The 1960s

The 1960s brought major changes to U.S. society — and to St. Stephen’s.

In 1967, Bill Wendt invited H. Rap Brown, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, to speak at St. Stephen’s when he was denied permission to speak elsewhere in the area, having been charged in Maryland with incitement to riot. Brown’s speech at St. Stephen’s included strident calls to violence, but many think that the 900 people who heard him that day didn’t take up Brown’s call to burn down Washington in part because they heard him speak in a church. Wendt was credited with helping DC avoid a riot.

"Vestments may be the next challenge to the traditionalists of the Episcopal Church, if the trend at St. Stephen and the Incarnation spreads. St. Stephen’s, which is usually a few jumps ahead of the popular trends in the liturgical revolution, hasn’t used a traditional vestment in years."

-The Washington Star, April 5, 1970

The Revs. Barry Evans and Bill Wendt.