

Salem UMC Archives  
**Finding Aid for**  
*Photographic Records*

**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: Photographic Records

Dates: 1847-2018

Quantity: 6.3 linear feet

Language: English

**Historical Note**

Salem United Methodist Church lends a powerful narrative to the rich history of St. Louis, beginning with the story of its founder, Ludwig S. Jacoby. He was born in 1813 to devoutly Jewish parents in the Alt-Strelitz area of Mecklenburg, Germany. Searching for more in his life, Jacoby was baptized into Christianity by a Lutheran pastor in 1835 and immigrated to the United States around 1838. After becoming a Methodist in Cincinnati, Jacoby married a fellow German immigrant, Amalie, a Catholic-turned-Methodist.

The Methodist Church of Cincinnati sent 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 WWI, children of Europe.

Yet another new church was built at Kingshighway Boulevard and Cote Brilliante 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*; from Robert S. Appel.

### **Biographical Sketch**

Robert Appel was born on September 15, 1921 in St. Louis, Missouri. He was raised in St. Louis and joined his parents as members of Salem. Mr. Appel’s parents, George and Irene Appel, were loyal members of Salem, and played a large role in saving the church during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

During World War II, Mr. Appel entered the United States Army in 1942 and served with Company B, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Third Division as a 30 Caliber light machine gunner. He was wounded in his neck on January 31, 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy. Mr. Appel was discharged honorably in 1945.

After the war, he returned to the United States and continued his active membership at Salem. He was employed by United Van Lines in the capacity of Personnel Manager (hiring and placement), as well as Advertising and Public Relations Manager for over 25 years. Robert Appel first married Jennie Louise Grant, and the couple had a daughter Robbie (Robbie Louise Rabanus). Mr. Appel’s wed a second time to Lorraine Lemmons. He married once more, to Ms. Shirley Sneed.

Robert Appel was integral in building Salem’s Archives by carefully collecting and saving valuable documents related to the church’s history. He chronicled the church’s history in his book *Salem – Congregations of the Faithful*, and educated Salem’s membership as the longtime “church historian.” Salem is indebted to Mr. Appel for his keen recognition of the importance of Salem’s documented history and material culture, and his dedication to collecting it.

### Scope and Content Notes

Series 01 is comprised of photographs, negatives, and a scrapbook. Series 02 includes three scrapbooks comprised of photographs and a small variety of paper documents. Series 03 consists of photographs, negatives, and scrapbooks.

### Administrative Information

#### Source of Collection

Collected by members, organizations and staff of Salem UMC.

#### Accruals

This collection has continual accruals

#### Processing Information

Compiled by Elizabeth Terry, 2009-2018, 2022

### Restrictions

#### Access Restrictions

There is no restricted material in this collection.

#### Use Restrictions

Users of the collection must read and abide by the Rules for the Use of Salem UMC Archives Materials.

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### Collection Contents

#### Series 01: Varied Photographic Material

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
1	Circa 1980s new members Circa late 1980s-early 1990s new members 1989-1991 new members August 17-18, 1994 August 1994 Vacation Bible School 1. Miscellaneous 2. Miscellaneous Christmas Wise Men restoration
2	Early Salem church buildings "Adult Relationships" canoe trip, Summer 1986 1. 1986-1988 Youth 2. 1986-1988 Youth

- 3. 1986-1988 Youth
- 1989 Youth
- Circa late 1980s-early 1990s Youth
- 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Salem
  1. Miscellaneous Salem photos
  2. Miscellaneous Salem photos

Box  
3

- Folder  
1935, 1938, 1941  
Salem - proposed architectural design  
Circa 1991 Friendship Club
  1. 1994 Youth Mission Trip; miscellaneous photos
  2. 1994 Youth Mission Trip; miscellaneous photos
 Miscellaneous photos  
Salem congregation – sanctuary  
Exploration Place: under construction
  1. Exploration Place, circa early 2000s
  2. Exploration Place, circa early 2000s
 Exploration Place – youth activities  
Exploration Place – worship service

Box  
7

- Folder  
Photograph of “Tom Thumb” wedding at Page and Pendleton, circa 1914

Box  
8

- Folder  
1936 Friendship Circle  
Group photograph, Salem Methodist Church, March 15, 1936  
Seniors 1965  
Photographs of Salem UMC’s high school senior class of 1965  
Seniors 1966  
Photographs of Salem UMC’s high school senior class of 1966  
Seniors 1967  
Photographs of Salem UMC’s high school senior class of 1967  
Seniors 1968  
Photographs of Salem UMC’s high school senior class of 1968  
Seniors 1969  
Photographs of Salem UMC’s high school senior class of 1969  
Seniors 1970  
Photographs of Salem UMC’s high school senior class of 1970  
Seniors 1971  
Photographs of Salem UMC’s high school senior class of 1971  
Seniors 1972  
Photographs of Salem UMC’s high school senior class of 1972  
Seniors 1974  
Photographs of Salem UMC’s high school senior class of 1974  
Seniors 1975

Photographs of Salem UMC's high school senior class of 1975  
 Seniors 1976  
 Photographs of Salem UMC's high school senior class of 1976  
 Seniors 1977  
 Photographs of Salem UMC's high school senior class of 1977  
 Seniors 1978  
 Photographs of Salem UMC's high school senior class of 1978  
 Friendship Club Adoptions 1974-1978  
 Photographs of children from Thailand the Friendship Club  
 sponsored  
 United Methodist Women 1978  
 Identification of women in photograph included  
 Black and white group photograph  
 Seniors 1979  
 Photographs of Salem UMC's high school senior class of 1979  
 Seniors 1980-1981  
 Photographs of Salem UMC's high school senior class of 1980 and  
 1981  
 Assorted photos 1987  
 Photographs of reception honoring an unidentified person  
 Photographs of people in airport  
 Easter 1989  
 Photograph of group of children dressed in blue robes; some wear  
 white hats  
 1994  
 Photographs of groups of people meeting, July and August 1994  
  
 1995  
 Photographs of a celebration honoring Ed Watkins  
 Newspaper clipping commemorating the celebration  
 Photographs from an unknown event  
 Photographs of landscaping  
 Photographs from Dr. David Kerr's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party  
 Baptisms 1995  
 Baptism photograph of unknown child  
 Baptism photograph of Eric Patrick Peters, son of Marcia Peters  
 and Adrian Peters, September 10, 1995  
 Baptism of Kristin Solodar, daughter of John Solodar and Kelly  
 Solodar, then aged five months old, with Dr. David Kerr,  
 October 1, 1995  
 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade confirmations 1995  
 Each person identified on photograph  
 Consecration Sunday, April 6, 1997  
 Consecration Sunday, "Salemfest"  
 Habitat for Humanity 1997

Photographs and documentation of Habitat for Humanity, July 26-December 1997  
 Vacation Bible School 1998  
 New members ca. 1996-1998 (1)  
     Photographs of new members; extensive identifying information included with each photograph  
 New members ca. 1996-1998 (2)  
     Photographs of new members; extensive identifying information included with each photograph  
 New members ca. 1996-1998 (3)  
     Photographs of new members; extensive identifying information included with each photograph  
 Habitat for Humanity 1999  
     Photographs of Cherita Cecil family's house, October 2, 1999  
 Carnival 2000  
 May 2000  
 circa August 2000  
 Youth mission trip, ca. 2000  
 April 2001  
     Includes photographs of Easter celebrations  
 Confirmation 2001-2004  
     Group photographs of confirmation  
 Groundbreaking, April 18, 2004  
     Ribbon, program and photos of Salem's new wing  
 March 27, 2011 Stott's Music Hall Dedication  
     Photos of dedication  
 Youth  
     Varied photographs  
 Event honoring Claire  
     Celebration during worship and after  
 Salem Church Building- Christmas  
     Exterior of church building  
 Miscellaneous photos—1  
 Miscellaneous photos—2  
 Salem Sanctuary  
     Black-and-white photos of Salem Sanctuary with and without congregation  
 WWJD ca. 1990s  
     Photographs of youth in What Would Jesus Do?  
 WWJD ca. 1990s, 2000s  
     Photographs of youth in What Would Jesus Do?  
 Youth, ca. 1998-2001 (1)  
     Photos of youth activities  
 Youth, ca. 1998-2001 (2)  
     Photos of youth activities  
 Varied Photos

Box 9            Folder  
 Youth choir, circa 1989-1998  
 circa 1992, 1995  
 circa 1995, 1996  
 circa May 2000  
 Choir, Easter 2011  
 Confirmation class 2009, 2010  
 Scrapbook of Salem's history

**Series 02: Friendship Club**

Box            Folder  
 4                Scrapbook 1977-2001

Item            **(Oversized)**  
 5                1. newspaper article "Tale of Two Cities: An Epidemic of Baseball Fever"  
                   2. handwritten note from Betty to Beth  
                   3. photograph of brick outhouse on a bluff

**Series 03: Youth**

Box 10        Folder  
 miscellaneous youth 1998-2004  
 Children's Choir photos 1999-2000  
 Confirmation  
 Confirmation 2000  
 Confirmation Class 2001, folder 1  
 Confirmation Class 2001, folder 2  
 Mexico trip 2001  
 Blue Mountain 2001  
 circa 2001  
 Christmas Formal 2001  
 circa 2002-2005  
 Float trip 2002  
 "Unite" August 2002  
 Six Flags Sonicflood Concert 2002  
 "Once Upon a Parable Sun" 2002  
 Lafayette Park UMC Lock-in, December 2002  
 UMYF Live Nativity 2003  
 2003  
 VBS "Scuba" 2003  
 Kingdom House Christmas Store 2003  
 Youth ski trip to Chestnut Mountain, Illinois, February 2004  
 Crud War 2004  
 Fall Retreat "Got Purpose" 2004  
 Kingdom Kamp 2005  
 circa 2005

Kennett Mission Trip, Summer 2005  
 Mission Trip to Kennett, June 2005  
 Kennett Mission Trip, Summer 2005  
 VBS 2006  
 Breakfast with Bunny, April 15, 2006  
 2007  
 Kingdom Kamp 2007, folder 1  
 Kingdom Kamp 2007, folder 2  
 Senior High Fall Retreat 2007  
 Denver Mission Trip 2007  
 Junior High Fall Retreat 2007  
 VBS 2007  
 Spring Retreat 2008  
 miscellaneous, folder 1  
 miscellaneous, folder 2  
 miscellaneous, folder 3

Box 11

Folder

Boy Scouts  
 Youth event  
 Blue Mountain  
 Picnic in the Park  
 circa 1998-1999  
 Confirmation 2001  
 VBS 2001  
 Confirmation 2003  
 30-hour famine 2003  
 Blue Mountain 2003  
 Blue Mountain retreat, Fall 2003  
 Crud War, September 2003  
 Ice skating, December 2003  
 Spring Retreat 2004  
 Youth Ski Trip 2004  
 Salem Summer Kick-offs; 2004, 2005  
 Crud War "The Crud Dome" 2005  
 Summer Kick-off, 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in June, 2005  
 circa 2007

Box 12

Scrapbook 1

Mississippi Mission Trip 2006  
 Kingdom Kamp Pictures 2007

Scrapbook 2

Senior High Fall Retreat 2007  
 Denver Mission Trip 2007  
 misc. photos



Scrapbook 3  
Spring Retreat 2008  
WOW 2008

**Series 04: Consecration Sunday**

Box

6

Folder

Scrapbook of photos and documentation of Consecration Sunday, April 6, 1997.