

1845

1945

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

With

Trinity Church

Fairview, New Jersey



TO THE GLORY OF GOD
and in
LOVING MEMORY OF THOSE FROM THIS PARISH
WHO FROM THEIR LABORS REST.

1845 - 1895

IN the year 1838 the ground upon which the present Church stands was presented to the Christian Connection (a few members of which denomination were living in the neighborhood) by their first pastor, Rev. Frederick Thomas. The work of building a place of worship was at once begun, and soon a small stone edifice was erected; here meetings were held until 1845, when the building came into the possession of the Church, for early in that year a congregation of church people, who had been brought together through the faithful ministrations and earnest efforts of the Rev. Samuel Hallowell, then in charge of Beverly and vicinity, desired to secure a suitable building, and the Christian Connection offered theirs for the purpose. Five hundred dollars, which was the sum required, was at once subscribed, and the building purchased. This step was warmly commended by the Bishop of New Jersey, the Right Rev. George W. Doane, D. D.

The first meeting to organize a parish was held in the so-called "Fairview Meeting House" (our present church) on the fourteenth day of April, 1845, and resolutions were adopted advocating the "organization of a congregation in connection with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Jersey, and the election of a Vestry." At this meeting the congregation was incorporated, and its corporate name and title became "The Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of Trinity Church, of Fairview, in Chester Township, Burlington County, New Jersey." The needful changes were made in the interior of the edifice, and more seats were procured at once by the Vestry. Additional land, for the purpose of making the church lot even and symmetrical, was purchased from one of the Vestrymen in April, 1846, and in December of the same year a vestry-room was erected. A Sunday School in connection with the Parish was organized in 1845 by Mrs. Julia E. Walton, and she was assisted in her good work by Mrs. Ann T. Timings, Mrs. Isabelle Johnson and Miss Lewis.

For several years the church work and services went on as usual, and while there was little evidence of any growth or change, yet there was no cause for regret because it was "the day of small things," and the results, therefore, could not be great. After the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Hallowell, the services were supplied

by various clergymen, and also by students from Burlington College, licensed as lay readers by the Bishop. It is not until 1860 that we find the church once more under the care of a Rector.

The Rev. F. L. Knight, D. D., was in charge of the Parish until 1862, when he was succeeded by the Rev. Levi Johnson, who resigned in 1863, and was immediately followed by the Rev. H. L. P. Hay, formerly a layman, much interested in the church in Fairview, and who was Rector for three years. During his rectorship the work seems to have made good progress. In February 1866 Mr. Hay, having received a call to another Parish, resigned, and for a brief period his place was filled by the Rev. Charles M. Perkins, then acting as lay reader. The Rev. John A. Spooner, who succeeded Mr. Perkins, remained in charge until 1868, and during his rectorship, in March, 1867, it was decided "to take out the rear wall of the church," and to make the vestry-room part of the church. The work was reported finished in June, 1867, at a cost of about two hundred and fifty dollars, and the present small stone vestry-room was added to the church by Mr. Spooner.

After Mr. Spooner's resignation in May 1868, the services of the Rev. Robert T. Roach, of Riverton, N. J., were secured, but he only remained in charge until October 1869. During his rectorship it was proposed to build a "spire in front of the church," but the project was abandoned, owing to the expense it would involve.

Sunday, October 31st, 1869, the Rev. Daniel Shaver took charge of the work, and though it was resolved, in July 1871, to discontinue the services, through lack of funds, yet Mr. Shaver continued to hold services on alternate Sundays until his resignation.

On Sunday, June 14th, 1874, the Rev. J. F. Clerc, D. D., held his first service as Rector of the Parish. In September, 1874, a proposition to build a Recess Chancel failed, but the alteration of the chancel rail, suggested by Dr. Clerc, was made at once. In October of that year, the Rev. John Alban Spooner, was elected the assistant of the Parish at the wish of the Rector. In March, 1875, "The Ladies' Aid Society" and members of the congregation presented to the church "an Altar, Chancel Window and two chairs for the Chancel," "as an Easter Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the inestimable blessings purchased for us by the Death and Resurrection of our Blessed Lord." Also during February and March 1876, the wainscoting around the interior of the church, and a whole new set of pews, were put in, the funds for the same having been contributed by "The Ladies' Aid Society." The work in all these alterations was entirely voluntary, and was performed by members of the vestry; viz: Messrs. John B. Timings, Samuel Ken-

nedy, J. A. Westervelt, J. Schurch, R. W. Babbington and W. A. Moss. On the 28th of May, "a black walnut reading desk" was presented to the church by one who was "greatly benefited through the ministrations of the Rev. J. A. Spooner."

In March, 1877, Dr. Clerc resigned the rectorship and Mr. Spooner succeeded him. The present stone vestibule of the church was built in 1883, a gift of Mrs. Julia E. Walton, who founded the Sunday School, and for many years, was actively engaged in the church work at Fairview, and afterwards, although having removed to Beverly, never severed her connection with the parish. Until her death on the 30th of October, 1891, she did not cease to give the church her warmest interest and prayers.

The successor of Mr. Spooner was the Rev. P. W. Stryker, the present Rector, who assumed charge in 1885 of this parish (as also of missions in Riverside, Rancocas and Shedaker's), while still Rector of St. Stephen's Church, Beverly, New Jersey. He resigned St. Stephen's in the summer of 1888, though retaining the missions, and so was enabled to give much more time to the work at Fairview.

In 1892 Mr. Frederick M. Walton, of Philadelphia, had the church almost entirely renovated, in memory of his mother, Mrs. Julia E. Walton. The old square windows and plain sashes were replaced by pointed Gothic windows of stained glass. A spire was added to the building, a fine bell given and the church replastered and repainted within and without. A beautiful Altar Cross and Vases were also given by Mrs. A. E. Lafourcade, the daughter of Mrs. Walton. The service of praise upon the completion of these improvements, was held on Sunday, December 18th, 1892, and was largely attended, the Bishop being present and preaching the sermon.

There have recently been given several other gifts and memorials to the church. The Sunday School presented, in memory of its founder, Mrs. Julia E. Walton, a handsome font; Mr. John B. Timings, a silver flagon in memory of his mother, Mrs. Ann T. Timings; and Mrs. Heaton and Miss Johnson, two sets of books for the use of the clergy in the Chancel as a memorial of their mother, Mrs. Isabelle Johnson.

A Parish Guild was organized January 27th, 1887, and has been in very successful operation ever since. The officers are:

President, Rev. P. W. Stryker.

Vice President, Rev. Leonard W. S. Stryker.

Secretary, Mr. George B. Heaton.

Treasurer, Mr. John B. Timings.

A Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew was also formed, and a charter secured, December 6th, 1894, with the following officers:

Director, Rev. Leonard W. S. Stryker.

Secretary, Mr. William T. Murphy.

Treasurer, Mr. Frank R. Heaton.

The Rector would likewise record the services of his lay reader, Mr. George E. Mergarge, principal of the public school of Moorestown, N. J., who for years has most faithfully and acceptably aided him in his work.

This briefly is the history of the parish since its beginning, in 1845. Some may think that its fifty years have shown results scarcely worthy of record, but we believe that He Who seeth all things, has both followed and blessed the laborers in their work, and that the many deeds of faithfulness and love of which there is no earthly record, have a better place in the Book of Life, to be revealed and rewarded when the deeds and thoughts of all men shall be known.

This Fiftieth Anniversary, with its many tokens of God's blessing in the past to our parish, is a bright land-mark in our path, beside which we pause a little while for rest and rejoicing, and then "thanking God and taking courage," go forward with renewed vigor to the future's life and work for the Church of our Redeemer, offering, on this blessed Easter Day, that prayer which our church has taught us: "The God of Peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of the Sheep, through the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do His Will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Compiled By
THE REV. L. W. S. STRYKER
1895

1895 - 1945

OUR records tell us that the Fiftieth Anniversary of this Church, which fell on Easter Day, April 14, 1895, was rightly commemorated by service and prayer. In all those fifty years and in the fifty years which followed, up until the present time, Easter Day never again has fallen on our Anniversary date. It could have been a symbol of God's promise of new and continued life to a Parish which had completed fifty years of struggle and sacrifice in His Name. Sometime again, in the cycle of God's time, some of us will live to see this happen again.

The brass tablet which was erected in the Church in memory of this Anniversary was purchased with the Easter Offering of the Sunday School, at a cost of twenty-five dollars.

From the beginning of the Rev. P. W. Stryker's ministry in the year 1885, which was recorded in our Fifty-year sketch, and from 1895 until December 1904, the Church functioned through a representative body known as "Trinity Church Guild", there being no elected Vestry. Through this Guild, which met monthly, matters pertaining to the Sunday School and Parish generally were handled. Up until this time these meetings had been held at the homes of our people, but on June 1, 1895 they were held for the first time in what were known as the "Guild Rooms", the same being two rooms rented from Mr. William Fisher for the sum of \$2.00 a month. This continued to be the meeting place until September 1902.

With the death of Mr. John B. Timings in November 1898 the Church lost one of her truly devout members. For thirty years he served as superintendent of the Sunday School and had been active in all branches of the Church's work for many years before that. He left a legacy of five hundred dollars, which was to be used as a nucleus for a Parish House.

In September 1904 the whole community was shocked by the sudden and untimely death of our beloved Rector, the Rev. P. W. Stryker. His passing, after almost twenty years of pastoral life among us, left us as a flock without a shepherd.

But as the Greater Life was beginning for him, so life went on for the Church in Fairview and a Rev. R. R. Phelps was secured to perform the services of the Church until such time as a new

Rector could be called. He was assisted in his ministrations by our own layreader, Mr. George B. Heaton.

In December 1904 the Rt. Rev. John Scarborough, Bishop of New Jersey, urged that a Vestry be re-organized for Trinity Church. On December 8, 1904 a congregational meeting was held in the Church for that purpose and the following were nominated and elected as such:

Mr. John Freck . . . Senior Warden

Mr. George B. Heaton . . . Junior Warden

Vestrymen	}	Mr. R. C. Fischer
		Mr. Frank R. Heaton
		Mr. Edwin W. Fortnum
		Mr. Merrill Kendall
		Mr. Fred Freck

At a subsequent meeting held at the residence of Mr. R. C. Fischer on December 12, 1904 the Vestry became organized and elected Mr. George B. Heaton as Church Treasurer and Mr. Edwin W. Fortnum as Secretary. This Vestry served until the annual congregational meeting on Easter Monday, April 24, 1905, when Mr. Silas G. Hatcher was elected as Junior Warden and Mr. George B. Heaton as a Vestryman and Treasurer.

The Rev. J. H. Fielding was called to be Rector in February 1905 and was with us until July 1906. From July until December 1906 the Church Services were carried on by The Rev. Mr. Honeyman and our own layreader, Mr. Heaton.

During this interim the combined Vestries were again seeking a Rector and in December 1906 the Rev. Cornelius W. Twing came to us. During his almost eleven years of Rectorship he became one of us and was loved and respected by all. It was during his Rectorship that the Parish House was built. It was decided when razing the vestry room to make way for the Parish House that the stained glass window should be replaced in the North wall of the Church building, opposite the Chancel.

Plans for the proposed Parish House were drawn, and in August 1911 a special meeting was called to decide on bids for the erection of the building. It was agreed that a contract be given at a cost of \$795.00. Again, in September, another special meeting was called to consider a suggestion to enlarge the original plans by 8 feet, thus making the building 40 ft. long by 24 ft. wide, this extension to cost \$195.00 additional. The total cost of the building, plus some extra work done by the contractor, amounted to

\$1,031.31. The J. B. Timings legacy, plus interest, provided all but \$100.00 of this amount. Mr. John Freck, our Senior Warden, loaned the necessary \$100.00. A fund of \$142.60 had been raised, through solicitations, to furnish and equip the Parish House. Our first piano was presented to us by Mr. Ladd, of Woodbury, N. J. On March 12, 1912 the service of dedication was held.

In this same year of 1912 the Parish lost the services of its very able and faithful organist, Miss Bessie Freck, for many years both organist and choir directress, who resigned at that time. The duplex envelope system was also adopted in this year of 1912 at the suggestion of the Treasurer, Mr. George B. Heaton.

In March 1914 this Parish mourned the death of Mr. Fred Walton, who through all the years since the passing on of his Mother, JULIA E. WALTON, in 1891, had never ceased to be a most liberal benefactor in her name. At his death there was established a trust fund of five thousand dollars, the interest of which was to be used for the expenses of the Church. Though never an active Church member himself, he revered the life and name of his saintly mother and we pray that God, who understands all his children, will reward him accordingly.

After considerable discussion as to color, a new carpet was purchased for the entire Church in December 1915, at a cost of \$89.90.

It was the regrettable duty of the Vestry in February 1917 to accept the resignation of our Rector, the Rev. Cornelius W. Twing, as he was answering a call to be the Missionary-in-the-Pines. While he was greatly missed as our Rector and friend, he was near enough to visit us from time to time. From the time of his going until May of the same year the Services were carried on by our ever-willing layreader, George B. Heaton, and the Rev. H. Q. Miller, who came to us from Philadelphia.

With the passing of time, two of our faithful members, John and Jane Freck, passed on to the Greater Life and in May 1917 their daughter, Bessie Freck Witherow, set aside a trust fund of \$1,000 in their memory, the income from which, less expenses of management, we were to receive semi-annually.

Then in June 1917 the joint Vestries called to the Rectorship the Rev. Thomas Theodore Butler, who came to us from another Parish in this Diocese. At his suggestion, the children of the Parish were gathered together for a vested choir. A committee went into action immediately on the matter of vestments and Miss Blanche Hackney, one of our members, agreed to serve as choir directress.

The Vestry arranged to reward them with service pins for faithful attendance, both at services and rehearsals. On Sunday, September 1, 1917, the following children composed our first vested choir:

Oren Heaton	Lawrence Frech	Helen Murphy
Ada Murphy	Henry Frech	Mildred Kendall
Lavinia Denneler	Isabella Heaton	Edith Kendall
Ethel Heaton	Paul Denneler	Nicia DiRio
Harriet Heaton	Eleanor Heaton	

During the war-time Rectorship of the Rev. Mr. Butler, many of our men were members of his magnificent Bible Class and there are those of us who will never forget the thrilling song services and rallies conducted by him in the Parish House of St. Stephen's Church in Riverside, in behalf of war-time activities.

It was decided in July 1919 to lay a cement walk around the Church and Parish House, in preparation for the Seventy-fifth Anniversary, which we would commemorate in 1920. The matter of installing electricity in the Church and Parish House was also voted on. This work of lighting was completed at a cost of \$190.00 and the lights were used for the first time on our Anniversary date, April 14, 1920.

Under Mr. Butler's direction and through the untiring efforts of our women, a very memorable all-day program was carried through. The offerings from this day's services, amounting to \$46.00, were given to Archdeacon Shepherd for his work at St. Monica's Mission in Trenton.

In October 1920 the Vestry was again called upon to accept the resignation of its Rector, for Mr. Butler had received a call to Utica, New York. In the short time of his ministry among us he had endeared himself to all, especially the children. Our loss was his gain, however, as he was going to a much larger field of service for his Master.

Our layreader again took charge of most of the services from October until May 1921, when the Rev. Randall W. Conklin came to us. At the first Vestry meeting of his Rectorship it was voted to build a new chimney to the Parish House and also to enlarge the platform in that building. The Church was also painted at this time and the interior of the Parish House was redecorated by some of our own members. The Rev. Mr. Conklin's rectorship was all too short, and in March 1924 he left us to take up his new duties at Asbury Park, New Jersey.

From March 1924 until November 1925 we were without a Rector. During this period the Rev. George G. Matchett and the Rev. Charles Lathrope came to us from Philadelphia. Likewise, the Rev. Mr. Tsen, a Chinese Priest, who was doing post-graduate work at the Philadelphia Divinity School. As a Parish we grew to respect and admire him very much and when, several years later, as Bishop Tsen, he visited us for a Morning Service, we were indeed honored. Upon his return to China he became Bishop of the Province of Honan.

Finally, in the Fall of 1925, the Rev. Samuel Hardman was called to the Rectorship. He came to us from a mission field in Nebraska.

About this time, our womenfolk decided that it was time we had a kitchen in connection with the Parish House. This was done in October 1925, at a cost of \$450.00. Part of this money was on hand in what we called the "Kitchen Fund", but a deficit of \$100.00 was made up by a loan from Mr. Charles Anderson, one of our active new members.

Upon completion, Mr. Silas G. Hatcher offered to paint the interior of the kitchen. In April 1927 improvements to the Parish House, in the way of enlarged closet space, were made and in the summer of 1929 the ceiling was renovated and replaced with sheet rock. About this time Mr. and Mrs. Hardman presented us with a fine new kitchen cabinet. We now had a kitchen, fairly well equipped, but there was no water supply on the Church's premises. In the fall of 1929 our men undertook the work of digging a well and a pump was finally installed just outside the kitchen door. The Church was also repainted at this time. Repairs in the form of a slate roof on the Church and Parish House were made in August 1930 at a cost of \$634.00. It was necessary to borrow \$250.00 from the bank to complete payment of this debt.

Trinity Church was again remembered in April 1933 in the form of an outright gift of \$475.00 under the will of Samuel Ziegler, in memory of his wife, Elizabeth, and son, Charles.

In December 1934 a special meeting of the Vestry was called to draw up a Seal and legalize it for future use in connection with legal matters pertaining to Trinity Church.

The occasion of our Ninetieth Anniversary, on April 14, 1935, was marked by the erection in the Church of a small brass tablet in memory of our several benefactors. Special services were held on the Sunday nearest the Anniversary date.

When it was decided by the State of New Jersey that the

highway passing the Church's property was to be widened, it was necessary to sell them some ground. From this sale the Church received the sum of \$800.00 in February 1935. With this money in hand the Parish was able to discharge all indebtedness and to plan for a more modern heating system for the Church and Parish House. It was decided in November 1937 to install an oil burner, the entire system to cost \$891.00. With the major part of the necessary funds on hand, Mr. Charles Anderson volunteered to solicit the balance among our members. Mr. Hardman also received a donation of \$100.00 from Mrs. Geist in memory of Elizabeth and Samuel Ziegler, and a very much appreciated contribution of \$35.00 came from Mr. and Mrs. Hardman, in memory of Mrs. Hardman's mother. By the combined efforts of the Parish the entire cost was met.

In September 1939 we paused to mourn the passing of George B. Heaton, who, during his entire life had been a member of Trinity Church and who for forty years had been superintendent of the Sunday School and layreader, whenever and wherever his services were needed.

In the Summer of 1940 the interiors of the Church and Parish House were repainted. We were really proud of their appearance, but early in the year 1941, due to some defect, the oil burner smoked and ruined the new paint. Fortunately the insurance carried covered the damage and settlement was made in the amount of \$115.00. During that year both buildings were again repainted.

For some time our women had realized that the kitchen was not large enough to meet the needs of preparing and serving suppers. Throughout the years the "Kitchen Fund" had been added to from time to time through their efforts. In 1941 they decided to enlarge the room. Its size was practically doubled and the pump was brought inside, gas was installed, and two good second-hand stoves were procured. The painting of walls and woodwork was ably done by a number of members of the Woman's Auxiliary.

Early in the year 1942 Mr. Hardman announced to the Vestries his resignation, to take effect in September. For almost seventeen years he had labored among us and it was with sad hearts that we learned of his decision to leave us and the Diocese entirely. Many of our young people had never known any other Rector. A few days before his leaving a farewell reception and shower was tendered Mr. and Mrs. Hardman and they went on their way with our prayers for God's Blessings upon them in their new home.

During the interim from September 1942 until March 1943

we were indeed fortunate as a Parish in securing the services of layreaders personally known to most of us. Mr. William Metzger of St. Stephen's Parish, Riverside, very kindly took the services on several occasions when we were unable to get either Mr. Edmond Palmer or Mr. Irvin W. Fulmer, of Moorestown. Both the later became very well known to us during this time. In March 1943 the Rev. Quentin Ferguson accepted a call from the joint Vestries to the Rectorship and we were once again ready to go forward with God's work.

In the Spring of 1943, at the suggestion of Mr. Anderson and with help from some of the Vestrymen, the main pump was removed from the kitchen out into the yard and water was piped back to a small pump which was installed in a sink. This was a decided improvement and we now had a kitchen to be proud of.

About this time it became apparent to everybody that something had happened to the interior of the Church which would require more than paint to cover up. A committee consisting of Charles Anderson and Lester Fischer was appointed to find someone who could give us ideas as to what could be done, and also an estimate for the proposed work. In order to make a complete repair job it was necessary to begin at the belfry and work down. The work of renovating the interior of the Church's walls was done at a cost of \$422.00. Total cost of repairs made at this time was \$537.24. The congregation was grateful to Mr. Anderson for his work in re-wiring the Church while it was in a dismantled condition. Also to the committee of three, Charles Anderson, George Rowe and John Zeiss, who solicited contributions from the membership to the amount of \$322.65, to help defray the above-mentioned expenses. Again we were able by God's help to meet the entire cost of repairs.

Upon completion of the Church improvements it was necessary to repaint the woodwork and the following members volunteered to do the work, Miss Edna Richman, Miss Grace Fischer, Mrs. Aubrey Haines and Mr. Henry Frech. Thanks from a grateful congregation for a job well done. A little later, the kneeling step at the Altar Rail was rebuilt to make it more comfortable.

With these improvements completed we found ourselves on the threshold of the One hundredth Anniversary and, ere we commemorate that event, let us look back over the years and give thanks as a Parish to all the women who served their God through this, His Church on earth, either in the Woman's Auxiliary, United Thank Offering, in the Sunday School, or as Organists in His

House. Through the efforts of Mrs. Harriet T. Heaton, Mrs. Mary Haupt and Mrs. Janet C. Fischer, years ago, the Woman's Auxiliary was planted and nurtured. It's growth continued under the leadership of Mrs. George B. Heaton and Mrs. Frank R. Heaton until today we have an almost "every-woman" membership. The same is true of the United Thank Offering membership.

We are especially grateful to Mrs. George B. Heaton and those of her family who through the years have made and adorned the hangings used at the Altar of the Church.

Today the membership of Trinity Church stands at sixty-eight, with three candidates for Confirmation to be presented by Mr. Ferguson during our Anniversary Services. Our Sunday School enrollment is twenty-five, with five teachers in charge. Miss Eleanor K. Heaton is acting as superintendent until Donald H. Anderson returns from the service of his country.

To us of the Congregation this is our Church, to the Community it is a landmark, respected and revered by other races and creeds; may God's Blessings continue to rest on It in the years that are to come.

"O Lord Jesus Christ, who saidst unto thine Apostles, Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: Regard not our sins, but the faith of thy Church; and grant to it that peace and unity which is according to thy will, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen."

*Compiled for the Committee, from the original records,
by Miss Florence Fischer.*