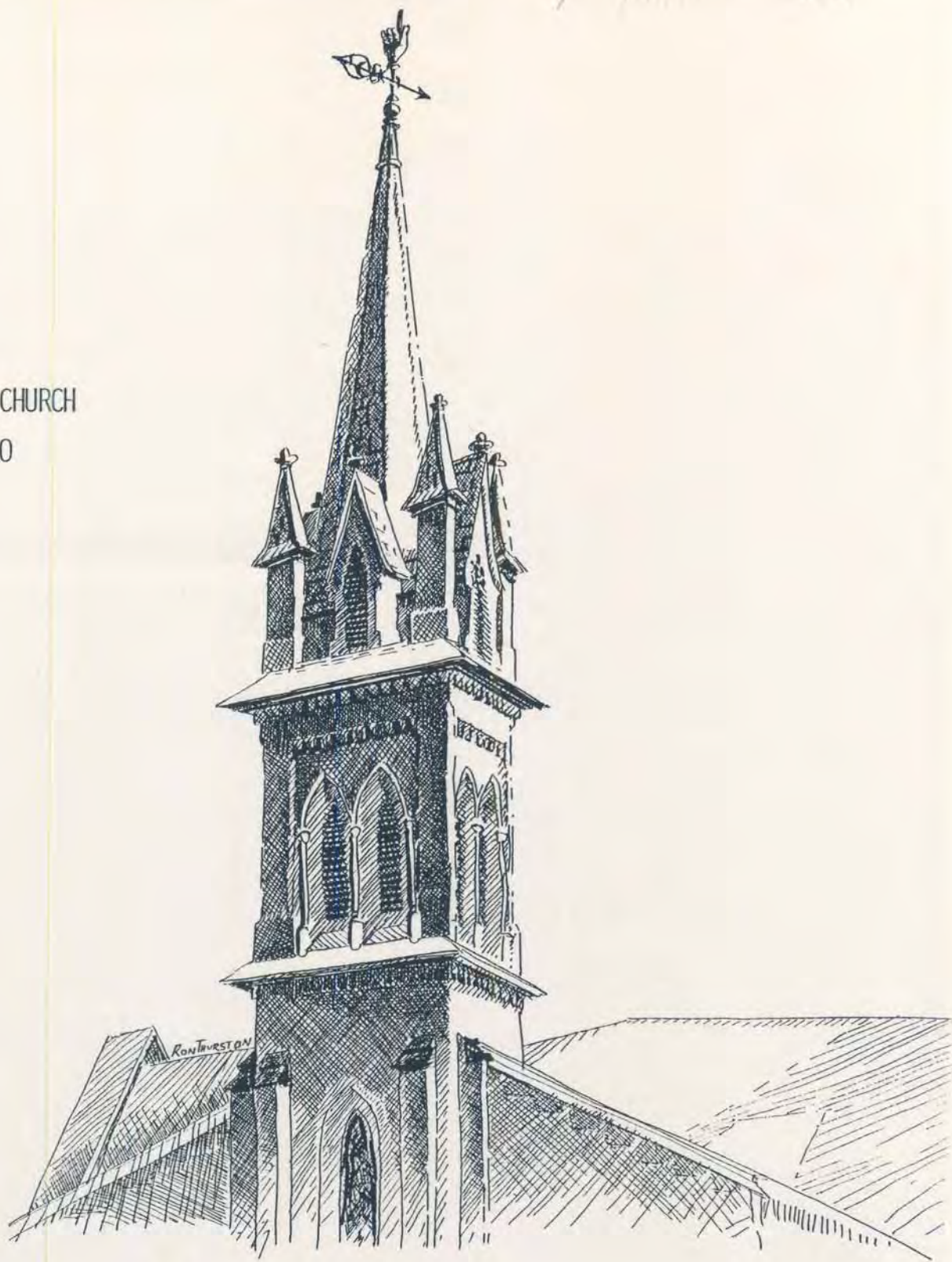


TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
COBOURG, ONTARIO



INSIGHT

SPECIAL REDEDICATION ISSUE

JUN 20 1990

JUNE, 1990

COBOURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

FROM THE PASTORS

This issue of INSIGHT marks the Rededication of Trinity United Church, Cobourg, following its historical restoration. The roof has been reshingled with cedar shingles. The brick work has been repointed and, in many places, redone. The steeple has been restored and the minarets are in place. The finial -- "The Hand Pointing to Heaven" -- once again adorns the top of the steeple spire. And the bell rings. We will mark the accomplishment of the restoration with a special Service of Rededication on Sunday, June 10th, at 10:30 a.m.

June 10th also marks the date of the 65th Anniversary of the formation of the United Church of Canada on June 10th, 1925.

"We celebrate a heritage at once Presbyterian and Reformed, Congregationalist and Methodist with its mix of Anglican Reformation and Moravian pietism. Our heritage is also that of local union and co-operating churches and of the Canada Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren and of several independent evangelical congregations who have become part of the denominational family . . . Our heritage is catholic and it is reformed. It is a heritage that calls us to be formed and reformed by the Word and Spirit of God."

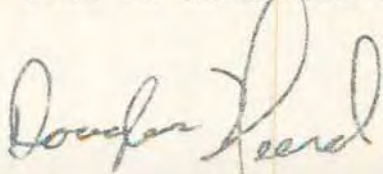
It is fitting that we should rededicate our building on this anniversary date.

As well as rededicating our building, we will also rededicate ourselves as a congregation, and as individual Christians, in the reaffirmation of our Baptismal vows. Each of us, at appropriate moments in our Christian journey, should be given the opportunity to reaffirm our faith. We feel this is one of those appropriate moments.

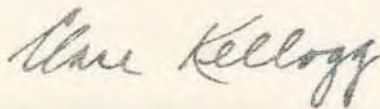
Following the Service of Rededication, there will be a Congregational Pot Luck luncheon in the Christian Education Centre. You will find the details elsewhere in the newsletter. Please accept this invitation to share a meal with your Church Family.

In the evening there will be an organ concert by Xaver Varnus, an internationally acclaimed organist. One of the wind chests on the organ has just been repaired. This concert will help defray the expense of the repair. It was just over a year ago that Xaver began our fund raising events for the Restoration with a concert, and another recital on the evening of the rededication will give us an exciting way to conclude our celebrations.

This is an important event in the life of this Church family. Plan to celebrate with us!



Douglas Heard



Clare Kellogg



Lynda King

JAMES ERNEST NIX
4112 Pheasant Run
Mississauga, Ont. L5L 2C1

May 9, 1990.

Ministers, staff and friends,
Trinity United Church,
Cobourg, Ontario.

Dear friends:

Mrs. Nix and I were very pleased to receive your invitation to be present at the rededication of the Church. Unfortunately, plans which we had made previously prevent our being with you at this time.

May I share with you some wise words written recently by Dr. Martin Marty, an American church historian:

"Churches and synagogues evoke awareness of the cycles of life; they call to mind earnest prayer and resolve, the observances of birth, marriage and death. Preserving them helps retain communication across the generations... This approach to preservation is against nostalgia, antiquarianism, idolatry of the past; against mere prettiness and artificiality; against restoration that ignores contexts and the human stories that were worked out in past encounters with the holy... Attempts to reconceive, to replicate... to help imagine the lives of the people who built and used old houses of worship, make preservation worth while ... (to) retrieve from the past something of two elements the world too often otherwise does without: the experience of the truly human and the surprising holy."

(--The Christian Century, March 21-28, 1990)

Margaret and I join in sending our congratulations on your project achieved, and our very best wishes for continued blessings in the days ahead.

Sincerely,



J. Ernest Nix,

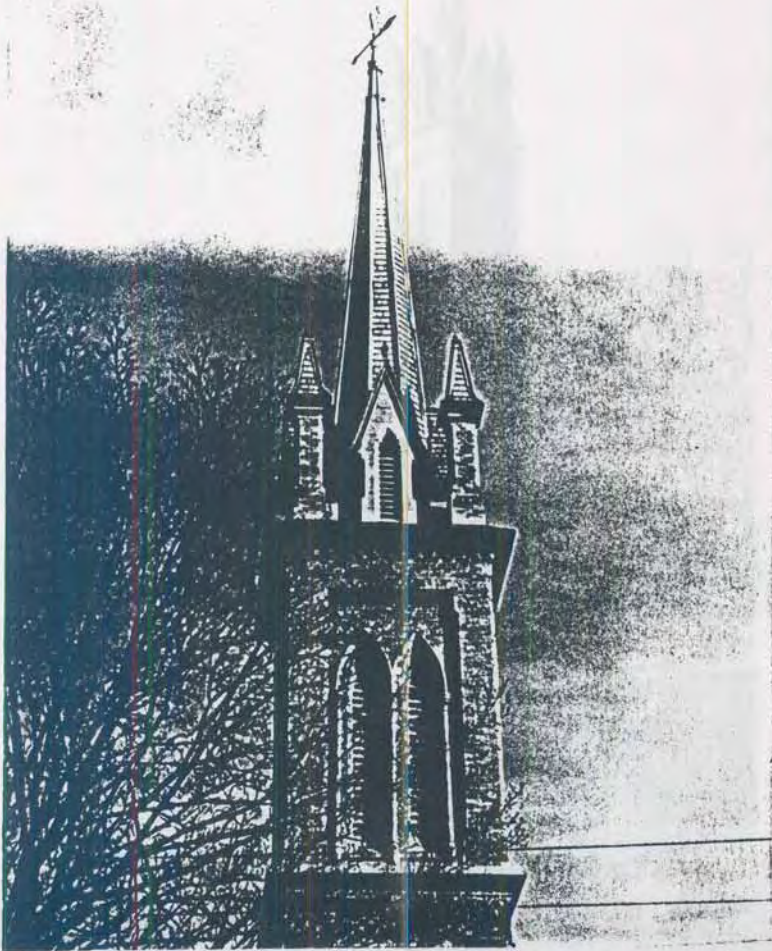
(Interim minister at Trinity, 1983)



Trinity United Church before restoration.



Trinity United Church with new steeple and minarets



A closer look at the restored steeple and minarets.



Hand Pointing to Heaven and Weather Vane Restored.

EARLY METHODISM IN UPPER CANADA

The terrible war of Revolution in the British American colonies left in its wake much destruction, seizures of private properties, families uprooted, and a general upheaval in patterns of living. As a result, changes emerged on a large scale, particularly so with religious organizations. Anglican church membership (requiring an oath of allegiance to the British crown), died out, resulting in a large number of parishes to become defunct in both membership and finance. Their church buildings were abandoned.

Unordained Methodist preachers, in the United States, used the abandoned churches to conduct preaching services, but not the sacraments and the marriage service. Thus, thousands of people were denied the sacraments and the marriage service, all on account of the revolution.

In order to fill the void, the Rev. John Wesley came to America, at the request of Francis Ashbury, superintendent of Methodist societies in America. Wesley designed a "Methodist Episcopal" version of Anglicanism to meet the needs of America. Thus in 1784, Wesley, consecrated the Rev. Dr. Thomas Coke, D.C.L. (Oxon), a Presbyter of the Church of England, as Superintendent or "Bishop" of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. Richard Whatcoat and Thomas Vasey, were ordained "Deacons". The following day, Coke, Whatcoat and Vasey sailed for America with instructions to consecrate Francis Ashbury as a second "Superintendent", or Bishop and to ordain American preachers suitably qualified for orders.

Coke summoned the preachers to a Conference which convened on December 24, 1784 at Baltimore, Maryland. Early Canadian Methodism owes its beginnings to that conference of December, 1784.

The United Empire Loyalists who migrated and settled on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, the area of the Bay of Quinte, and in that region westward from the Niagara River, were relatively literate. With them religion and education went hand in hand. Shortly after their arrival, schools were set up at Napanee, Newburgh, and at Grantham Township in the Niagara area. This was before the larger Province of Quebec was portioned off into Lower and Upper Canada, and the arrival of John Graves Simcoe in 1792, as Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada.

Many of the U.E.L.'s were of the Methodist persuasion. Bible readings, prayer and preaching services were held in settler's homes, taverns or any place where "two or three" gathered together. There was opposition to Methodist preaching and James McCarty is reported as a martyred minister. The first Methodist chapel to be erected in Upper Canada was at Hay Bay, Quinte area in the year 1792.

When the first parliament met at Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake), in the year of 1792, there was practically no settlement in Northumberland County. Later, in 1795, settlement started locally. Moving in by boat, or by following the Indian trail along the lakeshore westward from the Carrying Place, settlers moved into the local townships, taking up the land first along the lakeshore, then slowly moving inward along the concessions.

With the advancement of settlement appeared the Circuit Rider, or if you wish, the Knights of the Saddle Bags, itinerant preachers who ministered in the Upper Canada field which first stretched from Kingston to Niagara. Men like William Losee, Darius Dunham, James Coleman and Elijah Woolsey visited the pioneer in their lonely cabins and in doing so, often slept in the open, faced disease, wild animals and bandits. They were all great men bringing the word of God to needy people.

The Smith's Creek Circuit became a separate field of work in 1805. The Rev. Thomas Madden was the first stationed minister. It is believed that from 1805, the ministers of the local circuit made Hull's Corners their headquarters. During the year of 1820, the two story Hamilton Chapel was erected at Hull's Corners. It was located on the east side of Division Street, over half a mile north of the "Base Line" or Elgin Street on higher ground. The supply for that year was George Farr, a former soldier and school teacher. In 1822, James Belton and James Wilson were appointed to the circuit. By that time more settlers were moving in and membership in the Methodist groups and classes was increasing. A log house at Hull's Corners was used as the Parsonage.

Until the year 1824, Methodism in Upper Canada was under the direction and support of United States Conferences. The time had come for a separate Canadian organization. The first Canada conference met at Hallowell (Picton) August 25, 1824, with William Case as Presiding Elder. At another Canadian conference in 1828, Canadian Methodism gained complete independence for the United States organization.

At the 1824 Conference, Anson Green and others were "taken on" under Presiding Elders. Green was enlisted to assist David Breckenridge on the Smith's Creek Circuit. With the best horse he could secure, saddle and saddle-bags all ready, he was off on his itinerant rounds, covering twelve townships with over thirty preaching places, classes, prayer meetings and daily visitation of families. Green tells us: "My first sermon was at Colborne, Sunday the 12th, Four Corners, (Wicklów) now Haldimand, and Sunday the 19th, Hawkin's School House (Hope Twp.) and Cobourg, etc. etc." In a memoir Green states "Had the pleasure of opening our new church in Cobourg assisted by Father Wilson." November 28, 1825.

Percy L. Climo is grateful to staff members at the United Church Archives in searching out some of the material for the above story. If desired references for the above can be provided.

TRINITY - A HISTORICAL SKETCH

In the beginning - many of Cobourg's earliest settlers were United Empire Loyalists whose religious faith was Methodist. As early as 1805, Methodist circuit riders were assigned to this area of the Lake Ontario shore. These preachers held worship services wherever they could, and there is a record of preaching in a schoolhouse in Cobourg.

On November 28, 1824, a small frame chapel on the corner of Division and Chapel Streets was dedicated by the Rev. Anson Green, a young preacher working on his first circuit. The chapel was enlarged once or twice over the next 25 years due to the growth in population of the town and to the attendance at Sunday services by the professors and students from Victoria College which opened in 1836.

By 1850 the frame chapel had become totally inadequate. Plans were made to replace it and to canvass for funds both in the town and in all the Methodist circuits in Upper Canada. The brick church was opened and dedicated on August 3, 1853. The west facade of this church with the tower and spire, topped by "a hand with a finger pointing up to Him 'who dwelleth on high'", remains and is now restored to its original design. (quote from The Cobourg Star of April 28, 1852.) The seating capacity was about 390 people.

Despite heroic efforts to raise funds, a large debt remained on the new church. It was necessary to enlarge the building in 1860, add side galleries and redecorate in 1868, all of which strained the finances of the church community. A new parsonage was built in 1872 which is still in use. The Sabbath School had grown to the point of serious overcrowding in the basement space under the sanctuary. A new Sabbath School Hall across the street (now the Cobourg Public Library) was built and opened in January, 1883. Various ingenious ways of financing these structures are described in A Journey of Faith, Trinity's official history.

In 1884 the four groups of Methodism united. The four Methodist congregations in Cobourg amalgamated into two congregations that continued to hold separate services. In 1897 the King St. Methodist Church joined the Division St. congregation and plans were laid to enlarge this latter church. Reconstruction began in 1900, and the reopening and dedication was celebrated on May 5, 1901. This was the last major construction of the church building and it remains basically the same today.

On June 10, 1925, the United Church of Canada was born, the result of a union with the Methodist, Congregational and part of the Presbyterian churches of Canada. Congregations in Cobourg amalgamated in the Division Street church and the name Trinity United was chosen.

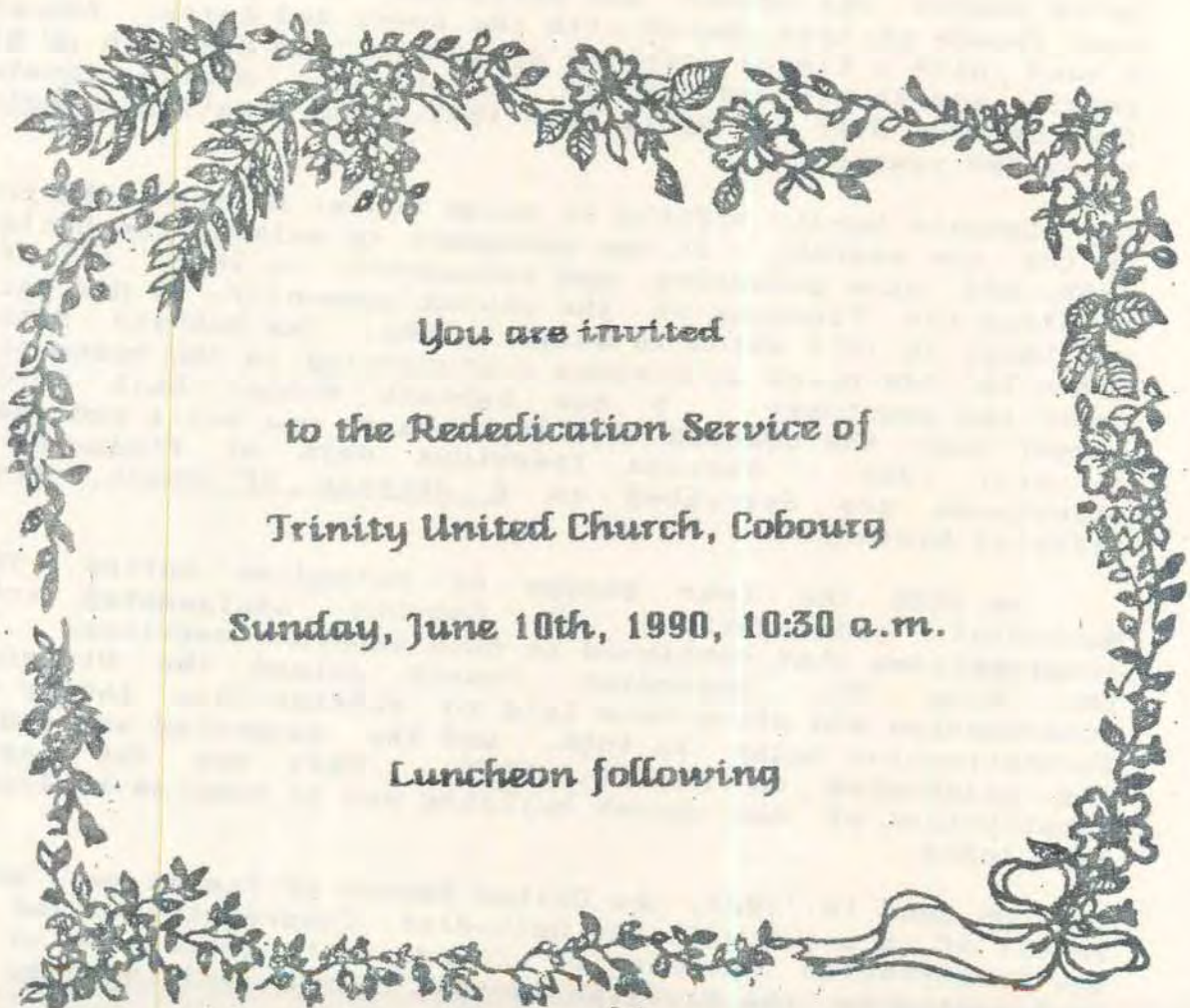
During the 1950's Sunday School enrollment increased to more than 300 children and youth. Plans were made to construct an addition to the south of the sanctuary, containing a hall, parlour, kitchen, classrooms and offices. The Christian Education Centre was opened and dedicated on June 26, 1960.

Two years ago, it was noted that the exterior of the sanctuary needed major repair. The decision was made to seek funding grants for a restoration project which is now very close to completion.

It is fitting that the rededication will take place on June 10, the 65th anniversary of the birth of the United Church of Canada, in the 165th year of this congregation worshipping in this place.

Submitted by Joy Seymour, Archivist

Editor's note: Copies of A Journey of Faith (a complete history of Trinity United including lots of pictures) are still available for \$15.00.



You are invited

to the Rededication Service of

Trinity United Church, Cobourg

Sunday, June 10th, 1990, 10:30 a.m.

Luncheon following

A SHORT STORY FROM TRINITY CHURCH HISTORY

In the warm days of Spring back in 1939 about fifteen seven-year-old boys met at usual time on Sunday for Sunday School.

Our teacher at that time was Gladys Trolley and we met in the Hall on Chapel St. which is now our Library. We were nearing time to close for the summer holidays and our little minds were starting to wander to the great outdoors. Mrs. Trolley noticed this and her last question was "What would you like to do to close for our summer?" Three hands shot up and the decision was to pack lunches and go on a field hike the next Saturday.

So we met at the Hall at 10:00 a.m. and after inviting another class led by Mrs. Percy Macklin we had about 15 to 18 young hikers to start us off.

We walked East to College St. then South to King St. then last down to Brook Road and south down to the Lake Ontario shore. Since Brook Rd. creek had formed a natural pond here, it appeared the best setting for a place to have our lunch. The sandwiches and drinks had soon disappeared where they do the most good and some of the boys had paddled into the pond to play with some frisky trout. One little lad, David, had already slipped off his shorts and was in up to his waist.

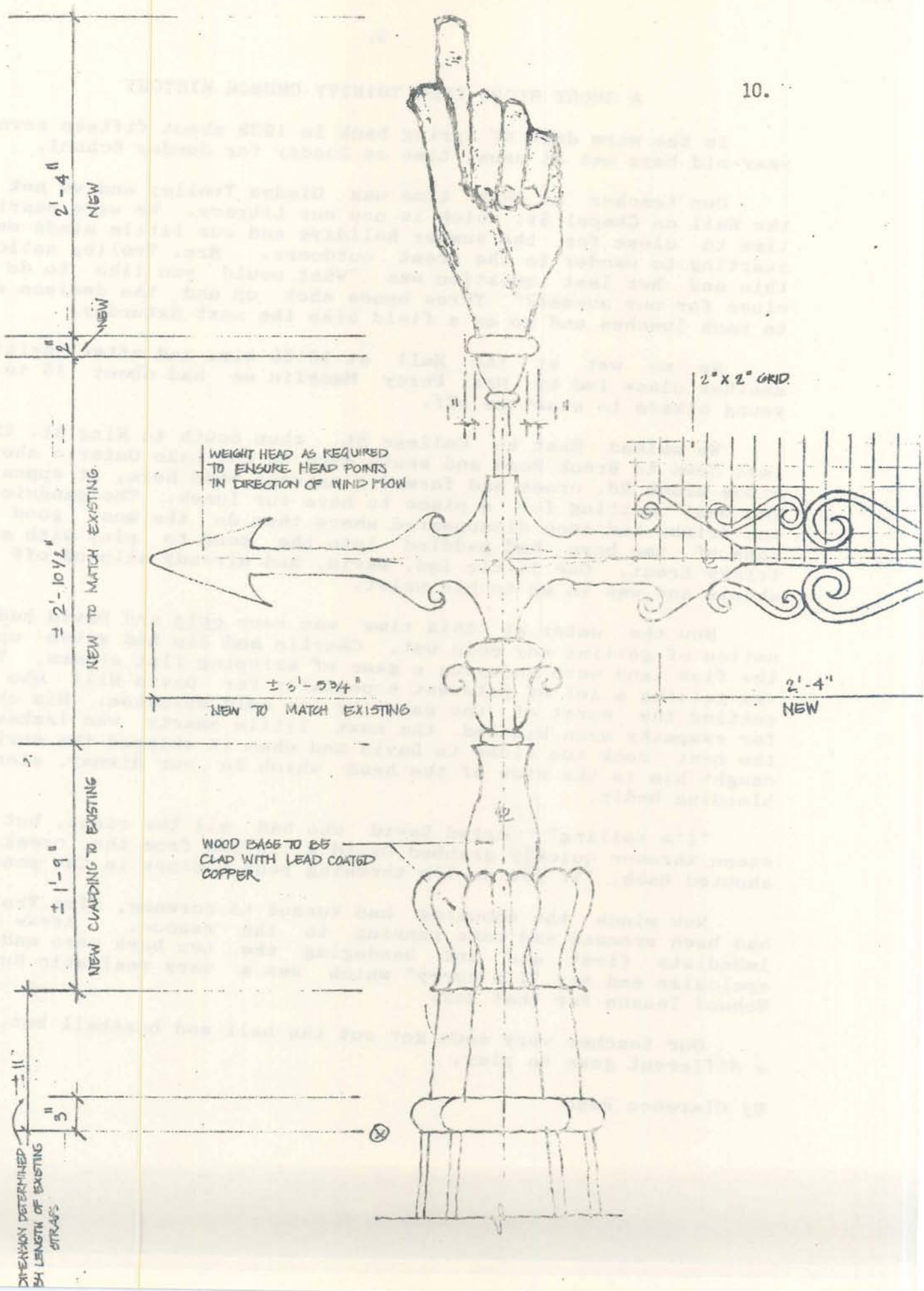
Now the water at this time was very cold and David had no notion of getting any more wet. Charlie and Jim had given up on the fish and were enjoying a game of skipping flat stones. This was gaining a lot of interest especially for David Hill who was getting the worst of the game by ice cold splashes. His cries for sympathy soon kindled the next little smarty who lambasted the next rock too close to David and when it skipped the surface caught him in the side of the head which to our dismay, started bleeding badly.

"I'm telling", cried David who had all the right, but the stone thrower quickly grabbed David's clothes from the creek and shouted back, "if you do I'm throwing your clothes in the pond."

Now since the shouting had turned to screams, Miss Trolley had been aroused and came running to the rescue. After some immediate first aid and bandaging the two boys were made to apologize and say "I'm sorry" which was a very realistic Sunday School lesson for that day.

Our teacher very soon got out the ball and baseball bat, for a different game to play.

By Clarence Page



THE HAND POINTING TO HEAVEN
 (Historically known as "The Hand of Man")

Since the restoration of our steeple the finial which adorns the top has stirred up much interest. It appears that The Hand pointing to Heaven adorns four churches in North America, all built in the 1850's:

- First Presbyterian Church, Fort Gibson, Mississippi
- Wilmont United Church, Fredericton, New Brunswick
- Freeport Church, Pioneer Village, Doon, Ontario
- Trinity United Church, Cobourg

The hand pointing heavenward is a reminder of many things. However, it is mainly a reminder that there is more to life than what we experience here!

(We have restored "The Hand Pointing to Heaven". But why was it lost in the first place? I have heard that one very hot summer day the heat weakened the base of the hand leaving it pointing not up but down at the Dunham Hotel. Perhaps after this weakening, the hand fell off. Or perhaps some brave soul risked his life and climbed up to bring the hand down. If you know what actually happened please phone the church office or write.- editor's note)



A number of years ago, when evening Services were held at Trinity, a unique method was used to conserve heat and to get the congregation to move out from under the balcony rail. The result was three fold:

- 1) the Sanctuary size was reduced
- 2) heat was conserved
- 3) those who insisted on sitting under the balcony were left in the dark and out in the cold.

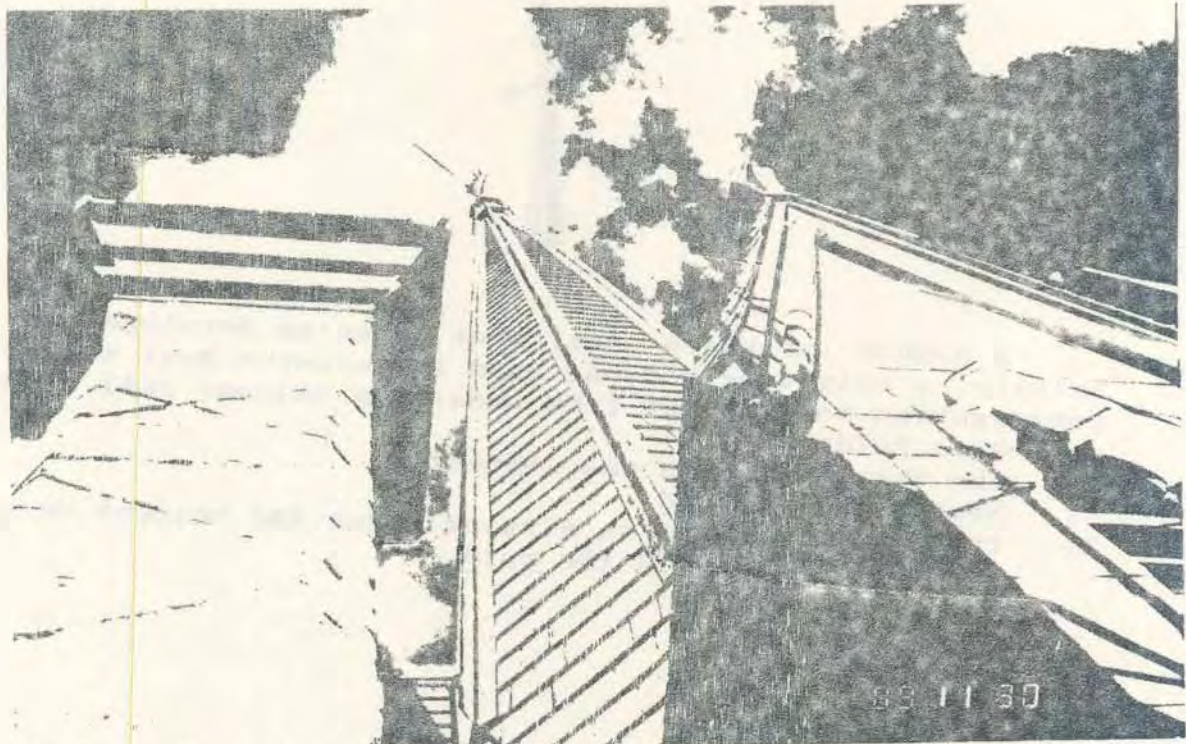
TRINITY PLACE UPDATE

Construction continues at a steady pace on the Trinity Place project. The roof is now on, electrical and plumbing is roughed in, and insulation and drywall are being installed. It would appear that occupancy will take place August 1, 1990.

Prior to rent up, it is intended that an open house be held, so that Trinity members may view the completed project. This will likely take place sometime in July. An announcement will be inserted in the Sunday bulletin.

The Board of Directors approved the hiring of Mrs. Lynn Faris as Trinity Place manager. Mrs. Faris began her duties on May 1, working out of a temporary office upstairs in the C.E. Centre. A permanent office is to be located in Trinity Place. Mrs. Faris is presently organizing the office and working with the Northumberland Housing Authority in preparing a tenant list.

Trinity Place will also require the services of a part time superintendent to look after the maintenance of the property. This will be on a 20 hour per week basis. Any person interested in this position should apply to Trinity Housing of Cobourg Corporation, 15 Chapel St., Cobourg, K9A 1J1.



Looking skyward at steeple and minarets.

TRINITY TIDBITS

- BARLOW CHRIS was honoured with the most sportsmanlike player award for Harnden and King Peewees at the CCHL year end banquet. STEVE has enjoyed a successful year playing rugby.
- BOGART ROD was a co-winner of the most sportsmanlike player award for the Scotiabank Midgets this past season. This was the third year in a row Rod was on a team that was awarded the Ontario championship.
- CHAPMAN CHRIS and TRELANI brought six month old CORI for baptism on May 20th. Chris and Trelani moved back to Cobourg from Scarborough in March. Chris is employed by Weetabix and enjoys playing hockey. Trelani is pleased with being a stay at home mom.
- COMMERFORD JIM and CHERYL, twelve year old MICHEALA and six year old KIERSTEN moved to Cobourg two and a half years ago from Ottawa. Jim is the Y's chief executive officer.
- COTTER KEVIN and ANITA were thrilled by the birth of AMY ELIZABETH on March 4th. The Cotters hope that Anita's uncle Rev. G.B. Mather, retired minister from Saskatoon, will be able to take part in the baptismal service scheduled on June 10th. Some years back on a June Sunday he baptized Anita who was also born in March.
- DAWSON JANE competed in the Invitational Gymnastics meet in Barrie. She was pleased to receive a third overall, third on the beam, third on the bars and fourth on the floor and the vault in the 10-11 year old novice category.
- HARNDEN CLARKE was made a life member by the Cobourg Community Hockey League as a token of esteem for his long service with the organization. Having been retired for a year some of his time is filled by being involved in the Hockey League, building model planes and enjoying his grandchildren along with ELEANOR who has an interest in sports as well. On May 23, Clarke received the Service to Youth Award from the Cobourg Y at a ceremony at Victoria Hall.

- HEARD BRIAN is on a speaking tour of Bulgaria where he represents his college. He will be speaking to the government as they have expressed an interest in setting up a United World College. STEPHEN will be travelling to Newfoundland by way of Texas to spend the summer studying field ecology. GORDON expects to be graduating in the fall.
- LEY GORD, PATTI AND CARLY welcomed the birth of PAUL DONALD on April 6.
- MILLARD ANDREA was named Most Valuable Player of the Hogan's Eyeglass hockey team. She is also the high scorer of the Girl's Hockey League. HEATHER is part of Cobourg Charterways who finished as OWHA intermediate C finalists. She was also named the Most Valuable Player of her team.
- PAGE CLIFF AND MYRNA are thrilled with the March 24th arrival of grandson ALEXANDER ROBERT born to BARB (PAGE) and GREG LINTON. Equally pleased are grandparents EARL and MARIE LINTON.
- RAMSAY BILL has been filling in as organist and will be till the middle of August. He was also a guest musician in the Lenten noontime recital series.
- TREDREE DAVID will return as head coach of Cobourg Sine's Carpet Cougars for the 90 -91 Junior C hockey season. He has been coaching in various places in Ontario due to his involvement with the "under 17 camp" which is part of the Olympic talent identification.
- UPTON MATT was named co-winner of the most sportsmanlike player award for the Ontario championship Scotiabank Midgets this past season. BRANDON was honoured with "goalie of the year" for his division.
- WELCH TED and MARGARET celebrated the baptism of nine month old REBECCA on Palm Sunday. Ted is employed by Columbus McKinnon and Margaret is enjoying her new position of clerk in accounts payable at Zircatec in Port Hope.
- WENSLEY LORI has been elected as the new president of the Auxiliary to the Cobourg District General Hospital. JOAN ANDERSON is now past president and the director of volunteers. GLADYS SWAYNE is in charge of the teenage volunteers at the hospital. VERA WELLMAN finished her term as past president in APRIL.

- WILCOX DON, CAROL, CAITLIN and MEAGHAN welcomed the birth of JONATHAN ALEXANDER on March 26, 1990.
- WOLFRAIM NORA is settled back in her room after being evacuated at the Legion Village due to a fire that broke out. One of her big interests is playing bridge. An optimist at heart she says her motto is "make the most of what's left".
- WYATT BILL and DONNA and six year old ANDREW brought one year old MICHAEL for baptism on May 20th. Donna is a lawyer and is employed by Oshawa Auto Worker's Legal Service Plan. Bill is a C. A. in Port Hope. In December they moved from Port Hope to Cobourg.

Four students, who also happen to be members of Trinity, were involved in the Canadian Mathematics Competition. KRISTEN GERBER was one of the top three scorers from the Grade 9 team and placed in the top 20% of all scorers. DAVID SAUNDERS placed in the top 15% of all scorers. BRIAN ANDERSON placed in the top 15% of all scorers and made the Cayley honor roll. MATT UPTON, whose name appeared earlier in Tidbits was also involved, with good results.

CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK LUNCHEON

to mark the
 REDEDICATION OF TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
 June 10, 1990, following the service
 in the C.B. Centre

ALL WELCOME!!!

If your last name begins with the letters A - M, please bring sandwiches. Letters N - Z please bring cookies or squares.



INSIDE INSIGHT

Editor	Anne Burnham
Typing, Layout & Duplication	Nancy Lester
Front Cover	Ron Thurston
Back Cover	Mark Burnham (age 7)
Photography	Don Chamberlain
Collation	Sophie Bazay
Insight Delivery	Garry & Ethel Kumpula

Thanks to all who contributed articles, helped to collate or delivered Insight.



XAVER VARNUS
"Genius on the Organ"

will present an

ORGAN CONCERT

to mark the

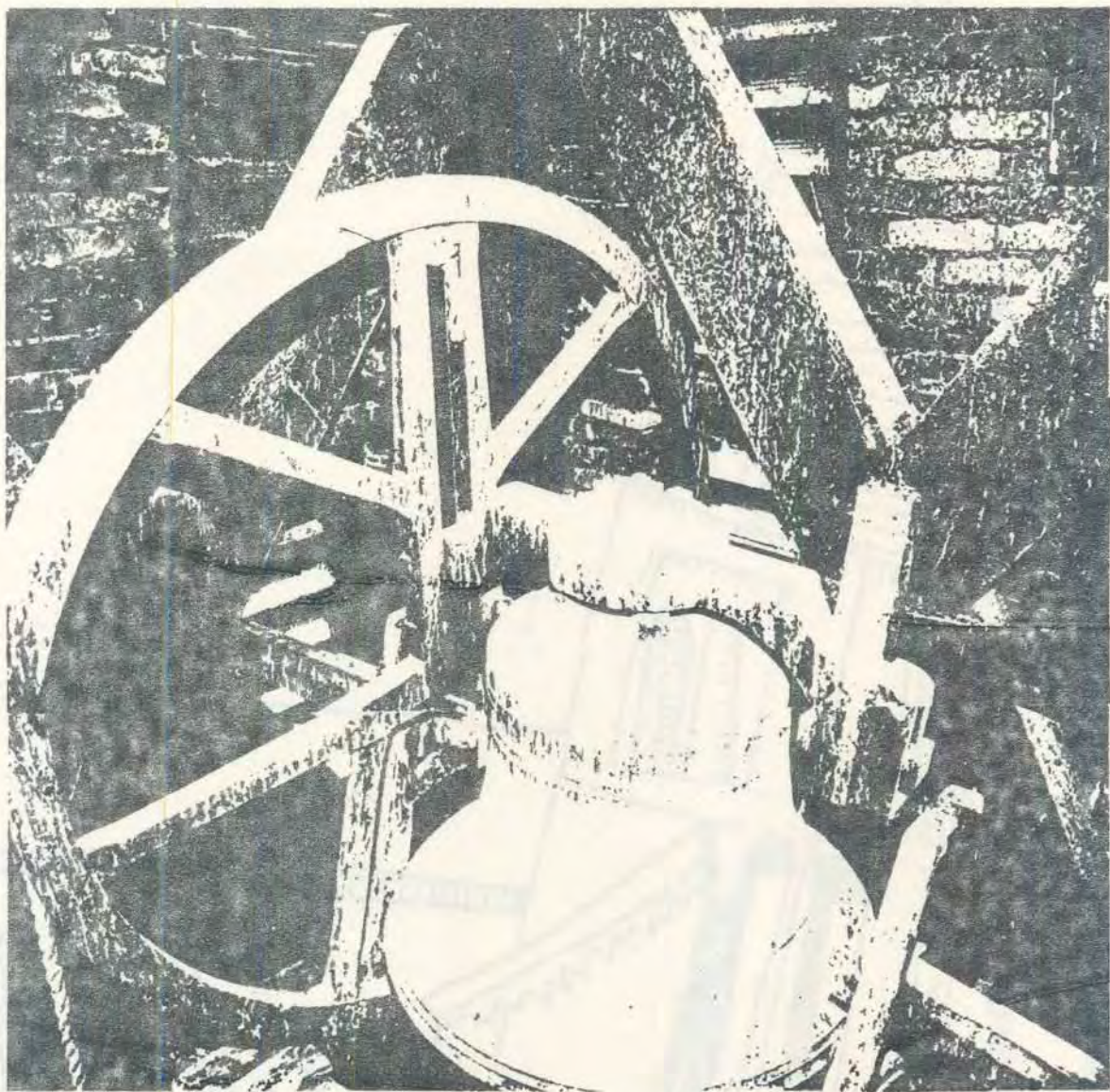
REDEDICATION OF TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, June 10, 1990
8 p.m.

in the Sanctuary

Tickets - Adults \$7

Seniors and Students \$5



The bell tower room for those of us who've never seen it.

A-United Church 08-04

