

East Park Place, N.E.

6

10 East Park N.E. First (Park) Congregational Church. An 1868 Gothic structure designed by Asahel Barrows, Jr., of Chicago, it is now the second oldest church building in Grand Rapids.



The second-floor sanctuary has a complete set of 14 windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933) with biblical themes in the elegant, turn-of-the-century art nouveau style, circa 1904-16, one of only a few churches in the U.S. with that distinction. In 1900, parishioners Lorraine Pratt Immen and Eva Lamont Boise began a 16-year fundraising campaign to buy the windows, which were installed one at a time. The church paid about \$600 in 1909 for the first Tiffany window, depicting the Good Shepherd. Six chapel windows by Judson Studios of Los Angeles were dedicated in 1951. Fire started by an arsonist nearly destroyed the church on the evening of August 27, 1988, but the windows were saved. The church also features Alois Lang wood carvings, and tapestry and banners hand-stitched by women of



the congregation, including the "Anastasis," representing the building's restoration after the fire. A chapel designed by Osgood & Osgood was added in 1915. Cram & Ferguson of Boston with local architect William Kenneth Rindge designed the 1929 addition to the front and sides of the building. The Thompson Chapel was added to the front of the building and

dedicated on May 6, 1951. (Photos: top, c. 1916, Morrow postcard collection; bottom, c. 1955, *ibid.*)

