



Rev. J. A. Anderson  
DEC 5 1955  
Anderson  
ves Here

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Rev. Mr. Anderson, who was pastor of the local church from August, 1953, resigned because of ill health and plans to return shortly to Lafayette, Ind., to his home.

Replacement for the pastor was decided later, according to church officials. Associate pastors are Rev. O. B. Johnson, the Rev. E. Campbell and the Rev. Cecil Webb.

Champaign-Urbana Ministerial Association, of which the Rev. Mr. Anderson is president, will decide on a candidate at its next meeting Dec. 12. Officials said The Rev. Carl Woodwin of First Baptist Church, Urbana, is vice president of the association.

Well service for the Rev. Mr. Anderson Sunday included a talk by Rev. E. Kilgore. Members of all local congregations were

Salem Baptist:

# Rev. Moore Accepts Call To Pastorate

The Rev. A. B. Moore of Muskogee, Okla., has accepted a call to become pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Champaign.

NOV 29 1964  
The Rev. Mr. Moore, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Pawhuska, Okla., was born in Georgia. His father was a minister for 50 years.

The Rev. Mr. Moore, a minister for more than 25 years, holds AB and DD degrees from Paine College and Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Ga. He has done additional work at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma.

He served as pastor in Georgia, Texas and Arkansas before taking the pastorate in Oklahoma.

He served as president of the District Baptist Training Union Congress in Arkansas and served as instructor of many courses in Christian education.

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The church has been without a permanent pastor since the Rev. A. T. Rowan resigned to accept a pastorate in Ohio, in September. The congregation Friday night voted to call the Rev. Mr. Moore as the new pastor.

The Rev. Mr. Moore is married and has two daughters. One of the daughters is married. The other is a student at St. Luke Presbyterian School of Medical Technology in Chicago.

He is expected to begin his duties here about Dec. 29.

# Baptists Will Instal Pastor

The Rev. A. B. Moore will be installed as pastor of Salem Baptist Church in ceremonies at 3 p.m. Sunday at the church.

The Rev. Mr. Moore became pastor of the church early this year. He and his family are moving here this week, from Muskogee, Okla.

Installation message will be by the Rev. H. E. Morris, pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla. About 35 Baptist ministers, state and district officials are expected to be here from out-of-town for the occasion.

Dr. J. Alfred Wilson, president of the Baptist State Convention of Illinois will instal the Rev. Mr. Moore. Dr. Lester T. Phinnissee of East St. Louis, moderator of the Wood River Baptist Association, will give the charge to the pastor.

The Rev. Oliver Williams of Danville will give the charge to the church.

The Rev. Cecil Webb, who served as interim pastor here and has since become pastor of the Union Baptist Church, Danville, will preside.

Dinner will be served to the out-of-town guests prior to the program. Music will be by the Salem Church's combined choirs, directed by Mrs. Callie Eskew.

David Sayles is chairman and Miss Lucille Clark is co-chairman for the installation service.

Salem Dispute:

# Church Votes On Pastor

The congregation of Salem Baptist Church is to vote on whether or not to "rehire" its pastor, the Rev. A. B. Moore, the subject of an injunction in Circuit Court, NOV 10 1966

The congregational meeting to decide the matter has been agreed upon by both parties, it is reported.

The meeting to take a vote by secret ballot is scheduled for 8 p.m. Monday at the church.

An agreed-upon temporary injunction had been issued in Circuit Court against the firing of the pastor of Salem Church, 500 E. Park St., Champaign.

According to the suit, Helen Hite, who "claims to be church clerk" notified the Rev. Mr. Moore on Oct. 26 that "by order of the church," the congregation "by formal vote declared the pulpit vacant."

The temporary injunction was filed by persons alleging to represent the majority of the church's board of trustees and a majority of the congregation against Helen Hite and others. It asked that the Rev. Mr. Moore be allowed to continue to conduct services without interference

## MINISTER ORDAINED

The Rev. Cecil Webb, standing fifth from left, was ordained into the Baptist minister in ceremonies Sunday afternoon in Salem Baptist Church. Participants from the left are the Rev. G. W. Brown of Freewill Baptist Church; the Rev. Talma

Sykes, of Loda; the Rev. Edward Scaggs, Georgetown; the Rev. Eugene Williams, pastor of Salem Church; the Rev. Mr. Webb; David Sayles, chairman for the event; the Rev. J. E. Graves, pastor of Mount

Olive Baptist Church, and the Rev. C. E. Campbell, also of Salem Baptist Church. The Rev. Mr. Webb is minister of evangelism at the church and last August was given a license to preach.

JAN 11 1960



Rev. J. A. Anderson  
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## Rev. Anderson Leaves Here

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The Rev. Mr. Anderson, who has been pastor of the local church since August, 1953, resigned because of ill health and plans to move shortly to Lafayette, Ind., his former home.

A replacement for the pastor will be decided later, according to church officials. Associate pastors are the Rev. O. B. Johnson, the Rev. C. E. Campbell and the Rev. A. S. Webb.

Champaign-Urbana Ministerial Association, of which the Rev. Mr. Anderson is president, will decide on a head at its next meeting Dec. 13, officials said. The Rev. Carlton Goodwin of First Baptist Church, Urbana, is vice president of the association.

Farewell service for the Rev. Mr. Anderson Sunday included a talk by the Rev. E. Kilgore. Members of several local congregations were present.

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# Religion

## Salem Baptist finishing new building

By MELISSA MERLIE  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Members of Salem Baptist Church are trying to finish a new sanctuary in time for dedication ceremonies later this month.

"We're working like beavers here, trying to occupy this place," the church's pastor, the Rev. Claude E. Shelby Sr., said this week.

The new sanctuary is adjacent to the existing church at 500 E. Park Ave., C.

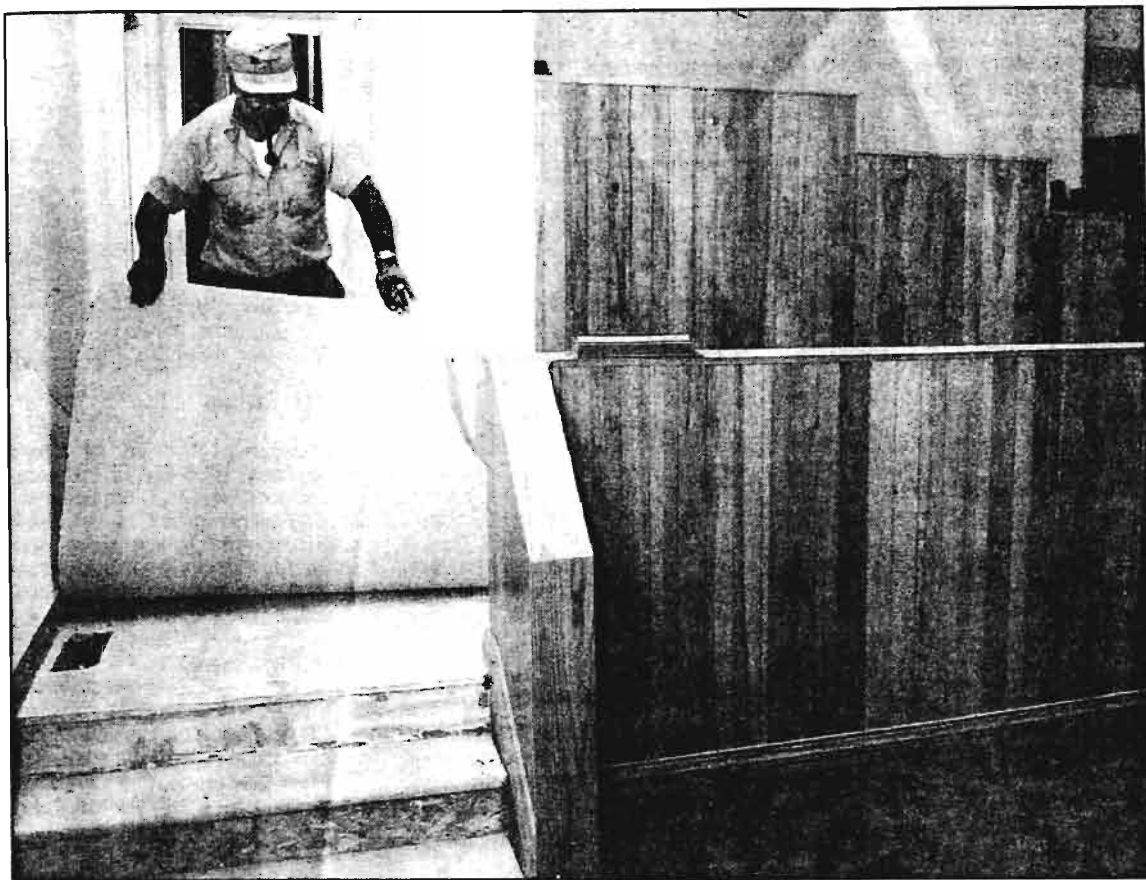
The church is hoping to hold a public dedication service on Aug. 29, Shelby said.

A pre-dedication ceremony is scheduled for this weekend, at 4 p.m. Sunday. The Rev. Lonnie Calmese, pastor at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Alton, is scheduled to speak.

**BECAUSE MOST** of the labor has been provided by volunteers — many of them members of other churches — construction has taken some time, Shelby said.

Ground was broken in 1990, but construction did not start until the spring of 1992. The new sanctuary and related offices and rooms cost about \$700,000, not including the volunteer labor.

The new sanctuary's interior, which seats about 500, is fan-shaped. "Some call it a church in the round," Shelby said. It has four sections of oak pews, with



News-Gazette photo by Mark Cowan

Bobby Hunt prepares to install carpet in the new sanctuary of Salem Baptist Church. The employee of Hunt Brothers Carpet Service was at the Champaign church's new building earlier this week.

raspberry-colored upholstery and carpeting.

The walls are white. Clean lines point to the pulpit and choir area, which includes a baptistery and a communion table, with "This Do in Remembrance of Me" engraved on front.

The sanctuary's east wall has three new stained-glass windows — one each representing God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Hallways from the sanctuary lead to various rooms and offices — an ushers' room, a main office, a conference room, a finance room, an associate minister's room, pastor's office, pastor's study, a nursery, a Sunday school office, classrooms and rest rooms. A second chapel can accommodate smaller services.

**THE NEW SANCTUARY**, which gracefully matches the style of the old building, was designed by architect Jack Whaley of St. Charles, Mo. Its exterior was built with red brick, matching the original church. The 85-year-old building was designated a historic site by the Champaign County Bicentennial Commission.

Shelby said his congregation will continue to use the old church. Church members eventually plan to build a stage inside and use it for educational and drama purposes.

Salem Baptist, which was established more than 127 years ago, began planning for a new church building in 1985.

"We started building upon our building fund," the pastor said. "We started with about \$20,000 that we had had over the years in a dream fund, and started adding to that and borrowed the rest from the Bank of Illinois."

Shelby said a new church was needed because the old one was not accessible to disabled people and difficult for entry by the elderly.

"The steps are pretty treacherous, any way you go into the building," he said. "We didn't have a proper facility for a modern church. We wanted to be able to meet the needs of the day."

The church has about 400 members, about half of them active, Shelby said.

Church programs include assisting blacks through the American Baptist Seminary; an evangelistic outreach; and a "Reach, Restore, Revive and Retain" committee to recruit new members and keep existing members.

NEW LUTHERAN MISSION BEGINNING SATURDAY, AUG. 28.  
5:00. LINCOLN TRAILS SCHOOL, 102 E. STATE, MAHOMET.  
SPONSORED BY THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI  
SYNOD. CALL FOR INFORMATION 355-0454

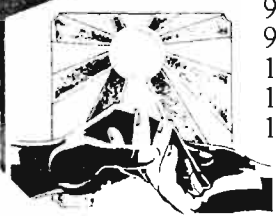
Trinity Lutheran Church  
presents:

### FORWARD IN FAITH ANNUAL RALLY DAY

Sunday, August 29 — Crystal Lake Park

- 9:00 — Donuts & Fellowship
- 9:15 — Sunday School & Bible Class
- 10:30 — Worship Service of Praise
- 12:00 — CATERED LUNCH OF ALL
- 1:00 — Games for All Ages

Everyone is Welcome!  
Paul Bushur, Pastor





# First Column

by CHUCK FLYNN  
NEWS-GAZETTE EDITOR

"I may not carry out this mission, but it is my fervent hope that it will be done!" The Rev. William Howe Donaldson spoke as we talked about aspirations of Salem Baptist Church which next Sunday will observe its 110th anniversary of service to the communities of Champaign and Urbana.

The mission to which Rev. Donaldson referred is the building of a new church for the congregation of 300. The basis for hope lies in a "Dream Fund," now \$5,000, to accomplish the task. Rev. Donaldson has served as pastor of Salem Baptist on two occasions, from 1949 to 1953 and from 1968 to the present.

His tenure is second only to that of Rev. W. H. Stedman, who was pastor from 1894 to 1903. It was the Rev. Mr. Stedman who directed efforts to build a church dedicated in 1900 and records say he had "one of the most prosperous pastorates in the history of the church."

Rev. Donaldson also has been a driving force to make Salem Baptist a significant part of the religious life in this area. Cast in a different time span, his accomplishments have been none-the-less effective. Small in stature — he stands 5-5 and weighs 178 — the pastor looms large for influence upon his congregation, for a strong youth movement, and widespread public service.

## Changed Atmosphere For Blacks

He foresees many problems before the dream church can be built. They are not all financial. "There has been quite a change in the atmosphere for black people in these communities. In 1949-50, virtually every member of Salem Baptist lived within walking distance of the church at 500 East Park. Now, the membership is spread out all over the cities. The parsonage, for example, is at 1712 South Prospect. We provide bus transportation to services. A resounding question about a new church is where it should be located."

The pastor has many fine people to assist him in making these decisions. L. T. Tinsley is chairman of the board of directors, Sherman Oldham, vice-chairman. Other directors are James A. Wilson, who heads the Sunday school program; Clarence Taylor, Theotto Bowles, Verlon Buchanan, R.E. Goines, James McKinley, Carl Turley and Willie Herington. Bowles is chairman of the trustees who include Robert Lewis, George Bigham, William Miller, Charles Hassell, Willie Holt, Albert Alexander and Millard Gray.

## Anniversary Scheduled Oct. 24

The anniversary sermon Oct. 24 will be given by the Rev. Cecil A. Webb, son of former pastor Rev. A. S. Webb, who served the church from 1938 to 1948. Also on the rostrum will be Rev. Morris Clark. Both are products of Salem Baptist and are engaged in ministries at Danville and Mattoon, respectively.

First efforts to form a Baptist Church in Champaign-Urbana began as early as 1856 when Champaign was known as West Urbana. For a year or two under the leadership of Rev. A. L. Farr the church prospered. Then the atmosphere became charged with enmities growing out of moral issues of slavery. The membership drifted apart with the advent of the Civil War.

A Rev. W. T. Green continued to preach to Baptists, however, in Bailey's Hall on North Neil Street. Services were held on Sunday afternoons since the Methodist Church occupied the hall in mornings and evenings. In 1864 a Rev. Alexander Cummings brought together 10 men and 14 women who had indicated a desire to organize themselves into a Baptist church.

*Champaign  
Salem Baptist Church*

*17 October 1976*

## Council Organizes Church

A Council of Recognition was formed and met twice in the fall of 1864. Influential in its activities was Rev. S. F. Gleason of Bethel Church in Mahomet.

On Nov. 28, 1864, the church, fully organized and recognized, began its work as Champaign Baptist Church. First services were held in a hall owned by Joseph T. Everett on University avenue "east of the tracks." Soon lots were purchased at the corner of Park and State streets and a church was built there. Great assistance in fund raising came from a young member, Fred Heimlicher.

The church, having been named as Salem Baptist in 1866, continued in the Park and State location until 1899 when the original structure of the present church was built. It since has had many alterations and enlargements, including installation of a pipe organ in February 1926, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence A. Lloyde, in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D.H. Lloyde, who had been members of Salem Baptist almost from its beginning.

"While the church has had its ups and downs," Rev. Donaldson observed, "it has performed a wonderful ministry to the communities. Throughout its history Salem Baptist has been close to the University of Illinois and to the black students there." Among outstanding students who were members of Salem, Rev. Donaldson recalls Mary Frances Vainado Walden, Leonard Watson, Don Stevens, and from University administration, Asst. Vice-Chancellor Walter Strong.

## Champions Of Civil Rights

He credits two pastors, Rev. Eugene H. Williams (1956-61) and Rev. A.T. Rowan (1961-64) with exerting "great influence" during civil rights activities which had bearing upon improvement of social and economic conditions for blacks on the campus and in the communities.

I asked Rev. Donaldson to look ahead 100 years to envision what Salem Baptist Church may be in 2076. "With the inroads being made today upon our church structure, it is a good question whether churches, as we know them, will survive," he said. "I think they will but perhaps not in the form we know at present. I am concerned as are many people about the deterioration of respect for the church as indicated in our disrespect for the Sabbath and for conventional morality."

At the age of 74, in the zenith of his career, Rev. Donaldson looks ahead with optimism, however, and with faith that what has been accomplished by Salem Baptist Church can be continued. His philosophy, he says, is best expressed in this bit of verse entitled "The Bridge Builder."

An old man, travelling a lone highway,  
Came at evening, worn and gray,  
To a chasm, far, deep and wide.  
The old man stopped on the other side  
To build a bridge to span the tide.  
"Hey!" said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your time building here.  
Your journey ends with the close of day,  
You never again shall pass this way."  
The old man lifted his gray head  
And in the twilight, calmly said:  
"There follows after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
And the chasm that meant but naught for me  
To this fine youth may a pitfall be.  
So, I pause here in the twilight dim,  
My friend, I'm building this bridge for him!"

# School founder's dream surviving

WED FEB 2 1977

By Georganne Marty  
Living '77 Editor

"When you help a child, you help yourself."

Helen Johnson, founder of the Salem Pre-School, died of cancer last July. But thanks to the efforts of dedicated staff members who at one time worked without salary, her dream for her community goes on.

We talked to Betty Hassell, administrator, in her office at the school housed in the basement of the Salem Baptist Church, 500 E. Park St., Champaign.

"Things were really rough for awhile and we almost lost our funding," she said. "But we just couldn't let Mrs. Johnson's dream die. She truly believed when you helped a child it was an investment in society and you thereby helped yourself.

"The school was organized in the summer of 1969 to provide a community service in the form of a learning center for the small child that would be in the reach of all parents, especially those of moderate to low income," Mrs. Hassell explained.

"It also provides valuable experience for children in the early years. Self-respect is stressed through carefully guided individualized activities in an environment designed for the child's needs."

Mrs. Hassell and the late Mrs. Johnson were both employed at the Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana — Mrs. Johnson as a teacher and Mrs. Hassell as secretary. They often talked about establishing a pre-school in a low-income neighborhood and adapting the Montessori method.

"The only valid impulse to learning is the self-motivation of the child," Mrs. Hassell said quoting Dr. Maria Montessori, the Italian educator.

"Dr. Montessori believed that children move themselves toward learning. The teacher prepares the environment, directs the activity, functions as the authority, offers the child stimulations, but it is the child who learns, who is motivated through the work itself (not solely by the teacher's personality), to persist in his given task. If the Montessori child is free to learn, it is because he has acquired from his exposure to both physical and mental order an 'inner discipline.' This is the core of the Montessori educational philosophy."

The Salem Pre-school is funded totally by tuition and private donations. Aside from an allowance from the state for food for the hot lunch program, the school receives no public assistance.

The school's first substantial seed money was provided by the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign. "They gave us \$2,000 and that was enough to start a limited program, half-day summer session. In 1973 the Peoria Diocesan Council of the Catholic Church gave us \$5,000. With that we were able to remain open the year round with 20 children, but still only half-days. We are now in our second year of full-day sessions and have an enrollment of 30 children," Mrs. Hassell said.

"After Mrs. Johnson died last year things just seemed to fall apart for a time. She had been the guiding light and we were all so depressed. Enrollment was down and although we are charged no rent here at the church, we just couldn't make a go of it on the \$25 a week per child tuition alone even with the staff working without pay.

"Finally in August when we thought we were going to have to close the doors, we were informed by Bill Peltz who works on the Council of Congregations here in Champaign and also is on the board of the Peoria Diocesan Council that another \$5,000 would be forthcoming.

# Salem kickoff luncheon to feature Sister Turley

SAT APR 1 1978

Sister Esther Tanner Bush Turley will speak at 1 p.m. today at the 35th Annual Women's Day kickoff luncheon sponsored by Salem Baptist Church, corner of Fifth and East Park Streets, Champaign.

She will speak in the church's fellowship hall on "Christian Women Sharing Their Faith." Mrs. Turley, a long-time resident of Champaign and member of Salem, received her B.S. in English from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

She received her master's degree in education from the University of Illinois. She has taught both high school and grade school in Illinois prior to retirement.

Mrs. Turley has served as past president of the Mt. Vernon Illinois Teachers' Association chapter and music chairman of the Mt. Vernon Washington School.

A board member of the American Association of Retired Persons, Mrs. Turley also is past vice-president and past president of the Champaign Area Retired Teachers' Association. She is a working member of the church and area missionary societies; and a member of the humane society and mental health group.

A series of three Pre-Women's Day services will be held

## Esther Turley Luncheon speaker

prior to the 35th Annual Women's Day April 9. Dates of the services and guest speakers are as follows:

5 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday—Guest speaker, Sister Mary Wright of Bethel AME Church.

6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday—Guest speaker, Sister Mary Scott of New Light Baptist Church, Rantoul.

7 to 7:30 p.m. Friday—Guest speaker, Rita Kahr from the U of I.

## BAPTIST OFFICERS

Rev. Albert T. Rowan, scated, pastor of the Salem Baptist Church, has been reelected president of the Wood River Congress at that group's meeting which ended here Friday. Stand-

ing are Dr. L. T. Phinnessee, moderator of the Congress! E. St. Louis and David Sayles, chairman of the board of the Salem Baptist Church.

## WED DEC 31 1975 SALEM BAPTIST TO INSTALL OFFICERS

New officers of the Salem Baptist Church will be installed at 4 p.m. Sunday.

They include L. T. Tinsley as chairman of the board of deacons, Theotto Bowles as chairman of the trustees, and James Wilson as superintendent of the Church School.

Juanita Johnson will be installed as president of the Women's Auxiliary. New trustees are Willie Dozier and Robert Lewis. Albert Alexander is president of the Laymen's Department.

W. Howe Donaldson is church pastor. Rev. B. J. Tatum and members of the Morning Star Freewill Baptist Church will be guests.

## BAPTIST CHURCH TO ORDAIN DEACON

Salem Baptist Church, 500 E. Park St., Champaign, will ordain a deacon and install church officers of 1972 at a service at 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

The deacon to be ordained is Theotto Bowles. The Rev. Albert Green, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Danville, and members of his congregation, will be guests at the afternoon service. He will give the sermon and give the charge to the new officers.

The service will be followed by a fellowship hour in the church's dining room. The Rev. W. Howe Donaldson is pastor.

## SALEM BAPTIST NAMES NEW DEACONS

New officers of the Salem Baptist Church installed recently are deacons, L. T. Tinsley, chairman; William McCoy, Carl Turley; James McKinley, James O. Wilson, Clarence Taylor, Theotto Bowles and Ottawa Scott. Otis M. Scott retired.

On trial are Verlon Buchanan, Roscoe Tinsley and Lee Melvin. Sam Gaines, Henry Johnson and Willie Harrington were named junior deacons.

TUE JAN 16 1973

## Church installs new officers

The Salem Baptist Church, 500 E. Park St., Champaign, has installed new church officers.

L. T. Tinsley was named chairman of the deacons. Sherman Oldham is vice chairman. Theotto Bowles will serve as chairman of the trustees.

Also installed were Veola Tinsley, church clerk; Willie Mae Holt, financial clerk; Betty Hassell, office secretary; William Miller, treasurer; and Charles Hassell, assistant treasurer. James O. Wilson will be superintendent of the church school.

The Rev. B. J. Tatum installed the officers Sunday. W. Howe Donaldson is church pastor.

The Salem Baptist Church at 500 E. Park, Champaign, was chosen for its historical interest, said Olsen. It was organized in 1867 and has been associated with the history of the

SUN OCT 23 1977  
"The windows are Romanesque," he said; "rounded at the top." And the building is designed with clean-edged masses of red brick. Olsen believes that the towers were designed to be identical, but that the one on the left was added to at a later date. He said that many European churches are built this way, as construction occurs over a period of many years and styles change.

The booklet "Historical Sites in Champaign County," notes that "the church has always been a cornerstone of the Black community, meeting political, social and religious needs."

### SALEM CHURCH CHORUS FETES 23rd ANNIVERSARY

The Gospel Chorus of Salem Baptist Church, 500 E. Park St., Champaign, will celebrate its 23rd anniversary Sunday with a program and dedication of new robes.

The program, open to the public with no admission charge, will be at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Mary Alexander is chairman. Mrs. Dorothy Lee is chorus president. The Rev. Albert T. Rowan is pastor.

### SALEM CHURCH HAS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

About 200 members of Salem Baptist Church attended the church's "half-way" banquet Friday night, marking the 50th anniversary of the church's founding.

Special recognition was given members of long standing. Mime Caldwell, Mary Stokes, Helen Hite, Anna Watson, David Savles, Albert McKinley and Ella Williams.

Special guests were the Rev. and Mrs. T. R. Edwards of Galesburg. The Rev. Mr. Edwards is moderator of the Iowa District Iowa Baptist Convention.

### SALEM BAPTISTS WILL FETE 100TH YEAR

The Salem Baptist Church in Champaign will be celebrating its 100th anniversary with a program Sunday afternoon in the church.

Speakers will be Rev. John Gardner of the Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in Masidson.

Chairman for the program is Mrs. Willie Holt

## Salem Baptist Church has 110th anniversary

The 110th anniversary of the Salem Baptist Church, 500 E. Park St., Champaign, will be observed Sunday.

Services will begin at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School. The rev. W. H. Donaldson, pastor, will speak at 11 a.m.

Afternoon services start at 5:30 p.m. and will include sermons by the Rev. Cecil A. Webb of Danville and the Rev. Morris Clark of Mattoon.

L.T. Tinsley will be honored as the longest-serving member of the board of deacons. Jasper Lewis will be honored as a former trustee. Willie Holt will be ordained to a deaconship.

## Donaldsons

### Churches to be cited

The Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Donaldson will be honored by the Salem Baptist Church congregation in appreciation services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Several other local congregations also will take part. The event will conclude the afternoon of July 11, with a service followed by a reception.

The Rev. Lundy Savage, pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, will speak.

The Rev. and Mrs. Donaldson recently attended the National Baptist Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress in Little Rock, Ark. He served as a research consultant at a pastors' seminary and Mrs. Donaldson worked with pastors' wives with the responsibility of setting up such an organization among local congregations.

## Salem Baptist to honor pastor on anniversary

The Salem Baptist Church, 500 E. Park Ave., Champaign, will observe the 14th anniversary of its pastor, the Rev. W. H. Donaldson, with services July 5 through 9.

Local churches will participate in the services honoring Donaldson and his wife, which will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, at the church.

The Bethel A.M.E. Church with the Rev. A. C. Wright and St. Luke C.M.E. Church with the Rev. Earl Kennedy will join in Wednesday night's service. Thursday the special guests will be the Morning Star Freewill Church with the Rev. James Underwood and the Rev. Williamson, and the Northside Church of Christ with the Rev. Key Sankey. Friday will feature the Mt. Olive Baptist Church with the Rev. Lundy

## Pastor to be honored

Appreciation services for the Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Donaldson at Salem Baptist Church will be climaxed Sunday with guests from Mattoon and Kewanee.

The Rev. Morris Clark, the former associate minister of Salem Church, will bring his congregation of the Second Baptist Church of Mattoon for the morning service.

The Rev. Cosby Johnson and his congregation from Second Baptist Church, Kewanee, will conduct the afternoon service.

The local churches participated in a kick-off program earlier in the week. A fellowship dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 2 p.m. Sunday. L. T. Tinsley is chairman of the event, assisted by Bernice McNeal.

## Church to honor pastor

The congregation of the Salem Baptist Church will celebrate the 13th anniversary of its pastor, the Rev. W. H. Donaldson, at 7:30 p.m. July 5 through 8 and 3:30 p.m. July 10.

Other churches will participate in the celebration. They are,

Tuesday — Mt. Olive Baptist Church, the Rev. Lundy Savage, pastor.

Wednesday — Grove Street Church of God in Christ, the Rev. Robert Rucker, pastor,

and the Greater Holy Temple Church, the Rev. Verdell Jones, pastor.

Thursday — New Light Baptist Church of Rantoul, the Rev. Matthew Scott, pastor.

Friday — Morningstar Freewill Baptist Church, the Rev. B. J. Tatum, pastor.

July 10 — 2nd Baptist Church, Mattoon; the Rev. Morris Clark, pastor, will speak at the morning service and the Rev. J.D. White of Zion Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, will speak at the 3:30 p.m. service.

# Salem Church Votes to Oust Rev. Moore

Members of the Salem Baptist Church, 500 E. Park Ave., voted to end the tenure of the Rev. A. B. Moore at a meeting held in the church Friday night.

The meeting was called by Calvin Pollard chairman of the church board of trustees and Sylvester Sayles, chairman of the Board of Deacons. The Rev. Mr. Moore was not present.

Except for one dissident member, the 35 persons present were unanimous in the action which included immediate removal from the position and two weeks' notice to vacate the parsonage. A telegram stating these terms was sent to the Rev. Mr. Moore immediately after the meeting.

The church has been the center of controversy for more than a year.

Rev. Moore reportedly caused an injunction to be issued ordering several members of the church to refrain from entering the building, and also sent letters telling them that they were no longer members of the congregation.

About half of those present Friday were recipients of the letter, one member said. In an effort to eradicate any effect of Rev. Moore's action, the Friday assemblage voted to return these persons to the congregation, although one man, Arnold Yarber, said that he believed that they had never been officially ousted.

The meeting was interrupted several times by Joe Cooper, who claimed that the members present were using the same railroading tactics that Rev. Moore was accused of.

After an abortive meeting Wednesday, Rev. Moore had claimed that he would tender his resignation at the Friday meeting. However, Sayles said that he had received no such resignation.

It was announced after Friday's meeting that the Rev. Morris Clark will be in the pulpit for Sunday.

# Salem Pastor Retained in Standing Vote

All 142 members of the Salem Baptist Church of Champaign attending a special meeting Monday night stood up as one, voting unanimously to retain the Rev. A. B. Moore as pastor.

"The controversy is closed," announced Deacon Sylvester Sayles, chairman of the board of deacons who served as moderator. The congregation "responded approvingly," notes a statement issued by board members afterward.

At issue at the meeting at the church, 500 E. Park St., was whether to retain or dismiss the Rev. Mr. Moore.

It followed, by about two weeks, a temporary injunction issued by Circuit Judge Frederick S. Green against the firing of the pastor.

On Oct. 26 the Rev. Mr. Moore received a telegram from a group of parishioners dismissing him as pastor and declaring "the pulpit vacant."

Immediately afterward, persons alleging to represent the majority of the church's board of trustees and the congregation filed the suit for a temporary injunction. The suit asked that the pastor be allowed to continue to conduct services without interference.

## Agree on Injunction

After a conference by attorneys representing both parties, the temporary injunction was agreed upon. A meeting of the congregation to resolve the issue was set then tentatively.

Joe Somers, member of the church who reported the results of the meeting Monday night, said that the members voted by standing, "which is the manner of voting commonly practiced on important issues in the Baptist Church."

"Never in the history of the church has there been a secret ballot," he stated. "The people didn't want to vote that way."

He added that no members of the group seeking the Rev. Mr. Moore's dismissal attended the meeting.

They did not represent the majority of the church members, he contended. "Anybody knows that the majority rules. It wasn't the majority of the people and it wasn't the sentiment of the people to dismiss him."

# Salem Pastor Offers His Resignation

Rev. A. B. Moore, pastor of the controversy - wracked Salem Baptist Church, said Thursday that his resignation will be in the hands of the board of deacons before Friday night.

"My wife and I have talked it over, and we have decided that this is the thing to do," the Rev. Mr. Moore said.

"Inasmuch as some of the people have made it impossible to do good work, this is our decision. I wrote my resignation on July 4, and I have been waiting to see if it was possible that the situation would improve."

The Rev. Mr. Moore said he would give 90 days notice.

"My contract calls for six months, but I am going to shorten this. It is possible that I will not continue that long," he said.

The Rev. Mr. Moore announced his decision following a meeting of the congregation he called for Wednesday night, which was largely attended.

"We tried to have our meeting, but we had to dismiss it," he explained.

Members of the opposing faction said that the meeting was opened with a statement by Rev. Moore, who then opened the meeting to questions. However, they said, when Arnold Yarbro arose to ask the first question, Rev. Moore led the congregation in singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" and dismissed the meeting.

The Rev. Mr. Moore had called Wednesday's meeting apparently to state his case before a previously called meeting of the congregation scheduled at 8 p.m. Friday to discuss his continued tenure. Call for this meeting was issued by Sylvester Sayles, chairman of the Board of Deacons and Calvin Pollard, chairman of the church Board of Trustees. Sayles and Pollard said Thursday that Friday's meeting would be held as scheduled.



# New Suit Asks Ouster Of Pastor

APR 1 1967  
One suit was settled Thursday afternoon but another has been filed in the squabble over whether or not the Rev. A. B. Moore is pastor of the Salem Baptist Church in Champaign.

Following a three-day trial before the bench, Circuit Court Judge Frederick S. Green ruled the Rev. Moore was not legally fired according to the church's constitution and by-laws.

When a meeting of dissatisfied church members was held Oct. 24, 1966, there was not "a respectable quorum present" as required in the by-laws, which were in full force and effect, Judge Green ruled.

The meeting at which a large majority of those present voted to oust Rev. Moore, resulted in the suit which charged the pastor was illegally holding the pulpit.

Retained by 142  
However on Nov. 14, 1966, 142 members, all those attending a special meeting, voted to retain him.

The new suit filed by James Cassells, Joe Lewis, Dorothy Hite and Willie Mae Williams against Rev. Moore and the church, contends a "respectable majority" was not present at the time Rev. Moore was hired.

The new suit further alleges that Rev. Moore "has seized, or attempted to seize, control of the funds and property including moneys, the church and parsonage."

It asks the court declare the pulpit vacant.

Supporters of Rev. Moore obtained a temporary injunction forbidding him from being fired. This was later dismissed by agreement, and the opposing group filed a counter-claim alleging he should be fired.

Judge Green held the present by-laws were legally adopted in 1955 and should prevail.

Should opponents of Rev. Moore show to the court's satisfaction there was not a "respectable majority" of the congregation's some 450 members present at the time it was decided to hire Rev. Moore, then presumably the new law suit will be demonstrated to have merit.

In a brief talk to the some 50 persons attending Thursday afternoon's court session, Judge Green warned that unless the by-laws are fully observed "you will be right back here in court."

Supporters of Rev. Moore have 30 days in which to answer the new suit.

Salem Baptist:

# Church Suit Decision Due This Week

JUL 20 1967  
A decision on the motion for summary judgment in the continuing hassle involving the Salem Baptist Church, Champaign, is expected sometime this week.

Associate Circuit Judge Creed Tucker has taken under advisement arguments heard before the court Monday afternoon.

The motion was filed by the Rev. A. B. Moore, the church's pastor, and the church against the plaintiffs in the case, James Cassell, Joe Lewis, Dorothy Hite and Willie Mae Williams.

It asks the court summarily rule in favor of the defendants.

The suit asks the court declare the pulpit vacant and that Rev. Moore "has seized, or attempted to seize, control of the funds and property including moneys, the church and parsonage."

JUL 26 1967  
At the basis of the hassle is a split in the congregation over whether or not Rev. Moore should be retained as pastor.

The matter has been in dispute since Oct. 24, when a group of dissatisfied church members voted to fire Rev. Moore. However, on Nov. 14, 142 members attending another meeting voted unanimously to retain him.

At an earlier hearing, Judge Frederick S. Green ruled that Rev. Moore was not legally fired according to the church's constitution and by-laws.

It was after this ruling that the present suit was filed.

Salem Baptist Dispute:

# Court Dismisses Rev. Moore Suit

The congregation of the Salem Baptist Church, of Champaign, has, in effect, been told by the court to settle its own dispute over the Rev. A. B. Moore. JUL 31 1967

In a decision handed down Monday by Associate Judge Creed Tucker, a suit brought to oust Rev. Moore was dismissed for want of equity.

Rev. Moore had made a motion for summary judgment, asking that the suit against him be dismissed. This was the motion ruled on favorably by Judge Tucker.

The congregation has been split since Oct. 24, when a group of church members met and voted to fire Rev. Moore. However, on Nov. 14, 142 members voted to retain him.

In his written opinion, Judge Tucker stated: "The court here makes no judgment concerning the written instrument purporting to be a signed Contract of Employment between A. B.

Moore and other persons whose church capacities appear beneath their signatures.

"Finally, there is a method set up within the By-Laws for handling 'special meetings of importance.' This may be followed by the church group itself.

"It is not for a court of equity to insinuate itself and its orders into the internal affairs of a church organization, even though so requested by some members, where the organization has provided for the government of its internal affairs.

"The remedy sought here, the retention or removal of the pastor, lies within the framework of the church By-Laws and must be pursued within the organization itself."

Robert C. Summers, attorney for the group seeking to oust Rev. Moore, said Monday he does not know whether or not his clients wish to appeal the decision to the Appellate Court.

## In Church Dispute Faction Still Backs Moore

A group which calls itself the loyal members of the Salem Baptist Church reportedly is seeking ways to bring back their deposed pastor, the Rev. Asa Moore. OCT. 1 1967

The Rev. Mr. Moore was ousted last July when a group of church members, angry over the operation of the church, gained control of the board. The pastor currently is living in Campbellsville, Ky.

Leaders of this group are asking church members to continue their membership by registering with the church clerk, Mrs. Margaret Burton, 2101 W. White St., Champaign Registration will continue through October. OCT. 1 1967

They have been meeting and holding services at 11 a.m. Sundays at Marquette School, with a visiting minister officiating.

The second faction, now in the church, reportedly is seeking a new pastor.

Salem Baptists

## Delay Action On Injunction

AUG 1 1967  
Action on a petition for an injunction, asked by ousted trustees and deacons of Salem Baptist Church, was postponed indefinitely Thursday by Associate Judge Creed Tucker.

The old board of trustees and deacons of the church asked that a new board elected last month by a portion of the split congregation be enjoined from running the church. The plaintiffs allege the defendants hold office illegally under the church constitution and have no right to spend church funds.

The congregation has been split over the issue of whether or not the Rev. Asa Moore should be retained as the church's pastor. Moore was fired by the new board.

Moore has a criminal charge of indecent liberties with a juvenile pending against him.

In court Thursday Judge Tucker continued the hearing for the injunction indefinitely. Tucker also asked petitioners for a complete list of the congregation members.

## Salem Baptists:

# Mark Pastor's 1st Year

The Salem Baptist Church is observing the first anniversary of the pastorate of the Rev. A. B. Moore in services at 7:45 p.m. each night this week.

Ministers and churches that will be guests each night are:

Monday, Greater Holy Temple Church with the Rev. William A. Melker and the Church of Christ with the Rev. Dudley Sankey; Tuesday, St. Luke CME Church with the Rev. A. W. Bishop and Pilgrim Baptist Church with the Rev. A. G. Gregory.

Wednesday, Mt. Olive Baptist Church with the Rev. J. E. Graves, Shiloh Baptist Church and the Rev. Ralma Sykes of Danville, Antioch Baptist Church and the Rev. H. P. Miller of Danville.

Thursday, St. Paul Baptist

Church and the Rev. Eugene Brandon of Danville, and Georgetown First Baptist Church and the Rev. G. H. Spence.

Friday, Bethel AME Church and the Rev. Blaine Ramsey, and the First Congregational Church and the Rev. Harry Applewhite.

Final program of the anniversary observance will be at 3 p.m. Sunday. Ministers and churches that will be guests will be the Rev. O. C. Turner and Antioch Baptist Church of Decatur; the Rev. McKinley Calhoun and Zion Baptist Church of Peoria, and the Rev. Cecil Webb and Second Baptist Church of Danville.

Mrs. Ruth Taylor is chairman and Mrs. Lucille Clark, co-chairman.

## Salem Dispute:

# Church Votes On Pastor

The congregation of Salem Baptist Church is to vote on whether or not to "rehire" its pastor, the Rev. A. B. Moore, the subject of an injunction in Circuit Court NOV 10 1968

The congregational meeting to decide the matter has been agreed upon by both parties, it is reported.

The meeting to take a vote by secret ballot is scheduled for 8 p.m. Monday at the church.

An agreed-upon temporary injunction had been issued in Circuit Court against the firing of the pastor of Salem Church, 500 E. Park St., Champaign.

According to the suit, Helen Hite, who "claims to be church clerk" notified the Rev. Mr. Moore on Oct. 26 that "by order of the church," the congregation "by formal vote declared the pulpit vacant."

The temporary injunction was filed by persons alleging to represent the majority of the church's board of trustees and a majority of the congregation against Helen Hite and others. It asked that the Rev. Mr. Moore be allowed to continue to conduct services without interference

# Installation Of Salem 1969 Pastor Set

Installation services for the Rev. W. Howe Donaldson, who has returned as pastor of Salem Baptist Church after serving here in 1949-53, will be at 4 p.m. Sunday, climaxing a week of night services in which community pastors and congregations participate.

The Rev. Cecil Webb of Danville will give the charge to the pastor. Approximately 100 guests from Davenport, Iowa, E. Moline, Rock Island, Peoria and Danville are expected.

Preceding the service, at 2 p.m., dinner will be served at 2 p.m. in the church dining room. After the installation service will be a fellowship hour. Speaker at the 11 a.m. service Sunday will be the Rev. Morris Clark, associate pastor.

Beginning Wednesday night with services led by the Rev. James C. Offutt, the installation events continued Thursday night with services conducted by the Rev. William Melker.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday the Rev. Arthur Burks, pastor of Free-will Baptist Church will officiate. Members of his church and of St. Luke's CME Church will participate.

Arnold L. Yarber is general chairman for the installation activities.

**Church PASTOR CALLED**  
**Rev. Donaldson Asked to Return To Salem Baptist Church**  
 The Rev. W. Howe Donaldson, who served as pastor of Salem Baptist Church from 1949 to 1953, has been asked to return to the pulpit there.  
 A congregation meeting at the church, attended by about 60 persons, Thursday night issued the call to the Rev. Mr. Donaldson, who currently is serving as pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church in East Moline.  
 The Rev. W. Donaldson will visit the church Nov. 1, at which time a final decision probably will be made, said Mrs. Helen Hite, church clerk.  
 Sylvester Sayles, chairman of the board of deacons, presided at Thursday's meeting.

## CONGREGATION MEETING

Nov 10 1968

### New Pastor to Be Discussed At Salem Baptist

A special meeting of the congregation of Salem Baptist Church will be held Thursday to discuss candidates for new pastor of the church.

The meeting, to be held at 8 p.m. at the church, 500 E. Park St., was called by Sylvester Sayles, chairman of the pulpit committee.

Only members who have registered will be allowed to participate, Sayles said. Registration is in progress now.

At church services Sunday, at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., the guest speaker will be the Rev. Roger Culberson, of Chanute AFB.



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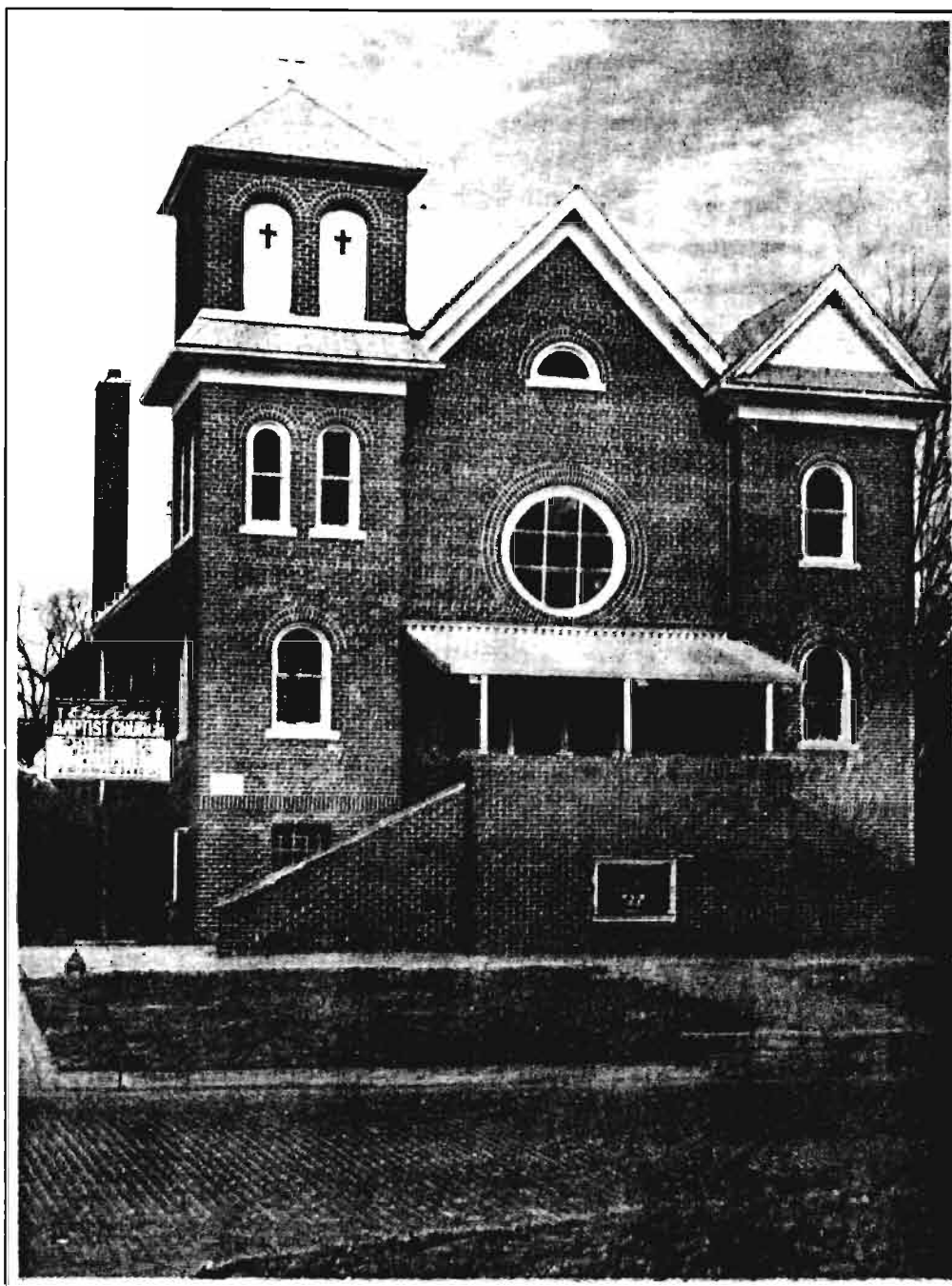
News-Gazette Photo by John Keller

**BURN CHURCH MORTGAGE.** Salem Baptist Church congregation burned the mortgage for its educational annex Sunday afternoon, just 10 years ahead of schedule. Attending the ceremony were all four pastors of the church who have served here during and since the construction of the annex. Left to right are,

back, Rev. W. H. Donaldson, Peoria, former Salem pastor; Rev. Eugene H. Williams, Waterloo, Ia., former Salem pastor; Rev. A. T. Rowan, pastor. Front, Mary Stokes and Ella Williams, both original members of the congregation; and David Sayles, chairman of the Board of Deacons.

Linda P. ... his match this past w ... Carl ...

# Mission: Freedom



News-Gazette Photo By John C. Dixon

Salem Baptist Church in Champaign: the church once broke apart over the issue of slavery

## Black churches have history of activism

By Paul Wood  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

**I**t didn't hit home with James Offutt that Champaign had a big gang problem until one night when he was sitting on his porch near Douglass Park.

There was noise and confusion and the musical director of his church came out and said, "It's the Satan Lovers."

"I dodged a few bullets settling a few of their fights," says Offutt, who was the pastor at Mount Olive Baptist Church in the late '60s.

From the work that Offutt and other ministers did with frustrated and powerless people came many of the social programs that help this community today.

Champaign has a history of active black churches that try to deal with prejudice from without and divisiveness from within. Two churches, Salem Baptist and Bethel African Methodist Episcopal, date back to the Civil War — with a nearly continuous mission of social activism, according to a former Salem pastor.

**THE ISSUE OF** which church is older remains in doubt. Bethel has been in the 400 block of East Park Street since about 1863, according to board member Esther Phillips Kent, but church records before 1880 are lost. Informal records suggest people held prayer meetings at Jake Taylor's house, 405 E. Park St., before the Civil War.

Salem Baptist, 500 E. Park St., dates back to 1864 or

1866, or even earlier — it all depends on how "founding" is defined. A Baptist church for "coloured worshippers" goes back to 1856, when Champaign was called West Urbana. That church broke up over the issue of slavery.

The anti-slavery faction continued to meet in Bailey's Hall on North Neil Street, but only in the afternoons because a Methodist church had morning rites.

"The Council of Recognition is where Salem really began," says the Rev. William Donaldson, pastor emeritus of Salem.

In 1864, Champaign Baptist began services on East University Avenue and another group worshiped at Old Coffee Place, 406 E. Park St. The council raised funds for a permanent church, to be called Second Baptist, which opened in 1866 near the current location. It was later renamed and rebuilt, after a fire, in 1902.

Stella Lyde, 96, remembers church services on White Street when she was a young girl.

"It seemed like Salem had more than one place to meet back then," she says.

**THE ACTUAL CHURCH** buildings are not as important, Bethel's Kent says, as the beginnings of the black church.

"The educational opportunities provided by the AME," she says, "were the only such opportunities for blacks for a century. That was a true beginning of the church's movement."

See CHURCH

# Churches

(Continued from C-1)

The African Methodist Episcopal denomination celebrates its bicentennial this year. In 1787, Richard Allen and a friend were worshipping at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

According to different histories, they either sat in the white balcony or were actually pulled back from the altar; either way, Allen and his friend left the church, taking its other black members, and founded the A.M.E., which now numbers more than 1 million.

"It was the first freedom march," Kent says.

**CHAMPAIGN HAS FOLLOWED** a national trend in which the clergy — Martin Luther King and Jesse Jackson among them — moved to the forefront in civil rights and inspired their parishioners to follow them.

The Rev. Blaine Ramsey and the Rev. A.T. Rowan helped consolidate the local movement in the '50s, when blacks were still unable to buy houses in some subdivisions, had special sections in movie theaters and were relegated to an isolated ward at a local hospital.

"Pilgrim then saw the rights movement as an expansion of its spiritual values," says the Rev. W.B. Keaton of Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, 1310 N. Sixth St., C.

"We sent a couple of deacons — Lonnie Johnson, Nathan Butts, they're both gone now — to Alabama to march with Dr. King. They went with the full spirit and strength of the church behind them."

"The civil rights movement would not have been as strong without the religious community and that includes white men, and it includes all faiths," says Jesse Perkins, an activist who helped found OIC.

**PERKINS WAS A MEMBER** of the congregation at Mount Olive Baptist Church, 808 E. Bradley Ave., C, during the intensive years when

James Offutt was pastor. He remembers gang members in the balcony at services.

"Mount Olive took the lead in a forceful way during the '60s," Pilgrim MB's Keaton says.

Offutt, who left Mount Olive to move to Peoria, remembers the late '60s as a time of excitement.

"I'm afflicted with nostalgia," he says. "It was an exciting, dangerous and hopeful time, both with the rights struggle and the fight against the Vietnam-Cambodia war."

He remembers how the church brought students, black and white, to sing together, then sent them back to make stands for racial equality, such as a lengthy sit-in at the University of Illinois Illinois Union.

When Offutt and other ministers held a memorial service for Martin Luther King on April 7, 1968, more than 3,000 people showed up in West Side Park to share their grief and to contribute money, some of it going to Atlanta and some staying within the community.

The congregation expanded its mission to "economic justice," Offutt remembers.

"We struggled mightily against the vicious cycle of welfare. There were physical and material needs that had to be met along with those spiritual ones. Black men were simply not there in the home situation to fulfill their financial responsibilities or to provide role models."

Their programs were ambitious, he says, perhaps too ambitious. Mount Olive Manor, a housing project initiated by the church, was to provide housing that encouraged solid family life.

"It's easy to see in retrospect that might not have been the wisest thing, because there were just too many people in that small area," Offutt admits.

**THE MOVEMENT HAD** more than its share of successes, according to Perkins, and those successes encouraged good feeling across racial



lines.

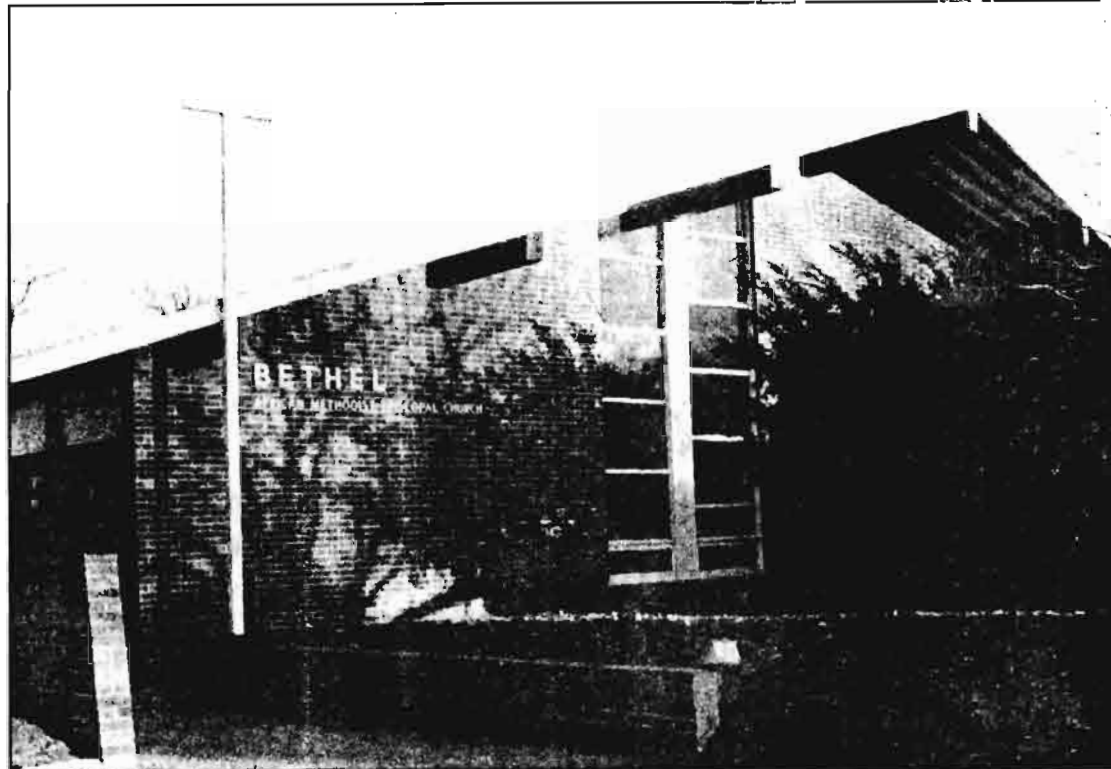
"I think one of the things you have to remember about this time is that black people and white people were working together more efficiently than they now do."

There were main-line white clergymen, he says, notably the Rev. Galen Miller, and white businessmen who put up badly needed money.

"When we were just getting started and waiting for the federal money, some of the local companies would come in and help out. Homer Bash always was there to help. OIC got most of its money for the first two years from a fund-raising effort by (newspaper publisher) Mike Chinigo."

OIC remains the proudest achievement of Mount Olive's Offutt.

"The commitment to fleshing out my faith as Christian meant responding to the needs of people, and my biggest concern was with the young people. I spent a lot of time with gang members and bailed out a few of them. Then OIC came along and there was a constructive



News-Gazette staff photos

At left is the Rev. William Donaldson. Above is Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

way out."

**AFTER OFFUTT LEFT**, Mount Olive changed its focus — and so did other black churches.

"The average person is not as cognizant of racism today because that racism is more sophisticated," says Pilgrim MB's Keaton, who was disappointed with what he calls the "tendency to apathy" he found here in 1969 after helping found Operation Breadbasket in Chicago.

"Usually it takes some tragedy or mishap — and that's almost inevitable — before anybody takes action. What's happening in the courts today is too sophisticated and subtle to arouse the people."

Offutt makes regular trips here from Peoria to check on OIC's progress.

"The thing that breaks my heart when I come back," he says, "is the lack of community involvement. Racism is still there; it's just more respectable. The gangs are still there, too, but they've switched in to drugs and prostitution."

"We've lost a great deal of church support we have not been able to recapture," Perkins says, "and that's crippling when it joins with the cutbacks in federal funding."

**YEARS AFTER HE** retired from Salem Baptist, Donaldson continues to work for better communication and more cooperation between blacks and whites, especially through programs at Urbana's non-denominational Empty Tomb.

He is hopeful, but wary. "We make pretenses that we're

going to get together. That's as far as we go."

Just as blacks move into white subdivisions but rarely vice versa, middle-class blacks often leave their churches for white ones. But he rarely sees white people at Salem Baptist.

"It's been said that Sunday morning at 11 is the most segregated hour in America. We go to Africa, we go to India, but we don't go across the street."

How can that change?

"It won't change until we set an example," he answers. "I blame the leadership of the churches when I see an apathetic flock. They don't want to take any chances, but they have to — Jesus was a revolutionary, and to follow him has its costs."

# Grandmothers dish out love and soup

■ Prayer group begins meals to feed hungry

By GREG KLINE

News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Not long ago, Alvena Monroe saw a man going through the trash at a McDonald's in Urbana looking for something to eat.

"That pricked my heart," Monroe, 58, of Champaign said Saturday. "I've been hungry before. When I was a girl, we didn't have much."

Monroe decided to do something about it, and she knew just where to go for help.

Who better to serve up a meal to hungry folks than a bunch of grandmothers?

Monroe, who used to cook for a University of Illinois fraternity, hit on the idea of opening a soup kitchen for people in need of a good meal.

She took it to her prayer group, Grandmas Community Prayer Outreach.

The group, organized about

two years ago, includes 20 to 30 women from various local churches who meet twice a month to pray and do good works such as visiting nursing homes and teaching Bible classes.

The women — most of whom are, in fact, grandmas — liked the idea of opening a soup kitchen for the needy.

"We prayed over it," said Mary McClendon, 67, of Champaign. "I think it's wonderful."

So did the Rev. Claude Shelby Sr. of the Salem Baptist Church, 500 E. Park Ave., C, who agreed to let the grandmas use the church's fellowship hall and kitchen.

"I thought of it as something that would be very good for our community, . . . provide needed assistance for the homeless and maybe others who aren't necessarily homeless but need a meal," he said.

The women took up donations and spread the word at places such as the Salvation Army shelter.

See **GRANDMOTHERS**, A-10



News-Gazette photo by Rod Veal

Eddie Palmer, 87, standing, confers with Alvena Monroe, 58, at the Salem Baptist Church, 500 E. Park Ave., C. The Grandmas Community Prayer Outreach held its first soup kitchen meal Saturday.

9 July 1995  
N.G.

# Grandmothers

Continued from A-1

Then they got down to cooking Friday night and Saturday morning.

The bill of fare for the first meal Saturday at noon included ample helpings of vegetable soup, simmering in 20-quart pots, homemade corn bread, cake and punch.

"I know it's all freshly cooked," said 87-year-old Eddie Palmer of Champaign, who tied on a red, green and white Christmas apron in preparation for serving the food.

"It's a lot of good fresh vegetables," Monroe added. "We didn't

just dump cans."

As much as a meal, each person who came into the church basement got a grandmotherly greeting, the kind that says "You're welcome here and I couldn't be happier to see you."

And if there were about as many grandmas as diners this time, at least it was a start.

Monroe said the women wanted to host the meals twice a month as long as there's no conflict with church activities.

"We just want people to come," she said. "I told the grandmas if they don't come we're sure gonna have a lot to eat."

## Church notes pastor's 10th anniversary

Salem Baptist Church will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its pastor, the Rev. Dr. Claude Shelby Sr., at 4 p.m. Sunday at the church, 500 E. Park St., C.

The Rev. O.C. Turner of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Decatur, and moderator of the Wood River District, will speak on the theme "Laborers Together With God." Sister Mary Gwinn will speak at an anniversary prayer breakfast, sponsored by the Deaconesses of Salem, at 8 a.m. Saturday.



**SHELBY**

The Rev. Shelby came to Salem on Aug. 28, 1981, from Bridgeton Missionary Baptist Church of St. Louis County, Mo. He was ordained in June 17, 1960, at Southern Tabernacle Baptist Church of Lovejoy.

He received his diploma in Theological Seminary in 1962, a bachelor of liberal studies in theology from St. Louis University and a master of science in education from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. He received the Doctor of Divinity degree in December 1981 from New World Bible Institute of Hayti, Mo.

Since coming to Salem, his leadership has increased membership; a new member class was started as well as a Sunday School staff training class; and Operation Excellence, an educational assistance program, was organized. Gov. James Thompson appointed Shelby to serve on the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Council during the fall of 1985.

Shelby, with the help of area pastors and laypersons, held the first observance of the national holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 20, 1986. He brought to the church a three- to five-year building plan, which has been accepted by the church. The ground for this project was broken on June 10, 1990, and the actual construction is planned for this fall.

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH



# Salem Baptist Church to mark 130 years

By JASON CARSON WILSON  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Salem Baptist Church will celebrate its 130th anniversary on Sunday.

Salem's pastor, the Rev. Claude Shelby Sr., will speak at the 11 a.m. Sunday service.

The Rev. Courtney Jones, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in St. Louis, will speak at the 4 p.m. service.

Church clerk Veola Tinsley

5/25/96  
said Salem's founders, including Susan Franklin Johnson, Kitty Lee, T.J. Shore, J.W. Randolph, Anna Randolph, Martin Dandridge and Sarah Bromwell, began holding services in an old coffeehouse at 406 E. Park St., C, in 1866.

At that time, the church, then known as Second Baptist Church, had only 29 members.

Tinsley said the congregation met there until it burned down

during the late 1860s.

After the fire, they met in each other's homes until the church moved to its present location, 500 E. Park Ave., C, in 1908.

Upon coming to the new building, members decided the church needed a new name. From then on, it became known as Salem Baptist Church, the church clerk said.

Tinsley said the building was

designated as a local historical landmark by the Champaign County Bicentennial Commission in 1976.

Although the church started out with fewer than 30 members, its congregation now numbers about 300. Several building changes have been made to accommodate the growth. In 1956, an addition to the 1908 structure was erected. In 1993, a new sanctuary was built.

# Salem looks to its past, future

## ■ Cornerstone event marks year in new building

By The News-Gazette

CHAMPAIGN — Salem Baptist Church members have laid a cornerstone for the church's year-old sanctuary.

About 150 people attended a service and ceremony Sunday at the church, 500 E. Park St., C.

The Rev. John L. Gibson, pastor of Rising Sun Missionary Baptist Church in Peoria, said the cornerstone's symbolic function was "to bring others to Jesus Christ."

Among nine items placed in the cornerstone were a program from Sunday's service, a photograph of church members standing on the new edifice's founda-

tion in March 1992 and a program for the funeral of Theotto Bowles, Salem's oldest member at the time of his death.

Salem Baptist began planning for a new sanctuary and related facilities in late 1983. The church started with about \$20,000 in a "dream fund." Church members began adding to that and borrowed the rest from the Bank of Illinois, according to Salem's pastor, the Rev. Claude E. Shelby Sr.

Groundbreaking took place June 3, 1990, to coincide with the church's 124th anniversary. Construction started in September 1991.

Workers — including many church members and other volunteers — began putting up the 13,866-square-foot addition in March 1992.

The new sanctuary was dedi-

cated Aug. 22, 1993. It cost about \$700,000, not including volunteer labor.

The Church Co. of St. Louis had started as construction manager, but Shelby eventually took over those duties.

The new addition was built of red brick to match the old church building, which was designated a historic site by the Champaign County Bicentennial Commission.

Shelby said his 400-member congregation continues to use the old building. Plans are to develop a Family Life Center in the old church, with exercise programs for families and recreation for children.

A new sanctuary was needed because the old church was not easily accessible to the disabled and some of the elderly, according to Shelby.

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# America's hope lies with blacks, minister says

SUN FEB 21 1971

*Churches*  
By Darlene Napady  
Of The Courier

Because of their long suffering as a race, blacks are best equipped to salvage American culture, members of Salem Baptist Church and guests were told Friday.

For the second consecutive year, the Rev. C. T. Vivian, currently head of the Black Center for Community Strategy, spoke at the annual Brotherhood Banquet of the Champaign church.

Although those present totaled fewer than last year's overflow crowd, more than 100 persons heard the Rev. Mr. Vivian define the central question as "not what America is like, but who are we?"

"We who have taken ourselves lightly have become the single most important factor in American life today," he said.

"And our answer to this question is central not only for saving ourselves but for saving a culture," he added.

Using a Biblical comparison, the Rev. Mr. Vivian said blacks are like the rejected stone that becomes the cornerstone.

"It is a sociological fact that the rejected stone becomes the cornerstone because a culture seeks that which it had rejected as a means of saving itself," he said.

Having been long rejected, blacks know what America is really like, he continued.

#### Best critics

"We are America's best critics because we have created the only cultural style it can call its own.

"The young gravitate toward black dance, music and style.

"Those who have created a country's culture can best speak to the country's needs."

In the respect, he said, "no one is more radical than us." because "there is something about black style that cuts

through nonsense and gets to the core of the problem.

Other radical elements, he went on, are not in a position to find an answer to America's human problems.

"The realization by white student radicals of what America is really like so blew their minds that they try to destroy it the way it has destroyed them," he said, citing the many bombing and attempted bombings in recent months.

"We need to be critics, but we can't be bitter because critics must have a sense of who they are as human beings," he said.

Unless blacks are successful, he warned, "not only will we go down the drain but so will all America, because America cannot save itself."

This does not mean, he added, that others do not have contributions to make or that the contributions of others are without meaning.

But mankind now is at a new crisis. Once Eastern man had been its salvation by giving the world great religions.

Then Western man discovered the technology to produce the physical things it needed.

Now, African man must show man how to live with one another.

African man is equipped for this task, he said, because in the true African culture a man will not go to work until he has resolved his differences with his neighbor.

American blacks, furthermore, cannot ignore this task because "this is the only land we have and the only land we are likely to ever have," he said.

Rev. Mr. Vivian was accompanied by his wife, Octavia, the author of a book on Coretta King, widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

# Control, unity, identity needed for black 'arrival'

By Darlene Napady  
Of The Courier

Blacks must have control, unity, and identity if they are to "arrive" as well as "survive," the Rev. C. T. Vivian told the Salem Baptist Church 16th annual Brotherhood banquet Friday.

The Rev. Mr. Vivian made only brief references to his activities as coordinator of a coalition for United Community Action, which recently forced Chicago area building trades unions to agree to admit more blacks.

Instead he hammered away at the underlying philosophy of the black movement for equal rights and benefits.

Neither prominent leaders nor national organizations can produce true freedom for black Americans, he warned.

"Only two things are clear; first, we must remake where we are, because this is the only land we have and are likely to have; and second, what really matters is what happens at the local level," he said.

"In Martin Luther King Jr. we created the greatest voice this nation has ever heard, we created a national movement, we marched 100,000 strong, we brought into being national legislation, yet all this still did not bring us freedom."

"Don't wait for another Martin Luther King," he warned. "No one can free us because we must free ourselves."

"The national organizations all are in shambles, so SCLC, CORE, NAACP, and the rest

of the alphabet soup will not be able to save you."

This brought the first of many rounds of applause from the several hundred persons gathered at the church.

The Rev. Mr. Vivian called for complete control by blacks over their own land, programs, priorities and problems.

"The police who now roam our soil are there to protect white property not black lives," he said.

"The average white policeman is racist to the core and has no respect for black lives. I'm not saying that all whites are racists, but just that so few of them are not that we cannot allow them to control our lives."

Besides control, blacks must have unity if they are to make themselves felt.

"This doesn't have to be 100 per cent unity, but it should be at least 80 per cent unity. The other 20 per cent should keep their mouths shut."

"In Chicago we dragged the building trades unions, one of the most powerful institutions in the nation, to the table because we had unity. We didn't get everything we want, but we did get a decision."

Because blacks still lack a sense of identity, the third necessity, they are vulnerable to white society.

"A man who doesn't know who he is will be used and misused by those who know who they are."

"White people know how important we are, but we don't know it yet. If you don't know

your own history the same games get played on you time and time again."

"You and I are stronger than we think because we have survived despite everything done to destroy us. We now must channel that strength so that we can arrive as well as survive."

Blacks, furthermore, are the salvation of the Christian faith and American society, the Rev. Mr. Vivian said.

He warned his audience not imitate the "white, dead church," or "you, too, are dead."

"We live in a society that knows how to make things but not how to make us live together. We need the white man's things, but he needs our soul."

"They need us worse than we need them. We will not reject them but neither will we allow the evil man to be in control of the good man's house."

# The Cover

**SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH, 500 East Park Street, Champaign.**

The Salem Baptist Church was organized as the Second Baptist Missionary Church in 1867 by Susan Franklin Johnson, Kitty Lee, T. J. Shores, J. W. Randolph and Martin Dandrage. A lot at the corner of Fifth and Park in Champaign was purchased in 1869 and a frame building erected. When this burned, a second was built on Clark Street. The name was changed to Salem Baptist about 1900. The present church building, on the original site, is designed of simple, clean-edged masses of red brick.

The church has always been a cornerstone of the Black community, meeting political, social and religious needs.

## 80 Mobile Homes For Sale

One 12X60 Forrest Park, one 10X40 New Moon, owner will finance to responsible person, at less than bank interest rates. 1-893-8559.

1975 Bendix double wide, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, underplined and skirting, on a nice lot in Candlewood. \$13,900. Phone anytime, 1-394-2065.

Must sell moving out of State, by December, 1973 Dorado, 12x65, 2 bedrooms, unfurnished, step-up kitchen and Master bedroom. Call 1-379-2990.

Essex 12x65 with expando, 2 bedrooms, dining room, appliances, take over payments. 1-584-4150.

Beautiful 12 X 65 Schutt, 7 X 11 living room expando, built-in dishwasher and trash compactor, new refrigerator, front porch with awning, back porch

MAGNOLIA 24x54, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, large living room, excellent condition, must be moved. Phone 217-784-5247.

1973 CRITERION, 12 X 60, 2 bedrooms, raised living room ceiling, carpeting throughout, draperies, tie-downs, anchored, and underskirting. 359-0958.

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**FIRE YOUR LANDLORD...STOP COLLECTING RENT RECEIPTS! BUY A HOME OF YOUR OWN AND BUILD EQUITY EVERY MONTH FOR YOUR FUTURE...** For as little as \$1,000 down and \$163.95 a month you can own a new 770 sq.ft., 2 bedroom home; for \$500 down and \$165 monthly you can lease-purchase a used 790 sq.ft., 3 bedroom home. Lot payments of \$75 include use of clubhouse-post-gamerooms, water, twice weekly trash pickup, MTD bus service and snow removal. **COLUMBIA VILLAGE IS THE PLACE**

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front living room, two bedrooms in Columbia Village. row #1877

**ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME** new Horizon with front living rooms located on corner lot. Tom Blair. 351-3050. #1908

**OWNER MUST MOVE** two bedroom double wide, 1200 central air on a large lot, stove, refrigerator, and disposal. #1948

**LORAL PARK** three bedroom Magnolia with two redwood p in one of Urbana's quieter parks. Tom Blair 351-3050. #1919

**TREES AND LANDSCAPING** set off this special home on a lot in Columbia Village. Three bedrooms, two baths, conv sliding and shingle roof. One of the best. Tom Blair 351-

**WOOD TREATMENT** on exterior sets off this two bedroom special value. Only 728 square feet — could be best buy ing retirement home. Urbana location. Mark Anderson 1798

**CARRIAGE ESTATE PARK** two bedroom home is just a Large kitchen with lots of storage and

MORTGAGE BURNING COMMITTEES

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Program

Deacon L. T. Tinsley, Chrmn.  
Mrs. Ann Thompson  
Miss Carol Alexander  
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In Charge of

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Mrs. Helen Hite, women  
Bro. Robert McGraw, men

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Clean-Up

Salem Baptist Brotherhood

Finance Committee

Deacon David Sayles  
Trustee Jasper Lewis  
Deacon Otis Scott  
Deacon James O. Wilson  
Trustee Theotto Bowles

Kitchen

Salem Baptist Usher Board

Publicity

Rev. Cecil Webb

Historical

Mrs. Velma Colley, Chrmn.  
Mrs. Veola Tinsley

We are blessed at Salem with Pastor A. T. Rowan; Rev. Cecil Webb, assistant pastor; Rev. C. E. Campbell, Rev. G. T. Williams, and Rev. Clarence Thomas, associate ministers. These faithful ministers are an asset to our church and community.



# First Column

by CHUCK FLYNN  
NEWS-GAZETTE EDITOR

*Champaign  
Salem Baptist Church*

17 October 1976

## Council Organizes Church

A Council of Recognition was formed and met twice in the fall of 1864. Influential in its activities was Rev. S. F. Gleason of Bethel Church in Mahomet.

On Nov. 28, 1864, the church, fully organized and recognized, began its work as Champaign Baptist Church. First services were held in a hall owned by Joseph T. Everett on University avenue "east of the tracks." Soon lots were purchased at the corner of Park and State streets and a church was built there. Great assistance in fund raising came from a young member, Fred Heimlicher.

The church, having been named as Salem Baptist in 1866, continued in the Park and State location until 1899 when the original structure of the present church was built. It since has had many alterations and enlargements, including installation of a pipe organ in February 1926, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence A. Lloyd, in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D.H. Lloyd, who had been members of Salem Baptist almost from its beginning.

"While the church has had its ups and downs," Rev. Donaldson observed, "it has performed a wonderful ministry to the communities. Throughout its history Salem Baptist has been close to the University of Illinois and to the black students there." Among outstanding students who were members of Salem, Rev. Donaldson recalls Mary Frances Vainado Walden, Leonard Watson, Don Stevens, and from University administration, Asst. Vice-Chancellor Walter Strong.

## Champions Of Civil Rights

He credits two pastors, Rev. Eugene H. Williams (1956-61) and Rev. A.T. Rowan (1961-64) with exerting "great influence" during civil rights activities which had bearing upon improvement of social and economic conditions for blacks on the campus and in the communities.

I asked Rev. Donaldson to look ahead 100 years to envision what Salem Baptist Church may be in 2076. "With the inroads being made today upon our church structure, it is a good question whether churches, as we know them, will survive," he said. "I think they will but perhaps not in the form we know at present. I am concerned as are many people about the deterioration of respect for the church as indicated in our disrespect for the Sabbath and for conventional morality."

At the age of 74, in the zenith of his career, Rev. Donaldson looks ahead with optimism, however, and with faith that what has been accomplished by Salem Baptist Church can be continued. His philosophy, he says, is best expressed in this bit of verse entitled "The Bridge Builder."

An old man, travelling a lone highway,  
Came at evening, worn and gray,  
To a chasm, far, deep and wide.  
The old man stopped on the other side  
To build a bridge to span the tide.  
"Hey!" said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your time building here.  
Your journey ends with the close of day,  
You never again shall pass this way."  
The old man lifted his gray head  
And in the twilight, calmly said:  
"There follows after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
And the chasm that meant but naught for me  
To this fine youth may a pitfall be.  
So, I pause here in the twilight dim,  
My friend, I'm building this bridge for him!"

"I may not carry out this mission, but it is my fervent hope that it will be done!" The Rev. William Howe Donaldson spoke as we talked about aspirations of Salem Baptist Church which next Sunday will observe its 110th anniversary of service to the communities of Champaign and Urbana.

The mission to which Rev. Donaldson referred is the building of a new church for the congregation of 300. The basis for hope lies in a "Dream Fund," now \$5,000, to accomplish the task. Rev. Donaldson has served as pastor of Salem Baptist on two occasions, from 1949 to 1953 and from 1968 to the present.

His tenure is second only to that of Rev. W. H. Stedman, who was pastor from 1894 to 1903. It was the Rev. Mr. Stedman who directed efforts to build a church dedicated in 1900 and records say he had "one of the most prosperous pastorates in the history of the church."

Rev. Donaldson also has been a driving force to make Salem Baptist a significant part of the religious life in this area. Cast in a different time span, his accomplishments have been none-the-less effective. Small in stature — he stands 5-5 and weighs 178 — the pastor looms large for influence upon his congregation, for a strong youth movement, and widespread public service.

## Changed Atmosphere For Blacks

He foresees many problems before the dream church can be built. They are not all financial. "There has been quite a change in the atmosphere for black people in these communities. In 1949-50, virtually every member of Salem Baptist lived within walking distance of the church at 500 East Park. Now, the membership is spread out all over the cities. The parsonage, for example, is at 1712 South Prospect. We provide bus transportation to services. A resounding question about a new church is where it should be located."

The pastor has many fine people to assist him in making these decisions. L. T. Tinsley is chairman of the board of directors, Sherman Oldham, vice-chairman. Other directors are James A. Wilson, who heads the Sunday school program; Clarence Taylor, Theotto Bowles, Verlon Buchanan, R.E. Goines, James McKinley, Carl Turley and Willie Herington. Bowles is chairman of the trustees who include Robert Lewis, George Bigham, William Miller, Charles Hassell, Willie Holt, Albert Alexander and Millard Gray.

## Anniversary Scheduled Oct. 24

The anniversary sermon Oct. 24 will be given by the Rev. Cecil A. Webb, son of former pastor Rev. A. S. Webb, who served the church from 1938 to 1948. Also on the rostrum will be Rev. Morris Clark. Both are products of Salem Baptist and are engaged in ministries at Danville and Mattoon, respectively.

First efforts to form a Baptist Church in Champaign-Urbana began as early as 1856 when Champaign was known as West Urbana. For a year or two under the leadership of Rev. A. L. Farr the church prospered. Then the atmosphere became charged with enmities growing out of moral issues of slavery. The membership drifted apart with the advent of the Civil War.

A Rev. W. T. Green continued to preach to Baptists, however, in Bailey's Hall on North Neil Street. Services were held on Sunday afternoons since the Methodist Church occupied the hall in mornings and evenings. In 1864 a Rev. Alexander Cummings brought together 10 men and 14 women who had indicated a desire to organize themselves into a Baptist church.



# The Baptist General State Convention OF ILLINOIS SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH JUNE 4 to 10, 1923

## PROGRAM

1. Music by the Salem Choir.
2. Invocation—Rev. A. McKee, Pastor Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Champaign.
3. Welcome in behalf of the Sunday School—Miss Virginia Smith.
4. Welcome in behalf of B. Y. U.—Mr. J. W. Harwell.
5. Vocal Solo—Mrs. Lena Jordan, Mt. Olive Baptist Church.
6. Welcome in behalf of W. H. and F. M. Society—Mrs. H. J. Wells.
7. Welcome in behalf of Y. W. Missionary Society—Miss Alice Baxter.
8. Welcome in behalf of Junior Missionary Society—Miss Willa Mae Nelson.
9. Instrumental Solo—Mrs. Mildred Graves.
10. Welcome in behalf of Salem Baptist Church—Mrs. L. B. Benton.
11. Welcome in behalf of Mt. Olive Baptist Church—Miss A. M. Sprights.
12. Vocal Duett—Mesdames Ollie Rogers and L. McHaney.
13. Welcome in behalf of Ministerial Alliance—Rev. J. W. Jacobs.
14. Welcome in behalf of Inter-City Ministers' Association—Rev. H. A. Keck.
15. Welcome in behalf of Twin City Baptist Church—Rev. C. C. Long, Urbana, Ill.
16. Music by Junior Choir.
17. Welcome in behalf of Physicians—H. E. Rowan, M.D.
18. Welcome in behalf of Business Men—Mr. Albert Lee.
19. Welcome in behalf of Chamber of Commerce, Champaign—Mr. J. E. Filson.
20. Welcome in behalf of W. C. T. U.—Mrs. M. Snyder, President, Urbana.
21. Welcome in behalf of Fraternities—Mr. Frank Gray.
22. Welcome in behalf of University of Illinois—Dean T. A. Clark, Urbana, Ill.
23. Welcome in behalf of City of Champaign—Mayor Geo. J. Babb.
24. Response by Rev. C. Morgan Miller, Bloomington, Ill.

Presentation by Pastor, R. A. Hayden.

Mrs. Eva T. Dean, Mistress of Ceremonies

October 1, 1975

SUBJECT: Historic Preservation of Salem Baptist Church at Fifth & Park Streets

TO : Historic Preservation Committee for Champaign (Members John Collison, Beth Kalm, Bruce Lynch, and Greg McDaniel)

Salem Baptist Church which was rebuilt in 1907 deserves consideration for historic preservation. For over a hundred years Salem has been significant to the Black community. Through its ministry, encouraged Blacks to educate themselves, and has been the backbone and the training school that has given the masses of Champaign/Urbana Blacks the opportunity to develop. There is a genius in the "soul" in this church, something that gives it life and vitality, that makes it and its building stand out significantly above its creeds, rituals and doctrines, something which makes it a unique institution that is worthy of preservation.

The history of the church began in 1867 when Sister Susan Franklin Johnson, Kitty Lee, Brother T. J. Shores, J. W. Randolph and Martin Dandrage met the council at the Old Coffee Place, 406 East Park Street, and organized a Missionary Baptist Church. The church was named Second Baptist Missionary Church. It was recognized by the First Baptist Church of Champaign, the First Baptist Church of Urbana and the First Baptist Church of Mahomet, Illinois. Sister Mildred Grey, then a music student at the University of Illinois, played the organ for several years. Mr. Lester Johnson, a member of the church, bought the bell, which is now in the belfry. Mrs. Eva T. Deam was President of the Women's Division of the National Baptist Convention, and also Superintendent of the Sunday School. The church was received into the White Baptist Association. The Superintendent of

the Sunday School was Brother Lloyd of the First Baptist Church, in Champaign. Sister Bidler, of the First Baptist Church in Champaign, taught the Adult Sunday School Class.

Reverend William Washington was called to pastor and was assisted by Reverend T. J. Shores. The church purchased the lot on Fifth and Park Street and proceeded to erect a church about 1869. This frame building burned down, causing the membership to again rent a place for worship. In 1887 the pastor was Reverend F. Gray and by this time, the church had purchased a lot on Clark Street and erected a building there. In 1893, The Wood River Association met here with the church, and Second Baptist Church joined the Wood River District Association. Because Second Baptist was too small to accommodate the delegation, services were held in the hall over Swanell's Drug Store, now Grant's at the corner of Main and Hickory Streets.

In 1902 Reverend J. H. Nickols increased the interest in the church and the Sunday School. He interceded and cleaned-up the church lot at Park and Fifth Streets. He was making plans to erect another church there when he resigned. Reverend S. L. Edwards was then called to pastor. He had the name of the church changed from Second Baptist to Salem Baptist. He succeeded in building the present church. In 1908 the cornerstone was laid. In 1911 old seats were discarded and new pews installed. These pews were used until 1958. In 1917 Reverend S. M. Hall, who succeeded Reverend S. C. Clanton, had the ceiling lowered and the church decorated. In 1920 under Reverend R. H. Hayden, the church was remodeled and the lot in the rear of the church was purchased. A baptistry and two rest rooms were also installed. The new addition now stands on the lot which was purchased.

In 1925 Reverend Dabney Jones succeeded Reverend Hayden. During his administration, the front stairs were remodeled and the entrance was changed from the

west to the south side, where it is now located.

In 1953 a nursery was put in the church basement. It was dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Hattie J. Wells, who served as Superintendent of the Sunday School from 1925 until her death on September 10, 1953. In April 1956, Reverend Eugene H. Williams was called. On May 27, 1957, the church officially voted to build the annex. The new addition was started in August 1957 and completed in February 1958. The new annex consists of ten class rooms, two rest rooms, baptismal pool, pastor's office and study, complete new modern kitchen, banquet room, three storage closets, new light fixtures, new heating system and two entrances. The exterior of the church was tuck-pointed and sandblasted, complete new front entrance, cottage style windows, outside trim painted and new outside oak doors. The inside was completely redecorated with new pews, pulpit furniture, communion table, seven deacon chairs, and rubber tile on the floor at a cost of \$52,000.

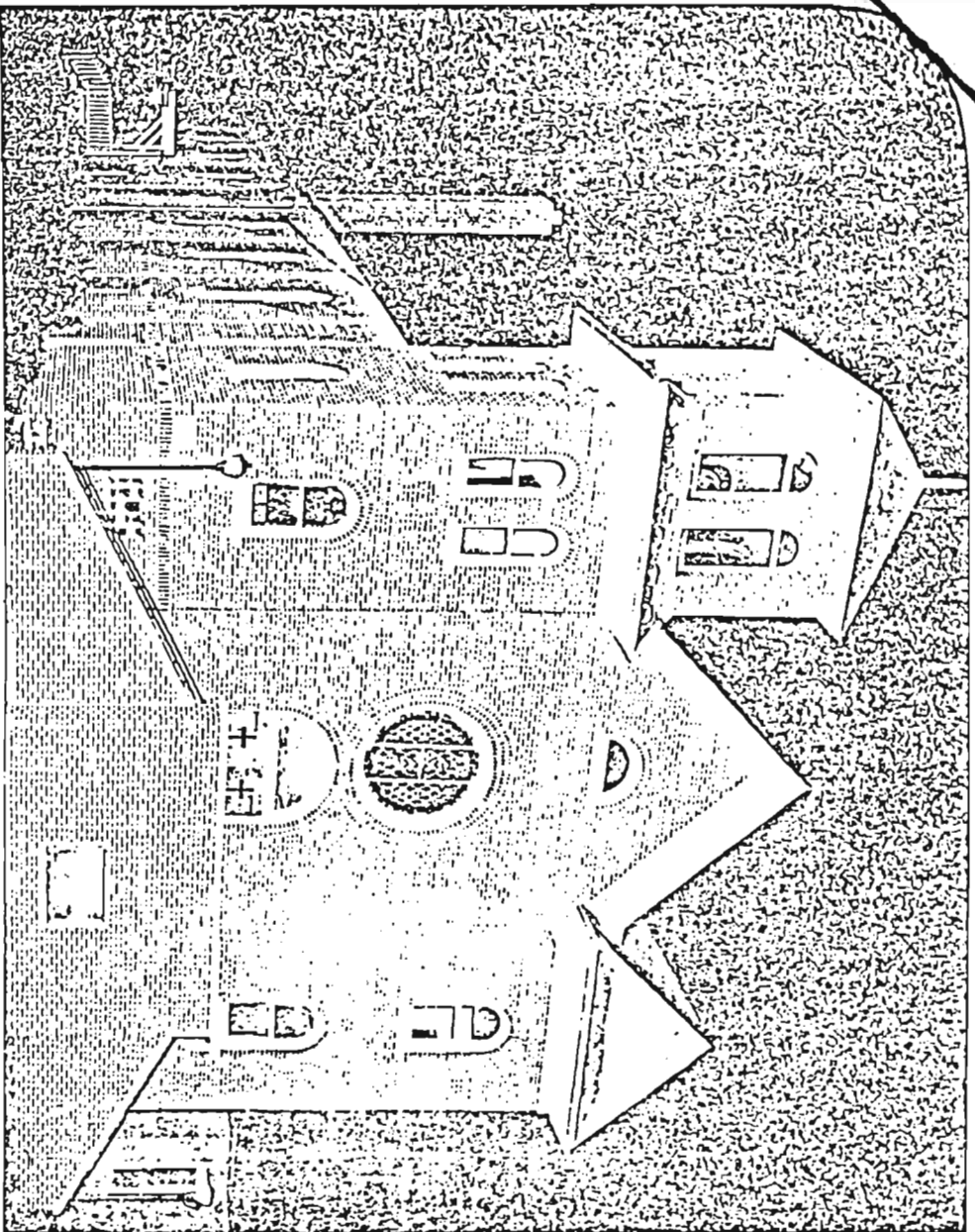
Reverend W. H. Donaldson is the current pastor. He had previously served as pastor of Salem from 1949 to 1953. Under his administration, the mortgage on the parsonage was burned, the duplex offering system was set-up, a typewriter purchased, rugs for the parsonage were bought, desk for the church office, a new kitchen, hot water tank and a gas furnace for the parsonage installed, new Hymnals and robes purchased, a rug for the aisles, a motion picture projector and screen, filing cabinet, adding machine, mimeograph machine and other office equipment purchased.

Under Reverend Donaldson the church has been important in bringing the people in the community together for a common cause, and training them for concerted action. The church has been important in providing an organized fellowship for Black Leaders. Over the years Salem like other Black Institutions can be called theories of accommodations <sup>where</sup> were protest became formulated and spreaded. The church sometimes took actions itself in the power field, attempting to improve the Black's lot or voicing the Black protest. Evenmore often, Salem has always provided the means by which Black Leaders and organizations, which are more directly concerned with power problems, could reach Black people.

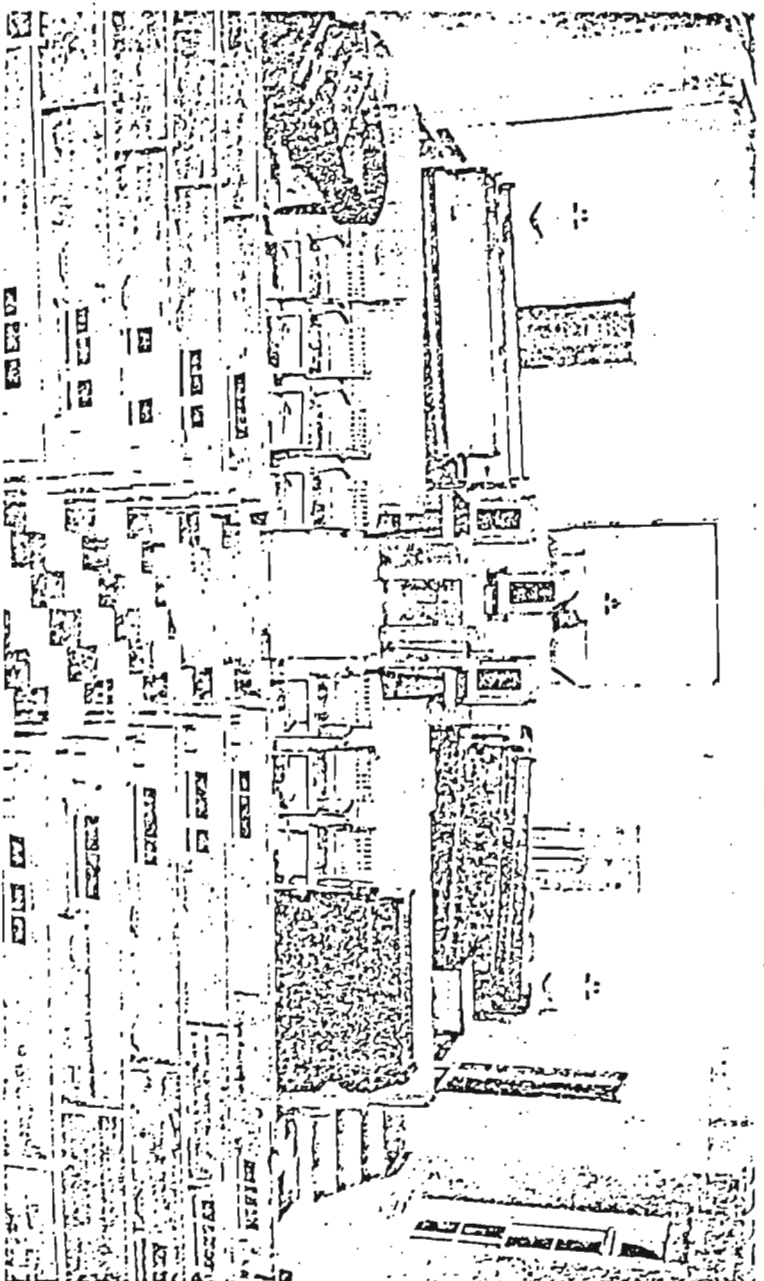
Yes. Salem Baptist Church is significant to Black people, and deserves consideration for historic preservation.



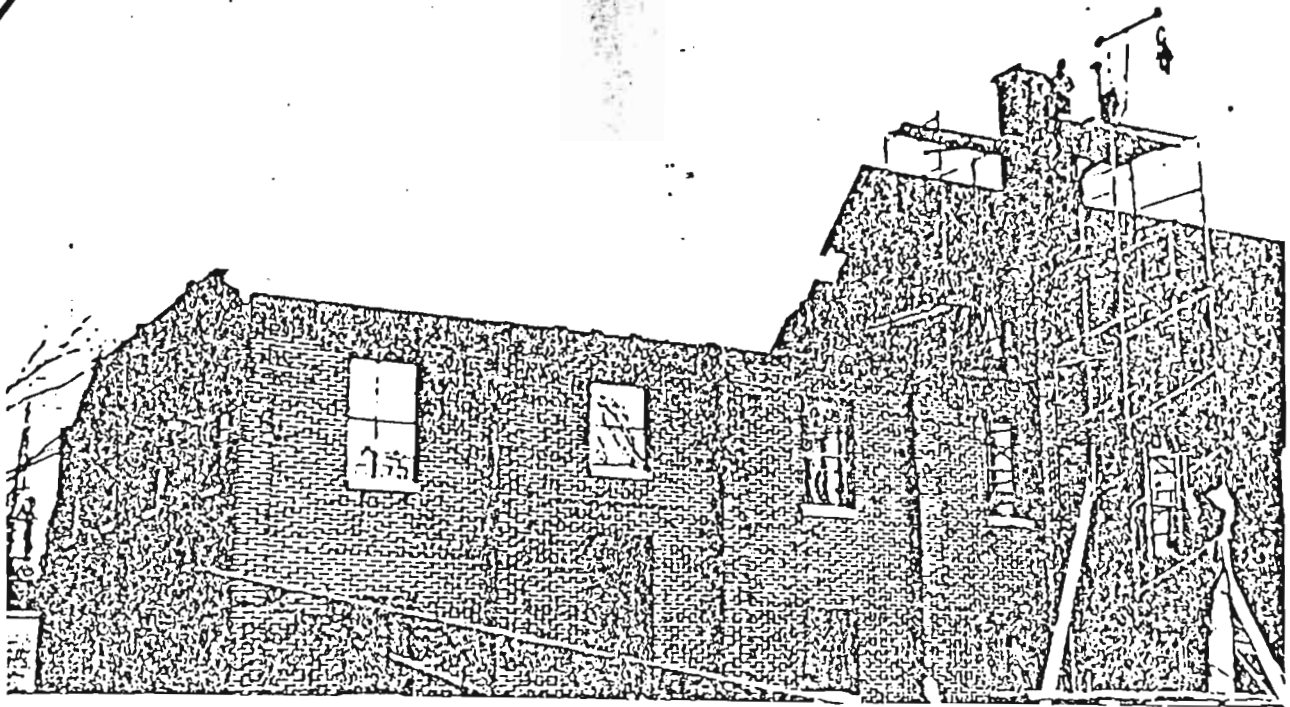
Avon T. Killion  
UP 236  
Member, Champaign Historic Preservation  
Committee



Salem Baptist Church



INTERIOR OF CHURCH

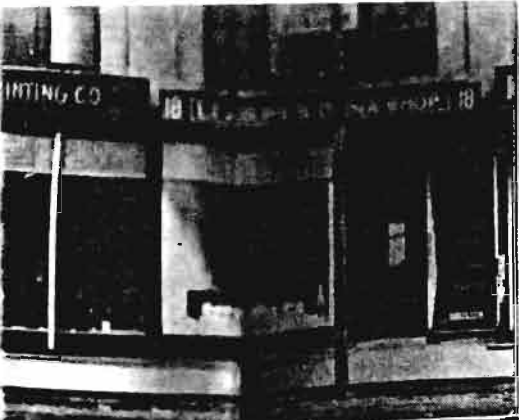


CHURCH UNDER CONSTRUCTION

1906



NO WINDOWS  
WEST SIDE LOOKING SOUTH



ING CO with a fine plant and stock have been  
years  
ur Leisure's China Shop.



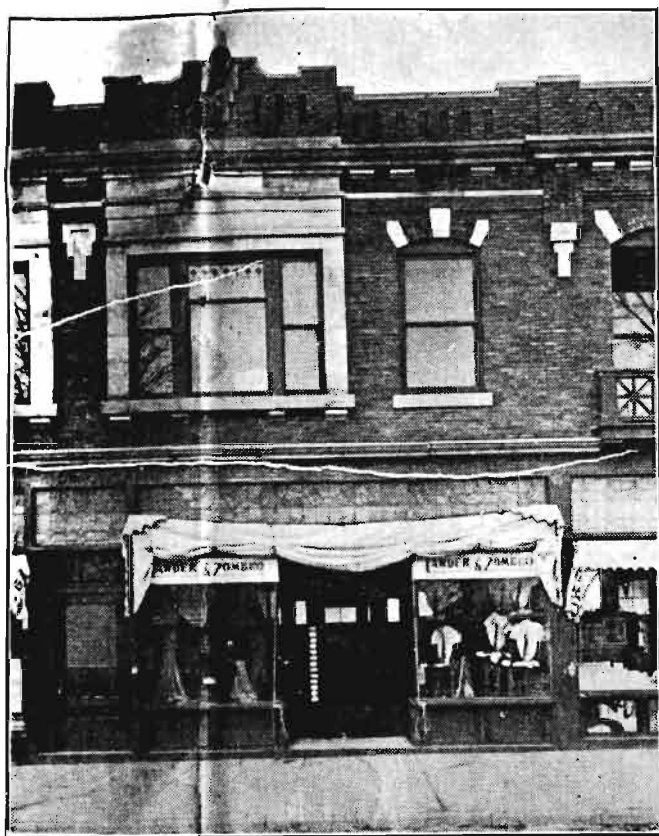
The National Engraving Co. Is the new industry that made these cuts.

city has paid off bonds and interest amounting to \$23,350, these bonds were issued in 1898 and 1902 when the city was receiving a large license revenue.

The tax levy passed by the city council in the year 1909 was the only tax levy ordered by the city for more than twelve years in which no levy was made for the payment of bonds or interest on bonds.

The present city tax rate is the lowest it has been for more than seven years.

The only tax this year that was lower than last year was the city tax.

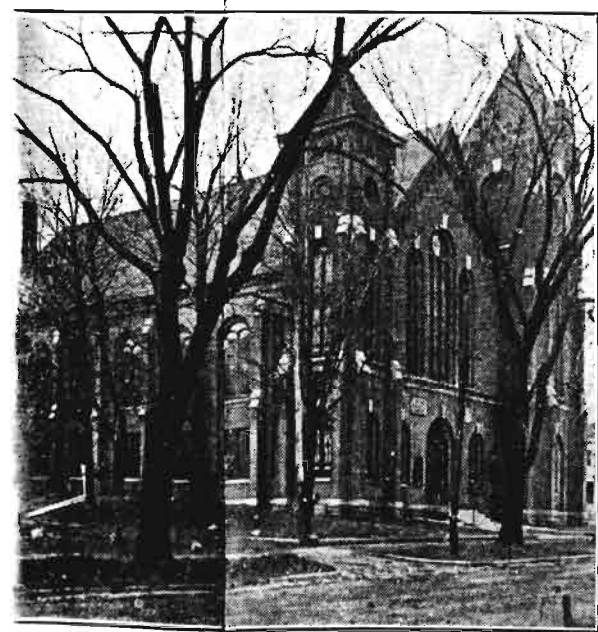


ouder Building; another busy place in the new Green Street district.



The Salem Baptist Church, A monument to the workers of the colored Baptists of Champaign. Every colored man should vote against the saloon for if they return a drunken mob may destroy your homes and compel you to flee for your lives as they have done in Springfield, Cairo and East St. Louis. Saloons are the greatest enemy of the colored race.

J. M. Rivers, pastor of Salem Baptist church.  
A. T. Jackson, Pastor of Bethel A. M. E. church



an Church's new addition costing \$16000.00. Churches saloons go out.



The Fisk building South Wright Street. Real estate values have made a wonderful advance here in three dry years.

CHURCHES, BAPTIST - SALEM



## Condensed from

Historic Preservation Committee for Champaign County  
 (Members - John Collison, Beth Kalm, Bruce Lynch, and Greg. McDaniel)

Salem Baptist Church which was rebuilt in 1907 deserves consideration for historic preservation. For over a hundred years Salem has been significant to the Black Community. Through its ministry, encouraged Blacks to educate themselves and has been the backbone and training school that has given the masses of Champaign-Urbana Blacks the opportunity to develop. There is a genius in the "soul" of the church, something that gives it life and vitality that makes it and its building stand out significantly above its creeds, rituals and doctrines, something which makes it a unique institution that is worthy of preservation.

The history of the church began in 1867 when Sister Susan Franklin Johnson, Kitty Lee, Brother T. J. Shores, J. W. Randolph, and Martin Dandrage met the council at the Old Coffee Place, 406 East Park Street and organized a Missionary Baptist Church. The church was named Second Baptist Missionary Church. It was recognized by the First Baptist Church of Champaign, the First Baptist Church of Urbana and the First Baptist Church of Mahomet. (The church was received into the White Baptist Association.)

The church purchased the lot on Fifth and Park Streets and proceeded to erect a church building about 1869. This frame building burned down. After locating on Clark Street in 1887, it eventually returned to the original site about 1902 and eventually a church building was erected. In the meantime the name of the church changed from Second Baptist to Salem Baptist. In 1908 cornerstone was laid. In 1900 the church was remodeled and the lot in the rear of the church was purchased.

The church sometimes took action itself in <sup>the</sup> power field, attempting to improve the Black's lot or voicing the Black protest. Salem has always provided the means by which Black Leaders and organizations which are more directly concerned with power problems, could reach Black people.

Avon T. Killion