250th Anniversary

Trinity Church

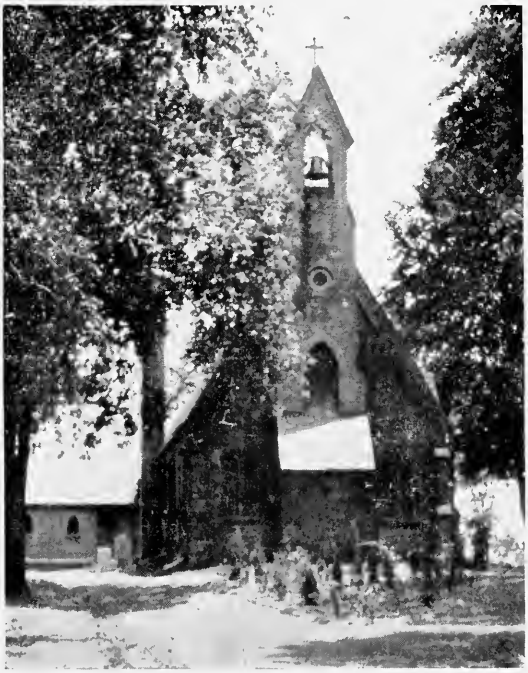
Woodbridge, N. J.

Presented to
Bowne Library
Woodbridge, N.J.
by
Trinity Mothers' Unit

THE 250th ANNIVERSARY
OF
TRINITY CHURCH
WOODBRIDGE, NEW JERSEY

1698 - 1948

WHITSUNDAY, MAY 16, 1948



First Service 1698
Parish Organized 1702
First Church erected 1713
Second Church erected 1756
Present Church erected 1860
Charter granted by King George III 1769
Rectory built 1670

THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY

OF

TRINITY CHURCH, WOODBRIDGE NEW JERSEY

THE PRESIDING BISHOP

The Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, D. D.

THE BISHOPS OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY

The Rt. Rev. Wallace John Gardner, D. D.
Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey
The Rt. Rev. Alfred Lothian Banyard, S. T. D.
Bishop Suffragan of New Jersey

RECTOR OF TRINITY CHURCH

The Rev. William H. Schmans, M. A., S. T. B.

CHURCH WARDENS

Merrill A. Mosher, Senior Warden
Melvin F. Church, Junior Warden

VESTRYMEN

Allen Bennett
Henry H. Brereton
Mercer P. Brunn
James A. Compton
Clarence R. Davis
Eric G. Davis
William D. Ridyard
Dr. C. Howard Rothfuss
James Storey
James S. Wight

HONORARY WARDEN

John H. Love

HONORARY VESTRYMEN

Ivins A. Browne
Daniel Demarest
Harry H. Ford
Mark D. Mc Clain
George A. Mc Laughlin
Thomas J. Moran
Clayton S. Onley
James E. Prescott
William M. Thompson
Leonard S. Willinger

250TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

General Chairman: Merrill A. Mosher
Editorial Committee: The Rector, Eric G. Davis, James A. Compton
Advertising: Kenneth Van Pelt
Patronage: Jean Cook, Dorothy Jefferys, and Robert Ziesemer
Nancy Kidd, William S. Volk, Jr.

250th Anniversary Program

October 12, 1947: The Rev. J. Benjamin Myers, L. L. B., Rector, Trinity Church, Fishkill, N. Y.

November 9, 1947: The Rev. Edward H. Vogt, Rector, St. Peter's Church, Germantown, Penna.

December 14, 1947: The Rev. Howard F. Klein, B. S. Rector, Trinity Church, Elizabeth, N. J.

January 11, 1948: The Rev. Johnson A. Springsted, B. A., Rector, St. John's Church, Oneida, N. Y.

February 8, 1948: The Very Rev. Henry B. Todd, II, Dean of the Northern Convocation, Diocese of New Jersey.

March 14, 1948: The Very Rev. Frank D. Gifford, S. T. D., Dean of the Philadelphia Divinity School.

April 11, 1948: The Very Rev. Edward R. Welles, M. A., Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo, N. Y.

May 16, 1948: Whitsunday.

8:00 A. M. Holy Communion, Celebrant: The Rt. Rev. Wallace J. Gardner, D. D. Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey.

11:00 A. M. The Order of Confirmation, The Rt. Rev. Wallace J. Gardner, D. D. Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey.

4:30 P. M. Evensong, Concluding 250th Anniversary Service.
Guest Preacher: The Rev. Walter H. Stowe, S. T. D. President of "The Church Historical Society" Historiographer of the Diocese of New Jersey.

7:00 P. M. 250th Anniversary Dinner at the Colonia Country Club.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1948

My dear Mr. Schmaus:

The celebration of the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Trinity Episcopal Church is an event of outstanding importance in the community which it has served through so long a time.

This church, founded in early colonial days, was an integral part of the life of New Jersey even before the beginning of our national period. Through all of twenty-five decades Trinity has been a bulwark of spiritual strength which has enlarged and enriched the lives of countless men and women who have come under its influence. Its survival through two and one-half centuries is in itself eloquent evidence of its vital contribution.

My anniversary message to the Rector, Wardens and Vestry, and through them to the congregation, is to bear steadfast witness through all the years to come to the unchanging truths of the Christian religion.

Very sincerely yours,

Harry Truman

Reverend William H. Schmaus,
Rector,
Trinity Church,
Rahway Avenue at Trinity Lane,
Woodbridge, New Jersey.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

April 2, 1948

Rev. William H. Schmaus
Rector
Trinity Church
Woodbridge, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Schmaus:

Please convey to the officers and the members of the congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church my congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of its two hundred and fiftieth Anniversary to be observed on Sunday, May 16, 1948.

The historic meeting in an historic church convenes at a time when the corrosive effects of world unrest, with its accompanying social and economic ills, present an unparalleled challenge to organized society.

The persistent appeal of the church is based upon the universality of its teachings. These teachings have left their imprint upon the hearts and minds of mankind throughout the ages. Only the church can provide the spiritual growth and the Christian fellowship so sorely needed throughout the world today.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred E. Driscoll

Governor

Diocese of New Jersey
808 West State Street
Trenton, 8, New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP TELEPHONE 4-5281

April 29, 1948

The Rev. William H. Schmaus
654 Rahway Avenue
Woodbridge, New Jersey

My dear Rector:

I am very happy to be asked to share in your commemoration of the years which have elapsed in the service, through your parish, to the Master.

Anniversaries are always more than just interesting events, summing up past history and studying the origins. The real value to me has always been in thinking of the present and the future. Like a stream of life people have gone through the portals of the Church, bringing their problems and their joys, as well as their sorrows, and have gone back into life carrying with them, in the discipline of the Christian life, a contribution to mankind.

Now the parish takes a moment to look over this life, with a view to resolving highly to make the coming years stronger and better in the service to mankind, as well as to Almighty God. We are always impressed with the consciousness that all that has gone by has been permitted in order that we might be better fitted for the future.

I do pray for God's richest blessing upon you all.

Faithfully and cordially yours,

Wallace J. Gardner

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP
281 FOURTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

THE RT. REV. HENRY K. SHERRILL, D. D.

April 2,1948

My dear Friends of Trinity Church,

It is a privilege to be able to send a greeting to Rector and people on the great occasion of their 250th Anniversary as a Parish.

In this comparatively new country of ours a 250th Anniversary is indeed significant. If one stops to think back to all the events which have transpired since the date of founding, one can have a deep appreciation of the faithfulness, the courage and the loyalty to Christ of men and women who through all these generations have held high the torch of Christian faith and practice in your Parish. We may well indeed thank God for their noble example and accomplishment.

I pray that God will bless you exceedingly in the years which lie ahead.

With every good wish,

Faithfully yours,

Henry K. Sherrill

PRESIDING BISHOP

Greetings from the King of England

WINDSOR CASTLE

8th April, 1948

Dear Mr. Schmaus,

The King desires me to let you know how deeply interested he is to hear that your church is reaching its 250th Anniversary on Whitsunday.

Perhaps you would like to inform your congregation that the King has heard of the historic anniversary which Trinity Church is celebrating, and that His Majesty sends them his heart-felt good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

M. G. Adeane

The Reverend William H. Schmaus
Rahway Avenue at Trinity Lane
Woodbridge, N. J.

Greetings

From the Archbishop of Canterbury

LAMBETH PALACE, S.E.1

17th April 1948

Dear Mr. Schmaus,

I have learnt with great interest that on Whitsunday, May 16th, 1948, Trinity Episcopal Church, Woodbridge, New Jersey, will celebrate the 250th anniversary of her foundation. As you recall, the Church in the United States was in the far distant past under the jurisdiction of the Bishops of London; when I held that office I had many reminders of that old connexion, and I learnt more of it when I had the great happiness of visiting the United States in 1946. It is deeply moving that the old churches in your country should treasure what they owe to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and to their ancient connexion with this country. Much has happened since those days, but one can say without hesitation that the bonds which held the Episcopal Church of the United States and the Church of England in fellowship are far deeper and more intimate than they have ever been. Within the fellowship of the Anglican tradition we stand together in a very difficult world to uphold the faith of Christ and to discharge the responsibilities which He has laid upon us. The Lambeth Conference to be held this year will do much, I am sure, to enrich that fellowship and to encourage us all. I send you my warmest greetings and my blessing.

Yours sincerely,

Geoffrey Cantuar:

FULHAM PALACE, S.W.6

From
The Bishop of London
Telephone Putney 0871

12th April, 1948

Dear Rector,

I have much pleasure in sending fraternal greetings to Trinity Church, Woodbridge, on the occasion of the 250th Anniversary. The whole Diocese of London would wish to join with me in congratulations to the historic Church on its great achievement through two and a half centuries. During that time it has upheld the lamp of the Gospel truth and ministered to the faithful among the children of God. We are proud to reckon ourselves as fellow-members in the same great Anglican communion. We thank God for the share we had in the early life of Trinity Church, and we pray for God's Blessing upon our continued efforts to work together in one communion and fellowship for the same sacred cause of religion and humanity.

+ Wm: London

The Reverend William H. Schmans

The Rt. Rev. Wallace J. Gardner,
D. D.

Bishop of the
Diocese of New Jersey

The Rt. Rev. Alfred L. Banyard,
S. T. D.

Bishop Suffragan of New Jersey

The Rt. Rev. Henry K. Sherrill,
D. D.

Presiding Bishop of the
Episcopal Church

A Message from the Rector

The Rector

The 250th Anniversary of Trinity Church is indeed a most joyous occasion for us all. During the past few months, your Rector has been most happy to welcome back to Trinity, those of his fellow clergy who have served this parish so faithfully in years gone by. This commemorative anniversary book tells its own story, a record about which we can be justifiably proud, but the real value of past history is its capacity to inspire men to face the future.

Your Rector is grateful for the encouragement and co-operation you have given him during the past five years. Your loyalty and enthusiasm for the program of your church have made this great occasion possible. It is therefore your Rector's sincerest hope and prayer that the 250th Anniversary of Trinity Church may prove to be an outward and visible sign, ever reminding us that what this parish has accomplished thus far, through the guidance of God the Holy Spirit, may be in reality but a mere token of still greater achievements to come in the Name of our Blessed Lord.

Faithfully yours,

William H. Schmaus

Rectors of Trinity Church 1698-1948

1. Edward Portlock, 1698-1699
2. George Keith, 1703
3. John Talbot, M.A., 1704
4. John Sharpe, 1704
5. Edward Vaughan, 1709-1714
6. Thomas Halliday, 1717-1718
7. James William Skinner, 1722-1752
8. Thomas Bradbury Chandler, D.D., 1752-1763
9. Robert McKean, M.A., 1763-1767
10. John Preston, 1767-1769
11. Abraham Beach, D.D., 1769; 1778-1784
12. Uzal Ogden, D.D., 1797-1804
13. Jasper David Jones, 1804-1809
14. James Chapman, 1809
15. John Croes, D.D., 1809
16. John C. Rudd, D.D., 1810
17. Daniel Higbee, 1812-1813
18. Lewis P. Bayard, 1813
19. George Y. Morehouse, 1815-1816
20. Samuel C. Stratton, 1817-1818
21. Francis H. Cuming, 1819
22. Clarkson Dunn, 1819-1822
23. John M. Ward, 1822
24. Robert B. Croes, 1823
25. John Croes, Jr., 1824-1825
26. Charles Smith, 1825
27. Benjamin Holmes, 1825-1827
28. William Douglas, 1829-1838
29. Frederick Ogilby, 1838-1842
30. Hamble James Leacock, 1842-1843
31. James Chapman, 1843-1857
32. Henry N. Pierce, 1857
33. William R. Earle, 1857-1861
34. Eugene Augustus Hoffman, D.D. 1858-1862
35. Peter L. Jacques, 1862-1869
36. Robert C. McIlwain, 1869-1871
37. J. A. Penniman, 1871-1872
38. T. Lewis Bannister, 1872-1875
39. Julian Edward Ingle, 1875-1879
40. Frank Hallam, 1879-1880
41. Howard E. Thompson, 1880-1884
42. Lewis H. Lighthipe, M.A., 1885-1895
43. Rudolph E. Brestell, D.D., 1896-1899
44. Scott B. Rathbun, 1899-1913
45. Henry Hale Gifford, Ph.D., 1914-1917
46. Reginald Harwood Thomas, 1918
47. Walter Herbert Stowe, D.D., 1919-1921
48. Edward Harold Vogt, 1921-1923
49. J. Benjamin Myers, L.L.B., 1923-1931
50. Edward Randolph Welles, M.A., S.T.B., 1931-1934
51. Howard Frederick Klein, B.S., 1934-1942
52. William Harold Schmaus, M.A., S.T.B., 1942

*The History of Trinity Church**

ESTABLISHMENT OF TRINITY CHURCH

On May 16, 1948, Trinity Church in Woodbridge will celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the first service of the parish conducted by the Rev. Edward Portlock. For many years, it was thought that the first service was held on December 29, 1703 by the great Colonial missionary, George Keith, and this is stated as a fact on the bronze tablet at the door of the Church. The researches of the Rev. Edward R. Welles, M.A., however have shown conclusively that the history of Trinity Church antedates 1703.

The community of Woodbridge was established between 1666 and 1669, and received a formal charter from the Crown on June 11, 1669. One of the clauses of this charter reads as follows:

> *"that they have power by the pluralitie of voices of the freeholders and freemen of the said corporation to chuse their own minister or ministers for the service of God in the administering of his Holy Sacrament and being so chosen, inducted, and admitted, all persons as well the freeholders as others the freemen and inhabitants admitted into said corporation or township shall contribute according to their estate for his maintenance towards which church there shall be two hundred acres of good upland and meadow laid out to the use and behoof of the said minister."*

It was therefore the clear intention of His Majesty's government to make provision for the Church of England in Woodbridge at the time the township was established.

The work begun by Mr. Portlock created sufficient interest to result in the formation of a parish at Woodbridge, and according to tradition, Trinity Church was founded in 1702. The History of Trinity Church has been continuous since that date.

*Sources: "*A History of Trinity Church, Woodbridge, N. J.*"
by the Rev. Edward R. Welles, 1935.
"*Woodbridge and Vicinity*" *by* J. W. Daily

The History of Trinity Church

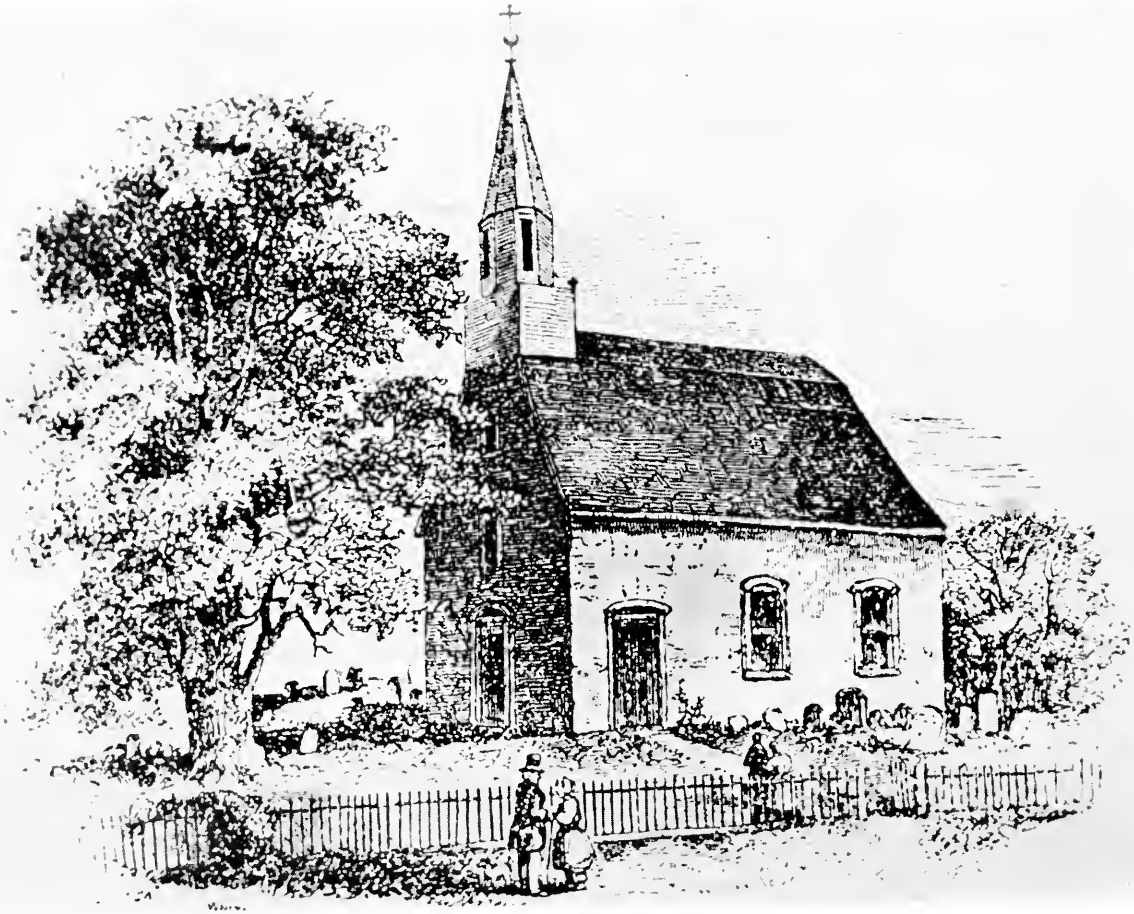
BUILDING THE FIRST CHURCH

Before an actual church building was erected for the use of Trinity Parish, the preliminary work was carried on by four priests of the Church: Edward Portlock (1698), George Keith (1703), John Talbot (1704), and John Sharpe (1704). It would thus appear that while Perth Amboy was the first town in New Jersey to have the services of the Church, Woodbridge was the second, with Piscataway, Elizabeth, and Burlington following in that order.

In 1713, under the leadership of the Rev. Edward Vaughan, the first church building was erected upon a portion of the 200 acres set aside in the Town Charter for the use of the Established Church. It was in use until 1754, when a larger structure was erected in its place. The most prominent layman in the parish during this period was Benjamin Dunham, son of Jonathan Dunham, the great Woodbridge miller. We are told that Benjamin Dunham placed a house at the disposal of the congregation while the church was being built, and although no further details are given, it is reasonable to suppose that the house thus used is the present rectory. It is known that the rectory was built by Jonathan Dunham in 1670 of brick "said to have been brought from Holland by vessels sailing hither, and used as ballast on the voyage." At the same time, he built a grist mill, "the first grist mill ever built in this part of the country, along the river, not more than two or three hundred yards away from the spot on which Trinity Church was later built." One of the ancient mill stones used in the mill remains to this day, and until recently was used as a door step at the back porch, but as a special project undertaken by the Young Peoples Fellowship in preparation for the 250th Anniversary, it has been transferred to the island in the Rectory driveway.

Other important laymen included George Eubancks, John Bishop and Richard Smith. George Eubancks was the village school teacher, and " a man of some ability." Bishop and Smith were undoubtedly related to the John Bishop and John Smith who were two of the original nine associates who received the Charter of the Township of Woodbridge in 1669, and so were members of distinguished families and as was customary in English Colonial settlements were the recipients of special grants and privileges.

Trinity Churchyard was first used about the year 1714, although the oldest existing headstone goes back only to 1750.



TRINITY CHURCH, THE SECOND CHURCH BUILDING.
FROM AN OLD DRAWING BY WM. A. WHITEHEAD IN 1838.

The History of Trinity Church

BUILDING THE SECOND CHURCH

In 1751, James Parker set up at Woodbridge the first printing press in New Jersey. He served as lay reader in Trinity Church under the direction of the Rev. Thomas Bradbury Chandler. During this period, a new church building was erected on the site of the original structure, an old drawing of which has survived to the present day. The church was begun in 1754 and finished by October 31, 1756. One of its treasures was a folio bible dated 1751 which has remained in the possession of the parish to the present time. Another acquisition of this period which has survived through the centuries is a copy of the American Church Prayer Book of 1795.

On Christmas Day, 1760 the parish received a beautiful silver chalice inscribed, "The gift of Mary Dennis, Widow: to Trinity Church in Woodbridge, December ye 25th., 1760." The silver mark is H & M. This sacred vessel is likewise in the possession of the church. Bishop George Washington Doane said of this chalice in his Episcopal Address of 1840:

"I have often thought, as it struck my eye, at my annual commemoration of the Holy Communion, in that simple little sanctuary, how many hearts have been refreshed and strengthened, through God's blessing on that pious gift, in the long lapse of eighty years; with what a beautiful propriety the festival of the Nativity was made the day of its donation; and how peculiarly touching, that the one remembrance that has been preserved of her who gave it, is her widowhood. Happy they who, in the bereavement of the ties on earth, are drawn more closely to the holy altar and give their hearts to God."

Thomas Bradbury Chandler was succeeded as Rector by Robert McKean, brother of Thomas McKean, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. After serving the parish for only four years he was seized by a sickness which caused his untimely death. In his History of St. Peter's, Perth Amboy, Dr. Northey Jones ventures the opinion: "The prominence that his brother attained in the state would have been Robert's lot in the Church had he lived. Young and full of zeal, he gave promise of being one of the greatest leaders of the church in the colonies, had he not been cut off when only thirty-five years old..."

In the year 1769, a Royal Charter was granted to the parish by the Colonial Representative of King George III. The parish has operated under this charter ever since. One of its provisions is that the Minister, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen shall meet at the Church every year on Tuesday in Easter Week, and then and there elect two Church Wardens and not more than ten Vestry Men. When the charter was granted, the Rev. John Preston was the Rector. Samuel Jacques and Samuel Tingley were the Church Wardens, and David Alston, Esq., Thomas Hadden, Joseph Donham, and Ebenezer Forster were the Vestry Men. Samuel Jacques is buried in the Churchyard.

THE NEW

TESTAMENT

OF OUR

LORD and SAVIOUR

JESUS CHRIST,

Newly Tranſlated out of the

Original Greek,

And with the Former

TRANSLATIONS

Diligently COMPARED and REVISED.

By his Majeſty's Special Command.

Appointed to be Read in CHURCHES.

LONDON:

Printed by *Thomas Baskett*, Printer to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty; and by the Aſſigns of *Robert Baskett*.

M.DCC.LI.

TITLE PAGE OF 1751 BIBLE

THE

BOOK

OF

COMMON PRAYER,

AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE

SACRAMENTS,

AND OTHER

Rites and Ceremonies of the CHURCH,

ACCORDING TO THE USE OF

THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE

United States of America;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PSALTER,

OR

PSALMS OF DAVID.

NEW-YORK:

BY DIRECTION OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION,

PRINTED BY *HUGH GAINE*, AT THE BIBLE, HANOVER-SQUARE,

M,DCC,XCV.

TITLE PAGE OF 1795 PRAYER BOOK

The History of Trinity Church

BUILDING THE SECOND CHURCH

In 1774 the Rector and Vestry of Trinity Church sought to regain from the Presbyterians the glebe land granted to the Established Church in the Town Charter of 1669. In a letter dated February 19, 1770, The Rev. Mr. Preston writes as follows, "Upon my first meeting of the Vestry of Woodbridge, they were earnest with me to take induction, though there are no temporalities belonging to the Church, but they have a claim for a Glebe of above 200 acres of land which the Presbyterians are in possession of and they are anxious that the right should be determined by a course of law."

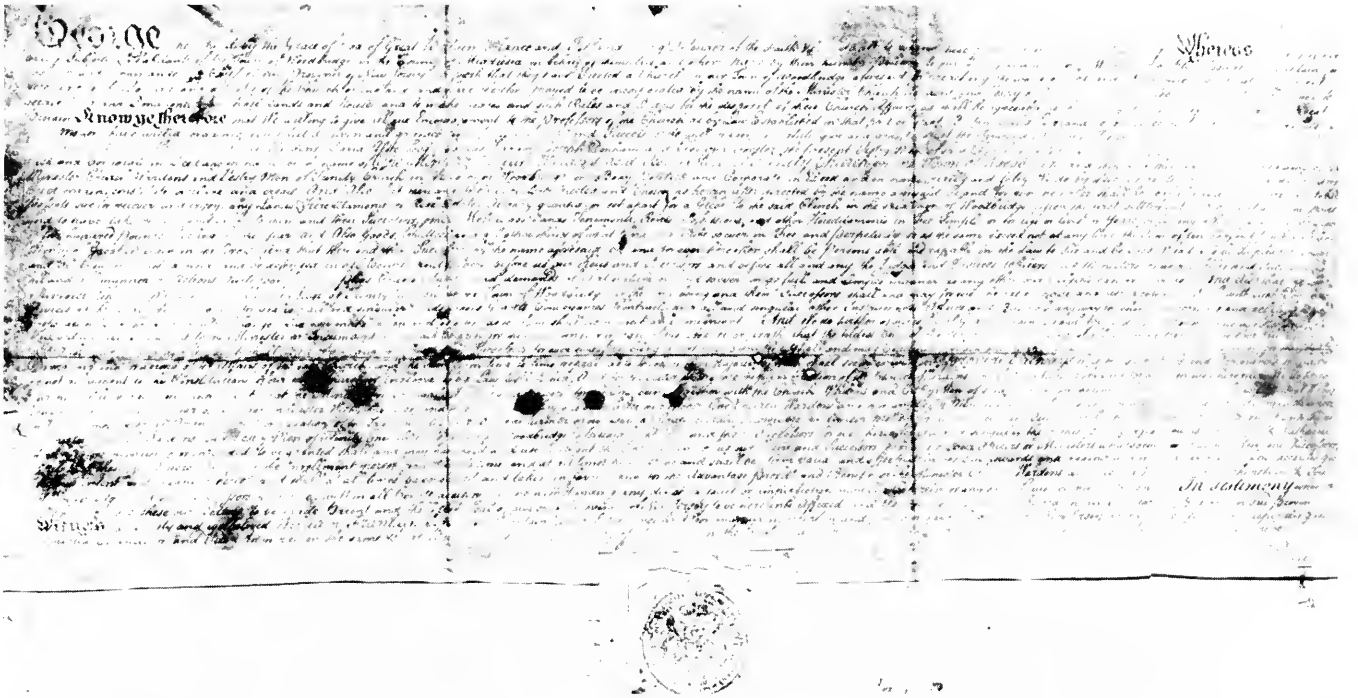
At this time Mr. Preston advised the Vestry against the lawsuit, but in 1774 the agitation on the part of the vestry was renewed. In this connection, Mr. Preston wrote in a letter dated April 2, 1774, "When I came to this mission in the year 1769, the people of Woodbridge were desirous that I should commence a law suit against the Presbyterians for 200 acres of land which upon the first settling of this Province were granted to build a Church on for a churchyard and a glebe, but there being then few members of the Church of England here and no clergyman, the dissenters laid hold of it, and have kept possession of it ever since . . . I have consulted several lawyers upon the validity of our claim, who are all of the opinion that we have a right to it and would recover it. My predecessor sent over a state of the case to the Society who took the opinion of the Counsel in England upon it, which was also favorable unto us. However, I was averse of entering into a lawsuit, being sensible that it would disturb the harmony between the two parties and was for compromising matters, and prevailed upon the vestry to make them an offer of dividing it between us, but they were in possession and thought they could hold it and would come to no terms. This nettled the vestry and they immediately proposed to raise a fund for the prosecution of it, and they are now busy in carrying about a subscription for that purpose."

The outbreak of the Revolutionary War, however, checked all legal proceedings and the controversy was never renewed.

The British occupied Woodbridge from December 2, 1776 to June 22, 1777. During that time, the Church edifice was used as a soldier's barracks, and the Rectory as a fort, under the command of David Coddington.

BUILDING THE THIRD CHURCH

From 1829 to 1840, Trinity Church enjoyed a period of prosperity during which plans were made to build a larger and better church. According to the Convention Journal of 1832, the Rev. William Douglas made a most encouraging report. Services were held regularly and were well attended. The church building was repaired and painted. Proposals for a new church building were actually drawn up and circulated. They read in part, "The amount requisite for erecting a neat and commodious edifice is estimated at $2,500.00. It is considered certain that if $1,500.00 of this amount can be raised in the congregation and vicinity, the remainder viz. $1,000.00 can be made up by foreign aid . . ."



CHARTER OF TRINITY CHURCH

GRANTED 1769 BY GEORGE III KING OF ENGLAND

The History of Trinity Church

BUILDING THE THIRD CHURCH

The existing facilities continued to be used until March 7, 1858, when the church was destroyed by fire. According to the records, Miss Sally Coddington and her sister Mrs. Manning were preparing the Church for the afternoon service. "One was busy with the fire in the old stove, trying to get the church comfortably heated before service time, while the other was working about the chancel. Suddenly the roof caught fire from the chimney, and before the ice could be broken on the nearby creek and water brought to extinguish the flames, the whole building, which was of frame construction with shingled sides was doomed. As no insurance was carried in the Church, it was practically a complete loss. $25.14 was realized by the sale on March 31st of some old iron, odd bricks, charred beams, doors, boards, stove pipe, and even the ashes were purchased for the incredible sum of $4.10. These few dollars were used as the nucleus for the building fund for a new church."

The Vestry met on March 22nd and approved a plan for a new Church submitted by Mr. Upjohn, the well known Church architect, the cost not to exceed $2,500.00. Bishop Doane sent a pastoral letter to every parish in the Diocese of New Jersey soliciting help. Subscription lists were circulated and the sum of $2,330.13 was pledged by people living in Woodbridge and vicinity. "There was some dispute at first as to whether it would not be better to purchase land in the center of the town and there build the new church where it would be in a more convenient location. This opinion did not prevail, and plans were made to build the new edifice on the old site, hallowed as it was by a century and a half of devoted lives and efforts." Others have shared this opinion in more recent times, but in view of the rapid expansion of Woodbridge Township in the past two decades, it is almost providential that Trinity Church remains to this day in the exact geographical center of the area which she serves.

The church was built under the leadership of Eugene Augustus Hoffman who several years later became Dean of the General Theological Seminary in New York. "The original plans must have been changed, for the building which was actually erected had as its architect Mr. C. Harrison Condit of Newark. The cornerstone was laid by Bishop Odenheimer on July 7, 1860. It contains the following items:

Bible, Prayer Book, Journal of the General Convention of 1860, Journal of the Diocesan Convention of 1859, Canons of the Diocese of N. J., Copy of the Charter granted by KingGeorge III, Pastoral Letter of the Rt. Rev. G. W. Doane on the occasion of the burning of the Church, Service used this day, Church Almanac, Churchman, and Church Journal, Memoir of Bishop Doane, Book on Free Churches, Parish statistics of Christ Church, Elizabeth, N. J. 1860, Eucharist Week, Weekly Eucharist.

The new church cost $3,333.44. It was consecrated on Whitsun Monday, May 20, 1861. Upon this occasion, a beautiful silver paten for the Holy Communion was presented to the parish. It is inscribed, "The gift of Christ Church, Elizabeth, N. J. to Trinity Church, Woodbridge, N. J., Whitsun Monday, 1861."

HISTORIC COMMUNION PLATE

Dennis
Chalice
1760

Hance
Flagon
1869

Paten presented to Trinity Church
by Christ Church, Elizabeth
on May 20, 1861

Hance
Chalice
1869

The History of Trinity Church

FORTY YEARS OF PROSPERITY (1869-1900)

The Rev. Peter Jacques became Rector of Trinity Church in 1862. Despite the Civil War, the parish made great progress and actually began to establish mission stations. In July, 1863, a mission was opened at the Star School House in Rahway Neck, and a month later another was begun in the School House at the six roads (boundary between Woodbridge, Colonia and Rahway). Occasional missionary services were held also at Uniontown (1864, now Iselin) and in Hunterdon County (1865-66).

On December 6, 1869, the parish observed the Centennial of the Church's Charter. A lovely silver chalice which matches the paten received from Christ Church, Elizabeth was presented to the parish on this occasion. It is inscribed, "In Memoriam, George Clarence Hance, Trinity Church, Woodbridge, December 6, 1869." The parish also possesses a large silver flagon dating to this period and inscribed, "In Memoriam, Revo C. Hance to Trinity Church."

In 1870, the Rev. Robert C. McIlwain, who had become Rector of Trinity, reported: "There is a good deal of interest manifested in the parish. The attendance has greatly improved during the year, and there is an effort now being made to build a Sunday School room and Sexton's House and doubtless ere long the Church will be finished by building on a chancel." In 1872 the house built by Jonathan Dunham became the Rectory. It was greatly enlarged and completely renovated within. "A dining room and kitchen with two bedrooms over, were added at the back of the house. The former dining room now became the Rector's study. The brick brought from Holland, the adze hewn cellar beams, and the original foundations remain, but many improvements were made including black walnut woodwork and Gothic arched doors and window trimmings. In all, the sum of $13,000.00 was expended for renovations to the rectory. Much of this was due to the liberality of the Senior Warden, George C. Hance. The contemplated parish house and sexton's quarters were completed in 1874 at a cost of over $4,000.00. In 1879, the Chancel was built at a cost of $3,625.00. During this period, Trinity Church also rendered conspicuous service to the Diocese of New Jersey. Mr. George C. Hance, besides giving most generously of his time and money to his own parish, also served the Diocese on many important committees for a number of years.

The Rev. Howard E. Thompson became Rector of Trinity on October 14, 1880. He was responsible for establishing the mission at Fords (1880), now St. John's Church. He was active in local civic affairs, and was a charter member of the Salmagundi Literary and Musical Society. During his rectorate, Mr. George C. Hance made further gifts to the parish, including the lectern in use at the present time, the brass altar desk, two memorial windows, and he established an endowment fund amounting to $5,000.00.

The Rev. Lewis H. Lighthipe came to Trinity on February 22, 1885 and remained as head of the parish for ten years. In 1887, he acted as host to the Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey (New Brunswick division). The work at Fords continued under his able leadership, and he also established missions at Carteret and Sewaren which continue to the present day. St. Mark's, Carteret was organized in 1893, and St. John's, Sewaren in 1895.

St. John's Church, Fords, N. J. — 1880

St. Mark's Church, Carteret, N. J. — 1893

St. John's Church, Sewaren, N. J. — 1895

The History of Trinity Church

FORTY YEARS OF PROSPERITY (1860-1900)

From 1899-1918, the parish underwent a period of decline. The following letter signed by the Rector, Wardens and Vestry was mailed to the congregation on Easter Day, 1901:

"Ten years ago this parish owned real estate, outside of the immediate church and rectory property, to the value of over $3,000, and held also an interest-bearing endowment of $5,000. Between that time and the date when the present rector took charge (two years ago) that real estate had been sold and the proceeds spent, excepting only a cash balance of about $100.00 and a second mortgage on part of the property for $300. In the meantime also, the endowment fund had, for several years, failed to produce any income and the capital itself seemed to be on the verge of complete extinction."

During the next few years it was necessary to secure the services of lay-readers or of seminarians from New York. Meanwhile, active lay leadership was provided by Mr. John A. Love, Senior Warden and Mr. Ivins A. Browne, Treasurer.

TRINITY CHURCH FROM WORLD WAR I TO WORLD WAR II

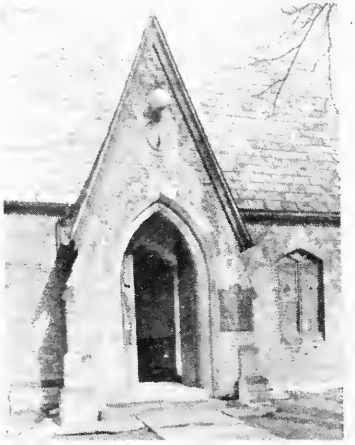
The Rev. Walter H. Stowe, S.T.D. became head of Trinity Church in 1919. He organized the women of the parish into four guild units: St. Elizabeth's, St. Margaret's, St. Martha's and St. Mary's. During their first year of existence, these units raised $1,750. "The small chancel was lengthened, a much needed Vestry room was built, an old broom closet at the West end of the Church was converted into a beautiful Gothic Baptistry in memory of Ira Chapman Dunn, who had given his life in France in 1918. The whole interior of the Church was finished in Caen stone." A new organ was installed through funds raised by St. Elizabeth's Unit. A handsome carved oak pulpit was presented by Mr. Frank R. Valentine and Mrs. C. R. Brown in memory of their father. The Rood Screen was given by Mrs. M. D. Valentine, in memory of her husband.

Altar furnishings and appointments valued at $500.00 were given by St. Martha's Unit. St. Margaret's Unit gave a bell costing $225.00. St. Mary's Unit gave $300.00 to finish the Church basement. The Sexton's house was repaired and painted, and the iron fence was erected around the property in memory of the Vernon family.

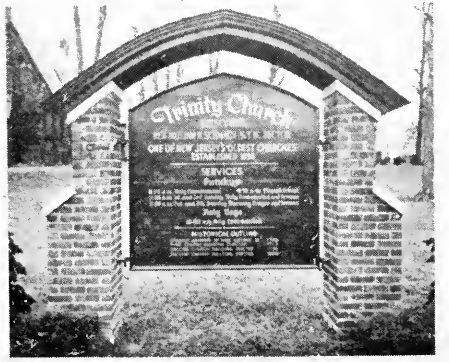
In the fall of 1920, a Sunday School was started by Mr. Daniel Demarest. By 1921 the number of baptized persons had increased from 80 to 168. Dr. Stowe is the present Rector of Christ Church, New Brunswick, and is also President of the Church Historical Society.

The Reverend Edward H. Vogt served as Rector from 1921-23. He has been Rector of St. Peter's Church, Germantown since 1931. Father Vogt was succeeded by the Rev. I. Benjamin Myers. During his Rectorate, Trinity Church celebrated its 225th. Anniversary (1927) on the assumption that the parish dated back to 1702 instead of 1698. Father Myers is at present the Rector of Trinity Church, Fishkill, N. Y.

The Rev. Edward Randolph Welles, now Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo, New York became Rector of Trinity Church on Whitsunday, May 24, 1931. He increased the communicant list from 118 to 306 and the number of baptized persons from 189 to 524. The Rector's salary increased from $1,600.00 to $2,600.00.



CHURCH ENTRANCE

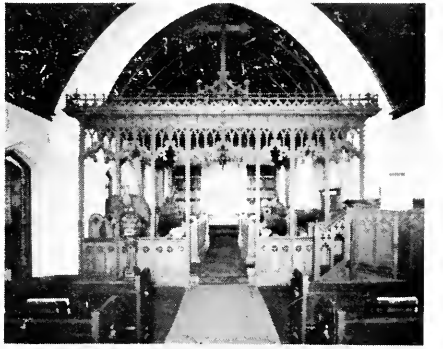


SIGN

RECTORY

BAPTISTRY

CHURCH EXTERIOR



CHURCH INTERIOR

RECENT VIEWS OF PARISH BUILDINGS

The History of Trinity Church

TRINITY CHURCH FROM WORLD WAR I TO WORLD WAR II

Material improvements were also made to the church fabric. The interior of the Rectory was papered and painted, and new fixtures installed. The iron fence around the Church property was painted. Important improvements were made to the parish house including redecoration and the laying of a hardwood floor.

A new memorial stone altar complete with tabernacle, dossal and sanctuary lamp executed by Fowler of Trenton, was installed in the Church. It was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Paul Matthews on November 27, 1932.

The Rev. Howard F. Klein became Rector of Trinity on August 16, 1934. During his rectorate further improvements to the material fabric were made including storm windows and a new steam boiler for the rectory, an oil burner for the church, and a new steam heating system for the parish house. Father Klein left the parish in order to enter military service and served as a chaplain in the army until the end of the war. He resigned in 1942, and upon his release from the service became the rector of Trinity Church in Elizabeth.

THE PAST FIVE YEARS AT TRINITY

The Rev. George F. Dempsie, missionary on leave from Japan was secured as locum tenens during the absence of Father Klein. Although his work was dynamic, he remained in the parish less than a year, and left to become rector at Ridgeway, Pennsylvania. He has returned recently to the mission field in Japan.

A survey of the financial structure of the parish late in 1942 revealed that there were only 72 pledges and the anticipated income should all pledges be paid in full would total no more than $2,535.40, scarcely enough to pay a rector's salary much less to meet the current operating expenses of a parish.

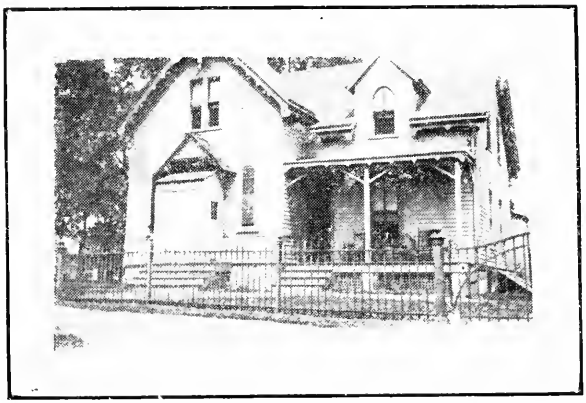
At this juncture, an agreement for mutual assistance was worked out between the Vestry of Trinity Church and the Rector and Vestry of St. Peter's Church in Perth Amboy, whereby the part time services of a priest might be obtained with a guarantee of additional assistance should the circumstances require. Under the terms of this agreement the Rev. William H. Schmaus came to Trinity Church as Vicar of St. Peter's, and at the same time continued to minister to the congregation at St. John's Church in Fords. During his first year in the parish, the congregation responded so well to the Every Member Canvass that the number of pledges increased from 72 to 194 and the proposed budget was oversubscribed by $1,653.80. Meanwhile the pledged income of the parish has steadily increased so that Trinity Church is now able to maintain an up to date parish program.

After serving for one year and six months as Vicar of St. Peter's, Father Schmaus was called as Rector of Trinity Church on May 10, 1944 at a salary of $2,700.00. On October 15, 1944, he was formally instituted as Rector by the Rt. Rev. Wallace J. Gardner, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey. In 1944, the first substantial progress was made toward reducing the parish debt, which then amounted to $7,500.00. The congregation is bending every effort to assure its liquidation in time for the 250th Anniversary. During the past four years, through careful investments the endowment fund has been increased appreciably, and a building fund for a new parish house amounting at the present time to $3,000.00, has been created. In 1945, the beautiful church sign was erected as designed by Mr. Leonard F. Willinger.

Major activities which have made debt reduction and material improvements possible include the Auction Sales of 1943 and 1944, the special contributions received from our parish organizations, the "Merchant of Venice," the 1947 Parish Supper, the Brereton Concert, and the 250th Anniversary Dime Folder Drive. As this book goes to press, the complete liquidation of the debt appears to be certain due to the generosity of Mr. Louis Neuberg who originated the "Challenge Fund" by offering to contribute two dollars for every one received from the other members of the parish up to a limit of $1500.00.

During the current year, in addition to debt reduction, the following improvements to the material fabric of the parish have been made: the installation of the church driveway and paths, painting and repairing the exterior of both the rectory and the church, painting the ornamental iron fence, installation of iron posts in the church basement, repainting of the church sign, redecoration of the sacristy and choir room, purchase of a new runner for the church aisle, purchase of new red eucharistic vestments and altar hangings. A modern kitchen outlay consisting of a counter, sink, and cabinets was constructed by Mr. Mitchell Cairns and donated to the parish as a special contribution toward the 250th Anniversary

Our Weakest Link



Parish House and Sexton's Residence Built in 1874

but now wholly inadequate for a progressive church program

Trinity Parish Organizations

TRINITY MEN'S CLUB

Warren Carr
Mercer Brunn
Eric Davis
Arthur Molitor
Allen Bennett
William Benson
Edward Brady
David Brown
James A. Compton
Melvin F. Church
Ernest Cruikshank
Daniel Demarest
Robert Drummond
Harry Edwards
Nassib Haddad
George Hunter
Thomas R. Jones
Ronald Kidd
Joseph M. McAndrews
Thomas J. Moran
Merrill A. Mosher
Everitt H. Mott
Ingvard Nelson
T. Christopher Olsen
Roy C. Pateman
Joseph H. Phair
William D. Ridyard
William Ridyard
Dr. C. Howard Rothfuss
Richard Sanders
C. Christian Stockel
William Thompson
Howard Tune
James S. Wight
Konrad Stern
James Reid
Wm. F. Eppensteiner
William Howell
William S. Volk, Sr.
William S. Volk, Jr.
Henry Brereton
Robert Brereton
Harold Stoney
Malcolm Mosher
William S. Neebe

TRINITY ACOLYTE GUILD

John Borthwick, Jr.
Fred Dimock
Robert Dimock
Earle Peterson
Raymond Peterson
Robert Ziesemer

ST. MARGARET'S UNIT

Mrs. J. W. Shephard
Mrs. C. Applegate
Mrs. Neil E. Stoddard
Mrs. A. F. Elster
Mrs. Mitchell Cairns
Mrs. M. F. Dunphy
Mrs. C. B. Jackson
Mrs. W. H. Jefferys
Mrs. John Lewis
Mrs. Joseph McAndrews
Mrs. E. K. Magargal, Sr.
Mrs. E. K. Magargal, Jr.
Mrs. Joseph Phair
Mrs. William Finn

ST. AGNES' UNIT

Mrs. Frank Joule
Mrs. Thomas J. Moran
Mrs. Henry Brereton
Mrs. C. R. Brown
Mrs. Walter Brown
Mrs. William Finn
Mrs. William E. Garis
Mrs. Edward R. Sattler
Mrs. Elizabeth Emilinssen

TRINITY ALTAR GUILD

Mrs. John Drummond
Mrs. William L. Benson
Miss Ella De Worth
Mrs. C. B. Jackson
Mrs. T. R. Jones
Mrs. Harveta Morris
Mrs. Walter McKean
Mrs. Edward R. Sattler

Trinity Parish Organizations

TRINITY MOTHERS' UNIT

Mrs. Andrew Shaffer
Mrs. T. R. Jones
Mrs. C. C. Stockel
Mrs. Ernest Cruikshank
Mrs. Frank Heasley
Mrs. Roy Pateman
Mrs. Stephen Shaffer
Mrs. H. Alton Wolny

TRINITY CHURCH CHOIR

Mrs. W. S. Neebe, Organist
George Leyonmark
Earl G. Rumpf
James Bennett
Robert Ziesemer
Barbara Bartonek
Mrs. Allen Bennett
Ruth Brady
Mrs. Garret Brodhead
Jean Davis
Mrs. C. R. Davis
Shirley De Worth
Mrs. Frank Heasley
Mrs. C. B. Jackson
Dorothy Jefferys
Mrs. Harveta Morris
Rose Mary Ridyard
Mrs. J. W. Shephard
Rose Ann Ziesemer

TRINITY JR. ALTAR GUILD

Miss Ella De Worth
Ruth Brady
Shirley De Worth
Nancy Olsen
Rose Mary Ridyard
Rose Ann Ziesemer

TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL FACULTY

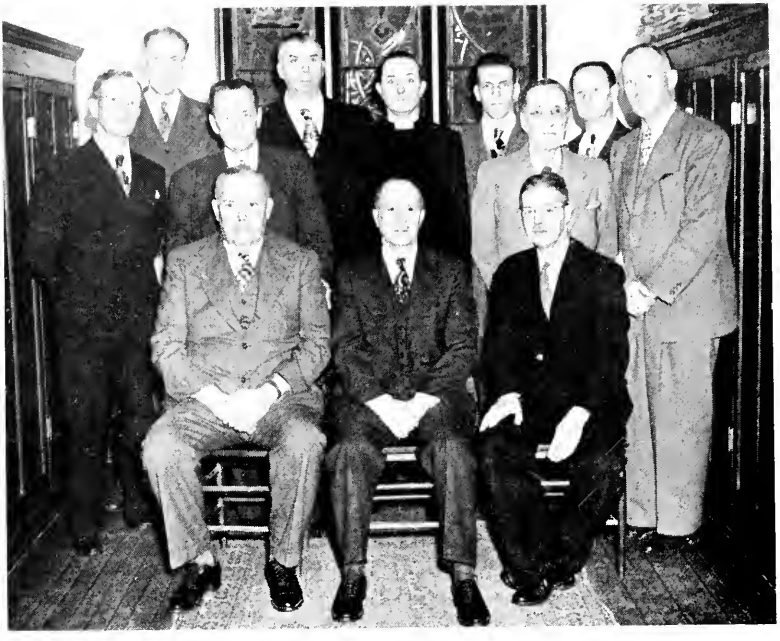
Mrs. Allen Bennett
Mrs. Edward Brady
Daniel Demarest
Miss Ella De Worth
Mrs. T. R. Jones
Nancy Olsen
Mrs. Stephen Shaffer
Mrs. C. C. Stockel

TRINITY GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Barbara Bartonek
Anne Benson
Ruth Brady
Joan Capp
Barbara Decker
Shirley De Worth
Patricia Donovan
Rence Forziati
Louise Fuge
Florence Goll
Betty Kezo
Carol Jones
Carolyn Knapp
Joan Kouten
Olga Kuchie
Dorothy Ruyak
Jean Serdinsky

TRINITY YOUNG PEOPLES' FELLOWSHIP

William Volk, Jr.
Ronald Kidd
Robert Ziesemer
Howard Tune
Betty Ayers
Fred Dimock
Whitman Dimock
Charlotte Dingley
Marilyn Joule
Michael Julian
Nancy Kidd
Dorothy Jefferys
Gertrude Moore
Gloria Moore
Malcolm Mosher
Joan Mc Creery
Earle Peterson
Claire Raphael
Frank T. Schmaus
Joan Smith
Frances Saunders
Barbara Thompson
Howard Tune
James Storey



RECTOR, CHURCH WARDENS, AND VESTRYMEN
OF TRINITY CHURCH

ST. AGNES UNIT

TRINITY CHURCH CHOIR

TRINITY ALTAR GUILD

TRINITY JUNIOR ALTAR GUILD

OFFICERS OF TRINITY MEN'S CLUB

TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL FACULTY

TRINITY ACOLYTE GUILD

TRINITY MOTHER'S UNIT

ST. MARGARET'S UNIT

TRINITY GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

TRINITY YOUNG PEOPLES FELLOWSHIP

TRINITY SUNDAY SCHOOL

TRINITY NURSERY SCHOOL SPONSORED BY
TRINITY MOTHERS' UNIT AS A NON-SECTARIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE

PATRONS

The Rev. William H. Schmaus
Mrs. Harold E. Schmaus
Frank T. Schmaus
Mrs. Samuel McKibbin
Miss Ella De Worth
Mrs. Anna De Worth
Mr. & Mrs. T. Christian Olsen
Miss Nancy E. Olsen
Miss Alice Storey
Miss Martha Storey
Mr. John Byers
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Jones
Malcolm H. Mosher
Mr. & Mrs. William Benson
Mr. & Mrs. William Volk, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. William Volk, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Kidd
Mrs. Frieda R. Grode
Mrs. Philip I. Mooney
Mrs. Mildred Gunderson
John Almasi
Jean E. Cook
Mrs. Margaret Elliott
The Jefferys Family
Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Cairns
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence R. Davis
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Shephard
Mr. & Mrs. Howard White
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Storey
James F. Storey
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Potter
Miss Hettie Jefferys
Edward S. Brookfield
Harry W. Anderson
Dr. & Mrs. C. Howard Rothfuss
Mr. & Mrs. John Drummond, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Merrill A. Mosher
Mr. & Mrs. George Washburn
Corporal George Washburn
Mrs. Stephen Shaffer
Mr. & Mrs. Earl G. Rumpf
Mrs. Harveta Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph McAndrews
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Neuberg
Mr. & Mrs. James S. Wight
Miss Irene Hewitt
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Dimock
Mr. & Mrs. George Murray
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown
The Rev. & Mrs. George H. Boyd
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Valentine Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Walton L. Selover
Miss Marydel Selover
Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Hinkle
Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Hinkle
Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Patten
Mr. & Mrs. James J. Coupland
Mrs. Simeon H. Coupland
Mr. & Mrs. W. Bertram
Mr. & Mrs. H. Larsen
Mr. & Mrs. John Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Peterson
Capt. Jack Egan
Sergeant R. Simonsen
Daniel C. Panconi
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Shephard
Mr. & Mrs. E. K. Magargal, Sr.
C. Albert Larson
Mrs. James A. Tapley
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