

Keeping the Faith – Worshiping in East St. Paul

Stories from:

“Heritage ... a story of East St. Paul, A Centennial Project by Robert Andrews School 1967”
“Heritage II, A History of East St. Paul” (1992), and
“East St. Paul Centennial 1916-2016”

Submitted by Mayor Shelley Hart



In the early 1800s, Anglican clergymen from England were the first to build churches in St. Paul. Residents of what is now East St. Paul would cross the river via ferry or boat, or they'd hitch up their horse and buggy or sleigh, to attend church. With the closure of St. Catherine Anglican Church in 2010, Birds Hill United Church holds the distinction as the longest serving church in our community; Abundant Life Lutheran is the newest.

I was surprised at the sheer number and variety of faiths for such a small community so in order to mention them all, the level of detail for each is minimal.

St. Catherine Anglican Church

The Anglicans built St. Catherine Church at 3202 Birds Hill Road with the first service being held in 1914. The church closed in 2010, but the church bell recently found a new home in Centennial Plaza.

Birds Hill United Church – (Presbyterian)

In 1914, the Presbyterian Church (which became the United Church of Canada in 1925) built the basement of a church on Carlton Avenue (now 2030 Roseneath Avenue). The congregation met there until 1931, when they built the church at 2105 Burton Avenue.

The Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

The first Jehovah's Witnesses congregation began in 1954 at the East St. Paul community hall. In 1955, a hall was built at 661 Hoddinott Road to meet the needs of its growing membership. Today, the Kingdom Hall is located at 3760 Andrews Road.

St. Joachim's Catholic Parish

Built in 1964, this Catholic parish was located at 857 Hoddinott Road and served the religious needs of Catholics of the Byzantine Ukrainian rite. The parish was short lived and was absorbed by St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church in North Kildonan.

East St. Paul Baptist Church

Built in 1963, this church was located at 2615 Henderson Hwy. The congregation was disbanded and in 1997 the church was sold to Providence Reformed Church.

Baha'i

In 1973, a group of nine individuals moved out of Winnipeg to form the first Baha'i community of East St. Paul.

Albright Church

Built in 1993 at 3400 DeVries Avenue, Albright's Sunday services attract an inter-generational and inter-cultural congregation of about 350 people.

Eastview Community Church

Also built in 1993 at 3500 DeVries Avenue, this church was established when a group of members from the River East Mennonite Brethren Church in North Kildonan decided to establish their own church.

Providence Reformed Church

On April 30, 1997, the first service of the Providence Reformed Church was held at their newly acquired home at 2615 Henderson Hwy (former Baptist Church).

Abundant Life Lutheran Church

In September 1999, Lutheran services were being held in rented space at Robert Andrews School. Built in 2006, on land donated by the Fahr family at 3486 Raleigh Street, the new church was ready for its congregation.

A silent night, a star above, a blessed gift of hope and love. A blessed Christmas to you!