

THE RECTORY

The rectory has primarily acted as home and hearth as well as office for the rectors of Christ Church, but not always! Around the early 80s the rectory became home, briefly, for a Vietnamese refugee family being sponsored by the Trinity Lutheran congregation. When the new incumbent arrived, they needed to find another home. More recently, in June 2018, after Rev'd Andrea Brennan volunteered to move to a smaller home to allow the rectory to be rented at a much higher rent, the rectory was rented.

The ability to offer a home to any prospective ministers has been very important throughout the years. Indeed after the second great Fernie fire on August 1, 1908, the rectory was ordered and built *before* the church. In a contract dated September 3, 1908, Mr. G.A. Hacking was hired to erect and build a residence known as Triple MMM in the Catalogue of the Standard House Building Company, City of Vancouver, for \$1650. The church would be responsible for the foundation for the rectory. Signed H.I. Edmond, Warden and Frank Finalyson, Treasurer.

At some point, the rectory was expanded -- adding a living room on the northern side of the building and an additional bedroom upstairs.

Mae Williams comments that the rectory basement was wet; successive Church Councils were always trying to fix this problem. There is a raised portion on the eastern side of the basement on which church files were kept for many years (currently they are stored in the church hall office or under the stairs in the church entryway). In recent years the basement has been dry but Ralph Stadnichuk speculates that the basement may become wet again if certain weather conditions present themselves.

Speaking of the basement, Ralph remembers Rev'd Bill Inglis (Incumbent, 2002-2010) calling him to say "we have a problem in the basement." A skunk had come to visit! The City was called and came with a trap to remove the skunk fortunately *before* it sprayed person or basement. The skunk had entered the basement through a large hole in the foundation at the northwestern corner. The reason for said hole is not known and neither is it known why it was allowed to remain there for so long; it was fixed shortly after the skunk episode!