

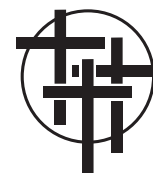
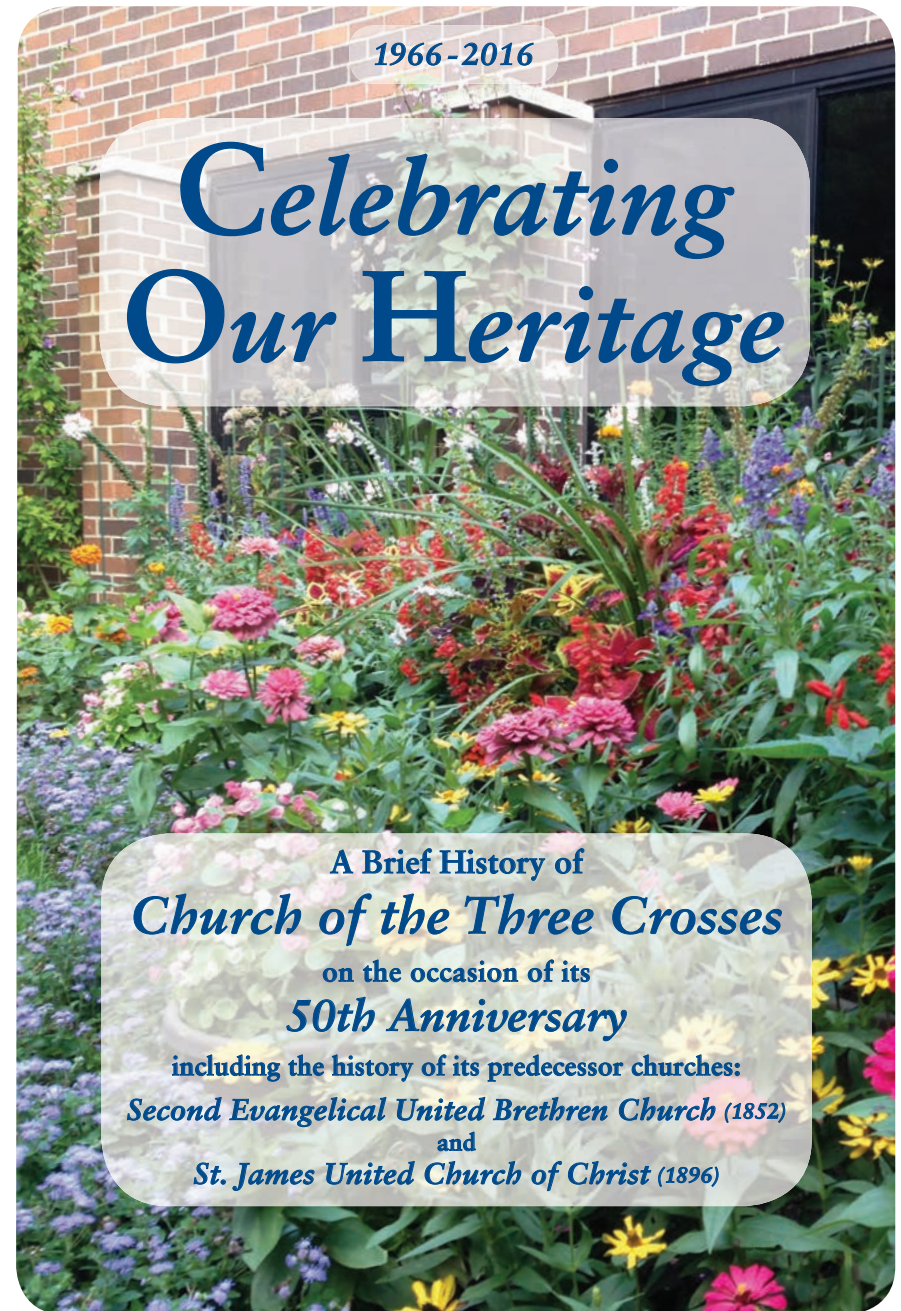
## Notes

1. Church of the Three Crosses owned a number of buildings at various times, including: 1900 N. Sedgwick (the former Second Church and the Three Crosses home until 1974), 1908 N. Sedgwick (former Second Church parsonage and later used for mission/rentals), 1854 N. Sedgwick (parsonage and office for former Second Church and then Three Crosses, and later used for mission/rentals), 1718 N. North Park (former St. James Church used for rentals), 1722 N. North Park (parsonage for former St. James Church and then for Three Crosses), the “old Slomer storefront” at 1859 N. Sedgwick (used for mission), and the former Good Samaritan Church and parsonage in Des Plaines.
2. Few items have survived from the predecessor churches beyond church records. From St. James Church there exists a silver communion set from 1897 and one stained glass window. (This window, shown on page 1, has been digitally repaired for this booklet.) From Second Church, two pews, a communion table, lecturn, two pedestals and the 500-pound bell exist.
3. In 1903/4, Second Church sold some of its property on Wisconsin Street just west of the church building to the Evangelical Deaconess Society, and thus helped start the Deaconess Home and Hospital. The hospital was sold to the Salvation Army in 1943 which operated it as the Catherine Booth Memorial Welfare Center (1943-53) and the Catherine Booth Hospital (1953-1959). The building was bought by Roosevelt Hospital in 1960, and in 1981, the name changed to Chicago Center Hospital. In 1985, the hospital was sold, closed and the building eventually demolished. The property was developed as the Belgravia Terrace town homes in 1989. The present church building might not have been built if it were not for Roosevelt Hospital buying the old Second Church building in 1972; and Roosevelt Hospital would not have been where it was if the Second Church had not helped start the Evangelical Deaconess Hospital on that site in 1903/4.

## Sources of Information and Further Reading

- Archives of Church of the Three Crosses, Chicago, held at the church building and at the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church Archives held at the library of Garrett Evangelical Seminary, Evanston, Illinois.
- Archives of the Old Town Triangle Association, Chicago, Illinois.
- Archives of the Ralph Anderson Family, maintained by Robin Anderson Mahaffey, Illinois.
- Library of the Chicago History Museum, Chicago, Illinois.
- Personal interviews/contacts with: Rich Christian, Jean Clavel Baker, Anne-Marie Douglas, Fran Dutton, Diane Gonzalez, Charles Guigle, Susan and Henry Herzog, Ella Jenkins, Earle Johnson, Ed and Lois Lucas, Robin Anderson Mahaffey, Tim Roberts, Frank Schneider, Barbara and Ken Smith, Anne Trapp, Bev Urschel, Avena Ward, Jean Wittner, Alice Wylie.
- An Ecumenical Center Proposal*, Church of the Three Crosses, Chicago, 1968.
- Sunday Morning: Aspects of Urban Ritual*, Michael H. Ducey, 1977.
- The Families of 1722 N. North Park Avenue*, Diane K. Gonzalez, 2009.
- Church of the Three Crosses: History of Building the Building*, Barry Smith, ed., 2014.
- Landscaping at Church of the Three Crosses: 2005-2017*, Barry Smith, 2018.
- History of the Illinois Conference of the Evangelical Church: 1837-1937*, John G. Schwab, 1937.
- A History of the German Congregational Churches in the U.S.*, George J. Eisenach, 1938.
- Lincoln Park and Its Churches*, The Church Federation of Greater Chicago, 1963.
- Lincoln Park: Project I*, Department of Urban Renewal, Chicago, 1965.
- Old Town Triangle District*, Commission on Chgo. Historical/Architectural Landmarks, 1976.
- Our Old Town: The History of a Neighborhood*, Shirley Baugher, 2001.

This booklet was originally researched and produced by Barry Smith for the 40th Anniversary in 2006 and updated for the 50th Anniversary in 2016. Further updates are made as necessary to provide additional or corrected information. Please contact the church office to note corrections or to donate materials to the church archives. *Cover photograph*: Front yard annual garden, 2013.



Many journeys. One community.

**Church of the Three Crosses**

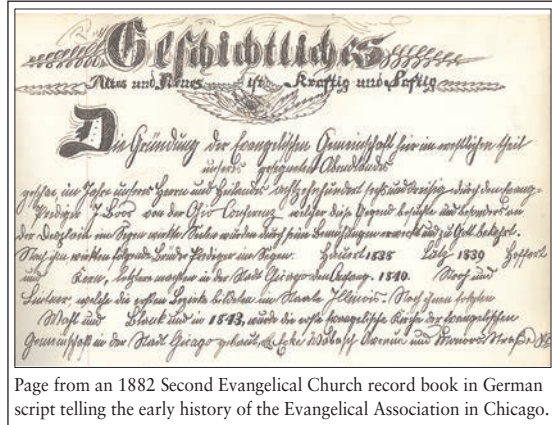
United Church of Christ • United Methodist Church  
333 W. Wisconsin • Chicago, IL 60614 • 312-951-7916  
[churchofthethreecrosses.org](http://churchofthethreecrosses.org)

# Celebrating Our Heritage...

O God, you have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Psalm 90:1

*Church of the Three Crosses* was formed in October 1966 by the merger of two Lincoln Park congregations which had both been founded by German immigrants: Second Evangelical United Brethren Church and St. James United Church of Christ.

The *Second Evangelical Church* was formed in November 1852. The church building was at Chicago Avenue and Wells Street. In 1867, this congregation divided, with the portion that retained the Second Church name moving in 1869 to the northwest corner of Wisconsin and Sedgwick in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. Here its building was twice destroyed by fire, with the final rebuilt structure dating from 1937. As the result of several denominational mergers, this congregation was eventually



United Brethren churches. In 1968, The Evangelical United Brethren merged with the Methodist Church to form the United Methodist Church.

The *St. James United Church of Christ* began in November 1896 as the St. James German Evangelical Congregational Church. Some of its early members are believed to have been German immigrants from Russia. The church building, located at 1718 N. North Park Avenue in the Old Town section of Lincoln Park, was purchased from another congregation in 1897. In 1957, two congregational denominations, including one of German evangelical heritage, merged to form the United Church of Christ. Thus, the name of this congregation became the St. James United Church of Christ.



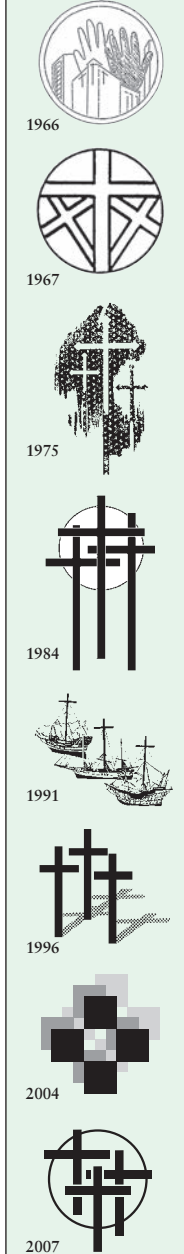
Window saved from the St. James building.

By the 1960s, both congregations had retained little of their original German identities and were facing demographic changes in Lincoln Park, including urban renewal plans for the Old Town area. In 1962, Second Church was offered the opportunity to build a new building in the "Ogden Mall," which was to be land created by the removal of Ogden Avenue. Both Second Church and St. James Church expressed the need for new life, and after several years of

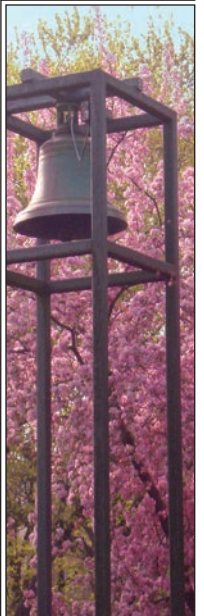
## Church of the Three Crosses Lay Leadership, 1966-2016

### How To Depict Three Crosses?

Most of the logos since 1966 and year when first used.



Year	Lay Leader	Council Chair	Trustee Chair
1966	Ione Clavel		LeRoy Gage
1967			LeRoy Gage
1968	Robert Wilson	Frank Basler	
1969	Robert Wilson		
1970	Ed Lucas		
1971	Robert Wilson		Paul Clavel
1972	Robert Wilson	Karolyn Strassner	
1973	Anne Trapp	Carol Whitehead	
1974	Anne Trapp	Robert McLaughlin	Paul Clavel
1975	Paul Clavel	Gene Ice	Paul Clavel
1976	Paul Clavel	Anne Trapp	Bill Purdin
1977	Ione Clavel	Pat Harris	Bill Purdin
1978	Anne-Marie Douglas	Paul Henderson	
1979	Anne-Marie Douglas	Karen Chester	
1980	Mildred Vannorsdall	Earle Johnson	Craig Wilson
1981	Earle Johnson	Emily Pollard	
1982	Anne-Marie Douglas	Ione Clavel	
1983	Linda Fracek	Gene Ice	
1984	Linda Fracek	Mildred Vannorsdall	Jay Arledge
1985	Mildred Vannorsdall	Emily Pollard	George Fracek
1986	Mildred Vannorsdall	Alice Wylie	Jean Wittner
1987	Alice Wylie	Sue Joyce	Jean Wittner
1988	Alice Wylie		Evan Bartlett
1989	Linda Fracek		Catherine Stambaugh
1990	Evan Bartlett		Trustees discontinued
1991	Jean Wittner		as separate, elected
1992	Jean Wittner		board; responsibilities
1993	Avena Ward	Avena Ward	assumed by Council.
1994	Avena Ward	Earle Johnson	
1995	Anne-Marie Douglas	Earle Johnson	
1996	Anne-Marie Douglas	Earle Johnson	
1997	Rich Christian	Kathryn Ling	
1998	Rich Christian	Kathryn Ling	
1999	George Weir	Ava Baum	
2000	Anthony McKinney	George Weir	
2001	Anthony McKinney	George Weir	
2002	Ron Vodicka	Anthony McKinney	
2003	Ron Vodicka/Bill Wilkison	Anthony McKinney	
2004	Jean Wittner	Jean Wittner	
2005	Jean Wittner	Jean Wittner	
2006	Jean Wittner	Jean Wittner	
2007	Jean Wittner	Jean Wittner	
2008	Jean Wittner	Jean Wittner	
2009	Anne-Marie Douglas	Frank Alan Schneider	
2010	Anne-Marie Douglas	Frank Alan Schneider	
2011	Anne-Marie Douglas	Frank Alan Schneider	
2012	Anne-Marie Douglas	Frank Alan Schneider	
2013	T.J. Bigbee	Frank Alan Schneider	
2014	Dana McKinney	T.J. Bigbee	
2015	Lydia Stazen-Michael	T.J. Bigbee	
2016	Lydia Stazen-Michael	T.J. Bigbee	



# Pastors of Church of the Three Crosses and Its Two Predecessor Churches,\* 1852-Present

**Second Evangelical United Brethren Church (1852-1966)**

1852-1854 J.P. Kramer  
 1854-1855 Christian C. Kopp  
 1855-1856 J. Jacob Esher  
 1856-1857 John Riegler  
 1857-1858 Elias Musselmann  
 1858-1859 G.M. Young  
 1859-1861 George Vetter  
 1861-1863 George W. Lechler  
 1863-1864 Andrew S. Heilman  
 1864-1866 W.F. Walker  
 1866-1868 J. George Esher  
 1868-1869 Jacob Himmel  
 1869-1871 John Miller  
 1871-1873 Henry Hintze  
 1873-1874 Amos Gockley  
 1874-1876 W.F. Walker

**St. James United Church of Christ (1896-1966)**

1897-1901 Niklaus Bolt  
 1901-1904 Jacob F. Grove  
 1904-1909 Oscar H. Kraft  
 1909-1961 Frederick J. Berghoefer  
 1961-1964 Stanley Gerald Roat  
 1965-1966 Willard Spence

1876-1878 J. George Esher  
 1878-1880 Theodore Alberding  
 1880-1883 Christian Ott  
 1883-1884 H. Rohland  
 1884-1886 Martin Stamm  
 1886-1887 Michael Heyl  
 1887-1888 Amos Gockley  
 1888-1891 William Goessele  
 1891-1893 John C. Kiest  
 1893-1896 Matthias Hoehn  
 1896-1897 W.C. Frey  
 1897-1900 Henry Hintze  
 1900-1904 John C. Kiest  
 1904-1908 John Wellner  
 1908-1910 Julius A. Giese  
 1910-1912 John B. Elfrink  
 1912-1918 Frederick Schwartz  
 1918-1925 George C. Gasser  
 1925-1926 William E. Grote  
 1926-1930 Lester H. Laubenstein  
 1930-1934 George D. Nielsen  
 1934-1936 Arthur J. Byas  
 1936-1936 John G. Schwab  
 1936-1942 LaRoy Huntley  
 1942-1947 Romaine W. Tenney  
 1947-1949 Howard E. Grimme  
 1949-1953 H. Allen Maxwell  
 1953-1960 Carl J. Zager  
 195?-1965 Hector Navas\*\*  
 1960-1964 Daniel Overmyer  
 1964-1966 Larry G. Dutenhaver  
 Gerald H. Goethe  
 1965-1966 Daniel Alvarez\*\*

1966

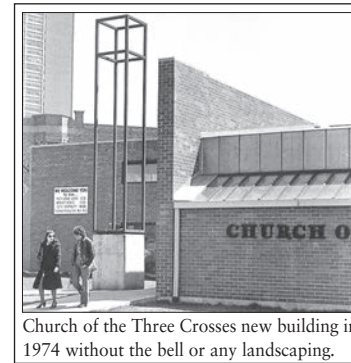
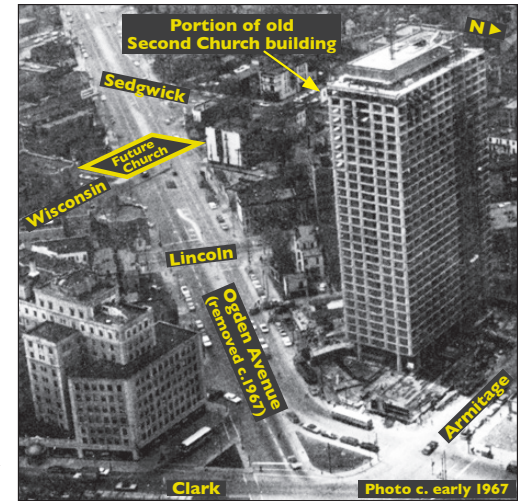
**Church of the Three Crosses (1966-Present)**

1966-1968 Daniel Alvarez\*\* [EUB]  
 Larry G. Dutenhaver [EUB]  
 Gerald H. Goethe [EUB]  
 1968-1970 Larry G. Dutenhaver [UMC]  
 Gerald H. Goethe [UMC]  
 1970-1972 Larry G. Dutenhaver [UMC]  
 1972-1975 Corydon E. Friedrich [UMC]  
 1975-1984 William T. Roberts [UMC]  
 1984-1991 Lark J. Hapke [UCC]  
 1992-1993 Leona N. Tichenor (Interim)[UMC]  
 1993-2001 Norma Lee Barnhart [UMC]  
 2001-2004 P. Dawn Chesser [UMC]  
 2004-2005 John D. Hobbs (Interim)[UCC]  
 2005-2018 John D. Hobbs [UCC]  
 2018- Brittany M. Cox [UMC]



study and discussion, voted on October 16, 1966 to create a new, ecumenical congregation. It was hoped that congregations of other denominations would eventually merge in as well, but those plans did not materialize.

The merged congregation chose the name Church of the Three Crosses to represent its intended inclusiveness in the sense that the three crosses at the crucifixion held Jesus and all he represents, as well as a second person who affirmed Jesus, and a third person who rejected him. The congregation believed it must incorporate all that the three crosses represent in its life and ministry.



Initially, Church of the Three Crosses met in the Second Church building. In 1973-74, the present building, with its open and multi-use space, was erected at the southwest corner of Wisconsin and Orleans Streets, designed by architect Ralph Anderson. The building was pivoted to align with the "Ogden Mall."

In keeping with its heritage, this congregation is affiliated with both the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ.

This booklet presents a timeline of events at Church of the Three Crosses and its two predecessor congregations from 1852 to 2016. What this booklet cannot fully show is the wealth of worship, education and fellowship that have nurtured the faith communities which called these churches "home" for so many years, and the mission and advocacy that have sought to serve neighbors in Chicago and around the world.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of God forever.*

Psalm 23:6



On Christmas Eve, the closing circle of light is a symbol of carrying God's light into the world.

\*The predecessor churches are listed here by their names as of 1966. Earlier names, reflecting a location or previous denominational affiliation, are shown on the timeline pages. For the Second EUB Church, there are other published lists with slight differences; this list is from one certified by John G. Schwab.

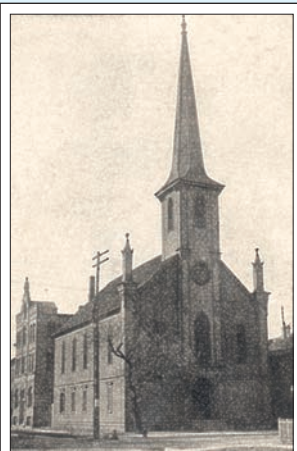
\*\*The Revs. Hector Navas and Daniel Alvarez were appointed as part-time pastors by the EUB Conference to lead the separate Spanish congregation. This congregation existed from 1956 to 1968.

# The Predecessor Churches: Second and St. James Churches

*At a meeting of Members of the Evangelical Association of North America held at the Church on the 8 to day of November 1852 Strauss Resolved to form themselves into a society for Religious Worship and to support J. Tobias was elected to the Chair and St. Luther was Elected Secretary. On Motion it was Resolved that this Society approve the name of the Second Society of the Evangelical Association of Chicago!*

November 8, 1852: A group of members at Chicago's First Evangelical Church (of the Evangelical Association denomination), then located at Wabash and Monroe, voted to establish the Second Evangelical Church for members living north of the Chicago River. Rev. J.P. Kramer was pastor.

Second Church is renamed Wisconsin Street Evangelical Church to reflect its location on Wisconsin Street. (The name went back to Second Church in 1930.)




Fall 1872: New building of Wisconsin Street (Second) Church erected on foundation of earlier structure at cost of \$9,000. Sanctuary seated 400.

June 5, 1853: Second Church erected its first building at the southeast corner of Wells and Chicago Avenue.

October 3, 1869: Second Church erected new building at northwest corner of Wisconsin and Sedgwick at a cost of \$8,000. Rev. John Miller is pastor. Membership is 70.


October 9-10, 1871: The Great Chicago Fire destroyed two-year-old building of the Wisconsin Street (Second) Church. 26 of 40 families lose their homes.




ILLINOIS CONFERENCE 1863

The Illinois Conference of the Evangelical Association at their annual meeting in 1863 in Freeport, Illinois. Seventeen of these men served as pastors of Second Church: H. Hintze (1), G. Vetter (2), A. Gockley (3), J. Himmel (4), W. Walker (5), C. Ott (6), A. Heilman (7), J. Miller (8), J. Esher (9), H. Rohland (10), J. Kiest (11), G. Lechler (12), W. Goesselle (13), M. Stamm (14), J. Riegel (15), E. Musselman (16), M. Heyl (17). (See page 9 for full names and years of service.)

April 10, 1890: Schism in the Illinois Conference of the Evangelical Church. One of the two factions formed a separate conference at a meeting held at the Wisconsin St. (Second) Church. (The two Illinois conferences reunited on March 31, 1927.)



Annual "Blessing of the Animals" in the park amphitheater. This space has been utilized for special worships and concerts over the years.




This "Intergenerational, Semi Do-It-Yourself, Impromptu and Slightly Chaotic" Christmas Pageant was part of a long-standing holiday drama tradition.

New double-paned windows installed.

Began providing monthly meals with Night Ministry bus.

Amphitheater area named as Ella Jenkins Park.

"Evening in the Park," a monthly, summer music series in the amphitheater, runs 3 years.



After a year-long study, the congregation voted to identify as *Open & Affirming* (UCC) and *Reconciling* (UMC).

Historian appointed and church archives created on site.

New chancel furniture purchased with Memorial Funds.

New logo designed. Metal logo and lettering installed on two sides of building.

Anti-torture statement approved and signed.

Congregation voted to host and celebrate same-gender unions and marriages.

First same-gender union service celebrated for Rev. John Hobbs and Barry Smith.

Involvement with RefugeeOne.

Hired consultant from Center for Progressive Renewal.

50th Anniversary celebrated Oct. 16.

Main level of building was air conditioned.

Rev. Dawn Chesser urged congregation to adopt new worship technology and subsequently a digital projection system was installed in sanctuary.



World Communion Sunday. Rev. John Hobbs invited all forward to share communion and light candles to honor diversity in the world.

Wrought iron fence installed. Landscape plan developed.

Sponsored homeless families by paying rent subsidies (through 2015).

40th Anniversary celebrated Oct. 29. History Booklet first published.

Tagline adopted: *Many journeys. One community.*

Website redesigned.

Celebration and Remembrance Wall dedicated.

40th Anniversary of the Church Building celebrated with architect's family present.



Publicly affirming "Black Lives Matter" at Clark & Wisconsin Streets.



Fellowship during this era included: bowling parties, Advent events, progressive dinners, summer patio dining, Grant Park concerts, theater/sports outings, young adult events, and potluck meals.

# Church of the Three Crosses...

Background Color Key:  Second Church  St. James Church  Church of the Three Crosses

Church of the Three Crosses

Mildred Vannorsdall compiled first thorough inventory of all church records.

"Raise the Roof" concert funds major roof repairs.

Records of both Second and St. James Churches, and early years of Three Crosses, are deposited at United Methodist Illinois Conference archives at Garrett Seminary.

Pastor's office moved to second floor and old office became part of sanctuary. Organ removed.

First detailed history of congregation prepared.

Second floor is air conditioned.

Rev. Leona Tichenor leads a visioning process that produced the document: "The Promised Land."


Parsonage at 1722 N. North Park sold netting \$240,000.

Funds from the sale of parsonage and former St. James Church form main portion of new endowment fund.

Volunteers began serving monthly meals at Deborah's Place.

May 5, 1996: Dedication of the remodeling of main level: new ceilings, carpet, lighting, fans, including build-out of: East Room, coat area, storage rooms.

Annual fundraiser at Old Town Art Fair nets over \$10,000 for first time.



Annual Halloween party for church and neighborhood kids including children from our mission partner church, Lincoln United Methodist in Pilsen. Through 2006.

Timeline: 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000

Church of the Three Crosses

Rev. Lark Hapke urged congregation to undertake mission projects to look beyond consuming legal issues.

Final settlement of five-year legal struggle to receive full payment for sale of former St. James building. About \$223,000 was ultimately realized minus some legal fees, with most legal fees waived.

From the Church Council minutes: "Bell to be rung eight times before prelude to get people to sit down!"

Saluted 25th Anniversary.



Rev. Norma Lee Barnhart helped develop use of the arts in all aspects of church life, including music events like the Sing-Along-Messiah.

Year-long celebration of 30th Anniversary, including special adult study, oral history video, and homecoming service and Octoberfest lunch on October 20.

Era of financial difficulties in which the building is rented to other non-profit organizations to help raise funds for the church, e.g.: Waldorf School, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Search Development Corp., Early Intervention Program of Children's Memorial Hospital, and various neighborhood music programs.



Children at Three Crosses Christmas program.

Prayer Group formed (met till 2009).

Era in which six members were in seminary or in the ordination process.


Vision 2000 mission statement adopted after nine-month study.

Various self-help groups utilized the building for free or low cost throughout church's history.

Timeline: 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000

Church of the Three Crosses

## BATTLE CHURCH FIRE IN BITTER COLD; RESCUE 11



February 9, 1936: Second Church building destroyed by fire. Eleven people were rescued from adjacent Deaconess Hospital.

January 23, 1944. Second Church paid off mortgage on its new building and burned the note during this service.

Rear lots on Wisconsin Street sold in 1903/4 to the Evangelical Deaconess Society for its new hospital.

November 4, 1919: 50th Anniversary Celebration of Wisconsin and Sedgwick location.

March 8, 1931: Pipe organ dedicated.

After fire, worship is held at Deaconess Hospital while new structure built.

Rev. LaRoy Huntley was one of 35 pastors to sign a letter to President Roosevelt and Congress urging an end to world conflict and misery.

March 14, 1937: Dedication of new building which cost \$17,000.

Up to 1937, four members have been ordained from Second Church.

Complete renovation of the church and parsonage at cost of \$1,200.

English began to replace German in church life. German prayer meetings continued till 1927.

1922: The Evangelical Association merged with the United Evangelical Church to form the Evangelical Church.

Timeline: 1896, 1900, 1905, 1910, 1915, 1920, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945

St. James Church

November 26, 1896: A German congregation meeting at the Sedgwick Chapel, a mission of the New England Congregational Church, voted to form St. Jacobi (James) German Evangelical Church with 50 charter members.

Parsonage converted from gas lights to electricity.

Services began to shift from German to English.



Motto of the congregation was: "Be doers of the word, not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 1:22



St. James Church (rear) and parsonage, at 1718 and 1722 N. North Park Avenue. The church building was purchased from a German Lutheran congregation about 1897. The parsonage was donated and moved from Dearborn Street to its present site in 1902. The parsonage is now a private residence; the church building is now three condominiums.




Rev. Fred Berghoefer and the St. James congregation in prayer. One of the few photos showing church interior.

Timeline: 1896, 1900, 1905, 1910, 1915, 1920, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945

# The Predecessor Churches Merge...

**Second Church**



From 1956 to 1968, an Hispanic outreach ministry created a separate Spanish speaking congregation. Shown is a language class, one of many mission activities.

1946: The Evangelical Church merged with the United Brethren in Christ Church to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church.


1946: Illinois Conference purchased three-flat at 1854 N. Sedgwick in 1964 to serve as church office and parsonage for new dual pastorate of Revs. Larry Dutenhaver and Gerald Goethe.

1964: Department of Urban Renewal awarded site on "Ogden Mall" for new church. (Sale completed: 1973.)

Rev. Dan Overmyer wrote congregation to tell of opportunity to relocate/rebuild as part of Lincoln Park's Urban Renewal Project I Plan.

Meetings with area churches to consider merger(s).

Rev. Carl Zager initiated use of church building to house Lincoln Senior Center.



1950 1953 1956 1959 1962 1965 1966

# Church of the Three Crosses is Formed...

**Church of the Three Crosses**

October 16, 1966: St. James and Second Church congregations worshipped together and approved merger; adopted constitution and bylaws.

October 23, 1966: Congregation met to vote on new name.

October 30, 1966: Bulletin for first time carried name "Church of the Three Crosses."

November 13, 1966: Procession from St. James to Second Church; stopped at site of proposed new church building.

Rev. Larry Dutenhaver (left), Rev. Charles Guigle (right) and other clergy carried cross from Church of the Three Crosses as a reconciling symbol amidst the police riot in the park during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. The cross, originally from the former St. James Church, was lost in the ensuing mele.

Book written by a former member is primarily about Church of the Three Crosses in the 1960s/70s, and how congregants shifted from passive observers in worship to more active participants.


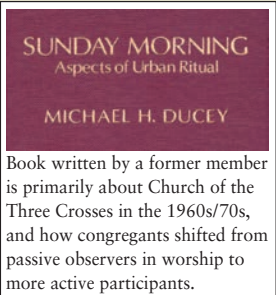

Roosevelt Hospital buys old Second Church building for \$85,000.

Help start the Night Ministry.

Des Plaines church property sold netting \$85,000.

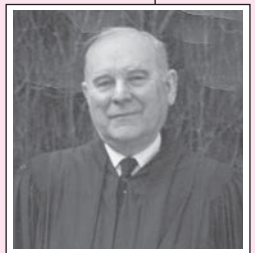
Sale of building at 1854 N. Sedgwick pays off \$50,000 mortgage on new building.

May 25, 1980: "First ringing" of bell during rededication service. The bell, originally installed in the steeple of the Second Church in 1873, had just been reinstalled at the new building of Church of the Three Crosses.


1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984

**St. James Church**



Rev. Fredrick Berghoefer, shown here c.1960, served St. James from 1909 to 1961, over 51 years.

Under Rev. Gerald Roat's leadership in the early 1960s, Saturday night hootenannies, films and drama offerings attracted a new generation of young people and created some tension with established members.

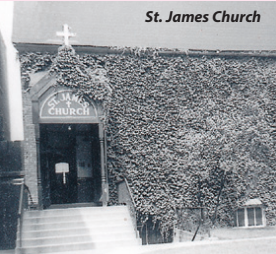


"A Cross in the Heart of the Old Town Triangle"  
St. James logo used in the 1960s.

July 19, 1966: Serious merger discussions with Second Church began and a union committee was soon formed.

September 17-18, 1966: Retreat held jointly with Second Church at Woodstock, Illinois.

May 24, 1961: Congregation voted to change name to St. James United Church of Christ to reflect 1957 merger of two congregational denominations to form the United Church of Christ.




1950 1953 1956 1959 1962 1965 1966

**Church of the Three Crosses**

Old Town Players converted former St. James building into theater (used into 1981). The Cellar Coffeehouse used St. James parsonage (used into 1969).

June 28, 1970: Merger with the disbanding Good Samaritan United Methodist Church of Des Plaines, Illinois. The sale of this property was used to provide funds for the Three Crosses new building.

April 8, 1973: Groundbreaking for long-planned, new building at 333 W. Wisconsin. Wood from pews in the old Second Church building was used to make small souvenir shovels with the Three Crosses logo in use at that time.




First year of participation in Old Town Art Fair as a vendor. This annual event raises funds and visibility.


Sale of former St. James Church with complicated financing plan nets \$50,000 downpayment, monthly interest income, and many legal problems in the years ahead.

August 22, 1974: First worship service held in new building.

Long legal battle began to recover funds from sale of former St. James Church.



From 1966 to 1974, Church of the Three Crosses used the old Second Church building. Here the congregation gathered in the sanctuary which had been rearranged in 1969-70 to encourage inclusiveness and interaction.



Rev. William Roberts led worship in new building. The cross (at that time) and chancel furniture seen here, were from the old Second Church.

1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984