

Alderman urges Taylor to preserve historic church

By Scott Crowson
AHN news editor

The oldest surviving church in the North Peace should be preserved as a heritage structure and put on display for Project 92, says Taylor Alderman Tony Von Hollen.

The building in question is the Church of the Good Shepherd, a small, wood building located in the northwest residential corner of Taylor, near the elementary school.

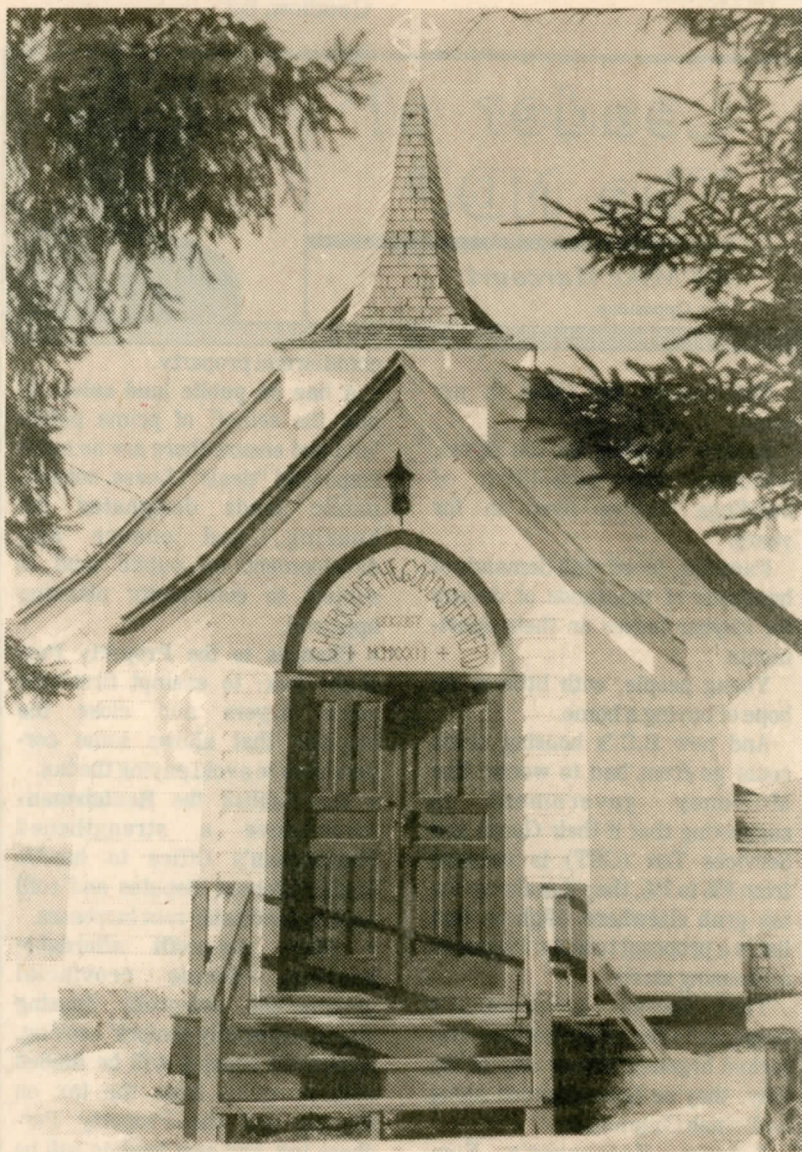
The white church house was erected in 1932 — the date is written above the entrance in Roman numerals — and it even has a small spire.

The Taylor congregation is served by the clergy from St. Martin's Anglican Church in Fort St. John, with a service every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

"We'd like to see the church highlighted as an attraction to see when you're visiting Taylor — especially in 1992, when we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Alaska Highway," Von Hollen said. "A lot of people associated with the construction of the Alcan will be coming back in '92, and many would have seen that church because it was there, of course, when the highway was being built. It's been there for over 50 years."

The alderman says the building is no longer considered as "just the Anglican Church." It's now viewed by Taylor residents as the "community centerpiece."

He suggests it may be a wise idea to move the building to a



new location so that it would be visible and readily accessible from the highway.

"This, of course, depends on whether or not the congregation is willing to go along with this plan," Von Hollen says.

"Naturally, we would like to see it continue to be used as a church until such time as the congregation decides to relinquish it. It seems to me that after that time, it should be kept strictly as a heritage building."