

**Holy Trinity United Methodist Church  
16 Sylvan Street  
Danvers, MA 01923**

**OUR VISION**

*Everyone in ministry ~ united in God's love*

**OUR MISSION**

*We are an inclusive and reconciling Christian congregation, growing in our discipleship with Jesus Christ. We aspire to love God, our neighbors, and ourselves. We welcome all people to participate in the life and ministries of this church. We care for and support one another. We reach out to our brothers and sisters near and far.*

**OUR RECONCILING STATEMENT**

*All persons are recipients of God's love and grace. In light of this fact, we, the church family at Holy Trinity United Methodist Church, covenant to further acknowledge and implement our Creator's desire to bring all persons into fellowship with God, and with one another as children of God.*

*Toward this end, we welcome and affirm the fellowship, membership and service of gay and lesbian Christians into our church family.*

*With Christ as our head, we yearn for a world free from fear, hatred and persecution of all, and desire to be a Raven for all persons seeking reconciliation with God and a community of faith.*

## “The Church”

On a tree studded lot on Sylvan Street  
Stands a Methodist Church very modern and neat.  
It's Sunday – the people hurry up the walk  
The bell tells them there's no time for talk.  
Thelma's at the organ, the candles are lit  
People are looking for places to sit.  
Ellie's choirs, both young and old  
Come down the aisle to the choir hold.  
Rev. Moore calls us all to pray  
And thus begins our Sabbath Day.  
Even Sunday School Rooms are quiet now  
As over their books young heads do bow.  
“How Great Thou Art” and many remember  
Dear Hattie and her gifts which arrive each December.  
The benediction intoned, the candles are out  
And the congregation moves about.  
What finer way for a service to end  
Than to walk around and greet each friend?

But what of the church the rest of the week?  
Does it just stand there hoping its roof won't leak?  
There are youth groups on Sunday, three in all.  
If we can get leaders the kids have a ball.  
Our Women's Society is busy with meetings  
And suppers, and sewing, and State Hospital greetings.  
There are Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts, now Camp Fire, too.  
Al-Anon, V.N.A., just to mention a few.  
Our doors are thrown open, our floors are well trod  
There are many ways that we worship our God.  
A church is not wood, stained glass, or a pew  
A church is its people like me and like you.  
Are we that church that our founders held dear  
When they met that autumn back One Hundred Years?  
Could those few have known back in '71  
Just how far their cherished dream would run?

Written by Cynthia Hawkes Meehan  
for the HTUMC Centennial Celebration in 1971

## The Church Building

Mabel King wrote a history of the Episcopal Methodist Church of Danvers in 1938. Ethel Steeves added another in 1971 for the Centennial celebration. These are available in the church office to interested persons.

As a result of the Depression, members of the First Methodist Church of Danvers saw their church building deteriorating. They entered into discussions with the First Congregational Church about forming a federation. These discussions continued off and on during the 1940's and into the 1950's. In the summer of 1953 they were faced with three choices: to spend a vast sum of money to repair the present building, to build a new church, or to unite with First Church. In 1954, the people of the parish voted to build a new church on Sylvan Street.

At this time the land on Sylvan Street was owned by the Town of Danvers. Records show that the Town had some consideration of building a new town hall there. After much discussion, by the Town as well as the Church, an agreement was reached for the Church to purchase the land for \$12,000. On January 24, 1956, papers were signed transferring the 58,000 square foot lot to the church and the deed was recorded on February 7, 1956.

A condition of the sale was that if the Church did not enter into a contract to construct a church, or if construction was not started within four years after the sale, then the Town should have the right to purchase the land back for the same amount of money. Speed was of the essence!

On July 14, 1956, the name was changed to Holy Trinity Methodist Church.

John Carter of Nashua, New Hampshire, an architect, was commissioned to design the church. The church has blueprints dated June 8, 1956.

And so on January 20, 1957, an organizational meeting for a Building Committee was held. The Committee consisted of a total of 25 members, ten of whom would be the Executive Board. These were:

Donald B. McIlvin  
Francis K. Burr  
Leland S. Marshall  
Mabel King  
C. Everett Elliott

Dorothy Johnson  
William G. Hook  
Richard Ferren  
Emerson A. Wall  
Everett Needham

Donald McIlvin was elected general chairman of the Building Committee and the Executive Board. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees until the completion of the project.

The sub committees were formed with members of the Executive Board serving as chair. These were:

## Sub Committee

Interior decorating & Landscaping  
Financial  
Parish House (Fellowship)  
Kitchen equipment  
Contractors  
Gifts and Memorials  
Music

## Chairman

William Hook  
Emerson Wall  
Audrey Ferren  
Dorothy Johnson  
C. Everett Elliot  
Mabel King  
Leland Marshall

During that year and the next, many, many, many meetings were held to deal with specifications and changes. A few highlights of 1957 include:

- March 27<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Increased kitchen area by 8 feet
  - b. Redesigned pastor's study and secretary's space
  - c. Approved sanctuary
- April 10<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Voted to have a corner stone with a vault
  - b. Approved pattern of stained glass as submitted by Mr. Sowers
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - a. Voted to provide alternate plans in event approved plans cannot be financed
- September 29<sup>th</sup>
  - a. The corner stone was laid with the Masonic Lodge participating

A few highlights of 1958 include:

- January 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - a. Committee of three reported favorably after trip to New York to view stained glass windows built by Rombush
- January 6<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Approved purchase of forty senior choir robes and forty junior choir robes
- March 5<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Approved installation of the cross on top of the church for \$200 to \$250
  - b. Accepted a gift from the contractors and sub-contractors of a full page advertisement in Danvers Herald to announce the opening of the new church
- April 10<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Approved outside plantings provided by Mr. Thurlow of Cherry Hill Nursery for \$691.64

In 1959:

- June 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - a. Approved sketch of mural by Richard Ellery for \$3,500
  - b. E.H. Porter Co. to prepare wall for mural

The Church is indebted to the tireless work of the many people who made this building a reality.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1958, the final church service was held in the old church. On Palm Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1958, the members processed from the old church carrying church possessions to our new church home. Frank Savory, son of Dorothy Savory, carried the cross as part of his Boy Scouts' God & Country Award. Bishop Lord consecrated the new Church in the two services needed to accommodate the overflowing crowds of 1200 people. A catered dinner followed in the Masonic Temple.

The new Church is an ultra modern contemporary design. The building holds 350 persons plus the choir. The sanctuary is brick with stained glass and laminated wood arches. The altar is of black walnut and the baptismal font is of black walnut and sterling silver. The pews were made from elm and the altar rail, pulpit and lectern are of birch. The altar cross, candleholders and vases are of brass. The exquisite altar hangings were done by a noted German weaver, Lilly Hoffman of Concord, Massachusetts.

Two worship services were held every Sunday. With increased attendance, the need for more Sunday School space became apparent. In 1960 the Trinity House, the large house across Chester Street from the Church, was purchased. It was utilized as additional classroom space and housing for the assistant pastor. A portion of this building also housed the Thrift Shop, managed for many years by Marion Burr and a volunteer staff.

The Trinity House was sold May 13, 1983 and a Building Study Committee was formed to study the feasibility of an addition. The original plans for the Church had included the possibility of a future addition. In 1984 Robert Farley of Danvers was hired to design the addition. The addition was to be approximately fifty feet by seventy-two feet. It would consist of five classrooms, a large choir room, handicap bathrooms, and a janitor's closet as well as storage space.

Although almost \$100,000 from the sale of the Trinity House was set aside to help finance the addition, it was necessary to secure a loan of \$220,000. This loan also covered expenses for needed work in the kitchen, to paint the wooden portion of the building, to complete the parking lot and to replace the underground oil tank. The new education wing was consecrated on Sunday April 5, 1987. Fans were installed in the anterooms of the sanctuary in 1990 to help ventilate it during the hot months.

Over the years there have been recurring problems with leaking roofs and the heating system as well as normal maintenance. These problems presented many financial difficulties as many needed to be contracted out. Often though, church members would rise to the occasion to volunteer their services. Such was the case in 1986 when men of the church re-roofed the Fellowship Hall, saving between \$9,000 to \$10,000.

## Fine Arts

### The Window With The Cross

A revelation from God to one of His children as he views this marvelous window.

1. The cross dominates the design of the window just as Christ should dominate our lives. All else is subordinated to the central theme. The message is the cross. God's message to us is that on the cross Jesus died for our sins, and thus, we can give our lives over to Him just as we are.
2. There are no severe angles to the cross in this window. This symbolizes the gentle love of Christ. Even though the cross Christ died on was harsh and brutal, His love for us is so great, then and now; that we only think of everything related to His life as gentle, kind, and loving.
3. The flowing curves of white around the cross symbolize the flow of living waters. When we completely open our lives to Christ, there is a constant inflowing of His power and love that is never ending.
4. The window is pointed upward toward the heavens. In our daily lives, we are always looking upward to Him. Upward, to space beyond, is always the unknown. It's appropriate that a window such as this points upward to the mystery of the universe, for here, we depend upon our faith in Christ for all we do not comprehend or understand.
5. The green verticals symbolize the green pastures and the blue verticals the still waters, as in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. The rather harsh brown verticals show our earthliness, but note how the brilliant cross overpowers our earthliness.
6. The small diamond shapes represent people walking the narrow path upward through the cross.
  - a. The red ones represent those that are suffering for Christ. They are the martyrs, the ones who live for Christ in spite of persecution.
  - b. The white ones are the saints. Note there are only a few of them.
  - c. The black ones are the people that have committed a great sin in their lives. They, however, are forgiven for they too are walking through the cross of Christ.
  - d. The green ones are those that are growing in Christ. They too are going upward through the cross.
  - e. The blue ones are those who have been touched by the Holy Spirit.
7. All the diamond shapes that represent people seem to move upward through the cross. Note how the colors change as they go through the cross. This is the Holy Spirit changing lives as people come to the cross of Christ. Also, the cross design overlaps the people which shows us that the cross must overlay our lives making us more in the image of Christ.

8. The sun and moon symbolize that God controls the universe.
9. The red verticals symbolize the blood of Christ . . . bringing to mind the great sacrifice of His death so that we may come to the Father without sin . . . just as we are.
10. The small band of yellow is the light of Christ. He indeed lights the way for us and overcomes the powers of darkness.

Charles Goodhue

## A Word About The Mural

A beautiful mural painted in 1959 by Richard V. Ellery enhances the narthex. A small brass plaque describing the mural says in part, “The basic underlying theme of this mural conveys . . . the wonderful light of Christ radiating outward, bathing you and me in all of our various attitudes from birth to death.”

“The mural, twenty-one feet long, in the narthex of the Holy Trinity Methodist Church is painted with a hard, plaster-like medium in rough relief of white on tones of brown and yellow, harmonizing with the unfinished roughened brick and wood of the church itself.

The symbolism is expressed by the use of human figures as though they were you and me with the exception of the rough wood of the crosses and the vine of thorns in contrast to the grape vine and broken loaf of bread as symbols of the Holy Communion.

This is a Risen Christ-centered mural where the whole range of human experience is like a pilgrimage looking to Him for meaning and hope. His life, His victory is a light on their countenances, and as His light radiates out in concentric circles it strikes us all with equal intensity.

Out on the farthest perimeter we see a group of figures enmeshed and entwined in such a distorted manner that we recognize immediately sin and evil. As we move along, however, we find a natural and chronological sequence from birth through childhood, marriage, work, and death.

The key area or center of interest is where the artist depicts the Resurrected and Living Christ as two separate figures in juxtaposition. One you recognize as the biblical, the other as the contemporary . . . or **living** Christ in us.

These figures are bathed in light against the Crucified Christ where we find Him suffering on the cross in dark contrast, expressing again the ambivalence, good and evil, light and dark, the beginning and the end.

Underneath and supporting it all is the large Right Hand of God – creating in full meaning the Holy Trinity . . . Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

Richard V. Ellery

## The Church Bells

The first and the largest of the three bells, weighing 1,870 pounds, was cast by the Petit and Fritsen Foundry in Aarle-Rixtel, Holland in 1958. It was hung in the bell tower of Campanile design at the rear of the church in the Spring of 1958. Everett Needham and Richard Staples coordinated this project. On May 15, 1958, the bell and tower were dedicated at a service led by the Rev. Donald Paige, pastor at the time, the Rev. Raymond Matheson, a former pastor, and Francis K. Burr, Lay Leader.

Due to the generosity of the Elliott family, two more bells and electronic ringing equipment were acquired in 1971. These bells, which weighed 836 pounds and 484 pounds, were also cast in Holland and installed by the I.T. Verdin Co. The Rev. Alan Moore was pastor when the new bells were dedicated.

For many years the bells called the community to worship on Sunday mornings. They rang at weddings and funerals and special church services. They tolled at the time of President John F. Kennedy's death.

By the 1990's, only one bell was in working condition. When it failed, ropes were attached to ring them manually. All was well until the ropes and bells were discovered by some neighborhood children who began ringing them late at night. The ropes were cut and the bells were silent for many years as the trustees studied ways of restoration.

On October 19, 2005, friends and family of Matthew Graham committed to getting the bells at Holy Trinity to ring again in his memory. Many generous gifts and fundraisers brought in much money. Following William Eaton's death, his relatives who knew of the hope of restoring the bells offered to fund the completion of the project. Landscaping of the bell tower area was done with money donated by the family of Robert Wood, Jr. Other monies from memorial funds intended for this purpose were used. Bert Russell did a beautiful job of the landscaping.

On May 13, 2007, the restored bells, bell tower and area were re-dedicated. The Rev. Susan Morrison officiated and the Rev. Donald Paige, at age 90 (whose dream it was), took part in this service. A plaque at the base of the tower dedicated the ringing of the bells to the memory of Matthew Graham. In part it reads: "When you hear these bells ring, remember Matt and live your life to the fullest. Honor your family and friends as if it were your last day on earth." The bells again call the congregation to Sunday service, weddings and funerals.

## Music

Holy Trinity has been blessed with a wonderful history of music. The members of the Board of Trustees moved the organ from the old church to the new in 1958. An Allen Digital Organ replaced it in March of 1992 for approximately \$55,000. On September 24 of the same year a dedication concert was given by David Clyde Morse, who represented the Allen Organ Company of Macungie, Pennsylvania, to show the organ's versatility. The console is designed to look like a standard pipe organ. The organ has two "Alterable Voice" stops which can be programmed using one of over 300 computer cards each of which creates yet another sound.

Over the years choir membership has changed, but has always added to our worship service on Sunday mornings. For example, in 1971 members in all choirs totaled 101; in 1984, seventy-seven members which included the Cherub, Junior, Youth, and Senior Choirs. The Cherub Choir sang monthly, the Junior Choir sang at the 9:30 service, and the Youth Choir sang occasionally or with the Senior Choir. Endeavoring to keep the youth involved, in 1999 the Youth Choir's name was changed to the Youth Ensemble, which included instruments. Also, a Praise Band was formed to include contemporary music in worship. Over the years the children choirs presented many musicals and participated in the Junior Choir Festival. The Senior Choir, which sang weekly, also provided special music at holidays with the singing of cantatas and an all choir Christmas concert. We have been blessed with many specialty groups including soloists, duets, and trios, both instrumental and vocal.

In 1999, several church members asked for the possibility of starting a hand bell choir. Financing was arranged through the Memorial Fund and private donations. As soon as the bells arrived 11 church members and two teens began rehearsal. Since then a Junior Bell Choir and a Youth Bell Ensemble has been established. Directors of the Junior Bell Choir have been Richard Larraga, Lynne McKay, Karen Hatch, Ashley Whitlock and Courtland Parker.

Several musical plays have been performed over these years:

- 2000 - "Joseph's Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"
- 2001 - "The Sound of Music"
- 2003 - "Oliver" which christened the Miriam Elliot Memorial Theater (a staging which fits the chancel and allows for better viewing)
- 2005 - "The Wizard of Oz"

One of the most memorable events of 2002 was the 9/11 Ecumenical Memorial Service held at St. Mary's Church. Choirs from five area churches participated including our own Senior Choir, Senior Bell Choir, and the Youth Bell Ensemble.

Elsbeth (Ellie) McIlvin served as Choir Director for fifty years. Assisting with the children's choirs were Barbara Kulp, Dorothy Swett, and Anne Bennett. Organists over the years have been Thelma Smith, Glenda Blunt, Nancy Rexford, and Ann Chalk.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century brought many changes to Holy Trinity. With the retirement of Rev. Richard Higgins in 2005, Rev. Susan Morrison came on board in July of that year. When Ellie retired, Richard Larraga was hired as Music Director. The Music and Staff Parish Committees worked together and in November of 2005 Charles Turner was hired to be Composer in Residence as well as Director of Music. Nancy Rexford remains as organist and Anne Bennett continues her role as Director of the Cherub and Junior Choirs.

## Christian Education

Sunday School was organized on November 5, 1871 and continues to this day. In 1960, Trinity House became the much needed additional space for Sunday School classrooms. Rooms upstairs and downstairs and the garage were used for classes and evening meetings. Enrollment of children and youth had reached over 300 so a complete Sunday School program was needed at 9:30 and another at 11:00. Sue White served as Director of Christian Education for over 30 years. The goal as a Sunday School program continues “to provide a safe, fun, nurturing place for children so that they may grow in the love of Jesus Christ.”

Families joined Holy Trinity as they appreciated the Sunday School, youth, and family ministries. The strong points of the program were the dedicated teachers, leaders and the curriculum. Bob Parks has taught for 37 years and is still teaching today. Some of the special programs that were planned for the different age levels in addition to Sunday morning classes were Children’s Day programs, Ecumenical Vacation Bible School, Family Advent Workshops, Christmas Eve programs, Fantastic Friday Fellowship for grades 4-6, and a weekday class for special education students who were members or friends of the church.

Lisa Higgins Smith was hired as Christian Education Director in 2000. It was in this year that the format of Vacation Bible School was changed to evening. This allowed some church members to attend who otherwise would not have been able to volunteer due to work schedules. A children’s church was started on the first Sunday of every month. In the next year, 2001, the classrooms were changed to names rather than ages. In 2002, a special needs program called the Helping Hands was developed. More than thirty people from church volunteered for this ministry. This program serves children and their families who have special needs. In the fall of 2005, 11<sup>th</sup> hour adult studies were started after church from 11:00-12:00.

The church has consistently had youth fellowship programs. Currently there are three groups: Tweens (grades 4-5); Middle School (grades 6-8); High School (grades 9-12). Activities include service, fundraising, and fellowship. Service involves assisting in worship, serving meals at the Crombie Street Shelter and Church, Christmas caroling, and sponsoring a child in Africa. Fundraising projects have been selling submarine sandwiches for Superbowl Sunday, Christmas wreathes, and participating in the church fair. A corned beef and cabbage dinner was prepared for celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. Fellowship often includes fun activities, such as bowling, roller-skating, movies, and dinners.

## **United Methodist Women**

The Women's Society of Christian Service became the United Methodist Women in the 1960's. The group consisted of eight circles. Members rotated between circles yearly by the process of drawing names. The individual circles met monthly in members' homes and together at the church for a monthly meeting. Three of the circles continue today: Samaritan Circle, Trinity Benevolent Circle, and the Friendship Ring Circle. The purpose of the membership was and is to support mission work worldwide.

Monies were earned from member pledges, an extensive catering service both in house and at outside locations, and an annual fall fair. Collations following funeral services have been an extended source of comfort to families. Mother/Daughter Banquets, Teddy Bear Teas, and Men's Club Suppers provided additional income.

In addition to supporting many mission projects, pledges were made to the church, scholarships to Rolling Ridge for summer camp, and to students continuing their education after high school in the field of Christian studies.

Bibles are presented each spring to members of the second grade Sunday School class. May Baskets are filled and delivered to shut-ins and nursing home residents each year.

## Missions and Outreach

The Outreach Committee continues the projects that have been ongoing at Holy Trinity for many years. In 1973, the Jack & Jill Preschool was organized as a service to the community and several members of the Church have served as directors and teachers of the program. The school's structure has changed over the years, but the goal remains the same: "To provide an environment which will enable children to grow and develop at their own rate." Directors over these years have been Sue White, Cynthia Meehan, Shirley Teague, Diane Murphy, Karen Martin, Susan Hess, and Mary Russo.

The Afternoon Adventure after school program was established in 1991 as another service to the community. This program utilized the facilities of the new wing in the afternoon along with an additional Jack & Jill program in the morning. The Jack & Jill Preschool and the Afternoon Adventure Program have provided many years of income for the annual Church budget. The Afternoon Adventure Program is no longer in operation.

In July of 1979, the Social Concerns and Missions Committees voted to support Reverend Hannum's suggestion to sponsor Indochinese refugees. The families were known as "boat people." Vietnamese refugees already in the United States joined in helping to obtain the necessary and proper facilities, equipment and clothing. Money was raised for the Vietnamese family and for the Cambodian Relief Fund. A kitchen shower was given by the young people. The Quan Tu Van family was the first to arrive. Tu Van's family, a mother and her four children, settled in an apartment on Poplar Street and attended English classes. Tu Van worked at Hotwatt. Chinh Nguyen's family arrived as the second Vietnamese family in 1980. Later, the Vietnamese Refugee Committee started English as a second language course. In 1981, Le Van Kien and his family arrived from Vietnam.

The church raised \$1,271 to aid the First Church of Danvers' new building fund in 1979. A group organized gifts and food for the DARE Family Services Christmas Party. Food donations continue for the People to People Food Pantry. The Crombie Street Church/Salem Mission lunch program continues on the first Saturday of the month.

On November 12, 1992, at a special Charge Conference, the Church voted to become a reconciling congregation and support The National United Methodist Reconciling Movement. Holy Trinity made the decision to reach out publicly "... to welcome and affirm the fellowship, membership and service of gay and lesbian Christians into our Church family." The decision capped a two year period of study, prayer and education among many people in the church and beyond. In the overall life of this church in the community, the decision is an important beginning; an active step toward inclusion of all who would be followers of Christ. Holy Trinity was the second church in the annual conference to vote on this reconciling status.

More ongoing mission projects include:

- The Christmas Card Tree with the money sent to UMCOR.
- The Membership Cultivation and Care Committee to encourage new members and to retain current membership. “Ask Me” badges are used.
- Evenings of Welcome for prospective new members.
- Rally Days for Sunday School each September.
- The Askew Angels who create and share baby quilts with a baby at his/her baptism and sick babies. Prayer shawls are delivered to folks who are homebound or ill.
- The Good Shepherds who make monthly telephone calls or visits to elderly members of the congregation.
- In 2007, a Visionary Task Force completed a Vision and Mission statement and a Strategic Plan with six goals.

Missions to Nicaragua have been ongoing for several years. A group of six visited in April of 2007. They carried suitcases containing toiletries, school supplies, and medicines. They met with the pastors of two independent Christian churches in the Las Flores community. Upon return, Holy Trinity voted to partner with these churches and support them with supplies such as desks, pencils and other items. Jay Morrison now leads this task force.

In the spring of 2006, after the devastating destruction of Hurricane Katrina, members of Holy Trinity formed the Danvers Ecumenical Katrina Relief Team and traveled to New Orleans carrying with them many needed items. A truck was used to bring lumber, medical and school supplies. They were met with unimaginable disaster. Wearing protective clothing, they pitched in to gut homes and begin the process of rebuilding. Members of the team stayed at the Rayne United Methodist Church. The team returned to New Orleans for a third time in March 2008. Doug Bean leads the team.

The Outreach Committee established a Danvers “Disaster Relief Fund” after the explosion of November 21, 2006 in Danversport. Generous support and response was received including a contribution from the Rayne United Methodist Church in New Orleans.

The Health Ministries Committee celebrated its first birthday in the fall of 2000, with Susan Webb as its Chairperson. Their first undertaking was to sponsor a health fair at the Church. Since then, they have been an active and vital part of our Church. They offer a variety of services such as:

- A blood pressure clinic twice a month.
- A Teddy Bear Clinic for our inanimate friends.
- A personal health record to be used with CVS’ “Vial for Life.”
- A “Salad Walk” to encourage healthy eating.
- Passed a resolution in 2004 on “Health Care Justice.”
- Appointed Nancy Rexford as Chair of the “bird flu” information task force.
- Address seasonal issues, such as flu-season and prevention of falls.

## **Fundraisers**

Holy Trinity has sponsored several “fundraisers” to supplement the church’s budget. A booth at the Topsfield Fair was in operation for many years. This endeavor called for the use of many of our church’s “pie makers” who would make and donate pies each day that the fair was open. Some of these pies were made at home and picked up and delivered to the fair by Rev. Paige. Volunteers were scheduled to run the booth. Hamburgers, frankfurters, sandwiches, corn, French fried potatoes, soda and coffee were sold.

Proceeds from Lobster Roll sales were also used as a fundraiser. Volunteers would assemble lobster rolls in the church’s kitchen to be sold to our own church members and to the general public.

A Thrift Shop was held in the Trinity House for six and a half years. Closing on June 30, 1982, it had contributed over \$17,000 to the church. The Thrift Shop was managed by Marion Burr with the help of others.

For many years, the annual church fair was run by the United Methodist Women. Recently it has become an all-church fair.

The annual Fall Auction began back in 2002. Half of the proceeds each year go to the parsonage fund with the remainder used for charitable purposes in the community and to help the Church’s deficit.

Other fundraisers have been the Trinity Café suppers, followed by entertainment; Mystery Auction, a fun evening in Fellowship Hall; Make-Your-Own Sundaes Booth at Endicott Park during the Danvers Family Festival; a Fuddruckers evening where 10% of their overall sales were contributed to the Church; the purchase and sale of tickets from the North Shore Music Theatre; and a Craft Fair where spaces were rented to local crafters and the sale of refreshments and lunch added to the profit.

Fundraisers serve many purposes. Besides raising funds, it unites members in a common goal, creates lasting friendships, and is service to others.

## **Activities**

A couples club was formed, a club that also welcomed singles. Eventually, the name was changed to The Adult Fellowship. Couples took responsibility for planning each month’s activities. A highlight was the annual gathering with the Jewish couples club.

Church social activities included bike trips to Martha’s Vineyard, kayaking, holiday parties, dances, progressive suppers, picnics, and annual trips to the Boston Pops.

## Timeline

1954		Voted to build new church
1955		Rev. Donald E. Paige began his ministry
1956	July 14	Voted to change the name to Holy Trinity Methodist Church Purchased the land on the corner of Sylvan and Chester Streets
1957	January 20	First organizational meeting for the building committee was held
	September 29	The corner stone was laid with participation by the Masonic Lodge
1958	March 23	Last worship service was held in the old church
	March 30	Palm Sunday – First worship service was held in the new church
1959		Mural painted by Richard Ellery
1960		Purchased the Trinity House
1963		The Trinity Times was first published
1965		Sue White became the Director of Christian Education
1968		The name was changed to Holy Trinity United Methodist Church
1971	February	Rev. Allan H. Moore began his ministry Trustees accepted gift of two additional bells
	October	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of church – bells dedicated The Timothy and Lillian G. Hawkes Fund was established
1973		Adopted the motto “Holy Trinity – A Fellowship of Concern” Jack & Jill Preschool was started
1975		Trinity House mortgage was retired and burned
	October 29	Trinity House Thrift Shop was opened
1975		Repairs were made to the church office after a car drove through the window and wall
1976		Rev. Robert W. Hannum began his ministry
1977		Pine St. Parsonage sold
1979		Quan Tu Van family arrived, the first Vietnamese family
1980		Chinh Nguyen family arrived, the second Vietnamese family
	September 3	Church mortgage was burned
1981		Susan J. Morrison began as student intern and later was appointed as Assistant Minister Le Van Kien family arrived, the third Vietnamese family
1982	June 30	The Thrift Shop closed after six and a half years
1983	May 13	The Trinity House was sold
	September	Afternoon Adventure Program was started Time capsule was buried
1987	April 5	New Education Wing was consecrated
1988		Nancy Rexford began as the new organist
1991		Stained glass window was broken by a thrown egg
1992	March	New Allen Digital Organ was installed
	November 12	Church became a Reconciling congregation
1993		Rev. Richard T. Higgins began his ministry

1994 The Name Tag board was first used  
The stained glass window was repaired and a protective shield was installed  
Anne Bennett started as Director of the Cherub and Junior Choirs  
The original paraments were framed and hung in the Narthex

1995 The church office entered the technology age

1996 The ceiling fans were installed in Fellowship Hall, funded by the Warren Davis Memorial Fund

1997 Sue White retired as Director of Christian Education  
Rev. Sharon Dunbar-Link began as Minister of Christian Education

1998 Air conditioning was installed in the church kitchen

1999 Ellie McIlvin retired as Music Director after 50 years  
Richard A. Larraga was hired as Director of Music  
Hand Bell Choir was formed

2000 Lisa Higgins Smith was hired as Christian Education Director

2001 Vacation Bible School was held in the evening for the first time

2002 9/11 Ecumenical Memorial Service was held at St. Mary's Church

November 16 First Annual Auction

2003 Rev. Jongson Park was assigned to Holy Trinity to fill in for pastoral duties during Rev. Higgins release time

2004 Carolyn (Cal) Johnson was recognized for the beautification of the plantings at the church

2005 Evenings of Welcome were first held for prospective members  
Rev. Higgins retired from the ministry after 12 years of service  
Rev. Susan J. Morrison begins her ministry  
Charles Turner was hired as Composer in Residence and Director of Music

2006 Visionary Process was launched

January 22 The Faith We Sing Hymnals were donated in memory of Robert King  
Rededication of the Bell Tower  
First Katrina trip  
Formed Disaster Relief Fund after explosion in Danversport

2007 Visionary Task Force completed a Vision and Mission statement and a Strategic Plan with six goals  
Second Katrina trip

2008 Delegation visited Nicaragua and partnered with church in Las Flores  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the church building are held  
Third Katrina trip

The committee has endeavored to do the best possible history. A debt of gratitude goes to the contributions of Ruthann Pierce, Nancy Rexford, Sue White, and Richard Tilton.

**History Committee:**

Dorothy Pickett, Chairperson

Gail Bean

Shirley Teague

Thelma Temple

Tracy Bell, Recording Secretary

## **Former Ministers:**

Rev. Elias Hodge	1872-1874
Rev. Rodney H. Howard	1875-1876
Rev. Garrett Beekman	1877-1879
Rev. William Hambleton	1880-1882
Rev. Watson M. Ayers	1883-1885
Rev. Charles Merrill	1886-1887
Rev. Joseph H. Thompson	1888-1890
Rev. L. William Adams	1891-1893
Rev. William F. Lawford	1894-1896
Rev. Harvey A. Paine	1897
Rev. Harvey B. King	1898-1900
Rev. George E. Sanderson	1901-1903
Rev. William M. Cassidy	1904-1908
Rev. Nathaniel B. Fish	1909-1910
Rev. Edward T. Curnick	1911-1916
Rev. Jonathan Cartmill	1917-1923
Rev. Charles Stackpole	1924-1926
Rev. Burton B. Smith	1927-1929
Rev. Russell B. Cole	1930-1933
Rev. Frank Peverly	1934-1936
Rev. Arthur Wright	1936-1938
Rev. Albert Bramble	1939-1941
Rev. Ronal Ober	1942-1943
Rev. Raymond Withey	1944-1946
Rev. Edwin Freeman	1947
Rev. Raymond Mattheson	1948-1949
Rev. Alfred Minyard	1950-1955
Rev. Donald E. Paige	1955-1970
Rev. Allan H. Moore	1971-1976
Rev. Robert W. Hannum	1976-1994
Rev. Richard T. Higgins	1994-2005
Rev. Susan J. Morrison	2005-Present

**Student Interns and Assistant Ministers who have served our church:**

Rev. Charles Hoyt  
Rev. L. Parker  
Rev. Robert Witham  
Rev. David A. Hoyt  
Rev. Marvin Barney  
Rev. Lou Mitchell  
Rev. Steve Pike  
Rev. Water Stone  
Rev. Richard Pagano  
Rev. Stanley Smith  
Rev. Daniel Thurston  
Rev. John Jefferis  
Rev. Martin Singley, III  
Rev. Byron Myers  
Stephen Aram

Rev. Susan Morrison  
Rev. Valerie Roberts  
Rev. Sandi Rehe  
Rev. Howie Rich  
Rev. Jean Russo-Parks  
Jay Coker  
Rev. John Harman  
Rev. Jane Fadden  
Rev. Sharon Dunbar-Link  
Rev. Robert Ebersole  
Carol Raymond

## A Look to the Future for Holy Trinity United Methodist Church

Rev. Susan J. Morrison, Pastor

It was Dag Hammarskjöld who coined the phrase

*For all that has been . . . **thanks!***

*For all that will be . . . **yes!***

and these words capture the spirit of Holy Trinity's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. It has been a time to reminisce, to recall events and people, missions and ministries that have made this congregation a vital Body of Christ over the past 50 years. It has been a time of **Thanks!**

As we look to the future for Holy Trinity, it is a time to say **Yes** to all that God intends for this devoted and committed band of disciples. The recently completed Vision, Mission and Goals will give Holy Trinity a road map for its immediate future.

The **Vision** itself: *Everyone in ministry ~ united in God's love* is an invitation to everyone who is member or friend of Holy Trinity to be involved in the ministry of the church. Truly everyone is called to take part in the ongoing life of this congregation. And it will be God's love that will inspire and encourage that aspiration.

Our **Mission** is summarized in a **Mission Statement** which reads

*We are an inclusive and reconciling Christian congregation,  
growing in our discipleship with Jesus Christ.*

*We aspire to love God, our neighbors, and ourselves.*

*We welcome all people to participate in the life and ministries of this church.*

*We care for and support one another.*

*We reach out to our brothers and sisters near and far.*

This Mission Statement supports many of the ongoing programs and missions that are currently active at Holy Trinity. It also emphasizes our desire for spiritual growth in all that we do.

The **Goals** of the Vision Report will provide a working agenda for the next few years. Grouped under our desire to love God, our neighbors and ourselves, these goals include:

**Love God . . .** Creating an alternative Worship Experience; enhancing our hospitality to newcomers and incorporating each person into the life of the congregation.

**Love Neighbor . . .** Reaching out to at-risk youth in our community and implementing programs for the elderly.

**Love Self . . .** Embracing our new Relational Covenant and designing and completing a Capital Campaign for capital improvements to the church facility, the funding of pastors housing and our mission commitment to the New England Annual Conference's "Together for Tomorrow" Campaign.

With members of the congregation, I celebrate Holy Trinity's Vision, Mission and Goals. Scripture reminds us that a church without a Vision will perish! I believe that with this Vision Holy Trinity will live out God's will and intentions for this congregation and will realize God's blessing again and again as our future unfolds.

With hope, faith and love,

Rev. Susan

**FAITH BUILT THIS HOUSE**  
**For the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Holy Trinity United Methodist Church**  
**Building**

Faith built this house,  
Where every brick and beam  
First took its shape in someone's dream.  
    The ceiling timbers pair by pair.  
    Meet like reverent hands in prayer.  
    God's spirit through the window bright  
    Blesses us with rosy light.  
    The cross before us shows the way  
    Leading us to eternal day.  
        Praise God for faith in ages past  
        That built a house designed to last.  
        Heart to heart and hand in hand,  
        Upon their sturdy faith we stand.

Love keeps this house:  
Where day by day we learn  
To practice kindness and concern.  
    In this community of love  
    We follow patterns from above,  
    And dare we make our burdens known,  
    We need not bear the load alone.  
    We give our hands to God to use  
    To change the world by ones and twos.  
        Praise God for sharing love today  
        The living love of Jesus' way.  
        Heart to heart and hand in hand  
        Joined in Christian love we stand.

Hope looks beyond  
This house and helps us see  
The world as our community.  
    For God's own love ignores these walls  
    And flies to help whoever calls,  
    Not just the folks who live next door  
    But anyone in need or poor.  
    The love we practice here inside  
    God bids us spread both far and wide.  
        Praise God for hope that bravely calls  
        For venturing beyond these walls,  
        Where hearts and hands may bring to birth  
        God's heavenly kingdom here on earth.

Lyrics by Nancy Rexford  
Music by Charles Turner