October-November 1991

By Emily Masura

Most of our students are not Episcopalian but find themselves in a relationship with the Episcopal church when they arrive at Saint Mary's. Some students are unfamiliar with the issues surrounding the Episcopal church, some of which are the same issues that also surround other main-line denominations such as Presbyterian, the United Church of Christ, and Methodist. Two issues facing the church that have caused some members to leave are the ordination of women and the revision of the prayer book. The Belles interviewed Chaplain Watrous on her feelings and opinions about the issues that have influenced some members to leave the church.

A belief of some Episcopal members is that women should not be priests because Jesus and the Apostles were men, and historically, church leaders have been men. Chaplain Watrous feels that it is an issue that has to deal with acceptable ways to experience God. "A majority of people support the ordination of women. There is a minority of those who see a problem with the ordination of women. The most Important thing about being a faithful follower of Jesus is not gender, because hearts don't have gender."

On the theories about members leaving the Episcopal church, Chaplain Watrous feels it is not just one factor that is influencing people to leave the church. "Any change at all has been hard for Episcopal members. People always see change as worldly and not religious; they see religion as unchanging." In return, she feels there are some people attracted to the Episcopal church because of the changes. One example is the prayer book. "Some new members had never known a prayer book in their previous church. They like having a prayer book with the service."

Membership diversity is also an issue. For years the Episcopal church was predominantly white Anglo-Saxon. Now the church is trying to encourage growth by incorporating many different ethnic groups and diverse family

Chaplain Watrous Addresses Controversy

The Belles



briefly

Boston Goes Up in Flames

Exactly one year, one month and one day after the Great Chicago Fire of Oct. 8, 1871 (supposedly started by Mrs. O'Leary's cow), Boston too was in flames.

Starting in a dry goods warehouse Nov. 9, 1872, and aided by windy weather, the flames destroyed several blocks of the business district. Almost 800 buildings and their contents were ravaged to the tune of \$75 million. It was reported that the fire's red glare could be seen up to a hundred miles away.

They Still Go Pop!

Though native to North and South America, popcorn was unknown in Europe. The Indians presented it to the early colonists as a gesture of good will. Supposedly, Quadequina, an Iroquois, brought a deerskin bag of popped corn to the first Thanksgiving feast. Later, the colonists popped corn and served it for breakfast with sugar and cream.

Now, archaeologists say popcorn was eaten in the Americas long before the early 1600s. Excavations in New Mexico have unearthed some popcorn ears 5,000 years old. And some of the 1,000-year-old kernels unearthed can still pop!

Thanksgiving Easier Now

In times long past, Americans labored long and hard for the Thanksgiving harvest. They nursed the corn from the ground, baked their own bread, picked the berries, and hunted and shot that bird.

Little wonder there were prayers of Thanksgiving before the meal.

Today, however, one need only stop at the supermarket and select the choicest of the best food in the world. A simple "thank you" and another harvest for Thanksgiving is complete.

structures. According to Chaplain Watrous, "We want our church to make everyone feel welcome."

Finally, there is the issue of human sexuality. At the General Convention it was affirmed that marriage is the proper relationship for sexual activity. Chaplain Watrous asks, "What about unmarried people? Is celibacy the only Christian alternative? We're really having to look at what we think scripture, traditions, and social sciences tell us about human relationships." Special thanks to:

Dr. Quinn Chaplain Watrous



are also being constructed. The Day Student House got and finished off with brass hardware.

Page3

By Elizabeth Denning This summer there were many change on the campus of Saint Mary's. Renovations began as soon as school was out. A lot of the work was done because of the importance of the appearance of the campus for the anniversary. Many students were shocked when they entered their dorms to find a new decorating job or a new fireplace!

Among these additions, Smedes furniture on both second and third floor was repainted, all tiles were replaced in the bathrooms, new carpet was laid in the old smoking room, and in the

Campus Changes for the Better Dean of Student's office, the parlor ceiling was repaired and the portraits and windows were insulated for more protection.

The new student center was one of the biggest changes of the summer. Old students remember the drab rooms that once occupied the building; new rooms have been renovated and ceilings in all the rooms have been repaired. All of the big bushes that once covered up the building on the side of Penick were removed and grass was planted. Four additional floodlights were added to the building to provide more security. New picnic tables

new carpet, and there was also some new furniture added by the GAD committee. The Fine Arts Center added carpet and soundsoak material was installed. The wall in the chorale room was removed to allow more students to fit in comfortably.

West Rock was probably the most completely updated building. This entire dorm was renovated by a general contractor. Furniture was repainted by the SMC maintenance staff. All of the walls were repainted, new carpet was laid in the halls, and fake fireplaces were added for decoration. Closets were completely redone

As far as the grounds, new flower beds were added at the south end of the walk in the front circle and at the awning rear of Smedes by the New Student Center. Gravel walks were installed by the student center, in front of Cruikshank, and from the fire lane to sidewalks at the east end of Smedes. New trash bins have been placed around campus, and new equipment has been purchased for buildings and grounds improvement. New signs have also been added around campus to assist new students and visitors.