

The History of Trinity United Methodist Church

As early as 1839, when Racine was but five years old, the first Dane, John S. Bangs, settled in the City of Racine and became one of its most substantial citizens. He was a carpenter, dock builder, contractor and preacher. For a time he served as alderman of the Fifth Ward, called "Little Denmark" and built a bridge across the Root River near his home which was nicknamed "Bangs" Bridge.

He presented the Scandinavian Methodist Group with land on which they built their first church.

(Taken from the Danish Folk Kringle Festival Souvenir of May 26-28, 1961 – by the West Racine Merchants.)

1853 **The Scandinavian Methodist Episcopal Church** was organized by Rev. Samuel Anderson with sixteen members. The membership class was led by John Bangs, the first Danish immigrant to arrive in Racine in 1839.

1854 The first church was built along the Root River at the foot of Huron Street. It is the site of the old J.I. Case Export Building.

1863 The Sunday School was organized with 40 members. Church membership was 48.

1872 A Ladies Aid Society was organized to help pay the debt on the church.

1877 A choir was organized.

1879 The Norwegian Danish Conference was formed with its first meeting held at our church.

1880 The General Conference granted the request of the Norwegian-Danish Pastors to give them their own conference.

1886 At this time, the name of the church was changed to **Norwegian- Danish Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church**. A decision was made to purchase the property on LaSalle Street, south of State Street, where the second church building was to be built.

1902 The church was struck by lightning.

1909 Electric lights were installed by the young people's Epworth League.

1917 A new pipe organ was installed. This is the same organ which has been rebuilt and is currently being used in the church on Erie Street.

1924 Services were changed from Norwegian to English for Sunday morning services. Sunday evening services continued to be held in Norwegian.

1928 Membership of the church was at 319 people. Sunday School membership was 300 young people.

1934 Forty-three new members joined the church.

1935 The largest Sunday School membership was 731.

1940 The steeple was rebuilt.

1943 The old Norwegian-Danish Methodist Conference was dissolved. The last meeting of this conference was held at Trinity. We then became part of the Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Church and became **Trinity Methodist Church**.

1957 Land at Erie Street and Greenfield Road was purchased. The land was valued at \$20,000. When the building was constructed in 1963 the land was valued at \$22,000. The land was purchased from the Sisters of St. Dominic.

1957 The Parable of the Talents, Matthew 25: 14-30, was used to inspire the congregation to raise funds for the new church land on Erie Street. Each child was given \$.25 and each adult was given \$1.00.

1963 The architect's estimate for the first phase of the new church was \$290,000.

1963 On March 17 ground was broken for the current church on Erie St. and Greenfield Rd.

1963 December 8 was the last service at the old church on LaSalle St. The congregation moved in a car caravan to the current location, on Erie and Greenfield, where we held the first service in our new sanctuary.

1963 The present church was dedicated. The old pipe organ was refitted for use in the new building.

1965 November 11 the newly rebuilt 1917 organ was rededicated in the new building.

1968 Adult fellowship groups were formed: the Kum Dubls for young married couples and the Merri Methodists for the older couples.

1968 – We had another name change when the Methodist and United Brethren churches merged. We became **Trinity United Methodist Church**.

1971-1975 The Racine Unified School District rented Fellowship Hall for the WindPoint kindergarten classes.

1975 The present parsonage at 3818 Ruby Avenue was built debt free thanks to a generous donation.

1976 The Educational Wing was built.

1977 The Ship's Wheel in the sanctuary was installed and dedicated to the memory of John Koller.

1977 Northside Preschool was opened for 3 & 4 year old children.

1978 North Side Food Pantry was organized and operated from within the church. Charlie and Dorothy Shook were the organizers. It was a cooperative effort with several north side churches.

1981 Windows in classrooms and offices were replaced and bricked up to conserve energy.

1986 The 1917 pipe organ was given more major repairs. The grand piano, purchased in 1928, was refurbished by the Kettelson Family. In a conservation effort Fellowship Hall and the Education Wing were converted from electric heat to gas heat.

1988 Memorial stained glass windows depicting the life of Christ were installed.

1993 As a conservation effort the sanctuary, offices, and lounge were converted from electric to gas heat.

1999 The Pipe Organ was rebuilt by Thomas Rench, thanks to a generous donation from Alex and Arlene Simpson.

2001 The church Memorial Garden was established.

2006 LIFT (Learning Is Fun Together), a neighborhood mentoring program, was started for some of the Wind Point Elementary students.

2009 JAM (Jesus And Me) fellowship for preschool through 5th grade children was started by our youth director.

2011 JFF (Just For Fun), an adult fellowship, was established as a social program for members and friends of Trinity.

2017 We began leasing space to the United Lutheran Church, creating a collaborate effort to serve our north side parish.

Dec. 31, 2017 Trinity merged with Faith United Methodist Church to become
North Pointe United Methodist Church

2018 Fifty-seven Solar Panels were installed on the roof on Earth Day, April 22.