

In 1973, Parrish became involved in burgeoning grassroots organizing efforts in Dallas, which during the next eight years led to many meaningful changes in the city, including a more democratic and accountable government. In the early 1970s grassroots community organizations in the inner city lacked functional access to quality printing at reasonable prices and were still passing out hard-to-read mimeographed copy. Parrish, who was happiest behind the scenes, was a catalyst for this movement with his IBM Composer, an early electric typesetting machine. Soon, he and his friend, Charlie Young, a community organizer, brought a World War II-vintage offset printing press back to life, a Davidson 242 Perfector, and Parrish became an expert on it. Parrish built other equipment himself, including a platemaker designed to use the UVA ultraviolet light of the sun rather than expensive machines of the era that relied on arc lights.

In the early 1980s, Parrish, with Charlie, Howard Jones and Jeff Gage, formed the East Dallas Printing Company, and with a \$50,000 loan fully outfitted the shop. This included a Compugraphic Editwriter 7500, which Parrish selected. It was a state-of-the-art typesetting machine, and the first digital equipment introduced into American printshops. Parrish was a master at composition and spent many long and late hours working to ensure quality printing. In those days he often wore many hats: he would design a piece, burn the plates himself, run the job on the press and do the required bindery work. His conscientious devotion to progressive causes and his work ethic made a major difference to many grassroots organizations. His efforts ensured quality printing and targeted communications in inner city Dallas at a pivotal time.

Life has many seasons and as the printing company grew, Parrish moved on from a partnership role. It was time for him to raise a family and see more of the world. He married Kate Linehan of Austin, and set out for China, where he taught English. The couple's first child was born there. When they returned, they settled in East Rochester. The lure of New York was strong. It was place where Parrish's family had deep, historical roots, and the couple decided it was the place they wanted to raise their family and educate their children.