

ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL *in the midst of* REVOLUTION

A view from St. Paul's Chapel, at right, looking south toward Trinity Church in the distance.

AS NEW YORK GREW, its population moved north. To capture the expanding congregation and reach parishioners living "uptown," Trinity built two chapels in the mid-1700s: St. George's in 1752 and St. Paul's in 1766. St. George's no longer exists, but St. Paul's stands proudly at Broadway and Fulton Street, the only colonial-era church remaining in Manhattan.

Ten years after St. Paul's opened, America was at war with Britain. On July 9, 1776, George Washington had the *Declaration of Independence* read to his troops in New York City in hopes of inspiring his soldiers.

In September, a dramatic event foreshadowed the

destruction of the Revolutionary War: a fire that started downtown raged through the city, destroying approximately 500 buildings in one night, including Trinity Church. St. Paul's Chapel was spared by a bucket brigade that doused the structure with water.



The Great Fire of 1776.

With Trinity in ruins, St. Paul's Chapel became the primary church until 1790. But clergy and congregation were not immune from the tensions of the war. Despite possible reprisals, Trinity minister Charles Inglis remained faithful



The first Trinity Church after the fire.

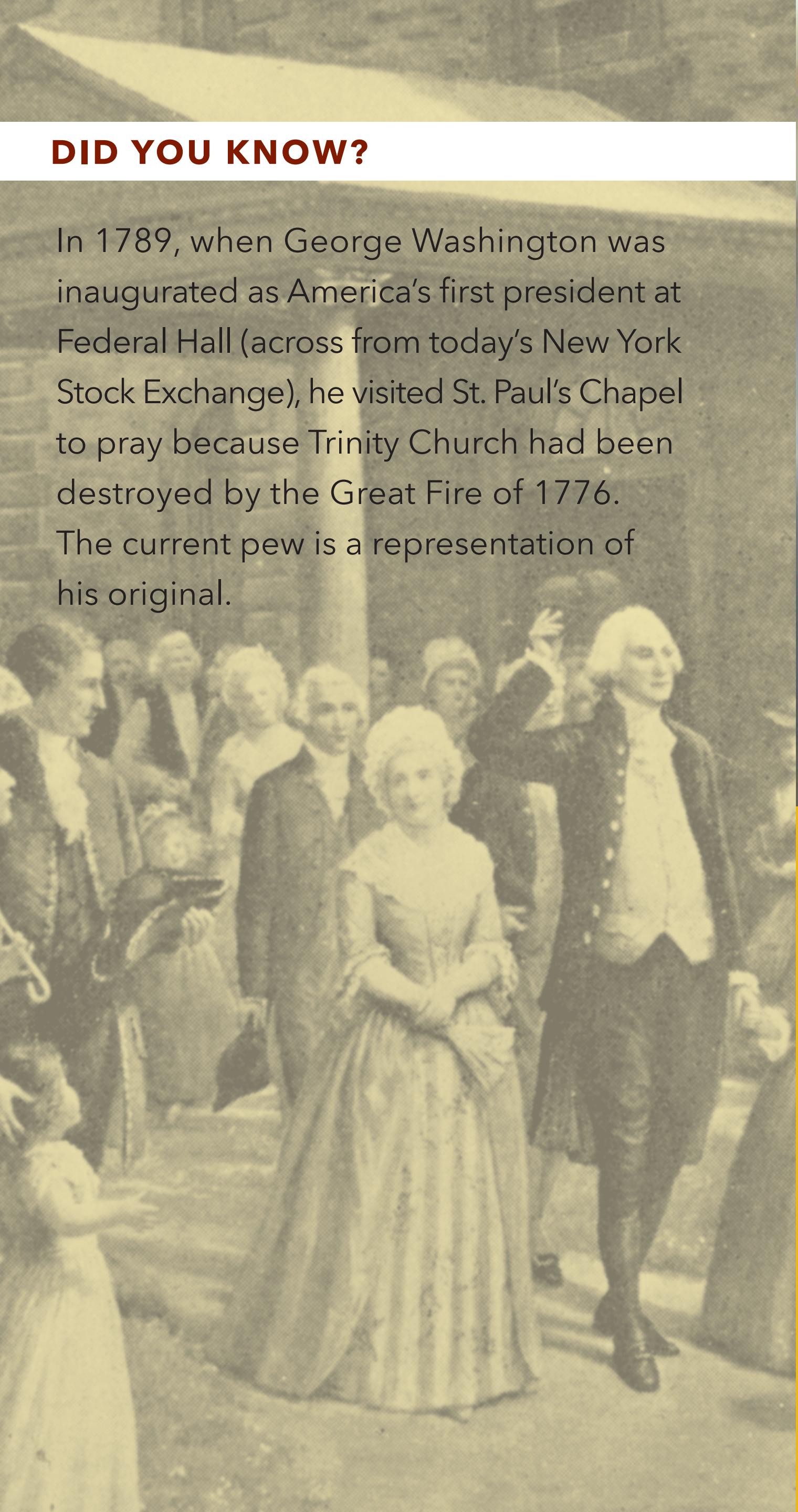
to the crown, continuing prayers for the royal family during services and preaching allegiance to England from the pulpit and in pamphlets. Most, but not all, of Trinity's congregation were Loyalists as well. Parishioners James Duane and John

Jay were delegates to the First Continental Congress in 1774. Both initially favored maintaining union with England, but eventually supported independence. Their commitment to Trinity would prove crucial after the war, when they led the effort to transform the parish from a Loyalist bastion to an American congregation.



DID YOU KNOW?

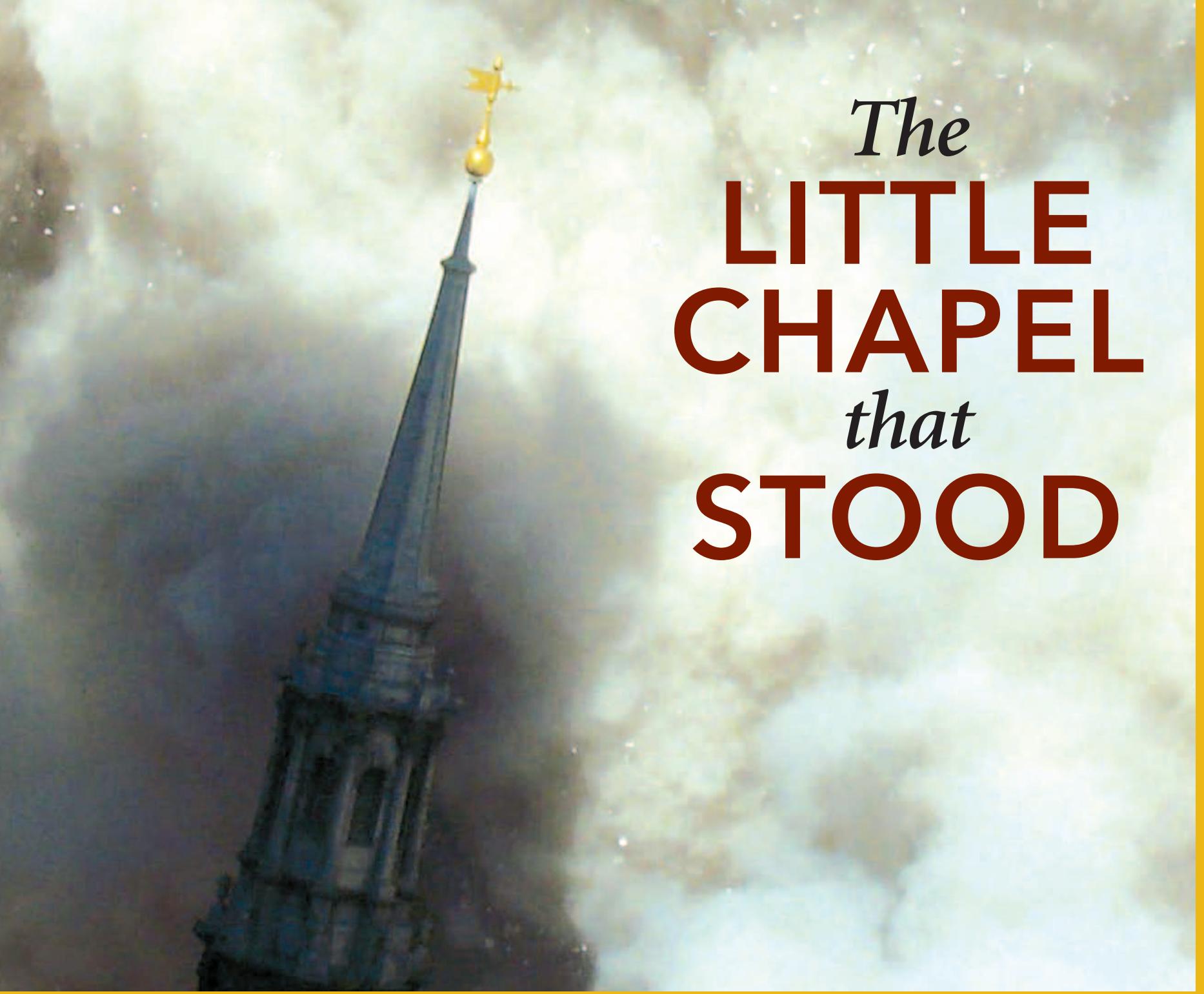
In 1789, when George Washington was inaugurated as America's first president at Federal Hall (across from today's New York Stock Exchange), he visited St. Paul's Chapel to pray because Trinity Church had been destroyed by the Great Fire of 1776. The current pew is a representation of his original.



ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, St. Paul's Chapel would escape destruction once again when the World Trade Center buildings collapsed across the street. Although the churchyard and church were filled with dust and debris, miraculously there was no physical damage to the building.

Because of its proximity to Ground Zero, St. Paul's became the site of an extraordinary, round-the-clock relief ministry to workers assisting in the recovery effort. From September 2001 to May 2002, St. Paul's Chapel opened its doors to firefighters, construction workers, police officers, and others for meals,

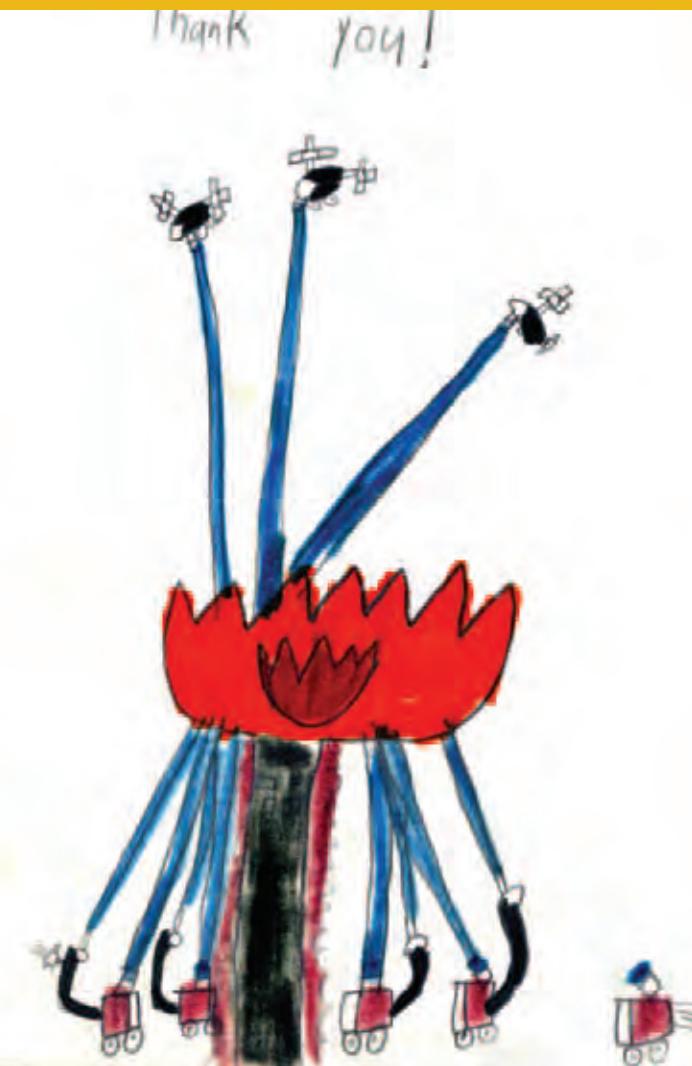
The LITTLE CHAPEL *that* STOOD



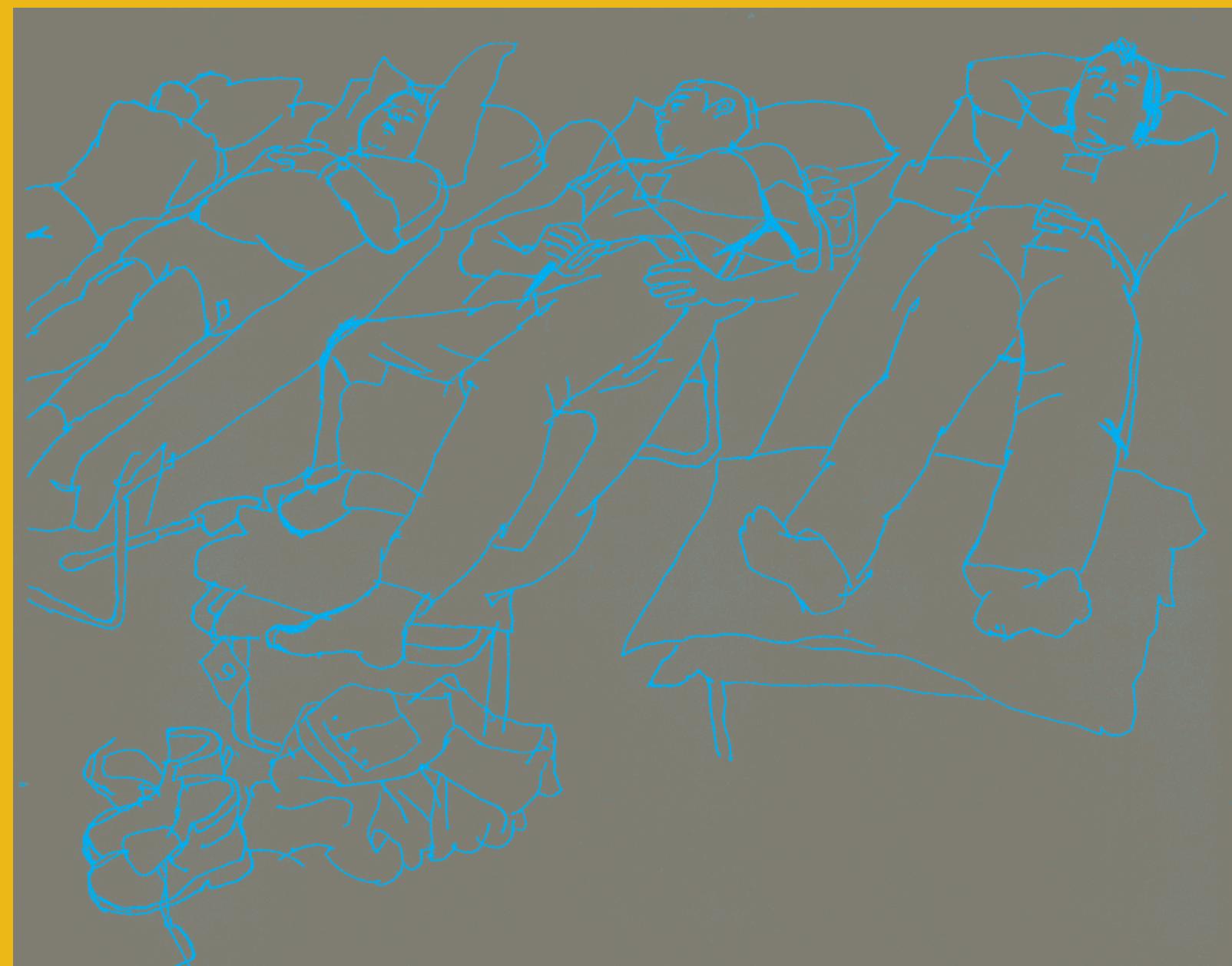
beds, counseling, and prayer. Medical personnel, massage therapists, chiropractors, podiatrists, and musicians transformed the chapel into a place of peace, rest, and reconciliation.

Today, St. Paul's stands as a modern pilgrimage site, welcoming more than one million people annually from all over the world. The Chapel features a pew where George Washington worshiped, an 1802 painting of the U.S. Seal, and an exhibit that chronicles the 9/11 ministry in words, interviews, and artifacts, including cards, flags, prayers, and other mementos sent from people around the United States and the world. The Chapel plays a vital role in telling the 9/11 story, but it also provides a place where people can come for prayer, healing, and comfort. In 2005, St. Paul's became a part of the International Community of the Cross of Nails, an ecumenical group committed to peace and reconciliation.

With a history of standing in the face of adversity, St. Paul's Chapel is often referred to as "the little chapel that stood."



Children from all over the world sent thank-you cards to 9/11 recovery workers at St. Paul's.



Artist Lucinda Rogers' sketch of recovery workers resting at St. Paul's.

Top: Volunteers began serving food to 9/11 rescue workers on September 12, 2001.

Above left: St. Paul's Chapel surrounded by the dust and debris of the collapsing towers.