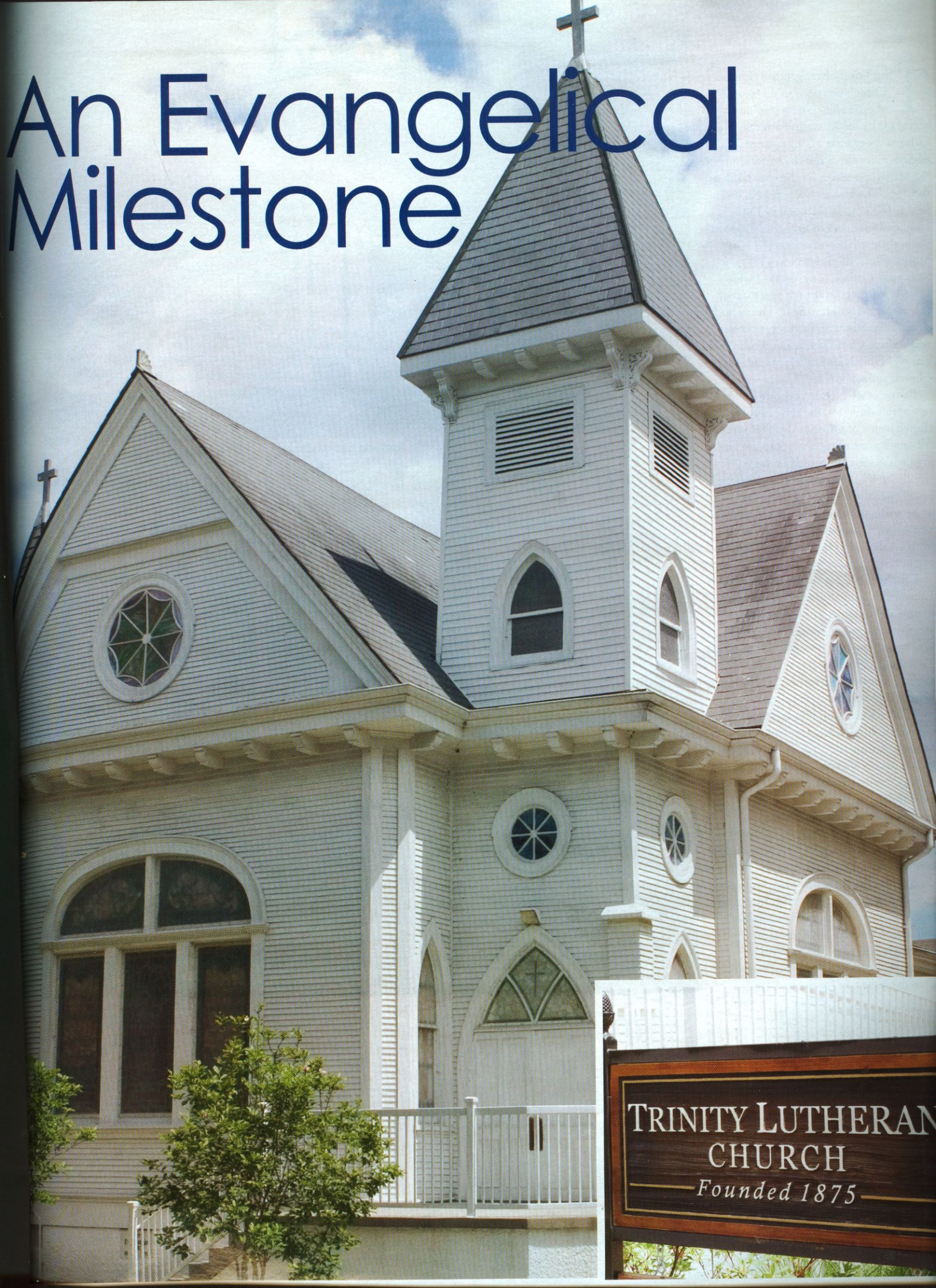


An Evangelical Milestone



TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Founded 1875

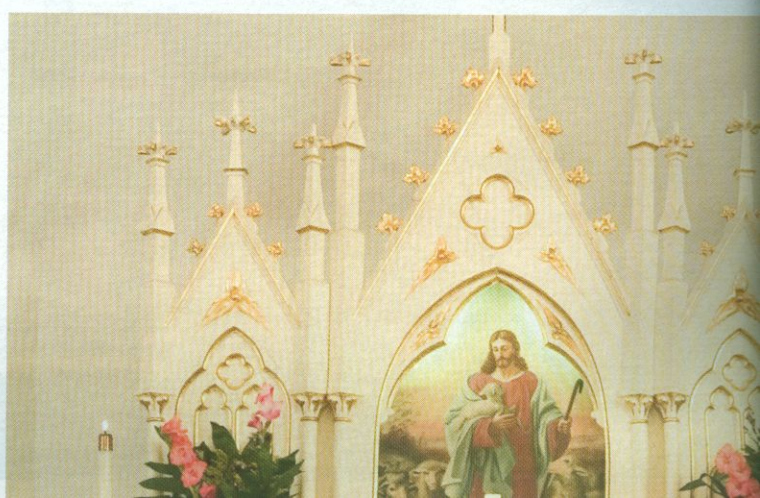
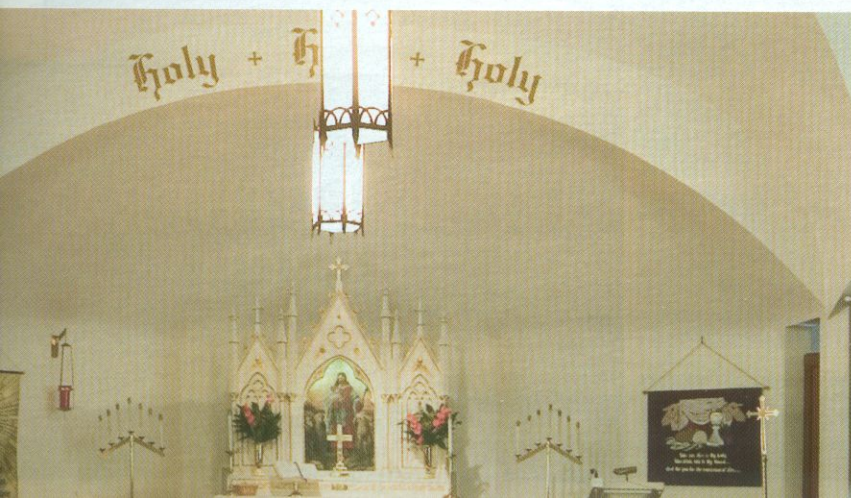
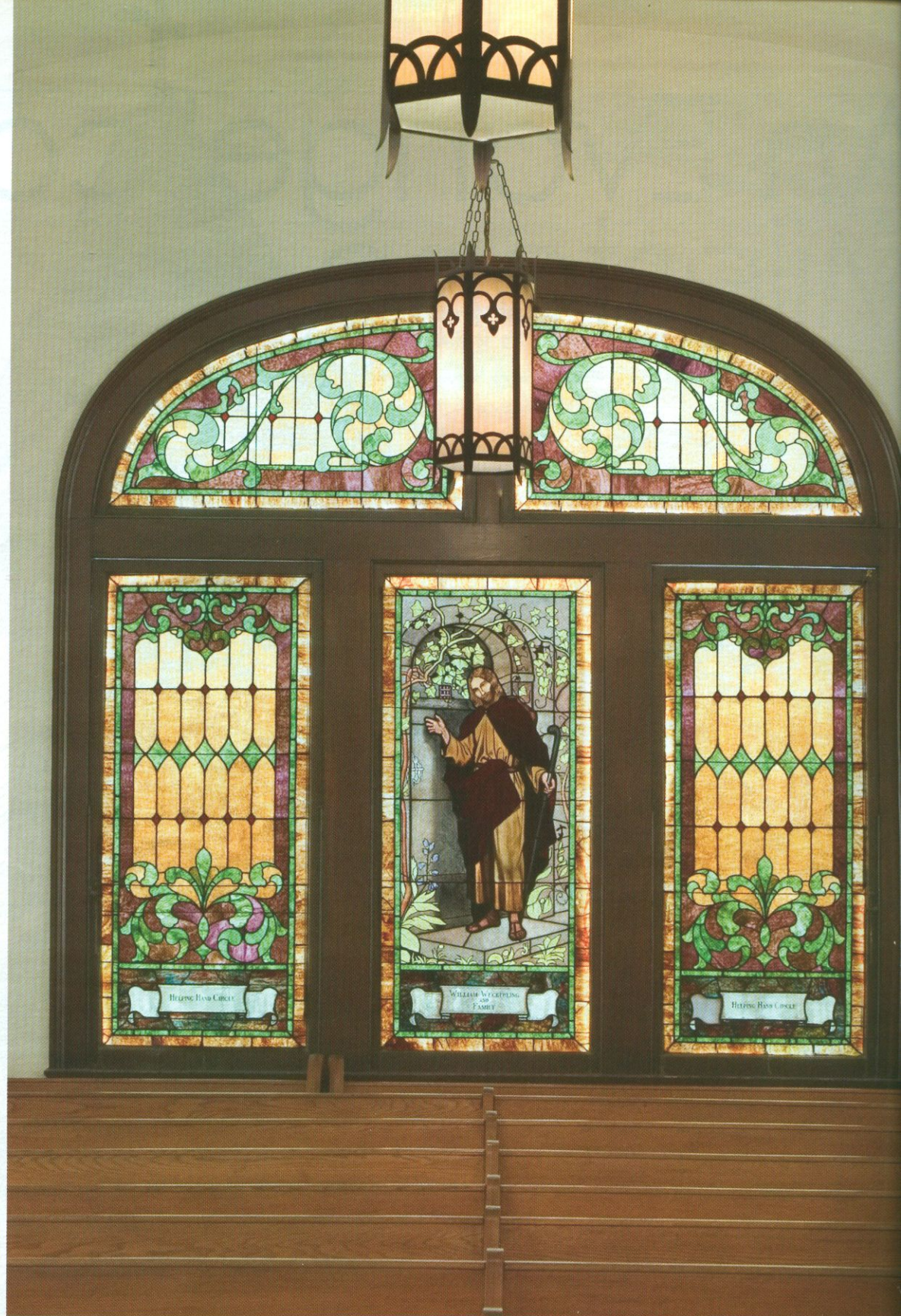
The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church was born in the month of June 1875 after a resolution was made by the Missouri Synod in New Orleans to organize a congregation in Algiers, a section of the city bordering the Mississippi River on the west bank of the river. The first service was held on July 4, 1875 inside the hotel of John Hughes. In January of the following year the new church was dedicated by what historical records declare was a diligent hard working little congregation which labored to build the church in a total of ten weeks. Even today the historic wood structure stands majestically against the neighboring Catholic brick and mortar giants of Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church and school.

Pastor Tracy Nelson is proud of his new appointment to the only Lutheran church inside of historic Algiers Point. Although some of the traditions are fading such as sporadic Sunday school enrollments and attendance, the church holds a healthy number of more than 150 parishioners and continues to draw a crowd each Sunday with parishioners from as far away as the East Bank, Norco and all over the west bank.

Charter members with names such as Lahusen, Buesing, Poerzler, Hantel and Heintz laid testament to a strong community of German immigrants living among a strong base of Catholics and Frenchmen. It still boasts a strong German heritage filled with three to four generations of German families.

"The congregation is born from German immigrants that traveled from Missouri during the 19th century," Nelson says. "We had 160 attend Easter Sunday service with close to 100 each Sunday."

Shirley Bertoniere and Erlene Lodriguss, third generation Trinity parishioners, both attest to the German heritage and commitment found inside the Trinity congregation. There are no records that indicate pew assignments or rentals as subscribed by the Episcopalians and some Catholics but there is an unwritten rule on family territories among the sovereign benches. "People sit in the same pew for the past 100





years. I used to sleep on my grandmothers lap as a child on the third row from the altar on the organ side. I want it bronzed when I go," says Bertoniere. "Three generations of my family have sat in pews on the pulpit side, about the third row up," added Lodriguss

In a Golden Jubilee booklet written in 1925 titled "Praise Ye The Lord," the young congregation took pride in their 50th anniversary. The first five years lacked historical data but records show that between 1880 and 1925 the pastors of Trinity baptized 645 children and 12 adults with 290 burials and 65 weddings. But it wasn't without strife as the church suffered from slow growth and frequent changes in the pastorate. But it wasn't without strife as it is noted, "The year 1925 marks a most blessed milestone where five of the members passed all the 50 milestones. The congregation has seen many a stormy night and its membership has been like the tide, ever rising and receding. While the fathers and others saw their sons and daughters grow into manhood and womanhood, they also saw the passing of their lan-

guage, the congregation changing from a German to a purely English one."

By 1911, the old church required considerable renovation and major remodeling modifying the horizontal shotgun design with a single steeple to a more German ornate architecture, including a gabled roof, two steeples and two arched double door entrances with arched stained glass windows. Today's design holds most of the lines from the 1911 style with the transition of an open air main steeple to an enclosed version, which adds more height and dimension to the church.

The wooden frame is bathed in a stately white with stained glass windows holding a protective veil of white as well. However, the interior still casts a magnificent artistry of color as the sun cast its rays through the majestic glasswork. The arc plaster ceiling lends a delicate balance to the small trio of honey colored pews in what appears to be a miraculous display of well preserved woodwork. Each arm bends in a comfortable curve that curls around a gothic arch carved on the side of each pew.

The arched stained glass windows present a regal story told in a vibrant palette of color. This one is from the Revelations 3:20 titled, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock."

The apse is bathed in a soft cream with gold inlay and bears a central peak crowned with a cross and two steeplechases joined by decorative spires.

The center of the altar holds a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd seeking the one lost lamb.

The baptismal has been a mainstay baptizing parishioners since 1922, the solid marble font is capped with a baby lamb.

Each arm of the pew bends in a comfortable curve around a delicately carved rosette pattern.

The memorial garden is filled with marble stones engraved with past generations of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church parishioners.

Similar to the exterior design, the altar bears three steeplechases joined by decorative spires and the center steeple is crowned with a cross. The center of the altar holds a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd seeking the one lost lamb. The entire altar carries a soft cream with gold inlay and the carved Greek letters Alpha and Omega, in what the booklet describes as the silent preaching that Jesus Christ is the beginning and end of our salvation.

The pulpit still stands and remains the heart and soul of the church, and with a little help from today's sound systems this hallowed hall continues to hold a strong voice in what was so fondly remembered at the Golden Jubilee. "Could that pulpit but speak – Gospel, law, warning, pleading, prayer – have all at one time resounded from it. May it continue to be the mute witness to the preaching of the Word of God. As one generation makes room for another, may the same old Gospel be preached from this pulpit."

And standing as a lonely shepherd added to the church in 1922, the Baptismal font is graced with a marble stand crowned with a baby lamb.