



321 North 7th  
Gothic Revival Style • 1942  
Central Baptist Church

Architects: Behrensmeyer and Hafner

The congregation of Central Baptist Church can trace its roots back to 1835 when several Baptist families started meeting in Quincy. In 1916, Central Baptist Church was formed with the union of First Baptist and Vermont Street Baptist. When the two churches joined, the charter members were 886 persons, the largest number ever to be accepted into a Quincy church at one time.

Their current church at 7th and Broadway was constructed in a modified Gothic Revival Style in 1942 with additions in 1950 and 1964. The church has several exterior stone features. The tallest exterior feature is the bell tower which houses a 1843 bell purchased from a Mississippi riverboat captain. Also, the gabled roof has parapeted walls and there are drip molds above the windows.

Entrance into the church is gained through compound arched portals at the doorways. Inside, adorning the sanctuary, are stained glass windows depicting the life of Christ. Most of the stained glass windows date to 1942. The Good Shepherd window illuminates the balcony and also serves as a focal point of the church's exterior.

Recently, the congregation supported restoration work to the Good Shepherd window and replacement of the casement windows. The current pastor is Dr. Charles Baker.

*Behind Closed Doors*  
*October 16, 2004*