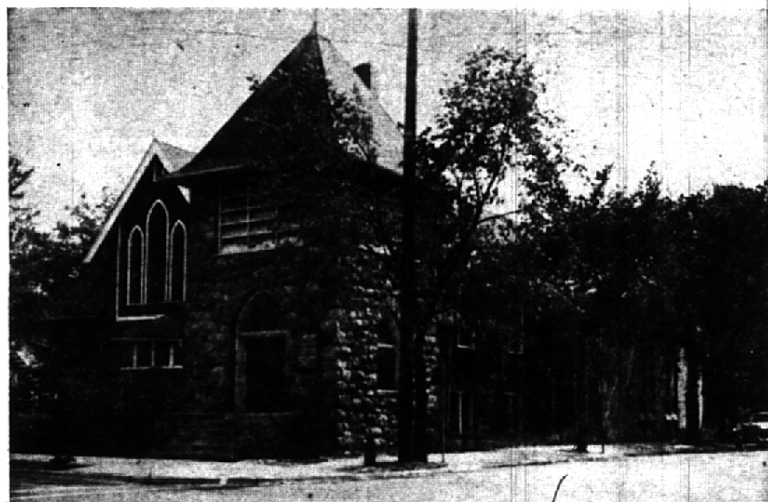


St. James Founded in 1894



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH FOUNDED IN 1894
Located in the heart of downtown Birmingham.



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST BEFORE REMODELING IN 1961
In 1916 adults met in homes, while kids gathered in a garage.

Church Bells Vanishing in Birmingham

Church bells have called residents of Birmingham to services for 100 years but only a handful remain today.

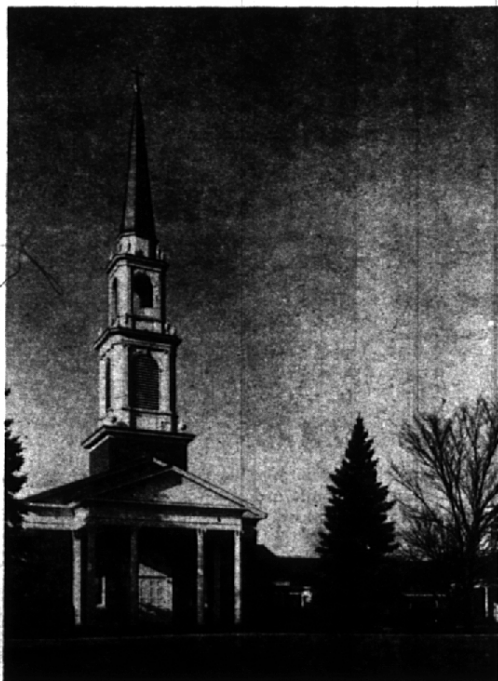
Perhaps the oldest bell in Birmingham, and the only free-hanging, hand-pulled one is at the Congregational Church of Birmingham, formerly the First Presbyterian building. The big bell is rung before all services and on special occasions, such as on President Kennedy's funeral.

THE ONLY other church in Birmingham to have bells is St. James Episcopal. Three bells were installed in the early 1850's and are rung before all services.

Our Shepard Lutheran and Redeemer Lutheran each use a carillon system (an electric device played from organ keys) at each service. Redeemer also played it on the fourth of July at Governor Romney's request.

The only other resemblance to early church bells is chimes. First Baptist, First Presbyterian and First Methodist all have chimes that are piped from the organ through the tower. They are used at all worship services.

BUT, FOR the most part, church bells are a vanishing feature of early Birmingham.



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
Organized in 1925.

B'ham Lutherans, Scientists Followed

By DAVE PHILPO
Staff Writer

Although the Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists claim the distinction of being the oldest congregations in Birmingham, there are other Protestant denominations with distinct histories of their own.

Take the Episcopalians, for example.

Founded in Birmingham in 1894, St. James Episcopal Church had less of a struggle to get started than other churches of those early days.

The first formal meeting was held in Library Hall on a Sunday afternoon in April, 1894. Two weeks later a congregation was formed at the home of E. G. Stevenson and the church's life was under way.

MORNING SERVICES and Sunday school were held in the First Baptist Church.

A name was selected within a month after the group had formed and it was announced that a new brick church would be built.

Vestrymen said they wanted a church the village would not be ashamed of and in March, 1895, the completed building was hailed as an attainment of that goal.

St. James, at that time, was perhaps the most costly church in town, having been constructed for \$5,000.

The first rector, the Rev. Mr. Carey, took over his duties in 1896.

St. James not only fitted itself into the community and its religious life, but often took over the position of leader.

AMONG THE FIRSTS pioneered by St. James were a vested choir in 1897, a program of evening services for the community in 1898 and Tre Ore services for Good Friday, 1910.

The church also held a special Christmas Eve service that year and four years later introduced a program of weekday Lenten services.

St. James also had a part in the establishment of Cranbrook. George Booth, who founded Christ Church Cranbrook, was serving St. James as senior warden at the time and received the help of fellow churchmen in his plans.

The church always has occupied the site on which it now stands—the southeast corner of W. Maple and Chester streets. The property was purchased for \$600 and, at the groundbreaking, the first shovel of earth was turned by William Walker.

THROUGH THE YEARS as the congregation grew, additions to the church were made and the St. James of today is a far cry from the one built in 1895.

In 1916 the several Christian Scientists living in Birmingham felt a desire to attend services of their own denomination without the necessity of traveling to Detroit or Pontiac.

Not to be deterred by the lack of a building in which to gather, they elected to meet in private homes rather than make the weekly journey.

The initial service on June 11, 1916, was attended by eight adults. At the same time the service was being conducted in the home of a member, the children crowded into

a car in the garage for their Sunday school class.

FOR ABOUT two years the group held services in the ballroom of the Birmingham Club at the northwest corner of Woodward and Merrill streets.

On May 11, 1917, the Christian Science Society of Birmingham, a branch of the mother church, the First Church of Christ Scientist, of Boston, Mass., was organized with 10 charter members.

The society was organized into a church in July, 1924. Lack of proper space became even more pronounced and by early 1925 members knew it was time for immediate action.

The present site on the southwest corner of Willets and Chester streets was purchased in 1925, the cornerstone was laid Dec. 7, 1926, and by the following July, regular services were being held in the building.

FORMAL DEDICATION ceremony for the \$120,000 building was held on June 10, 1928.

The church was remodeled in 1961 in Georgian style architecture at a cost of \$350,000.

In addition to the church building, the Christian Science group operates a reading room on E. Maple and sponsors the local appearance of speakers from the mother church's board of lectureship.

The work of the Lutheran church in Birmingham dates back to the fall of 1924 when, as a result of a survey conducted by the Detroit Pastoral Conference, the area was considered a likely one for the establishment of a Lutheran church.

The first Lutheran service was held in Johnston-Shaw hall on Nov. 23, 1924. The congregation, organized April 4, 1925, was affiliated with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

THE CHURCH, now known as Redeemer Lutheran, grew under the leadership of Rev. L. A. Schuessler and a lot was purchased at the corner of Lincoln and Ann streets for a chapel, which was dedicated May 10, 1925.

The present minister, Rev. Theodore Wuggazer, came from a parish in Cody, Wyo., to become the permanent minister on April 19, 1931, and has served continuously since then.

The 6½-acre site at 1800 W. Maple was purchased in 1941. The decision to build in colonial style was reached after months of careful study, ground was broken Aug. 31, 1941, and the new church was dedicated June 19, 1942.

The story of the church since that time has been one of steady growth.

Nothing too Hard For B'ham Women

Birmingham's church women have long been known as ardent and zealous churchworkers but 75 years ago they not only put on the usual bazaars and church suppers, but did janitorial work as well.

The good ladies turned out one October evening in 1878 to give the Methodist church a thorough cleaning and all went well until it came time to clean the spittoons in the church vestibule.

After a few moments of silence one of the women found the courage and stamina to perform the disagreeable task.