

Church of the Ascension celebrates 150 years!

The Church of the Ascension in Norwood Young America is celebrating the sesquicentennial anniversary of its founding during the year 2009.

Many German and Irish pioneers homesteaded in the township of Young America in Carver County from 1850 to 1855. When the first Catholic settlers came in 1855 a priest from Shakopee, whose missionary field extended over Scott, Carver and McLeod Counties, would hold a religious service at the home of one of the community members. A courier would precede him to notify the settlers that he would be in the area. The organization of the Catholics of Young America into a parish took place on Oct. 1, 1859, when the newly formed congregation of St. Patrick's Church, Young America Township, was approved by the Bishop of St. Paul. Sometime between 1870 and 1885 (exact date is uncertain since records are unavailable) the name of the congregation changed. Controversy between Irish parishioners, who wanted to keep the name St. Patrick's Church, and German parishioners, who preferred St. Joseph's Church, was settled by the pastor at the time who chose the name Ascension.