



# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

DULUTH • MINNESOTA

*A Century of Service... 1869-1969*

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**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DULUTH, MINNESOTA**



**A** church is a building, an edifice, a monument. And it is something more: a church is people. A church is the changing sea of faces in the congregation to whom the rector ministers in their hours of need and their moments of triumph. A church is the rector in his pulpit, hoping and praying that he can lead his flock to salvation. A church is the organist and the choir, performing their ministry in music and song, as they lift voices in praise of man's Saviour. A church is the tireless workers, who labor Sunday after Sunday, to lead the children in paths of right living. And a church is the vestry, struggling in its ministry to meet the secular obligations of the congregation and keep the church solvent. And when all of these are combined for good works, then you have a church, and a House of God.

St. Paul's is a church and it is people. And just as the faces in the pulpit, in the choir, in the congregation, and in the vestry have changed over the years, so has the edifice changed. It was born a century ago on a hillside in the then frontier village of Duluth out of the needs of the people for a place of worship which they could call their own. And so a House of God came into being, and it came to be called St. Paul's.

No one now living can tell us when the first Episcopal Church services were held in Duluth, or, indeed, when the first religious service for any denomination was held in this community. In a frontier settlement such as Duluth in its early days, one took his religion as he could get it, reaching out eagerly for whatever spiritual help could be had. Undoubtedly, ministers from the thriving community across St. Louis Bay, which already had been named Superior, came on occasion to minister to the spiritual needs of the few lonely families living under the rocky hills where the city of Duluth now stands. But Duluth had no church of any kind, and religious services when they were held, were conducted wherever a shelter could be found—in private homes, or in the warehouse owned by Sidney Luce, which served most commercial needs of the community and also housed the office of the Register of the United States Land Office.

It was in such facilities and under such circumstances that Bishop Henry B. Whipple, that magnificent pioneer of the Episcopal faith in Minnesota, conducted such Episcopal services as were held during the early years. How many times he made the toilsome journey through the Minnesota woods to reach this lonely outpost is not known. The earliest visit of record by the

Bishop was on August 5, 1866. On that Sunday he first conducted services at Superior, across the Bay, then came to Duluth where, in the afternoon, he conducted a prayer service and preached a sermon in the home of Luke Marvin, the Register of the United States Land Office. It was of little moment that Mr. Marvin and his family were faithful members of the Presbyterian Church. Their home was opened freely to the observance of the Christian faith by other denominations. The Bishop was back in Duluth the following Sunday to hold services once more in the home of Luke Marvin, and this time he performed the rites of baptism of two children from the family of William Nettleton, and one child of a Mr. and Mrs. Ray. This time Bishop Whipple stayed over in Duluth, and the next day he baptized five of the children of Colonel and Mrs. J. B. Culver at the Culver residence.

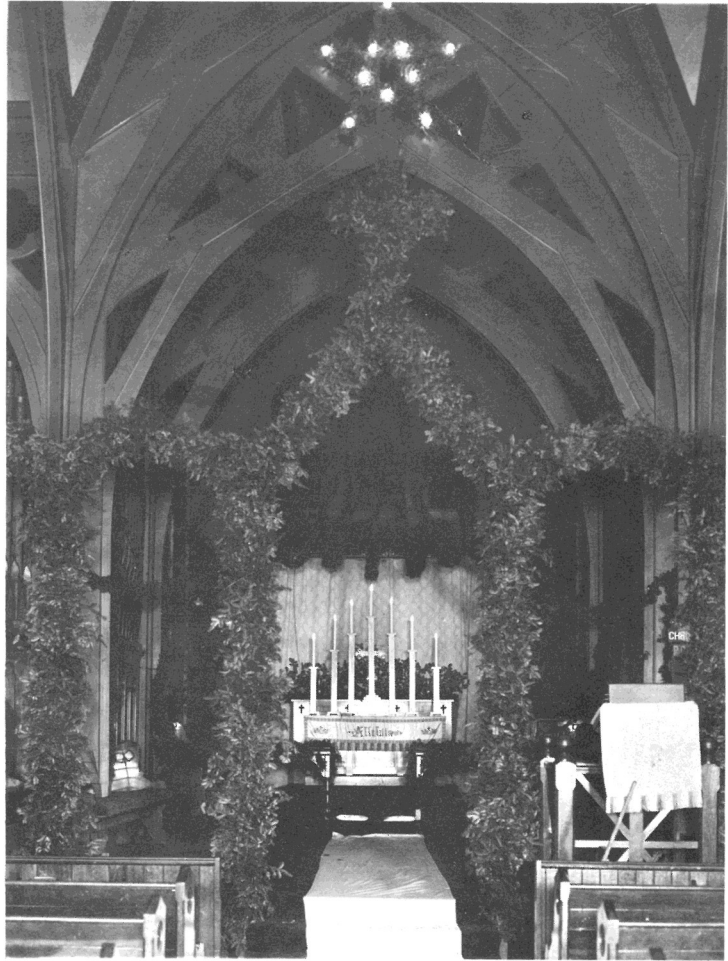
Duluth might never have amounted to anything more than the scattering collection of cabins and shacks which characterized it during the 1860's if it had not been for a railroad and a financial genius from Philadelphia named Jay Cooke. For that matter, there might never have been a St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church in Duluth had it not been for that same combination of transportation and finance. In 1864, the Congress enacted legislation to charter a trans-continental railroad which should have its eastern terminus at the head of Lake Superior. For three years interested men sought ways to finance the mammoth job of construction. It was then that Jay Cooke entered the picture. He agreed to undertake the financing in return for effective control of the road.

Early in 1869 he sent General George B. Sargent to Duluth as his financial representative to take initial charge of operations. Both General Sargent and Jay Cooke were Episcopalians, and it must have pained General Sargent and his family that among the amenities of a cultured life which they missed was the opportunity to attend a church of their choice. At all events, the pioneer newspaper of Duluth—the *DULUTH MINNESOTIAN*—contained in its issue of May 15 a short notice to the effect that "General G. B. Sargent is commissioned by Episcopalians East to build a fair sized church for worship according to Episcopal forms." Jay Cooke all too evidently was the moving spirit and probably the major contributor in the project which called for the erection of a church structure to be ready for worship by the fall of 1869. By the first part of July, the basement had been dug on the site at 2nd Street and Lake Avenue, and work on the superstructure was underway.



St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church in Duluth apparently had its real beginning on August 8, 1869, when a Reverend Mr. Cooper of Astoria, New York, came to the area on a visit. It is not known with certainty, but apparently the Presbyterians had normally the use of the schoolhouse in Duluth for services on Sunday afternoons. With the coming of Mr. Cooper, however, they graciously gave permission to the Episcopalians to hold services in the schoolhouse on that afternoon, and again the following Sunday. Although no parish records exist to bear out the thesis, it's apparent that religious services in the Episcopal faith were conducted from that time on, either by lay readers or by visiting members of the clergy.

In the meantime, work on the church structure was progressing. According to the timetable set up for construction, the building was to have been completed by September 15, 1869. Obviously, it was not. The bell and organ arrived in Duluth about the 30th of October. The bell was hastily installed and used to call Episcopalians to worship for the first time the next morning. But the congregation had to assemble in the school house for the occasion, and services continued to be held in that public building until December. The first Sunday School was organized on November 21, and services were conducted by a layman by the name of Hudson. At about this same time, the Duluth community was electrified by the announcement that it was to have a regularly named rector to have charge of the little flock of Episcopalians there. It gained this information from a short paragraph in the DULUTH MINNESOTIAN for November 20, 1869, which announced the appointment of the Reverend Mason Gallagher, of Paterson, New Jersey, a cousin of Mr. H. M. Peyton who already had established his reputation as a staunch member of the Episcopalian community.



And so the picture was being rounded out. The building was completed and the dedication of the edifice took place on Christmas Day; the church bell pealed forth its triumphant call to worship; the new rector mounted his pulpit to carry the message to his flock in the pews below; and the organ sang out its paean of praise. There was a church, a rector, an organ, and a congregation. But it still didn't have a name. It was known only as "Jay Cooke's Church", and there is no record of a vestry organization.

The ministry of the Reverend Mr. Gallagher was of comparative short duration. He preached his last sermon to a crowded church on September 25, 1870. An interesting footnote to his ministry is the comment of a historian of St. Louis County to the effect that he belonged to "the school in the east of extreme low churchmen, and brought to the west the same sentiments he had preached there . . . Ministers of other faiths were allowed to fill his pulpit and preach, after the use in all cases of the liturgy of the Protestant Episcopal Church. This was due to the well-known wishes of one of the most prominent men in the east, who was identified with

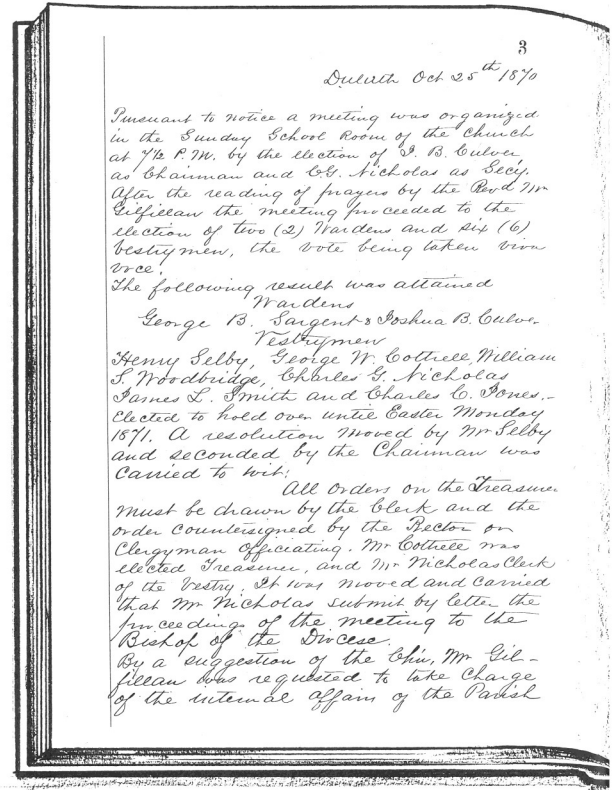
the material growth and development of the city, and owing to the same influence the church was not incorporated nor did it seek union with the ecclesiastical authority in Minnesota." Without doubt, the person referred to was Jay Cooke, and one wonders what Bishop Whipple thought of the abstinence of this church in Duluth from seeking shelter within the Diocese of Minnesota. It is also said of the Reverend Mr. Gallagher that on one occasion in the spring of the year he spent in Duluth, he was preaching his sermon at the moment the first steamboat of the year whistled to announce its arrival. His church emptied as the winter-worn congregation hastened down to the canal to watch the arrival of the vessel. That evening he is said to have announced wryly: "Service next Sunday at half past ten, Providence permitting, and if the whistle of the Keeweenaw doesn't blow."

Shortly after the departure of the Reverend Mr. Gallagher, Bishop Whipple visited Duluth, bringing with him a young man who was destined to have a profound impact upon the church in Duluth. Joseph A. Gilfillan had just completed his studies for the ministry, and Bishop Whipple placed him in charge of the congregation. He was ordained Deacon on October 18, 1870, and on October 20, 1870, Bishop Whipple announced his pleasure at the organization of "St. Paul's Church, Duluth", in memory of the Reverend R. J. Parton, who had been instrumental in the erection of the church building while he was rector of St. Paul's Church in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania. As a reward for this christening of the Church the Sunday School of St. Paul's in Cheltenham presented to St. Paul's in Duluth the money for a baptismal font which was cut from the first sandstone quarried from the Fond du Lac quarries in the summer of 1872.

An organizational meeting was held on October 25, 1870, under the leadership of Mr. Gilfillan. A senior and junior warden and a vestry were elected, and rules were drawn up for St. Paul's to live by. Because it was the first formal organization of the church, the membership of that first vestry is of more than passing interest. General George B. Sargent and Colonel Joshua B. Culver were named wardens, and Henry Selby, George M. Cottrell, William S. Woodbridge, Charles G. Nicholas, James L. Smith, and Charles C. Jones were elected vestrymen to serve until Easter Monday, 1871. It is of interest that General Sargent created a precedent for his family in that his son-in-law, Frederic W. Paine, and his grandson, F. Rodney Paine, followed him in becoming senior wardens of St.

Paul's. And Colonel Culver's influence is to be noted in the annals of the church through the presence of the family of Robert Adams, his grandson.

With the organizational meeting of 1870, the picture began to take form. There was a church and a congregation which lived under the sheltering arms of the diocese, a vicar to care for the spiritual needs of the people, and the church had a name.



Minutes of the first election of vestry.

It was a tiny assemblage of only nineteen communicants for Mr. Gilfillan to minister to. But by the time his brief term as rector of the new parish ended, the number had increased to fifty-two. He must have had a great influence in the community, because during the period of his pastorate, which ended in June, 1872, twenty-two persons, mostly from other denominations, were confirmed, and eight adults and fifty-two children were baptized. Mr. Gilfillan was so unceasing in his efforts, and so successful, it seems, that some of the ministerial representatives of other denominations laboring in Duluth resented his work, and he was charged with too aggressive proselyting. The congregation of St. Paul's was growing, and its average Sunday attendance was greater than that of any other denomination in Duluth except the Roman Catholic parish.

The people of St. Paul's church mourned when Mr. Gilfillan resigned to take on what he and his bishop considered a heavier burden of ministering to the needs of the Indian population of northern Minnesota. But it was one of the good works to which his ministry was dedicated. After he left, the affairs of the church were left pretty much in limbo. Lay readers conducted most services during the rest of 1872, but in December the Reverend Arthur J. Wilson became rector to serve St. Paul's at the time misfortune befell its original benefactor. The downfall of Jay Cooke's empire in 1873 brought financial disaster to most of the nation, and hardship to Duluth. In the aftermath of panic and depression, the population declined from 5,000 to less than 1,500. There are no available statistics to tell what happened to St. Paul's, but the demoralizing effect is evidenced by the fact that after the resignation of the Reverend Mr. Wilson in November 1874, St. Paul's again was left without a rector for almost a year, and when the new rector, the Reverend F. R. Milspaugh, was named, he divided his time between Duluth, Brainerd, Superior, and Carlton, then known as a Northern Pacific Junction. But he, too, was only a transient, remaining at St. Paul's only until August 14, 1876. Once again, from August, 1876 to April, 1877, the congregation was served by lay readers. Hope flared briefly when the Reverend Richard Wainwright was named rector. But his tenure also was brief. It is recorded by a church historian that after September 29, 1878, "he left for the East". Again there was a period of uncertainty when the only religious guidance came from lay readers and the leadership of such inspired souls as Colonel Charles H. Graves who managed to keep the spirit alive. Early in January, 1880, the Reverend Charles A. Cummings accepted the invitation to become rector.

During the ministry of the Reverend Mr. Cummings St. Paul's took a step of great significance both for itself and for the community. After the long hard depression following the Panic of 1873, prosperity returned to the Head of the Lakes. With the revival of lumbering, the city stirred with new activity, and in the off-season the town teemed with idle lumberjacks and others seeking employment. Little attention was paid to sanitation in those days, and it was not to be wondered at that an epidemic of typhoid fever should break out. When several men died unattended in the basement of a local hotel, the ladies of St. Paul's decided that something needed to be done. At their insistence, the vestry of St. Paul's took action on October 21,

1881, to organize a board of directors and sponsor the solicitation of funds to build a hospital to be called St. Luke's. Without waiting for a sufficient endowment to be built up, the ladies went out on their own and found a building which, according to local tradition, had been a blacksmith shop. This they persuaded the board of directors to rent for \$25.00 a month. Having gone this far, they proceeded to scrub, and paint, and clean the building from top to bottom, and after diligently scouring the city for surplus beds, chairs, tables, and other equipment, they opened the first hospital in Duluth. It had a capacity of twelve patients, and it is recorded that the first patient was a laborer employed by the Northern Pacific Railroad who had suffered a broken leg.

Meeting the financial obligations of the hospital created numerous emergencies, and the ladies of St. Paul's had to resort to fairs, bazaars, theatrical performances, and appeals to the citizenry to keep its doors open. In 1884, the hospital had so far proved itself that it became necessary to provide larger quarters, and so a building on the corner of Second Avenue East and Fourth Street was purchased, and the blacksmith shop was abandoned. Although the new building had a capacity of thirty-eight beds, it soon was outmoded, and in 1900, the board of directors decided to construct a new and enlarged facility. To finance it required a major effort and all the skill and eloquence of Dr. Ryan as he worked locally and in the East to raise the necessary funds.

The new hospital was located at Ninth Avenue East and First Street, the site of the present St. Luke's Hospital. The building was opened for use on October 1, 1902. On January 31, 1925, the new center building, upon which work had begun in 1922, was opened. Only then did St. Paul's Episcopal Church cease its official sponsorship of the care for the ill. The new institution was opened as a non-sectarian institution. In the sponsorship of an institution to care for the ill, the ladies of St. Paul's had instituted several precedents in Duluth. They had erected the first hospital in the city, and in 1889, their hospital had opened the second school of nursing in the state of Minnesota. Each year from three to five student nurses were accepted in each training class for a training period of eighteen months.

The Reverend Mr. Cummings was the first Chairman of the Board of Directors, and succeeding rectors of St. Paul's served as board chairmen so long as the hospital remained a

church-sponsored institution. But it was essentially the laity who performed yeomanlike work in the operation of the hospital. Mrs. Frederic W. Paine was a member of the Board of Directors for more than forty years and the Emilie Sargent Paine Hall of the hospital honors her memory. Another part of the hospital facility honors the memory of Mrs. C. G. Hartley, who for many years was a member of the committee which supervised the Nurses' Training School. Members of St. Paul's who have served as president of St. Luke's include B. Murray Peyton, F. Rodney Paine, Arthur W. King, James Claypool, and Sidney R. Mason. The creation of this magnificent institution for the care of the ill marked anew the obvious truth that in its good works, St. Paul's was indeed a Church.

The firmness of the foundation upon which the church was built was proved by this time. But the tenure of those who filled its pulpit was still uncertain and of short duration. Mr. Cummings served as rector until 1883, to be succeeded on November 1 of that year by the Reverend Charles A. Poole. That the church prospered materially in these uncertain years is demonstrated by the ability of the parish to build its first rectory on Lake Avenue, and by the installation in the church of the first pipe organ in the city. The vigor of Mr. Poole's ministry is also demonstrated by the establishment of a mission church at Rice's Point, in the winter of 1885, for which he served as spiritual leader. But Mr. Poole left the church on August 26, 1888, to accept a position as instructor in Seabury Divinity School.

From September, 1888 until March, 1889, St. Paul's was again plunged into that uncertainty which prevails while a congregation searches for a spiritual leader. Then the Reverend William M. Barker came to instill fresh enthusiasm into the parish. His success in parish, city, and diocese is attested by the vigor of his missionary effort, and the growth of the church during his tenure. In 1892, largely through his efforts, the Diocesan convention was held in Duluth—the first time in the history of the diocese that such an assemblage was held at any place north of Minneapolis. Perhaps Mr. Barker was too successful, for later in 1892, he was elected missionary bishop for western Colorado, and a little after that, he became bishop of the Diocese of Olympia.

The ending of the rectorship of Mr. Barker marks something of a milestone in the history of St. Paul's Church in Duluth. His was the

last of the short-term ministries. From 1893 to the present, St. Paul's had a record of outstanding ministries by a group of outstanding men who for the most part remained in the ministry of this church for remarkably long periods of time. After Mr. Barker left Duluth, the church was without a rector from Ash Wednesday until October 1, 1893. But on that day a man assumed the duties of rector who was destined to hold office for twenty-nine years, and engrave forever the impress of his personality and his gifts not only upon the church and the city, but upon the Diocese of Minnesota as well.

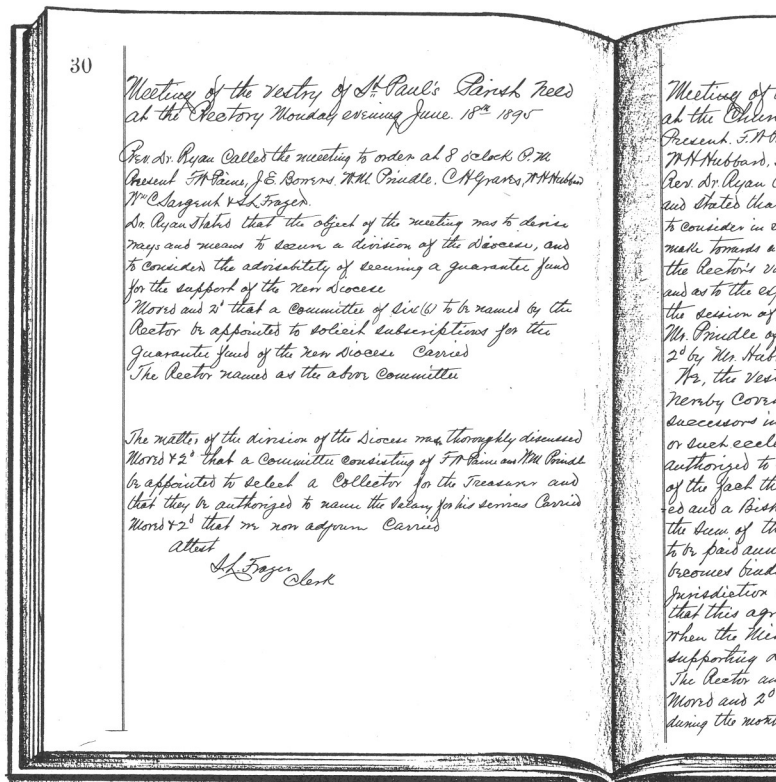
Albert W. Ryan, D.D., D.C.L., came to Duluth from Warren, Pennsylvania. He was a man of unusual vigor, ambition, and a forcefulness of personality which enabled him to lead this church into great activities. He came to Duluth at a time when the giant of iron was just beginning to stretch its muscles, and although it also was a period of financial recession, this youthful country rebounded from the period of depression rapidly. He was a man of bounce and energy, and he threw himself into the activities of this community with all his enthusiasm. He was active in the county and state organizations of the Humane Society, serving for many years as president of both. He took a leading part in the good and useful projects of the city, but his personality was so strong that he sometimes was led into controversy, such as the debate he waged with the Roman Catholic clergy in 1896 because of a sermon in which he charged that "the Catholic church aims and works for temporal power". It was a tempest in a teapot, but it enlivened an otherwise drab summer.

The Reverend Dr. Ryan was an ambitious man, but his ambition was primarily for his parish. No correspondence is extant to reveal his feelings with regard to the relations of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Duluth with the rest of the Diocese of Minnesota, but it is obvious from the clues which have survived that he was not particularly happy that Duluth should so often be slighted in diocesan matters. Early in the history of the Diocese of Minnesota, Bishop Whipple had decided upon a division of the diocese into convocations or districts for missionary purposes. Duluth fell quite naturally into the northern convocation. But there is no record that the rector of St. Paul's ever held the headship of that northern convocation, and that may be what irked the Reverend Dr. Ryan. There probably were other reasons for his assumption of leadership in a separatist movement soon after he took over his duties at St. Paul's.

In June, 1895, the movement for the secession was well underway and the newspapers of the city fed avidly upon every scrap of news that could be unearthed. The DULUTH COMMONWEALTH, a weekly newspaper, came out in its edition of June 8, 1895, with an editorial declaring that "Duluth can furnish a seat for an Episcopal Bishopric and if necessary provide the bishop". Dr. Ryan took the lead in the movement and in spite of considerable opposition from the twin cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, resolutions were voted by the diocesan convention in Minneapolis in September 1895, to create a separate diocese in the northern part of Minnesota. One of the conditions for the separation, however, was a requirement that the new diocese create an endowment of \$20,000 for a Bishop's fund and it fell to Dr. Ryan to spearhead that movement. It was anticipated the James J. Hill of the Great Northern would contribute liberally to such a fund, and Dr. Ryan expected no difficulty in raising the fund. No record has been found to show the amount of Mr. Hill's contribution, but the requirement was waived on condition that the Parish raise the interest at six per cent per annum on an endowment of \$20,000. The first diocesan convention was held in December, 1895, at Brainerd.

Dr. Ryan had every reason to hope that he might be named the Bishop of the Diocese of Duluth. It must have been disheartening to him and to the parish that the affairs of the infant diocesan district were left to the Right Reverend M. N. Gilbert and Archdeacon Joseph A. Gillfillan. The second convention of the new diocese was to be held at St. Paul's in Duluth in November, 1896, and the newspapers of Duluth prophesied that Dr. Ryan would receive the call. When the delegates met, however, they elected Dr. J. D. Morrison of Ogdensburg, New York, and he was consecrated Missionary Bishop of Duluth on February 2, 1897.

While these diverse activities were engaging much popular attention, Dr. Ryan was by no means neglecting his parish. Under his energetic administration the parish grew steadily in membership. But the creation of the Diocese brought with it a problem. A diocese ought to have a cathedral seat for its bishop, and Duluth had only the one strong Episcopal Church—St. Paul's, and it belonged to Dr. Ryan. The new bishop, therefore, felt it incumbent upon himself to create a cathedral parish, and that meant that he perforce had to carve it out of territory which up to that time had been administered by St. Paul's. In November, 1905, he announced his



Minutes of the vestry meetings establishing parish and diocese boundaries.

Duluth, Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 1895.  
 A Meeting of St Pauls Vestry was held this evening by appointment with Bishop Morrison at his residence 8 and Superior St. Present the Bishop, Dr. Powers, Messrs Wright, H. Gilbert, Captain, Palmer, St. Clair & Taylor, Mr. Thomas Wood was also present.  
 A discussion took place regarding the recent action of the Bishop and the standing committee of the Diocese in defining the boundaries of St Pauls Parish as between 11<sup>th</sup> Ave East & 12<sup>th</sup> Ave West and after a decided expression of opinion on the part of the vestry were present that both in interests of St Pauls Parish and the Church at large it was inadvisable to have any Parish boundaries the Bishop promised that he would use his best endeavors to have the action of the standing committee rescinded, so far as Parish boundaries were concerned. The meeting then adjourned to the residence of Mr. Thomas Wood all being present except the Bishop and Dr. Ryan was present also.  
 On motion of Mr. St. Clair recorded by Mr. H. L. Gilbert it was agreed that Dr. Ryan be authorized to engage an architect at a salary not to exceed \$100 a month. The meeting then adjourned.  
 Henry Taylor Secy.

decision to divide St. Paul's parish territory at Eleventh Avenue East, giving to a new parish, to be called Trinity, all of Duluth east of that line and including the Woodland and Park Point areas as well. The Reverend A. H. Wertele was named vicar of the new parish, and Bishop Morrison announced plans to erect a handsome new cathedral at 20th Avenue East and Superior Street.

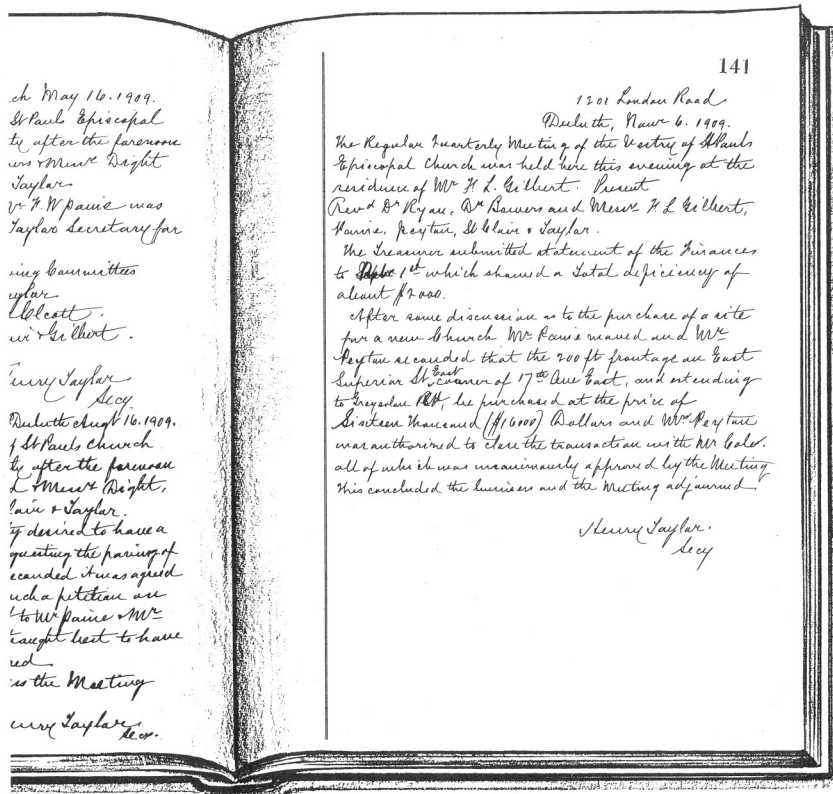


It is evident that the parish and Dr. Ryan felt equally strong about this seemingly cavalier division of territory, and unsuccessful attempts were made to have the edict modified. In January, 1907, a special meeting of the vestry was called at which a formal vote of the vestry recorded a decision to build a new church. A committee was established to survey sites and plans were made for a church structure to cost about \$100,000. The committee went quietly ahead and in November, 1909, acquired land at 17th Avenue East and Superior Street where the present church structure stands. It was well within the limits of the territory accorded to Trinity Parish. But no public announcement was made until June 1911, when Dr. Ryan and the Vestry announced the intent of St. Paul's to erect a new church at the recently acquired site, at a cost of about \$115,000.

There was pandemonium in Episcopal ranks about this time. The annoyance of Bishop Mor-

ri-son and the congregation of Trinity was self-evident, and for a while the problem was thrown into the public press. But Bishop Morrison created a diocesan committee with instructions to work out an amicable settlement of what threatened to become a harsh division of the Episcopal Church in Duluth. In the end an agreement was reached to abolish the division line at Eleventh Avenue East, leaving the entire city open to both parishes. St. Paul's Parish, meanwhile, went right ahead with its plans for the construction of the new church building. Bertram G. Goodhue of the firm, Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, celebrated church architects of New York and Boston, was commissioned to design the structure. Locally, G. G. Hartley was chairman of the building committee for the church. The cornerstone was laid at special ceremonies on April 12, 1912, with Dr. Ryan presiding. The first service in the new church was held on May 11, 1915.

It was, and still is, a gorgeous edifice, fit to be called a "House of God". Designed in the tradition of the Cathedral of Canterbury, it had dignity and magnificence, and a special aura of reverence about it from the first. One of the characteristics of the new church home was its organ, a gift of Arthur Eaton Gilbert, which was presided over with unusual talent and grace by Mr. A. F. M. Custance, a musician of more than ordinary talent who served as organist and choir-master from 1892 until his death in 1926. Under his gifted hands and those of his successors that organ pulsed and throbbed and sang its paeans of praise and worship of the Creator of this Universe. During the decade of the 1950's, it was replaced by a newer organ, the acquisition of which was made possible by a sizable gift from Mr. Richard Close of Los Angeles, who for many years had been Superintendent of St. Paul's Sunday School. The altar in the new church was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Frederic W. Paine in commemoration of the Sargent family which had played so great a part in the creation of the church. The pealing bells which call the people to worship were presented by Mary Paine Worthen and F. Rodney Paine to commemorate the services of their parents, Frederic and Emilie Sargent Paine, donors of the altar. The baptismal font commemorates Colonel Joshua B. Culver, who with General Sargent, represented the pioneers of the Church.



On May 16, 1909.  
St Paul's Episcopal  
Church after the forenoon  
in Mr. Wright  
Taylor  
W. P. Paine was  
Taylor Secretary for  
ing committee  
up for  
Chilcott.  
in the church.

Henry Taylor  
Secy.  
Duluth church 16, 1909.  
St Paul's Church  
after the forenoon  
in Mr. Wright,  
Paine & Taylor  
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quoting the passing of  
record it was agreed  
with a petition was  
to Mr. Paine & Mr.  
taught best to have  
and  
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Henry Taylor  
Secy.

1201 London Road  
Duluth, Nov. 6, 1909.

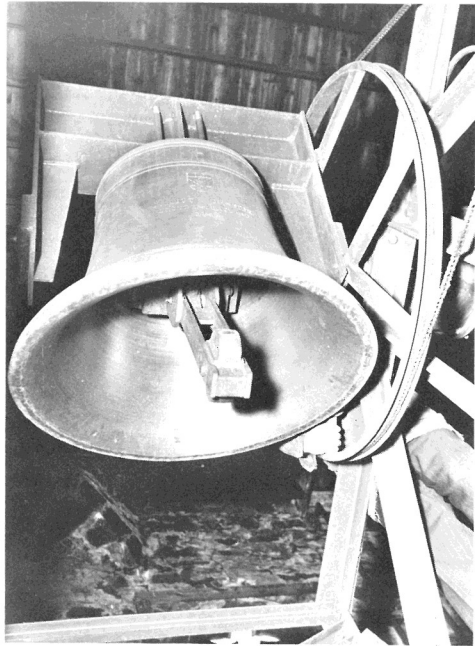
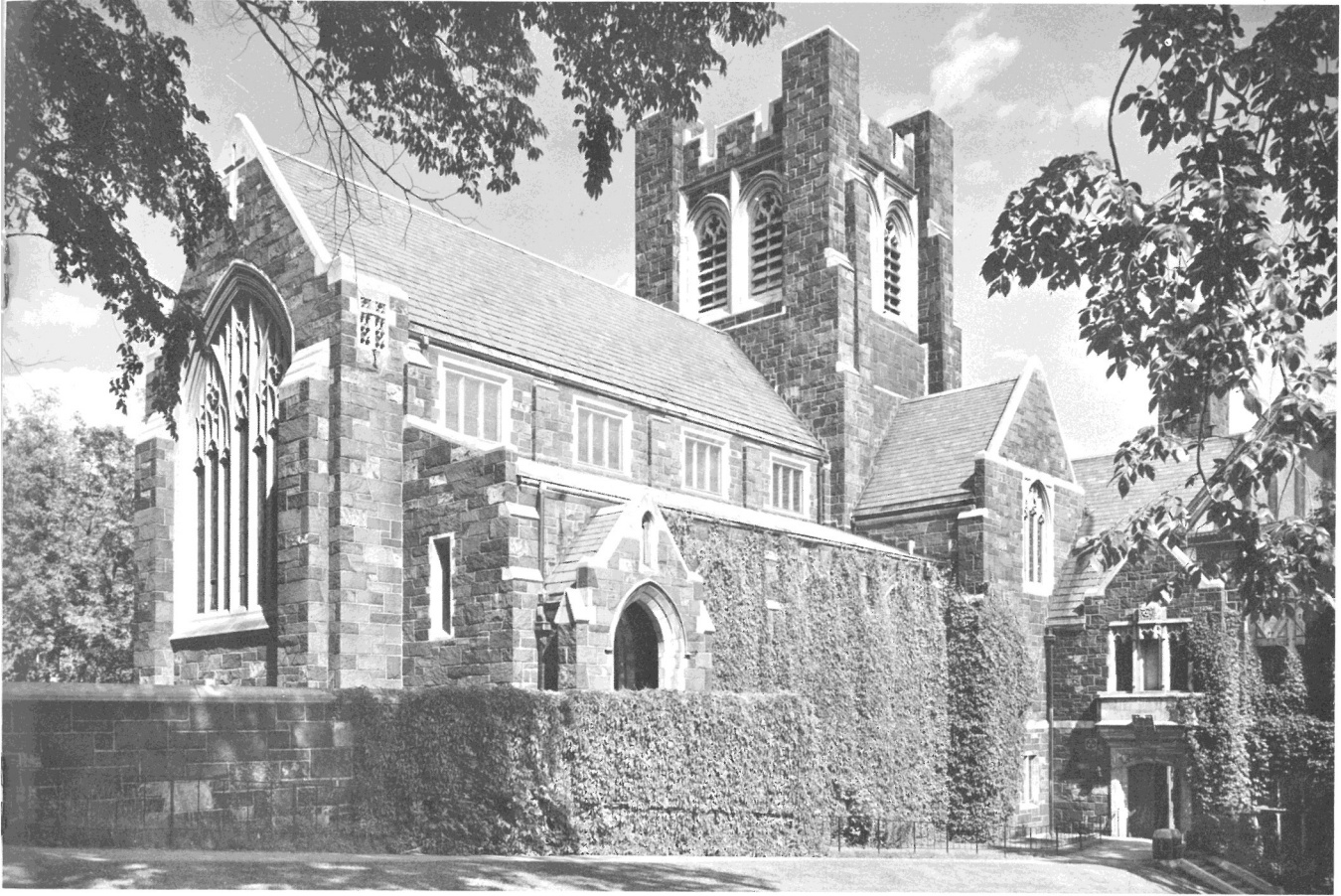
The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Vestry of St Paul's  
Episcopal Church was held here this evening at the  
residence of Mr. H. K. Chilcott. Present  
Rev. Dr. Ryan, Dr. Bowers and Messrs. H. K. Chilcott,  
Paine, Keyser, & Glavin & Taylor.

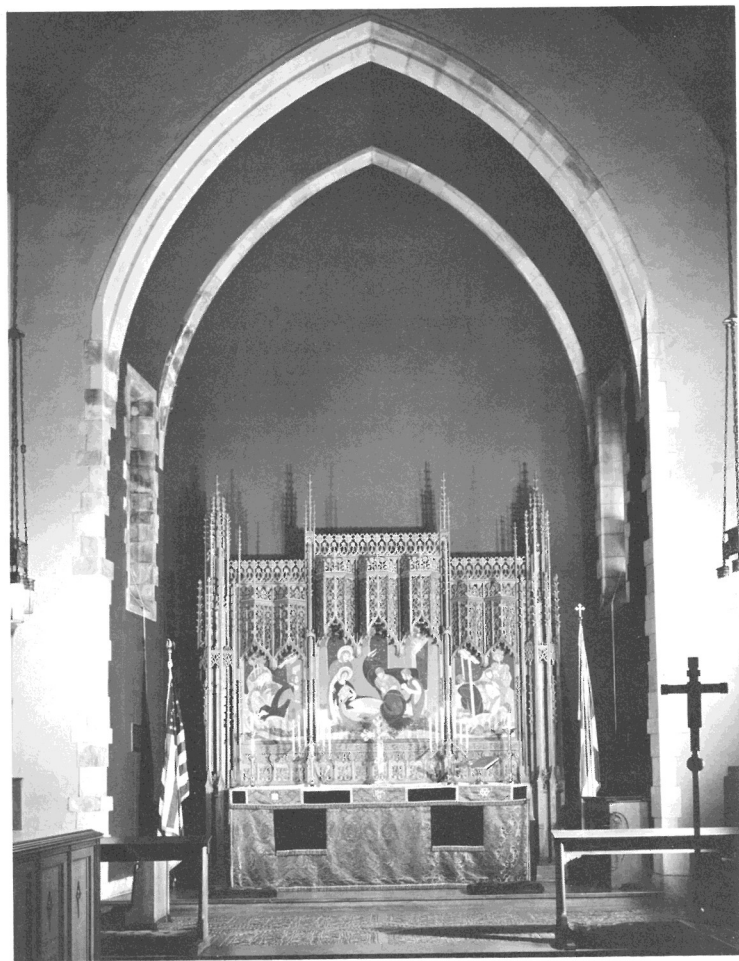
The Treasurer submitted statement of the finances  
to ~~Page 1~~ which showed a total deficiency of  
about \$2,000.

After some discussion as to the purchase of a site  
for a new church Mr. Paine moved and Mr.  
Keyser seconded that the 200 ft frontage on East  
Superior St. corner of 17th Ave East, and extending  
to Broadway St. be purchased at the price of  
Sixteen thousand (\$16,000) Dollars and Mr. Keyser  
was authorized to close the transaction with Mr. Child,  
all of who it was unanimously approved by the Meeting  
this concluded the business and the Meeting adjourned.

Henry Taylor  
Secy.

Minutes of vestry meeting authorizing purchase of present church property.





*"O Thou, who are present in every place, and from whose love neither space nor distance can separate us: give us to know that those who are absent from each other are present with thee; and grant that, though separated, we may realize our communion with one another in the fellowship of thy service, here and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."*

Dr. Ryan served the parish for twenty-nine years. They were exciting years, and for the most part, satisfying years. He was energetic, and spontaneous, and enthusiastic about everything he did. It was not only his congregation, but the whole city which was shocked profoundly by his death on October 27, 1922, after a very brief illness. But the life of a church goes on and on so long as there is a building and a congregation, and the other things which go to make it live. The Reverend James Mills, who had served as assistant to Dr. Ryan during the last three years took up the duties of rector, to serve until October, 1927, when he left to become Dean of the Cathedral in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. For a space of five months the old familiar story was retold as St. Paul's sought to find a successor who could combine the good points of Dr. Ryan and the Reverend Mr. Mills. In March, 1928, he was found in the person of the Reverend Benjamin T. Kemerer. But in 1930, the Reverend Mr. Kemerer was elected Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Duluth, and in 1934, he achieved the recognition that had been denied Dr. Ryan when he was elected Bishop of the Diocese, succeeding Dr. Granville Gaylord Bennett who had become bishop following the retirement of Bishop Morrison in 1922. Bishop Kemerer remained in his post until the Diocese of Duluth was reunited with the Diocese of Minnesota early in 1944, whereupon he became Suffragan Bishop of Minnesota.

It was while the Reverend Mr. Kemerer was rector that the carved oak reredos and the fine religious art accompanying it behind the altar were presented to the church. The religious paintings were the gift of William J. Olcott and family, and the reredos, of perpendicular Gothic style composed of slender spires interlaced with carvings of ecclesiastical patterns and grape clusters were the gift of the women of the parish. It was also during his tenure that the Parish House was added to the church structure. A canvass for funds was successfully undertaken and construction was begun on October 15, 1928. On September 14, 1929, it was opened to the public. It contains the beautiful Olcott Room which was made possible by generous gifts from the Olcott family.

When the Reverend Mr. Kemerer was elected Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese, St. Paul's was again left without a rector. But the Right Reverend Granville Gordon Bennett, Bishop of the Diocese, graciously came to serve the parish until a successor could be found. Bishop Bennett has a special place in the hearts of the parishioners

of St. Paul's not only for his generous action in filling a vacant pulpit, but because of his enormous gifts of eloquence as a speaker. He literally filled the church Sunday after Sunday. It is a further tribute to his character and ability that after he retired as Bishop of this Diocese, he went on to become Bishop of the Diocese of Rhode Island, the only man in the history of the Episcopal Church in America to serve as Bishop of two Dioceses.

The search for a successor to Bishop Kemerer was ended in August, 1931, when the Reverend Robert P. Frazier responded to the invitation to serve as rector. But Reverend Frazier left the parish early in 1935, and he was succeeded for a short time by the Reverend W. C. Hengen. That year the Reverend Lloyd R. Gillmett finally assumed the office, to serve until the end of July, 1942, when he resigned to become a chaplain in the armed forces of the United States then at war.

During these years of uncertainty the parish nevertheless took the first hesitant steps to heal the split between Trinity Cathedral Congregation and St. Paul's. On November 30, 1934, Mr. Frederic W. Paine reported to the vestry that he had been holding informal conversations with Mr. George Crosby of Trinity relative to a merger of the two congregations, inasmuch as the diocesan organization was even then located at St. Cloud. As a result, the vestry voted to name a committee composed of Mr. Paine, Mr. Arthur W. King, Sr., and Mr. W. C. Vince, to meet with a like committee from Trinity Cathedral congregation to discuss the details of a merger of the two. About a month later, Bishop Kemerer urged the consolidation upon both parishes, and the vestry of St. Paul's on January 13, proposed a merger to be effective on March 31, 1935, or later. On January 31, the committee, enlarged to include W. B. Congdon, and D. D. Harries of St. Paul's, and for Trinity Cathedral Parish George H. Crosby, chairman, and J. W. Lyder, Charles Liscomb, Henry S. Tolman, and E. C. Beck, presented a plan to merge the two parishes under the name "Parish of St. Paul's and Trinity." It was proposed to maintain the premises of Trinity for religious purposes during the season when no heat would be required, under the supervision of a committee of three, at least two of whom should represent Trinity congregation. The vestry of the combined church should be composed of five representatives of Trinity, and six from St. Paul's and the pastor of the combined church would be the Reverend Gilbert K. Good. At a special parish meeting of St. Paul's

on March 1, 1935, the merger motion was overwhelmingly carried, but a hard core of opposition among the members of the Trinity parish prevented the merger from consummation.

During the last quarter of a century, the affairs of St. Paul's Church have run on the whole smoothly and softly. There were only three periods in the more than twenty-five years when a break in regularity occurred. After the resignation of the Reverend Mr. Gillmett, the church was served by an interim rector, the Reverend E. C. Prosser. But in April, 1943, the Reverend O. Wendell McGinnis took up the task of leading the parish, and for the next eleven years he was a bright light who won the hearts of all with whom he came in contact. The Congregation mourned when he resigned in 1954 to accept the pulpit at Rochester, Minnesota. In the search for a successor, the name of John W. Hildebrand came to mention, and after due consideration he was called from his parish in Wyoming to take up the work at St. Paul's.

The period of his ministry was one of a great expansion of missionary activity in the home area, and St. Paul's had the opportunity to lend its resources — spiritual as well as material — to the mission churches in the area to an extent not hitherto taken full advantage of. Thus the greater strength of St. Paul's was lent to help those older mission churches of Holy Apostles and St. Andrew's By-the-Lake, as well as giving financial and moral support to the newer parish of St. Edwards in Lakeside to which, incidentally, the remnants of the congregation of Trinity moved when services were finally terminated in the old Cathedral church. St. Paul's was also called upon to furnish ministerial and lay help in conducting Episcopal services in communities as remote as Two Harbors and Silver Bay after the latter community came into existence as a result of the revolution in the iron mining industry produced by the successful processing of taconite ore. And the parish took on the responsibility of supporting a ministry in Nigeria. It was characteristic of the Reverend Mr. Hildebrand's ministry that he looked upon his parish as a family, and all his activities were gauged upon that concept. For most of his ministry, he served the growing community of the University of Minnesota, Duluth, although he relinquished that duty to the vicar of St. Andrew's By-the-Lake shortly before he left the parish in November, 1968, to fill a pulpit at Fort Worth in Texas.

It was a matter of good fortune that Mr. Hildebrand had able curates during his ministry



*"St. Paul's House"  
... the most recent addition  
to the church property.*

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in Duluth, and particularly so at the time of his departure. When he left, the heavy hand of responsibility was placed upon the shoulders of James S. Massie, Jr., who was graduated from the Seminary in June, 1968. Mr. Massie was ordained Deacon at St. Luke's, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and consequently was able to carry on in a limited way the pastoral duties from November until March when he was raised to the priesthood in special ceremonies at St. Paul's. Mr. Massie proved to be an ingenious and capable young man, and it was well that he had those qualities, for the departure of the Reverend Mr. Hildebrand came at a critical moment in the history of the parish. At the time of his resignation, negotiations were underway for the purchase of a large home adjacent to the church which had been the seat for Lutheran Welfare activities. The consummation of the transaction occurred during this interim. "St. Paul's House" next door furnished needed rooms for youth activities as well as for the expanded program of the women of St. Paul's. Then, too, arrangements had been made for the annual diocesan convention to be held at St. Paul's in January, 1969, as a part of the centennial observance of the church. It fell to Mr. Massie to represent the clerical function in planning for and carrying through this difficult meeting. Finally, it fell to Mr. Massie to assist in the planning for the celebration of the centennial of St. Paul's, to be held August 8, 9, and 10, 1969, the outline for which had been made under the auspices of the Reverend Mr. Hildebrand. In spite of the fact that the details of planning were left in the capable hands of a committee headed by Arthur W. King, the responsibility upon the shoulders of Mr. Massie was a heavy burden for so young a man to assume.

In the meantime, the search was underway for a successor to the Reverend Mr. Hildebrand. St. Paul's was fortunate that among the many fine young men nominated for the position was one unusually well-qualified who had roots deep in the soil of Minnesota, although he was at the time performing pastoral duties in the largest Episcopal parish in Kansas City. The Reverend Donald M. Hultstrand accepted the invitation of the parish to become its shepherd. He assumed his duties as rector on June 8, 1969, just in time to take over from the Reverend Mr. Massie the burden of the parish's centennial. Mr. Massie was understandably relieved that he was able to resume his previous position as curate serving with the Reverend Mr. Hultstrand.



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An interesting footnote to the Reverend Mr. Hultstrand's coming to Duluth was a notation in an issue of the Parish Register in 1951 announcing that a seminary student named Donald Hultstrand had been employed by the parish to serve as leader of the Bible School. He returned at almost exactly the same time of year as his original appointment to duties for the parish.

So this is the story in a limited sort of way of the first hundred years of a church which is a

building, and which is people—people worshiping in their pews and listening to the words of devoted rectors, people giving unselfishly of their time to raise their voices in song Sunday after Sunday, people who give of their time to help the church in its material tasks—but always a building and people, told primarily in terms of those who served as the shepherds of the flock.

Arthur J. Larsen

# Parish Organization



THE REV. DONALD M. HULTSTRAND  
*Present Rector*



THE REV. JAMES S. MASSIE  
*Present Curate*

## *Rector*

THE REVEREND DONALD M. HULTSTRAND

## *Curate*

THE REVEREND JAMES S. MASSIE, JR.

## *Vestry*

*Senior Warden:* JOHN C. HUNNER

*Junior Warden:* HOWARD HAGEN

## *Vestrymen*

CHARLES E. ANDERSON, ROBERT ANGST,  
JAMES BENNETT, JAMES A. HOULE,  
ROBERT JAMES, JOHN J. KILLEN, JR.,  
ARTHUR LARSEN, HAROLD MAIN  
AND JOHN STROMQUIST

## *Clerk Protem*

EDWARD S. GOULD, JR.

## *Treasurer*

CHARLES E. ANDERSON

## *Financial Secretary*

ALLAN PEDERSEN

## *Bookkeeper*

AUDREY WEBB

## *Parish Secretary*

GENEVIEVE MALMQUIST

## *Organist*

CHRISTINE CROCKETT

## *Choir Director*

JEAN MANTHEY

## *Choir Director*

ELLEN SMITH

## *Custodian*

WILLIAM OLSON

## *Housekeeper*

MABEL JOHNSON

## *President of Guild Auxiliary*

MRS. ARTHUR J. LARSEN

## *President of Altar Guild*

MRS. E. OTTO BAUMGARTEN

## Former Rectors



MASON GALLAGHER  
1869 - 1870



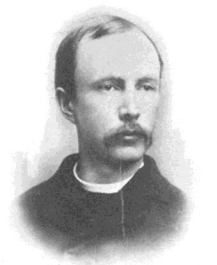
J. A. GILFILLAN  
1870 - 1872



FRANK R. MILSPAUGH  
1875 - 1876



RICHARD WAINWRIGHT  
1877 - 1878



CHARLES A. CUMMINGS  
1879 - 1883



C. A. POOLE  
1883 - 1888



WM. M. BARKER  
1889 - 1893



A. W. RYAN  
1893 - 1922



JAMES MILLS  
1922 - 1927



B. T. KEMERER  
1927 - 1930



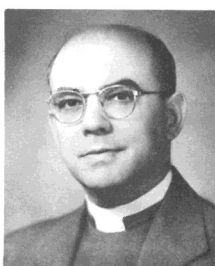
ROBERT P. FRAZIER  
1931 - 1934



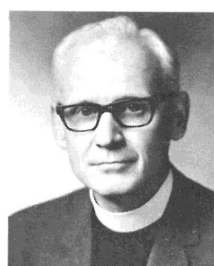
WILLIAM C. HENGEN  
1934 - 1935



LOYD R. GILMETT  
1935 - 1942



O. WENDELL MCGINNIS  
1943 - 1954



JOHN W. HILDEBRAND  
1955 - 1968



# Centennial Services and Program

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8th

6:30 p.m. Centennial Banquet at Hotel Duluth  
Main Address by The Right Reverend Philip F. McNairy, D.D.  
Bishop Coadjutor of Minnesota

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9th

1:30 p.m. Church Family Picnic at  
Minnesota Point Recreation Center

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10th

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer  
Sermon by The Right Reverend Hamilton H. Kellogg, D.D.  
Bishop of Minnesota  
11:30 a.m. Dedication of "St. Paul's House"  
12:00 noon Reception in Parish House  
3:00 p.m. Dedication of Rectory and Open House

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## Centennial Committee

ARTHUR W. KING, *Chairman*

JOHN C. HUNNER, HOWARD T. HAGEN, *Co-Chairmen*

ARTHUR J. LARSEN *History*

MISS CATHERINE VINCE  
MRS. JOHN HUNNER *Historical Display*

H. WHITTEMORE GOOCH *Treasurer*

MRS. R. N. MCGIFFERT *Housing of Visiting Clergy*

H. E. WESTMORELAND *Banquet*

WILLIAM R. DAVIS *Publicity*

MRS. ARTHUR J. LARSEN  
MRS. EDWARD S. GOULD, JR. *Receptions*

REV. JAMES S. MASSIE, JR. *Church Family Picnic*