

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

BREAD

On November 24, 1968, St. Stephen's published the first issue of **BREAD**.

For decades, BREAD was produced weekly; now it is bi-weekly.

The 1,700-and-counting issues of BREAD capture the mundane and the significant.

BREAD

Jan. 26 1969

Can This Marriage Be Saved?

CLERGY AND ALTAR GUILD ARE TAKING EACH OTHER'S MEASURES

--"The Rector sees us as just a bunch of middle class women, traditionalists, who overvalue our importance."

--"A lay group which feels responsible and helpful should find out for itself what needs to be done, instead of sulking on the sidelines."

The comments above typify a controversy which is hurtful to those involved, but probably unknown to most members of the Celebration of Life parish. The disagreement is between the Altar Guild and the clergy. The fight has raged for a year.

The Altar Guild, which now numbers about fifteen members, is responsible for the house-keeping of the altar. This includes setting up for and cleaning up after daily Masses, three Sunday Eucharists, and special events. It also includes polishing the altar, the silver and brass, washing and ironing linens, needing ventu-ments to be dry-cleaned. Every church has an altar guild. The Cathedral has a guild right out of Cecil B. De Mille, with team captains and committees.

At St. Stephen's the Altar Guild feels it is being destroyed by a clergy drive to rid the parish of "groups."

Some members of the Guild find it hard to serve the Lord (See Controversy, p. 4)

BREAD

Number 931 • THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT • MARCH 5, 1987

THE IDOLATRY OF LANGUAGE

Change is never easy. As we struggle with new ways of thinking about God, the issue of inclusive language continues to evoke controversy. To ignore the questions is to deny the importance of words and their influence on our attitudes.

In my struggle to make sense of this issue I am constantly called to reflect on my own experiences with God. There seem to be several recurring themes. God always defines my feeble human attempts to define a power beyond my comprehension. I have experienced a God of love who cares for us deeply enough to be present and involved in our daily lives. And I have experienced a God who loves everyone equally; who does not make distinctions between people because of race or age or sex.

The most wonderful manifestation of these themes in God's revelation in Jesus Christ. Yet we sometimes seem to misplace the significance of that incarnation. Jesus, as God's incarnation, was *accident-*ly a man (as opposed to a woman). Signifi-cance lies in his presence as God/human and not in his maleness.

God as Father is a wonderful image which evokes special memories. The image of God as Mother can be equally beautiful and evoke many of the same images of God's love symbolically described as parental love. Either image is our attempt to place our experience of God in a context that we understand.

To those who would say that the concept of a Mother-God is a return to idol wor-ship I ask whether there is any difference in worshipping only a Father-God. At-tempting to "create" one image of God for all circumstances is as much idolatry as our worship of other gods. Masculine images of God have meaning. But other images can only enrich our experiences if we are open to them. I do not advocate removing all references to God as Father, but rather accepting some less recognized Biblical images of God. (continued inside)

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No. 1 First of a Series of Mind-Messages November 24, 1968

BREAD IS YOUR THING! IT'S THE BRAND NEW HAPPENING AT ST. STEPHEN'S

Welcome to BREAD. It's here to feed you. If you want to be fed.

Do you have questions: Why the liturgical experimentation? What is Build Black up to these days? What's happening to the Christian Education program this year?

BREAD exists to answer the se questions. It's a serious ef-fort to bridge the communica-tions gap we all know exists at St. Stephen's.

But, if this venture is going to be successful, it can't op-erate in a vacuum.

It needs you.

It needs your articles, your comments, your complaints and your appreciation.

Or it won't succeed. Anyone can turn out a stale parish bulletin. But if you want an exciting publication that reflects our way of life at St. Stephen's and helps us grow, then your help is needed. Urgently.

BREAD is here to feed you. Come, partake of the meal.

Sunday: A Service of Prophecy

Students from the Universi-ty of Maryland, under the di-rection of the Rev. Wofford Smith, will present "A Ser-vice of Prophecy for Ameri-cans."

Multi-media in scope, this is a highly evocative service of penitence which dwells on the irony separating the re-ligious and political conven-tions of today from the real-ity of Christianity.

It is a highly appropriate introduction to Advent.

Related to the same theme, the Senior High Class is meeting with Robert Haskle, a member of the Executive Com-mittee of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and a draft coun-selor for the Society of Friends. He will be talking about Christian response to the draft. The meeting will take place in the old rectory at 1503 Newton. It's open to all.



Widening the Circle: The Campaign for St. Stephen's

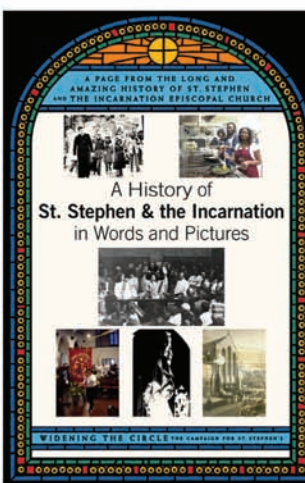
Capital Campaign Sets Goal of \$750,000

With the words "I now declare the Widening the Circle Capital Campaign officially launched," Linda Kaufman ushered St. Stephen's into one of its most ambi-tious undertakings since the church was built.

The occasion was the May 5 Annual Meeting and Capital Campaign Kick-

area around the altar plus make changes to the reredos so that the now-covered windows above the altar can again provide light and color to the altar area.

We'll also build a new kitchen and bathrooms in the auditorium, remove asbestos from the utility spaces under the church, and hopefully convert to geothermal heating and cooling.



A History of St. Stephen & the Incarnation in Words and Pictures

All were able to understand the proceedings thanks to simultaneous translation. The evening included a taped message from Bishop Mariann and ended with dancing.

Those who were present on May 5 received information about the capital campaign. All other parishioners should have received materials in the mail by now. A member of the capital campaign cabinet will be in touch with every parishioner soon to discuss the campaign.

One major surprise on May 5 was the unveiling of 30 posters document-ing the history of St. Stephen's Church, from the founding of the Church of the Incarnation in 1865 to the present day. The posters will remain on display for six months throughout the church and the auditorium. Some contain photos and images of documents most parish-ioners have never seen, such as a Wash-ington Post photo of the Rev. Alison Check celebrating the

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BREAD is now mailed to around 500 people; in the past the number was as high as 1,000. All 1,700 issues have been mailed by volunteers.

BREAD

September 14, 1975

ORDINATION OF WOMEN PRIESTS TAKES PLACE HERE; MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED; NOW WE MUST TURN TO OTHER LABORS

Alleluia! It is done! Last Sunday was a glorious day at St. Stephen's as the ordination of four women deacons to the priesthood took place here at 4 p.m. The two-hour service proceeded beautifully, marked by many exhilarating moments. With about 1800 people in attendance, the hymn singing and responses soared through the church.

There are so many people who helped to make this wonderful day come to be. We thank all of you who worked so hard.

Earlier in the day, at the 10 a.m. service, there was a special service of spiritual preparation for the ordination service. Carole Crumley preached and Vienna was sent off to her new program.

There were attempts to reach a compromise with Bishop Creighton before the ordination service. On Wednesday, Sept. 3, the vestry met with Bishop Creighton and Bishop Walker for two hours. Fr. Wendt says it was "one of the vestry's finest hours," as its members present-ed eloquently the many issues involved.

Now that the ordination service has taken place, we must turn to the more mundane concerns of the parish and work to

BREAD

September 14, 1975

LENT STARTS WENDT QUILTS

LENT-BEGINNING: WILL WENDT MONDAY 2:15-2:30 CHURCH

The special parish meeting on the 4th came to deliberate a course of action around Rector William A. Wendt's proposed part-time re-turn. Many were astounded by his announcement of formal resignation. Bill will remain associated with the parish and perhaps the volun-teer clergy, but will no longer be our rector after April 30th.

The congregation expressed their praise for him and their sorrow at his decision, joining in a spontaneous eucharist. Thereafter the vestry proposed was dis-cussed and an alternative propos-al drafted by Bill MacKay and Bill Wendt was considered. The parish meeting instructed the vestry to present a three-year action plan at the annual parish meeting (April 12-Sunday after Easter) for discussion and possi-ble approval. The vestry meets next on Monday, February 18th.

Stephen Bates contributed his visual abstract impression of the meeting—interlarding the columns of this issue. We hope to print Harriet Ross' photojournalistic essay on the meeting next issue. Individual comments will be wel-come on the pages; read divina-tion at the cross-roads.

BREAD

Number 1248 Palm Sunday March 27, 1984

The Newsletter of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church

How to Simplify Our Lives

The Simplification Committee has figured out a way God is work-ing, reports having a great time doing it. Members are Liane Rozzell, Ruth von Fickensien, Tom Bell, Carlyle Gill, Michele Lewis, Diane Amas-en, and Laura Mol.

Working together on the task of how to free up time and energy to address the issues which the parish has named as areas of greatest concern—growth and size, spirituality and nurture, and oversight and authority—they now offer a set of thirteen "Queries" to consider when contemplating proposed projects, or the im-plementation of great new ideas, or responses to urgent needs, or even the continuation of standing commit-

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Number 1248 Palm Sunday March 27, 1984

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News from the Renewal Committee

The Renewal Committee (originally called the Reformation Committee) has established a set of six goals for its part in this renewal/reformation process. It forms a sort of mission statement for parish renewal, and will become our parish's priorities in the months ahead. The statement is as follows:

The Renewal Committee will facilitate parish self-definition and encourage growth through a variety of meetings for large and small groups. The Renewal Committee will have completed its task when:

1. SSI has a clear, written state-

ment of identity as a Christian community that has emerged from parish-wide reflection and discus-sion.

2. Our plans for program and corporate worship respond to the needs of the SSI community and fosters spiritual growth, always with the intent to glorify God.

3. Plans for worship, program, financial management and build-ing use express the community's vision and fit its resources.

4. Goals for the growth of the parish emerge from parish-wide reflection and discussion.

5. Procedures and mechan-

isms are established to recognize and address the issues and concerns of the parish, and lines of responsi-bility and accountability are clear; and

6. We have scheduled annual self-evaluations to learn from our expe-rience as a community.

The above statement is posted on newsprint in the back of the church, and parishioners are invited to ex-press their level of agreement—or disagreement—with each of these goals; there are also paper and pens for comments to be registered.

The Committee also decided on a

WIDENING THE CIRCLE THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. STEPHEN'S