The Rev. Jack Woodard

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

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; FLDC 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.

**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.

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

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.”

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