



ST STEPHEN'S SIGNPOST

ST STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HEATHSVILLE, VIRGINIA



A welcoming family united in Christian love, worship, and service

ststephensheathsville.org



Joyful and prayerful worship ,
celebrating God's presence
among us through our Episcopal
liturgies.



Beliefs grounded in
Scripture, tradition,
and reason.

Welcome
Lucia Lloyd
Rector

Saint Stephen's
Episcopal Church
Easter 2011

Close fellowship in our work and play.



True welcome and inclusion for all who seek a spiritual home.



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

February 2011 Vestry Meeting

The parochial report for 2010 shows that we had 58 active baptized members; an average Sunday attendance of 32 (skewed by three very snowy Sundays); and welcomed five new members.

Bishop Shannon Johnson will visit on March 20th. His sermon will be broadcast on the radio. The service will be followed by a reception. Members of the parish will spruce up the parish on Saturday, March 12, in preparation for his visit. Phil Johnson raised the issue of the fading and peeling paint on our parish sign. This sign, the original St. Stephen's sign which was rescued by Rocco Tricarico, is an important parish artifact. Ellen will get it refurbished before the visit.

Men from our congregation will help serve the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper that we will share with St. Mary's, Fleeton.

During Holy Week we will hold joint services with Heathsville United Methodist Church on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday; Our Easter Vigil will begin with processing through the village, and end with Eucharist at Chilton House.

Lucia will attend a clergy conference in the Diocese of Fort Worth from April 4th through April 10th. This trip will serve as her second annual week of continuing education.

Ellen will distribute the Heifer funds as follows: \$1,000.00 to the Heifer, and the remaining \$38.00 to the Bishop's Nets for Life project. Our \$250.00 donation to Anne Silver procured 50 sessions of equine therapy for severely handicapped children.

March 2011 Vestry Meeting

Discussion of our phone book ad and phone book listing, significant expenditures, ended with an agreement that the current cell phone arrangement would continue for the near term.

Lucia gave us a summary of the last quarter's activities. Her pastoral care responsibilities were focused on Tommy Crowther's illness, death and funeral and on preparing Bill Blackwell and Kristen Walker for marriage. Pat Dean will be received by the bishop on March 20th. In the area of community presence, Lucia participated in the Northumberland Ministerial Association's Martin Luther King Day celebration, hosted the Association's March meeting, and added the neighborhood church of the week to our prayers. Prayer list letters have actively promoted our visible presence in the community. The radio sermons have been well received and sponsorships have come in from the congregation and friends and supporters.

Parish events in the last quarter include the Epiphany party, the Kate Waller Barrett Eucharist, the Welcome to the Episcopal Church discussion series, the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper with St. Mary's, Fleeton, and the Ash Wednesday service with Heathsville United Methodist.

Some discussion of the positive problem of seating our increasing membership in our limited worship space revealed a strong dislike for the idea of two services. We will increase our efforts to use the current seating to the maximum and reserve pairs of seats for late arriving guests.

Thanks to John and Betty Whiteside for erecting the cross on the lawn for Lent, and to Ellen Kirby for stage-managing the luncheon in honor of Meade Kilduff and Margaret Cox; 42 people attended

A Red Cross First Aid and CPR class will be held at Chilton House. This class is full, but the coordinator, Shirley Grant, will be willing to give a class for our members. Pastor Jim Godwin, our friend and staunch supporter, is retiring from Heathsville United Methodist Church in June. We are donating to the stained glass window fund to honor him. Individual members of the congregation are invited to donate as well.

Westmoreland Players

present

The Government Inspector

May 7-22 6

Tickets available at westmorelandplayers.org or
by calling 529-9345.

PLANT & BAKE SALE

St. Stephen's Spring Plant & Bake Sale is coming up on Saturday, May 28, at Heathsville United Methodist Church from 9 am to 1 pm. The sale will feature hybrid daylilies, herbs, perennials and groundcovers, St. Stephen's potted English Boxwoods, homemade baked goods, and more. As with all our community events, your support is vital to our success. How can you help?

First, come out to the sale and buy lots of stuff! The sale is held in conjunction with the Methodist Church Fish Fry, and a good time will be had by all.

Second, we are still in need of plants and decorative planters (clay, ceramic, metal, etc). All you Master Gardeners out there, please share your babies with us! We have stuff left from the Fall Sale, but can always use more.

Third, if a green thumb is not your thing, how about homemade baked goods, or other specialty food items? These were a big hit in the fall, so we'd like to continue the tradition. Strawberries are coming into season, and preserves sell very well! Please let Ellen know if you can provide any of these items.

Finally, we will need some folks and a few trucks to help schlep plants, tables, and such from Chilton House to HUMC the day before the sale. There are also high level positions open to help with the sale as cashiers, customer helpers, schleppers, moral support, etc. If you can help out with any of these chores, please let me know.

Thanks in advance for your patience and assistance!

Bill and Ellen Kirby



SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Parishioners,

This spring is a wonderful time for me. I really enjoy the emerging leaves, the land coming alive and everything so green. Our first outside service was on Easter Sunday. It was a wonderful morning.

At Easter service I was very pleased to announce that at its April meeting of the vestry unanimously voted to call Lucia as rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. AND Lucia graciously accepted our call. And the Bishop has officially approved. This change is effective immediately.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is a strong permanent part of the village of Heathsville and the greater Northern Neck community, so this change to a permanent and more traditional relationship with our priest is most appropriate. Lucia's activities and job responsibilities will remain the same — but we can now refer to her as our rector.

Congratulations to Lucia!

AND congratulations to St. Stephen's!

Faithfully,

Dick+

P.S. Many of you will remember the tremendous celebration we had when we called Lucia as priest in charge. Priests only get one bash that big, so we are celebrating this step more quietly.

Check out the lilac and the fig tree planted out back as visible symbols of that initial decision. They are both thriving, and so are we!

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Following are excerpts from our book choices for this spring. The passages were chosen almost at random, but show surprising connections between a regional novel, a primer on the concept of time, and a personal interpretation of the Bible.

We invite you to join us; we are always looking for new and lively minds to enter the discussion and lead us in new directions.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 for discussion and food. Call for directions!

May host: Sandra Kirkpatrick 580-5060

June hosts: Phil Moore and Gary Chafin 580-4897

In Search of Time: The History, Physics, and Philosophy of Time

*In the final chapter of his book, *Illusion and Reality*, Dan Falk nudges readers toward modern physicists' conclusion that the passage of time has no reality.*

Nature presents us with many kinds of illusions. For millennia we gazed at the stars of Orion, and we saw a mighty hunter...but we now recognize that the hunter lives only in our imaginations. We have also shattered many related illusions: that the world is flat, for example; that the sky is a vast dome; that the sun moves around the earth. These illusions stem from the fact that we observe the universe from a particular vantage point—"illusions of perspective," we might call them.

There have also been "illusions of interpretation." The plants and animals that surround us seemed like carefully designed structures; their workings made us think of finely crafted machines—perhaps clocks—and so we imagined a divine clockmaker was responsible. But then Darwin showed us how complexity could arise through natural processes...

A third kind could be called "illusions of emergence." We now know that the wetness [of water] emerges only when we have millions of water molecules together; individual water molecules [are not "wet"]. The "hardness" of matter is a similar illusion: atomic physics has shown us that a rock is mostly empty space...

To greater or lesser degrees, we have learned to live with these illusions. It has taken centuries (perhaps millennia) but today we recognize them for what they are, and we move on....

If the flow of time is an illusion, it seems to be more profound than any of these. Physicists may tell us that time "emerged" at the moment of the big bang—but it seems to be a more confounding emergence than that of...a rock's hardness. Taking the "flow" out of time seems more disturbing than taking the wetness out of water. Without time's flow, what are we left with? Is time still recognizable as...*time*? (pp.277-278)

Cold Sassy Tree

In 1906 Olive Ann Burn's protagonist, Rucker Blakeslee, prays as his wife is dying. Three days after the funeral he scandalizes the town of Cold Sassy, Georgia, by eloping with the Yankee milliner at his store. The events that unfold thereafter are seen through the eyes of his 14-year-old grandson, Will Tweedy (who is based on Burn's father.)

The way Grandpa prayed wasn't like other people prayed. You'd of thought God was an old crony of his instead of somebody who could strike you down dead if He had a mind to. "Lord?" he began, then stopped to honk his nose into a handkerchief. "Lord, I'm tempted to ast you to make Miss Mattie Lou well, like You was one a them Atlanta doctors, or maybe Santy Claus and her a Christmas present You could give me if'n you jest would. I know Thou don't mind me hopin' she'll git well, Lord, or wishin', but hep me not to beg you to spare her....Hep me remember my faith that Yore arrangement for livin' and dyin' is good. Hit ain't fair or equal, Lord, but it keeps thangs movin' on.... Hep Will Tweedy here see thet we got to accept dyin' in exchange for livin' and workin' and havin' folks like Miss Mattie Lou to love. And be loved by." (pp. 41-42)

The Good Book:

Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart

Peter Gomes, minister and professor at Harvard, examines the uses and abuses of the Bible in modern life. The selection is from Part Three: The True and Lively Word, Chapter 15: The Bible and Science. Here Gomes is responding to the possible discovery of extraterrestrial life.

[What damage could such a discovery do to Christianity's central doctrine of the incarnation?] Was this event unique in the universe, as official doctrine insists, or did God take on alien flesh too? Is Christ the savior of humans alone, or of all intelligent beings in our galaxy and beyond?

These are the kinds of questions that have always made Christians nervous. Rather than rejoicing in the possibility of the discovery of God's handiwork beyond our previous knowledge or imagination, Christians historically have worried, literally, about losing our alleged pride of place in the sun. Science has consistently managed to unmask one fundamental Christian heresy. Rather than placing God at the center of God's universe, we have placed ourselves at the center of God's universe and determined that we are the objects of his existence rather than the subjects. Every effort to expand the orbit of creation at the expense of our central and unique place in it had been resisted tooth and nail by Christians. Modernity can be described as a series of guerrilla wars between an egocentric Christianity and an arrogant secular science, neither of which is prepared to concede to the other, neither of which can achieve an absolute and unambiguous victory, and neither of which is prepared to take any prisoners.

Even the beginning student of the history of science knows that it all started when Copernicus determined, contrary to received dogma, that the earth rotated around the sun... (pp. 360-361)

UNITED THANK OFFERING SPRING APPEAL

The spring 2011 UTO appeal is upon us. Our combined resources will address compelling human needs through grants to projects that alleviate poverty both domestically and internationally.

You can contribute! We will accept your donations during services on Sunday, May 8th, and Sunday, May 15th. The in-gathering will be Sunday, May 22. Please be generous.

Here is a short prayer offered by Gurtie Burkner during her service on the UTO Committee:

Dear Lord,

Open my eyes that I may see the beauty of the earth you have given us.

Open my ears that I may hear the lessons that you send my way.

Open my mouth that I may sing praise to you.

Open my heart that it may feel the needs of others.

Open my hands that they may share my good fortune with others. Amen.

Mary Eager

St. Stephen's UTO Chairman



Thanks to everyone who made Bishop Shannon's visit on March 20th a joyful occasion.

The service was moving,
the food was delicious,
the parish house was beautiful.



BARBEQUE!

LIVE BLUEGRASS!

COME ON OUT!

St. Stephen's will be holding it's 4th Annual BBQ & Bluegrass on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at Roanoke Farm in Heathsville from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Last year's featured band, Code Blue, earned rave reviews, and many folks asked to have them back. We listened, and Code Blue returns this year for an encore performance. Code Blue is one of Virginia's most popular bluegrass bands; a perennial favorite at Virginia bluegrass festivals, they have performed with Dr. Ralph Stanley and The Clinch Mountain Boys, Earl Scruggs and Marty Stewart, and many other outstanding bluegrass bands.

This year we have added a second band, the Woodshed Conspiracy, a local duo from Haynesville. As a result we will have more time devoted to live music, and a chance to feature and enjoy some local talent.

This year's event will again feature a traditional pig roast. The all-you-can-eat menu includes pork barbecue, hot dogs, beans, slaw, brownies, homemade cookies, and soft drinks. Beer, wine, and homemade ice cream (provided by Heathsville United Methodist Church) will also be available.

A guitar, signed by renowned "finger picker" Tommy Emmanuel will be raffled. A number of additional door prizes will be awarded including tickets to St. Stephen's Oysters and Oldies, Code Blue CD's, tee shirts, etc.

Tickets are \$25.00 (Free admission at the gate for children under 12) and will be limited to 500. Tickets may be purchased on line or at EVB (Heathsville and Kilmarnock), Bank of Lancaster (Heathsville), and Bank of Essex (Callao and Burgess) or by calling the church office 804-724-4238.

Proceeds help fund our water ministry and other outreach programs.

Finally, we need your help to make this year's event a big success. How?



First, buy and sell tickets! Our goal is 500 tickets. If each family takes 5 or 10 to sell or give as gifts, we will be well on our way!

Second, participate in the set up, event day duties, and take down. Many hands make light work. We will be recruiting volunteers for event duty when we get closer to the date.

Finally, make a batch or two of brownies! A BBQ requires dessert. A call will go out in about 10 days for 500 brownies.

Bill and Ellen Kirby

SCHEDULE FOR OUTDOOR SERVICES:

Outdoors from Easter Sunday (April 24) through Easter season (end June 5).

Indoors for the summer starting on Pentecost (June 12).

Outdoors on Labor Day weekend (September 4) and remain outdoors until the weekend of the Shrinemont retreat (October 9).

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May 3 Betty Hillman
 May 4 Leslie & Doug Hatch
 May 6 Phil Johnson
 May 8 Johnny Travis
 May 16 Mary Lloyd
 May 17 Meade Kilduff
 May 19 Rocco Tricarico
 May 27 Evie Cox
 May 30 Nancy Gates
 June 2 Loretta & Lew Blakely
 June 7 Sandra & David Kirkpatrick
 June 14 Kendall Lloyd
 June 19 Margaret Cox
 June 20 Lucia Lloyd
 June 21 Pat Dean
 June 29 Lucia & Marshall Lloyd
 June 30 Betty Burroughs

THURSDAY PROGRAMS

We have a new specialty on our Thursday evening menu. The spiritual food (Evening Prayer at 5:30) and the physical food (potluck at 6:00) remain the same, but the brain food (program at 6:30) is taking a more academic tack.

We will begin exploring the commonalities and differences between the five major world religions—the three Abrahamic faiths and Hinduism and Buddhism—using a videotaped course of study.

Each week we will listen to a half-hour lecture by a university professor and then spend the next half hour dissecting it. Come and explore this format and content, and let us know if you like it.

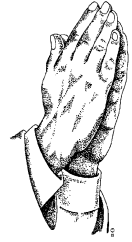
Sandy Kirkpatrick and Ellen Kirby

May 19 Comparative Religion—Who, What, Why, How
 May 26 Exploring Similarities and Differences
 June 2 The Sacred, the Holy, the Profane
 June 9 Vestry meeting — no program
 June 16 Sacred Time, Sacred Space, Sacred Objects
 June 23 Creation Myths and Sacred Stories

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Ushers

May 8 David Kirkpatrick
 May 15 Dick Eager
 May 22 Bill Kirby
 May 29 Dick Eager
 June 5 Herb Cox
 June 12 Dick Eager
 June 19 Phil Moore
 June 26 Bill Kirby



Altar Guild

May 8 Barbara Tricarico
 May 15 Sunday School Class
 May 22 Loretta Blakely
 May 29 Suzanne Johnson
 June 5 Beverly Erickson
 June 12 Betty Whiteside
 June 19 Leslie Hatch
 June 26 Barbara Tricarico

Lesson Readers

May 8 Lea Tilbury (L), Ellen Kirby (P)
 May 15 Angela Travis (L), Sandra Kirkpatrick (P)
 May 22 Rocco Tricarico (L), Dawn Mahaffey (P)
 May 29 Betty Whiteside (L), Dolly Rabelais (P)
 June 5 Evie Cox (L), Lea Tilbury (P)
 June 12 Tal Day (L), Dolly Rabelais (P)
 June 19 Dick Eager (L), Betty Whiteside (P)
 June 26 Nancy Gates (L), Evie Cox (P)

Eucharistic Ministers

May 8 Loretta Blakely
 May 15 David Kirkpatrick
 May 22 Margaret Horsmon
 May 29 Ellen Kirby
 June 5 David Kirkpatrick
 June 12 Marshall Lloyd
 June 19 Dawn Mahaffey
 June 26 Lea Tilbury

Coffee Hour Hosts

May 8 Betty & John Whiteside
 May 15 Dawn Mahaffey & Betty Burroughs
 May 22 Phil Moore & Gary Chafin
 May 29 Sylvia Pencak & Irene Adams
 June 5 Tony & Dolly Rabelais
 June 12 Anne & Ron Silver
 June 19 Rick Skelton & Lea Tilbury
 June 26 Rocco & Barbara Tricarico