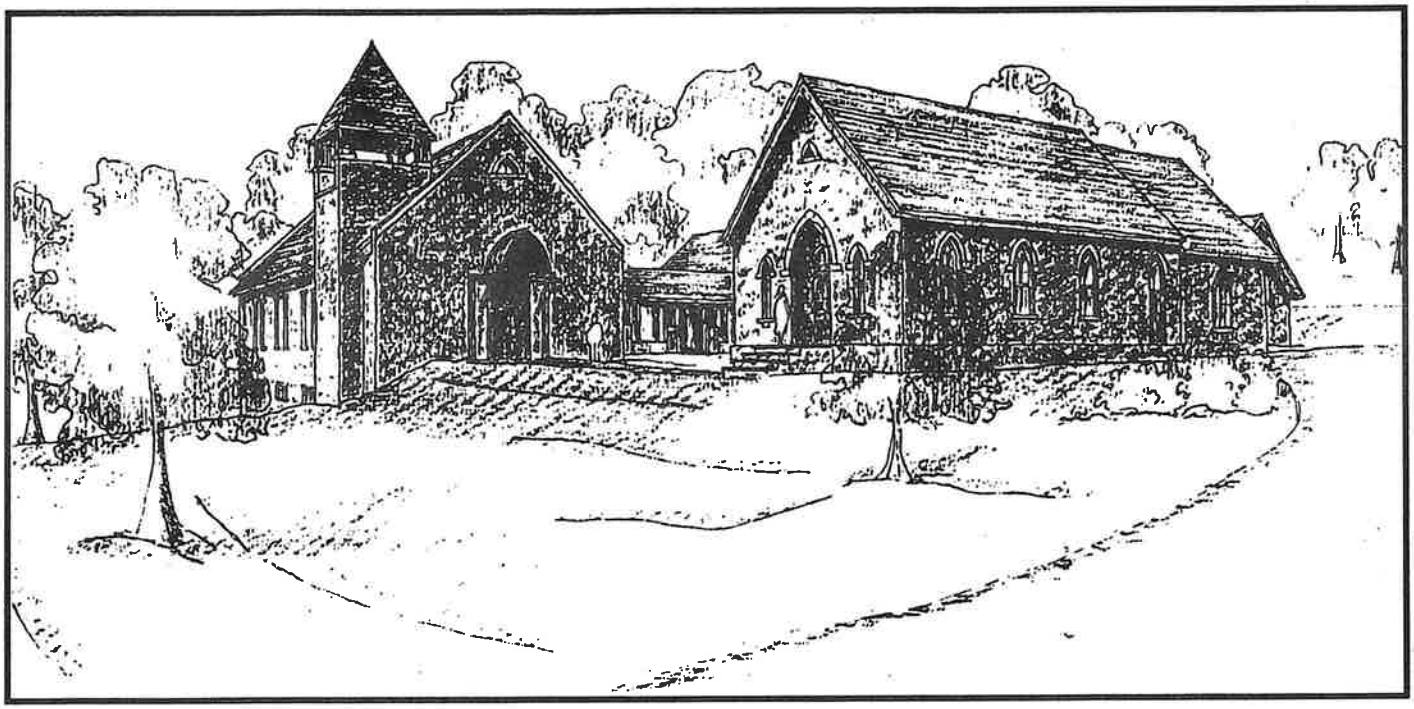
TRAGEDY and TRIUMPH

Trinity Church

Solebury, Pennsylvania



"Mommy, the Church didn't burn, only the building did."

Misha Daukas (age 8)

SPRING 1999

TRAGEDY and TRIUMPH

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This booklet is dedicated to

The Rev. David R. Anderson

For tears that were shed, and showing that's all right
For energy stretched to keep us all on track
For calmness in distress
For generosity of spirit that makes everyone feel welcome
For sense of community that stretches beyond our doors
For acceptance of the gifts and talents of others, and the encouragement for them to grow
For cheerfulness — almost always
And for the sharing of your own talents and your love of God.

Thank you, David!

Trinity's Tragedy

by Will Rivinus

A Church is people . . . people gathering together to worship God and to help one another through the challenges of life.

Trinity Solebury is such a Church. Founded as a mission in 1860; a full parish since 1954. A handsome stone church built in 1876. As of May 10, 1998, two hundred and fifty families, more than 500 members and visitors filling three services each Sunday. A burgeoning Day School, founded in 1959, now numbering 65 children with 7 teachers. A dynamic Youth Group that has grown to 70 members in just the past few years. Seven choirs of all ages.

Trinity Solebury is a vibrant parish. Through its Outreach Program it helps to support causes all over the Diocese and the Delaware Valley. Alcoholics Anonymous meets here. Peace Meal was initiated here four years ago as a monthly support gathering for people and families in our neighborhood coping with AIDS.

Trinity is known throughout the region for the Christmas House Tour that draws nearly a thousand visitors. For the Holiday Bazaar that sells out of about 20,000 Christmas cookies every year. For Lobsterfest which serves 900 lobsters each spring to raise funds to send our Youth Group for a week of community service in Mission Philadelphia. For BUCKS COOKS, Volumes I and II, that have sold more than 60,000 copies since 1950. The list goes on and on.

Trinity was bursting at the seams in 1997 when the parish approved plans for a new church building with double the capacity. Over $1,000,000 was raised from our members. Architectural plans were drawn up. Building permits were sought.

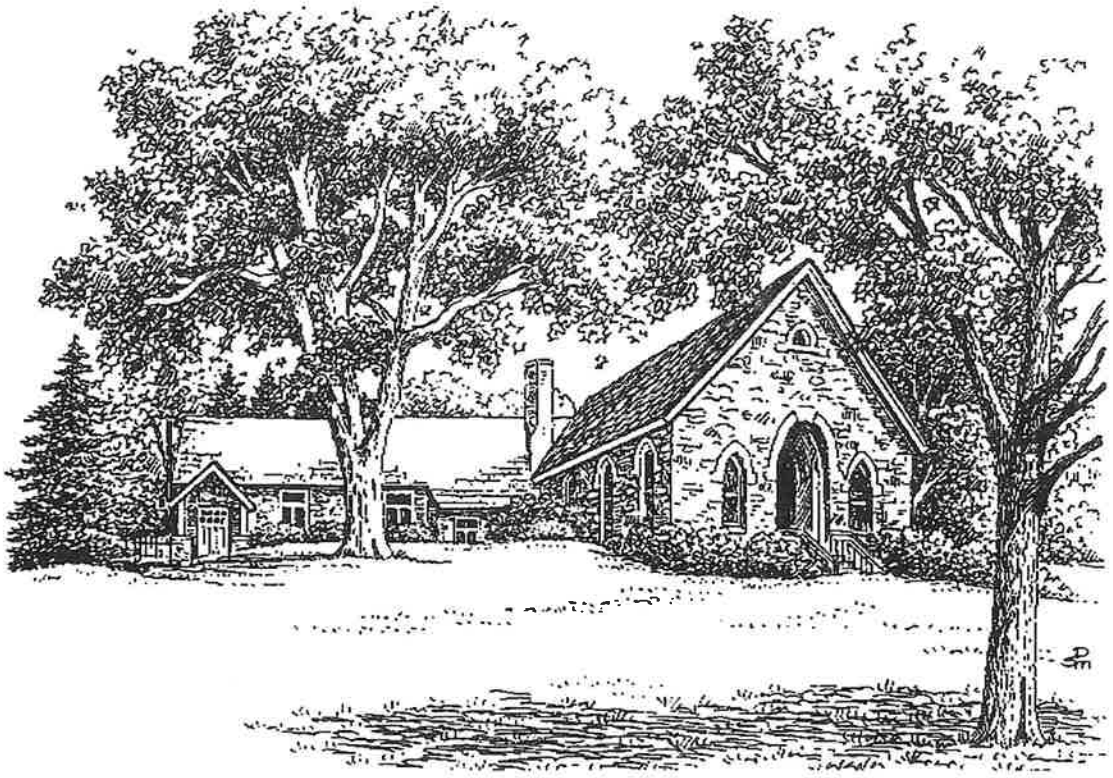
ALL OF THIS WAS DESTROYED, at least temporarily, on the night of May 10, 1998. It was determined to be arson.

Fire broke out about 10:00 PM. By 11:00, when neighbors smelled smoke, it was well under way. Twenty-two fire companies with nearly 100 men from Pennsylvania and New Jersey fought the blaze until it was brought under control three hours later. A fire after eight days of almost incessant rain.

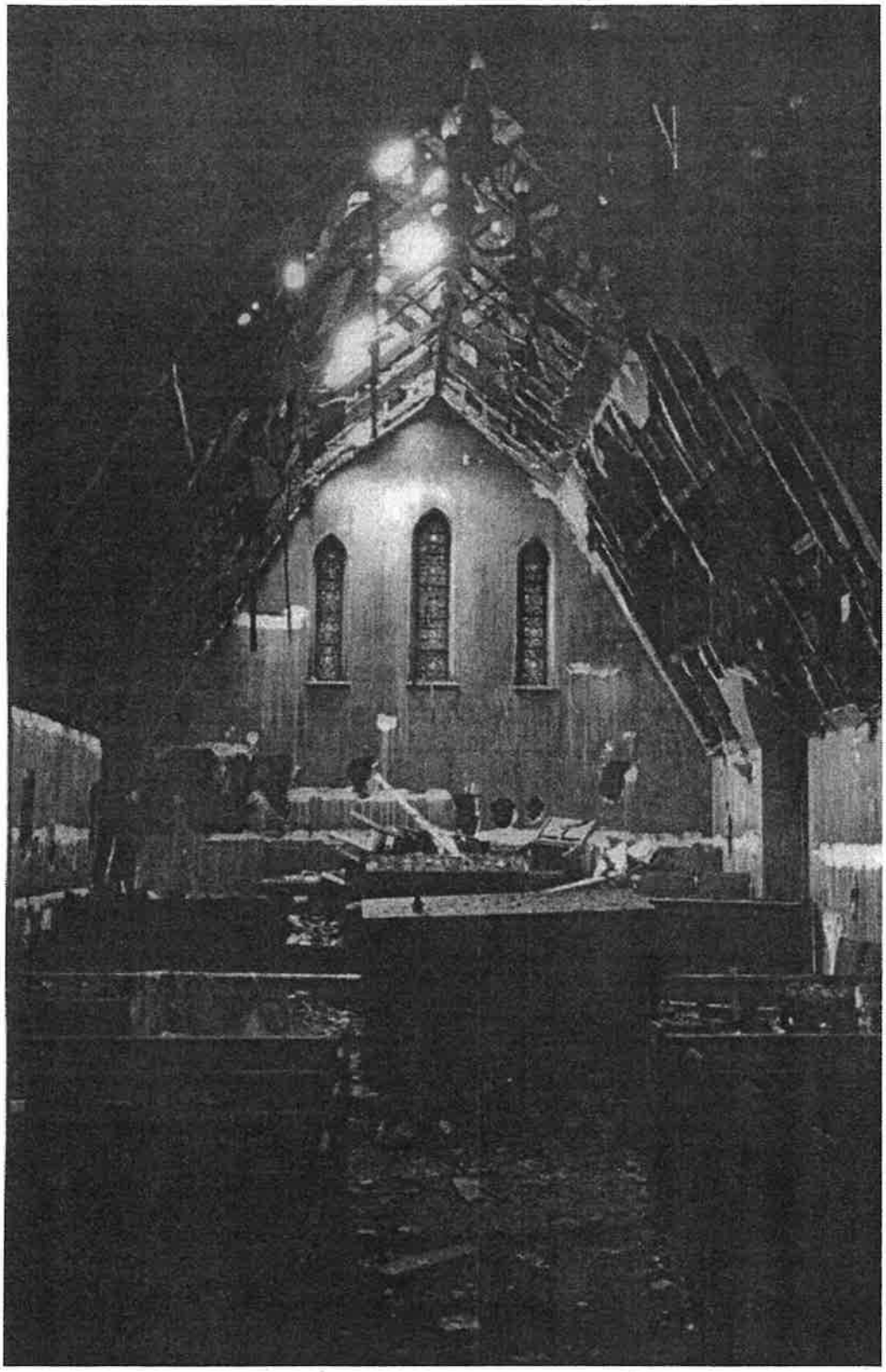
Through the night parishioners assembled in groups, hugging each other, numbed by shock, trying to understand how a community so successful could be so totally demolished. David Anderson, the Rector, seeking to comfort his flock, trying to make intelligent decisions in an impossible situation, seeking to see how this could possibly be the will of God. John Capellaro, the Assistant Rector, looking forward to his last month at Trinity before assuming his own parish in Norfolk, Virginia. Members of the Vestry and staff wondering what to do when there was virtually nothing to do.

When daylight returned the devastation became clear. The Day School — gone. The Parish Hall — gone. The Library, Kitchen, Music Collection with 450 titles — gone. The Church Sanctuary — majorly damaged from fire, smoke, fire hose spray, and rain. A conservative estimate said 80% of the facility was lost.

What follows is the story of how Trinity Solebury has fought back. How members of the parish rose to heights never before reached. How the community rallied to our aid. How Trinity is indeed rising from the ashes to a far greater Church in the worship of God and in support of our community. It is a story of physical TRAGEDY and the TRIUMPH of the human spirit inspired by God.



Fire ruins church, school



For The Inquirer/Bill Cain

After the fire on Sunday night (Mothers Day), little remains intact of the sanctuary in Trinity Episcopal Church. Three victorian stained-glass windows on the back wall, however, did survive.

No cause has yet been found for the blaze late Sunday night at the church in Solebury.

By Patricia M. La Hay
and Richard V. Sabatini
FOR THE INQUIRER

SOLEBURY — When he hung up his phone late Sunday night, the Rev. John Capellaro didn't know what to expect. All he knew was that his church was on fire.

Even after seeing flames shooting from the roof of the parish building adjoining the Trinity Episcopal Church on Route 263, the assistant rector held out hope.

Then, Father Capellaro said yesterday, "we saw smoke coming from the eaves of the church," and he knew just how serious it was.

Indeed, the quick-moving fire of undetermined origin heavily damaged the 122-year-old church, the parish building and the church's day school, leaving the 250-family congregation and its school without a roof over their heads.

Neighbors reported smelling smoke at 11 p.m. Sunday, and when officers arrived they found heavy fire in the parish building, said Police Chief Richard Mangan.

Nearly 100 firefighters from Bucks and Hunterdon Counties poured tons of water on the stubborn blaze for more than an hour before extinguishing most of the visible fire. A portion of the church roof collapsed during the blaze, but there were no injuries.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by several agencies, including the federal ATF arson task force, which now routinely joins in the investigation of all church fires.

As the smoke cleared, the damage was evident. But left standing at the rear of the altar was a wall containing three large Victorian stained-glass windows.

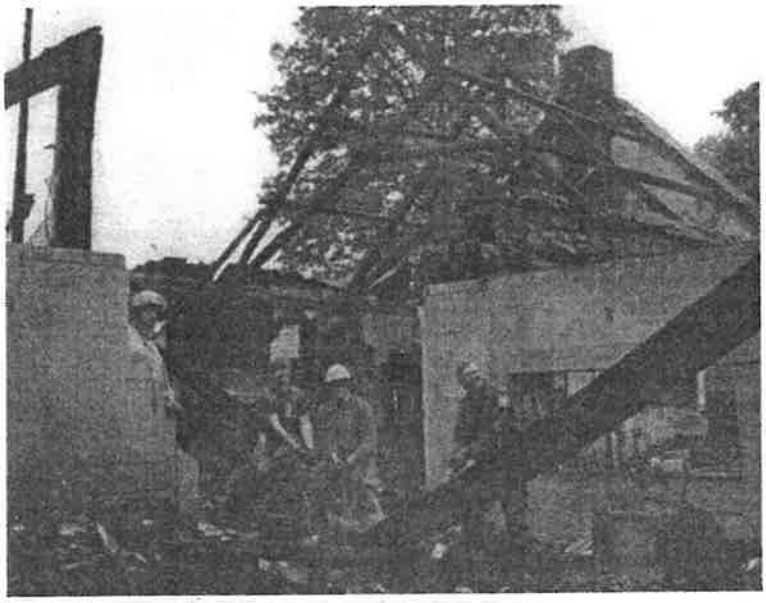
Rain fell atop a small group of parishioners yesterday who gathered to view the damage and plan the church and school's future.

This week, the 60 children who attend the Trinity Day School will not have classes. Next Monday, they will be relocated to the Solebury Friends Meeting House, said Prudence Day, director of the school. "We lost everything," Day said of the school.

Though several of the rooms remain intact, the library was destroyed, she said. Two birds and a fish house perished in the fire.

The future of the congregation will be discussed tonight at a meeting after a special service at New Hope's Eagle Fire Company.

Yesterday, as fire investigators used picks and shovels to look through the rubble in search of the fire's cause, Father Capellaro talked of the "huge wooden cross that hangs," — he caught himself — "hung over the altar." The cross, a focal point of the congregation, was also destroyed.



Bill Cain, Inquirer

Solebury Fire Marshal Jack Parks, (left to right) New Hope firefighters Craig Forbes and John Newfield and Bucks County Deputy Fire Marshall Thomas Krutsch try to move a beam during their investigation.

Fighting the Fire

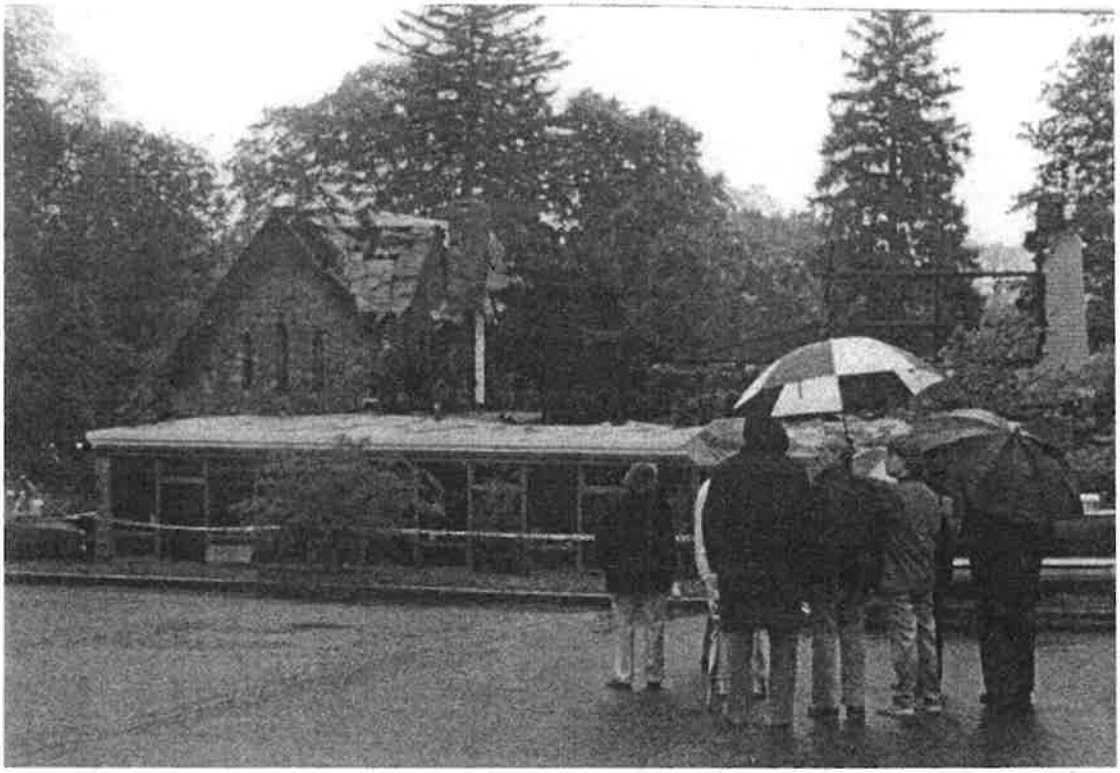
The following 22 fire companies attended the fire, providing personnel, fire-fighting equipment, and tankers with water —

Bucks County

- New Hope Eagle Fire Company
- Midway Fire Company
- Point Pleasant Fire Company
- Lingohocken Fire Company
- Warwick Fire Company
- Plumsteadville Fire Company
- Doylestown Fire Company
- Upper Makefield Fire Company
- Warrington Fire Company
- Delaware Valley/Erwinna Fire Company

New Jersey

- Stockton Fire Company
- Sergeantsville Fire Company
- Kingwood Fire Company
- Lambertville Fire Company
- Amwell Valley Fire Company
- Titusville Fire Company
- Quakertown Fire Company
- Readington Fire Company
- Annandale Fire Company
- Flemington Fire Company
- Holland Township Fire Company
- Milford Fire Company



Bridget Wingert

First Impressions —

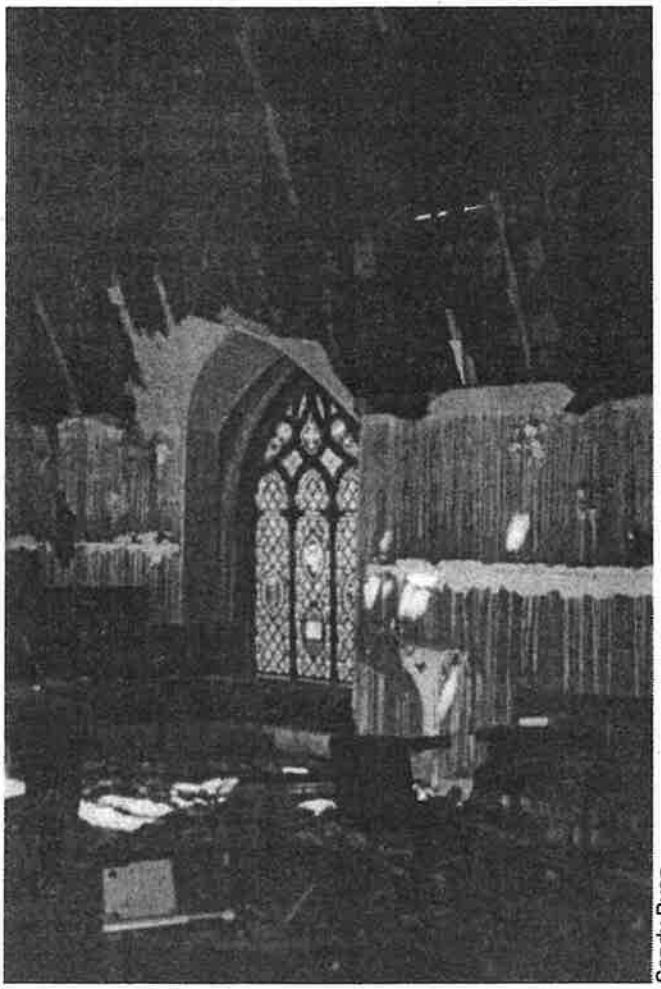
by Kitty Petrie

"It was a dreary, drizzly day. I went out for supper, across Sugan Road. About 10:30 my host walked me home to my driveway. I went across the front of the house and around to the back door where the outside light was on. I saw nothing and smelled nothing. For 35 years I always look over to my church for comfort...still nothing.

There were messages on my answering machine and one asking me to call back if I was in before 11:00. When I looked at the clock, it was 11:40, and I went upstairs to get ready for bed. Brushing my teeth, I look in the mirror and see the reflection of flickering lights. I think, what's a Christmas tree doing over at the church? Turn around and look out the window. No Christmas tree.

I heard the fire trucks coming up the road as I ran for my shoes and raincoat. Arrived as the hoses were being unwound. Went to the front door as the flames I saw were at the entrance to the classrooms. Hoped I could get in to save the church silver, but a fireman saw me and said, "No way!" Then I stepped to the left and looked up at the Parish Hall with 50-foot flames coming from the rafters. I retreated.

How did I feel? I felt totally alone watching my church burn. For ten minutes or so, I kept crying to the firemen, "Where's David Anderson, our Rector?" And then he came, along with Bill and Debbie Stefanowitz. The rest is history for others to tell."

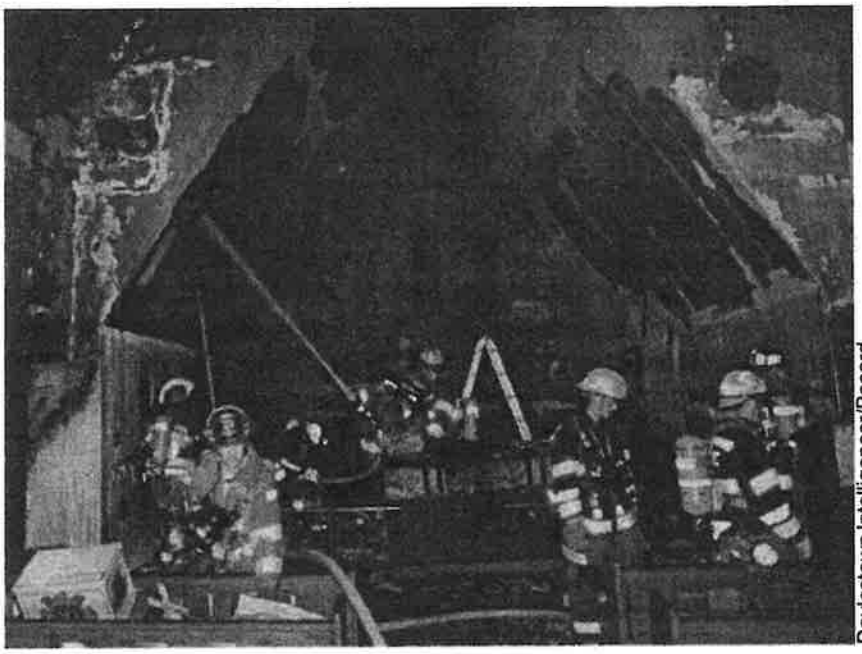


Sandy Ryon

The Night of Trinity Fire

by Debbie Wagner

Soon after 11:00 on Sunday night, May 10th, I heard fire engines roar up the road. Not one minute later, the phone rang, and I thought, *Oh no, no one calls at this hour unless it's bad news*. It was our neighbor, Sue Benner. She said, "My friend was listening to her scanner and just called to tell me Trinity is on fire." I don't remember my reply, just hanging up and repeating to my husband (Bill Stefanowicz), "Trinity is on fire!" In minutes we were out the door and racing up the street. I remember praying the whole time, asking God not to let it be too bad. We both saw the glow in the sky at the same time and our hearts sank. *Oh God, no.*



Doylestown Intelligencer/Record

A fire engine blocked the intersection, so Bill went around the curve on Sugan Road into Kitty Petrie's driveway. We jumped out of the car and ran up the street. Standing on Route 263 in front of the parish hall, we screamed, "No, it can't be true!" We couldn't believe our eyes: the entire parish hall was glowing inside. Bill looked toward the Church and saw Kitty standing on the lawn. We ran to her, hugged each other and cried. Kitty said the firemen wouldn't let her go in to rescue the silver — I hadn't even thought of that. I asked where David was, and when I looked up, he was right there with his arms around us and weeping.

Someone came over and asked us to move out of the way of danger. Then John came running across the lawn and grabbed David. Hanging on to each other, they wept bitterly. My mind was flooded with the memories of all that had taken place there in the past: I first met Bill in the parish hall, and years later we were married in the Church. My daughter Alana was baptized there. All my children participated in the Christmas pageants. We baked cookies and cooked lobster in the kitchen, not to mention the countless hours we spent singing and enjoying the fellowship of the people in our congregation. Now everyone had their own thoughts of what Trinity meant to them. We all knew our lives would be changed forever, yet all we could do was stand helpless and watch the fire consume our cherished meeting place, our house of worship.

Other people from the congregation began arriving. The reaction was the same with everyone: bitter tears and clinging to one another for strength. When the fire started to spread to the Church itself, the agony intensified. *No, Lord, please don't let it consume the Church too!* The firemen ran out of water, and there was a period of waiting for more to arrive. My eyes were transfixed on the flames shooting out the top of the Church. All I could think was, *Will it ever stop?* A fireman came over and asked David if there was something they could get out of the Church. He directed them to the Sacristy, and they recovered the silver. They placed the silver articles in the parking lot, and we carried them to Maggie Root's house next door. Later we moved them into the rectory.

When the fire was finally put out some time after 2:00 a.m., the firemen again asked if there was anything in the Church we wanted. We went in the side entrance. Everything looked black in spite of the firemen's emergency lights. The smell was intense and gave me a sick feeling in my stomach. We started taking out the blackened hymnals and prayer books. With his flashlight, Bill looked briefly around the sanctuary, and then Robert Landley said he thought the cross was still there. I watched Bill leap over the Communion Rail. While Robert held the flashlight, he started rooting around. He found the cross, and when he picked it up out of the rubble, my heart leapt and I felt an odd sort of comfort. Bill handed the cross over the Communion Rail to Eric Evans and Chris Fralic. They walked out of the Church carrying it, and I believe everyone who was watching must have felt hope. I know I did.

In the morning when I drove my children Eric and Alicia to school, I took them first to the Church. Alicia cried and understood the emptiness we all feel. Eric, 8 years old, was thankful no one was inside at the time. When he saw the blackened glass and burnt toys, he commented on how hot it must have been. For them and for all of us, our lives have been changed, but Trinity Church and all its people will remain standing forever in our hearts and lives.

The Morning After

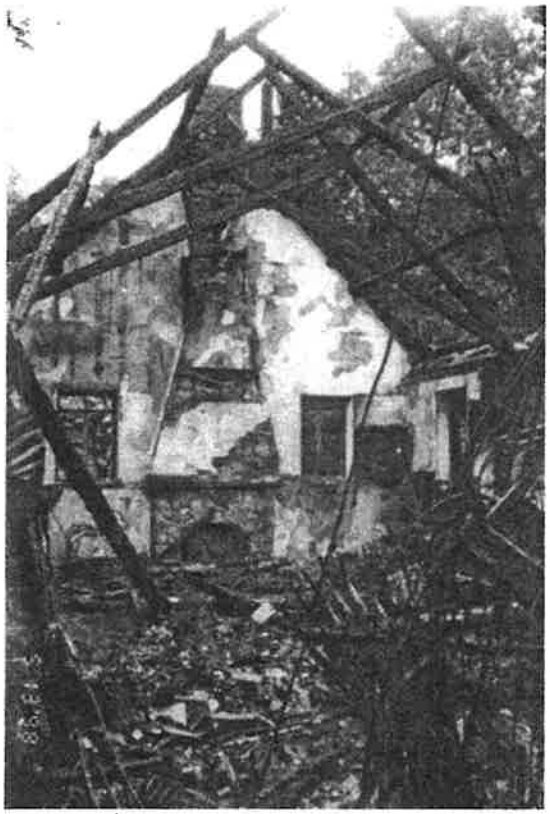
by Mollie Hallowell

Monday morning's early news broadcasts carried the word to many parishioners, and for others phones began to ring. By 9:00 most knew of the catastrophe. The Vestry met at 8:00 a.m. in David's office. Led by Peg Clark, Senior Warden, they began to consider alternative plans, one of the first being a worship service and general meeting for the whole congregation the following night (Tuesday). With less than two hours sleep, David was on hand with his counsel and support. John was at a hospital in Philadelphia where son Luke was undergoing knee surgery.

The Vestry met again at 3:00 p.m. to report on their quest for a place to hold Sunday services and discuss other vital matters, a meeting which lasted until after 6:00. Meanwhile, all day long and in spite of the rain, parishioners came to Trinity, leaving their cars in the upper driveway and at the top of the parking lot and wandering around the blackened ruins. Later, many would say simply, "Yes, I was at the church on Monday." Little groups, some under umbrellas, stood and looked and hugged each other. Some spoke to Doug McArthur or to Pam Anderson or to David if he happened by, but others only looked and went quietly away. Bishop Alan Bartlett was there as was Bill Wood, our former rector, as well as clergy from many other churches. Philadelphia television crews came by, and later Trinity was on the noon and evening news. David and Doug McArthur appeared briefly on Channel 6.

The Mansion (the Church Office) was untouched; neither was the Rectory, in the process of renovation for new office space. In the Mansion, the phones never stopped ringing, and Anne Rivinus valiantly kept the people, the messages and the bustle of constant coming-and-going under control. Guiseppe's sent hoagies to the busy workers, and all the time, wonderful offers of help kept rolling in, many of which are described later in this book.

Quoting Anne, "The outpouring of love, support and help from the whole community was overwhelming," not only on the Monday but for many days following. She adds that there wasn't a church within a 20-mile radius that didn't call, not only Episcopalian but all denominations.



The Parish Hall John Wright



The Day School Bridget Wingert

Worship Service at Eagle Fire Hall, Tuesday, May 12

by Earlene Austin & Mollie Hallowell

How strange to think that just a year before, on April 27, 1997, we had come together in the Eagle Fire Hall's huge auditorium for the exuberant Welcome All People kick-off party. Now, two nights after the fire, somber people filled the rows of chairs, and by 7:00 over 500 were present— parishioners, family, friends, and representatives of the community.

Trinity Youth Group members arrived early to set up the chairs and to help out wherever needed. As the huge room began to take shape around the make-shift altar, Youth Retreat banners (some of the few "trappings" not lost in the fire), photo albums and the billboard for memories added warmth and comfort. Eric Anderson and Alex Austin brought pizza to feed the hungry troops who had come early to set up—many pizzas donated to the Youth Group by Guiseppe's, who knew exactly what was needed and didn't hesitate to help.

Long before 7:00, people started to shuffle in, a little hesitant at first. What would tonight be like? How many people would come? Will we survive? Kyle Evans, Mary Platt, Vicki and Tina Roland, and Elena Austin worked on stringing little wooden crosses which would become a very significant part of the evening's service. Busy hands at the back of the hall frantically strung red satin ribbon through loops at the tops of the crosses—finishing only minutes before the service began.

A printed program including the entire service and hymns (thanks to SpeediPrinters) lay on each chair seat, accompanied by a beautiful caligraphic statement of Trinity's Mission (calligraphy by Mary Platt). With the Rev. Glenn Matis (Church of the Resurrection) at the the portable organ and the congregation singing "The Church's One Foundation," an impressive procession entered the hall. Acolytes Jenn Blumenstock and Elena Austin in their borrowed vestments. Our own David Anderson and John Capellaro. A dozen clergy from all over the Diocese. The choir without their robes. Jenn carried a beautiful new wooden cross made that day by Sydney Fox. David's and John's vestments were loaned by Kyle St. Clair (St. Phillip's Chapel) and the Gospel Book and Missile by the Church of the Advent (Hatboro).

The Rev. Bill Wood (Trinity's rector 1978-1991) took the liturgy and David, the Eucharist. Readers were the Rev. Nancy Stroh, Deaconess Pam Nesbit and Trinity's Bonnie Wilbur. Our own silver chalices, saved from the fire and polished to perfection by Helen Prescott, were used for Holy Communion, and after each person received the wine, a little wooden cross on a red ribbon was slipped over his/her head —to be worn until our church is again restored.

It was truly magic, almost surreal—such strength from the parish members all under one roof at one time. We hadn't been able to worship that way for years—we'd been scattered over three Sunday services ever since we'd grown so big. Now we were here, all together, in front of God and the community to share our faith with sadness, resolve, joy, determination, fear, laughter, communion. Ours is a church of many ministries, and all were represented at that service. Youth, Peacemeal, Outreach and every other group that makes our Family so special—all partaking of the Holy Eucharist and sharing in an evening of community worship to help heal.

Tears flowed freely as the strong, consoling faith filled the air. Special moments came with the beautiful singing of the choir, with David's heartfelt homily and, at the end, John's little speech. For the Eucharist, the visiting priests stationed themselves at the four corners of the assembly to pass out the bread and wine. Helpers placed the little crosses with their red ribbons over the heads of all who received Communion. At her corner, Earlene Austin touched many people whom she had never seen before. Many said almost sheepishly, "I'm not a member of your church" or "I'm not Episcopal." But as she put a cross over each head, she said, "Now you are. May God bless and keep you." When it was a member of the Trinity family, they hugged and cried together.

The sea of people finally ebbed. Earlene and her daughter, who was helping untangle the ribbons, received communion themselves, and Earlene put the little cross with its red satin ribbon on the priest who communicated them. She hugged him and at last broke down. He hugged her even tighter and said barely above a whisper, "Go ahead, it's a safe shoulder." It was at that moment she knew we'd be all right—we have so many safe shoulders.

True to tradition, the evening finished with bountiful refreshments prepared by Vicki Roland and Jane Faraco with many others contributing. An occasion long to be remembered, it had been a coming together not only of our Trinity family but of so many friends from such a widely expanded community. And God was surely with us.

Guest Clergy supporting Trinity at the Eagle Fire Hall:

Jim Cirillo	Trinity, Buckingham
Dick Ditterline	Grace Church, Hulmeville
Bill Fulks	Emanuel, Quakertown
Glenn Matis	Church of the Resurrection, Mayfair
John Midwood	Archdeacon of the Diocese
Pam Nesbit	Deacon, Good Shepherd, Hilltown
Nick Phelps	Retired, St. James, Bristol
Kyle St. Claire	St. Phillip's Chapel
Nancy Stroh	Holy Nativity, Wrightstown
Lloyd Winter	St. James, Langhorne
Ken Wissler	Interim at St. James, Bristol
Bill Wood	St. Christopher's, Gladwyne

Trinity Youth Group Reactions to the Fire

From the Web:

This computer web page was created in the hope that people, not just youth, but the entire parish and ministry may offer up personal reactions and responses to the fire, and memories they have of the church. With God's help, these reflections and vignettes may help the community as a whole to heal from this tragedy. Through this page, people can and will see that everyone is hurting, and that together, we can recover. The spirit of Trinity is alive in all of us.

"Everytime I think of a church, I think of this church. I will always remember how, even though I would come as a guest with my friend, the people would welcome me with open arms. I will remember the Lobsterfest, the day trip to Philly to clean up, and the end of the year party inside the church. I wish you all best of luck in getting the church rebuilt asap. I am so sorry about what happened. I just hope it won't effect the way everyone welcomes strangers with warm feelings of belongment." *—Alyssa Bjornsgaard*



John Wright

"I've been at Trinity Church for as long as I can remember. I've spent my life there, and now it's gone. I still can't believe it. When I heard what had happened, I felt so helpless and so alone for the first time since I joined Trinity's Youth Group three years ago. The church was so much more than a building to me—it was my home, my life, and my soul."

—Erin McCarthy

"I have been at this church since I was a little baby. I'm 16 now and I feel just like a baby again. I can't do anything. There is something inside of me that went up in flames with the church. What ever that was is still smoldering inside of me and I feel that in time, like the church it will be rebuilt too. But for now, I still feel like its all a dream and all I can do is try to keep waking up, I hope that someday I will."

—Kip McNeill

"We all lost something there and I will never forget my last day there. I may have not been there long but I still remember. It really saddens me, but as we keep saying it's the people that make a church not just the building. I guess either way I still feel as if something of me died there." *—Kinsey Kerr*



John Wright

Comments and pictures posted on the Internet — www.tyg.org

Reactions to the Fire

"Thanks for being you...all you all! You have faced a traumatic event and have found strength and love, not only for yourselves but for the entire Trinity family. Remember that God is with us and we are here for each other. We will need to lean on each other or support each other as we move forward. Life will hold other events for us all. This one will teach every one of us. God's love will be there. We will be there."

Love you guys!

—Barbara & Stephen Wilson (Youth Sponsors)

"I am not a member of your church community — but my sister and her family are. I have had the pleasure of worshiping in your church on two occasions. One was my sister's wedding and the other was their son's baptism. Both times were times of joy and I will always remember them, and your sanctuary, with a smile. It is hard to face a situation like this, but it is also a time for future and forward thinking. Your neighbors should, and will rally around, to make Trinity an even better place than it originally was. That's not a vision that's easy to see now — but through God's love, and with time, this will become just one more step in the history, and the growth, of your church's love."

You are all in my prayers,

—Cindy M. Marvin (Sister of Sandy Castor)



John Wright

"One memory of the Trinity Fire that stands out for me came about 18 hours after the fire was out:

On Monday, May 11, at 6 p.m. the Trinity Youth Group met in front of the burned-out church and made a make-shift tent of black plastic to keep off the rain. About 20 kids gathered inside with guitars and sang the songs they had learned during youth group. It was cozy and safe and healing inside the tent.

As more people showed up, the tent wall was opened to invite the people standing around to join in the singing. The people formed a semi-circle around the tent. Then a few at a time would quietly break away, walk over to the open window in the church and look in. It was as though the people had come to a wake; the church was the coffin and those at the window were paying their respect.

Filled with tears and singing and an occasional laugh, these moments were very beautiful and peaceful."

Eric Anderson (Youth Sponsor)

"I feel a real loss, even from way down here in Tennessee where I currently reside. I haven't lived in Solebury since 1993, but I was born there and will always call it home. Such is the same with Trinity, which I only visit now but twice a year. It too is home. I use the present tense here with an intended conviction, because, while tears streamed down my face when I saw the photographs, I know that Trinity is not a building, it's a community. While I of course recall the pew in which I sat each week, the rooms in which I attended both preschool and Sunday school, the closets in which my choir and acolyte robes were hung —these are not at the heart of the memories. Instead, it is the people who encouraged me after I sung my first solo, hugged me in friendship during coffee hour, comforted me in times of sadness, listened to me when I needed advice, wedded my parents, ... who are Trinity. This will never end.

Trinity is very much alive."

Lora Ann Vogel, Nashville, Tennessee

Reward is offered for arson tips

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is offering $10,000 for information about the Solebury church blaze.

By John L. Micek
Staff Writer

The Intelligencer Record Thursday, June 18, 1998

SOLEBURY - Federal investigators are turning up the heat in their probe of the arson fire that destroyed Trinity Episcopal Church last month.

The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has posted a $10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who started the May 10 blaze.

"We're directed by law to investigate all church arsons," said Special Agent Stephen T. Haskins, spokesman for the ATF's Philadelphia field office, which is offering the reward. "Because of that, we have to put a lot of resources behind it. We spend much more time investigating (church fires)."

New federal laws, sparked by a rash of church arsons in the South over the last few years, require the ATF to investigate all suspicious church fires, Haskins said.

More than 100 firefighters from several area companies fought the flames at the 122-year-old church building. The church's sanctuary, parish hall and school were damaged heavily by the fire.

Haskins would not comment on whether the fire at Trinity Episcopal is linked to a recent spate of church fires in western Pennsylvania.

Neither Haskins nor detectives at the state police barracks in Dublin would comment on the status of the investigation into the fire or say whether they have identified suspects.

However, information compiled by the U.S. Department of Justice and the independent Center for Democratic Renewal does cast some light on the success of federal arson prosecutions as well as on the people who commit the crimes.

According to an internal report, the Justice Department launched 429 investigations into church arsons between 1995 and June 1997, leading to 199 arrests in about 150 of the church burnings.

Law enforcement agencies also convicted 110 people in connection with about 110 different church fires, the federal report indicates.

And in the case of the Southern church fires, the Center for Democratic Renewal found that most occurred between midnight and 7 a.m. and that firebombs or some kind of accelerant usually were to blame.

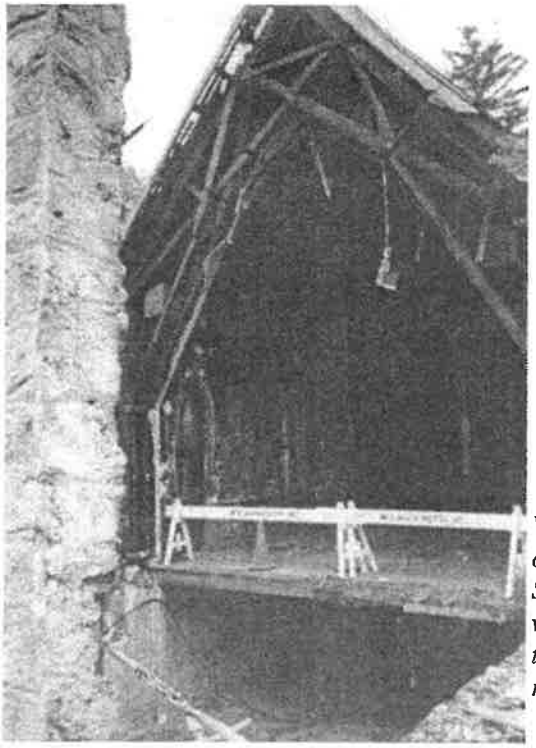
Meanwhile, the people arrested in connection with those Southern fires were men aged 14 to 45 who usually operated in groups of two to five people.

As the state police and ATF conduct their investigations, church officials say they're moving forward with plans for a new building and rectory

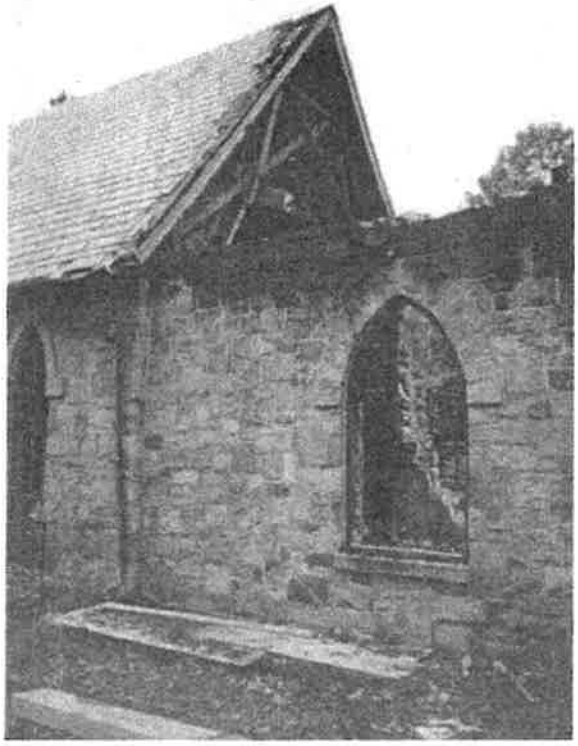
"We've always had a plan to build a new sanctuary," said Peg Clark, the church's top layperson. "Now we've added the rebuilding of the chancery and the school."

Clark said the church has moved its worship services to the New Hope-Solebury Elementary School, which is on the other side of Sugan Road from the church.

The church's insurance company, The Guidant Insurance Group, also has posted a $10,000 reward of its own, she said.



What remains of the Sanctuary . . . with a new type of altar rail.



Doug McArthur

Trinity Carries On

by Betty Stagg

"The best way you can help Trinity through this difficult time is to remain active in our programs and ministries," Peg Clark wrote. She had been appointed Senior Warden just the week before the fire, and since then her leadership has consistently kept the Vestry and parish on course. But it has taken an extraordinary level of effort on everyone's part to maintain the spirit and the activities that have long been the by-products of Trinity's spiritual life.

Dozens of people rallied to help with the immediate needs following the fire and to arrange for the resumption of everyday activities. Volunteers took on clean up tasks; documentation of our losses; preparation of the insurance claim; salvage and restoration of items rescued from the fire; plans for rebuilding; estimation of building costs; pursuit of township approvals, permits, etc.; renovation of the Rectory and moving church offices into the larger space; and communication with parishioners.

Throughout, Trinity's ministries have continued with a strength which could only have been achieved through very real faith in God and compassionate assistance from the community. Grouped under the goals of our Mission Statement, they include:

Worship God

Regular Sunday morning services resumed immediately at the New Hope-Solebury Elementary School across the street from the church. We soon made "holy ground" of the school gymnasium, which requires setting up and taking down each Sunday. The faithful service of our sexton, Bill Burke, and the school's Operations Department have made it work. Support in terms of the Altar Guild, flowers and music made the adjustment and continue to serve. With prayer books and hymnals burned, we published a special Worship Booklet and print the hymns in each Sunday bulletin. Music, so vital to Trinity's worship, was assured first by an electric keyboard and then by the wonderful appearance of an electric organ and, most important, the arrival of Tim Harrell as new Organist/Choir Master.

Although tears were shed at the departure of Assistant Rector John Capellaro in June, his final sermon was a lasting contribution to the healing process. Bishop Bennison visited our church/gymnasium in the fall, and baptisms, confirmations and receptions continue to be held. Once a month the Youth Group leads the 9:15 service in a Youth Eucharist. Finally, in January we welcomed Susan Butler as our new Assistant Rector.

Welcome All People

We continue to welcome all people, and our attendance remains strong (we were warned it often falls off after a fire such as ours). Even worshiping in temporary quarters, new faces continue to join us. Newcomers' dinners are now held in parishioners' homes.

Rejoice in Fellowship Coffee Hour between services is a weekly happening held either in the school parking lot or the crowded (so what's new?) hallway. The Trinity Art Show, the annual Cookie Bake (bigger than ever in the kitchen at the Eagle Fire Hall), the best-ever House Tour and Christmas Shop held at Phillips Mill and the annual Clothing Sale (also at Phillips Mill) brought many of us together.

Grow in Knowledge

Church School classes and the Nursery have found a spacious home in the elementary school. Adult Forums for Christian education continue. Youth Group meetings continue every Wednesday evening, with the youth leading the way in recovery with their examples of service and fellowship. Lobsterfest, the annual large and festive fund-raiser, was held less than three weeks after the fire. A month later, the Youth Group took their outreach and services to needy folks through Mission Philadelphia '98.

Give of Ourselves

The fire has engendered an amazing outpouring of support, volunteer hours, in-kind gifts and dollar contributions by parishioners and friends far and wide. An impressive example is the Phoenix Fund for rebuilding the church, spontaneously born two days after the fire: in less than a year it has reached $180,000. Another gift of love provided a bus for the Youth Group. And with Stewardship remaining ever strong, this year's Every Member Canvass surpassed the goal set for 1999 pledges.

Care for One Another — Serve the World

Trinity Day School resumed classes in the Solebury Friends Meeting annex just one week after the fire. Summer camp was also held there, followed in the fall by the opening of regular day school sessions. The Service Committee has risen to every logistical challenge, continuing all its outreach activities: Food Pantry, Aid to Friends meals, Hands-on Service Day, Habitat for Humanity, Crop Walk, Needlework Guild, and its financial contributions to many organizations. Peacemeal, our monthly evening of food, fellowship and caring for families with HIV and AIDS, has found alternative sites at which to meet.



A Gift to the
Choir of Trinity Episcopal Church
Solebury, Pennsylvania
from
Trinity Church Choir
Trinity Church in the City of Boston
Copley Square, Boston, Massachusetts
May 1998

Twenty-five hymnals arrived from Trinity Church of Boston, a gift inspired by Liz Saunders who sings with their choir. Liz is the daughter of Ashby & Ginny Saunders. Ashby was a member of the choir at Trinity Solebury for many years.

Proclaim the Good News

Regardless of the challenges we face, parishioners continue to strive to spread the Good News of Christ's love in their daily lives. The Trinity family has been strengthened by hearing from its own members through the annual Advent booklet and from sermons by lay preachers during Lent as well as monthly Youth sermons.

Communications

Following the fire, listening sessions were held so that members could share feelings and ideas. More recently, our own building "experts" meet monthly with parishioners to keep them informed and to answer questions. Trinity Tidings is published monthly to share parish news, and a periodic letter from Senior Warden Peg Clark sends up-dates to the parish regarding the building process. The title of Peg's letter, "Trinity Carries On," personifies the spirit that has been with us steadily since the devastation of May 10th.

"At Home in Trinity"

An original song written by a member of the parish and sung by the congregation during the summer of 1998 in the New Hope-Solebury Elementary School gym.

At Home in Trinity

written by Michael Lozinski

I've been strugglin' with this feeling
How could this thing happen here,
From the Day School to the Rafters
All the things we held so dear . . .

There's an emptiness inside me
That a building once had filled,
But the message of the Mission
is call to me still.

Chorus
Oh, Trinity,
You have a right to be
Endowed by Thee, Eternity,
Seeing that God above
Is working through all our love,
We'll always be home at Trinity

Now the outreach that I've witnessed
Can hardly be compared
As we welcome all the people
into fellowship that's rare.

You can't shake us with your fire;
The roots they run too deep.
You can't steal our hearts desire;
We'll go preaching in the street.

Oh, Trinity . . . *chorus*

And if someone should ask you
How can we right this wrong,
Tell them that your faith has made you strong.
Living in Forgiveness
Is what we're called to do;
Learning from the One we need the most —
The Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Oh, Trinity . . . *chorus*

Miracle at Trinity

Church is gone but Youth Group's Lobster Fest on the lawn goes on as usual

By BRIDGET WINGERT

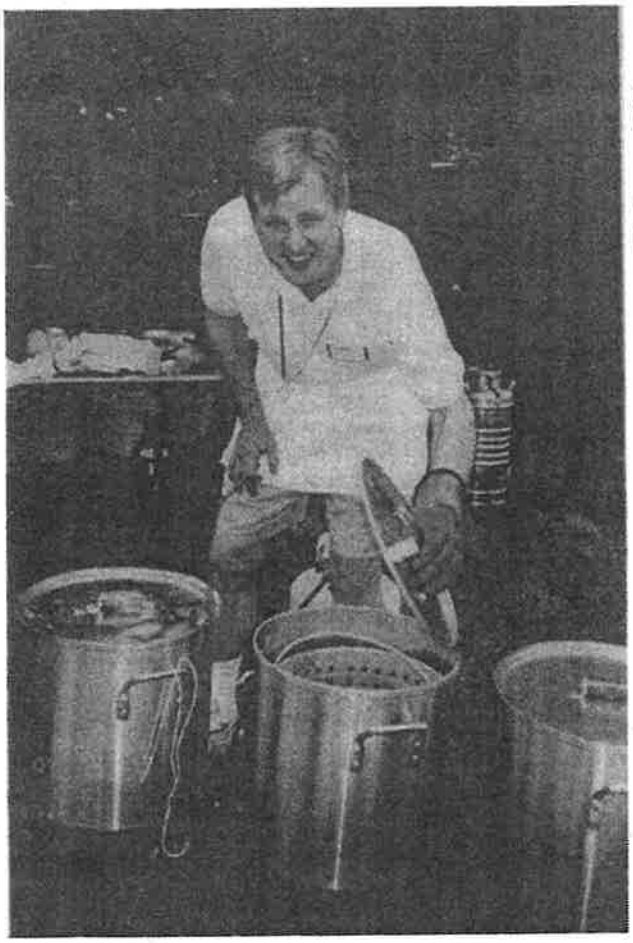
About 75 young people from Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury, will work in Philadelphia's inner city this summer, thanks largely to the help of church members and the community in Lobster Fest.

The fund raiser almost did not happen. With the church hit by fire on Mother's Day, organizers wondered if they could make it work. The Youth Group voted to go ahead. The tents went up, the tables were set and they performed a miracle.

Last Sunday on the church lawn, hundreds of local residents dined on lobster and corn on the cob with the young people and their parents cooking and serving.

The money raised from the sale of lobster dinners, concessions, children' activities, T-shirts and corporate sponsorships is used to fund Mission Philadelphia, scheduled for late June.

In Mission Philadelphia Trinity's Youth Group will repaint and renovate living quarters for homeless people. They will clean a neighborhood recreation center and contribute materials to get the jobs done. The Solebury teens and pre-teens will live in the city for a week.



JOHN PEARSON WRIGHT

The Rev. David Anderson, Trinity pastor, checks the lobster pots.

The Pennsylvania Episcopalian

Solebury youth help with healing after church fire

The evening after a devastating fire destroyed much of their church, the youth group at Trinity, Solebury, gathered in the parking lot to cry together, sing and pray. Their witness attracted adult members who had come to see the ruins and who joined in the singing, supported in their grief by the love and support of the young people.

"It was bad, but by coming together we really helped each other," said John McNeill, 18. His comment was typical of what parishioners call "the spirit of Trinity" – a spirit that was put to the test on May 10 when an unknown arsonist set the fire that destroyed the church's parish hall and education wing and severely damaged the sanctuary and sacristy.

The Trinity spirit was much in evidence on a muggy Sunday in June, when 300 people jammed into an auditorium at the New Hope-Solebury Elementary School at an emotional service honoring outgoing assistant rector John Capellaro and his family. The congregation has been worshipping at the school since the fire.

"What really matters is that we're all here," said Capellaro, who has accepted a call in Norfolk, Virginia. Cory Wilson, a 16-year-old member of the youth group, agreed. "It was really hard at first," she said, "but now we understand it's just a building."

Cory and her friends coped with their grief by focusing on plans for "Mission Philadelphia," a week in June when a team of youth and their adult helpers traveled to the city to work on projects that help the less fortunate. Despite the upheaval caused by the fire, the youth sold hundreds of lobsters to raise money for the mission trip.

"Trinity is alive and well, and, in a sense, thriving," said senior warden Peg Clark in a letter to the parish. In an interview, Clark said that the building program that the congregation began before the fire was continuing. The architects' plans "haven't changed that much," she said, and the congregation still hopes to incorporate part of the old church in their new building.

Clark said the congregation was negotiating with the insurance company regarding a settlement. The search for the arsonist is also ongoing. "Investigators are pursuing leads and interviewing people," she said.



photo by Barbara Ogilby

The youth group at Trinity, Solebury, has its own web page. Read about their activities at www.tyg.org.

Worshipping in the school hasn't been all bad. The youth are thrilled that the contemporary Christian music they once sang only at the church's "youth eucharist," accompanied by synthesizer and guitar, is now a regular part of Sunday worship.

"Attendance is way up," said rector David Anderson. "We've been talking to others who've been through this, and I don't think what's happening is all that unusual. It's when a congregation really comes together, after a tragic loss like this."

"We'll be a stronger congregation because of this," Anderson predicted. "Adversity is the real seed of growth and development. It's very painful but very predictable: growth happens when you get pushed out of your comfort zone."□

– Barbara Ogilby

Church Office Moved

Red Letter days for the Church Office! The move from the 'Mansion' to the renovated rectory took place on June 16 and 17, starting with the arrival of a van full of office furniture donated by Merrill, Lynch. Many thanks to Harry Ferguson and Mark Weatherby who set up this wonderful gift!

The office furniture from Merrill, Lynch included desk chairs, stacking chairs, credenzas, computers, desks, computer stations, file cabinets, bookcases, arm-chairs and two sofas—almost enough in itself to fill the new quarters!

On June 17th, Bill Burke and Jim Mahoney worked like mad to move much of the equipment and paraphernalia that were in the Mansion to the new site. Jon Hayward installed all the telephones in the new offices. Sandy Ryon and Carol Lansill were in charge of the arrangements. And Anne Rivinus was at last in charge of an office with space!

Bill Stefanowicz, Property Chairman, and his helpers had done a marvelous job with the renovation: two secretarial offices, offices for the rector and assistant rector, a workroom for the copier machine and an inviting library on the first floor; two more rooms and storage on the second. The building is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and has an attractive entrance from the upper driveway as well as from the lower parking area.

During the first week of August, the demolition crew set to work, and the Mansion is no more. But with the spacious new "headquarters" in the rectory, Trinity's clergy, staff, office volunteers, Vestry members and committee heads appear more than ready to meet the challenges of the year that lies ahead.



Doug McArthur

New office furniture arrives, courtesy of Merrill Lynch.

A major gift which made possible the renovation of "The Rectory" was given in honor of Anne Rivinus, our Parish Administrator.



Doug McArthur

The 'Mansion,' Trinity's office for the past twenty years, is reduced to rubble in a matter of minutes.

Trinity Day School Misses Only One Week of Classes

Fire Sunday night into Monday morning... teachers and kids due to arrive for Day School at 9 a.m. Telephone the teachers, telephone the families: no one wants the children to arrive and see the burned-out church and classrooms. All notified except one family, so someone is posted at the end of the driveway to turn that one car away.

Calls pour in offering help, space, equipment. Solebury Friends Meeting suggests using their Firstday School building, a kind and generous offer that's quickly accepted. In the days that follow, volunteers build a fence around the play yard, and portable toilets are put in place. Buckingham Computers call the morning after the fire to offer Prue the loan of a computer, and she puts it to immediate use. St. Paul's in Philadelphia contributed to virtually everything on Prue Day's 'wish list.'

One week later, on May 18th, Day School is again in session. The morning starts with socializing as children and parents become familiar with the new facilities. Quiver Farms of Pennsburg has brought its menagerie of farm animals for the kids to meet and play with: a calf, a lamb, a piglet, a goat, a handsome white turkey, ducks and chickens. Meanwhile Elsie McHale, a counselor from New Hope/Solebury Elementary School, offers healing words to young and old. Later Trinity's clergy, David Anderson and John Capellaro, join the gathering and lead a sing-along. Who can stay sad on a day like this? ›

And so Day School continues through June 10th. Then the already-scheduled summer camp holds forth from June 23rd to July 31st, still on the graciously provided Meeting House grounds. The extent of the thanks to Solebury Meeting, so long a valued friend of Trinity Church, can never be fully expressed.

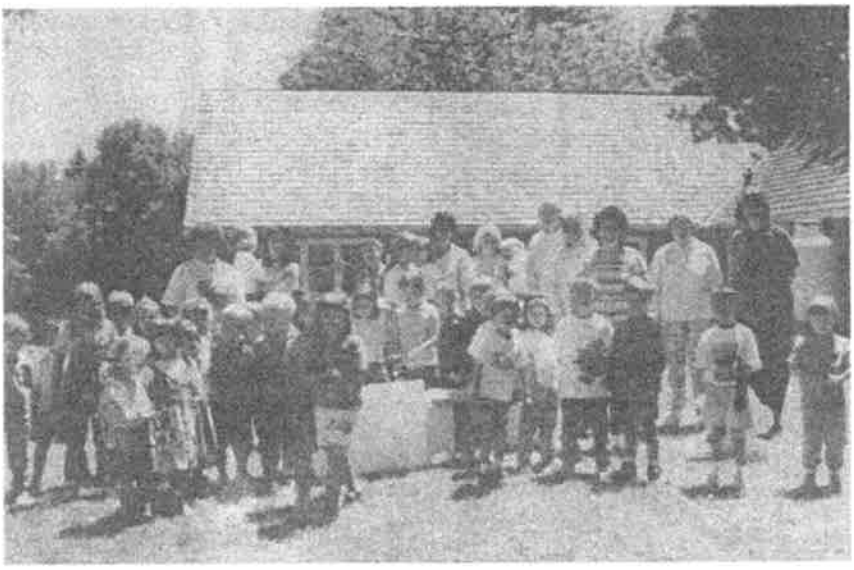
In Solebury, one preschool helps another

In response to the recent fire at Trinity Episcopal Church and Trinity Day School in Solebury, staff and children of the neighboring Clubhouse for Kids Only paid a visit to Trinity classes, which are being held at Solebury Friends Meeting House. A Clubhouse fund raiser brought in $1,420.



Helping Out

Trinity Day School Director Prue Day, left, receives the donation from Clubhouse Director Darcy Van Orden. The money will be used to help buy new supplies for Trinity Day School.





In the Parish Hall barely a stone was left upon a stone and the Day School site was plowed and leveled by the end of August.



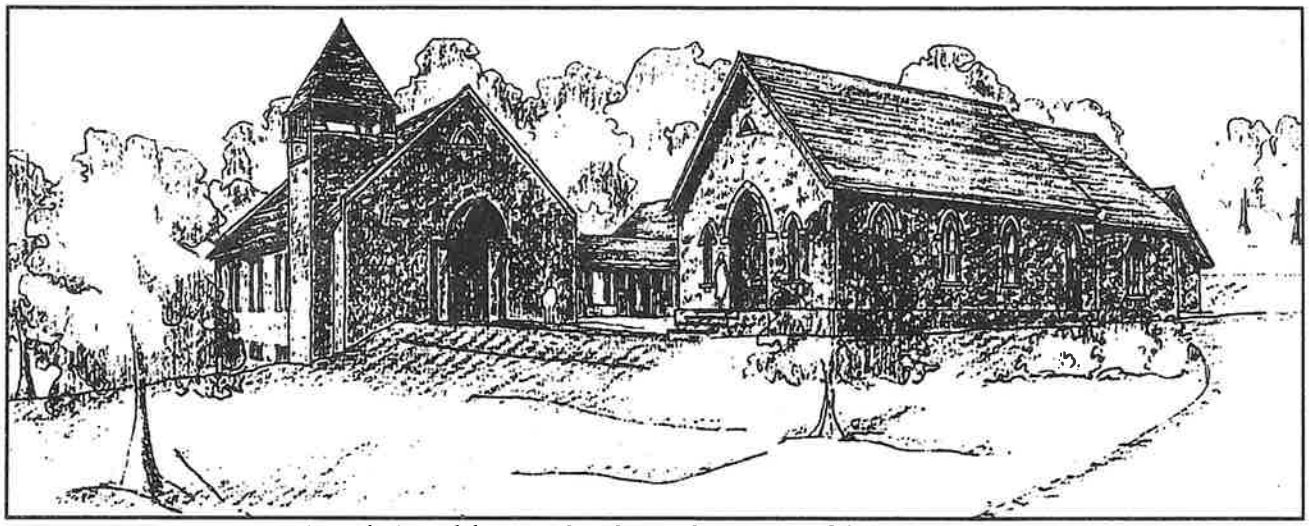
New stoles were created for David Anderson and John Capellaro by Carol Ferguson from scraps collected by the Trinity Youth Group.

The MG TD replica sports car was donated and auctioned for the benefit of the Trinity Youth Group.



The new Church Office in the former Rectory.

Rising from the Ashes — Trinity's Triumph

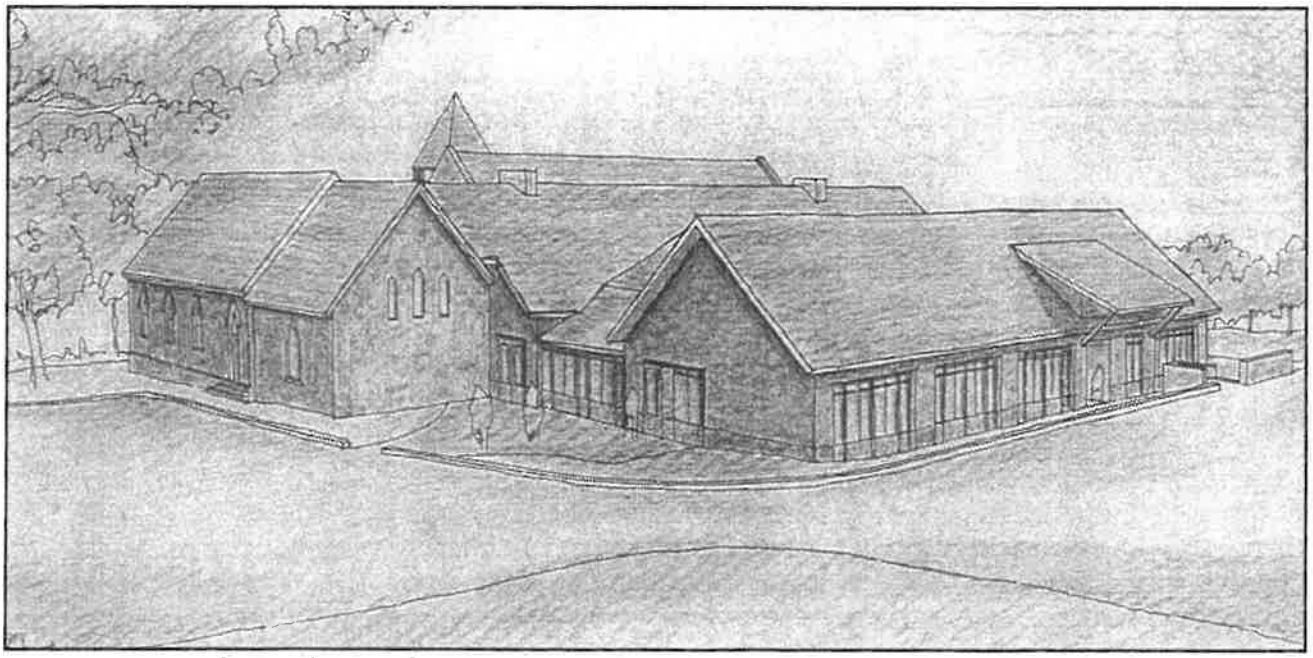


A rendering of the new church complex as viewed from Route 263.

The year following the fire has been a long one — and a very full one, too. Under the leadership of David Anderson, the Vestry and many parishioners, and aided by the generous cooperation of local organizations, Trinity's missions and activities have continued with a vigor that is indeed a Triumph of the Spirit.

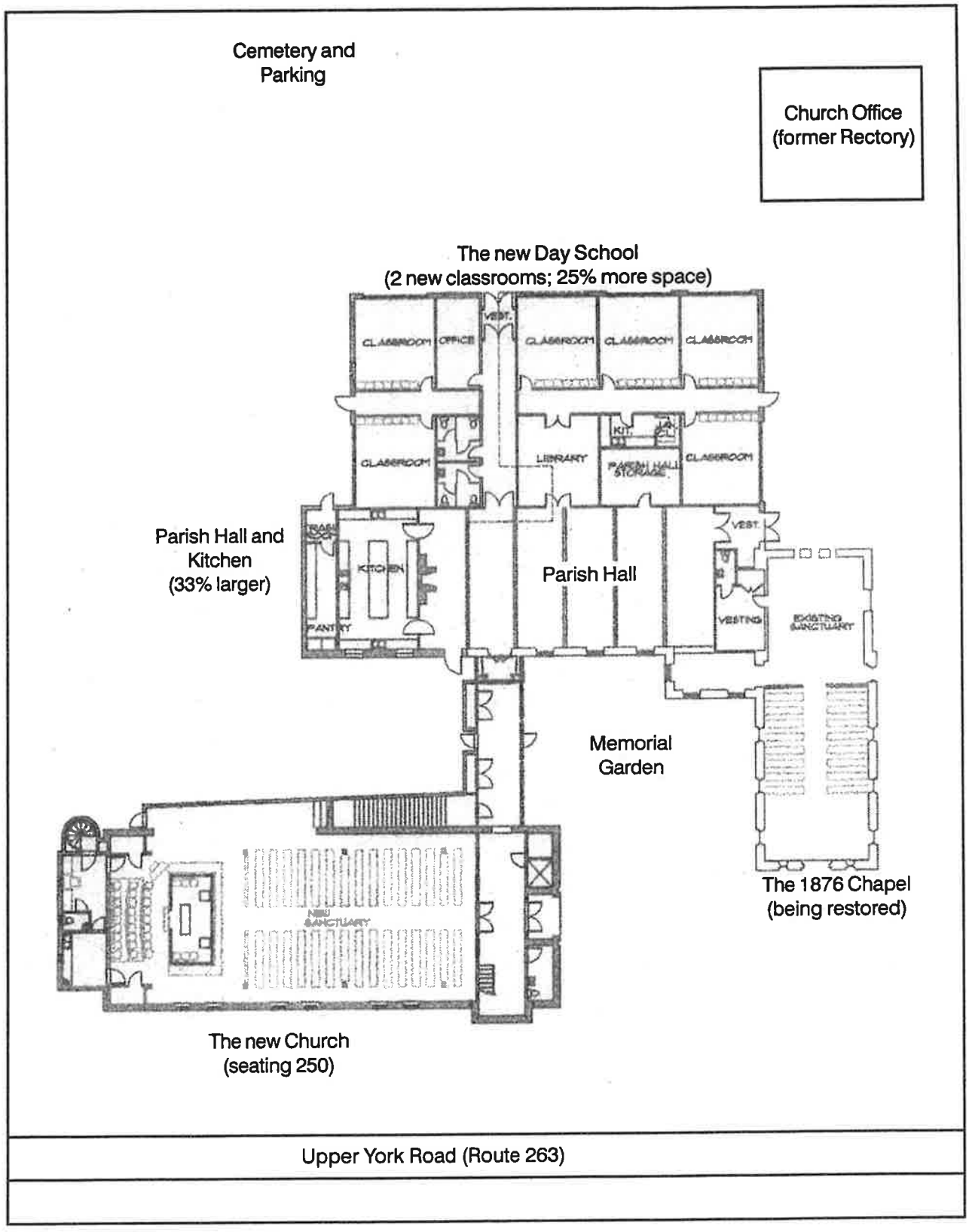
Plans for restoration and rebuilding seemed to progress slowly with many set-backs, but the Vestry and the Building Committee continued to move them forward. No one said it would be easy. In January, our beloved Chapel, winterized with a new roof and restored stained glass windows, was open for inspection and offered promise of things to come. Now the spring of 1999 has brought the permits, licenses and legal approval for rebuilding. We will soon see ground broken not only for the lost parish hall, classrooms and kitchen, but also for a new sanctuary. Trinity's Triumph of the Spirit is about to take on physical dimensions.

It is with full hearts that we give thanks to the Lord for all we have and are about to receive.



A rendering of the new building plan as viewed from the rectory. The restored "old" church is on the left; the new classrooms of the Church School and the Day School are on the right.

The New Trinity Church



Blest Be Community Support

In the months that have elapsed since the devastating fire, Trinity has experienced overwhelming support and neighborly love from the community as a whole and from many organizations and individuals. The congregation has been truly touched by the help and cooperation of old and new friends, beginning with the service held in the **Eagle Fire Hall** two nights after the fire. (November's Cookie Bake took place in the Fire Hall's kitchen as well.) And, the Fire Company subsequently donated thirty-five tables for our new Parish Hall.

Each Sunday since May 17th, the **New Hope-Solebury Elementary School** receives Trinity's congregation. The parking lot overflows, worship services are held in the gymnasium and Church School meets in the classrooms. A Baldwin two-manual organ has been loaned to Trinity by Bromley and Suzanne Lowe for the use of organist Tim Harrell in the New Hope-Solebury gym. It rolls in and out for each Sunday of services.

On certain Sunday afternoons, **Carversville Christian Church** is the site of Peacemeal, Trinity's outreach dinner for HIV/AIDS-related families. And daily, Monday through Friday, Trinity Day School takes over the annex building at **Solebury Friends Meeting.**

Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church reached out with extraordinary thoughtfulness: its Mission and Outreach Committee delivered check for $7000 to be used for supplies such as Bibles, hymnals or whatever need is greatest. The Jewish congregation of **Kehilat HaNahar** welcomed Trinity in June and continues to be a supportive friend. Deep thanks go to these and to other local organizations who have made much-needed space available for Trinity's activities. Among them are **Phillips Mill** which was the headquarters for the House Tour and Christmas Shop and also the site of the Clothing Sale; **Bucks County Audubon Society**'s Visitor Center where the choir holds its weekly rehearsals; and **Buckingham Friends School** where the Youth Group meets weekly. We are grateful to all. One of the greatest lessons we've learned from the tragic fire is the strength of the love and caring within this community.

There have been many beautiful gifts bestowed upon Trinity. Some are named under the Day School heading while persons who have made monetary contributions are listed under Phoenix Fund and Memorial Gifts. Others gifts include 25 urgently needed hymnals, presented to our choir by **Trinity Church of Boston** where Liz Saunders, daughter of Ashby and Ginny, is a choir member. **Ron Kershner** gave us use of the hymn arrangements in his collection until replacement can be made of the 450 titles lost in the fire. **Carol Ferguson** sewed two beautiful stoles for David and John, the outer sides a patchwork of colorful fabrics brought in by the children and the undersides carrying symbols of church activities (David wore his all during the summer). **Greg Pontier, Food Service Manager** at New Hope/Solebury High School, has given us 150 china cups and saucers plus other dishes for our future coffee hours. From **Diane Harvey** and **Karen Cellecci**, Philadelphia, came handmade Purificators. **Paxson Hill Nursery** gave us flowering impatiens baskets to sell. **David Rees** provided the new Rectory office with a double-carafe coffee machine. The altar we are now using comes from **Holy Nativity Church of Wrightstown** and the baptismal font from **Trinity Buckingham.** For these and all other thoughtful gifts and generous offers of gifts we are eternally grateful.

Following the fire, **Lisa Hess** captured two singed sheets of music which she had appropriately framed. One was titled, appropriately enough, 'Sing Forth Your Joy to the Lord.' The picture now hangs in the new rectory offices.

So many people have helped in so many ways . . .

"You are in our prayers" . . . Prayer from within the parish and beyond has brought both comfort and strength, leading to "The Triumph" with which Trinity is now blest. Prayer support has come from many churches, including:

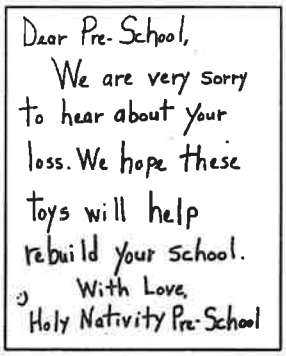
Christ Church, Eddington, PA
Christ Church, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Church of the Holy Nativity, Clarendon Hills, IL
Clay Presbyterian Church, Clay, NY
Doylestown Presbyterian Church
Grace Church, Winfield, KS
Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church
Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church, Houston, TX
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME
St. James Episcopal American Church, Florence, Italy
St. James Episcopal Church, Bristol, PA
St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, Harwick, VT
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Palm Desert, CA
St. Martin's Church, Radnor, PA
St. Mary's Church, Stuart, FL and Burlington, NJ
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Stone Harbor, NJ
St. Paul's, Chestnut Hill, PA
St. Paul's, Norfolk, VA
St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia, PA
The Episcopal Churches of the Diocese of Pennsylvania
Trinity Chapel, Lake Placid, NY
Trinity Church, Ambler, PA
Trinity Church, Arkansas City, KS

Trinity Day School
— A Rainbow of Gifts —

Prue Day, director of the Day School, says thanks are owed to so many people who donated time, money, school supplies, toys and more that it is almost impossible to cover them all. But here is the remarkable list, and if someone is not included, please know that to you, too, we are deeply grateful.

For wonderful deeds:

Solebury Friends Meeting, who provided their facility
Romano's - provided shuttle service for the kindergarteners
Station WDVR, Sergeantsville - announcements, toy drop-off
Buckingham Friends School - sent letters, provided many things
Cindy Magill - storage space at Magill's Mini-Storage
Buckingham Computers - loan of computer
Wrightstown Friends Nursery School - a quilt made by the children
More storage: Rich & Sydney Fox, Arlene Rumbold,
Carl & Mary Beth Holstrum



Cold Spring Elementary School in Doylestown has a student Council made up of representatives from each 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade class. At their May meeting one of the 4th grade representatives mentioned the fire at Trinity. The council discussed this for nearly half an hour and decided to take up a collection during lunchtime to help Trinity. So, a large can was placed in the lunchroom for less than a month. On June 8, I had the honor of receiving the children's donation on behalf of Trinity. They handed me a letter-sized envelope and a large, heavy can wrapped in construction paper. The envelope had some cash in it. The can was filled with rolled coins. The school's estimate of $202.00 was a little low; in fact, the children had collected $205.65 to help Trinity. This was a wonderful gift to Trinity from these children. I am so touched by the thought—the cash is actually secondary.

Peg Clark, Senior Warden

For books, toys and/or supplies:

Anne Webster
Linda Appleton
The Gress family
K'Nex Industries, Inc., Hatfield
St. Paul's Church, Chestnut Hill - fulfilling teachers' "wish list"
Denise Evans
Gwen Campbell
Holy Nativity Pre-School, Wrightstown
Kristen & Kevin Vogeloar, Doylestown
Mary Anne Snyder, New Hope
Children's Village, Doylestown
Gretchen Wetlin, Solebury
Pat Yorks, New Hope
Mike & Andrea Berenstain
Zany Brainy Children's Store
Staples
Rochelle Mason
Anne McEwen
Joe Bartzak
Barb & Dan Luciano
Mr. & Mrs. Pellechio
Bucks County Library
Encore Books of Warrington
Kenny's News Agency, Doylestown
Floyd Evans
St. Phillips Chapel, New Hope
The Kelly family
Barbara Petty
Timmy Miller
Rachel Hughes

For donations of money:

Club House, pre-school on Sugan Road - proceeds of hot dog sale
Darcy Van Orden, director of the Club House
Beth Atkinson, Club House staff
Elsie McHale, counsellor from New Hope/Solebury Elementary School
Episcopal Church Women of Trinity Buckingham
Temple Beth Torah, Philadelphia
Buckingham Friends School 5th grade - proceeds of pizza sale,
donated in memory of Sarah Mook
Helen Saunders, California
Jeffrey Williams, Doylestown
Jean & Jeffrey Brown, Doylestown
Allen & Nancy Goodwin, New Hope
Phyllis Teat
Babara Kiselewsky
Chris & H.W. Taylor
Josh & Sloane Charlton
Thomas & Margaret Copenhaver
Knits & Pieces
Cathy & Robert Stephens
Trinity Buckingham Nursery School
Wrightstown Friends Nursery School

The Phoenix Fund

The Phoenix was a mythical bird of great beauty... said to burn itself up on a funeral pyre and rise from the ashes in the freshness of youth to live another long cycle of years.

It rises from the ashes, it soars to the sky, it's one of a kind and lasts 500 years. Sounds like Trinity. So the Phoenix Fund started at the Eagle Fire Hall on Tuesday, May12th, with a collection of $6,196. Since then it has grown beyond $ 150,000.

First from our own members, it is now largely coming from those who learned of our suffering: our children, our parents, our friends and neighbors near and far. Like the Carversville Christian Church that labeled their giving envelopes "Trinity Church, Solebury" one Sunday in May and turned the entire receipts over to us. Like the collection from the children of Cold Spring Elementary School after hearing a classmate tell of the fire. Like local businesses, vendors, other schools, other houses of worship, strangers, and even an investment club.

At present and until the insurance proceeds are received, the Phoenix Fund serves as a conduit for immediate payment of fire-related costs (like saving our stained glass windows)—an unexpected blessing and yet another piece of our "Holy Ground."

—Doug McArthur, Treasurer

Give, and it will be given unto you. *(Luke 6:38)*

For many years, Trinity has been inspired to give—of its love, its outreach and services, its caring for others. But suddenly, following May 10th, the time was upon us to receive... to receive graciously and humbly the many gifts, prayers and overwhelming thoughtfulness of family, friends, neighbors and folks from far away. The truly wonderful outpouring from all sides makes us very humble indeed as we accept, with the knowledge that the Lord in his wondrous way is showing us the strength of the ties that bind all his children together.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. *(James 1:17)*

We are deeply touched by the prayers that have supported us and by the many, many gifts. Following is an accounting of those received through March 15, 1999, insofar as it has been possible to track them down. Some that so magically appeared after the fire and others that were offered, may have gone unrecorded, but please know that every thought, every help and every offer has been most sincerely appreciated. May God bless and keep all the wonderful givers.

Rita Abbott, New Hope
All Saints Church, Fallsington
Kaye Aman, Sun City, AZ
Cynthia & Peter Anderson, Solebury
Kathryn Attinger, New Hope
Elizabeth Bagg, Gaithersburg, MD
Troy & Ruth Baker, New Hope
Florence Banning, Doylestown
Dave & Sue Benner, Solebury
Alice Bentley, New Hope
Nancy Bentley, Doylestown
Elaine Berry, New Hope
Mr.& Mrs. Allen Bilder, Short Hills, NJ
Susan Bindig, New Hope
Susie Jo Birenbaum, Huntingdon Valley
Allen Black & Randy Apgar, Point Pleasant
Eileen & Lewis Bly, Darien, CT
Clifford R. Boone, New York City
Staff of Boston Common Press, Brookline, MA
Alexander & Cynthia Bove, New Hope
Dee Dee Bowman, New Hope
Edith Wells Bristol, Carversville
Helen Broadhurst, Darien, CT
Avery Brooke, Noroton, CT
Darby & Jennifer Brower, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Hamilton Brower, New York City
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Dear Phoenix Phund Phanatic,

Please find enclosed checks totaling $1,063.95, which should all be donated to the Phoenix Fund. $953.95 represents 2 months donations to our feed stand. $20 is from Beth Panzer who put the check in our donation box when Trinity Day School came for a farm visit. The $90.00 is from the sale of one of our wool blankets.

It is interesting to note that the 'feeding public' was more generous than usual during the 7 weeks the Trinity fire sign was up. We almost never receive as much money as this (May = $497.28 & June = $456.67). I believe this is an outpouring of sympathy from the community.

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"Here is a personal gift ($500) to help you rebuild your church. Your Peace Meal dinners for people with HIV and their families have done more than feed the hungry. You have helped to save lives."

Susie Birenbaum
Former Head of Family Services, Bucks County

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For these funds, all of us at Trinity-Solebury are immensely grateful. Your wonderful support, materially and emotionally, has made a tremendous difference at a very difficult time.

We have tried to recognize every donor, but if we have missed any, we ask your indulgence. Thank you! Thank you!

Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts in memory of Mason Brower, Margaret McClintock and Bradford Mitchell have been placed in the Phoenix Fund. Those in memory of Gordon Day are in the Building Fund. These gifts have been most gratefully received from the following:

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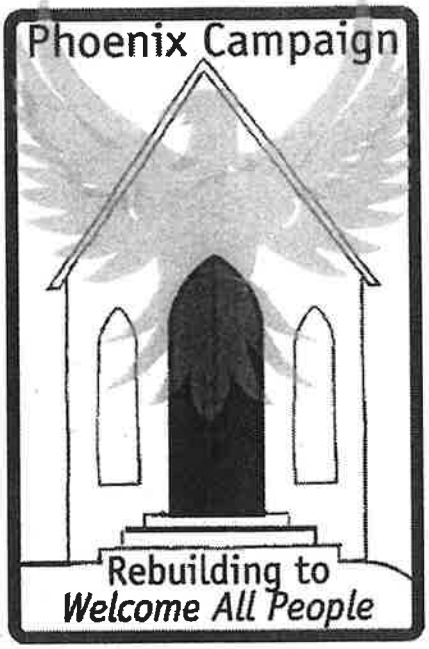
This tale of TRAGEDY and TRIUMPH was compiled by Mollie Hallowell and Willis Rivinus. Layout and typesetting was generously contributed by Elaine Crooks, Beyond Words.



Bishop Charles Bennison greets his flock on October 25 at the New Hope-Solebury Elementary School gymnasium.

Our prayer in the time of rebuilding:

Almighty God, you bring your faithful people
through fiery trial to glory everlasting;
be with us in this time between loss
and recovery, and help us to
hold open the door of
welcome to all people.
Keep our hearts open
to the movement of your Spirit,
strengthen us for every challenge,
and give us greater gifts
of faith, hope and love.
We ask this in the name of our crucified
and risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.



Trinity is rebuilding and expanding to the greater glory of God and to fulfill His mission in our community. We are restoring the 1876 Chapel and building a new larger Church, a larger Parish Hall and kitchen, an expanded Day School, and related facilities.

Our total construction cost estimate is $4,500,000. Toward this ambitious goal we already count $3.2 million from the 1997 Welcome All People campaign, from the fire insurance settlement, and from the Phoenix Fund to date. That leaves the challenge of raising $1.3 million as of March 27, 1999.