

The Erie Canal

and it's Impact on St. Paul's

By Laurie Sanderson



As many of you know, our 200th anniversary will be in 2026 and why is that? Because the Erie Canal was completed in October of 1825. The Erie Canal helped Syracuse to grow. Before the canal, this part of what would be Syracuse was a swampy area with some houses on stilts. As the building of the canal grew and came closer the village of Syracuse began to grow. The local Episcopal church was more up on Onondaga Hill area.

But our forefathers observing what the canal was stimulating in growth, decided they should move closer to the canal. And so the journey began. The Baptist church was first followed by the Presbyterians. The first building was created in 1827, as they quickly outgrew it, a larger one was created in 1841, and finally the cornerstone for the church we gather in today was laid in 1884. So while they were the third, they are the only one of the three left in the downtown area!