



# ST STEPHEN'S SIGNPOST

ST STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
HEATHSVILLE, VIRGINIA



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

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

## THE RECTOR'S COLUMN

"Every financial contribution of \$58 will buy a chair for a worshipper at St. Stephens." Those were words I jotted down on the back of a handout at clergy conference, not really knowing what would happen to them, but knowing that there are plenty of people who care about St. Stephen's and would want to participate in the excitement of our growing congregation. I ended up seeing my jotting printed in the diocesan communique, and the next day got a check with a lovely note from a friend of the parish.

People often ask me, "So, what's happening at St. Stephen's?" and it is a hard question to answer because there are so many things happening that it's hard for me to keep up. And the incredible lay leadership of this parish means that I have the pleasure of watching in amazement as things blossom from the results of other people's creativity and hard work and love.

I am writing this from New Haven, where I am taking a class this week, knowing that the parish house I left on Sunday has developed into something new while I was away. The people who send checks for a chair do it without knowing what the chair will look like and without getting any direct benefit from the chair, but only having the sense that good things are happening and will happen at St. Stephen's. I don't even know what the parish house will look like when I get back, but I have the sense that good things are happening and will happen at St. Stephens, and that there are always more good things than I can ask for or imagine.



Lucia

### BOOK CLUB NEWS

On July 21 the book club will discuss *Ghost Soldiers* by Hampton Sides, an account of the WWII raid in the Phillipines to rescue 513 POWs, including survivors of the Bataan Death March.

This book is seen as a balance to the June discussion of Japanese Americans' internment during the same period.

The group will meet at 5:30 for food and discussion. Consult the web site or call Bill Kirby for directions.

### AUTOMATIC DEBIT

Pledge payments can be set up to be automatically debited from your checking account on a monthly basis. This eliminates having to write checks and helps ensure a more even cash flow for St Stephen's. If you are interested, please contact Ellen Kirby.

## VESTRY MEETING NOTES

May 14, 2009 Vestry Meeting

Lucia called the meeting to order. All vestry members were present. Also present were Ellen Kirby, Treasurer, and Rocco Tricarico, Delegate.

Lucia presented a summary of her work hours. She has averaged 27 hour per week while contracted for 20 hours. She indicated that her hours should be increased to 25 per week starting July 1st, 2009. The additional weekly salary would be \$154. The vestry plans to conduct Lucia's six month review at a special meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

The April 2009 meeting minutes and the minutes of the special meeting with Bishop Jones (to present the building plan for enclosing porch) which includes motions to start the building project were approved.

A safety ramp will be included in the porch project. Rocco will design the ramp and get bids. Ramp funding source is still undetermined. The homeowner, David Chilton, has approved the improvements and St. Stephen's request to continue renting the property for up to 5 more years at the current rate. Additional discussion about who pays utilities is needed. Rocco and Barbara Tricarico will donate three Anderson windows for the new rear wall which will provide light and a view to the back.

Treasurer's report: Ellen Kirby summarized the April 2009 report. Pledges still remain behind, but a \$2500 gift has helped to make up the difference. April income was slightly ahead of expenses.

St. Stephen's will contribute \$150 to Region II.

The metal shed behind the lawn mower garage can be used for storage of the outside equipment and may make up for some of the loss of inside storage space resulting from the porch expansion project. The vestry decided to get an estimate to build a wooden floor and paint the exterior of the shed. The floor will be built now; painting and possible shelving work will be done as funds become available.

The meeting was continued to May 28th.

### May 28, 2009 Vestry Meeting

Everyone from the preceding meeting was present except Rick Skelton, who is recovering from surgery.

The ramp is completed. Interior walls of the porch will be completed before breaking through the wall to keep the dirt and dust out of the rest of the house and minimize the construction impact on scheduled church activities.

The FF&E steering group to do the "interior decorating" has been appointed: Ellen Kirby has asked Dolly Rabalais, Nancy Gates, KK Crowther, Anne Silver and Dawn Mahaffey to serve on the committee. Meade Kilduff has asked for a cross for the altar. Thomas has offered to make us an altar if we purchase the materials. This is one option to consider. Anne Silver has offered two pieces of furniture that could be used as a sacristy and altar and possibly a credence table.

Sunday School teachers will be recognized on Pentecost. St. Stephen's will send Fenton Crowther and Moogie Scott off to college at a ceremony in August. Lucia will do a house blessing service for Dennis Stephens and his partner David at Burnt Chimneys in August.

There were no questions or comments from vestry members on the tabulated results of the Credo Questionnaire during the meeting. Lucia mentioned that there are sabbatical provisions in her contract with St. Stephen's and that she does regularly attend a monthly priest's meeting in Ashland, VA.

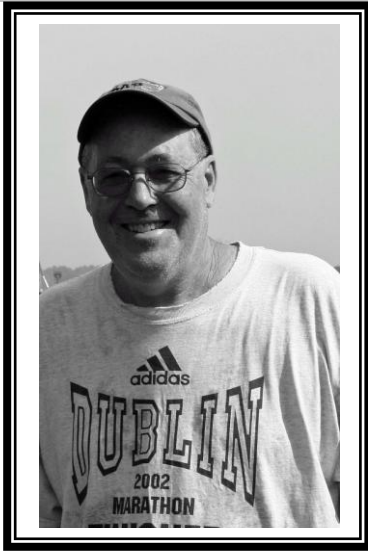
Mutual Ministry Review: the Diocese recommends these reviews be facilitated discussions, so a date in late June or July with a facilitator is being arranged.

Parochial report: the vestry voted unanimously to approve the 2008 report as presented. The June vestry meeting is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Ellen Kirby overviewed the 2009 Mustard Seed activities, priorities and budget. See the attached handout for particulars. The vestry approved the 2009 budget of \$7800.

The vestry discussed the feelings triggered by the invitation to Mary Swann from St. Stephen's Anglican to lead a Thursday evening discussion. The healing process at St. Stephen's Episcopal is ongoing. Lucia will work on some ideas that will be positive, helpful and uplifting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Eager, Register



## SENIOR WARDEN COLUMN

Wow! I'm writing this in the afterglow of the second annual Pickin' Party. If you were there, you know why I say, "Wow!" Then, I say, "Thanks!" Thanks to

God for lifting the threatening clouds right before game time, and capping it off with a fabulous full moon just as the Honeywind Bluegrass Boys were finishing up with "I'll Fly Away." Thanks to St. Stephen's members and friends and Heathsville Methodist Church for 3 days of schlepping, setting up, stepping forward for duty, cleaning up, and taking down! Thank you, Mason Brent, for once again offering Roanoke Farm as our setting and for overseeing the "signature" pig roast! Thank you, Ellen, for seeming to be everywhere help was needed simultaneously.

Also this month **Chilton House Transformation Phase II** kicked off on schedule under the direction of our consulting architect, Rocco Tricarico. As I write this, construction has essentially been completed. The back porch has been enclosed and opened up to the dining room, providing space for 10-12 seats. The archway between the dining room and living room has been considerably enlarged. The effect is now of a single, long room – a chapel. The builder has started trim work and will install matching flooring in the porch area shortly. The back steps have been replaced with a combined safety ramp to the porch and steps to the garden.



The shed at the rear of the garage has been floored, providing needed storage space. Finally, thanks to David Kirkpatrick, the cat pen adjacent to the dining room has been dismantled and removed.

During construction a Decorating Committee has been meeting to recommend priorities for furnishing and decorating the new worship/multipurpose space. Their recommendations will be presented to the vestry and the congregation. Our intent is to solicit donations for these items, where possible. See the Vestry Minutes on the preceding page for names of committee members and items needed. They can fill you in on their deliberations, and will welcome your ideas and suggestions. Thanks, everyone, for your patience during construction.

In our parish life we have a lot to be thankful for at St. Stephen's — especially the healing of three of our church family. Rick Skelton, Evie Cox, and Loretta Blakely are all home recuperating after successful surgeries. May God grant them continued healing and a swift return to normal activities!

Finally, congratulations to our two high school graduates, Moogie Scott and Fenton Crowther. We will send them off to college at a special service in August.

In case you were wondering... here's what it takes to put on the Pickin' Party. Start with a picturesque and perfect venue — Roanoke Farm and a darn good Bluegrass Band — The Honeywind Bluegrass Boys. Then add—by the numbers:

- One 125 pound pig overseen by a pit master, Mason Brent
- 150 pounds of smoked pork butts
- 250 hot dogs
- 500 rolls
- 50 lbs of cole slaw
- 12 gallons of baked beans
- 400 brownies
- 3 kegs of beer and 5 cases of wine
- 8 cases of soft drinks and water

Finally,

- 400 people who came and enjoyed the event
- 50 wonderful volunteers at the right place at the right time.

That's all it takes to have a successful event!

Faithfully,  
Bill

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER APPRECIATION

On Pentecost we celebrated the conclusion of our first year of Sunday School. Part of the liturgy used and comments from the students follow.

A selection from Psalm 78:

*That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, \* we will not hide from their children.*

*We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, \*and the wonderful works he has done.*

*He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, \*which he commanded them to teach their children*

*That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; \*that they in their turn might tell it to their children;*

*So that they might put their trust in God, \*and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments;*

Let us pray:

Loving God, who sent your son Jesus Christ to teach the multitudes, we thank you for all the people who have taught us about you throughout our lives, and who have been good examples to us of a life of faith.

*(Silence to thank God for teachers in our lives.)*

We thank you for all who have shown love, faith, and encouragement to children, especially those who have taught the children of St. Stephen's this year:

Fenton Crowther	Nancy Gates
Marshall Lloyd	Amy Jones
Rocco Tricarico	Betty Whiteside
Sandra Kirkpatrick	

We pray their lessons and their love will continue to bear fruit in the lives of teachers and students alike.

### Comments from those who really know what Sunday School was like: India, Angela, Kendall, Rain, and Mary:

Sunday school teachers are important because they teach you about God so you know about God as a little person.

We have fun.

Our Sunday School teachers are good because they like children. They help you act out the Bible stories or they let you draw or play Bible games. And they give you a little time to talk with your friends and eat the coffee hour food before it's all gone.

Sunday School is an excuse to stay at church longer.

Even though I understand the lesson, when we act it out, I understand it better. And it's fun!

Sometimes they ask you what is your image of something in the Bible. Like we read about a prophet being blinded by the light. So I thought we don't know what God looks like: that's a secret to everybody, so God would be like a light.

We get to set the altar and we get to participate in all kinds of church jobs that normal Sunday School kids don't get to do.

You get to learn from Sunday School and be like the adults in the Bible study.

It's always a surprise what you have for Sunday School, it's not the same thing over and over again.

Sunday school has been helpful to my faith because I didn't really know much about the Bible. I knew the basics but not all the stories. Now I know the Bible was real-life mistakes and real-life accomplishments. It's people who are just like you, just like your friends and family and even strangers. So you learn from the Bible for your own life.

We get to spend time with new friends and get to know each other, we get to create stuff, and we sit in comfortable chairs, not a regular classroom.

You know you've had a good Sunday School lesson when you don't want to leave. And that's happened to me!

## UPDATE ON WATER MINISTRY

The Diocese of Virginia awarded St. Stephen's a Mustard Seed Grant last year to continue the development of our outreach program. We will use the grant to expand our Water Ministry.

More than a dozen St. Stephen's volunteers have been delivering bottled water to roughly fifteen families since September 2007. **Currently we are supplying 400 gallons of water a month.** In most cases these families are unable to acquire potable water for themselves because of illness, isolation, and/or lack of financial resources. We are working on more permanent solutions; however, each case is different, and no one solution will solve all the problems. Helping people understand the water issues we face is one way we think our parish can make a difference.

**We will focus on the goal of education.** This will include educating ourselves and the larger community about various kinds of water treatment systems; acquiring the skills to install those systems; monitoring the different systems over the course of 12-24 months and gathering data during that time; developing a report of our findings and sharing the information with interested agencies and groups; and participating in the drilling of a test well in our county.

Our efforts in these five areas involve the following activities:

- 1) **Interested parishioners can attend the Master Well Owners Program sponsored by the Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension Service.** This program is modeled after the Master Gardeners program, and participants are required to pass on information to the community. See Ellen Kirby if you are interested.

**We plan to visit several water treatment plants over the summer** and share gained information as part of St. Stephen's regular Thursday evening programs. We will also host events for the community. Sign-up sheets will be posted for our "field trips."

- 2) **We will acquire the skills necessary to install and monitor various water treatment options,** including ultraviolet, reverse osmosis, chlorine pellet dropper and chlorination kits.

**We will purchase one of each type of system and install them** in the homes of family for whom we are now delivering bottled water. There will be an education component for the individual families, and also for others who could benefit from that type of treatment system.

**We will also construct rain barrels and invite the public to participate.** We will maintain three barrels to loan to people in emergency situations. We will also acquire a bottle swing which is another stop-gap water supply system. .

- 3) **We will monitor how well the water treatment systems are working and maintain data on each.** During this period, we will provide the replacement filters, or necessary equipment to maintain the system
- 4) **We will write a report of our findings and share this information with interested agencies and groups,** such as the SAIF Water, Diocese of Virginia Stewardship of Creation, Eastern Water Quality Association, VA Tech Cooperative Extension Service.
- 5) **We have already donated to the drilling of a test well in Northumberland County on Surprise Hill.** This test well will allow the Department of Environmental Quality to monitor quality and levels of water in the aquifer.

**We also intend to place a well structure on the front lawn of St. Stephen's Parish House as a symbol of life-giving water.** We will make water available from outdoor spigots for any to come and fill their jugs. Just as people flock to the Northern Neck because they are drawn by the water, we hope people will be drawn to St. Stephen's.

I hope you are as excited about our expanded Water Ministry as I am. Please let me know how you would like to be part of this exciting outreach to our community!

Ellen V. Kirby





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Plant Sale Set for September 5

St. Stephen's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Plant Sale will take place Saturday, September 5 (Labor Day Weekend) from 9am-1pm at Chilton House.

The sale will feature hybrid daylilies, mums and other perennials, herbs, planters, and more.

The Plant Posse – comprised of Bill Kirby, Dolly Rabalais, Betty Whiteside, Sandy Kirkpatrick, Rocco and Barbara Tricarico – needs your help! How?

**Plants.** Our goal is 1,000 plants for sale. The Posse has committed to providing 500. If everyone else provides at least 10, we can reach our goal! Look around your yard. We all have perennials or herbs in need of dividing. Those plants will sell! We will have potting mix, pots, plant tags, and markers at Chilton House for your use. **Do not wait until August to divide and plant. Plants need time to recover and look nice for the sale. If you need help digging let us know.**

**Pots.** 1000 plants mean 1000 pots. If you have extra pots bring them to Chilton House so that they can be shared by others who need them. **We need pots from 1 pint up to 1 gallon in size. Please don't bring pots larger than 1 gallon size or smaller than 1 pint size.**

**Boxes/Flats.** We need nursery flats and low, flattish boxes for customers to carry away purchases. **Cut off box flaps and remove any packing material, please. Do not bring them to Chilton House yet. Hold them until we announce that we need them.**

**Non Plant Items.** We are adding planters and other non-plant items for sale this year. If you have unusual planters, trellises, garden art, tools, or anything else you think might sell, let us know.

Items should be in good condition. We can help clean up items.

**Cookies.** As we did last year, free refreshments will be provided. A call will go out in August when cookies are needed.

**Volunteers.** We will need help setting up, parking, cashiering, assisting customers, serving refreshments, and taking down the plant sale. If you can help on the day before or the day of the sale, please let us know.

Thank You!

## UNCIVIL TONGUES

What does it say about dialogue in the Episcopal Church that it takes the president of the United States to remind us how to engage in civil discourse?

President Obama, speaking at the University of Notre Dame, asked, “As citizens of a vibrant and varied democracy, how do we engage in vigorous debate? How does each of us remain firm in our principles, and fight for what we consider right, without demonizing those with just as strongly held convictions on the other side?”

The president spoke about the failure ...to use “fair-minded words,” and said he had learned through his own experience to “extend the same presumption of good faith to others” that had been extended to him. “When we do that,” he said, “that’s when we discover at least the possibility of common ground.”

We in the Episcopal Church, and throughout the Anglican Communion, need to take the president’s words to heart. For in our disagreements we have lost the ability to be civil toward each other, to give grace just as much as we demand it. We far too often forget – or decide not to – extend the presumption of good faith to others.

And thus we lose the possibility of common ground.

Any scientist, any social scientist, any doctor will admit readily that there are more questions than

answers in the universe. We understand too little about the human body, the universe, diseases; we are baffled by economics; we cannot explain the workings of the mind. [But] we pursue greater understanding every single minute of every day.

In theology, we boldly proclaim the same thing: God, Anselm of Bec taught us, is that which nothing greater can be conceived. The Apostle Paul proclaimed that now we see only dimly. Jesus said we cannot know the mind of God.... This is central to our beliefs about God, because to know God fully in this life would be to reduce God to our size, which theologically is illogical.

But, inevitably, one side or the other in a debate proclaims to know the mind of Christ. In our eagerness to be right, we proclaim that we know – that we KNOW – what God wants of us, what God thinks of us, what God demands of us. ..And we demonize those who disagree with us, claiming that they are, quite simply, WRONG!...

On the worst days of our debates, I wait, trembling like Job, for God’s thundering response to our arrogance. I hear God’s voice raging from the whirlwind:

*“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements – surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or who shut in the sea with doors ...and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed?’*

The Lord God thundered at Job and his companions, reminding them that it was God, not they, who made the universe and everything in it...

God alone has all the answers....And it is clear to me that God is not pleased when we demonize each other; ...there are no “us’s” and “them’s” in God’s very good creation. All of us are God’s beloved children. The only way for us to live into the love in which and for which God created us is to literally do what Jesus commanded us to do— Love one another as he loved us....

As we go into General Convention in July, it would behoove us to be a tad more humble, a tad more willing to admit that we do not have all the answers, a tad more generous toward those who disagree with us.

Admitting that God alone has all the answers, and that we are but mere creatures stumbling about in the dark, would be a good first step toward more gracious, more grace-filled, discussions.

Lauren R. Stanley

*(Excerpted from an essay by the Rev. Lauren Stanley, an Appointed Missionary of the Episcopal Church from the Diocese of Virginia, who will be our celebrant on July 5.)*

## THURSDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

The weekly program begins with Evening Prayer at 5:30, followed by a potluck supper at 6, and then:

- June 18 Vestry meeting and social time
- June 25 Forgiveness: Part Two (Lucia and Hal)
- July 2 Faith and the Practice of Writing (Lucia)
- July 9 Taize service
- July 16 TBA



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- |         |                        |         |                   |
|---------|------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| June 19 | Margaret Co            | July 2  | Tal Day           |
| June 20 | Lucia Lloyd            | July 9  | Rain Eguiguren    |
| June 23 | Mary Eager             | July 13 | Phil Moore        |
| June 21 | Pat Dean               | July 24 | Barbara Tricarico |
| June 29 | Lucia & Marshall Lloyd |         |                   |
| June 30 | Betty Burroughs        | July 26 | Susan Stubbs      |

## St. Stephen’s is now registered for the Food Lion Shop & Share program.

Each time you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP card, a portion of your total grocery purchase will be donated to St. Stephen’s.

**We need to have 25 people sign up before we can receive the Food Lion donation.**

You may register your MVP card by completing the sign-up form below and returning it to Ellen Kirby or by visiting the Food Lion website at:

[www.foodlion.com](http://www.foodlion.com).

I WISH TO SUPPORT ST. STEPHEN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

MVP CARD # (12 digits)

\_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

## IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

### Ushers:

June 21 Joel Stubbs  
June 28 Joel Stubbs  
July 5 Herb Cox & Tony Rabelais  
July 12 Tony Rabelais  
July 19 Tony Rabelais  
July 26 Tony Rabelais



### Altar Guild

June 21 Suzanne Johnson  
June 28 Sunday School  
July 5 Leslie Hatch  
July 12 Sunday School  
July 19 Lynn Hower  
July 26 TBA

### Lesson Readers

June 21 Ted Hower (L), Susan Stubbs (P)  
June 28 Ellen Kirby (L), Bill Kirby(P)  
July 5 George Freeman (L), Anne Freeman (P)  
July 12 Susan Stubbs (L), Rocco Tricarico(P)  
July 19 David Kirkpatrick(L),  
Sandra Kirkpatrick (P)  
July 26 Rick Skelton (L), Tal Day(P)

### Eucharistic Ministers

June 21 Ellen Kirby  
June 28 Rocco Trocarico  
July 5 Loretta Blakely  
July 12 David Kirkpatrick  
July 19 Marshall Lloyd  
July 26 Lea Tilbury

### Coffee Hour Hosts

June 21 Marshall Lloyd & Johnny Travis  
June 28 Tom, Betsy Sue Scott & Co.  
July 5 Rocco & Barbara Tricarico  
July 12 Leslie & Doug Hatch  
July 19 Joel & Susan Stubbs  
July 26 Ted & Lynn Hower