

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

St. Stephen's Church

The origin of St. Stephen's Church dates back to the 1880's when an Episcopal priest living in what was then called Pleasant Plains took an interest in neighborhood children and formed a Sunday school in his home.

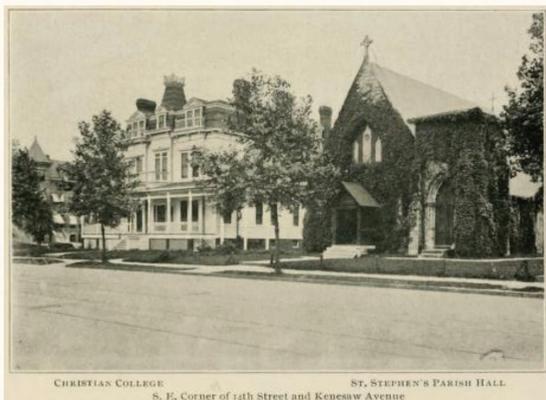
Some Advantages of Elevation.

Those who have tried each of the two locations as a residence report that in summer nights the temperature of Columbia Heights is ten degrees less than that of Pennsylvania Avenue and adjacent streets. This has been demonstrated by practical tests. In ten degrees Fahrenheit, more or less, there is a powerful factor in the equation of comfort; and its influence is constant in the direction of high lands. Comfort induces sleep, "tired Nature's sweet restorer."
In hot summer nights, when open cars carry thousands in search of a charm that lulls to sleep, every northbound passenger up Fourteenth Street with his crossing of Florida Avenue, becomes a grateful witness to the soothing zephyrs of Columbia Heights.

Pleasant Plains grew fast once streetcar lines were extended north from downtown DC along 11th, 14th, and 16th Streets. **The neighborhood was home to some of Washington's wealthiest and most influential people.**



In 1884 construction began on "The Chapel of the Hallowed Name" (pictured at right) on the East side of 14th Street at Kennesaw Avenue—today's Irving Street. In 1892 enough growth had occurred in the little congregation that it petitioned to transfer from mission to parish status. When the petition was granted, **the congregation took the name St. Stephen's Church.** A new church was built on the site of the Chapel of the Hallowed Name, only to be torn down in 1928.



Churches.

Five churches present the open door to all; so that nobody will find any lack of gospel and sanctuary privileges on Columbia Heights. St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal Church and the Roman Catholic Shrine of the Sacred Heart are on Fourteenth Street; the Fourth Presbyterian Church stands on the corner of Yale and Thirteenth Streets; the Congregational Church is on Columbia Road, and across the street therefrom is the Mt. Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church.

The items at left and above are from the 1903 booklet "A Statement of Some of the Advantages of Beautiful Columbia Heights", published by the Columbia Heights Citizen's Association.

In 1893, just one day after his ordination, **The Rev. George Fiske Dudley began his forty-three year tenure as rector,** at first of St. Stephen's Church and then of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church.



Dudley served as a military chaplain in Cuba in 1898, and in the D. C. National Guard. He was a Mason, chaplain to the Lions Club, and chaplain to a "commandery" of the Knights Templar.

The neighborhood became known as Columbia Heights in the late 1880s, named in honor of Columbia College (today's George Washington University), which was then located **just south of St. Stephen's Church,** along Columbia Road.



Today, **Trinity Towers stands on the land** once occupied by St. Stephen's Church.

WIDENING THE CIRCLE THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. STEPHEN'S