

LIFE

Placing the Capstone

BY LOUISE KRAFFT
GAZETTE

Dedication ceremonies were long overdue, councilman David Speck said, but they were "well worth the wait."

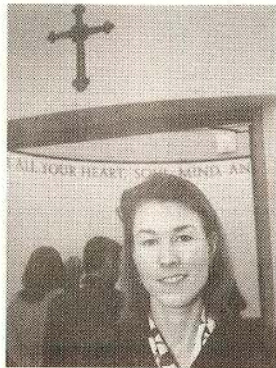
Speck, a 1963 graduate of St. Stephen's/St. Agnes School, returned to his alma mater April 9 when the Rev. Peter James Lee, Bishop of Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, presided over the dedication and consecration of the newly completed chapel and performing arts center at the school's St. Stephen's Road campus.

"The new chapel and arts center is a beautiful addition to the SSSA campus and to the community as a whole," said Speck.

The dedication ceremony, originally planned to take place outdoors, was moved into the Goodwin gym for the prayers, Bible readings by students and musical performances from the school's choirs.

Bishop Lee proceeded to the new building with members of the family of the Rev. Emmitt H. Hoy, headmaster of St. Stephen's

Dedication ceremony marks end of renovations at St. Stephen's/St. Agnes.



Ashley Spencer, an Alexandria illustrator, handpainted the scriptural passages and a cross in the prayer room of the new arts center.

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St. Stephen's Dedicates Chapel

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School from 1955 to 1975.

Underneath the bell tower in the foyer of the new chapel/performance arts center a circular prayer room is named in the honor and memory of Hoy Bishop Lee blessed the room.

Meanwhile, the 1,150-member student body, parents and invited guests were led out of the gym, through the building and across the courtyard to the new chapel and performing arts center.

Parents and guests took seats in the 500-seat auditorium while class by class, students brought in special gifts: the altar cloth was covered with handprints from the oldest and youngest classes, and four tiles from each grade reflected their community service or artistic talent. The tiles were placed on a triptych in the symbol of a cross.

"The new building will be the spiritual center of the school, and a wonderful new showcase for our performing arts students," said Head of School Joan Holden.

The auditorium and chapel completes the renovation and expansion of facilities, the final phase of the school master plan developed in 1993.



Bishop Peter Lee officiated at the dedication ceremony with school chaplains the Rev. Roger D.P. Hearn and the Rev. Margaret E. Phillips.

Remembering Rev. Hoy

After Emmitt Hoy's death in 1975, the 1976 Scroll (the St. Stephen's yearbook) was dedicated to the headmaster. Will Willis, the assistant headmaster under Hoy, wrote the dedication:

"Often a significant influence among many can result from care and concern for the individual. His greatness was founded upon his concern for every individual and St. Stephen's. He was neither a Caesar nor a Napoleon. He was not a warrior who led men into battle, but a teacher who shaped young men. He was not a Beethoven, Chopin or Bach, but his simple noble deeds were like a symphony and his whole life harmonious in its goodness. He was never president, governor or bishop, but he was a faithful community servant. Always true to his conscience and his ideals of public service, he discharged his duties well."