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St. Paul's Chapel Is Closing For Cleanup of Debris

By TINA KELLEY

St. Paul's Chapel of Trinity Church, the sanctuary for weary rescue workers at ground zero since Sept. 11, is closing temporarily for a cleaning.

"There has been lots of wear and tear on the building, and it's just in need of a huge cleaning now, both inside and out," the Rev. Lyndon F. Harris said yesterday. "There is some debris outside the church that is of significant concern."

With five big grills set up on the sidewalk, the Episcopal chapel, located at Broadway and Fulton Street, has served about 2,000 meals a day, starting the weekend after Sept. 11, Mr. Harris said. He estimated that 350,000 meals had been served there. The 236-year-old building has been open around the clock to provide food and rest for firefighters, police officers and rescue workers.

The church has held a noontime service just for rescue workers, and, for the past two months, an 8 a.m. Sunday service open to the public. Daily public prayer services are expected to begin again in May.

The cleaning will begin after Easter, Mr. Harris said. He did not know how long it would last or how much it would cost. Preservationists have said they fear the fine dust covering the church may contain toxic substances and could eventually damage it. According to the chapel's Web site, the cleanup project is mandated by the city's Department of Environmental Protection.

"After Easter and the required cleaning, St. Paul's public ministry will be reborn to address the urgent, unique spiritual needs of a community that is recovering but still grieving from the terrible tragedy," said the Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard, the vicar of Trinity Parish.

Nathan Brockman, a spokesman for the chapel, said of the closing: "It was a terribly difficult decision. Unfortunately, we were at the point where we had to make it."

NYTimes
3·16·02

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Chapel near WTC closing for cleanup

St. Paul's Chapel — the Ground Zero refuge for emergency workers — is closing for a haz-mat cleanup before opening to the public with services for the first time in six months.

The city's Department of Environmental Protection ordered the cleanup of the chapel's facade, interior and backyard, said chapel spokesman John Allen. The church will close after Easter, March 31.

The 235-year-old chapel sits behind the World Trade Center site and was covered with asbestos and toxins when the Twin Towers collapsed.

The shutdown also means St. Paul's will permanently close its sanctuary for WTC workers.

Rescue workers have relied on the church for hot meals and a place to rest during their 13-hour shifts.

"This has been a very difficult decision for us to make," said Allen.

The chapel has been closed to the public since Sept. 11. Now the church says it has an obligation to offer daily prayer services.

The chapel is expected to be ready by May 6.

Maria Alvarez

NY Post
3/13/02

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Trinity News

St. Paul's Relief Operation to Continue

The Parish of Trinity Church today decided to continue its relief operation for recovery workers at St. Paul's Chapel on Broadway.

The Vicar of the Parish, the Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard, announced in a statement:

"The Parish has taken this step in response to an urgent appeal from the City of New York, conveyed by Commissioner Kenneth R. Holden of the City's Department of Design and Construction, who is responsible for overall cleanup work at the World Trade Center site."

Father Howard added: "Trinity Parish resolved three weeks ago to close St. Paul's for cleaning, in response to a notice received from the City's Department of Environmental Protection requiring that it clean the residues left on the building exterior after the attack of last September 11.

"However, Commissioner Holden requested that the Parish consider continuing to provide services to construction workers, firefighters and police officers until the City's work at the site is completed. We will defer our closing and cleanup until the end of May at the request of the Commissioner.

"In his request to the leadership of Trinity Parish, Commissioner Holden noted that the relief facility operated by the Salvation Army and the Federal EPA is closing at the end of April."

The Rev. Lyndon Harris, Associate responsible for ministry at St. Paul's, said: "We are delighted that we are able to respond to the request of the City of New

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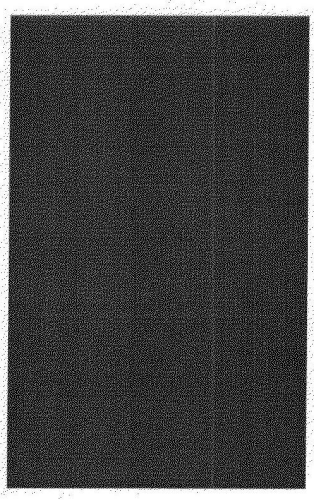

York to keep the doors of St. Paul's open to the police officers, fire fighters and rescue workers as they complete their tasks at the site."

Posted on Trinity News March 25, 2002

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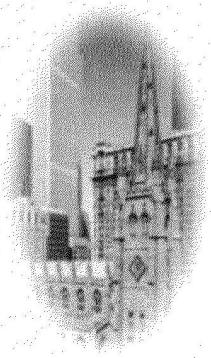

Saint Paul's Chapel

St. Paul's Chapel

A wonderful miracle happened admist the horror on September 11, 2001. A church sitting just one block away was spared the devastation that surrounded it. As reported; "St. Paul's, a chapel of Trinity Church, seen from the corner of Broadway and Fulton Street. The building, where George Washington worshipped, suffered only a few broken windows".

I believe the reason for this wonderful miracle it to show that hope has not be lost. For this place of worship was to provide not only a spiritual need that would be desperately needed over the coming weeks, but also to provide the human needs of food, rest and treatment.

I hope you will enjoy reading about this fascinating miracle sitting admid the horror and send a prayer of thanksgiving for Sanit Paul's Chapel.

"The Little Chapel That Stood"

George Washington came to this Anglican chapel to pray after being sworn in as America's first President.

Broad Street, New York, NY
Area: Seaport, The Civic Center
Phone: (212) 602-0874
Hours: Open 9am-3pm Mon-Fri, 7am-3pm Sun. Closed most public hols.
Nearest Subway: Fulton St.

There was still a remaining church built in the long shadow of the World Trade center that stands in Manhattan. It was

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built before the revolutionary war and was a kind of Gregorian Church. The colorful interior, lit by Waterford chandeliers, is the setting for free concerts. The pew where newly inaugurated George Washington prayed has been preserved. The Actor's Monument commemorates George Frederick Cooke who played many great roles at the park Theater and finally drank himself to death at the Shakespeare Tavern on Fulton Street always conducted in the churchyard.

This 18th-century church is one of New York's oldest parishes (1665-1980). It was used as a hospital following the important Revolutionary War battle at Pell's Point in 1776, and was the scene of various military developments for the next six years. The church stood at the edge of Eastchester village green, the site of the "Great Election"(1733), which raised the issues of Freedom of Religion and Press. The adjoining cemetery contains burials dating from 1704.

As the industrial revolution wore on, the church and cemetery began to reflect the changes surrounding it. Industrial buildings proliferated, the congregation shrank and the site fell into disrepair. Descendants of the original families began to plan a restoration of the structure in the 1930's.

In 1980, the site was transferred from the Episcopal Dioceses of New York to the National Park Service. The site opened to the public in 1984 and is operated under a cooperative agreement with the Society of the National Shrine of the Bill of Rights at Saint Paul's Church, Eastchester.

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