

# Traditional worship offered

By GEORGE CHRISMAN JR.  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — One July evening in 1984 several folks got together in Sun City to discuss forming an American Episcopal Church parish on Phoenix's west side.

"That meeting turned into evening prayer and we've been meeting in Menke's Chapel ever since," the Rev. Hanafi Jeffers said.

From a nucleus of 12 people, St. Albin's American Episcopal Church has grown to 40 members, including 10 of the original dozen.

Jeffers, 42, served at Scotts-

dale's Church of the Holy Spirit before helping to start St. Albin's.

Jeffers serves on the national board of governors of St. Vincent, a national guild of acolytes shared by the American Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Church U.S.A.

He has degrees in music history and literature from Northern Arizona University and theology from St. Albin's Center near San Antonio, Texas.

Jeffers also has a teaching certificate in elementary education from NAU and continues study with St. George's Seminary, a new name for the St.

Albin's Center in Texas.

He and his wife, Pauline, have two sons, Stephen, 10, and Frederick, 6.

When not involved with work of the church, Jeffers is an instructor in computer systems for U.S. West Communications.

"I travel to 14 states and teach the system to company employees," he said.

On occasions when Jeffers is unable to conduct services, another priest or a deacon will fill in for him, he said.

Jeffers says St. Albin's has a fully committed congregation that follows the traditional Anglican worship, using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

That edition contains prayers and affirmation of faith dating to the beginning of Christianity, as well as the traditional Anglican/Episcopal liturgy, according to the parish bulletin.

"Our church in particular appeals to the older ages," Jeffers said in an interview. "That doesn't mean it has to be that way; we're doing what the church has always done — feed my sheep. It's not likely to change.

"We are not ignoring the needs of the modern world and we do have younger members. We appeal to those who cherish the more traditional teachings."

One of the parish's most

committed members is Arthur Beyer, senior warden. As the senior layman he conducts some business meetings and serves on the building committee.

Of Jeffers, Beyer says: "He is a solid, dedicated leader in the church and is an inspiration to us."

A major goal of the parish and the building committee is to find a home for the church. Because they serve the west side of Metropolitan Phoenix, Jeffers said areas they are looking at include Peoria.

While attendance is reduced during summer months, growth will continue in the fall, albeit slowly.

"We're not a fast-growing group, but we're doing just fine," Jeffers said.

The parish is regulated by a vestry which consists of 10 members. Officers include Beyer, the senior warden; Gary Shaw, junior warden; Ruth Milhoan, secretary; and Carolyn Shaw, treasurer.

As parish rector, Jeffers is a member of the vestry.

Services are at 10 a.m. Sundays at Menke's Chapel.

Occasionally, on special holy days, services also are held, such as on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. A



News-Sun photo by P. Atwood Williams

**THE REV. HANAFI JEFFERS** — Rector of St. Albin's American Episcopal Church leads a growing flock of parishioners.

home of their own will open up opportunities for additional services.

"On Shrove Tuesday we have a pancake supper at a member's home," Jeffers said.