Mendenhall Presbyterian Church, East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

In January 1898, the newly installed furnace was found unsatisfactory since smoke came out of the pipes instead of heat.

At a Trustee's meeting bills were allowed for: furnace repairs, $3; J. H. Hiler, $5 for wood and $56 for kerosene. This was in 1901. In February, 1906, a milestone was reached, the church was wired for electricity at a cost of $29.30.

Dr. Mendenhall gave $2,000 for a church hall under the sanctuary. It was built in 1910 and named Peden Hall in memory of the Scottish martyrs. The hall and sanctuary floor burned December 12, 1913. On December 1, 1946 the Bethel Church of Mallory burned and on October 17, 1948, they united with the Mendenhall church.

The congregation voted to build both sanctuary and Christian Education units in 1955, and on December 23, 1956 the first services were held which included two baptisms, two weddings and Church School Christmas program.

On March 3, 1957, the present church building on 10th Avenue North was dedicated during the ministry of Andrew M. Lowry III.

The new pipe organ was dedicated, the first pipe organ in East Grand Forks, in November 1960.

In 1960 the church congregation chaired by Mr. and Mrs. Verne McWalter sponsored Mr. and Mrs. Karel Rugebrighet and baby Gerde, refugees from Indonesia. Indonesia declared that all who were not pure blooded Indonesian had to leave the country. They arrived February 17th. An apartment supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Herb Lamme, furniture, clothing and food by the members. Mr. Rugebr退市 secured a job at Black's bakery. In 1963, they moved to California and is working as an airplane mechanic. They and their three children returned to Mendenhall to celebrate their American citizenship. Mr. Rugebrighet spoke fervently on what becoming a citizen meant to him.

As a part of the diamond Jubilee Celebration of the church in 1965, the mortgage of $200,000 was burned by Donald Peterson, Mrs. A. G. Vickery and Nancy Boyer.

On June 10, 1971, fire broke out in front of the church sanctuary, completely destroying the altar, choir loft, piano, electric organ, pews and skylights.


**SACRED HEART PARISH**

The parish of Sacred Heart Church of East Grand Forks comprises all of Rhinehart and Grand Forks and parts of surrounding townships.

This territory was first claimed by France, but in 1763 France ceded it to Spain. In the year of 1800 it was restored to France. In 1803 it was sold by Napoleon to the United States.

As early as 1674 this area was included in the Diocese of Quebec, then Santiago de Cuba, Havana, New Orleans, Baltimore, St. Louis and Dubuque. From 1850 to 1875 it was a part of the Diocese of St. Paul, which was bordered on the east by the St. Croix River and on the west by the Missouri River. The parish was a part of the Diocese of Duluth from 1889 until the forming of the Diocese of Crookston in 1910.

The first Catholic religious service in East Grand Forks was conducted by Father Scherer in July 1883 in a building on DeMers Avenue. At that time this part of the country was thinly populated by some white people (among them an occasional ranchman) and a few Indians (some of whom were traders).

With Father Hendrickson as pastor, the Sacred Heart Parish was organized in 1892. The first church building was completed in 1895 at an estimated cost of $3,000. Soon afterwards it was destroyed by fire.

Undaunted, the parish constructed another and larger church on the same site. This building and its furnishings cost $12,000. In 1908, Father Green was appointed pastor. Two years later "an elegant" pastoral residence, costing $8,000 was ready for use.

The parish now numbered about 200 families. A Ladies' Auxiliary of the Church, a Men's League of the Sacred Heart, an Altar Society, and the Catholic Order of Foresters were formed to further the interests of the Church.

Sunday school classes were conducted and a class of 57 received First Holy Communion in June 1900. That same year in September 60 pupils registered for the first Sacred Heart Grade School.

In 1911 Father Klinkhammer was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Church. Under his supervision, a school was built in 1911 for students of grades 1 through 8. The Sisters of St. Benedict, Duluth, Minnesota, were in charge of the school. In 1917 the convent was built for housing the Sisters. In 1919 the Benedictine Sisters from the Crookston Priory (newly formed) opened the first high school classes at Sacred Heart. The first graduating class received their diplomas in 1923.

Monsignor Klinkhammer remained in charge of the parish until his death in 1947.

In October of 1947, Father A. I. Merth arrived to be in charge of Sacred Heart Parish. One month after his arrival a meeting was held to plan a new structure. There were $200,000 in the Father Klinkhammer Building Fund. More land was purchased and a new church, rectory, high school, and gymnasium were constructed at a cost well over $500,000. The first Mass was offered in the new Church in December 1951. The high school students moved into the high school building in early 1952.

A 16-classroom building was constructed on South Fourth Street in 1958 to accommodate the increased grade school enrollment. During the same time an addition to the convent building was built to house the growing faculty.

Necessarily, for the parishioners there were times of great sacrifice to meet the payments on such huge construction projects.

In 1970, because of failing health Monsignor Merth found it necessary to retire. To succeed him, came Father Donald Krebs, the present pastor.

Sacred Heart High School celebrated its Golden Anniversary, there having been nearly 1300 graduates, many of whom returned to celebrate.

The Post-Counciltia times dictated that Father Krebs would spend much energy and many efforts in re-decorating the Church, in instructional and organizational matters. Although the Parish Council had been organized in 1970 and the Men's Athletic Association had been functioning for years, reorganization was needed. Religious Ed. Board was formed and CCD Program was initiated, Parish Life and Social Action Committee, Finance Board, School Board, etc. became alive. Adult Education through Theology Series, Lenten Forums, Reconciliation Seminars, Marriage Preparation and Marriage Encounters, and Community University represent continuous building of Sacred Heart Parish, albeit interior, under Father Krebs vital leadership.