



## **Pastor Voorhees**

(December 1, 1936 – April 12, 1942)

On December 1, 1936, the Reverend Edward Voorhees with his wife, Bernadine, and their three children came to St. Paul's after having served for six years at Reformation Church of Chicago.

They had a real love for the youth of the church, and their home on Waverly Place had an open door policy welcoming them to their home. It was at this time that the men of the church began to dig a basement by hand. This finally enabled the church to get rid of the black Pot-Belly Stove. The girls were glad to see it go, because there was always the danger of loosening a shoe to that fiery inferno by the teasing young males! There was not only the

physical improvement of the church, that is to be expected, but the spiritual development of the members were also enriched.

In late 1937, thoughts were made to relocate the altar, chapel, and pulpit to the south end of the church to increase seating capacity. In addition, they wanted to build a side entrance to the church facing Lewis Avenue. On January 5, 1939 excavation of the basement began. Mr. Otteson headed the project. Men and boys volunteered their services to dig out the basement by hand. The project was completed in 1943.

The men and young men of the church have been active in the improvement of the property. The Ladies Aid society assumed the amortization of a first mortgage obligation on the properties. The Girl's Adeste Fidelis club did helpful things for the church and also donated a special bulletins throughout the year. A Boy's club was active in developing Christian character among themselves and others, and assumed certain obligations, promoted entertainment, and had a basketball team.

The Young People's Luther league have been active meeting for devotionals each Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. They are faithful in attending the district rallies. A large number of young people has been in attendance upon the confirmation classes for the year, looking forward to membership in the congregation. Reports of the church council show that the Lenten-Easter season of 1936 was the best in the history of the congregation

In the spring of 1942, Mrs. Voorhees took her ill husband and three children to Florida to build a new life for them all. Pastor Voorhees submitted his resignation to St. Paul's councilmen on March 16, 1942. While a reason wasn't given for his resignation, it is believed due to his illness. At a Congregational Meeting held on April 12, 1942, the congregation accepted Reverend Voorhees resignation. The vote was 35 accept and 24 reject.