Salem United Church of Christ

4212 Camp Street

The written history of this church notes that the congregation was conceived by our forebears during the dark days of the Civil War. It originated in 1863 as the First German Lutheran Church of the Sixth District, Jefferson, and German was the only language used in worship or religious education until 1886. At that point, English confirmations were permittedat the end of the German-language services. In 1893, English afternoon services, and a bilingual tradition continued until the outbreak of World War I.

The contemporary building is only the second in the long life of the congregation. The first, a simpler rectangular structure, built by George Bensel, was dedicated in 1866. Diboll and Owen served as architects for the present church, which dates to 1905. The steeple bells were transferred from the original.

When the new sanctuary was built, all windows were of Florentine glass, clear with small designs, but gradually stained glass has been installed in all buildings. The striking sanctuary windows, with their intense colors and the generous use of Tiffany-style drapery glass (feel it!), incorporate large amounts of red glass, which is expensive because of the gold required to create the red color. The dates for these ten beautiful memorial windows in the sanctuary and choir room, all constructed by the Jacoby Art Glass Company of St. Louis, Missouri, range from 1908 until 1913. The Albert Lips Studio of New Orleans installed many memorial fleur de lis windows at the back of the church and in the balcony during the 1950s. Other windows with religious symbols are products of the John Sullivan Studio, also of New Orleans.

Salem has always been noted for its music and has been referred to as the singing church. Nothing is known about the first pipe organ, installed about 1880. With the construction of the second church, an organ was ordered from George Kilgen & Sons of St. Louis. As was common at the time, it had a tracker, or mechanical, action. Todays instrument, from the Schlicker Organ Company of Buffalo, has 23 ranks and two manuals and retains some pipe ranks from its predecessor. Walter Guzowski, of Fort Lauderdale, renovated it in 1982.

**Windows of Salem UCC Church**

Sanctuary

Altar

Risen Christ appearing to Mary (1908) Christ and the Samaritan woman (1913)

Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane (1907) Christ blessing the little children (1908)

Christ knocking at the door (1913)

The young Jesus teaching in the temple (1921)

Choir Room

Christ as the Good Shepherd (1919) Rock of Ages (1919)

Baptism of Christ (1923)

Madonna and Child (1923)

Other Memorial Windows

*Narthex doors:* Alpha and omega; chi rho (1963)

*Choir Room door:* Lyre (1963)

*Vestibule exterior door, Camp St. side:* Chi rho

*Choir Loft door:* Rose of Sharon (1963)

*Hall leading from sanctuary:* Descending dove

*Side entrance:* Doves drinking from chalice

*Library door:* Lamp (1986)

*Church Office door:* Canterbury Cross with chi rho symbol (1987)

*Pastors study:* Nativity

*Downstairs Fellowship Room doors:* Ship and fish (1987)

*Transom above these doors:* Doves and chalice

*Educational Building door:* I Am the Light of the World (1963)

*Educational Building Parlor:* Lilies (1986)

*Visited*

*March 25, 1990*

*February 28, 1999*

*April 22, 2018*

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