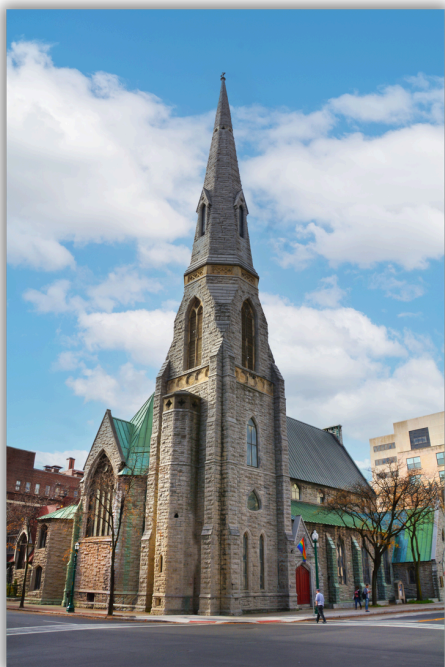
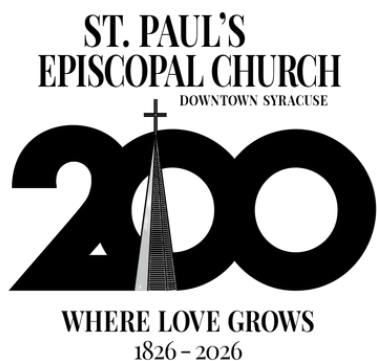


# Our Third Church Building

By Amy Mangram



By 1884 Syracuse had grown into a confident and flourishing city, energized in large part by the steady commerce of the Erie Canal. The congregation, too, was thriving and the need for a larger church building became unmistakable. Although there was early discussion about constructing a new church on James Street, then the site of the Bishop's residence, the decision was ultimately made to remain in the heart of the city. This choice reflected both gratitude for the church's central role in Syracuse's life and a desire to preserve a respectful distance from the Bishop's home.

On June 25, 1884, the cornerstone of the third and current church was laid. Bishop Arthur Coxe, joined by several rectors from neighboring Episcopal parishes, presided over the service. Within the cornerstone rests a copper box containing cherished memorabilia from the earlier church, including an engraving of the second church building. In a symbolic gesture of continuity and faith, the new cornerstone was placed directly atop the original one, and the Bishop struck it three times "I the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost." The congregation closed the ceremony by singing The Church's One Foundation, a hymn that echoed both gratitude for the church's enduring presence and hope for its continued growth.

Today the inscribed cornerstone remains visible near the Fayette Street entrance, a quiet reminder of the generations who built, sustained, and believed in the future of this church.

