

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

Some Parishioners From The 1980s



The Rev. Lynn Cunningham was a parishioner and member of our clergy team for two decades. He was a legal services lawyer during the week, fighting especially on housing issues. In July 1981, he broke bread to end the month-long fast of eight Vietnam veterans protesting poor services for veterans and demanding investigations into the affects of Agent Orange. The vets stayed at St. Stephen's, where Elizabeth Finley and other Washington Free Clinic staff provided medical care. Lynn and his wife Dorothy Remy now live in Wyoming.



Carlos Van Leer was named the **Official Jester of St. Stephen's Church** by the Vestry in 1986. For almost three decades, Van Leer was a regular fixture at demonstrations, political gatherings, and other events, arriving most often by

bicycle with an accordion strapped to his back. He delivered thousands of lyrical messages over the decades—lyrics of his creation, set to tunes, often from Broadway shows:

We would hope that Ground Zero hinders

Turning children into cinders

Our own offspring down the drain

We would be a trifle wary

Of solutions military

If we only used a brain.

(Sung to the tune of the Straw Man's song from the Wizard of Oz)

"If you can make a point and do it with laughter, there is so much less resistance," he said.

For decades, St. Stephen's had a live-in janitor, called a sexton. The sexton's one-room apartment was on the third floor, above the sacristy. **Leon Williams** was our sexton for much of the 1980s and still helps out with the occasional job around the church. We ended the practice of having a live-in janitor around 1990. The apartment was used by the Washington Free Clinic as its breakroom; now it is a rentable office.



Freddy Reynolds was recognized numerous times in the 1980s as an American Folk Art artist. He was also instrumental in founding the Dining Car Workers Union with A. Phillip Randolph in 1945. His ashes are interred in our Memorial Garden (the church yard).



Eleanor Walker was a parishioner for decades. Much was made of her last name, as she walked three to four miles a day even when she was well into her 80s. She grew up in Japan, the daughter of missionaries, and was a regular weekday volunteer at St. Stephen's for many, many years. She died in 1991 at the age of 98.

WIDENING THE CIRCLE THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. STEPHEN'S