

A Story of Two Churches Becoming One

A True Story
about
The United Church of Pittsford



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Written to commemorate the
50th Anniversary of the
United Church of Pittsford

October 14, 1949 - October 14, 1999

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Other photographs from Church archives

Once upon a time there were two little churches in a little village named Pittsford. The churches were neighbors.



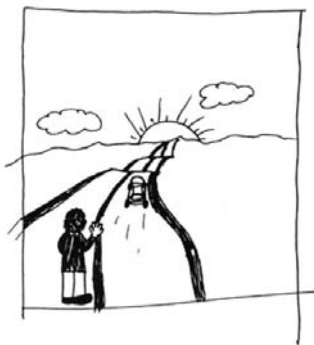
One church was called the First Baptist Church. Very few people came to this church. There were very few children in Sunday School.

The other church was called the Methodist Episcopal Church. Very few people came to this church. There was a very small choir.



The ministers of both churches were students learning how to be ministers. The people liked these ministers, but when the two ministers finished school they left to go to larger churches.

Sometimes the two little churches got very discouraged because they were so small.



"Oh, if only we had more children, we could have a great Sunday School!" the Baptists said.

"Oh, if only we had more singers, we could sing wonderful music!" the Methodists said.

"Oh, if only we were bigger, we could have a minister who would stay with us for a long, long time," they both said.

They prayed for an answer to their problem of being too small.



One day, they had an ideal. It was an answer to their prayers.

"Let's have one big Sunday School! If the Baptist children and the Methodist children come together, we would have enough children to have many classes!"

And that's what they did.

At Sunday School time children went out the back door of the Baptist church, crossed the street to the Methodist church, and went in to Sunday School.

They didn't take time to put on their coats – even in the middle of the winter!



The children were so happy to have more classmates.



The teachers were so happy to have more students.



The parents were happy because their children were learning more about God and the Bible.

The Baptists and the Methodists were becoming good friends.



One day the Baptists decided to paint the sanctuary, the room where they worship God. They wanted it to look nice.

But the wet paint smelled so bad. **PU !**

Where could they worship while the painters were working?

The Methodists heard about their friends' problem and invited the Baptists to worship with them in their church while the painters were painting.



Many people came to the Methodist church on Sunday morning.

The choir loft was full with Baptists and Methodists singing together.

The ministers enjoyed working together. They both preached and led worship.

Everyone was happy.

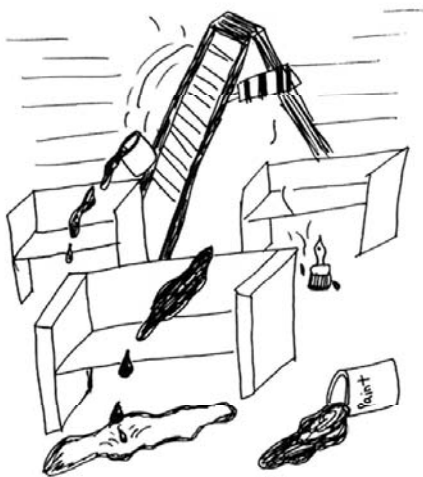


The Baptists were almost ready to go back to their church when something terrible happened!

The painters were almost finished painting when buckets of paint spilled.

Paint spilled on the floor and paint spilled on the pews.
Paint was over everything!

"Oh, no,"
they said.
"Everything
is icky and
sticky! What
shall we do
now?"



So the Methodists and Baptists continued to worship together.

They began to get used to each other.
They liked having a full church.



Finally one day the painting was finished and the Baptists joyfully returned to their building.

But on the next Sunday a strange thing happened.

"Where are my friends? I wonder if they are sick," one lady said.

"Don't you remember? They are at their own church today!" responded her friend.

"Why is the choir so small today?" asked a singer.

"Remember? We don't have many people in our choir," said the choir director.

"I liked it when we were at church together. I liked worshipping God with our neighbors. I miss the others," everyone said.

Everyone was feeling sad that they were once again two little churches. ☹️ ☹️ ☹️ ☹️

So they did what churches do. They formed a committee.
“Let’s think about how we can be one big church,”
they said.

They talked to different people.

They talked to Baptist leaders and Methodist leaders.

They talked about how they were different.
They talked about how they were alike.

They talked over how they could be one church.



They made decisions.

They decided to baptize babies by sprinkling like Methodists do and to baptize young people by immersion like Baptists do. Each family could choose about baptism.

Both the Methodists and the Baptists were happy.



They decided to receive communion once a month. Sometimes communion would be served in the pew like Baptists do and sometimes it would be served at the rail like Methodists do.



Both the Baptists and the Methodists were happy.

They decided that everyone would help to choose a minister.

Everyone was happy.



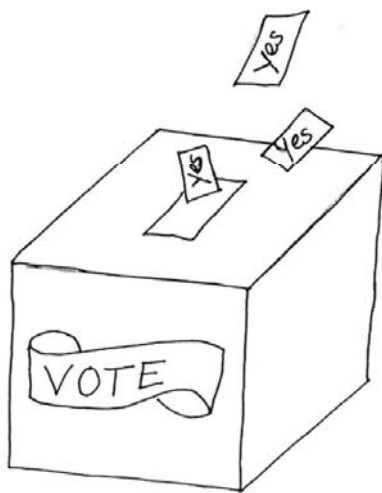
The day came to decide if they should be one church.

The Methodists went to their church and everybody voted **yes** to join the Baptists.

The Baptists went to their church and everybody voted **yes** to join the Methodists.

Both the Baptists and the Methodists agreed to be one church.

**The United Church of Pittsford started on
October 14, 1949.**



The first thing The United Church decided to do was to ask a minister who had finished school to be their minister.

But where would the minister's family live?

Their first job was to build a house for the minister.
The house they built is called the Parsonage.



They next decided to build a building that would be big enough for everyone in their new church.

They bought some land outside the village.

Building a church is very expensive, so they worked very hard to get the money they needed.



They had bake sales and dinners and craft sales.

They had great plans for their new building. People came with shovels to make the first holes in the dirt. This "ground-breaking" ceremony was a happy time.



The builder came and dug a huge hole in the ground.

He used their money to buy beams to hold up the ceiling and concrete blocks for the walls.

Winter came. No one had built a wall with the concrete blocks.

And then spring came. No one was building a ceiling with the beams.

Something bad had happened.

The builder had disappeared.
Their money was gone.
They had no building.

All they had was a large hole
in the ground and some beams
and concrete blocks lying
in the snow.



They were very sad and discouraged!



Then their minister was invited to go to a new church.
So he left!

Now they had no minister and no building.
They were even more sad and discouraged!



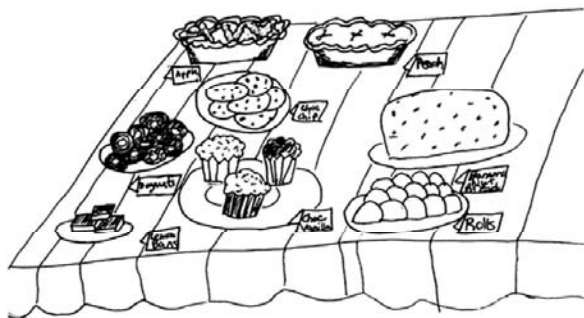
But a young man
came and agreed to
be their new
minister.

He said,
"I'll help
you build
the church!"

And he did!



A nice man came who promised to finish their building. He said, "I'll help build your church!"



Once more they began to raise money
They had more bake sales.
They had more dinners.
They collected more money.

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They built the building slowly.
When they got money, they would build part of their church.

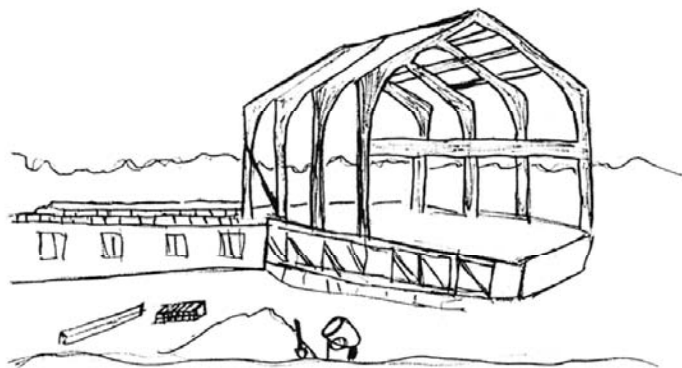
First they built a room in the hole in the ground and they went there on Sunday morning to worship.

Next they built a few rooms on the first floor of the Sunday School building.

Finally the builders completed the sanctuary over the ground floor room.

The building looked just like a box.
It didn't look like a church.

But the people were happy to have a church even though it didn't look like a church.



The people were eager to finish their building.

They wanted a church that looked like a church!

They built the second and third floor of the Sunday School building so all the children could have Sunday School classrooms.

The front porch and columns were completed.

The church steeple went on top of the roof.

And finally the cross was put at the very top of the steeple!



Now it looked like a church!

They were very happy.



The dream of the little Baptist Church and the little Methodist Church has come true.

Friends from the Baptist Church and friends from the Methodist Church worship together.

The choir has many singers. Children sing in their own choir.

Each Sunday School class has a nice room.

The church is full on Sunday morning.

They have become one large, happy church family.



This story happened 50 years ago. Today we can say:

**Happy Birthday to the
United Church of Pittsford
on its 50th birthday!**

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