

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

## The Rev. Jack Woodard

In 1979, **the Rev. Jack Woodard became rector**  
of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON POST

In September 1981, Jack Woodard was arrested **protesting an arms bazaar** at the Washington Sheraton hotel.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON POST

The Rev. Jack Woodard, **denouncing drug dealers who have invaded the neighborhood** around the church as “modern day slave traders,” yesterday led a Good Friday procession through the streets condemning social evils that “condemn God’s children to death and crucify them again and again.”

-The Washington Post, April 21, 1984

Woodard saw the church’s role as to **change the world and crusade for justice**. He was unafraid to speak up against power—whether the power of corporations or local drug lords. He was a very good fundraiser and communicator.

Among Woodard’s major accomplishments was the founding of **St. Stephen’s Housing**. He arranged to acquire two abandoned houses at 1408 and 1416 Newton Street for \$1 each from the DC government. He formed a partnership with For Love of Children to renovate and manage the houses. St. Stephen’s arranged for financing; FLOC provided the volunteers to rehab the homes.

The homes are still used today as transitional housing for people moving from homelessness to home ownership, managed now by Hope and a Home. Each home has two apartments that rent for \$300 per month; families can stay for up to three years.



The dedication and rehab “groundbreaking”, in front of 1408 Newton, circa 1980.

**Woodard resigned as rector** on All Saints Day 1985 after an irreconcilable disagreement arose about the best form of church leadership. Lay leaders wanted a stronger role in church management than he thought was appropriate.

### WIDENING THE CIRCLE THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. STEPHEN’S