

# Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin



## Episcopal Women Make Pillow Covers

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When communicants kneel at the altar of Christ Episcopal Church on Easter Sunday (April 11), they'll be kneeling on two-and-a-half years of work and millions of stitches made by about a dozen women members.

It was the Rev. Henry I. Louttit Jr., pastor, who started the needles plying, according to Eloise Smith.

"Father Louttit heard about a French woman in Pasadena, Calif.," said Mrs. Smith, "who makes needlepoint designs for churches. He wrote to her, Miss Josephine Jardine, owner of the French School of Embroidery, and she made the original designs for our altar cushions."

There are six canvases, each four feet long, to cover the tops of the pillows, Mrs. Smith, chairman of the needlepoint project, explained. Each features shields of two apostles, with the name, date of birth and death and country where he spread the gospel.

"When the cushions are completed they are to cover an area 19 feet long," Mrs. Smith said. "There are also 12 side panels which feature a gold background and blue and gray designs centered with gold crosses. The only other color used is burgundy."

"We never dreamed it would take so long to complete," she said. "But Easter Sunday we are planning to place them on the altar. This is something that everyone in our church should be very proud of," she continued.

Not only did the women have to fill in the background on the canvas, but they had to do the designs as well.

"Someone without a lot of needlepoint experience would not have been able to do the work, because of the intricate designs," Mrs. Smith said.

The women have worked on the project at Guild meetings, in their spare time and while on trips. "It gave you something to do while traveling," Mrs. Smith said.

The canvases are nearing completion and are to be sewn together and finished prior to the morning service on Easter Sunday.

Women working on the project include: Mrs. Joe Stubbs, Mrs. Converse Ferrell, Mrs. Jack Sullivan, Mrs. Derek Pickup, Mrs. Lapp Holland, Mrs. Kenneth Ricket, Mrs. David Wainer, Mrs. Eleanor Grondahl, Mrs. Omer Franklin, Mrs. John Oliver, Mrs. Harrison Tillman and Mrs. Smith.

The designs and materials for the canvases were bought out of the church's memorial fund.

Mrs. Jane Ferrell contributed this article about the kneelers from her scrapbook.

