BELIEFS - Values

## 'People's Window' reflects devotion of parish

## BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER STAFF WRITER

On a rainy day, the stained glass "Peo-ple's Window" autures the sanctuary of the St. David's Episcopal Church in Southfield with a rich, colorful glow. On a sungy day, said Mabel Russell, one of the church's original members, it sanches.

sparkles.

"" "It is gorgeous," said Russell. "When the foun is shining, it is inspirational... it really is."

ia.<sup>7</sup> The People's Window, which depicts Jesus telling his disciples to go into the world and preach the Gospel (The Great Commission?), was planned for the south end of the church sanctuary in the balcony for many years. But it was only recently That the dream was made a reality through the four order of the church was. the fund-raising efforts of the church mem-

bors. The congregation started raising funds in 1992. for the window. Among other efforts, "penny Sunday" collections were held. By early last year, the congregation had collected 552,000, enough for the window to be built, and it was installed last fall. Mea-suring 10 feet wide and 27 feet high, it is the focal point of the sanctuary.

The People's Window at the church, 16200 Weat 12 Mile Road, is to be dedication do a Sunday, May 23. A special dedication liturgy will be held at the 9:30 a.m. service, followed by a lunchcon reception in the fel-lowship hall. In attendance will be Bishop R. Stewart Wood, and former clergy and church members.

A plaque commemorating the window's dedication will be placed in the church, along with a record of all the contributors and their memorials.

and their memorials. St. David's Episcopal Church began as an offshoot of St. James' Parink in Birming-ham, holding its first meeting in 1952 at Oxford School in Berkley. It opened its cur-rent building in 1963. The church today numbers over 360 members from South-field and communities as from South-Rochester.

tochester. Captain Eric Kast of the Church Army lead the parish until the Rev. Herbert Barsalo became the first vicar about a year later. The Rev. Gary Callahan, rector since 1977, accepted another assignment last year. Currently the interim rector is the Rev. Stephen Winsett. The People's Window complete the about

The People's Window completes the plan for stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Over the years, the smaller plate glass windows lining the sanctuary have been

replaced by stained glass ones as money has been donated.

has been donated. "People have made donations for every-thing - in memory, celebration, thankful-ness. Most have been dedicated in memory of something or somebody," said Barbara Veselenak, longtime member and an c.ct-ad church official as a member of the vestry. Marshaet added that the new window

vestry. Veselenak added that the new window makes the church just that much better. Like other members, she said, "I look at it (the church) as my family." Veselenak said that the original impetus for the People's Window came in 1992 when Ellen White of Berkley. church secretary, passed away and donations were given in her name. passea aw her name.

The window was made in New York by Lomb Studies of New York, which has also made the other windows in the church. It was installed by a local contractor.

was installed by a local contractor. Thore's still one more step, said Vesele-nak. Currently, the window is only visible to those inside the church. Veselenak said that plana call for the window to be illumi-neted on the inside at night, so that those on the outside can also see its beauty. The St Denist Existence Church shorts

The St. David's Episcopal Church phone number is (248)557-5430.



STATE PROTO IT 404 44

٩

i

Sparkling: The People's Window at St. David's Epis-copal Church depicts the scene, and the words (above) of Jesus' "Great Commission," when he told his disciples to "go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel....



(OF)87