



# ST STEPHEN'S SIGNPOST

ST STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
HEATHSVILLE, VIRGINIA

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

[ststephensheathsville.org](http://ststephensheathsville.org)

## THE RECTOR'S COLUMN

So what kind of place is Chautauqua? Well, it's a very beautiful place, and that's one reason we go there for vacation. But what matters about places isn't usually the place itself; what matters about places is what kind of things happen there. Chautauqua is the kind of place that has the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church preach the sermon at the Sunday worship service, and Bishop Gene Robinson preach the sermons every day for the rest of the week. The outdoor amphitheater is used for concerts, theater, lectures, and all sorts of creativity, and then transformed into sacred space for worship.

It's the sort of place where they have a formal lunch for the Presiding Bishop in an elegant Victorian hotel, which has windows that can be raised from the floor to let in the breeze. I was sitting outside on the grass with my daughters, who were picking tiny wild daisies and weaving them into garlands, and telling them that at the lunch I wanted them both to be well-behaved Episcopalians. A voice from behind me said, "Oh, well-behaved Episcopalians!" and when I turned around it was Bishop Robinson! I introduced myself and we had a lovely conversation, the first of several, as it turned out, which I'll tell you more about later.

At the lunch, I went over to the Presiding Bishop's table, and before I had even finished telling her what church I was from, she exclaimed, "Thank you thank you thank you!" and said what an important and cherished witness and ministry our congregation has. I wish all of you could have seen and heard the enthusiasm in her eyes and in her voice as I told her about you, about your water ministry, about the Methodists, about the spirit of lay leadership, about Hal, about the parish house with Rocco and Bill's work on the expansion, about the fundraisers for outreach, about our old folks and new folks, gay folks and straight folks, about letting go of pain and embracing hope, about your welcoming atmosphere and your joy, about how much I love doing ministry with you. I asked her also if there was any message she wanted me to convey to you from her. She said, "You have been experiencing resurrection, haven't you? You will continue to." I have been reflecting on that since, how that message really does get to the heart of it. I remembered that three years ago, in my interview with the vestry, I said, "This congregation is a church of the resurrection" and I wholeheartedly agree that we will continue to experience resurrection.

As my conversation with the Presiding Bishop went on to discuss the Episcopal Church in Fort Worth and Pittsburgh, suddenly there was a large cloth napkin covering my head. Kendall was *(Cont'd page 2)*



standing behind me chuckling. So I introduced her to the Presiding Bishop, and she smiled and said, “Oh, you and your sister were the ones climbing in and out of the window.” Right. Not only had I given the kids permission to climb in and out of the windows next to our table, I had also climbed in and out of the windows with them a few times. I even wondered whether other people at the long formal lunch were secretly wishing that they could move back and forth between being well-behaved Episcopalians at their tables, and playfully gathering daisies in the sunshine. I thought of the ways in which the goals of Vatican II were symbolized by opening a window, and how many windows our congregation has opened. There are a lot of ways in which St. Stephen’s moves back and forth between indoors and outdoors, between formal and playful, between the ecclesiastical and the natural. At the end of the meal, Kendall gave the Presiding Bishop a garland of daisies she’d made outside. And the Presiding Bishop, who is both playful and a well-behaved Episcopalian, said again what she had said at the beginning, “Thank you.”

Grace and peace,

Lucia



## SENIOR WARDEN



Dear Parishioners,

Wow, what a summer we are having! Hot, hot, hot, and as usual at St. Stephen’s, busy, busy, busy. It is a satisfying and joyful experience to be part of all these goings on. More to come this fall is highlighted in this edition of the SIGNPOST.

We all seem to have settled into our normal summer activities. Some of us are vacationing away while others of us have family visiting here in Virginia. Church life is settled as well, Sunday services are robust and well attended. Thank you to everyone that helps make this happen! Also, attendance for the Thursday night potluck and video is steady. Lucia is just back from a well deserved two week vacation with her family.

A heartfelt thank you to all those that make the St. Stephen's water program happen. It is especially important and valuable during these hot summer months. Water issues are being discussed at the county level too. It's good to know that there are good caring people working on the long term water plans for us all.

Since all is well, the vestry decided not to have a July meeting this year. Look elsewhere in this issue of the SIGNPOST for summaries and highlights of the previous meetings and previews of the upcoming activities this fall.

Again, many thanks to everyone that is making the summer of 2011 at St. Stephen’s and in the Heathsville community so wonderful.

Faithfully,

Dick

## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

### April 2011 Vestry Meeting

By unanimous vote the vestry called the Reverend Lucia Kendall Lloyd as rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Heathsville, Virginia. Lucia gladly accepted the call. Dick Eager, Senior Warden, thanked the vestry for its diligence in consultation with the congregation on this step forward. He noted that our congregation is whole, moving in the right direction, and will endure.

St. Stephen's will collect non perishable food items that children can prepare for themselves. A bin and lists of suggested foodstuffs has been placed at Chilton House. This extension of the Backpack Buddies program will provide food during the summer for children who are not getting breakfast and lunch at school.

Lucia, Ellen and Sandy met with Terry Bain for an annual performance review. All parties are pleased with how administration in the parish is proceeding. One outcome of the meeting was a decision to shift to biodegradable cups and plates for coffee hour.

There are two new recipients in the water ministry; a new member has taken one of them as his client. 46 people were present when Bishop Johnston made his pastoral visit. He toured Chilton House and grounds and enjoyed the reception prepared by our parishioners.

### May 2011 Vestry Meeting

Beverly Edwards, who graciously agreed to serve as our church musician at very short notice, has informed Lucia that she wants to leave the position at the end of the calendar year when her contract is up for renewal.

The vestry decided to address the issue of goals and objectives fully next January, and to look at our progress toward specific limited objectives at each vestry meeting during the remainder of this year. Tying the objectives to our mission statement, and communicating our excitement about what we are doing is the basic objective.

The Rev. Jim Godwin is retiring as minister of Heathsville United Methodist Church. We will contribute to the stained glass window being installed in his honor, participate in the retirement

service, and plan to entertain the congregation at a picnic supper this summer.

Thanks to Marshall Lloyd for masking the wiring for the new speakers.

### June 2011 Vestry Meeting

Our two recent fundraisers, managed by Bill Kirby, were very successful financially and as community events.

About a quarter of the proceeds of the plant sale, held in conjunction with Heathsville United Methodist Church, came from baked goods. In future preliminary orders will be taken for "Meade's rum cake" and the story of its creation will be printed on cards to hand out with the cake.

Everyone present at the barbeque and bluegrass event seemed to have a good time. The weather was perfect, the beverages cold, the food delicious, and the music excellent.

We will prepare box lunches for the Northumberland Historical Society again this year.

The search for a new musician is in its preliminary stages.

We now have multiple place settings of china donated by the Westmoreland Players and stored in the new kitchen china cabinet.

St. Stephen's now has a Twitter account. Lucia explained how this free service, described as a cross between email, Facebook and CB radio, can promote our services and events. Conference call technology will be tested this summer; skype is the first approach to try.

As part of our Mustard Seed grant project, sheds to house water purification equipment for three of our water ministry clients have been erected and the equipment installed.

The Thursday night series on Comparative Religions is underway and will continue as interest warrants. A new TV set and DVD player have been installed.

The courtroom phase of the litigation has ended and lawyers for both sides are presenting briefs. This phase will end late in the fall; Judge Bellow's decision is expected during the winter months.

Note: There was no vestry meeting in July.

## NORTHERN NECK REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN

*Here is a summary of Gayl Fowler's response to Northumberland county's proposed water supply plan, recently presented to the county commissioners.*

The Planning District Commission is to be commended for its efforts to prepare a water supply plan. But this plan is only a beginning. We must be very cautious about making judgments based on such limited data. Here's why:

- 1. A large number of local companies did not respond to the water use surveys sent to them.**
- 2. The state monitoring well station at Surprise Hill is not yet finished and it will take years to collect sufficient data from it.**
- 3. The report does not look at the differences in our aquifers across the Northern Neck and the implications for water usage.** For example, the Potomac Aquifer lies deep under Northumberland County but comes much closer to the surface in the upper reaches of Westmoreland County. On the other hand, the Piney Point Aquifer, known to be in trouble across the river in Southern Maryland both in terms of being drawn too low and in high levels of arsenic in some locations, supplies much of the rest of the Northern Neck. When SAIF Water sampled well drillers reports from the Neck's four counties, we found that over half of our residential wells tap into this problematic aquifer whose issues have not yet been researched in Virginia. The upper regions of Northumberland County around Callao and Lottsburg are in a very different position than the rest of the county because their wells tend to be in the Piney Point Aquifer. These communities may find they need deeper wells within a few years.
- 4. Predicting the future based on current usage assumes there will be no major developments.** Give us more golf courses and usage will be dramatically different. The National Golf Course at Virginia Beach uses 134,247 gallons per day. One Williamsburg golf course uses 93,400 gallons per day.

US Geological Survey (USGS) maps show the Northern Neck surrounded by areas where there

has been heavy draw down in the aquifers. Bottled water companies and industries which depend on enormous water supplies may begin to exploit the "gold mine" under our feet especially since we do not have regulations to govern the amount of water new businesses could withdraw.

**5. Our decisions on water use need to include a broader view than just our local area.** Other areas have already been affected by changing water supplies.

**6. Much of the scientific information on our aquifers is relatively recent and needs to be assimilated before major decisions are made.** USGS papers published in 2006, 2007 and 2009 provide the most recent information. SAIF Water Wells has given copies of the USGS aquifer maps of our area to each of the county health departments so that the public may have greater access to the information.

**The "Northern Neck Water Supply Plan" should be sent on to the state, but with the understanding that a lot more needs to be known in order to make well informed decisions about our water supply.** A great deal of research is still needed. The Virginia Water Commission of the General Assembly acknowledged that need and prepared a specific list of research projects in December of 2009. Commission members should be urged to implement the planned research immediately.

The Rev. Gayle Fowler, SAIF Water

### GOING GREEN...with cornstarch and sugar cane

Please notice our new plates, cups and forks at Chilton House. We are shifting to biodegradable (compostable) dishes made of corn and sugar.

We still have a backlog of Styrofoam and plastic to use up, but are auditioning this brand of more environmental friendly products. Let us know what you think of them. The square plates and forks are very sturdy, the cups a little less so.

And, in the interests of science, we are "biodegrading" a set of them on the Kirkpatrick's compost pile. We'll follow up with pictures!

Sandy Kirkpatrick

## BOOK CLUB NEWS

The book group will not meet in July or August, but order these books for your summer reading — one light one heavy — and join us in the fall. Our next two books are:

Driving on the Rim by Thomas McGuane  
 “McGuane (Gallatin Canyon) adds another rueful portrait to his gallery of flawed masculine types, set, again, in Big Sky Country. Berl Pickett is a small town doctor whose ill-advised decision to try to cover up an old friend's suicide attempt leads to dire consequences.... With plenty of time on his hands, Berl reverts to his former profession of house painter. Between jobs, he contemplates his past.... The novel is more contemplative than dramatic, ending, as it does, on a decidedly anticlimactic note, but readers who relish McGuane's signature descriptions of hunting, fishing, birding, and cruising (in a rattletrap Olds Starfire 88) will once again be satisfied.”

*From Publishers Weekly*

We will move into this world briefly in September at the Kirbys’.

The Jesus Wars: How Four Patriarchs, Three Queens, and Two Emperors Decided What Christians Would Believe for the Next 1,500 Years by John Philip Jenkins

“The fifth-century Christian church faced a doctrinal issue... the nature of Jesus Christ. [W]as he a human-divine cross-breed, so to speak, or was he purely divine and his human body an illusion? The conclusion of the council of Chalcedon in 451 that he was fully divine and fully human... incensed those who held he was of one nature, entirely divine. ...Chalcedon eventually triumphed, but not until well after 250 years of intermittent violence in which monks behaved like the Waffen SS. Jenkins condenses centuries of church and imperial strife with admirable clarity ....He suggests that this era... may have lessons for the present and future conflict between Christians and Muslims over the nature of God.”

*From Booklist*

This choice arose from a complaint that the Nicene Creed is unwieldy and difficult for modern Christians to embrace fully. Join us in October at the Kirkpatrick's' to explore this issue with a fuller understanding of the politics that were involved.

## PLANT & BAKE SALE

St. Stephen's Fall Plant & Bake Sale is coming up on Saturday September 3 from 9 am to 1 pm. The sale will feature hybrid daylilies, hydrangeas, figs and other shrubs, herbs, perennials and groundcovers, St. Stephen's potted English Boxwoods, homemade baked goods, and other comestibles! Free refreshments will be provided.

Your participation and support are vital to our success. How can you help?



First, come out to the sale and buy lots of stuff! The sale is Saturday of Labor Day weekend with many folks in Heathsville for the Christmas Countdown, Fish Fry, and other events.

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 can always use more plants.

Third, if a green thumb is not your thing, how about homemade baked goods, or other specialty food items? Food items were very well received last year and this past spring, so we'd like to continue the tradition and increase the number of offerings. Please let Ellen know if you can provide any of these items.

Finally, we will need some folks to help schlep plants, tables, and such to set up 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

## A FOND FAREWELL TO JIM AND LOU GODWIN

The last Sunday in June, Jim Godwin preached his last sermon at Heathsville United Methodist Church. There were fond reminiscences, smiles and laughter; and there were tears. It was unquestionably a heartfelt time and we are thankful to have been part of that day and part of the Methodist fellowship these last four and a half years.

Jim invited St. Stephen's to attend his final service and asked Lucia to dedicate the stained glass of the Annunciation given in honor of his and Lou's service and ministry.

Lucia commented on the appropriateness of the gospel reading for that day: "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." Matthew's gospel continues: "Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple —truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward." Lucia thanked Jim and the congregation for welcoming and refreshing us.

Ellen presented a Tiffany lamp to the Godwins from St. Stephen's as a token of our love and appreciation for all they have done to make us welcome. Ellen said, "As Tom Bodett, spokesman for Motel 6 would say, 'We'll leave the light on for you.' That is precisely what you did when we were weary and without a church home."

We thank you, Jim and Lou. We thank the wonderful congregation of Heathsville United Methodist Church.

We may say farewell for now, but we know the friendships we have made will continue, and that our paths will continue to intertwine.



May the door of this church be wide enough  
to receive all who hunger for love,  
all who are lonely for friendship.

May it welcome all who have cares to unburden,  
thanks to express,  
hopes to nurture.

May the doors of this church be narrow enough  
to shut out pettiness and pride,  
envy and enmity.

May its threshold be no stumbling block  
to young or strained feet.

May it be too high to admit complacency,  
selfishness,  
and harshness.

May this door be for all who enter  
the doorway to richness and  
a more meaningful life.

AMEN

(A contribution from Hal White's files)

## RICHMOND HILL

Who do you pray for?

In our private devotions, we most frequently pray for our families, friends and neighbors, don't we? In church, we extend that circle of prayer through the prayers of the people and the special prayers. Should we do more?

Well, some people do. Let me tell you about Richmond Hill in—of all places—Richmond. This intentional community is situated in a former convent on a hill overlooking the city. The convent was established after the Civil War by nuns whose mission was to pray for the city. After their departure, their work has been taken up by this ecumenical group. In addition to running a retreat center and giving workshops, the community at Richmond Hill prays for the city. Daily. Methodically. Community by community. Citizen by citizen.

Here is one day's worth. (I chose Wednesday, because that's when I am typing this.)

***Wednesdays:** Pray for the Governor of Virginia, the General Assembly, and all who work in State Government. All who work in businesses which provide services to others. All who work in construction. Hospitals and nursing homes; patients, residents and staff; all who provide health care. Victims of violent crime, all who commit violent crime. Senior citizens.*

Thursdays cover finance, unemployment and prisons. Friday cover manufacturing, police, fire and rescue, courts and all young people. I could go on, but you get the idea.

Our county could use a similar blanket of prayer. Our social workers, volunteer firemen, nurse's aides, teachers, mailmen, and dozens of others need our prayers to support them in their ministries—and yes, mail sorting is a ministry! I'd like to see us put together a "Northumberland County Daily Cycle of Prayer" on the Richmond Hill model. Would anyone be interested in working on this project?

Sponsoring a radio broadcast in honor of the Sea Rescue Squad, or the hospice volunteers, or all middle school teachers, or the post office staff would also be a "cup of cool" you could offer.

Sandra Kirkpatrick

## "A Cup of Cool"

*Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."*

*Matthew 10:40-41*

A couple of weeks ago we took red plastic cups home from church, challenged to find prophets, righteous persons, and "little ones" in our community. Our assignment was to offer them a "cup of cool" in carrying out their ministries. This was not our perennial "help others" mandate. Instead we were asked to open our eyes to see others serving as Christ's hands in our midst, to acknowledge their work with a letter, email or phone call, and to enable their efforts in material ways if we could.

We invite those of you who read this newsletter far from Heathsville like to take up this challenge in your home community. (If you do, tell us about it in an email.)

What are we doing? Here, as the dog days of summer approach, are a few of our "cups of cool."

- Notes of appreciation to clergy spouses, recognizing the slack they take up and the disruption our emergencies cause in their lives.
- Thanks to those who offer programs to youth and elderly in the heat of summer, and offering to haul supplies for them.
- Compliments to grandchildren who are growing (way too fast) into the young men and women of the future, and setting up college funds to assist them,
- Acknowledging our neighbors' service to the widowed and sick in our neighborhoods, and joining them in visits and personal attention.
- Letters of encouragement to missionaries and missions enclosing checks to assist in the work.

# BARBEQUE!

## BLUEGRASS!

### COME ON OUT!

### And they did...



Chopping barbeque

St. Stephen's held its 4th Annual BBQ & Bluegrass on June 4, 2011 at Roanoke Farm in Heathsville. It was a finger lickin' and finger pickin' good time!

About 400 people turned out on a perfect June day to enjoy live bluegrass music, great BBQ, and the ambience of beautiful Roanoke Farm.

Two bands—Code Blue and the Woodshed Conspiracy—provided high energy entertainment.

The menu was highlighted by Mason Brent's succulent roast pig, and homemade ice cream in umpteen flavors sold by Heathsville United Methodist Church.

The event was a financial success, as well, and net proceeds will be used for St. Stephen's Water Ministry and other outreach programs and donations.

We are grateful to Mason and his gracious hospitality, and for all those who helped sell tickets, schlepped and served!

Bill and Ellen Kirby



Pushing brownies



Striking the tents until June 2012  
See you then!



Tapping toes

## BIRTHDAYS AND

### ANNIVERSARIES

July 24	Barbara Tricarico	
July 25	Susan Stubbs	
Aug 5	Johna Jones	
Aug 7		Herb & Evie Cox Ron & Anne Silver
Aug 21	Alice Cooper	
Aug 24		Phil Moore & Gary Chafin
Aug 27	Ted Hower	
Sept 13	David Kirkpatrick	
Sept 20	Elsie Tolnitch	Susan & Joel Stubbs
Sept 25		Carl & Marlene Alexoff
Sept 26	Evelyn King	
	William Brent	
	Lee Kilduff	

### RADIO SERMON SPONSORS

#### June 5 **God Loves You. And I'm Trying**

Sponsored by the congregation of St. Stephen's in honor of Mason Brent and in grateful appreciation for his hosting St. Stephen's Bluegrass & Barbecue and working skillfully and devotedly to make it a wonderful event for us and the community.

#### June 12 **God Coloring Outside of the Lines**

Sponsored by Bliss Bourne in honor of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

#### June 19 **Can You Make Me One With Everything?**

Sponsored by Ned and Kia Ware of Tappahannock in honor of their daughter Catesby

#### June 26 **A Cup of Cool**

Sponsored by Tom Scott in honor of his wife Betsy Sue Scott whose birthday is today

#### July 3 **Why God Loves Pork Barbecue**

Sponsored by Phil Moore and Gary Chafin in honor of the Rev. Lucia Lloyd for her loving embrace of all God's children

#### July 10 **Spiritual Pestiside and Holy Mackerels**

Sponsored by Joel and Susan Stubbs in honor of Lucia Lloyd's ministry

#### July 17--**Chinese Placemats and the Trinity**

Sponsored by Sandra and David Kirkpatrick in honor of Dr. Jim Hundley and the staff of Heathsville Animal Hospital

## IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

### Ushers

Jul 31	Herb Cox
Aug 7	Herb Cox
Aug 14	Joel Stubbs
Aug 21	Herb Cox
Aug 28	Bill Kirby
Sep 4	Joel Stubbs
Sep 11	Phil Moore
Sep 18	Phil Johnson



### Altar Guild

Jul 31	Betty Whiteside
Aug 7	Leslie Hatch
Aug 14	Sunday School Class
Aug 21	Sunday School Class
Aug 28	Loretta Blakely
Sep 4	Suzanne Johnson
Sep 11	Beverly Erickson
Sep 18	Betty Whiteside

### Lesson Readers

Jul 31	Dolly Rabelais (L) and (P)
Aug 7	Amy Jones (L), Betty Whiteside (P)
Aug 14	Dick Eager (L) and (P)
Aug 21	Angela Travis (L), Don Shearouse (P)
Aug 28	Sandra Kirkpatrick (L), Evie Cox (P)
Sep 4	Ellen Kirby (L), Dolly Rabelais (P)
Sep 11	Evie Cox (L), Tal Day (P)
Sep 18	Sandra Kirkpatrick (L), Evie Cox (P)

### Eucharistic Ministers

Jul 31	Marshall Lloyd
Aug 7	Dawn Mahaffey
Aug 14	Ellen Kirby
Aug 21	Marshall Lloyd
Aug 28	Betty Whiteside
Sep 4	Marshall Lloyd
Sep 11	David Kirkpatrick
Sep 18	David Kirkpatrick

### Coffee Hour Hosts

Jul 31	Loretta & Lew Blakely
Aug 7	Dolly & Tony Rabelais
Aug 14	Amy Jones, India & Rain Eiuguren
Aug 21	Mary & Dck Eager
Aug 28	Anne & George Freeman
Sep 4	Meade Kilduff & Mary Fleming
Sep 11	Anne & Ron Silver
Sep 18	Betty & John Whiteside