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The Highway Tabernacle Church on Spring Garden Street is shrouded in smoke and fog as firefighters battle a five-alarm blaze last night

## Fire Rips Old Church

By **JOANNE SILLS**Daily News Staff Writer

A five-alarm fire seriously damaged an historic church on Spring Garden Street last night, forcing some 70 people in an adjoining building to flee from mid-week services.

Firefighters battled the blaze at the Highway Tabernacle Church on Spring Garden near 18th Street for more than four hours before finally declaring it under control.