BR's First Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church, located at the corner of North and Eistle boulevards, is one of the most active churches in the area.

When First Methodist outgrew its old church at the corner of Church (now Fourth) and Laurel streets, the congregation built the new church with a much larger sanctuary.

Church able to flourish downtown amid changing neighborhood

By CAROL ANNE BLATTER

The Rev. Chris Andrews calls First United Methodist Church's "Second Avenue church." With a membership approaching 3,000, the downtown church is one of the city's finest parishes.

In recent years, the church has been a leader in the downtown neighborhood. In 1985, the church was named a "Today's Church for Tomorrow." The church has continued to grow, with membership now over 3,000. The church is home to many community activities, including a community center and a youth group.

The church is located at 1100 Second Avenue, near the heart of downtown. The building is a beautiful example of early 20th century architecture, with arched windows and a steeple.

The church is part of a larger denomination, the United Methodist Church, which is one of the largest Protestant denominations in the United States.

The church is led by the Rev. Chris Andrews, who has served as the pastor for over 20 years. He is known for his welcoming spirit and his commitment to serving the community.

The church's mission statement is to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." The church is active in a variety of community service projects, including providing meals to the homeless and supporting local non-profits.

The church is also known for its beautiful stained glass windows, which were created by local artists.

The church's beautiful location and welcoming spirit make it a popular destination for visitors and local residents alike.
The first United Methodist Church was recently renovated with new lighting and added seating. Support for the renovation came from church members, who contributed through the church, some members consider selling the building for a church. 'There are a lot of churches in the area, and the building is not as well maintained,' said the church treasurer. 'It's in bad shape, so we decided to sell it.'

Andrews recalls stories of the Holyoke, some of the church's oldest members. 'We have a lot of stories to tell about the church,' he said. 'For example, we have a tradition of having a costume party every year, and we always have a good time.'

The church had its roots in the early 1800s when the town of Holyoke was just a small settlement. The first church building was constructed in 1825, and it served the community for nearly 150 years. In 1975, the church was forced to close due to declining membership and financial difficulties. It was purchased by a group of elderly residents who wanted to preserve the historic structure.

The church was carefully restored and now serves as a community center. It offers a variety of programs and events, including a concert series, art exhibitions, and educational workshops. The church is also home to a number of local organizations, such as a senior center and a community theater group.

In conclusion, the church remains an important part of the Holyoke community, serving as a place of worship, a gathering place, and a testament to the rich history of the town. As the church continues to evolve, it will no doubt continue to be a vital part of the community for many years to come.