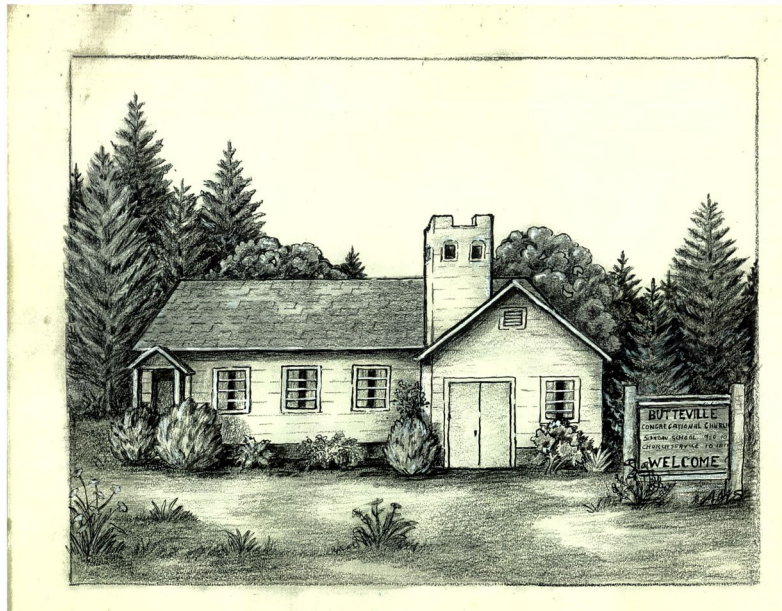


# A SHORT HISTORY OF CHURCHES IN BUTTEVILLE

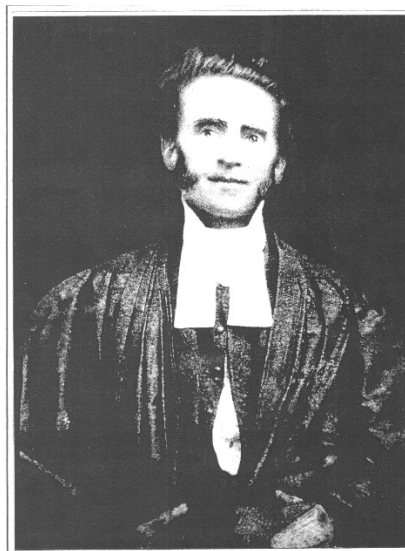


*Version 1 - Please send us corrections or updates!*

*The early history of churches in Butteville depends on connecting the dots in the remaining historical records. The problem begins with how and by who the first church was formed, how it ended, and then continues with the current church in Butteville that most everyone is familiar with.*

## **FIRST CHURCH IN BUTTEVILLE**

The “History of the Diocese of Oregon” states that “The first recorded service using the American Book of Common Prayer in the Pacific Northwest, was in Oregon City, December 1, 1847, when The Rev. St. Michael Fackler baptized James McKinlay, son of Archabald and Julia Ogden McKinlay and grandson of Peter Skene Ogden.” It then goes on to describe the parishes that Rev. Fackler established and states that “In 1852, another congregation, Incarnation, in Butteville, was organized.”<sup>1</sup>



***The Rev. Michael Fackler (undated)***

The Biography of Rev. St. Michael Fackler<sup>2</sup> describes him crossing the plains in 1847, teaching for a short time at the Methodist School in Salem, then

“At an early day he secured a farm not far from Butteville, where he resided for a number of years. While thus occupied in secular affairs he was not idle as a clergyman; for he spent his Sundays in holding services at Champoeg, Butteville, Stringtown, Oregon City, Portland and on the Tualatin Plains.”

In the course of time he fitted up a schoolhouse at Champoeg for services and built a neat little church at Butteville, doing most of the work with his own hands. It was the day of small things then, and those who knew anything of the Episcopal church were very few indeed.”

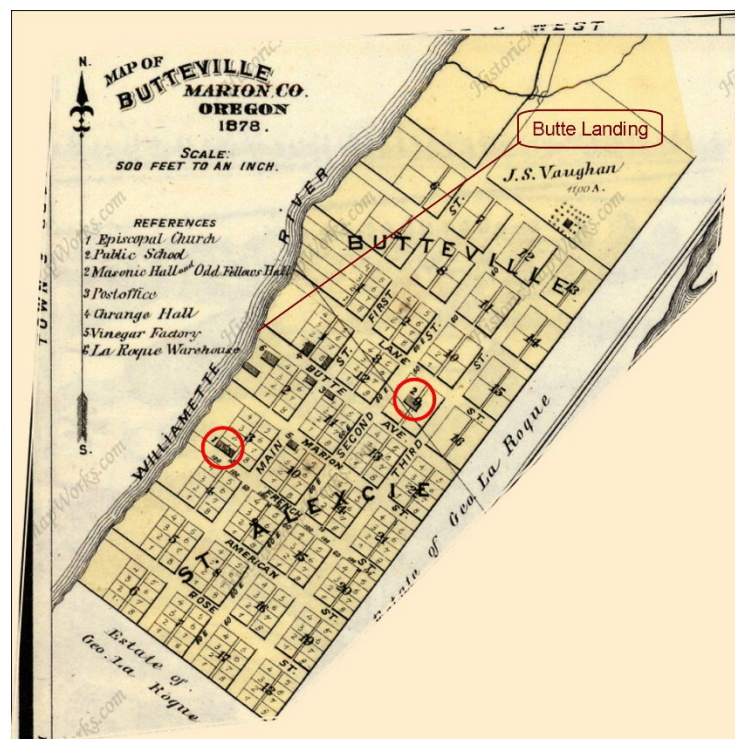
So, we can deduce from this that Rev. Fackler was a craftsman of sorts and know how to farm, and understood the need for buildings: both for schools and worship. Additionally, he was a missionary priest who came to Oregon of his own volition, and founded a few churches. He is listed in the 1859 Journal of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States as the Priest located in “Butteville, O.T. (Oregon Territory).”

At this time a very real competition was raging between Champoeg and Butteville to be the ascendant community in north French Prairie on the Willamette River. Fr. Fackler was serving Champoeg, Butteville and other communities, it is likely he built a “dual purpose” structure in both places: one that could serve as school during the week, and for worship on Sunday.

The flood of 1861 washed the town of Champoeg away, and while Butteville was damaged it survived due to its higher elevation. Fr. Fackler moved to and founded the first church ever in Boise, Idaho, in 1864. According to Samuel Clemons (aka: Mark Twain), in the *Grim Voyage*, Fr. Michael died of cholera aboard the steamer *San Francisco* at Key West, Florida, on January 6, 1867, while on a trip to New York. We have no record of a replacement priest being assigned to replace Rev. Fackler in the churches he founded.

Fr. Fackler’s departure in 1864 leaves us with the first historical point: he constructed and conducted worship services in the “first” church in Butteville, an Episcopal church that also served as a school. This fact is confirmed in the 1878 map of North Marion County that includes a plat map of the town of Butteville, and it includes an Episcopal Church (referenced as number 1).

This is where the confusion about the first church and school comes from, in as much as Fr. Fackler was an Episcopalian priest and the building that he constructed served both as a church and as a school. The school shown on the 1878 map is the first “public” school: it was the union district school in School District No. 57, formed in November 1859 under the State Department of Education. It listed F.X. Matthieu as a trustee and was located on Block 9 of the plat map, referenced as number 2.



**No 1 on the Butteville plat map is an Episcopal Church; No. 2 is a dual purpose Public School/Masonic Hall & Odd Fellows Hall**

Sometime after the 1859 incorporation, the first public school opened in Butteville, and that would have ended the joint use of Fr. Fackler's "church" for both worship and schooling. We do not know who ended up owning Fr. Fackler's property upon his departure, but the building was moved years later, and was generally referred to as the "Butteville School." It was eventually donated to the Daughters of the American Revolution and relocated to the Newell House Pioneer Museum next to Champoege State Heritage Area.



*Original Butteville Church building, originally located on French St. between Main St. and the river, parked at the corner of Butte and 1<sup>st</sup> Streets and ready to be moved to the Newell House Museum in 1957*

What we can deduce from this is that Fr. Fackler constructed the building that served as an Episcopalian Church in Butteville until his departure in 1864, and that upon his departure Butteville lost its one and only functioning church. But an undesignated "church" is listed in the 1884 *Gazeteer*:

**BUTTEVILLE.** A post village on the Willamette river, in Marion county, 27 miles southwest of Portland, 25 northeast of Salem, the county seat, and 5 northwest of Aurora Mills, the nearest railroad station. Salem is the nearest banking point. Settled in 1843, it contains a church and a district school. It is in the centre of a rich farming and agricultural section of country and ships grain, hops and apples. Stages to all surrounding points tri-weekly. Population, 100. Mail, tri-weekly. Barclay Jennings, postmaster.

Bentz E, shoemaker.  
 Deucht C, constable.  
 Fleckenstine & Meyer, saloon.  
 Galland Bros, general **BUT**  
**Jennings Barclay**, Justice of Peace.  
 Penard T, wagonmaker.  
 store! **R J**, saloon.  
 Schurer W R, grain and groceries.  
 Yergen A D, meat market.

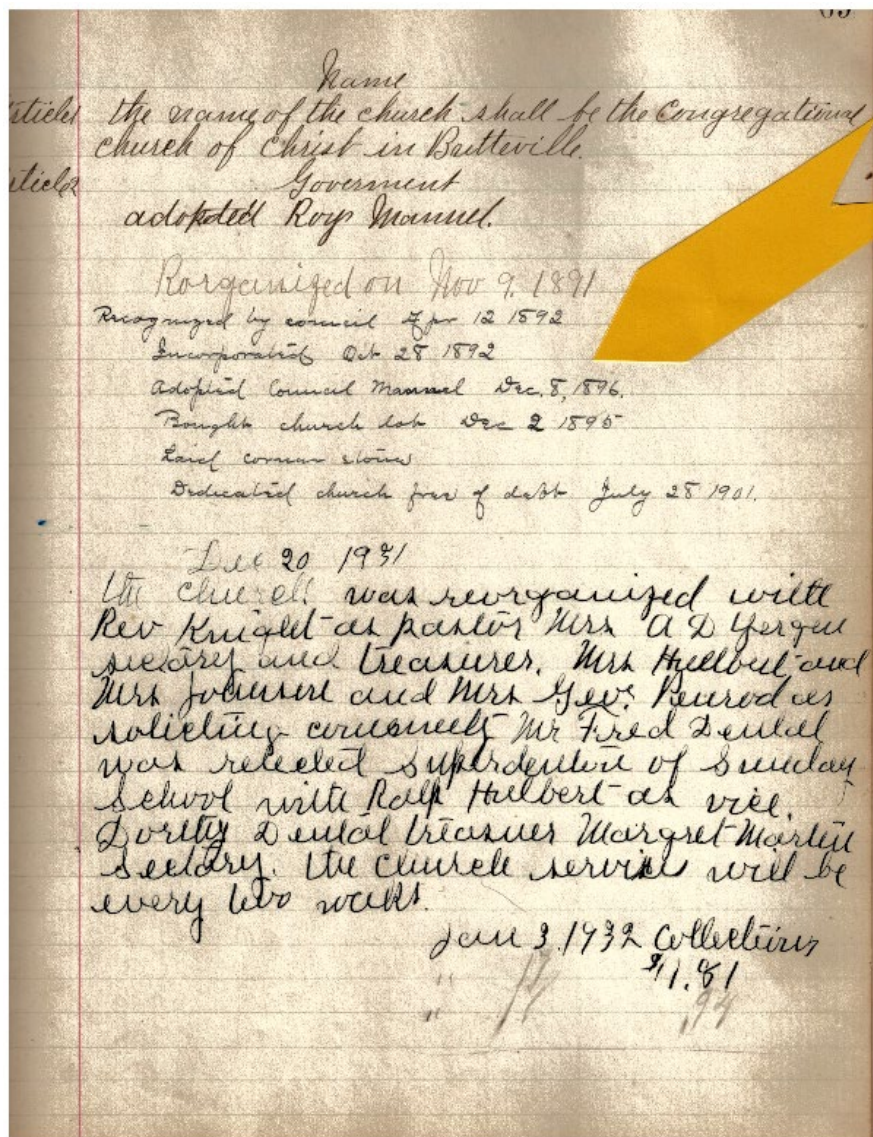


### The 1884 listing in the *Oregon, Washington & Idaho Gazeteer and Business Listing*

The Episcopalian Church history has no records of a priest being assigned to follow Fr. Fackler, and an attempt was made in this period to start a Methodist Episcopalian church in Butteville, as an extension of the church at Willamette Mission, but it never came to pass.

### SECOND CHURCH IN BUTTEVILLE

The next church in Butteville was organized November 9, 1891 as the Congregational Church of Christ in Butteville. The original church ledger documents foundation and organization:





The church ledger contains a record of the early members received, including:

- Mrs. J Vandeleur – Marianne, who's husband operated the store below the Independent Order of Odd Fellows hall on the Cone property)
- Mrs. Luella Herren, wife of George Herren who operated the store adjacent to the Butteville Hotel
- Maria (daughter of Gustavus) and Margaret J. Cone, (wife of Oscar H. Cone)
- Mr. & Mrs. William Scheurer (William was a successful hop merchant and later Mayor of Butteville)
- Mrs. M.C. Matthieu, descendent of F.X. Matthieu

NAME IN FULL.	DATE OF RECEPTION.	HOW RECEIVED. <small>If by confession of faith, mark C or Conf. If baptized at that time, add B or Bapt. If by letter, give name of church granting the letter.</small>	DATE OF REMOVAL.
Mrs Lillie M. Parker	Nov 9, 1891	Conf - Deceased	Dec. 11, 1891
Mrs M. E. Dawson	" "	Conf "	" "
Mrs J. Vandeleur	" "	Conf "	" "
Mrs A. D. Yergen	" "	Conf "	" "
Mrs Luella Herren	" "	Bapt "	Nov. 1894
Mrs Laura Jennings	" "	Conf deceased	Aug. 1904
Mrs Eliza Cass	" "	Conf "	Aug 9, 1898
Mrs Maria Cone	" "	Conf "	" "
Mrs Margaret J. Cone	" "	Conf "	" "
Mrs E. Maycock	" "	Conf "	Dec. 3, 1901
Mrs M. C. Matthieu	May 29, 1892	Conf "	Dec. 11, 1891
Mrs W. R. Scheurer	" "	East Portland	Aug. 1890
Mrs W. R. Scheurer	" "	East Portland	" "
Mrs Emma Macdonald	Aug 11, 95	Conf -	Deceased.
" Lillie "	" "	" "	1909.
Mrs Pearl "	" "	" "	dropped
Mrs Yvonne "	" "	" Bapt	Nov 3, 1902
Mrs Clara Macdonald	Aug 15, 98	" "	Dec 29, 1901
Mrs John Maycock	Oct 13, "	Conf	Feb 3, 1899
Mrs Peter Olson	" "	Conf	" "
Mrs Alice Olson	" "	Bapt	Retired
Mrs Clara Cone	March 7, 1897	" "	" "
Mrs Ida Maycock	" "	" "	" "
Mrs Burton B. Jennings	July 22, 1901	" "	Dec. 10, 1901
Mrs Emmet "	July 1901	Letter	" "

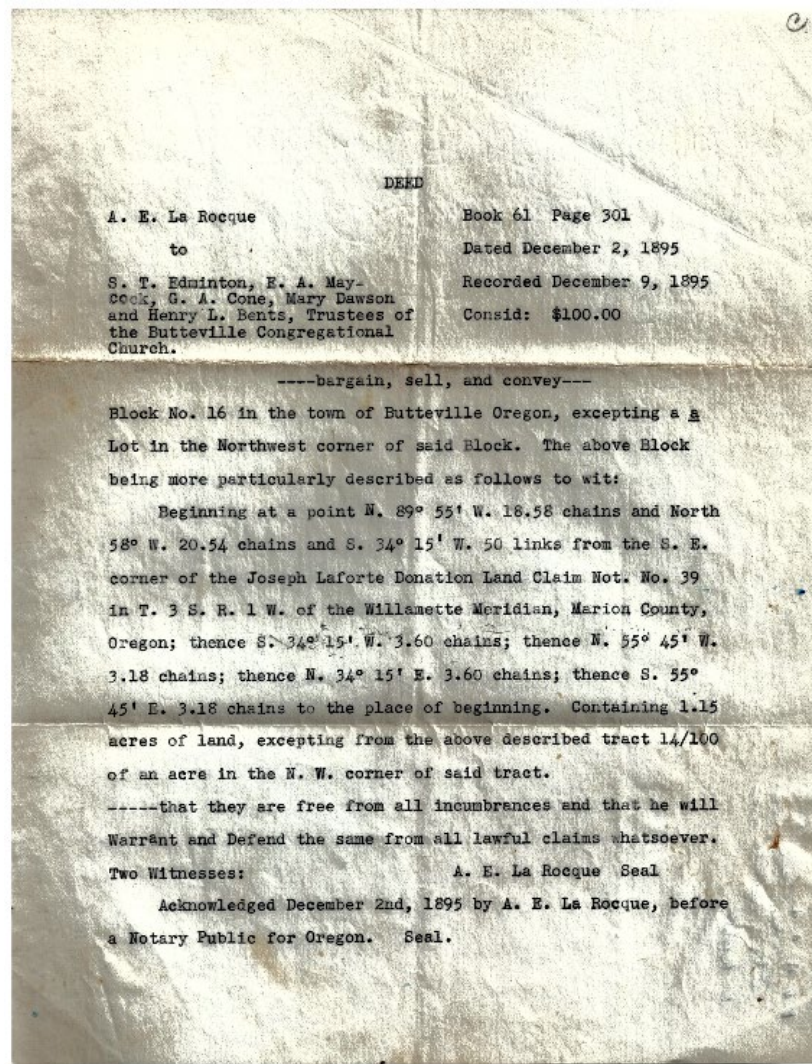


Correspondingly, among the early baptisms families are: Mrs. Luella Herren, Arrud & Merle Scheurer, Holland Matthieu, Mr. & Mrs. C.O. Matthieu, and Edna Cone.

BAPTISMS.		
When persons baptized become members of the church, enter the same number against each name as in the list of Members Received.		
NAME IN FULL.	DATE OF	
	BIRTH.	BAPTISM.
		FIRST NAMES OF PARENTS. If "Adult" write that word instead of parents' names.
Mrs Luella Herren	Nov 9. 1897	adult
Miss Effie Cone	Aug 11 1905	"
Mrs Anna McDaniel	" 18 "	"
Mrs Alice Olson	Oct 13 "	"
Mrs Selma Leoni	March 2. 1897	"
Mrs Ida Maycock	" " "	"
Barton B. Jennings	July 28. 1901	"
Constance Irene Kapton	July 28. 1901	"
Alice Maycock	Nov. 24. 1901	adult
Anna Scheurer	Nov 24 1901	"
Merle Scheurer	Nov. 24. 1901	Anna & Joseph Scheurer
Otto Lumburg	Jan 12. 1904	"
Holland Matthieu	" "	"
Ray Crane	"	"
Alex Sanders.	"	"
Lloyd Godfrey Zeigler		
Lucile Elizabeth Zeigler		
Emma Louise Evans		
Lillian Mary Snyder		
Leola Vertie Ryan	June 11. 1905	Willie & Francis Ryan
Mrs Maggie Jennings		Adult
Mr C. O. Matthieu	Dec 24. 1905	Adult
Mrs C. O. Matthieu	" " "	"
Edna Cone	Jan 7. 1906	Horner & Clara Cone
Bradley Saunders	Jan 28. 1906	adult

The Congregational Church of Christ in Butteville was recognized by the Congregational Church Council on April 132, 1892

They were able to acquire land for a church that was purchased on December 9, 1895 for \$407.35, loaned by the Congregational Church Building Society. Note of Indenture signed by H.L. Bents, W.E. Iler, P.G. Olson, A.H. Cone and Mary E. Dawson. Property purchased from A.E. La Rocque from the Joseph La Forte Donation Land Claim.





The first church building was dedicated on July 18, 1901, in a service presided over by Rev. Jerome Barber. The subscription call raised \$212.61 toward costs. The church organ was donated by Mrs. Eggert of Portland.



Subsequently the church was incorporated as Butteville Congregational Church on December 9, 1901 by A.H. Cone, H.L. Bents, Mrs. Mary Dawson, W.E. Iler and S.T. Edmundston.

The church survived the economic changes brought on by the arrival of the electric railroad in 1907, which ended the sternwheeler era on the Willamette River and meant the end of Butteville's role as a major port in north Willamette Valley.

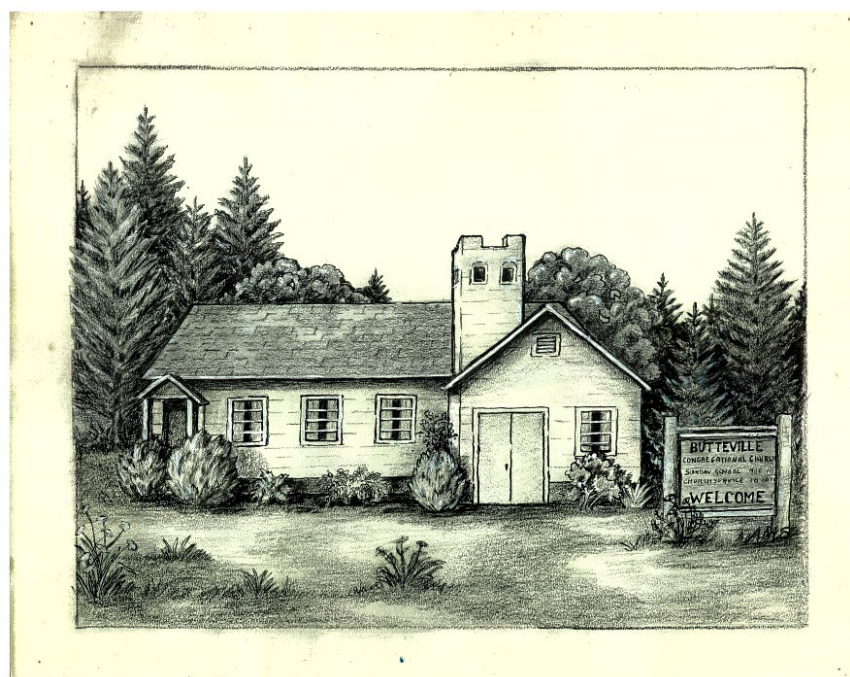
The Butteville community and church also survived Prohibition, which severely impacted the hop growing and processing industry, Butteville's major economic sector.

However, the original church burned on Mother's Day, May 1946, as documented in the following photograph taken by Berna Harper (Croco).



*The Butteville Church      Mothers Day - May 1945  
Taken by Bernadine (Harper) Croco*

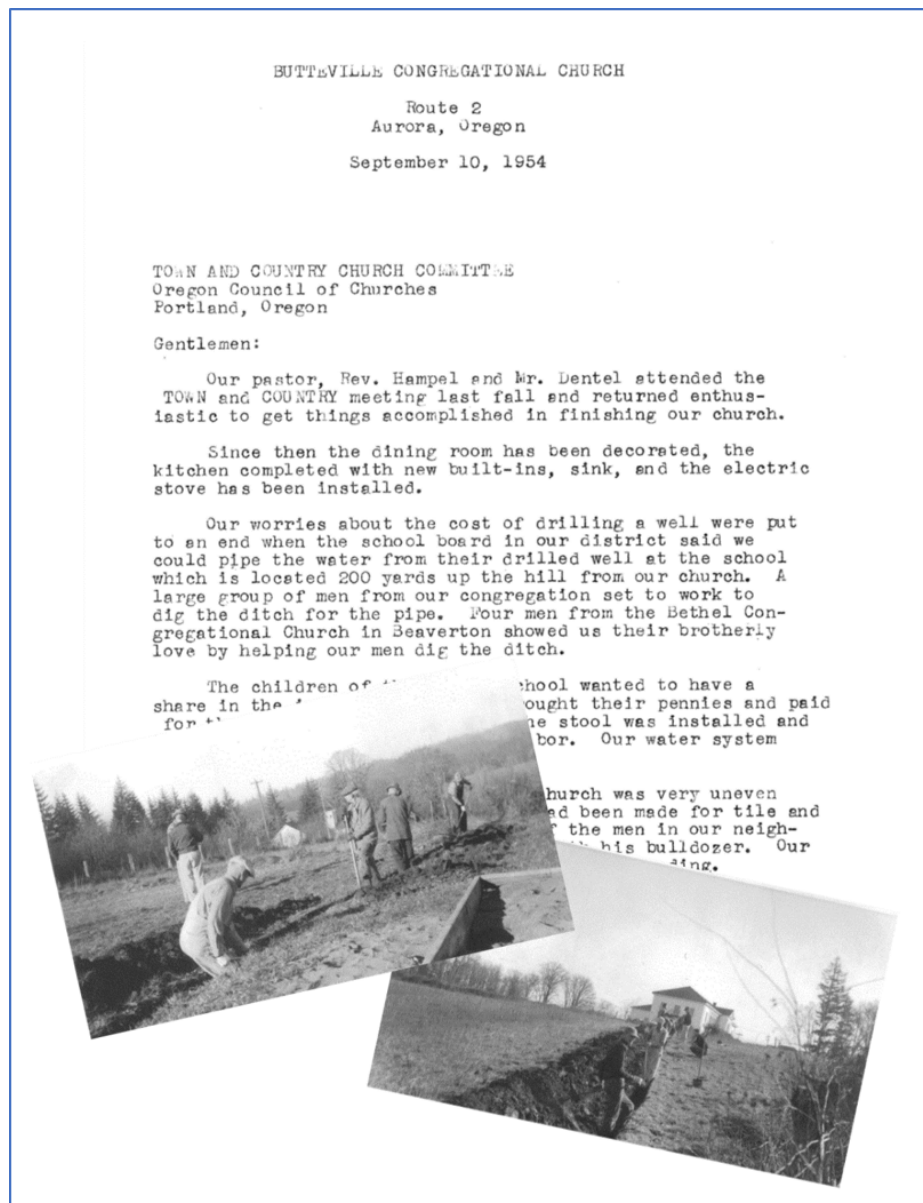
The church community immediately went to work raising funds to rebuild and replacement construction occurred in 1947-48 and the new church was dedicated in 1948.



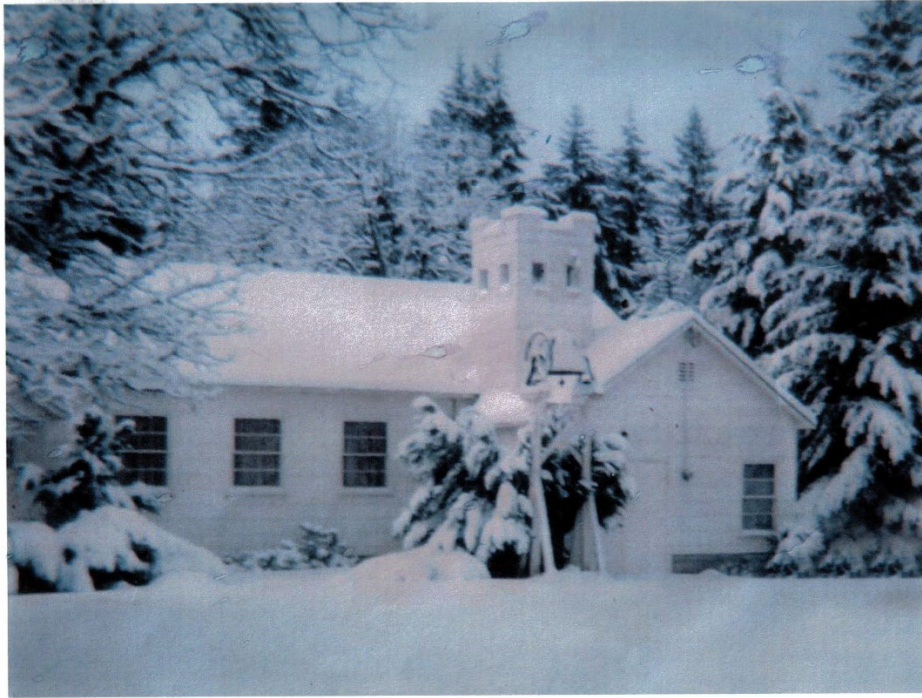


## Community at work

In 1948 the new Butteville Church was dedicated, but it had no water, and the church did not have the funds to drill a well. Over the course of the next six years the interior of the church building was finished, then the basement was completed, and a kitchen put in, but the church still could not afford to drill a well. Then the breakthrough: in September of 1954 the School Board of the Butteville School approved providing water to the Butteville Church from the school's well. What commenced was the Butteville Church "water project" to hand dig a pipe trench from the school, 200 yards down the hill and under Arndt Road to provide water to the Butteville Church.



On October 21, 1971, the church formally changed its name to Butteville Church of Christ, though it continued to be referred to as Butteville Community Church.



BUTTEVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
CIRCA 1972





Later the Butteville Community Church aligned with the Evangelical Free Church denomination, and in November of 2006 dedicated a new Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, and the old church building converted to a youth center.



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<sup>1</sup> History of the Diocese of Oregon; The Episcopal Church in Western Oregon [web link here]

<sup>2</sup> Collection: *History of the Pacific Northwest Oregon and Washington*. 2 v. Portland, Oregon: North Pacific History Company. 1889.