

A PAGE FROM THE LONG AND  
AMAZING HISTORY OF ST. STEPHEN  
AND THE INCARNATION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Loaves and Fishes



In 1968, St. Stephen's Church members noticed that people were drifting in from the street to join the church coffee hour. It was obvious that **doughnuts and coffee alone were not going to be enough** to fill our guests' needs. Parishioners led by the late Margaret Keys (at left) began to volunteer to prepare a hot meal and serve it in the dining room. Margaret said that those who work in the kitchen are as much at worship as those upstairs in the church, and when communion is ministered, it should be taken from the altar to those downstairs — a practice we continue today. (Margaret's ashes are interred in our Memorial Garden—the church yard.)

In the early days all tables had table clothes, made of colored sheets, **which parishioners took home each Sunday to wash.**



One of Loaves and Fishes biggest supporters is former parishioner Mary Lee Barker, who has used her **watercoloring skills to paint portraits** of many guests and whose musical talents have entertained guests at meals for the last two decades.



Today, Loaves and Fishes serves **25,000 meals a year.**



**Hazel Cummings** has been the L&F Program Coordinator since 1999.



**Ellen Baynard** has been a L&F volunteer since its inception and coordinates many holiday meals.



For the first few decades, L&F was staffed in a very ad hoc way, mostly by volunteers. In the last decade the program has become more organized but still depends on volunteers. Currently, **hundreds of people volunteer each year**—from dozens of congregations and organizations—to prepare and serve meals.

"We have a Eucharist every Sunday and what happens there is **directly connected to what happens in the dining room** where all are fed. We don't eat while those around us are hungry."  
-The Rev. Carol Crumley, *Washington Diocese Newspaper*, April 1975



WIDENING THE CIRCLE THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. STEPHEN'S