

# Alcena Boozer joins Deaconate

by Kathryn H. Bogle

At St. Philip Episcopal Church, in a bright, colorful ordination service of Friday, August 24th, which was conducted by the Right Rev. Matthew Bigliardi, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, Alcena Elaine Caldwell Boozer became the first Black woman to be ordained to the Episcopal deaconate in Oregon.

The event was the culmination of months and months of study and a lifetime of testing. This evening, the evening of her recognition, was marked by the high voltage of love which vibrated from the priest-filled sanctuary of the church to its congregation and back again.

According to the Reverend Father

300 students, establishing contact and rapport with them from their freshman days to their graduation four years later.

Now Mrs. Boozer, in her new assignment, will be in charge of discipline for all the girls in the student body, according to Stan Blair, the principal at Grant. Mr. Blair had known for some time about Mrs. Boozer's hoped-for position with her church.

In an interview prior to the actual ordination, he expressed his sincere regard and appreciation of the high caliber of Mrs. Boozer's standards. He mentioned his awareness of her compassionate understanding of the students who have come to her for guidance and help. Mr. Blair sees an



The Right Reverend Matthew Bigliardi conducts service of Ordination of Alcena Boozer. Her husband, James C. Boozer, participates in the ceremony. (Photo: ...)



Father William Wetzel, Jr., pastor of St. Philip Episcopal Church, welcomes Alcena Boozer to the Deaconate.

William Wetzel Jr., priest at St. Philip Church, Mrs. Boozer joins four other women who occupy similar positions in the diocese. She is the only Oregonian, by birth, among them. We believe her to be the first, and only, Black woman ordained to fill such a role on a regular basis in any Oregon church.

About 300 available seats in the nave and the parish hall were filled well before the hour arrived, and every inch of standing room was utilized. Some persons stood patiently outside.

Along with her priest and her bishop, family support was strong for this event, their presence attesting their appreciation for Mrs. Boozer's place among them as daughter, sister, wife and mother. Scattered through the congregation of well-wishers were many personal friends, some made in association with her daily work outside her home. Among these latter were her high school principal and his wife.

Earlier in this exciting week, one other distinction had been brought to Mrs. Boozer. This remarkable lady was named as acting administrative vice-principal at Grant High School, a step up from her long held position there as counselor. Formerly, she had been responsible for as many as

"admirable deepening" of the channels of communication," which can only be, he said, "a very practical assistance to her work as a counselor. The two positions, as he sees them, "will be aligned in a complimentary fashion with each other."

A Portlander by birth, Alcena Boozer is a daughter of Mrs. Marcelene Caldwell and the late Edward Caldwell, both members of St. Philip Church. She was the fifth child among three brothers and two sisters. She received her elementary education at Holladay and Irvington Schools. She was graduated from Washington High School in 1956 and later attended Portland State University. Her marriage to James C. Boozer came in 1960. A return to college completed her work in social studies and she was awarded her Bachelor's degree from Oregon State in 1970. Mrs. Boozer earned her Master of Science degree at Portland State in 1974.

The couple has two sons, Bentley, 17, and Clarke, 16. Clarke is a junior in high school, plays football and is a track letterman at Benson. Bentley is handicapped by a degree of mental retardation.

Mrs. Boozer speaks openly now about Bentley's situation and she

admits freely that at a certain period of her life she was frustrated and angry that one of her children could be so affected. There was a time when she cried out angrily to her Maker, "Hey! God! I'm mad! How could you do this to me?!"

During those trying years, Mrs. Boozer remembers that she learned much of patience and acceptance of Bentley's condition, plus how to gradually cope with the problems this presented within the family constellation. The family's dear friend and counselor, their minister, the late Reverend Lee Owen Stone, was the bridge.

Mrs. Boozer, a member of St. Philip, was confirmed by Bishop Dagwell. She became a lay reader at St. Philip in 1976. Quite possibly because of Father Stone's influence in her life, she began to feel that somehow God had prepared her uniquely for some form of the ministry.

Enthusiastically Mrs. Boozer gives credit to Father Wetzel for giving her the chance to learn, and to find her niche. With Father Wetzel's encouragement, she persevered in efforts to be admitted to the Diocesan School of Learning, which, in turn, cleared away the first hurdles on the path toward the deaconate.

There followed six months of study with various priests of the diocese, succeeded by days of arduous interviews conducted by relays of other priests and laypersons of the diocese. All this was necessary before she could be considered eligible to be declared a postulant equipped to begin serious study! Meanwhile Father Wetzel continued to coach her and to make his extensive personal library available to her.

How did the family fare with all this outside work and activity surrounding the mother?

Clarke found his mother a very interesting person in her ambitions and, on more than one occasion, Clarke brought in school friends just to see "my mother, the preacher!"

Husband James Boozer is a "very organized" person Mrs. Boozer declares, and theirs is a "very organized household." Mr. Boozer is an Industrial Relations Coordinator for Portland General Electric, but he does his share in keeping the household running smoothly. When the family leaves the home in the morning, the house is in order. This way is now habitual with all of them.

Periodically, Mrs. Boozer selects menus and recipes from her extensive

files of what she styles as "do nothing dinners." Someone, she says, "puts them together so that we are all well fed. We have lists and lists for everything."

How does this amazing woman manage to keep her beautiful calm serenity, her optimism and her stores of energy adequate? She is a jogger! Gets up at 5:00 a.m. and runs from three to five miles every other day! She is joined by two other Grant teachers who find this an exhilarating way to start the day.

Alternate days of walks, or Saturday jogging, are taken with her husband. Sometimes on Saturday the couple walks ten miles. As mentioned above the extended family of the Boozer's are all supportive of the Reverend Mrs. Alcena Boozer. Some of them took part in the ordination ceremonies. They were among the 35 persons of the clergy and laymen listed on the program. Mrs. Marcelene Caldwell, the mother, and James Boozer, the husband, were among the seven persons of the church who officially presented Mrs. Boozer to the Bishop for the ordination.

Mrs. Delores Leggroan, sister, and Bentley Boozer, the elder son, presented the elements for the communion service. Clarke Boozer and Kris Caldwell were listed as Taper Bearers.

The Reverend Father Renee L. Harris of Saints Peter and Paul acted as Master of Ceremonies for the entire celebration. Women of the church joined in arranging an informal reception afterward at the Masonic Lodge on Russell Street adjacent to the church.

Soft-spoken, with the joy of life and living emanating from her being, Deacon Alcena Boozer began her functions and duties promptly on Sunday, August 26th, offering the Bread of Life to all who knelt at the Communion Rail.

The Reverend Deacon Boozer has chosen not to accept a stipend for her services to the church and its people. She prefers to give her time and strength because "this frees me to offer back the gifts I have been given."

She states emphatically, "I have no ambitions to be a priest, I just want to be a deacon. I am accepting my servanthood; I want to interpret to the church the needs of the world, and to the world—the church."

"I am of the world, and I want to stay in it—I do not want to live separately from life. I enjoy people, and life is too short for me to take it too seriously."



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		Choir Rehearsal	
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		"The Pastor Speaks"	7:30pm
"Showers of Blessings Broadcast"			
KGAR 1550	11:30am-12:30pm		
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Tuesday-Friday	Noon Day Prayer	281-0499	



**DO YOU NEED HELP?**

Is the DEVIL working against your home, nature, job, church, money, children, sex, neighbor, health, sick, family, loved ones? Are there demons on your body or in your home? Have you been in a fix where you cannot keep or find the RIGHT man or woman? If you need help with any or all of these problems you should call me NOW!! Tomorrow may be too late!!! Does your luck pass you by? If so, I have lucky hands to help you be a winner in all GAMES OF CHANCE—Bingo, Reno, Tahoe, Las Vegas, Special, Miami, Fla., etc.

If you are a spiritual seeker who needs help not promises—call me. I am a "God Gifted" man. I can help you in a hurry.

**TESTIMONIALS**

- 1) Miss Joyce J.W., Portland, OR., was in a fix where she could not find or keep a good man. I, Rev. Hoskins, removed the fix and the jinx from her. NOW she can draw the man of her desire to her like a magnet.
- 2) Mr. & Mrs. C.P. of Compton, CA., could not win the BIG one. They called Rev. Hoskins and Rev. sent them a for-sure win blessing money hand. They went to Las Vegas and their luck kept on coming, winning more than \$16,000.
- 3) Ms. Barbara T., Inglewood, CA., had a man who left home for another woman. She called Rev. Hoskins with tears in her voice. She wanted him back!! Now he is back and eating out of her hand.
- 4) Mr. Paul, Los Angeles, CA., was in a fix and rooted by this woman. As a result he lost his nature for other women, but through Rev. Hoskins' work, Paul regained his nature and became luckier than ever with women, money and his business.
- 5) Mrs. O.I., Long Beach, CA., had demons in her body, and in her home, causing all kinds of bad luck, and unnatural sickness. She called Rev. Hoskins and in 72 hours her home and body were free of unclean spirits.

(The names in the above testimonies have been changed for the protection of the individual.) I guarantee to do what I say I can do. I have a big reputation to protect.

I know the power of the SPIRIT. Don't put it off. Don't let distance keep you from calling. Call now!!! You will be glad you did. Tell a friend where to get HELP today.

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