The 1970s

On Easter Day 1974, the church unveiled a sculpture attached to the reredos. The Gloria was in celebration of the life of Jenny Moore, parishioner and wife of Suffragan Bishop Paul Moore; she had died of cancer the year before. The Gloria’s interior lights failed over time and were not replaceable; its mirrored surfaces reflected the congregation gathered around the altar until it was removed in 2005.

A large group of St. Stephen’s parishioners attended the 1976 General Convention in Minneapolis. They put up large display booths about St. Stephen’s and supported and celebrated the passage of resolutions allowing the ordination of women and stating that gays and lesbians “are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church.” With a half-ton of flour donated by Pillsbury they baked bread on site and sold vestments, books, and bread, all made by St. Stephen’s parishioners.

Among St. Stephen’s members was Ruth Steinem, mother of the feminist author and activist Gloria Steinem. At Bill Wendt’s invitation, Gloria preached at St. Stephen’s in 1972—on Father’s Day—about sexism and racism.

Many outside of St. Stephen’s objected at the inclusion of the word “damn” in the banner that hung from the reredos.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, St. Stephen’s published books relating to liturgy, sharing what had been learned at St. Stephen’s with the wider church.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, St. Stephen’s Holy Modal music series featured a variety of unusual musicians, including a jazz bagpiper (pictured at left).