



# Montgomery United Methodist Church, Inc.



## In Our Past....

**1804** Mrs. Jonah Thomas, the first Methodist in Montgomery, came here from Bridgeport, VT. A Methodist Class was formed in Berkshire Center. She attended from her home on East Hill near the Hannah Clark Brook as it crosses Rte. 242.

**1828** There was occasional Methodist preaching by the Sheldon Circuit. One speaker was Jay Powell of Richford.

**1829** Mr. & Mrs. Taylor came from England, where they had heard the preaching of John Wesley. Dr. Lusk and Mrs. Kelley also came and the first Methodist Class was formed. They attended Camp Meetings in W. Enosburg and persuaded the Presiding Elder to have regular services in Montgomery.

**1831** A great revival took place and new members were added. A Sunday Sunrise Service was held and the custom lasted 30 years.

**1838** The Sheldon Circuit was divided and Montgomery became part of the Berkshire Circuit with meetings in the school house.

**1840** The church building was started.

**1843** The building was completed. Asa Wheeler furnished the money. Levi Janes had charge of construction. The bricks were made at Deacon Samson's brickyard located near the old cemetery. The double wedding of Edgar Furnald to Nancy Head and John Head to Mohalia Johnson were the first weddings performed in the new church building.

**1848** First record of membership - 60.

**1850** First Sunday School was organized.

**1856** The Montgomery Circuit was formed and Richford was included.

**1857** The "Checkered Tavern" was purchased for a parsonage. Rev. Daniel Lewis was the first minister to live there. The first couple he married was Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pratt.

**1859** Montgomery became a separate charge. The first organ was given.

**1865** Dinsmore Austin was a strong temperance man and his movement caused trouble. Two deacons were expelled and 24 members withdrew.

**1900** During the next 50 years, the Ladies Aide Society was formed. The present pews were installed. A communion set was presented by Joshua Clapp. The checkered clapboards on the parsonage were covered. The organ was moved from the loft to the front. Electric lights were installed and a steel ceiling was constructed.

**1915** The hardwood floor was laid and electric lights were installed in the parsonage.

**1925** The first Vacation Bible School was held cooperatively with the Baptist Church in the Center. About 100 children enrolled with Irene Chase (Scoff) as leader.

**1938** Rev. Harry Lindley. New marble tops were purchased for the altar tables.

**1940** Montgomery joined with Richford. Clara Parker had played the organ for over 60 years.

**1944** The Green Mt. Parish was formed with the Center Baptist, Richford Methodist, East Yorkshire, Enosburg Center, and Berkshire Center.

**1945** Parsonage was sold.

**1949** A new electric Hammond organ was purchased by the Jessie Kittridge Fund. Marion Domina was the organist.

**1958** M. & R. left the Green Mt. parish. The church was redecorated, a floor furnace was installed and a restroom added.

**1960** Carl Scott started the first Old Home Sunday, August 28.

**1975** A stained glass window was installed in front, a gift from Anna Pudvah in memory of Laura Roberts' family and Anna and Ray Pudvah. The other memorial windows are in memory of Stephen & Laura Brown, Sally & James Upham, Edgar and Nancy Furnald, Alfred, Lorraine and Alice Combs, Levi Janes and Asa Wheeler. An altar table and a baptismal font were given by the Allen family in memory of Gladys and Guy Allen.

**1982** Rev. Calvin Seiferth. A new kitchen floor was given by John Quinn.

**1985** The steeple was removed and repaired. The copper was a gift from Steve Bosley, who along with many others including Arthur St. Onge and Doug Tryhorne, totally rebuilt and restored the steeple.

**1985-1989....**Rev. Bill Neil. A new sign was installed in front of the church, a gift from Gerald and Ruth Jewett.

**1989-1992....**Rev. John Larkin. The bathroom was winterized. The church was rewired inside and outside lights were installed, a gift from the Jewetts. The church was painted

outside and protection was installed for the stained glass windows. The U.M.W. painted and papered the dining and kitchen area. A movable church sing was given in memory of Ila St. Cyr. John Quinn gave a gas stove in memory of Adeline Stanhope.

**1992-1994....**Pastor Larry Russell. The church door was painted red as a symbol of peace and refuge. The U .M. W. gave carpeting for the basement and a new hot water heater was given by John Quinn.

**1993** A 150th Year Celebration was held during the 34th Old Home Sunday with Rev. Harry Lindley as guest speaker. Fifty-year members were recognized. Carl and Irene Scott were the only 50th year couple. (Carl died December 25, 1993) and Donna Scott Magoon was honored as the oldest living member. (Donna died February 2, 1994.)

**1995-1998....**Pastor Elizabeth Griffin

**1999-2000....**Pastor Kate Tobey. Gordon Jewett left \$10,000 and his house to the church. The house was sold and the money invested.

**2001** Montgomery Methodist Church and Richford Methodist Church separated after 43 years. Montgomery went to one-quarter time with Pastor Ed Sorrell.