

Churches
3-2-81

Over a century old, historic Calvary church being restored

Termites have had 120 years to chew away at the foundation of Calvary Episcopal Church, an historic landmark on Center Street.

Parishioners have started an \$80,000 fund drive to not only take care of the termite problem, but to also repair or replace many other weaknesses in the structure.

The first step of this restoration project was the fumigation this week of the church, built in 1864 as a replica of a little church in England's Lancashire.

Other restorative work planned includes the following: replacing, repairing or installing foundations; improving gas piping safety measures; replacing interior walls where needed; replacing damaged exterior siding and rotted buttress wood; painting the entire building and re-roofing and painting the education building.

According to parishioner Edith McCauley, the cornerstone of the Gothic-style church was laid in 1864 as the Civil War still raged. Cost to build was \$1,000, with \$500 in gold coming from the Board of Missions

in New York on the condition that parishioners raise the remainder. The land, valued at \$4,000, was donated by Eliza Boston.

A Sentinel article written in 1938 by Robert E. Burton, high school faculty member, said in part, "What we appreciate most today is the fine architecture of the building. We can say that Joseph Boston (an early parishioner who helped designed the church) was an admirer and follower of Sir Christopher Wren, the builder of Saint Paul's Cathedral in London. We are not surprised, therefore, to hear that this church is an exact replica of a little church in England among the walks and edges of Lancashire ..."

The parish hall was built in 1923 and rebuilt in 1981 after a fire. The church school building, offices and library were constructed in the 1950s.

Like their counterparts did in the 1800s, the parishioners at Calvary are busy raising money to ensure the continued existence of their church. For more information on the restoration project, call the Rev. David J. Jones at 423-8787.