

1851: The Church Completed

During the first year, 1843, services were held in private homes. During the seven years from 1844 – 1850, services were held in the "old red school house."

Plans for a church building were started in 1849. The record shows how the sum of \$949 was donated by 49 families, with \$100 coming from friends in the east. The little Sunday School girls earned money to purchase a Bible and a hymn book for the pulpit. The final cost would be \$1,537.60. The land for the church was donated by Benjamin A. Jenkins. Benjamin was a charter member of the church

From the "Anniversary Record Book" we read: *"Mr. B. A. Jenkins, who owned an extensive tract in the region, donated to the church the lot on which this building stands, together with adjacent lots; a portion to the west was afterwards sold. The lots unfenced, at the north and at the south of the church lot, being a part of this donation. At this time, many trees – burr oak – were standing on all these lots. When the present [1893] cellar was excavated under the church, several stumps were taken out, from trees that were cut down, in order to make room for the building. At length, after many vicissitudes, and much time and labor, the edifice was finished in the summer of 1851; and on the 4th day of September, 1851 the complete house was dedicated to the worship of God."*

The building was completed in 1851 and was dedicated on September 4 of that same year. From the record we read:

4th September, 1851 (page 23, Record Book 1)

"This day the house of worship erected for the Congregational Church and Society in this place was dedicated to God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A large audience was present and all the incidents of the day were pleasing. Introductory exercises by E. J. Montague of Summit. Sermon by Rev. A Clapp of Wauwatosa from Acts 13:44: ["The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered together to hear the word of God" - RSV.] Dedicating prayer [was] by Rev. C. W. Camp, minister of the church.

- Charles W. Camp