



ST STEPHEN'S SIGNPOST

ST STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HEATHSVILLE, VIRGINIA



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

ststephensheathsville.org

THE RECTOR'S COLUMN

We're on the radio!

People all over the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula have been listening to sermons from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 9:05 every Sunday morning on WRAR 105.5 FM. Please tell your friends and neighbors to tune in.. We've already had our first visitor who heard the radio broadcast, liked it, and came to church in person the next Sunday!

I've also heard happy comments from parishioners who were not able to attend church but listened to the radio sermon, and parishioners of other congregations who listened to it as they were getting ready to go to the service at their church. And they even quote parts of the sermon to me to show me they really were paying attention!



People in our community have also told me they're glad to have a better idea of who we are and what we believe. And once they get to know that, what's not to love?

What I am most excited about is the comments from people who don't go to church but still want to have a connection with God to start the week. Quite a few of them have said that listening to our sermons is a refreshing change from what they've heard from television evangelists. The Episcopal Church has so much to offer to people who want to know that there's more to Christianity than what they've heard from Jerry Falwell. While people who are already inside our churches know the value of a thoughtful, open-minded exploration of faith based in scripture, tradition, and reason, people outside our churches may not have heard much of that. Since the mission of the Church includes preaching the gospel to the whole world, not just to ourselves, the radio broadcasts enable us to reach out to a wider audience.

We have already received a lot of encouragement and support for these radio sermons. Bishop Johnston has generously covered the costs of the broadcasts during the eight weeks of Easter season. The only cost of the radio broadcasts is the cost of the airtime, which is \$75 a week. We are doing what NPR sometimes does, which is having sponsorships for each broadcast in which we announce that the program has been sponsored by [your name] in honor of [person you want to honor]. I think we have folks who are willing to chip in 75 bucks to put St. Stephen's on the air, and honor a friend, relative, or neighbor on the radio at the same time.

To do that, please write your name and the name of a person you'd like to honor on the slip below, and return it to us with a check for \$75 with "radio" in the memo line.

Grace and peace, Lucia+

RADIO SERMON SPONSORSHIP

Your name:

Name of person you'd like to honor:

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

January 2011 Vestry Meeting

The radio broadcasts of Lucia's sermons on WRAR need sponsorship. If the \$75.00 checks are made payable to St. Stephen's with "WRAR sponsorship" noted on the memo line, the contribution is tax deductible. A list of those honored by the sponsors will be made known to the congregation. The treasurer noted that gifts to the parish have been very generous in 2010.

Performance reviews and contract renewals are due for Beverly Erickson, our musician, and Terry Bain, our parish administrator, as they complete their first year of employment. Lucia's three year contract as priest-in-charge expires at the end of August. If we call Lucia as our rector, that decision sends a message of stability to the community as we enter the next phase of litigation.

Friction strips will be added to the ramp during the sprucing up event preceding the Bishop's visit. Adjustments are being made to the amplification of the music during services.

Sandra Kirkpatrick, Register

Annual Meeting - December 12, 2010

Lucia Lloyd opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum of 33 members was established. Ann Freeman and Philip Johnson were elected to serve three-year terms on the vestry and commissioned. The 2011 Budget was approved unanimously by the congregation.

Rev. Lloyd's report centered on the faithfulness of the congregation in responding to our Mission Statement. Two new members were introduced. The joyfulness present at our fund raisers was discussed.

Rocco Tricarico, Church Delegate, mentioned two new Diocesan Ministries: 'Native American Assistance', and 'Inter-Faith Sharing'.

The Senior Warden's Report, Committee Reports, and Ministries Reports are contained in full within the *Annual Meeting Report - December 12, 2010*. Copies are available in the church office.

Rocco Tricarico, Register

SENIOR

WARDEN



Dear Parishioners,

As usual a lot is going on. Summaries of vestry and congregational activity are given elsewhere on this page.

We also have three pieces of news about Lucia:

Lucia is going to General Convention July 2012

At Diocesan Annual Council, the clergy and lay delegates of the Diocese of Virginia elected Lucia to serve as first alternate for our diocese's deputation to the next General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. General Convention, which meets every three years as the main decision-making body for The Episcopal Church, provides a wonderful opportunity for common worship and relationship-building with Episcopalians from all over the country. Lucia will hold parish discussions to hear the thoughts of our parish before she goes.

Lucia will serve on New Bishop's Nominating Committee.

Bishop David Jones has announced his plans to retire in January of 2012, and the Diocese will be electing a new Bishop Suffragan to succeed him. Bishop Shannon Johnston has appointed Lucia to serve on the Nominating Committee which will produce a profile of our diocese, locate potential nominees, conduct preliminary interviews, and present a manageable number of well-qualified candidates to the diocese.

And finally, **Lucia will be attending a clergy conference in the Diocese of Fort Worth** as part of her continuing education. The focus will be on reconciliation.

Our three year contract with Lucia expires in the fall. Now is the time to decide to call Lucia as our permanent rector, sever the relationship, or ask to continue the priest-in-charge contract for a year. Please let members of the vestry know which route you think St. Stephen's should take.

Faithfully, Dick+

UPDATE ON PROPERTY CASE

The trial for our property case will begin April 25th (Easter Monday) and end on Tuesday, June 14th. Judge Bellows will probably announce his decision several months later, probably in the autumn of 2011. If there is an appeal, that is likely to take an additional year. The American legal system takes a long time. There will be plenty of time before any changes happen, and we are thankful for the ministry and mission that continue in our parish house church. We are increasingly hopeful about returning to our church home eventually. Keep up the prayers.

Lucia Lloyd

NEW FACES IN THE CONGREGATION



Don Shearouse



Sylvia Pencak



Arlene Crabbe with engaged couple: her daughter, Kristin Walker, and fiancé Bill Blackwell

Westmoreland Players' present

All My Sons

Featuring the acting debut of Lucia Lloyd

Dates: Feb 19-Mar 6

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

VESTRY RETREAT FEATURES LABYRINTH

As part of the vestry retreat conducted by the Rev. Lauren Stanley, a temporary labyrinth (laid out with flour) has been constructed in our outdoor worship space.



Please take time to walk it now that the weather has become warmer. There are containers of stones that you can place as markers along the edges of the path to symbolize your prayers as Anne Freeman is doing in the picture. Several of us chose to pray for members of the Anglican Church as we worked our way to the center, and then to pray for individuals in our congregation on the way out.

A permanent labyrinth is a possibility if members of the congregation find this prayer tool useful.

NEW DIOCESAN AND REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

As was announced at Diocesan Council, several members of Region 2, and more particularly members of this parish, have been asked to serve on various boards and committees.

The Rev. David May, Grace Church, Kilmarnock, has been appointed Dean of Region 2.

Rocco Tricarico has been elected president of Region 2.

The Rev. Hal White has been appointed to two disciplinary committees at the Diocesan level.

Betsy Sue Scott has been asked to serve as on the board of another of the diocesan facilities;

The Rev. Lynn Holland wrote one of the hymns sung at council.

Congratulations to all, and thank you for your efforts on the diocese's behalf.

HOLDING FIRE, January 14

Here's a meditation from Geranium Farm..

I held off writing about the mass murder in Tucson for several reasons. One is that I am teaching this week—up and out too early in the morning to write then, too tired at the end of the day to write then. The other, better, reason, though, is that I wanted to reflect a bit before beginning.

While doing that, I read essays by others who jumped in more promptly. I learned a lot from them, most notably from the unsurprising distribution of responses. What I learned were really two things I already knew, and they are these: for the most part, terrible events like this confirm people in the opinions they already hold. And the second one is that you can't scold or nag people into compassion or civility.

But does that mean that there is no hope for our public discourse? That we are doomed to the current snarky political landscape, that our current civic ugliness must just go on and on, world without end? I don't think so. But there are a few things we must keep in mind.

The first is that outcome matters. Few politicians ever apologize. Ever. They are like teenagers—you may live and die without ever hearing anything from your adolescent like “You know, Mom, I've been thinking, and I've decided that you were right after all. I'm really sorry for what I said.” Ditto most pols. They won't readily admit in public to behaving badly.

But that doesn't mean they might not change their behavior. Maybe this is what we must look and pray for. Perhaps it is more important to look to the future, to a chance to do it better next time, than to demand and get an apology, firing back if you don't get one in the moment. Perhaps the apology comes later. Maybe it never comes. But people often show, rather than tell, their repentance. Yes, this is less satisfying than a cleansing admission of wrongdoing would be. But sometimes it's all the market will bear.

The second is a cliché by now, but clichés only become that because they're true: We must become the change we wish to see in the world. I must be even-handed if I wish even-handedness

from others; more dignified if I wish to see more dignity, more conciliatory if I want to see more conciliation. I must model what I want to see.

Since the funerals began, there has been a small but discernible change in tone. Elegy and resolve for something better now seem more important than scoring points. Since the president's address those who have sought to continue fire have begun to seem quaint, somehow. A little stale.

Might we have turned a corner, finally? Could our physical and verbal violence really fall from fashion? It could. It can. It might. Pray that it will. With God, nothing will be impossible.

Barbara Crafton

SPRING PLANT AND BAKE SALE: MAY 28TH



We know it's still winter, but it's never too early to mark your calendar for St. Stephen's Annual Spring Plant and Bake Sale, which will held Memorial Day weekend (May 28) from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The sale will feature plants carried over from the Fall sale, herbs, woody plants, perennials, and hybrid daylilies. We are also seeking baked goods and other delectable comestibles to supplement our plant nursery items.

In addition to baked goods, you can help by donating plants, providing decorative pots or planters for our St. Stephen's Boxwoods, or helping out on sale day. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the event.

Bill and Ellen Kirby



Valentine Lunch

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14th

honoring

Margaret Cox

and

Meade Kilduff



WATER MINISTRY DELIVERIES

Have you wondered how the water ministry is functioning? Here's a snapshot.

Dave and Sandy Kirkpatrick deliver 6 boxes whenever their client calls them. Every other week Loretta and Lew Blakely deliver 3 cases, Leslie Hatch delivers 4 cases, Lynn and Ted Hower deliver 3 cases, Pat Dean and Lynn Isaac deliver 3 or 4 cases) They took 5 cases of emergency water (due to well not functioning) last week.

Nancy Gates delivers four cartons every 12 days. Her client has "Zero" water as her well is dry. Hal White, David Harvey, and Susan and Joel Stubbs deliver to two clients each for an approximate total of 27 cases every two weeks.

Ellen Kirby is monitoring one client, and Dawn Mahaffey has an additional client.

Here is the sort of situation we deal with. Last week we received an emergency request: a 96 year old lady's well was providing ZERO water. (A health care worker has been buying her a bottle of water from time to time.) We sent out a supply that day, and will assess the situation (with Gayl Fowler's invaluable help). If water is needed on a regular basis, I will find someone to deliver it.

Many, many thanks to:

- Those who deliver water,
- The substitutes who deliver water,
- David who orders the pallets of water,
- Ellen who writes the checks,
- The crew that moves the water to Meade's,
- Meade for the use of her garage,
- Gayl Fowler for her ear to community needs and her recommendations,
- Those who make monetary contributions.

It is a terrific job you are doing.

Pat Dean

SHHH!

Choir rehearsing!

The choir rehearses in the living room area on Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:45. They need quiet so they can concentrate. If you arrive early for the service, they would LOVE to have you come and sing with them, but if you are not in good voice, please don't linger in their space. Thanks!

WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, PODCASTS, AND MORE!

St. Stephen's is scrambling to keep up with fast moving developments in technology and social networking. Here's the latest on our website and other enhancements.

Our active and up to date website contains virtually all of the information you need about what is happening each week, duty rosters, and more. Here's a short summary of what you can find at ststephensheathsville.org.

The St. Stephen's Home Page

- Weekly worship schedule and upcoming events (as well as the annual calendar)
- Pictures of recent events (we can always use more pictures, so send me any that might be useful)
- Sermons (we have now have podcast versions of Lucia's sermons)
- Duty rosters for worship and coffee hour
- Newsletter
- Lectionary

The Members' Area (password required) contains information for St. Stephen's members only including:

- Parish Directory
- E-mail addresses
- Birthdays and anniversaries
- Annual Reports
- Budget and Financial Reports
- Financial Policies
- Vestry Minutes
- Usher Handbook

Contact the Webmaster for your login id and password.

St. Stephen's also has a Facebook page! There is a link to the Facebook page on the website home page. For those "in the know," please join the growing number of folks who "like" our page. To the laggards among us, "Be there or be square!" In the meantime we'll be experimenting with ways to more fully use the Facebook medium.

You may have heard that St. Stephen's has begun "podcasting" Lucia's weekly sermons. That's a geeky way of saying "we're making a recording available." If you'd rather hear the sermons

you've missed, than read them, simply click on the weekly sermon "Podcast" link. (You must have a media player plug-in installed on your P.C. to use this feature).

Finally, the internet is also useful for collecting money! Tickets to St. Stephen's events and donations to the cause can be made electronically through our website. Automatic monthly pledge payments can also be set up by the Treasurer.

Comments and suggestions for improving and making the website more useful are always welcome. If you have any difficulty in accessing the information on the site, let me know.

Bill Kirby, Webmaster

MEN'S GROUP TOURS COLD HARBOR BATTLEFIELD

Nine hardy souls braved some cold February weather, but enjoyed an informative tour of Cold Harbor and Gaines' Mill Battlefields, sites of two pivotal Civil War engagements near Mechanicsville.

Gaines' Mill marked Robert E. Lee's successful defense of Richmond in the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, preventing an early Union victory in the war. The engagement at Cold Harbor in 1864 again temporarily halted a Union offensive on Richmond, but led directly to U.S. Grant's nine-month siege of Petersburg, and ultimate victory in the spring of 1865.

Following the morning tour the group headed to a local restaurant for lunch and refreshments before heading back to Heathsville.

A spring outing is being planned.

Bill Kirby

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

St. Mary's, Fleeton

5:30, March 8, 2011

Come and enjoy fellowship with
our friends at St. Mary's!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 8 Ellen Kirby
 Feb 21 Dawn Mahaffey
 Feb 24 Barbara and Tal Day
 Feb 27 Fenton Crowther
 Mar 7 Tony Rabelais, Angela Travis
 Mar 9 Marshall Lloyd, Caroline Lindemann
 Mar 12 Hal White
 Mar 19 Anne Freeman
 Mar 22 Suzanne Johnson
 Mar 24 Lynne Campbell
 Mar 27 Sandy Kirkpatrick
 Apr 5 Dolly Rabelais
 Apr 15 Lea Tilbury

THURSDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

In Lent Christians focus on forgiveness. This year's Lenten series is based on the book *Forgive and Get Your Life Back* by Dennis Maynard. The four sessions are on Thursday evenings at 7:00.

March 17: Forgiveness chapters 1 & 2

March 24: Forgiveness chapters 3 & 4

March 31: Forgiveness chapters 5 & 6

April 7: Forgiveness chapter 7

Copies of the book will be available at church, or you can order one online.

BOOK GROUP NEWS

In January we discussed *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* by Daniel Okrent.

February's selection is *This Hebrew Lord* by John Shelby Spong.

In March the group will be reading *In Search of Time: The History, Physics, and Philosophy of Time*, by Dan Falk.

In April we will read *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Burns.

May's selection will be Peter Gomes' *The Good Book*.

The group meets once a month at one of the members' homes for stimulating discussion and light refreshments. We read a variety of genres, and new members are welcome!

Bill Kirby

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Ushers

Feb 20, 27 Phil Moore
 Mar 6 David Kirkpatrick
 Mar 13 Dick Eager
 Mar 20, 27 David Kirkpatrick
 Apr 3 Phil Johnson



Altar Guild

Feb 20 Suzanne Johnson
 Feb 27 Beverly Erickson
 Mar 6 Betty Whiteside
 Mar 13 Leslie Hatch
 Mar 20 Barbara Tricarico
 Mar 27 Sunday School Class
 Apr 3 Loretta Blakely

Lesson Readers

Feb 20 Evie Cox (L), Dawn Mahaffey (P)
 Feb 27 Tal Day (L), Rocco Tricarico (P)
 Mar 6 Dick Eager (L), Lea Tilbury (P)
 Mar 13 Ellen Kirby (L), Rocco Tricarico (P)
 Mar 20 Anne Freeman (L), Betty Whiteside (P)
 Mar 27 Amy Jones (L), Evie Cox (P)
 Apr 3 Bill Kirby (L), Tal Day (P)

Eucharistic Ministers

Feb 20 Ellen Kirby
 Feb 27 Rocco Tricarico
 Mar 6 Loretta Blakely
 Mar 13 Loretta Blakely
 Mar 20 Lucia Lloyd
 Mar 27 Lea Tilbury
 Apr 3 Nancy Gates

Coffee Hour Hosts

Feb 20 Beverly Erickson, Gene Covington
 Feb 27 George and Anne Freeman
 Mar 6 Loretta and Lew Blakely
 Mar 13 Leslie Hatch
 Mar 20 Bill and Ellen Kirby
 Mar 27 Margaret Horsmon, Lynne Campbell
 Apr 3 Phil and Suzanne Johnson