

The Hadley Chapel



By Marion Greenhalgh

Continuing with our Bicentennial Celebratory Year, below is a brief history and description of the Hadley Chapel. On May 21, 1883, the Vestry agreed that the third St. Paul's Church would be built of gray limestone and that Henry Dudley of Brooklyn, NY, would be the architect. Around this same time, erection of the chapel was started. It would be capable of seating 300 people.

The chapel would adjoin the church on its south side, and be built of stone with a walnut trim interior finish. The chancel stained-glass window came from the second St. Paul's church and was installed above the altar. However, the original was a five-lancet window. The window in the chapel in 1884, and now, is a three-lancet window. It has been conjectured that the window must have been completely remodeled, for the symbolic design elements appear to be complete and logically arranged.

In early July, 1883, St. Paul's bought the Alexander lot (lots four and five of Block 112) on the southwest corner of Fayette and Montgomery Streets, and recorded the deed in the Court House. Final plans for the church were approved. Financial troubles delayed the actual construction of the church, then winter continued the delay.



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On Christmas Day the last services were held in the second St. Paul's Church. Worship thereafter was held Sunday afternoons at St. James' (currently Church of the Saviour) until Whitsunday, 1884, when the new chapel was used for the first time.

In 1929, the rear of the chapel was remodeled into a two-story wing providing three new classrooms, robing rooms for the choir and clergy, and a lavatory. In 1936, the parish initiated a drive to rebuild the old chapel. Morton E. Granger and J. D. Taylor were architect and contractor, respectively.

Changes made included: equipping it with a small, modern electric organ set into the south wall; reducing its depth, but capable of seating 74 persons; paneling it in oak, with white rough plaster walls above the carved rope-bordered panels of wood and high-ceilinged wooden arches; closing the south door that led to the Parish House vestibule; and, placing the Chancel window of the old church showing St. Paul, the patron saint, which had been placed over the chapel altar in 1886, in a similar position in the new chapel.

