



The Rev. Peter Arvedson,
Founding rector of Saint James 1864.



Our first building purchased in 1864
from the Baptist congregation



The Brotherhood House (1895) was built
in Carpentersville as a ministry and social
club for factory workers. The building
was moved across the Fox River and added
to the new church in 1905.



The Rev. Frank Brandt, was rector of Saint
James who guided the congregation the
building of our current building

A Brief History of Saint James Episcopal Church

In 1863 several families held regular Sunday prayer services in West Dundee. The Rev. Peter Arvedson was the first priest to serve the congregation when it was officially organized on October 10, 1864 by Bishop John Henry Whitehouse.

The congregation purchased the Baptist church building for \$550 in 1864 which became our first house of worship. Under the leadership of The Rev. Frank Brandt, the parish raised \$10,000 to build our current building in 1903. John Sutcliffe, a noted architect from Oak Park, Illinois, designed the English Gothic brick structure. The “native stone” brick in our building was made at Haeger Brick Works, the predecessor of Haeger Pottery, in East Dundee, IL.

Over the years the beauty of our worship space was enhanced with the addition of stained glass windows. In the Nave we are surrounded by our faith with The Apostles’ Creed windows and Te Deum (an ancient hymn of the church) windows.

In 2000, the parish led by The Rev. Brian Couvillion added a modern addition that embraced the gothic style of our building. The new section houses offices, classrooms and handicap accessibility with an entrance ramp and elevator.

In 2014, the parish leadership with The Rev. Donald Frye led the congregation in preparation for our 150th anniversary to complete major structural support to the 1895 portion of the parish house and remodel our parish kitchen. Today, Saint James is ready to continue to welcome, teach and serve ALL God’s people into a bright future.

As we celebrate our 150th anniversary, we give thanks to God for our faithful foundation that has helped us to meet the opportunities and rapid changes in our society. Along with our regular worship services, Saint James is committed to serving others through our annual Christmas outreach dinners, supporting our local FISH food pantry, volunteering with Feed My Starving Children and Northern Illinois Food Bank. We are thankful for our past, excited for our present and look forward to our future as God’s Spirit continues to lead us to remain a vibrant and relevant community of faith.