

February Trivia:

Week 1

The Decatur Democrat of 1897 describes the new addition to the church as follows: "An ingrain handsome floral designed Brussels carpet covers the floor and was furnished by The Boston Store. This room will seat about 400 people. The sliding doors are frescoed in imitation of the wall proper. The auditorium is a palace sure enough. The pulpit is furnished with three very handsome pulpit chairs and stand. The leather seated chairs add a finish of elegance and completeness. The cost of the improvements will be something near \$12,000.00. An attempt to completely describe the elegance of this finely finished building would only prove futile. It is but little to say that this building is a model of everything costly and fine. A shouting Methodist only could tell you of its grand and modern simplicity. But happily, this city abounds in shouting Methodists."

Week 2

The "gorgeous" organ, a Felgemaker organ made at Erie, Pennsylvania, was a hand pumped instrument, the pumping done by boys working a hand lever some 5 or 6 feet long. Story has it that at times the pumper boys would aggravate the organist by easing up on the pumping and the organ would lose its volume. This was later converted to an electric powered air supply.

Week 3

A bell was purchased for the new 1851 church building, at a cost of \$500.00, and hung in the belfry of the church tower. It was a 1500 pound heavy cast bronze bell with very excellent tone. This bell was re-hung in the new (1965) church tower. And still hangs there today.

Week 4

During the dedication service of the newly remodeled building, "the press were given a seat on the pulpit where they helped out the ministers when they struck a scriptural interrogation that they couldn't handle. Beautiful calla-lilies that were prominent among the floral decorations and were furnished by Mrs. J. Frank Mann. They came from San Francisco, California, and were rich in beauty and style." Decatur Democrat 1897