

This year, 2003, marks the 155th anniversary of the congregation of Salem Church. The structure that we know as Salem Church is actually the second church built by this congregation on this site. The first was built in 1850. In 1875 the congregation had outgrown that building and decided to build the current building. The building was dedicated on September 23, 1877, at a total cost of \$36,492.72.

The interior contains the magnificent sanctuary with a lower level and full balcony, seating 1000. In the front of the church is the walnut apse, a high pulpit and cathedral chairs. There is also the baptismal font that is almost as old as the congregation. Of special note is the Bible on the altar. It was a gift from Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany to the Salem congregation in 1892.

The original sanctuary did not have a center aisle; this was added in 1954 along with new pews. The pews have carvings on the sides depicting the Beatitudes. The chandeliers lower for cleaning and changing light bulbs.

The church's organ was moved to the front from the back of the church where the large "Sermon on the Mount" stained glass window is now. The visible pipes are non-functional. The current organ is one of the largest in Quincy.

The windows on the sides of the church were replaced in 1952. The rose window above the organ is from 1910.

The bells of Salem are still rung by hand. The largest bell is Peter and is 40" tall and 52" in diameter. The middle size is Bertha and is 32" tall and 40" in diameter. The smallest is James and is 22" tall and 28" in diameter. This bell comes from the original church.

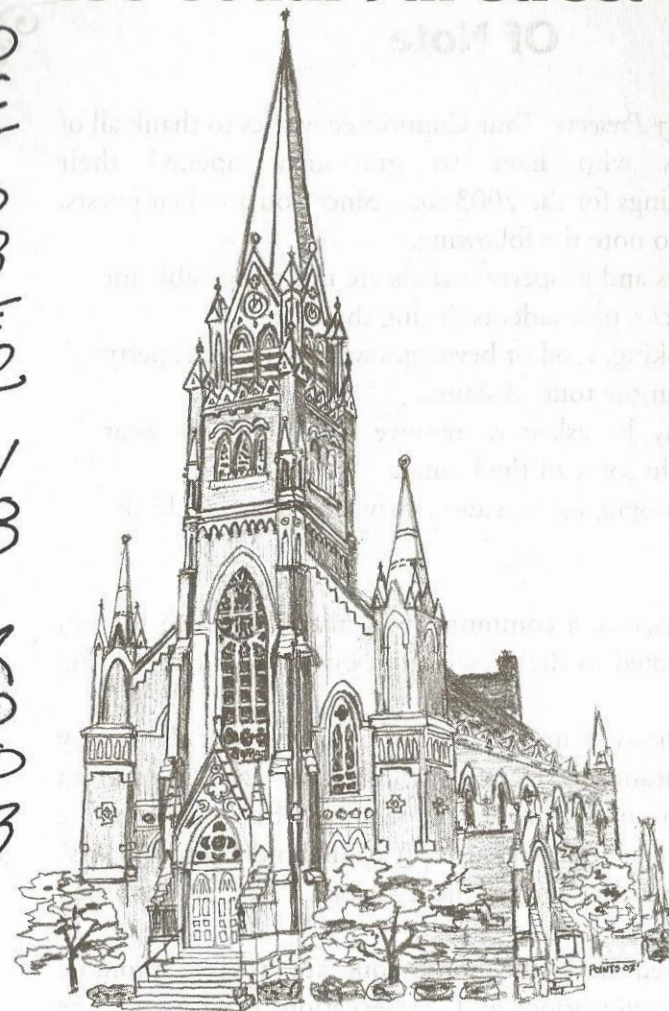
The four-faced clock and chime mechanism is wound by hand twice a week. The mechanism is 120 steps above balcony level. Each clock face is 6 feet in diameter.

From the sanctuary, please make your way to the church hall on the north. Refreshments are available and displays are set up concerning the history of the church. On the south wall of the hall is a quilt from 1923 that helped raise the funds to start Good Samaritan Home. The quilt features the names of the 1800 individuals who contributed.



BEHIND  
CLOSED  
DOORS  
OCTOBER 18  
2003

435 South 9th Street



**Year Built:**

**1876**

**Name of Building:**

**Salem Evangelical United  
Church of Christ**

**Style:**

**Late Gothic Victorian  
Revival**

**Architect:**

**John S. McKean**