

**Christ Episcopal church
1 Main Street
Towanda, PA 18848**

May 14, 1998

Christ Episcopal Church was built in 1889 (109 years ago) with conglomerate stone from Barclay Mountain (just a few miles south of Towanda). The Bradford County Court house is built of the same stone. The walls of the church are three feet thick! It is built with Gothic architectural design. Memorial windows were given by different people in memory of someone, usually in their family. The large "Mercur" window was given in memory of a chief justice of the state of Pennsylvania. It now needs restoring as it is also 109 years old. It was built in England and shipped to the United States at the time the church was built. It will cost about \$60,000. to do the work. The total cost of the church when it was built in 1889 was \$75,000. (A lot of money back then!) Now, it will take more than two-thirds of that to restore the window!

All of the windows are stained glass. The different colors and the design portray a story about each one. It is interesting to note that the people who first wanted to build the church could not agree on the fact that it would be so expensive, therefore the foundation was built for twenty years before they finally agreed to complete the building!

The outside doors of the church are very large and heavy. They are painted red on the outside as most Episcopal church doors are. The door latch is an iron bar one foot long and 1 1/2 inches wide, with a "tongue" which can be dropped down onto the bar to lock it and raised up to unlock it.

The church will seat at least 425 persons, and was originally lighted by gas candles, before electricity was installed. Also, it's interesting to note the brass plates on the ends of the pews with names of the people who rented them!

The pipe organ was built by the William Johnson and Son, Co., and installed in the church in 1893, 105 years ago, and four years after the church was built. At first the power for it to be played came from a boy working the bellows, he was paid 10 cents for a Sunday service, later on, water was used to furnish the power. The water came from a creek just north of the church, which was named Mix Run. The creek really is in the church yard and was covered over many years ago, but still runs there underground. Eventually, an electric motor was put into use and is still used. (The organ is not an electric organ, but a motor placed in the downstairs provides the power). It is called a "reverse tracker" organ because it does not face the pipes as most tracker organs do. Because of this, it takes much more strength, energy and skill to play it! The organ is in good condition and used for all the church services.

Christ Church is very beautiful and is still used as the Episcopal church. Each Sunday morning at 10:00 o'clock the congregation worships by using the form of Holy Communion.