

# Hilltop Altar Crawl

## Tour of Historic Churches

### Davenport, Iowa

Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
1:00 - 5:00 pm

\* Bethel A.M.E. Church, 323 W. 11th St.- This Craftsman-style stucco and half timbered building, designed by the noted Davenport architectural firm of Clausen and Clausen, has been in service since 1908.



The interior features barrel vaulting over the nave and a domed apse behind the altar as well as stained glass windows sponsored by members of the congregation.

Bethel A.M.E. traces its roots to its founding

January 1, 1866, when a group of people came together to sign papers of association as The African Methodist Episcopal Church of Davenport. Two of the signers and one of the three original trustees could not write their names. But they founded the earliest African American congregation in Davenport and one of the oldest in the state. At first, circuit riders served as ministers for worshipers meeting in a small frame building on Fourth Street. By 1903, the congregation had grown, and property at 11th and Ripley was purchased. With the foundation and basement finished by 1908, services began in that portion. The sanctuary was completed in 1912, constructed in part by the parishioners. The new church was renamed Bethel A. M. E. Church.

Bethel's community outreach includes operation of a food pantry every Saturday from 10:00AM-12:00N and a computer lab for seniors on Monday and Friday from 11:30AM-1:00PM. Its GenAge Ministry serves hot lunches to seniors Thursdays, 11:30AM-1PM. Members provide dinners at the Salvation Army meal site on a quarterly basis.

Bethel's entire church building will be open for tour on May 4th. A bake sale will raise funds for youth activities.

*Directions: Parking available in the lots on the west side of the church and to the north across 11th Street. Entrance, also handicapped accessible, is on the west side.*

\* Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places

◆ The Davenport Democrat and Leader 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 1935

\* First Baptist Church, 1401 Perry St. - The cornerstone for the building was laid in 1889 during the 50th anniversary of the founding of the congregation and the church dedicated in 1890. The site had served as a Civil war training camp. Calling itself "Calvary Baptist," the congregation worshiped in the new sanctuary designed in the Romanesque Revival style by John S. Wollacott of Chicago using a combination of brick and rough stone.

The stained glass windows in the sanctuary were created by Wells Glass Company of Chicago. The original cost of the lot and the building was less than \$32,000. Parishioners paid to have a memorial in each of the stained glass windows. The large windows are "The Baptism of Jesus," "The Good Shepherd" and "Jesus as a Boy in the Temple." The steeple was removed in the 1950's following a severe storm. In 1956, administration offices and a fellowship hall were added to the north side.

Davenport's Baptists held their first service on September 13, 1839. The congregation's first church was built at the corner of 4th and Brady on land donated by Antoine LeClaire. The congregation is celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2014.

First Baptist gives back to its community through its mission program that supports local agencies like Humility of Mary, Winnie's Place, Lydia Home, Food Pantry and the Salvation Army meal site. It sponsors AA meetings and yoga classes, and supplies office space for P.U.N.C.H.

Today's tour includes the sanctuary, a display of historical items and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

*Directions: Park in the church lot between 14th and 15th Streets, entering from Perry, 14th or 15th. Enter church through door at adjacent to lot (also the handicapped entry) or front door at 14th and Perry.*

First Christian Church, 510 E. 15th St. - First Christian's sanctuary was dedicated in 1966. The church complex was built in two stages. The east wing, containing educational rooms and a second floor gymnasium with a barrel-vaulted ceiling, was built in 1953 as Gillum



Hall. At the time this hall was built, the congregation worshiped in an 1890 sanctuary just west of the new building. In

1964, that sanctuary was leveled to construct the church, library, kitchen, offices and Fellowship Hall, all designed by Quad Cities architect Lloyd Wayland.

This congregation is celebrating its 175th year in 2014 with a special celebration event scheduled for July 27. Davenport's First Christian Church began in a home at 3rd and Main on July 28, 1839 with 21 charter members. The first church home was in the Tapley carpenter Shop at 2nd and Brady. Later, the church erected two different buildings at 5th and Brady, one in the 1840's and the second in the 1850's.

Sources: ◆ Individual Church Histories ◆ National Register Nominations

◆ The Davenport Times Davenport Centennial/Times 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 1936

Parts of the second building became part of Hibernia Hall, a National Register property at 425 Brady.

First Christian joins two other churches in supporting Our House, a free pre-school for at risk children on East 12th St. SWISH/Ultimate Choice Youth Basketball calls First Christian home. The church also provides meals for the Salvation Army meal site, food for the Churches United food pantry, supplies for the Crisis Center for Battered Women, and is a member of P.U.N.C.H.

The tour will feature music and visits to the sanctuary, prayer chapel, fellowship hall and gymnasium, as well as an historical display and refreshments.

*Directions: 15th Street is one way going west. Parking is available in the church lot behind the sanctuary, accessible from Farnam or LeClaire. From parking lot, enter central doorway on north side of building.*

\* First Presbyterian Church, 1702 Iowa St. - Built 1897-98, First Presbyterian's sanctuary was designed by the Galesburg architectural firm of Gottschalk & Beadle who designed a nearly identical church on Galesburg Square that was completed one year earlier. Its stained glass

windows are by J and R Lamb Studios of New York City. It is an excellent local example of the Richardsonian Romanesque and one of the more important churches of this design in Iowa. Steep roofs and block-like form give an overwhelming feeling of weight and mass. The horizontal coursing of the rock-faced Marquette brownstone walls is emphasized by wide belt courses of lighter stone.

The founding congregation met in April, 1838 in a small building on Ripley Street with ten members. Celebrating its 175th year in 2014, the congregation has worshiped in six different buildings, including one which is believed to be the first Davenport church with a steeple. Through the years, the church has continued to enhance its home, with the addition of an educational wing, a sixty-one rank Casavant Frères pipe organ, and an elevator.

First Presbyterian Church's members are involved in Christian Education, Mission and Outreach projects, and a renowned Music Ministry program. The church hosts and sponsors the Davenport Unit of the Boys and Girls Club, the Scott County Meal Service Office, and local Scout Troops. Mission and Outreach include sponsorship of refugee families, national and international mission trips, and other community involvement projects. The Music Ministry program includes six choirs and the Performing Arts Series.

While First Presbyterian will not be offering tours of its building during this year's altar crawl, the sanctuary will be open at 1PM.

At 1:30, the public is invited to attend a children's pageant on the history of First Presbyterian in the sanctuary followed by an ice cream social at 2:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

**Parking:** Visitors may park in the Kirkwood Boulevard parking lot, west side of church. Enter on Kirkwood Boulevard (portico) or corner of Iowa & Kirkwood (Kirkwood Landing entrance). Elevator entrance accessible from Kirkwood Boulevard parking lot.

\* Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places

◆ The Davenport Democrat and Leader 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 1935

\* Sacred Heart Cathedral, 422 E. 10th St. - Sacred Heart Cathedral was designed by Chicago architect James J. Egan, who specialized in Catholic Church designs. Plans for the building were announced in 1889; the building was dedicated in 1891. Built in the Gothic Revival style, Sacred Heart was, when completed the tallest building in Davenport and ten feet taller than the Statue of Liberty from ground to spire.

The first church at this location, the second Catholic sanctuary in the city, was built 1856 and named in honor of St. Margaret of Scotland and Marguerite LeClaire whose husband Antoine had given land and funds for its construction.

LeClaire's original grave was in the churchyard of St. Marguerite's. When the diocese of Davenport was established in 1881, St. Margaret's became a cathedral; several years later, a decision was made to take down the existing building and erect a larger one. The name of the new cathedral was Sacred Heart; St. Margaret was remembered by a chapel within the new cathedral.

The sanctuary features an open interior unobstructed by columns. Altars and pews are of wood. The stained glass windows feature the twelve Apostles and Christian symbols. A 1990's bequest allowed for replacement of the roof, repainting the interior, and installation of a Noack pipe organ. The Tudor/Gothic Revival rectory next door was designed by Davenport architect Gustav Hanssen and was completed in 1895.

Sacred Heart's community outreach includes its Food Pantry and Clothing Center. Visitors will tour the church, choir loft and chapel. An organ concert will be held in the cathedral at 2:30PM.

*Directions: Parking is available in the lots off LeClaire or Iowa Streets. Guides will be on hand to direct visitors to the appropriate entrance.*

\* St. John's United Methodist Church, 109 E. 14th St. - The cornerstone for today's church was laid in 1902 and services began in 1903. Built at a cost of \$112,000, it was designed by prominent Davenport architect Parke T. Burrows with F. G. Clausen serving as

supervising engineer. St. John's is a good example of turn-of-the-century Gothic Revival.

The sanctuary's floor plan includes a fan shaped main floor with a wide, raked balcony above. The interior retains much of its original pews and woodwork including quarter sawn oak in the vestibules and cherry and walnut in the sanctuary.

Carved wooden panels of Gothic tracery decorate the ceiling. The narthex at the rear of the sanctuary has been closed off using wooden panels and glass etched with symbols of the disciples.

St. John's has recently undergone extensive exterior restoration including rebuilding of the large stained glass windows, replacement of some deteriorated stonework and re-pointing of the masonry joints.

A Methodist minister built the first house constructed for the purpose of worship in the city in 1835. Methodist congregants began meeting in 1836 in Rockingham, a community in southwest Davenport. The first services in Davenport began in 1837, and the first church was erected in 1843. During the 19th Century, several Methodist congregations formed. Two churches came together to create the congregation that dedicated St. John's in 1903.

Community outreach includes The Center, a group of ministries addressing diverse community needs; Volunteers in Mission who focus on helping restore homes destroyed in natural disasters; hosting the oldest boy scout troop in Davenport, a Wednesday night Acts 2:42 fellowship meal; and its membership in P.U.N.C.H.

Visitors are invited to tour the entire church building as well as The Center across 14th Street for a look inside the popular "Skate Church" and enjoy refreshments and music by members of the Living Faith Band.

**Directions:** *Parking available in church lot on Perry Street behind the church. Church may be entered from the Perry or 14th Street doors.*

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2136 N. Brady St. - St. Paul's history reaches back to the late 1870s, when Rev. George W. Snyder led an effort to raise \$4,000 and purchase property on the corner of Main and 14th streets.

The first St. Paul building, in the Gothic Revival style, opened in January 1882. Ten women and men served as founding members. The Sunday school counted 34 students. St. Paul was the third Lutheran church established in the city; the first English-speaking Lutheran congregation.

When that building became too small, plans were developed for a new church at the same location. In May 1902, St. Paul's second sanctuary was dedicated. The second structure, with organ and furnishings, cost \$26,000. It was also in the Gothic Revival style with some Romanesque features.

By the middle of the 20th Century, the congregation outgrew its facilities again and acquired the 1913 Edward Mueller House across from Vander Veer Park. When the new sanctuary was built in 1952, the house was incorporated into the church complex. In 2007, St. Paul built its fourth sanctuary. The \$7.7 million project reflects the existing Georgian Colonial style of the larger campus. The architect was Groth Design Group of Cedarburg, Wisconsin. Estes Construction of Davenport served as general contractor.

The new 12,000-square-foot worship space seats 750 people. It features a tower of light and 10 stained glass windows from the 1952 sanctuary. Wood craftsman Jay Stratton, glass sculptor Mark Fowler, and custom metal worker Mike Boyler created the altar, pulpit, and cross. August Peter created a bronze baptismal font bowl and M.L. Bigelow and Company built the pipe organ.

Today, St. Paul's mission commitments are deep and wide. The focal areas for this 3,500-member congregation include housing, food,

\* Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places

◆ The Davenport Democrat and Leader 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 1935

mental health, neighborhood schools, and the environment. Over the years, St. Paul founded four other Lutheran churches in the region. The congregation established Camp Shalom near Maquoketa, Iowa, in 1976, and is home to a widely-acclaimed pastoral residency program.

On today's tour, visitors will see the sanctuary, chapel, and the 1913 house.

**Directions:** *Parking is available in the parking lots south of the church, between Brady and Main streets. Visitors may enter at the south entrance.*

\* Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 121 W. 12th St. - With its cornerstone laid in 1867, the Gothic Revival Cathedral is the oldest church on the tour and was consecrated in 1873 as Grace Cathedral. It was the first cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa.



It was designed by Edward Tuckerman Potter of New York City, one of the leading church architects of his time. The church is constructed of native rock-faced random limestone.

The building is four bays long and three bays wide with a

basilica plan and semicircular apse. Dressed Indiana limestone was used as the cap for the water table, the beveling of the buttresses, framing of the lancet windows and the compound lancet arched doorway, as well as for the tracery in the large rose window. Each side bay is divided by stone buttresses. An uninterrupted band of clerestory windows, one foot high, stretches the length of the roof dividing the two pitches of the roof on the exterior and distinguishing the nave from the aisles on the interior. Laminated wood beams, highlighted with vermillion, form an interesting and intricate complex of transverse and rib arches. Gold painted star shaped bolts and stenciling add rich ornamentation. In 1998, original 19th century plans for the bell tower and steeple were realized when a generous donor funded their completion. One hundred thirty years after it was begun, Trinity Cathedral was completed.

Local Episcopalians trace their roots to 1836 services held by traveling clergymen. Trinity Episcopal Parish was established in 1841 in a small frame building erected at Fourth and Main Streets, with a rude altar, plank benches and a round stove in the nave. A second church, destroyed by fire in 1874, featured the first pipe organ in the state. Its third church was known as "Old Trinity."

In the mid-19th Century, another group of church members formed a second parish and later build Grace Cathedral. Congregations from the old Trinity Episcopal Parish and Grace Cathedral merged in 1910 to form Trinity Cathedral.

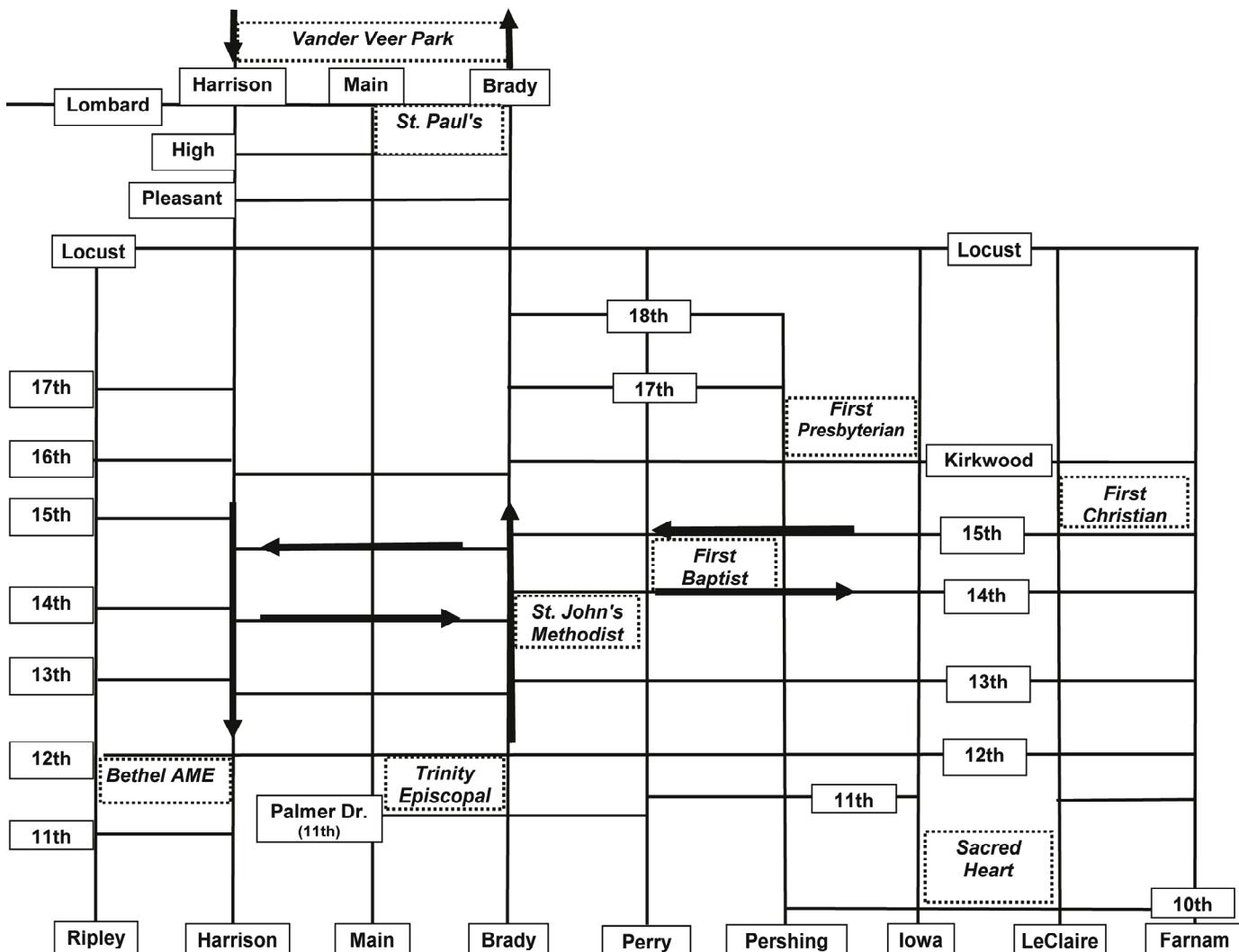
Community activities include Positive Parenting, a year-round preschool/childcare program created so teen mothers can finish high school, participation in a Churches United meal site program on behalf of the Salvation Army, AA meetings, yoga programs, and membership in P.U.N.C.H.

Visitors will tour the sanctuary and rarely opened original sacristy.

**Directions:** *Visitors may park in the lot at Palmer Dr. (11th Street) and Brady. Enter at red doors facing Main Street.*

Sources: ◆ Individual Church Histories ◆ National Register Nominations

◆ The Davenport Times Davenport Centennial/Times 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 1936



- ❖ Bethel A.M.E. Church- 323 W. 11th St.
- ❖ First Baptist Church- 1401 Perry St.
- ❖ First Christian Church- 510 E. 15th St.
- ❖ First Presbyterian Church, 1702 Iowa St
- ❖ Sacred Heart Cathedral, 422 E. 10th St.
- ❖ St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2136 N. Brady St.
- ❖ St. John's United Methodist Church- 109 E. 14th St.
- ❖ Trinity Episcopal Cathedral- 121 W. 12th St.

#### *Sponsored by:*

Hilltop Campus Village: An Iowa Main Street Community located in Davenport, Iowa. Its goals include creation of a revitalized, mixed-use neighborhood that is family friendly, clean and safe, alive with activities and excitement, and retention of a diverse population living and working in the established district.

P.U.N.C.H. (People Uniting Neighbors and Churches): Formed in 2004 by the churches in the Brady Hill neighborhood of Davenport, its goal is to make the neighborhood a better place to work, worship and live in.

#### **Religious Life in Davenport**

The roots of the churches and congregations participating in today's tour are planted deeply in the rich soil of this early settlement along the Mississippi. The first recorded visit of a minister in the area is found in Colonel George Davenport's journal. There he wrote that Rev. John Kinney (religious affiliation not noted) preached for the first time on the island in 1829. The second frame building built here was erected in 1835 for the purpose of holding Methodist worship services and a Sunday School. The first sanctuary, St. Anthony's, was consecrated in 1838, only two years after the city was platted. In rapid succession, other denominations began establishing places of worship in homes and shops.

Davenport's founder, Antoine LeClaire, himself a Catholic, was an early supporter of religious life of all faiths. He generously donated the tracts of land on which Catholic, Congregational, Baptist, and Christian congregations built their churches. The first churches were humble ones, frame or log structures, sometimes erected by the minister and a few congregants. They tended to be built close to the downtown area between Main and Perry. As the city's population increased and neighborhoods expanded, new sanctuaries were built, further up the hill and away from the noise of the increasing train traffic.

Many churches on tour today are the fourth or fifth structures built by their congregations. They were built between 1867 and 1966, with most dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Only Bethel A.M.E. remains in its first sanctuary. The congregation toiled for forty years before being able to construct its place of worship. The buildings' architects came from firms in Davenport, Galesburg, Chicago and New York; their styles reflect design trends of the eras in which they were built. Five of the six are individually listed on the National Register.

What they all share in common are people of faith who both worship together and work to better the communities they serve. And they all reach out a hand of welcome to you on today's tour.

\* Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places

❖ The Davenport Democrat and Leader 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 1935

Sources: ❖ Individual Church Histories ❖ National Register Nominations

❖ The Davenport Times Davenport Centennial/Times 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 1936