Hayward/Cable area. There are various groups to join and many art exhibits throughout the year as well as a The Park theater for performing arts bringing in well known performers.

Hayward is located approximately 2 ½ hours from the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Being close to major metropolitan areas makes it convenient for travel to and from. The convenience makes it a tourist destination both summer and winter.

The Hayward Community School District serves approximately 2000 students in grades Pre-K through high school with an open enrollment and two charter schools, Northern Waters Environmental School and Hayward Center for Individualized Learning. The district mission is "Achieve." The Lac Courte Oreilles School (LCO) serves grades Pre-K through high school combining a unique blend of academic rigor and cultural teaching and learning. Hayward is also home to the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa University, a non-profit Ojibwa tribal college serving both Native American and non-native students. They provide continuing education through masters, bachelors and associates degrees as well as certificate programs.

There are multiple medical facilities in Hayward, including 3 clinics and a hospital with an attached nursing home with assisted living. Many specialty providers travel to Hayward to provide services without having to travel outside the area. There are also numerous dental, eye and other wellness providers. The Hayward Area Memorial Hospital is a 25 bed critical access hospital with specialty clinics. The hospital is affiliated with Memorial Medical Center in Ashland, Wisconsin.