Location of the Cathedral Church on North Ash Street is the result of property acquisition begun by Bishop Corbett immediately after his installation, at which time he purchased a frame house for a rectory and the adjacent lands for the church and the school. Following the construction of the school, the new bishop turned his energies and attention to the erection of a cathedral and the work was blessed February 2, 1913. The next project was the erection of St. Joseph's Home on Third Street in 1933. The building served as a school and a home for the Sisters teaching at the Cathedral School (grade and high). In 1936, the parish acquired the Congregational Church property on the corner of Third and North Ash.

The diocese of Crookston received its second bishop, John H. Peschges, on November 16, 1938. Bishop Peschges served for seven years until his death and in 1945 Bishop Francis J. Schenk became the third leader of the diocese of Crookston. During all of these years, the bishops were actively interested in the Cathedral parish since the parish property housed the bishop's quarters and the diocesan chancery office.

The Cathedral parish was to receive its second pastor when Father Wurm resigned in 1951 because of failing health. He died the following year.

Father John R. McAleeer, later made a domestic prelate, was appointed to be the Cathedral pastor and superintendent of the high school and grade school.

The construction of the diocesan administration building, completed in 1953, and the removal of the bishop's residence and chancery offices to this structure, made possible the construction of a new Cathedral rectory which provided quarters for the priests serving the parish and for the parish offices.

In 1960, to celebrate the golden anniversary of the parish, extensive renovation of the Cathedral was completed at a cost of $110,000 and on April 6 of that year the diocese welcomed its fourth bishop Laurence A. Glenn, of Duluth, the city which had sent Crookston its first bishop. Bishop Glenn led the diocese for ten years, to be succeeded September 29, 1970 by Bishop Kenneth Povish of the diocese of Saginaw, Michigan.

Bishop Kenneth Povish served the Diocese until his transfer to the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan which was announced by Pope Paul, October 12, 1975. Installation for Bishop Povish took place in Lansing, Michigan, December 11, 1975.

Upon the transfer of Bishop Povish to Lansing, Michigan, the Priest Consultants elected Father John Stearns to be Administrator of the Diocese of Crookston until Pope Paul announced the new Bishop of Crookston on July 7, 1976.

The new Bishop is Monsignor Victor H. Balke of the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois. He was installed as Bishop of Crookston September, 1976.

The Cathedral parish received its third pastor, John Stearns, July 6, 1971. Father Stearns had been appointed vicar general of the diocese by Bishop Povish on December 18, 1970, after a consultative vote of all the priests of the diocese. He came to Crookston from Fertile where he had been serving St. Joseph's parish and had also been CCD director of the diocese.

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Christ Episcopal Church, 120 North Ash Street, had its beginning on October 31, 1879, when services were held in the town schoolhouse by the Reverend William Thomas Currie of Grand Forks. The beginning coincides with the incorporation of the city of Crookston. One year earlier, on November 17, 1878, the Reverend Mr. Currie had visited the community and held an Episcopal service in the Union Church, the town's first religious organization.

An inscription written by Mr. Currie and dated April 7, 1884, describes this early visit:

"On Sunday, November 17, 1878, I visited the Union Sunday School which met in the schoolhouse at Crookston. While there I was invited by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Smith, to preach for him in the evening. I accepted on condition of being allowed to conduct the services in my own way. In the evening I found the schoolhouse full of people, a large proportion being men. The building was built of boards, covered with paper on the inside instead of boards.

"I read the prayers, omitting the responsive part of the service, as there were no prayer books for the congregation. Then I preached a written sermon, which was listened to very attentively. This, I think, was the first time the Church's prayers (Episcopal) were ever read in this town, said at this time to contain about 600 people... The Union Church was the only religious organization."

(Quotation taken from Christ Episcopal Church's first record book.)

When the Union Church disbanded in 1879, the Episcopalians continued to conduct services under the guidance of Mr. Currie, sometimes meeting in the schoolhouse and later in a hall on Main Street. Then on August 12, 1880, Lots 2 and 3 of A. C. Loring's Addition to the city of Crookston (present site of the church) were donated and conveyed to H. B. Whipple as bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church for the erection of a church building to be used and maintained for the use of said denomination. The donors, Loren Fletcher and Ameret J. Fletcher and Charles M. Loring and Emily B. Loring, stipulated that the building must be constructed within two years and that failure to maintain said property for this purpose should cause the property to revert to the donors and their heirs and assigns. This stipulation was removed by Mr. Fletcher, then a widower, and by Mr. and Mrs. Loring on July 30, 1908.

On August 31, 1881, the requisite number of petitioners requested the consent of Bishop Whipple to organize a Protestant Episcopal parish in the city. Officers of the congregation were George Crocker, senior warden; George W. Tonson, junior warden; Thomas C. Shapleigh, Henry Watts, and W. D. Hurlbut, vestrymen. The church building was a gift from M. R. Brown, pioneer stockman and builder. It was constructed in 1881-82. In 1923 it was enlarged and remodeled. The nave, however, is much the same as it was when the church was dedicated in 1882. Christ Church is the oldest church building in the city of Crookston and has been used continuously by those of the Episcopal faith. Its tower holds the first church bell in the city. The inscription reads:

"This bell cast for the Episcopal Church, Crookston. The first church bell in this city — 1882."

In 1883 the congregation built a large rectory next door to the church on the north side. This residence was razed in the 1950s and the lot filled and sodded.

The first resident rector of the church was the Reverend Samuel Currie, brother of the Reverend William Currie, who took charge of the parish at Easter in 1881 and remained here until 1888. The Reverend Robert Wittenstrom now serves the congregation.

**EVANGELICAL CONVOCATION CHURCH**

**HISTORY**

As early as 1893, Reverend P. L. Mostrom came from Teien, Minnesota to hold meetings in the homes of Scandinavian friends in Crookston. Reverend Mostrom had come to Teien in 1884, from Dalarna, Sweden. We are told that he was able to build for himself a buggy from the wheels and axle of an old discarded hay rake. This he painted a bright red color and used it to travel from place to place in the Lord's work. The bright red vehicle became a common sight upon the prairies of the Red River Valley and when the settlers saw it stop at a farm house they knew that there Reverend Mostrom would be holding a service.

From these efforts a church was organized on Friday evening, August 24, 1894 and signed by the following: Mr. Gustaf Sjoberg, in whose home the church was organized, and his wife Ida; Mr. Elof Dahlquist, a mill worker, and his wife Wendla;