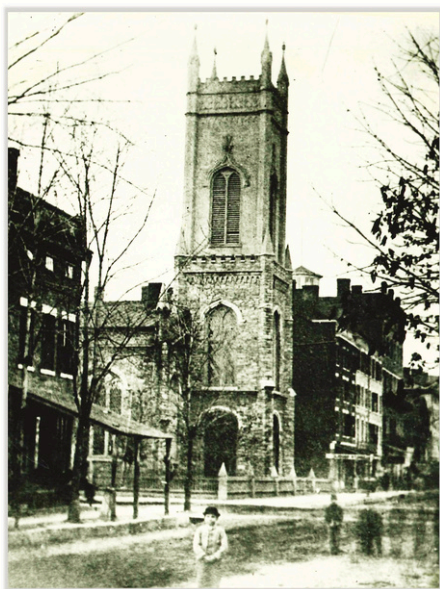
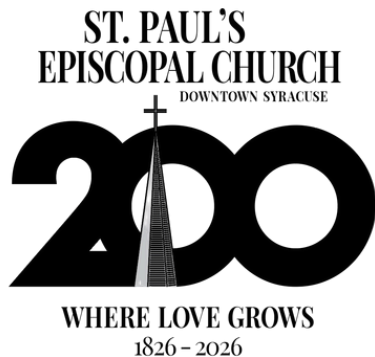


Our Second Church Building

By Amy Mangram



On July 3, 1841, the cornerstone was laid for the second church building at the northwest corner of Warren and Fayette Streets. The occasion was marked by an impressive ceremony, during which the Laetatus Psalm was recited “I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord.” This served as a solemn reminder of the sacred purpose of the structure being raised.

The vestry’s decision to build a second church was inspired in no small part by the fervent preaching and spiritual leadership of the Rev. Henry Gregory. It also reflected the practical need to accommodate a growing parish and an expanding community. The new church was consecrated one year later, just in time for St. Paul’s to host the Diocesan Convention, further strengthening the parish’s standing as a leader within the diocese.

This was the second of three church buildings the parish has occupied to date. Built of native stone, it embraced a more elaborate Gothic style than the original clapboard structure. Though its interior was simple, heated by stoves and illuminated by oil lamps. It offered seating for 600 parishioners, which was a significant increase from the 200 person capacity of the first church.

This building served the congregation faithfully until 1883, when the third and current church was constructed.

