

# Losing the Capital Bank of Pittsboro

By Judy Hogan

I've always loved small banks, convenient to home, where you are known and welcomed. Sadly, most were then bought out by larger banks. My favorite small bank of all has been the Capital Bank on the circle in Pittsboro. I shop in Pittsboro Thursdays, and save my deposits for when I'm there. Bridget and Debbie always welcome me. I give them poems when I take them to the Pittsboro Farmers' Market in warm weather, and they love to get them. They always decorated imaginatively for Halloween and Christmas, and they offered monthly business displays. I had my books on display there last year. I could tell that other customers also loved that bank.

I was distressed to learn not long ago that Capital Bank has been bought by First Tennessee, and our branch in Pittsboro is being closed on May 25. Debbie and Bridget are hoping to be employed after the merger, and are already studying the new procedures. How I shall miss them. I said to them that I loved how I was always treated well, even though I didn't have much money, and Debbie said, "I treat everyone the way I want to be treated." The Golden Rule is rather rare in our society these days, or simply the belief that people matter more than money.

I'll stay with this bank, but some of Capital Bank's patrons may not. It means I'll go out of my way to visit the bank in other towns, and go back to mailing deposits. The other employee, there, Nicole, also helped me change to a Capital Bank credit card, which wouldn't charge interest for a year, which is helping me bring down my credit card charges. Pittsboro is a friendly, neighborly town, and

losing the community-oriented bank on the circle is sad. Do you suppose Tennessee First has any idea?

Note: The branch manager is Faye for both Pittsboro and Siler City, which will stay open.

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