Big Spring Lion

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Hi, I am Sam the squirrel. I have lived at the Church of the Nativity ever since it was built, and I’m going to tell you about some of my favorite little places and small rooms.

I was born in 1846, the same year the church was built, so I guess I am pretty old, 148 years to be exact. That was a fun year, watching the bricks being laid and the walls going up. In 1847, the first service was held. The congregation was small, but it was the beginning of a beautiful church.

By the 1850’s the congregations had grown larger, and the building couldn’t hold all the people. So plans were made and money was raised to build the big main sanctuary standing now.

During the Civil War, Union soldiers came and took over most of the mansions and churches in Huntsville. When they got to my church, they refused to enter because over the front door a mantel said “Reverence my sanctuary.” I saw this from high up in a maple tree. That was probably one of the most important times in the history of the church because if the soldiers had occupied it, it might have been damaged or burned. That happened to the First Methodist Church.

The church building didn’t change much between the 1860’s and 1950’s. In 1953, Ridley Hall was built. They have parties, dinners, and wedding receptions there. I usually get to eat leftover cake.

In 1982, Joffrion Hall was constructed in honor of Emile Joffrion. It has classrooms and conference rooms. Sometimes I listen to the lessons.
Now I can tell you about my favorite places. Right now I am in the main sanctuary on the communion table. I like it here because I can see the whole church. Now I'm going to the old chapel. This is like an old church house because everything is wooden and old. Next I'm going to the courtyard. I love all the little benches and plants. The last place I want to go is to the steeple. I like it up here because you can see the whole city. I'm sorry you can't follow me up here. I have to go now. Hope you enjoyed the Church of the Nativity. I sure do.

Bibliography

Roberts, Francis C.
_Sesquicentennial History of the Church of the Nativity._

Numerous articles from the Vertical File, Heritage Room, Huntsville Public Library.

**Alex Ealy** is 11 years old and enjoys playing baseball, football, and soccer. His favorite building style is Gothic.