

## **TOUR GUIDE TO GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, JAMESTOWN, ND**

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Anglican services in Jamestown first were held at Fort Seward in 1872. After the fort was closed, services were held in Jamestown's first schoolhouse (itself a building removed from the encampment). In 1881 settlers founded St. James Episcopal Church, but the name was changed to Grace Church in early 1885 to avoid confusion with St. James Catholic Church. By Oct. 5, 1883, the parish had raised \$1,587 towards the construction of its own church. Grace Church, built in Gothic style, is a striking example of native prairie field stone construction, which led to its inclusion in the National Registry of Historic Buildings. It is modeled after Christ Church in Medway, MA. The architect was George Hancock of Fargo, while the actual construction was carried out by Nicholas Mueller [of Jamestown?]. The cornerstone of the new building was laid by missionary Bishop William D. Walker on July 30, 1884; the church was completed by Easter Sunday, 1885. The original outside dimensions of the church were 24x48 feet, and the building was intended to seat 175 persons. In 1887 Grace Church, in spite of the depressed economy of ND, had 43 communicants and a Sunday school. Electric lighting was installed in 1889.

The narthex (entryway) into the church leads into Riebe Hall (built 1890), named in honor of one of the parish's most distinguished members, Deaconess Elsie Riebe (1887-1959). Inspired by the Rev. Edward Welles Burseson (Rector, 1903-12) to become a missionary, Ms. Riebe went to the city of Ichang, China, in 1914; she remained there until expelled by the Japanese in 1941. She returned to China in 1946, only to be forced out by the Communist Chinese in 1951. She died in Jamestown on March 31, 1959. In the 1960s the parish hall was christened in honor of the Deaconess. Riebe Hall still houses any overflow from church services, and the congregation used to gather there for coffee and snacks after church services; small dinners still are held here on occasion. It also housed booths during the annual fall Bazaar (no longer held, alas!).

The nave (main body) of the church was finished in 1884, but the chancel, organ transept, and stone tracery windows were added in 1912. As can be seen from the photographs in Riebe Hall, the interior (save for the addition of carpeting, a pulpit, a lectern, and additional choir stalls up front) has changed little since then. The stone baptismal font near the pulpit was a gift from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cheltenham, PA. It used to be kept in the back of the church, since baptism is a symbolic entryway into the Church. However, since it was difficult for parishioners to view baptisms, the font was moved to the front around 1990. Since baptism is one of the two major sacraments, its new placement is not inappropriate. Holy Eucharist, the other major sacrament, is administered at the altar. With other Christians, Episcopalians regard the reading of Scripture and the preaching of the Word as essentials of the faith, which is stressed by the placement of the pulpit and lectern. The pulpit was provided by the Woman's Guild of Grace Church on Easter, 1914. The stained glass windows in front were given in memory of Benjamin Stillman Russell (1825-1910), a lay reader, first senior warden, and prominent founder of Grace Church. Made by the studio of A.J. Larscheid in Minneapolis, these windows were dedicated in 1927 (and will be repaired later this year). Most of the original furnishings of the chancel were provided by Episcopal churches in PA and NJ. Memorial plaques may be found on the windows, organ, and other church equipment. The pipe organ, a two-manual Austin dedicated in 1929 to

the memory of members of the Rand family, replaced the original organ purchased in 1883. The stained glass windows in back of the organ were installed in December 1985.

The kitchen was constructed in 1950 and remodeled extensively in the mid-1990s. Elsworth Hall, which now serves as the main parish hall for bazaars, annual meetings, and other large parish functions, was added in 1958. It is named in honor of the Rev. Nelson Everett Elsworth (1875-1957; Rector, 1923-34). The stained glass window in the children's chapel to the side of Elsworth Hall was installed in 1985, and was designed by Reinart's Studio in Winona, MN. Until a few years ago there were an impressive altar and ecclesiastical furnishings in this chapel that were originally from the Episcopal church in Lisbon, ND, but these were given to the White Earth Indian Reservation in Minnesota because the Episcopal church there needed them more badly than Grace Church did.

The Mulroy Room was furnished in memory of Rena White Mulroy. It is used primarily as a classroom for adult education and small meetings.

The Rectory was constructed in 1905. The original rectory, purchased on the same site in 1901, was a five-room cottage that was moved across the street when the present house replaced it.

### Terminology for the Chancel

The red light above and to the left of the altar is the sanctuary lamp, and is supposed to indicate the presence of the consecrated Host and chalice.

The ornately carved chair to the left of the altar is the cathedra, in which the Bishop sits during his visitations to Grace Church.

The credence table is the small table to the right of the altar used for the preparation of the Host and chalice.

The serje cloth is the white dust cover over the altar.

The fair linen is the long embroidered rectangular cloth on the altar, which overhangs the edges by 18 inches.

Brass followers on top of candles protect the wicks from stray breezes, and help them to burn evenly.

The corporal is the square white piece of linen, with a cross worked into it, before the priest on the altar.

The piscina, located in back of the organ, is a drain leading directly to the ground for the disposal of waste water containing fragments of the Host and wine.

The purificator is the small white piece of cloth that is draped over the top of the chalice.

The paten is the small silver dish that holds the Host.

The pall is the flat cloth-covered cardboard that is placed above the paten.

The veil, which bears the appropriate color for the liturgical season, goes atop the pall.

The burse (purse), containing extra wafers and other necessary items, tops everything else on the chalice.

The priest washes his hands in a lavabo bowl, and dries his hands on a lavabo towel.