

Dear Janet,

My husband and I came to First Church in 1964 to serve as Choir Director and Organist, respectively. We knew right away that we had found a church home for our family of five daughters. We became active members, the girls, then aged 10 to 20, joined the choirs, youth groups, Sunday school, and we were active in the Mr. and Mrs. Club, Men's Society and Methodist Women. We enjoyed working with the wonderful people in the choir and I believe that there was some very beautiful music created during our 24 years there. It was during those years that the tragic fire happened. I remember the phone call from Hank Steinberg, telling us that the church was on fire. We dashed over and watched the firemen pouring water into the spot where the organ was located, and I stood outside and cried. Someone had managed to rescue some of my music but the organ was destroyed by water. Fortunately our beautiful sanctuary was restored and a new organ was purchased.

My daughters were all married at First Church and we all have very happy memories of our years there. We served under Pastors Fowler, Hansen and Moon and also made some very dear friends among the membership. Those dear men are all gone now, as is my husband, but my faith is strong because of them.

Congratulations on your 200th anniversary.

Thelma Combs