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## New England's Changing Denominational Landscape

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Distinctly Catholic

This article in the *Christian Science Monitor* is fascinating to me. New England is becoming again a hotbed of religious experimentation and entrepreneurship. I do not pretend to understand it: Why anyone would stop going to a Catholic Mass and, subsequently, start attending Seventh Day Adventist services, escapes me. But, one common thread of the stories in this article is that the religious leaders of these upstart churches bring the Gospel to the people, the storefront churches are accessible, they devise even quirky ways to invite people to attend. In short, there is an evangelizing spirit at work. So it was at the time of the Great Awakening in the 1740s. So it was in antebellum America when, in Vermont, Joseph Smith began his work. Only in America. Every hundred years or so in New England.

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