

A BRIEF HISTORY OF

TRINITY CHURCH

FINDLAY, OHIO

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

May 16, 1981

INTRODUCTION

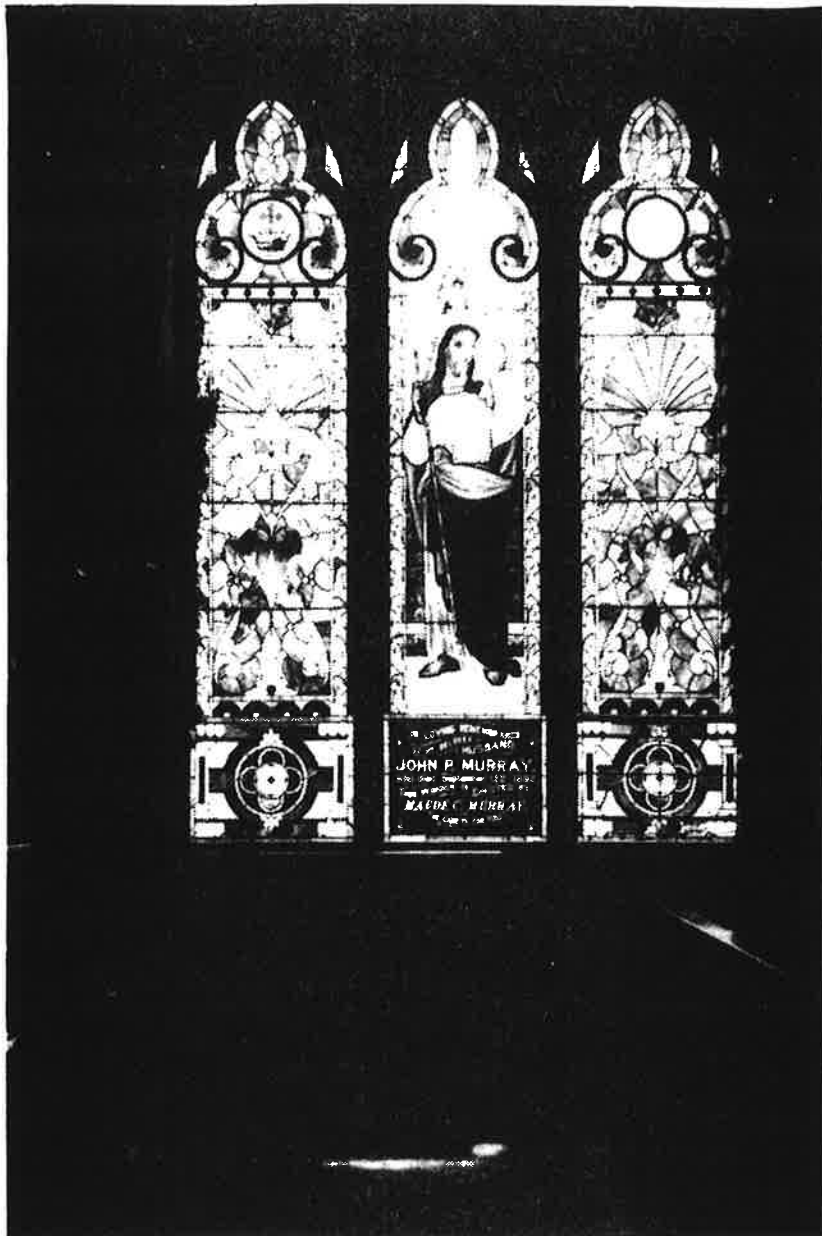
The late Reeve Eckman, devoted lay reader, vestryman and churchman, spent many hours going through vestry minutes and records of Trinity in preparation for the writing of a detailed history of the parish. The report of the years through 1890 is his writing.

For the years from 1891 through 1941, note cards left by Mr. Eckman and a parish history written for the 60th anniversary of Trinity in 1941 were used. Quotes represent material from the parish history.

Information for the years following 1941 was obtained from newspaper clippings found in Mr. Eckman's collection of historical materials, from two of Trinity's long-time members, John King and Josephine Holsinger, and from experienced memories.

Through the hundred years of Trinity's existence many records have disappeared, so that there are voids as far as details are concerned. From what was available an attempt has been made to give the highlights of this Church's first hundred years.

Kathryn Gambell



The Good Shepherd window at Trinity Church, an original part of the present Church building, characterizes the ministry of Christ to his Church as well as the ministry of the Church to the world.

BEFORE THE BEGINNING (1880)

One part of the state, and of the diocese, had been lagging behind in the march of progress. The northwestern part, especially the area around Upper Sandusky, was the last home of the Indians in Ohio. In the years around 1830, they were moved on again and their reservations were opened for settlement; but the white men who came in to take the land were soon in favor of giving it back again. There were few navigable waterways, so most of the travel must be over land, but the land itself was too often under water. The soldiers of Crawford and Wayne and Hull had found that out in the years before. A traveler in 1830, rode west from Findlay through 60 miles of unsettled wilderness broken only by the Ottawa Indian village; another in 1831 stepped from his stage coach into a foot of water on Findlay's Main Street -- not a flood, just a typical condition in this area of ague and dampness which the map makers of the day labelled "The Great Black Swamp."

But the black land was rich land. Within the next 50 years hardworking farmers, many of them of German descent, had tilled and ditched and drained the swamps; by 1880 Hancock County had a population of 28,000. Findlay was the county seat, a typical farm-market village of the time, whose 4600 people lived in a quiet setting of gardens and lawns and shady streets. Those streets were dusty in the summer when folks went out to picnic at High Banks (where the country club is now); and in the winter the cheery ring of sleigh bells greeted every snow. On the rainy days of spring and fall the dust became impassable mud and the villagers walked; on a Sunday morning they might -- and usually did -- walk to one of Findlay's ten churches -- none of which was Episcopal.

Ohio had a Republican Governor, Charles Foster, from nearby Fostoria. In November 1880, the three newspapers, "The Jeffersonian", "The Republican", and

"The Courier" reported the election of a Republican President, James Garfield. He had carried the village by 650 to 505, but the county went for Democratic candidate, Winfield Scott Hancock, 3350 to 3124.

Perhaps these same newspapers carried a story or two about goings-on in Pennsylvania, where some speculative gentlemen were probing the hills north of Pittsburgh for gas and oil. Some of their local readers would have been interested, for the presence of gas in Findlay had been known for several years. In fact, the Jacob Carr family had been using gas from their own well for nearly 20 years in their home at Hardin and South Main Streets, where the Marathon Oil Company office building stands now. A few men even thought there might be commercial possibilities, but what with the Civil War and one thing and another, nothing had come of it yet, and Findlay would continue for another four or five years to use artificial gas in its 52 street lights.

Meanwhile, those who wished to speculate could invest in the railroads: the few that were already running, more that were being built, and many more that would never be anything but handsomely engraved stock certificates. The more conservative citizens were satisfied to view with pride their two schools and the two fine banks and the five hotels and dozens of thriving shops and industries. Findlay was a good place to live.

The state had been split into two Episcopal dioceses just a few years before: Southern Ohio and Ohio, with the dividing line running north of and roughly parallel to the National Road, now U. S. Route 40. The strength of the northern part was in its eastern half, the 1880 diocesan report showing only ten missions and parishes in the western counties: five in Toledo, the others in Napoleon,

Defiance, Lima, Hicksville and Kenton. There had been others, but they came and went, their spirit-like candles flickering in the wind; and there is never a mention of Findlay.

It was time for a beginning.

THE BEGINNING

The reverend gentleman adjusted the gas mantle, polished his glasses, and nervously dipped his pen in the inkwell. It would be two weeks yet before the official announcement of his appointment as first priest-in-charge of this new mission, but already nine months of its life had passed. There were official acts to be recorded, lists of communicants and families to be entered, a history to be begun; and these things should be done before they were forgotten.

Already, in his crabbed and difficult writing, he had made the first entry:

"February 5, 1882 -- Parish Register -- \$6.10."

And now the clean new pages of this book lay open before him. The Reverend George Bosley dipped his pen again and wrote:

"Trinity Mission, Findlay, Ohio

"The first service was held at Findlay by the Rev. D. Webster Coxe, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Fremont, on the evening of May 16, 1881 . . . in the Lutheran Church. Church work was organized and an executive committee appointed consisting of three gentlemen and five ladies. An arrangement was made to hold service on every other Tuesday evening in the Lutheran Church.

"About the middle of June the Rev. J. L. Taylor of Lima agreed to assist in holding services and continued to alternate with the Rev. Mr. Coxe until the time of the Bishop's¹ visit. On the 19th of July A. D. 1881 the Rev. D. Webster Coxe, having previously obtained the Bishop's consent, organized the church work into a mission under the Canons of the Diocese of Ohio.

¹This was the Rt. Rev. Gregory Thurston Bedell, honored by the present stained glass window above Trinity's altar.

The congregation present chose the name of Trinity. Thirty-four names¹ were signed to the request. . . to be organized as Trinity Mission. On the 8th of Nov. . . . the congregation voted to rent and fix up a room in which the services could be more conveniently held. T. Floyd Woodworth was appointed chairman of said committee. The east room, first floor of Courier Block, East Sandusky Street² was rented of Mrs. G. Glessner at \$120.00 per year, one half of which was kindly donated. The services have since been held in this room."

It would be a few more days before he could make his next entry in the history:

"On the 19th of Feb. 1882 the Rev. Geo. Bosley of Kenton accepted the Bishop's appointment as Missionary at Findlay in connection with his work at Kenton."

Meanwhile, he had better record the official acts performed up to this time.

First, of course, were the baptisms just performed on January 28, 1882, at the Lutheran Church by the Reverend Mr. Coxe:

Kate M. Diduit, adult
Howard Jordan Scott, aged 17 months, son of John A. and
Mary L. Scott

On the following day, January 29, Mr. Coxe had presented to Bishop Bedell Trinity's first confirmation class:

Kate M. Diduit
Elizabeth Lindsay
Sarah W. Myers

And there was a listing to be made of the thirteen communicants who were set forth as "Members at Organization":

¹ List is missing

² 117 East Sandusky Street

T. Floyd Woodworth and his wife Delia J. Woodworth
Elizabeth A. Scott, who lived with her husband,
Captain John Scott, on W. Hardin Street
Fannie J. Ferrard and Charlotte Annetta Ferrard,
who lived with the Captain John Scott family
Jacob Henry Boger, the painless dentist
John A. Scott, son of Captain John and Elizabeth,
later connected with the Peerless Refinery;
and his wife, Mary L. Scott, of 500 W. Sandusky
Georgianna Glessner, wife of Lewis Glessner
Elizabeth Lindsay, wife of Louis Lindsay
Sarah W. Myers, wife of Judge (?) George W. Myers
Elizabeth Hu(o?)ffman, wife of Judge (?) S. B.
Hu(o?)ffman
Kate M. Diduit, daughter of Fred and Helen Diduit,
who lived on W. Main Cross St. opposite St.
Michael's Church

There had been no burials yet and but one marriage, performed by Mr. Coxe on October 25, 1881, at the home of the bride's father: Edward Schwartz and Olivia Hoffman, daughter of Judge Hoffman.

Mr. Bosley had a few more entries to make in the coming months. Hannah Nellie Sheets, ten-year-old daughter of Reuben and Margaret, was the first -- and only -- person baptized in Trinity Chapel on East Sandusky Street. Emma A. Huffman died at 24 of "consumption", so common a tragedy for the young people of that day; and Annie Higginbottom was added by transfer from Massillon. There were also three weddings to come: James R. Lewis and Emma May Strother; Wilson Jay Edwards and Charlotte Annetta Ferrard, Jacob Henry Boger and Jennie Mungen.

Then, in 1883, an entry that seems the more sudden and abrupt because it is written in a rather startling and contrasting shade of violet ink:

"On the 30th of September the Rev. Mr. Bosley held his last service in Findlay and the following November resigned the charge."

Why did Mr. Bosley resign? We know that he remained at Kenton until 1887, when he went to Alliance; and that he was rector of St. James', Boardman, from 1890 until he died in 1898, leaving a reputation as a "diligent pastor and a man of decided ability." Our only guess is based upon travel conditions. The railroad we know today as the Nickle Plate had already been built through Fremont, Findlay and Lima -- which perhaps explains why those two parishes were first called on for ministry to the new congregation; but the railroad south from Toledo had come only as far as Bowling Green, and would not reach Findlay and Kenton for several years. Even a most "diligent pastor" might have found it too much to care for two parishes adequately when his journey of 27 miles each way must be by horseback or stage coach over such roads as northwestern Ohio had in those days.

Whatever the reason, Trinity was without a minister -- for the first time, but not the last.

FIRST INTERIM -- AND REBIRTH (1883-1889)

Whatever the reason, Trinity was without a minister for the next three years, important years in the history of Findlay. Commercial drilling for gas had speeded up, encouraged by several minor successes, until in January 1886, the great Karg well came in. Within the next twelve months the village of 4600 people and four square miles boomed into a city of 12,000 spreading out over 24 square miles. To a boom town came "all sorts and conditions of men" -- and some of them were churchmen.

Meanwhile, the Diocese of Ohio was also "drilling." In 1885, Bishop Bedell appointed as the first General Missionary the Reverend Albert B. Nicholas, formerly of Calvary Church, Sandusky. The new position was supported -- at least in theory -- by contributions from the Sunday Schools of the Diocese. It was not a high-salaried post, but Mr. Nicholas seems to have worked hard at it during the next five years.

Apparently his activity was centered where the need was the greatest, in the western area, for it was from Bellefontaine that Mr. Nicholas came to resume services in Findlay on December 19, 1886. A report that "there was a successful revival of spirit" seems confirmed by the addition of over 30 names of individuals and families in the parish register; and on June 11, 1887, he presided at the laying of the cornerstone of the first church building. The same cornerstone is a part of the third church building, the one which is occupied today.

The old parish register says that this first church was "in South Findlay, on Maddox Avenue." Maddox is now Lima Avenue, but the lot is actually a triangle based on South Cory Street between Lima and Mound, and is now occupied by two houses.

The opening services were held in September 1889 by Mr. Nicholas, assisted by the Reverend O. S. Michaels, who had been appointed deacon-in-charge. The Diocesan Journal noted that Trinity reported 20 communicants. With these, and its new building, it seemed time for the mission to become a parish.

In December of 1889, after only three months, the Reverend Mr. Michaels left. The Right Reverend William A. Leonard, the fourth Bishop of Ohio, appointed the

Reverend Alexander C. McCabe of the Diocese of Maryland to be in charge of the Church on February 1, 1890. Vestry minutes indicate his salary was to be \$800 per year. A weekly celebration of the Holy Communion was begun, and on Easter Day 1890, the chancel furniture and altar decorations were used for the first time. Minutes of the vestry during this period indicate financial problems ranging from an overdrawn account to insufficient funds to pay bills and interest on money previously borrowed by the vestry.

On Sunday morning, November 16, 1890, the Church building burned. The furniture was saved, however. On the following day a special vestry meeting was called. The Church was insured, but the insurance had not yet been adjusted. The initial reaction of the Church members was that the Church should rebuild in a more central location. Many months of negotiating with various owners of lots in areas nearer the business district followed. At the same time an effort was being made to get pledges for rebuilding the Church. Services were held in the Y. M. C. A. parlor until the building was rebuilt on the Mound Avenue location -- apparently it was impossible to find a new building site that was both desirable and affordable.

Trinity mission was admitted to the Diocese as a parish on February 1, 1890, according to vestry notes. The Reverend Dr. McCabe resigned and held his last service in December of 1891. A layreader, Mr. J. T. Keene, was responsible for services from then until the arrival of the Reverend J. G. Lewis from St. James' Cathedral, Toronto, Canada, on June 8, 1892. It is reported:

"the condition of the work was far from hopeful in many respects. Numerous debts had accumulated against the Parish; the site was exceedingly inconvenient; the sidewalks were defective and dangerous; the cross had been blown off the spire; and there was no sign to indicate the name of the church."

The new rector must not have been too discouraged because he "canvassed on behalf of

a site fund, and secured pledges to the amount of \$325.00. Receiving a small donation from a person not connected with the Church, he had a notice board constructed and set up on Main Street." On Sunday, November 20, 1892, a vested choir of men and boys was introduced, and when the Bishop visited the parish on December 6, fifteen persons were confirmed. During the Reverend Mr. Lewis' pastorate, the number of persons in the congregation increased considerably.

The Church together with its contents was completely destroyed by fire in the early morning hours of January 9, 1893. The exact cause of the fire was unknown. According to the parish history written for the 60th anniversary of Trinity,

"the rector convened the vestry with all promptitude. Our good Bishop communicated by telegram advising. The following day the rector with the assistance of an outsider, Mr. Doty, and two of the vestrymen, commenced a canvass of the citizens and secured promises aggregating between \$400 and \$500. Thereafter with occasional aid from members of the vestry the canvass was pursued singlehanded. A parish meeting was held at the rectory on 10th January. Only a few persons attended but some collecting books were distributed. The rector communicated with Prayer and Hymn Book Societies which promptly and liberally responded with grants of books; also with the Sisters of All Saints, Baltimore, Md., who most kindly forwarded to the rector a set of fine altar linen and an exquisitely wrought chalice veil for use at celebrations of the Holy Communion. Letters were written to prominent rectors and others throughout the country, and a circular appeal with the endorsement and approval of the Bishop, was addressed to each of the rectors and parishes in the Diocese. Visits were made by the rector to Cleveland, Toledo and Fremont, also to New York, Boston and Detroit; and special sermons were preached at the first three cities named. The serious diminution in the flow of natural gas in Findlay and somewhat later general business depression seriously affected these and other efforts, as also the canvass amongst the parishioners."

After the destruction of the church building, services were held in the Y. M. C. A. rooms for awhile, then Temperance Hall in the Ebling Block on South Main Street was rented.

With the receipt of the insurance money and that collected by the Reverend Mr. Lewis, it was possible to purchase a new lot, this one being on West Hardin

Street. The plans drawn by the Architect, W. L. Kramer, were accepted, and on May 9, 1893, only four months after the fire, the same cornerstone of the previous two church buildings was laid by the Right Reverend William A. Leonard, Bishop of Ohio. On this same date four persons were presented for confirmation.

According to information in the history of Trinity written for the 60th anniversary,

"contracts for chancel furniture, stained glass and the font were awarded respectively to the Findlay Church Furniture Co., Andwette (?) and Co. of Chicago, and Messrs. Smith & Co. of Findlay, and were carried out faithfully according to the plans of the rector. . . . A gift of a lectern was received from Mrs. W. A. Leonard, wife of our beloved Bishop and whose interest in the parish through all its strange experiences has been of the warmest character. Other affectionate memorials presented to the parish were as follows: brass altar vases and desk, by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lecky; brass altar cross by Mr. J. F. Keene in memory of Annie Lindsay-Wilson; three prayer books by Mrs. Ferard as memorials for altar and chancel use; 'Good Shepherd' window by Mrs. M. C. Murray in memory of her late husband. A pipe organ was placed in the organ chamber as a surprise by the rector, he having secured nearly sufficient money for its purchase from friends.

"From the statement presented to the annual parish meeting on April 9th, 1894, it appeared that the Rev. Mr. Lewis had collected from members of the congregation \$492.55; from congregations, special services, and individuals in the Diocese -- including \$500 from the Special Building Fund through the Bishop and Archdeacon -- \$1109.52; from citizens, \$604.85; and from extra-Diocesan donors \$472.91; in all, \$2679.83. In addition to the above, he received \$160 for the old site; \$1450 from insurance and paid over -- with \$50 from the collection -- for the new site; and \$711.05 of \$2,000 secured by mortgage to the Church Building Fund Commission of New York, the balance having been disbursed by the Treasurer of the general Parish Fund. These receipts are exclusive of amounts received and expended on the organ and expenditures for travelling to New York to see the Secretary of the Church Building Fund Commission, etc."

When the site for the new church was purchased, there was a residence on it.

This was moved to the back of the lot and renovated, the front room downstairs being made into one for parish use, and the rest of the house for a residence for the sexton. It was in this house that the women of the Guild met for sewing, rug-making, and study, and other groups had their meetings from 1893 until the building was torn down in 1930 to make room for the addition of the parish hall to

the back of the church building.

In October of 1893, a mission was established in the north end of Findlay, about 3 miles from the downtown area, for families connected with the glass and iron works. Because of the extra effort necessary in behalf of the new church building, the mission was suspended for a time. When it was renewed, it met in the Heck Addition in a building previously occupied by the Baptists and owned by the Citizens Education Board. The mission was allowed to meet in the building free of charge.

No explanation seems to be available for the departure of the Reverend Mr. Lewis who had worked so hard for the new church building, but in the vestry minutes of July 20, 1894, it was noted that the "resignation. . .was accepted." It would seem that his leaving might have had something to do with the continuing resignation of vestrymen; in fact, at this same meeting, the remaining three vestrymen resigned, leaving Trinity with no vestry.

On August 20, 1894, a special parish meeting was called with Archdeacon Brown presiding for the purpose of electing a new vestry. The vestry elected that day met on August 25 and invited the Reverend Mr. A. G. Singsen, presbyter of the Diocese of Central New York, to be Trinity's rector. He accepted and arrived for his first service on September 18. His stay was short, however, for in October he declined the call and returned to New York.

After Mr. Singsen left, the Church was closed for some time. Lay readers were responsible for the services. The Church was without a rector, vestrymen were constantly changing due to resignations, and funds were exceedingly short; the

vestry minutes of January 16, 1896, meeting indicate there was \$7.38 on hand. Here the history of the parish, as contained in the old parish register, ended. George Franklin Smythe in his "History of the Diocese of Ohio to 1918" wrote that after the building of the new church,

"this remarkable activity was followed by several years of depression; the vestry resigned, the Sunday School was closed, even the Ladies' Guild disbanded; and the Archdeacon had to go there and restore these essential organs of the parish life."

On February 28, 1897, the vestry extended a call to the Reverend Mr. Edward S. Barkdull, the curate at Trinity Cathedral. He accepted, but the July 6 vestry minutes recorded his resignation, so his stay was very short. At that same meeting the vestry extended a call to the Reverend Mr. J. Louis P. Clarke of Lorain, who served from 1897-1902. He was followed by the Reverend Frank Roudenbush, who stayed until some time in 1903.

The December 6, 1902, vestry minutes stressed the necessity of paying the mortgage on the Church, \$2300 of which was due. It was agreed that the vestry make a canvass in an effort to raise the funds. It is unknown how successful the canvass was because there are no records of vestry meetings until July of 1904, but it would appear it was not a success because at that meeting it was noted that the mortgage holders' patience was exhausted and they had begun foreclosure. At this time the Reverend Frank A. Zimmerman became the rector. It was obvious what his most important work needed to be, so he and his vestry immediately

"set to work to devise means whereby they might pay this mortgage and stay foreclosure. The first month's work seemed to present an impossible task, but persistence brought them into financial help, so by the holiday season it was found that the parish could pay the entire indebtedness and thus be able to consecrate the church to the worship of God."

On February 22, 1905, the cancellation of the mortgage was recorded, and Trinity Church was consecrated by the Right Reverend W. A. Leonard on February 26. In the Bishop's Journal of the March 1905 issue of Church Life appeared the following:

"February 26 -- Consecrated Trinity Church, Findlay; preached, confirmed, and addressed 5 candidates, celebrated Holy Communion. This happy consummation is due to the generosity of Mrs. F. B. Swayne of New York, added to the earnest and laudable labors of Reverend F. Zimmerman and his people. A great load is lifted off our Church in Findlay."

Mr. Zimmerman left in 1909, knowing that the church property was now in good shape.

The Reverend William J. Hawthorne from Galion was called to become rector on July 26, 1910. Dr. Smythe in his book wrote:

"He soon accomplished, as Bishop Leonard said, 'a phenomenal work.' The church was extensively improved and the congregation greatly built up. While he remained there was a marked revival of interest; the church and rectory was repaired, and a debt of \$600 was paid."

The parish register shows 84 persons confirmed in five services in two years by the Bishop of Michigan City, three by Bishop Leonard, and one by the Bishop Coadjutor of Ohio, the Right Reverend Frank DuMoulin. The Reverend Mr. Hawthorne's wife died a year after he became rector, and in her memory friends in four of his former parishes contributed enough to place the altar and reredos in the Church.

The Reverend Mr. Hawthorne stayed until February 15, 1914. He was followed by the Reverend A. E. Selcer, who served from July 3, 1914, to April 1, 1915. For the next six months, the Reverend Mr. Kendall Severance, rector at Kenton, conducted services at Trinity. This arrangement was not altogether satisfactory, however, and after his resignation, the Reverend G. A. Ottman was rector for less than a year. The Reverend R. P. Ernst was locum tenens (substitute clergyman) in

1917. During World War I, the Reverend Kirk B. O'Ferrall, the rector of Christ Church in Lima, held evening services. After the war the Reverend William R. Kinder, who was born and raised in Findlay, became rector and served until 1921.

The Reverend Joseph P. Ryerson was rector during 1922-23, and Reverend F. A. Patterson followed him 1924-25. The parish was without a rector until the arrival of the Reverend J. Keeney McDowell on June 26, 1927, as deacon-in-charge. He was ordained to the priesthood in March 1928, and stayed until the following May.

The Reverend Herbert H. Griffin, curate at the Church of Our Saviour, Arkon, became rector on October 1, 1928. It was during the early part of his rectorship that plans were made for the building of a parish hall onto the back of the church building. The residence on the rear of the lot was torn down, and work was begun in 1930. The Right Reverend Warren Lincoln Rogers, D. D., fifth Bishop of Ohio, dedicated the building on November 20, 1930.

The previous year, Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Berry had given a pipe organ to the Church in memory of their son, Richard. Bishop Rogers held a service of dedication of this memorial on December 13, 1929. The Reverend Mr. Griffin's last service at Trinity was on May 2, 1937.

In cooperation with the Venerable Gerard F. Patterson, Archdeacon of Ohio, John Evans Knox, a student at Bexley Hall, the divinity school at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, took charge of the services on September 12, 1937. The parish had a small membership, the services were poorly attended, and it had been laboring under the burden of a \$5000 mortgage on the parish hall since 1931. Largely due to the Women's Guild, which was very active during this period, the mortgage interest payments had been met. It would seem that young Mr. Knox had his work

cut out for him. He served as seminarian-in-charge from the time of his appointment until June 18, 1939, at which time he was ordained to the diaconate and was made deacon-in-charge of the parish. On December 19 of that year, he was ordained a priest by the Right Reverend Beverley D. Tucker, D. D., sixth Bishop of Ohio, in Trinity Church. The success of his work was reflected in the presentation of a class of 24 persons for confirmation on May 16, 1941, the largest class since February 1911. Mr. Knox resigned in February 1943, to enter the U. S. Navy.

The Church was without a rector until the arrival on October 1, 1943, of the Reverend Frederick K. Jellison as deacon-in-charge. He was ordained and made rector on March 19, 1944, and stayed until March 15, 1945. Mr. Knox returned from the service on March 1, 1946, and stayed until September 18, 1948, when ill health forced his resignation. In December of 1948, the Reverend Arthur L. Kenyon arrived as rector, serving until June 1951.

The Reverend George P. Timberlake held his first service at Trinity on September 15, 1951. It was during Mr. Timberlake's stay that the parish purchased a house on Hurd Avenue to serve as the rectory. In 1953, the parish accepted its diocesan quota in full for the first time in many years. The number of children and young people attending church school classes was straining the facilities in the parish hall where portable 4' x 8' boards separated one class from another. The Wiseley home facing South Cory Street to the north and west of the parish hall became available, and a decision was made to purchase it for conversion to church school class rooms. Rolling up their collective sleeves, men and women of the parish removed partitions, painted walls and woodwork, laid tile floors, and made curtains. The addition of these rooms was a tremendous help in housing the growing numbers of church school students. Also, in this period the first paid

secretary was hired in October 1957. Prior to that time a number of volunteers provided the Church's secretarial services. After seven successful years at Trinity, Mr. Timberlake resigned as of June 15, 1958.

Thomas R. Ashton, a student at Bexley Hall, was invited to come to Trinity as deacon-in-charge following his graduation in June of 1958. Because of the continued growth in church membership, it became apparent that church school classes and other activities required more space than was available in the parish hall and the converted residence on South Cory Street, so the decision was made to put an addition on to the parish hall, extending the building back to the alley. A two-story concrete block addition was built in 1960, providing additional church school classrooms, rest rooms, and offices for the rector and secretary.

Louise Gridley joined the staff as Director of Religious Education in July of 1960. During her eleven years at Trinity, many innovations were made in the teaching of the Christian religion to all ages, and they were reflected in the growth of numbers attending church school. After Miss Gridley's departure, various persons supervised the church school programs for short terms until the employment of Ruth K. Baltzell in August 1977, as the Director of Religious Education.

In 1969, Trinity parish was selected as one of three parishes in the Diocese of Ohio for the diocesan distinguished congregations award. The selection was based on a number of community programs dealing with problems of contemporary life. The leadership of Mr. Ashton was largely responsible for the social action involvements in which the church played a part. Churchwide recognition was given Trinity in the August 24, 1969, issue of the Living Church.

In 1969, the vestry decided to sell the rectory and give the rector a monthly allowance for rent or for payments on a house of his own because this would save the cost of repairs and renovation of a house; also, this arrangement was preferred by many rectors.

The Reverend Mr. Ashton resigned as rector of Trinity as of July 31, 1971, leaving a church with a much larger and more active membership than when he arrived thirteen years before.

The Reverend Robert R. Elfvin, assistant rector at the Episcopal Church in Lima, Ohio, was the next rector, holding his first service on October 17, 1971. Under his leadership a covenant was established with St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, which encouraged the exchange of pulpits by the priests of the two churches and joint meetings of parishioners of both churches. The former guild room back of the sacristy was renovated and refurbished as the Ashton Library in memory of our former rector, Tom Ashton, and his wife who were killed in an automobile accident.

The present rector, the Reverend Elden Smith, was called by the vestry to begin his service January 21, 1979. The Bushong property to the west of the Church along South Cory Street, a 50' x 200' lot, became available after the two old houses had been removed. The parish voted to purchase the lot in 1980, at a cost of \$50,000.

A Centennial Fund drive was initiated in 1980 for money to rewire the Church, replace the old steam radiators with modern heating units along the sides of the church and parish hall, and build a ramp along the west wall of the parish hall for the use of handicapped persons, at the same time reinforcing this

sagging wall. The redecorating of the Church and hallway into the parish hall was undertaken in honor of the Church's hundredth anniversary.

Because of the many financial problems Trinity encountered through the years from its beginning, it was decided by the vestry in December 1943, to establish an endowment fund for use of the parish only in times of need. In order to use any money from this fund an affirmative vote of the vestry, the women's Guild, and the parish is necessary. The fund has been voted for use of the purchase of the lot to the west of the Church (1980) and for repair and redecorating of Church property for which insufficient funds were realized from the Centennial Fund (1981).

It should be mentioned that in the mid-1940s, Trinity was noted for its very fine boys' choir.

Through the years women have gained a more active part in the life of the Episcopal Church. The first female lay reader was licensed at Trinity in 1973, and the first two women elected to the vestry in 1966. Since that time women have served as vestry persons, one of whom was elected senior warden.

Another first was in 1969, when for the first time a lay reader was allowed to administer the chalice at Trinity, this as a result of action taken at the previous triennial meeting of the Episcopal Church.

At least seven men from Trinity have entered the priesthood during its hundred years of existence. In 1896, two young men entered Kenyon to study for Holy Orders, William M. Sidener and Charles F. Magee. In June 1926, David Johnson was ordained a deacon at the age of 42 after studying under the examining

chaplains of the Diocese of Bethlehem. Tom Vossler graduated from Bexley Hall in 1951; he is currently the rector at St. Alban's, Cleveland. In 1961, Dennis Serdahl entered Bexley Hall, Gambier, graduating in June 1964. He is currently serving as rector at St. Paul's, Salinas, California. Charles Coit also studied at Bexley from 1962 until his ordination as a deacon in 1965. Charles is currently assistant rector at St. Catherine's, Jacksonville, Florida. Paul (Skip) Umberger III spent his first year of studying for the priesthood at St. Andrew's, Scotland, graduating from the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1979. His masters of divinity was received from Boston University in 1980, the same year in which he was ordained. He is currently at Grace Church in Amherst, Massachusetts. The most recent priest from the parish is Nicklas Mezacapa who graduated in early May of 1981 from Bexley Hall, Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, New York. He will assume his duties as assistant at St. Luke's in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in July. Messrs. Serdahl, Coit, Umberger and Mezacapa were all helped by Trinity's Theological Education Fund.

One member of this congregation has also entered the religious life. In February 1981, Phoebe Plassman became a postulant of the Community of the Way of the Cross, Buffalo, New York. At the time of this writing she was clothed as a novice of the Order on Easter Eve, April 18.

And so we come to the time of celebrating one hundred years of existence as a parish. There have been many trying times in the passage of the years since that first service was held on May 16, 1881, but the faith of many of the parishioners has prevailed so we are thriving today. Trinity looks forward to another hundred years of existence in Findlay, Ohio.

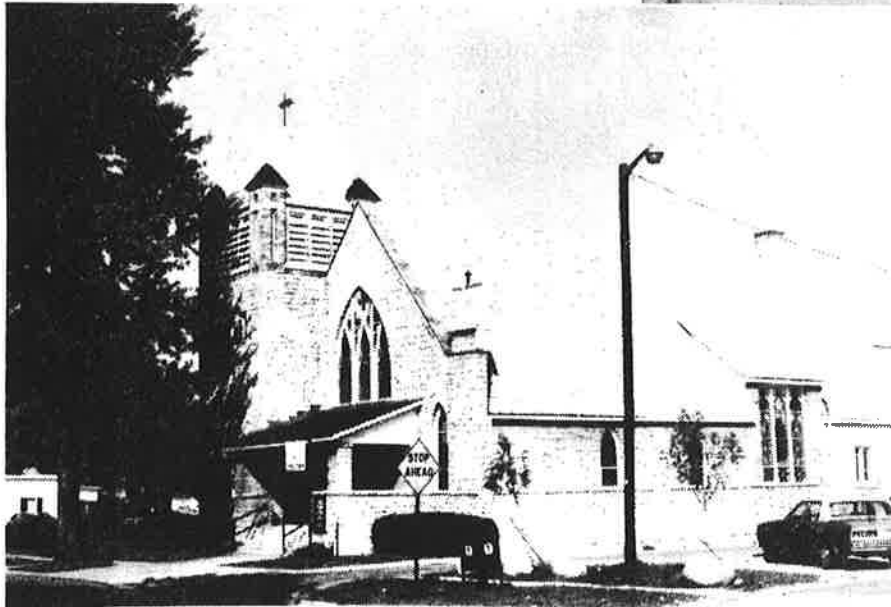
RECTORS OF TRINITY, 1881-1981

(Dates of First and Last Service Indicated When Known)

D. Webster Cox (Rector of St. Paul's, Fremont)	May 16, 1881 - First Service July 19, 1881 - Organized as Mission	1882
George Bosley (Rector at Kenton)	February 19, 1881 - Minister-in Charge	September 30, 1882
A. B. Nicholas (Gen. Missionary of Diocese of Ohio)	December 1886 - Revived Services	1889
O. S. Michael	October 1889 - Deacon-in Charge	December 1889
Alexander McCabe	February 1, 1890 - First Rector	December 1891
James G. Lewis	June 8, 1892	July 20, 1894
A. G. Singsen	September 18, 1894	November 1894
Thomas S. Barkdull	1897	1897
J. L. P. Clarke	1897	1902
Frank Roudenbush	1902	1903
F. A. Zimmerman	1904	1909
W. J. Hawthorne	July 26, 1910	1913
A. E. Selcer	July 3, 1914	April 1, 1915
Kendall Severance (Rector at Kenton)	1915	1915
G. A. Ottman	January 20, 1916	1916

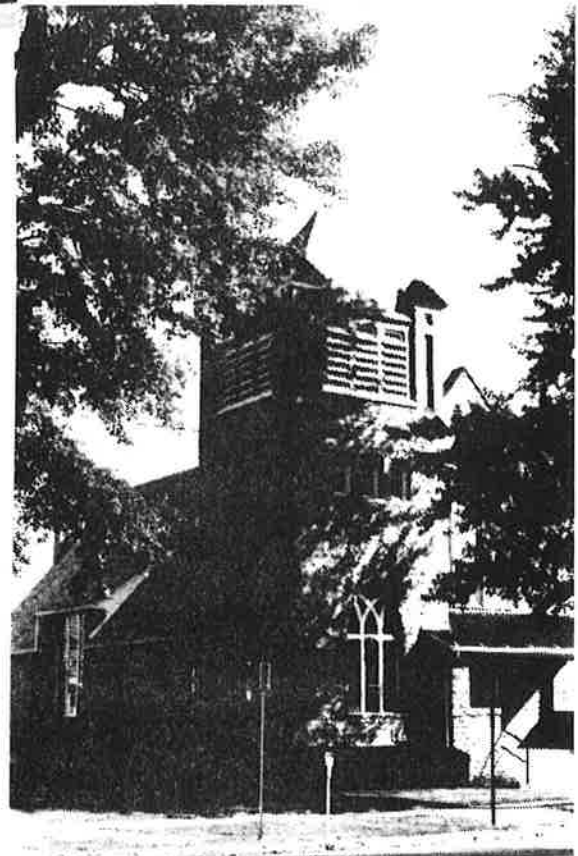
R. P. Ernst	1917 - locum tenens	1917
William R. Kinder		1921
Joseph Ryerson		1923
F. A. Patterson		1925
J. Keeney McDowell	June 26, 1927 - Deacon-in Charge March 1928 - Rector	June 15, 1928
Herbert H. Griffin	October 1, 1928	May 3, 1937
John E. Knox	September 12, 1937 Seminarian-in-Charge June 19, 1939 - Deacon-in-Charge December 19, 1939 - Rector	February 7, 1943
Frederick K. Jellison	October 1, 1943 - Deacon-in-Charge March 19, 1944 - Rector	March 15, 1945
John E. Knox	March 1, 1946	September 18, 1948
Arthur L. Kenyon	December 1948	June 1951
George P. Timberlake	September 15, 1951	June 15, 1958
Thomas R. Ashton	June 15, 1958 - Deacon-in-Charge December 20, 1958 - Rector	July 31, 1971
Robert R. Elfvin	October 17, 1971	August 27, 1978
M. Elden Smith	January 21, 1979	

An exterior view of Trinity during the Rectorate of the Reverend William R. Kinder, 1919-21. The inset is that of Mr. Kinder.



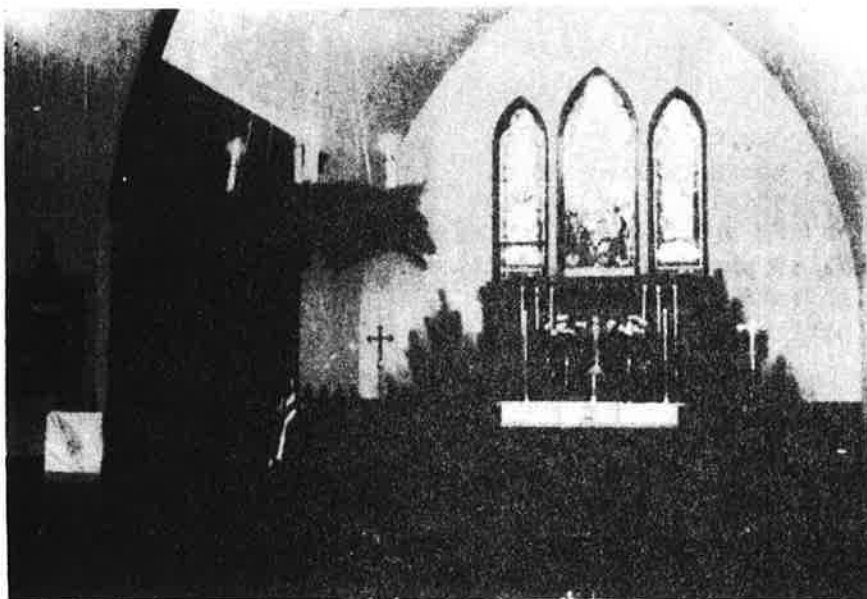
This view of Trinity Church was taken in 1980, and shows the building as we presently know it.

This side of our Church building was for many years unknown to us and to the people of Findlay. Unveiled when the neighboring houses were razed, it shows promise in becoming an interesting and picturesque part of our landscape.





These two views of the interior of the Church show it at opposite seasons of the year. On the hymn board, one can see in the above view, "The 17th Sun. after Trinity" while below the title for "Christmas" is in place. From the hymn numbers listed, one can reason that these were taken prior to the introduction of the Hymnal 1940, for the hymns posted would not be appropriate to the season from our present hymnal.





The Boys' Choir of the 1930's and 1940's was a well-known asset to Trinity Church. This picture, taken in about 1946, shows the Choir with the Reverend John Evans Knox in his World War II uniform.



Trinity Church for many years was a vined-covered building. This photograph, taken in the early 1950's, shows the changing Hardin Street scene as we note the tree-stump where the driveway into the parking lot now exists.