

Historical Timeline: St James (the Assiniboine) Anglican Church*

- 1812 Selkirk Settlement established
- 1821 merger of North West Company with Hudson's Bay Company
- 1822 Fort Gibraltar (at The Forks) renamed Fort Garry
- 1835 (Lower) Fort Garry being built at current location
- 1851 Hudson's Bay Co. grants land to Diocese of Rupert's Land; logs cut/floated from Baie St Paul;
- 1852 flood: logs washed away;
- 1853 new logs ... church constructed, cornerstone laid June 8, 1853; took almost 2 years. Included 12' x 12' tower (wanted to add a spire but winds were too strong for men to construct it)
- 1855 Consecrated, May 29; received deed to land from HBC
 - 1862 village growing around Portage and Main
 - 1867 Dominion of Canada created
- 1869-70 tower used by Riel supporters to watch for approaching men from Ft la Reine (Portage la Prairie)
 - 1870 Province of Manitoba joined Canada
 - c1870 Parish of St James becomes a municipality
- 1871-73 tower removed: foundation was not considered strong enough.
 - 1873 'village' incorporated as the City of Winnipeg
- 1879 September: after 8 years of talking about it, new floor laid, cracks in floor/wall filled, church was banked up (all to add warmth)
- 1880 outside painted
- 1889 belfry erected, new seats
- 1893 repainted
- 1901 ceiling added (warmth and appearance)
- 1904 interior renovations
- 1909 electric fixtures installed, replacing oil lamps
- 1911 raised funds to replace wooden sills with concrete foundation, resingled roof, replastered interior, replaced carron stove with a furnace (had to excavate basement)
 - decided no longer economical to repair, raising funds for new church
- 1922 New church on Collegiate Street (College Street then); Heritage services limited to Easter, Christmas and anniversary until 1936

- 1936 condemned; services continue outside
- 1954 parish youth scrubbed interior and 101st Anniversary service held inside
- 1963 **choice** to repair or to demolish and erect monument cairn: **repaired**: new roof, and repaired windows and belfry.
- 1967 Centennial project restoration (cost \$14,200); reconsecrated
Centennial project restoration by City of St James; Parishioners volunteered. Funded by City of St James. Work done by Bird Construction:
- Straightened walls
 - Reinforced concrete beams on concrete piles
 - Removed plaster
 - Varnished logs
 - Refinished pews
 - Repaired floors
 - Installed new oil heating system
 - New electrical service
 - Retired police officers who were helping, brought old police buffalo coats to use on kneelers

1970 115 years after the first service, services resumed at Heritage Church. **Note:** this is also Manitoba's 100th year, Canada's 103rd, and the 300th year for the Hudson Bay Co.

2016 Celebrated 165th Anniversary of the Parish of St James. (16 years older than Canada!)

2020 No services were held here for the first time in 50 years due to provincial health restrictions, brought on by the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. While we would be able to keep guests properly distanced from each other (6 feet), we were concerned with the effects of sanitizing chemicals on the old wooden surfaces.

"the Assiniboine" ... is how Rev Taylor referred to his parish, to distinguish it from other St James parishes, because it's located on the banks of the Assiniboine River. It is not part of the legal name of the parish in the Diocese; however, it has historical roots, which parishioners like, so we include the phrase in parentheses.