

Brief Tour -- 7 minutes

Emmanuel was formed 1841 by three ladies from Trinity; first being held as 'cottage meetings' in homes then by 1849, when they had grown to 88 parishioners, they bought an empty Baptist church at South Baptist and Thames Street. They met there until 1851 when Edward King (Kingscote; Edward King Senior Center) gave us the land where the current church stands, and where our first building, a wooden structure designed by Richard Upjohn was built and furnished for a total of \$15,000. The first service was held in 1852, and all bills were paid and the church free of debt and consecrated in March of 1852. We worshipped in it for 50 years, without a lot of money to keep it up, so it was in disrepair. (sound familiar?)

When John Nicholas Brown died of typhoid in 1900, his wife gave this stone church in his memory to replace the wooden one. That one was cut off of its foundation and moved to the corner of South Baptist and Spring Street for our use until the stone church was completed. While it was being readied for us, we temporarily met in what is now the Greek Orthodox Church on Thames Street, and what was then Kay Chapel on Church Street. We held our first service in the new stone church in June of 1902, then on August 28, 1902 the wooden church was sold to Charles Peckham for \$75 and moved to Middletown.

Our first school opened in 1860 – it was held Monday through Saturday, with Church School on Sundays – with 285 children and 35 teachers! The tower on the wooden church was on the west end, not the southeast where our current tower is, and in 1869, we had what was known as 'the great windstorm.' It blew the tower off of the church where it landed on the school, demolishing it. The school was rebuilt and in 1912, was cut off its foundation, moved 42 feet to the west, and lowered to become what is now our choir room and gym, and an auditorium with a stage was built on top of it (where EDS is now) along with the library and enclosed narthex area added to it.

The only stained glass memorial window from the Upjohn church was saved and installed in this building – it is the Sophie Brown window in the north transept. Sophie was the 16 year old daughter of Julia and Lewis Brown of Brown and Howard's Wharf, -- not the Mrs. Brown who donated the church. Sophie was baptized at age 16, confirmed one week later and died less than a year after that.

Emmanuel is built in a gothic revival shape of a Latin cross. In the old tradition, the altar would be in the nave, in the center where the 'arms' of the cross are formed. The original round brick chimney from the wooden church houses the steps that take us up into the four story tower, which was designed for our two bells. The bells are rung by climbing to the third story and pulling on ropes, but the smaller of the two is currently 'off it's rocker' and needs to be reset. Also, and more importantly, the steps up the to tower are in bad shape and need to be replaced before we can safely use them.

Except for the Sophie Brown window, the one next to it, which was given in 1903, and the one in the south transept, which was given in 1919, all of the clerestory windows in the nave were given between 1964 and 1968 and made by Joseph Reynolds of Boston.). It is the lower portion of these windows that needs repair. The Amelia Greene window, which is also one of those slated for repair next year, was given in 1930. If you look at it from outside, you can see bowing where the lead needs to be replaced.

The six side windows in the chancel were given in 1965 by John Nicholas Brown, Jr. in memory of his aunt and mother. Three cartoons from the windows on the north wall of the chancel hang in the narthex.

The East window over the altar depicts 22 events in the life of Christ and was given by their mother, Sophia Augusta Brown in memory of John Nicholas Brown and his brother Harold, who died within ten days of each other.

The blue West window, is made of three panels depicting the book of Revelation. It was made in 1925 and documented by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York while it was being made. In 1996 photos of it were exhibited in Switzerland as part of a tribute to Clement Heaton, who designed and made the window.

The Murals and Reredos are a peace memorial, given in 1921 for Armistice Day in honor of the 90 men from Emmanuel who served in WWI.

The murals are individual panels painted on canvas, by Robert Wade of Boston, depicting the canticle “all you works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord...” They include, not only the angels, but also the powers of the Lord – the mind, poetry, painting, philosophy, day and night, thunder and lightening, whales, cattle, squirrels, saints.... In the center of the south panels is one of Mrs. Brown, kneeling and giving Emmanuel to God, shown as the burning bush. With her are her son, John in his student’s robe, and the architects, painters, writers, musicians and all involved in building this church.

Looking around the chancel you see ‘poppy heads’ – these are the carver’s depiction that Emmanuel is open to all. Look closely, no two faces are alike.

He also carved the reredos above the altar, duplicating the bible cover given to John Nicholas Brown by his mother. It shows the four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) surrounding the lamb of God. Down the sides are St. Ignatius, protector of the military and below him, St. Gregory, developer of plainsong, on the left; on the right are St. Polycarp, the teacher of clergy and below him, St. Jerome, who watches over students. In the bottom niches are St. Michael and St. George, slaying dragons, they are surrounded by angels in prayer, with a cherub, supposedly formed by the tears of Michael in the center.

The angel lectern was made for the Columbian World’s Fair in 1893 by the Gorham Manufacturing Company and presented to Emmanuel for Easter Sunday in 1894 by Harold Brown.

The altar, railing, chancel furniture, corona, and organ pipes in the chapel are from the Upjohn church, as are the altar cross, hymn boards and baptismal font you see in here. Pews in library are also from Upjohn church. We also think that the original altar from the very first church – So. Baptist Street – is our table in the narthex (with the lamps on it.)

Questions?