REV. JOASH RICE TAYLOR, ALL SAINTS’ EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HIGHLIGHT S-D HISTORY CENTER’S AUG. 8 “TUESDAY TALK”

JULY 28, 2017 -- Saugatuck’s historical All Saints’ Episcopal Church and the man who inspired it, Reverend Joash Rice Taylor, will be the focus of the next Saugatuck-Douglas History Center “Tuesday Talk” on August 8, in the Old School House, 130 Center Street, Douglas. The one-hour program begins when the school bell rings at 11 a.m. Public attendance is invited and audience participation is welcomed to enrich the discussion.

Presenter Paul Trap, retired Grand Haven history teacher and long-time history researcher, revisits the formation of the Saugatuck Episcopal congregation in 1868, when Taylor served as missionary minister here from his parish in Holland. The congregation immediately began planning for a church building, and in 1871 purchased the land for its location. Rev. Taylor passionately traveled the country raising funds for the church, guiding the 1872-74 construction of its board-and-batten “Carpenter Gothic” design created by Detroit architect Gordon W. Lloyd and the acquisition of its Belgian stained-glass windows, installed in 1880.

Rev. Taylor also helped organize Episcopal churches in Allegan, Grand Haven and Holland, with Holland’s Grace Episcopal Church a “twin” of Saugatuck’s, organized about the same time as All Saints’. While he moved on to other places, Taylor always returned to Saugatuck, dying here in 1900 at his home on Pleasant Street just a few blocks from his church.

Saugatuck’s iconic structure, standing on the hilltop corner of Grand and Hoffman Streets, is a Michigan State Historic Site listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

A summer tradition since 1996, weekly Tuesday Talks present entertaining and informative insights into our community life throughout July and August. This week’s Tuesday Talk is sponsored by SDHC members Howard Rochte and Russ Lamesfield.

The series’ increasing popularity puts limited seating on “first-come, first-served” basis. While admission is free for current SDHC members, non-member guests are encouraged to attend with a donation of five dollars, or to become new members at the Talk.

For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, or its activities planned for 2017, visit www.MySDHistory.org.

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Rev. Joash Rice Taylor (photo ca. 1878), key figure in establishing Saugatuck’s All Saints’ Episcopal Church, remembered in SDHC Aug. 8 “Tuesday Talk”.