

Salem UMC Archives  
Finding Aid for the  
*Financial Information* Collection

**Descriptive Summary**

Repository: Salem United Methodist Church Archives, 1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63131. Phone: (314) 991-0546. Email: [eterryhistory@gmail.com](mailto:eterryhistory@gmail.com) Website: <http://www.salemstlouis.com>

Creator: Salem United Methodist Church

Title: Financial Information

Dates: 1851-1956

Quantity: 1.5 linear feet

Language: English and German

**Historical Note**

The Methodist Church of Cincinnati sent Ludwig Jacoby to St. Louis as a circuit rider in 1841. Upon arrival, he rented an "old, abandoned Presbyterian mission church" on Seventh and Biddle Streets and began holding worship services. With 22 members, Jacoby's church became one of the first German Methodist churches west of the Mississippi. In 1842, the little congregation purchased property on Wash Street, near Eleventh Street, and built their new 32' X 50' church. Five years later, a much larger, brick church building was erected on that site.

In 1873, the congregation built a new church at the corner of Fifteenth and Wash Streets, which became known as the "Cathedral of German Methodism." To provide for other neighborhoods, the church began other branches of Methodist Episcopal churches throughout St. Louis during the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The home church on Wash and Fifteenth served as the "mother church" for its branch churches as well as its outreaching missions.

The congregation again relocated in 1905, building a new church at Page and Pendleton. The new Salem Methodist Episcopal Church held revival services in addition to its regular worship. The church offered groups such as the singing Salem Glee Club and the Friendship Club, made up of young women who worked in the city. The women who belonged to Salem's IAM Society provided aid to St. Louis poor and, during World War I, children of Europe.

Yet another new church was built at Kingshighway Boulevard and Cote Brillante Avenue in 1925. The congregation faced losing their church during the Great Depression of the 1930s and dedicated themselves to saving their place of worship. Each organization within the church fund-raised for the "Building Fund" and the "Save the Sanctuary Fund." Even the youth joined the effort by putting on a pageant to "Save Old Salem." Due to the resolve of its members during those hard years, the church prevailed.

In 1958, Salem moved to its current location on the northeast corner of Lindbergh Boulevard and Daniel Boone Expressway (now Highway 40 / I64) in St. Louis County. The congregation first built a chapel for its worship services, which was followed by a series of building-addition projects. Early educational classrooms and a fellowship hall preceded the church's large sanctuary and office space. The most recent addition, completed in 2005, houses Salem's multipurpose room / gym and an entire wing of classrooms for Salem's preschool, Sunday school, and youth activities. In 2016, The Connection, located in south St. Louis, became a valuable addition to Salem. Now boasting large membership, the thriving, mission-oriented Salem United Methodist Church continues its long heritage as a church home for the people of St. Louis, where all are welcome.

Compiled from Robert S. Appel's *Salem – Congregations of the Faithful: A History of Salem Methodist Church, 1841-1991*.

### **Scope and Content Notes**

An unrelated, hand-written note in the first folder was written in 1851. Otherwise, the first five folders contain material related to transactions between Salem and its local bank, the City of St. Louis, a fire insurance company, and other local companies and businessmen, between the 1870s and 1910. The next folder contains a 1956 appraisal – valuation report for Salem. The final folder contains miscellaneous material related largely to banking transactions for Salem.

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Source of Collection**

This material was found in the attic of Salem United Methodist Church

#### **Accruals**

#### **Processing Information**

Compiled by Elizabeth Terry, 2009-2012

### **Restrictions**

#### **Access Restrictions**

There is no restricted material in this collection.

#### **Use Restrictions**

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## **Collection Contents**

### **Series 01: Financial Material**

#### Box 1

##### Folder 1

Hand-written note, dated 1851, describing a lot belonging to Joseph Ridgway.

Various receipts and papers related to transactions between Salem and its bank as well as the City of St. Louis, local businessmen and companies. Includes an 1883 builder's contract.

##### Folder 2

Various receipts and papers related to transactions between Salem and its bank as well as the City of St. Louis, local businessmen and companies. Includes a checkbook register.

##### Folder 3

Various receipts and papers related to transactions between Salem and its bank as well as the City of St. Louis, local businessmen and companies.

##### Folder 4

Various receipts and papers related to transactions between Salem and its bank as well as the City of St. Louis, local businessmen and companies.

##### Folder 5

Various receipts and papers related to transactions between Salem and its bank as well as the City of St. Louis, local businessmen and companies.

##### Folder 6

1956 appraisal of Salem Methodist Church, Kingshighway and Cote Brilliante.

##### Folder 7

Various material related to Salem's banking transactions, including 1950s check registers and 1950s deposit receipts.

A 1952 invoice from Vess Bottling Company of St. Louis.