

The First Open Door: St. Paul's Church Dedicated in 1827

By Amy Mangram

On September 19, 1827, the first St. Paul's Church was dedicated. Although Episcopal services had been held intermittently in Syracuse since 1821, the congregation had no permanent home during its early years. A rotating group of missionaries led worship in a variety of locations, including offices, taverns, and eventually a small Baptist church where more regular services could be held.

While clergy and worship locations changed frequently during the 1820s, the congregation remained steadfast reflecting a strong faith and a determination to establish a permanent Episcopal presence in the young community that would become the City of Syracuse.

Construction of the church was funded through parishioner subscriptions, local loans, and assistance from Trinity Church in Manhattan, now known as Trinity Wall Street. Founded in 1697, Trinity became one of the most influential Anglican churches in America through extensive colonial-era land holdings. Its resources helped support the growth of Episcopal congregations across the country, including St. Paul's. More information on the fascinating history of Trinity Wall St can be found on their website <https://trinitychurchnyc.org/visit-history>

The first St. Paul's stood on the triangular lot now occupied by the historic S.A. & K. building at the northeast corner of Washington and Warren Streets. The cozy white clapboard church seated about 200 worshipers while being lit by candles and heated by wood stove.

Additional details about the building can be found in Marion's article in the Bicentennial History section of our parish website.

