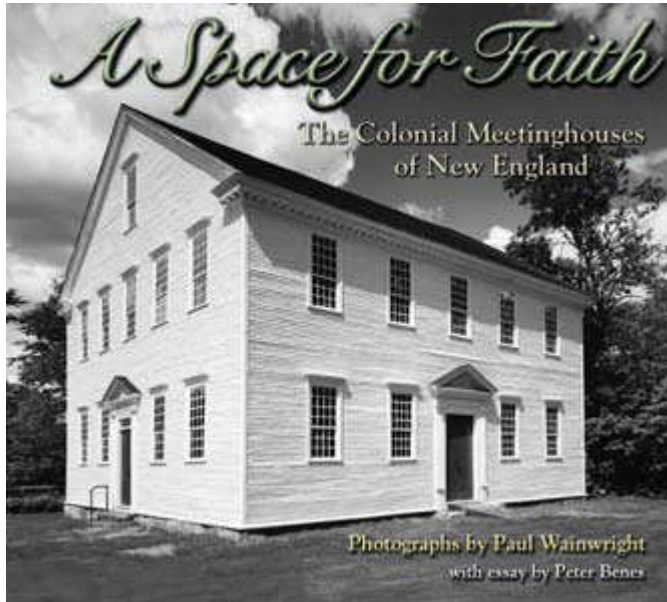


**member spotlight**

Paul Wainwright



I want to thank Paul Wainwright for his vision of New England, expressed in his book **A Space for Faith**. The book concentrates on colonial meetinghouses of the region, and the photographs are classically conceived and executed in large format black-and-white. As a new arrival in Boston, a Midwesterner with a history of confronting the cultural history of “out (or “back”) East,” and a long-time admirer of Paul Strand’s **Time in New England**, I can feel a synchronous meshing with Wainwright’s project and with the society these gathering places served.

The book provides visual evidence of emergent democracy, along with historical background on the role meetinghouses played in early America. The spaces themselves define illumination and describe the physical face of faith and belonging. As William E. Williams points out in his Commentary, “the light is so precisely evoked that it is difficult to believe its only source is the sun.” With exposures lasting into the fractions of hours, the images themselves reflect dedication not unlike that called for within the struggle for civic life.