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## Arsonist torched Trinity Baptist Church

'ISIS' spray-painted on outer rear wall of house of worship

by John Bkila  
Burlington Post Staff

Wednesday's fire at Trinity Baptist Church was the work of an arsonist, according to Ontario's Office of the Fire Marshal.

Despite the fact 'ISIS' had been spray-painted on an outer wall of the church, Halton police aren't saying whether they are treating it as a hate crime.

When Trinity Baptist Church Pastor Carl Muller arrived on scene at 2 a.m. Wednesday to find the place of worship engulfed in flames, he was "awestruck."

But Muller wasn't talking about the fire itself, which engulfed the 1890s church located on 4372 Appleby Line, just south of No. 2 Sideroad.

"I was awestruck by the bravery of these firefighters," he told the Post. "I've never seen something like that before. I'm very thankful for the work they do."

While the church's roof was gutted, its charred frame is all that remains, firefighters managed to keep the blaze from spreading to the church's adjacent newer building, which opened in 2004 and is where weekly services are held.

"There's some water and smoke damage, but we're told it's still in good shape. So, we're very thankful to the fire department," said Muller.

see Fire on p. 3



Ontario's Office of the Fire Marshal has confirmed Wednesday's early-morning blaze that gutted the original 4372 Appleby Line home of Trinity Baptist Church was arson. The building had been the former Zimmerman Methodist Church built in the early 1890s. According to Trinity Baptist Church's website its congregation purchased the property from the United Church in 1975. | photo by Graham Paine - Burlington Post (Follow on Twitter @halton\_photog)

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