



SAINT JAMES' IN THE CITY

ANGLICAN/EPISCOPAL

EVER ANCIENT | EVER NEW

THE FIRST 100 YEARS



The Women's Guilds

From the 1930's through the 1980's there were at least eight separate women's guilds operating at Saint James'. These guilds operated under the umbrella organization Women of Saint James, and included St. Cecilia's Guild, St. Catherine's Guild, St. Margaret's Guild, St. Mary's Guild, St. Anne's Guild, St. Martha's Guild, The Order of the Daughters of the King, and the Bishop's Guild. These hard-working women devoted themselves to welfare of the church. They were in charge of hospitality, a Fall Festival, a Rummage Sale, a Pre-Lenten luncheon, among many activities, as well as raising funds to for improvements and upkeep of church properties. All the Guilds joined together in 1979 to produce a popular Shrove Tuesday Luncheon and Fashion Show that featured gowns from Rummage Sale donations.

But the Women's Guilds were already nearing an end. In August 1980, Evelyn Montgomery, the president of St. Anne's Guild, sent a letter to its members. "St. Anne's Guild has been an active Guild in Saint James' Parish for fifty years, providing both financial contributions and service to the Church. However, for the past few years it has been increasingly difficult to continue in this tradition: many members have dropped out or gone inactive, fewer have volunteered their homes for meetings, and the membership has dwindled drastically. In view of, this it has been suggested that our Fiftieth Anniversary would be an appropriate time to disband."



Pictured clockwise starting at upper left: Sandy Desmond, Mary Lewer, Eleanor Brown and Margaret Sesnon.