



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

Thank you to all the folks who have already brought in multivitamins for local kids from low-income families!

The impetus for this ministry came from our winter vestry retreat, in which we did some brainstorming about how we might cooperate with other organizations and churches to help meet the needs of our community. For this ministry, we are cooperating with Shiloh Baptist Church's food bank. We enrich their ministry by providing vitamins the kids wouldn't otherwise get, and they enrich our ministry by taking care of distributing the vitamins to the kids who need them most.

We will continue collecting these multivitamins throughout the summer. Once school lunch programs end for summer vacation, children in low-income families are particularly vulnerable to the effects of an inadequate diet. Children who have vitamin and mineral deficiencies while their bones, organs, and brains are developing, suffer from increased health problems both during childhood and throughout the rest of their lives. The good news is that St. Stephen's parishioners can improve the health of the community for years to come simply by picking up some bottles of kids' multivitamins at the grocery store.

In his radio broadcast last week, Rush Limbaugh suggested that the solution for hungry children who are born into low-income families is that the children ought to look for nutritious food in dumpsters. The idea that dumpster-diving is the solution for the development of the next generation horrifies me.

I am very glad to be part of a church that is doing something positive to help kids who have so few resources. Feeding the hungry and caring for children was such a big part of Jesus' ministry, and such a clear part of his teaching.

If you have ever thanked God for good food, please remember kids who don't get much nutritious food and include kids' vitamins on your grocery list. The ability to change a child's life for the better is itself something to be thankful for.



Grace and peace,
Lucia

Deposit bottles of multi-vitamins — any brand, any size — in the
box on the table beside the fireplace. Thanks!

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

April 2010

Copies of approved Vestry Minutes will be distributed to the Parish Administrator, with attachments for the Official Record, and to Bill Kirby for Website publishing.

Treasurer's report indicates that the church is now ahead of budget on income, and, below budget on expenses. The Church Audit, due in August, is being completed at this time. Bill advised that buying BBQ tickets on line (with PayPal) incurs a 4% service fee. He is continuing to place church information and activities on Facebook. We will sell plants at Heathsville United Methodist Church during their Fish Fry.

Plans for the Mutual Ministry Review in June are moving along; the Rev. Geoff Coupland has been selected as Facilitator.

Bishop Jones will receive Betty Whiteside during the mid-week Eucharist he will conduct at St. Stephens. Ellen Kirby will arrange a reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres following the service.

After much discussion about resuming outside services, on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of May services will be conducted outdoors on the lawn.

Although the St. Stephens by-laws mandate electing Delegates for two-year terms; the Diocese requires an 'Annual Notification' of the names. The Vestry decided that the current delegate (Rocco) and alternate (Sandy Kirkpatrick) will remain in their positions for a second year. New elections may occur soon after Council 2011, perhaps as early as the February 2011 Vestry Meeting.

Ellen described plans for creation of hospitality teams and asked for vestry suggestions.

Ellen presented Pat Dean's Water Ministry Status Report. Ellen is ready to discuss the next phase of this ministry (the need and furnishing of water quality monitoring devices) with Gayl Fowler.

Driveway changes are ready to be implemented. Handicapped Persons signage will be secured.

Submitted by Rocco V. Tricarico, Register

BBQ & BLUEGRASS EVENT

A GREAT SUCCESS

On Saturday June 5 about 500 BBQ and Bluegrass lovers of all ages attended the traditional pig roast in the delightful setting of Mason Brent's Roanoke Farm, and enjoyed live bluegrass music performed by Code Blue, one of Virginia's finest bluegrass bands. The crowd was the largest yet for our three year old event, and financial results were the most successful, as well. In addition to all the food and music, there were raffle drawings for Sandy Kirkpatrick's quilt and a guitar signed by Code Blue. Ten door prizes including shirts, CD's, and a gift certificate to Tommy's Restaurant, were also awarded.

Code Blue in action

The St. Stephen's Posse was enthusiastically assisted by more than 30 of our church family and friends, and several members of Heathsville United Methodist Church in everything from schlepping supplies, setting up tents and the stage, chopping barbecue, serving food and drinks, and cleaning up. All the help made for a smooth operation. Thanks to everyone again!

Mark your calendar now for the first Saturday in June, 2011 for our 4th Annual event.

Submitted by Bill Kirby and the Posse

SENIOR WARDEN



Dear Parishioners,

Spring has just turned to summer and it is hot, hot, hot! But in spite of the heat much is happening. We have just had the most successful BBQ event ever. Go St. Stephen's! Here are highlights of other happenings organized by this year's goal areas.

GROWTH: So far, we have two new members, and there will be more. Visitors to St. Stephen's comment positively about our welcome, service and hospitality. Our reputation as a welcoming and inclusive community is growing. Sunday attendance is occasionally over forty. Please invite a friend or neighbor to worship with us. An outside service is an especially wonderful start. Also, we'll be showing movies on Thursday nights starting July 22nd, and that's another easy way to introduce friends and neighbors.

WORSHIP: There is room in the choir and on the Altar Guild for several more members. On July 18th we'll have a workshop for all scripture readers. Everyone's participation in worship enriches the experience for all of us, so find your place to participate.

INREACH: Regularizing visitations is a goal. We are doing a good job of communicating needs and supporting members in need. Lucia recently trained our Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEMs) to take communion to parishioners who are homebound or hospitalized. When the weather cools, some women's or men's group get-togethers or field trips may be scheduled.

OUTREACH: This year St. Stephen's will participate in Hospice program, the Heifer Project and the children's multi-vitamin collection. There are plans to expand the Water Ministry program beyond water distribution. There is new filter technology that will enable us to upgrade non-performing water systems to meet safety standards. We have Mustard Seed funding for this and for a variety of education programs.

But wait, there's more:

- **Assembling box lunches**—a fund raiser—**on Saturday July 24th** for the Historical Society. (Come and help!)
- **Fall Plant Sale, Saturday, September 4.**
- **Blessing of the Animals, Saturday, October 2.**
- **Shrine Mont retreat weekend October 8-10th.** We have been invited to share this weekend with the Falls Church so some activities will be held jointly.
- **Oyster Roast on Saturday, December 4.**

Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome; please share them with Lucia or any vestry member.

Faithfully,

Dick

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The H₂O Event held annually for all 6th graders in Lancaster and Northumberland Counties will take place at the Boys Camp Kekoka in Kilmarnock on October 5 and 7. Contact Audrey Brainard at Brainard@nnwifi.com if you can help. Please identify the day or days you could volunteer:

1. Tuesday, October 5th from 8:30 until 2:30
2. Thursday, October 7th from 8:15 until 2:15

Volunteers are needed in the following areas: Instructors, Escorts, Food Preparation, Registration, Time Keeper, Distribution of Water and Snacks. Gayl Fowler, Who is in charge of the "Well, Well, Well" segment, can use assistance.

WATER CONSERVATION IDEAS

(STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION COMMITTEE)

- **Take shorter showers.**
- **Compost food scraps instead of using the garbage disposal.**
- **Sweep, rather than 'hose down' walkways and decks.**
- **Only run the dishwasher when full.**

Very basic ... but all valid! Rocco Tricarico

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE PROPERTY CASE?

The short answer: The Virginia Supreme Court ruled that statute 57-9 does not apply to our case. Statute 57-9 says that if a division occurs in a church, the members of the congregation may, by majority vote, determine which branch of that church they will belong to, and that vote will determine who controls the property. The Virginia Supreme Court said that although they thought The Episcopal Church had divided, the Church of Nigeria is not a branch of The Episcopal Church. Since the CANA congregations do not belong to a branch of the Episcopal Church, the statute does not apply to their situation.

What happens next? The Virginia Supreme Court has reversed the judgment of the circuit court, and remanded the case with the direction to dismiss the CANA congregations petitions based on Statute 57-9. **The case now goes back to Judge Bellows of the Fairfax Circuit Court. Instead of judging the case based on Statute 57-9, he will now consider the case based on declaratory judgments. This will include a consideration of several factors, including the constitution and canons of the Church, the deeds, the statutes, and the course of dealings between the parties to determine whether the Diocese of Virginia and the Episcopal Church have trust, contractual or proprietary interests in the properties. Some of the issues he will consider are the same for all nine of the parishes in this case, and some of the issues involve looking at each parish's documents individually.** This process may take a year or two, and that decision might also be appealed.

The Diocese will demonstrate that the property is held in trust for all 80,000 Episcopalians who worship in Virginia. "This decision brings us one important step closer to returning loyal Episcopalians, who have been extraordinarily faithful in disheartening and difficult circumstances, to their church homes," said the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, bishop of Virginia. "We are extremely grateful for this opportunity to correct a grievous harm. The Episcopal Church has and will continue to stand by its people, its traditions and its legacy - past and future. We look forward to resolving this matter as quickly as

possible and bringing our faithful brothers and sisters back to their home churches."

So, the case is not over yet, but we have good reason to be hopeful!

What are the details of the recent ruling?

Statute 57-9 says: *"If a division has heretofore occurred or shall hereafter occur in a church or religious society, to which any such congregation whose property is held by trustees is attached, the members of such congregation over 18 years of age may, by a vote of a majority of the whole number, determine to which branch of the church or society such congregation shall thereafter belong. Such determination shall be reported to the circuit court of the county or city, wherein the property held in trust for such congregation or the greater part thereof is; and if the determination be approved by the court, it shall be so entered in the court's civil order book, and shall be conclusive as to the title and control of any property held in trust for such congregation, and be respected and enforced accordingly in all of the courts of the Commonwealth."*

The Virginia Supreme Court said in its ruling: "In summary, we conclude that the evidence does not establish that there was a division in the Anglican Communion for purposes of the application of Code 57-9 (A). We further conclude that a proper construction of Code 57-9 (A) requires a petitioning congregation to establish both that there has been a division within the church or religious society to which it is attached, and that subsequent to that division the congregation seeks to affiliate with a branch derived from that same church or religious society. While the branch joined may operate as a separate polity from the branch to which the congregation formerly was attached, the statute requires that each branch proceed from the same polity, and not merely a shared tradition of faith. The record in these cases shows that the CANA congregations satisfied the first of these requirements in that there was a division within TEC and the Diocese, but not the second, as CANA clearly is not a branch of either TEC or the Diocese. Accordingly, we hold that the circuit court erred in ruling that the CANA congregations' petitions were properly before the court under Code 57-9 (A)."

Lucia Lloyd

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

When we gathered on Thursday, June 10, 2010, after the Virginia Supreme Court's ruling was announced, over a few glasses of champagne we thanked God for his abundant blessings. Here are the highlights of that very long list:

We were blessed with:

- Hal and Sally to get us started
- George Freeman's optimism
- George Mahaffey's dying process
- David Chilton's house church vision—and house
- Ellen's aesthetic gifts for the house
- Bill's Midas touch with fundraising
- Leslie's cakes
- Rocco's architectural talents and bulletin art
- Rick's Bible study leadership
- Joel's dishwashing
- All of our sweat equity in the house
- Bishops Shannon and David's support-financial and otherwise
- The Methodists' hospitality and friendship
- Liturgical gifts from other congregations
- Our choosing Lucia, and Lucia's gifts

We have grown through:

- Trusting God's faithfulness
- Getting to know and love each other, growing closer to one another
- Taking an intense look at theology
- Our Thursday evening fellowship
- Conducting our water ministry
- Worshipping out of doors
- Using our talent and brains
- Demonstrating courage and endurance, patience, self-control, and charity
- Closer ties to other churches in Region 2, to the Diocese, to the other continuing churches

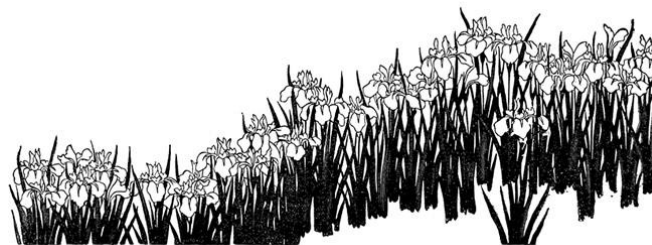
And we remained loyal members of the Episcopal church.



OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

We want to continue to:

- move slowly with discerning hearts
- maintain our vision and values
- work together as the body of Christ
- plan wisely
- reach out to African-American churches
- host community events
- do a few things well rather than trying to do everything
- attract youth, direct outreach to youth
- demonstrate love, joy, peace, kindness; show radical hospitality and inclusion.



And, finally, we delight in the joy we experience in our worship, in our fellowship, and in our service to God and our neighbors.

WATER DELIVERY UPDATE

Our congregation may be small in numbers but it has a big heart. One project which makes life a little easier for those in need in Northumberland County is the church's water ministry. The program relies on referrals from the Rev. Gayl Fowler, head of SAIF Water Wells, Inc., a non-profit group that "provides hands-on help to local citizens on wells and water issues."

Volunteers Lew and Loretta Blakely, Nancy Gates, Leslie Hatch, Dave Harvey, Lynn and Ted Hower, Ellen and Bill Kirby, Sandy and David Kirkpatrick, Susan and Joel Stubbs, Hal White, Pat Dean, Phil Johnson, Phil Moore, Dawn Mahaffey, Lucia Lloyd and Gayl Fowler regularly deliver three (3) gallon cases of clean drinking water to fifteen homes with unsafe wells.

It's not just water the volunteers deliver. For some clients the volunteer is a visitor they can chat with. Sometimes, other needs come out as the volunteer visits and help is provided. Rides to medical appointments, help filling out complicated forms, and friendly personal concern by way of a phone call are a few of the services the ministry provides.

The water is purchased at the Heathsville Food Lion who sells it to us at cost. David Kirkpatrick coordinates the water ordering process, and a team of volunteers moves the water from the pallets at Food Lion to where it is stored. Every two months two pallets—a **total weight of 2,940 pounds of water**—is delivered, shifted, stored and distributed.

Fundraisers such as the Bluegrass and Barbeque and Oyster Roast help pay for the water. When you come to a St. Stephens Episcopal sponsored event, remember you are also helping to provide water for our water ministry program.

Pat Dean, program coordinator

BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

Tuesday, July 20, Wallace Stegner's *Angle of Repose*, Host: Nancy Gates

August—no meeting

September—Lisa Lee's *Shanghai Girls*

October—John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany*

November—Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*

THURSDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

During the summer months we will be having a Faith in Film series. Every week after supper (and following evening prayer at 5:30) we will view a feature length film and then, as time allows, discuss the faith issues it raises.

July 8 Evening prayer, pot luck, and vestry meeting.

July 15 Visit from Unitarian Fellowship, Whitestone

July 22 Faith in Films—*Whale Rider*

July 29 Faith in Films—*Donovan's Reef*

Aug. 5 Faith in Films—TBA

Aug. 12 Faith in Films—*Chariots of Fire*

Aug. 19 Faith in Films—*For the Bible Tells Me So*

Aug. 26 Faith in Films—*Brother Son, Sister Moon*

Sept. 2—TBA



SPRING & FALL PLANT SALES

St. Stephen's held its first Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 29, at Heathsville United Methodist Church's Fish Fry.

Daylilies and other plants and planters left after the fall plant sale and a large selection of summer herbs were offered for sale and most were sold! This gave us a nice and unexpected boost to our fundraising for 2010. Thanks to Dolly Rabalais, Ted and Lynn Hower, Joel and Susan Stubbs, Rick Skelton, Rocco Tricarico, and Ellen Kirby for your help getting ready, schlepping, and selling!

This would be a good time to divide and pot herbs and perennials for St. Stephen's Fall Sale, which will be held Saturday September 4. Please see Bill Kirby if you would like to help in preparing for the sale, help on the sale day, or to donate additional plants. We will also be holding one or two planter making workshops. Details will follow.

Bill Kirby

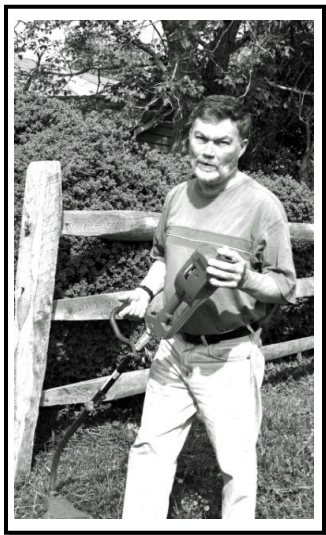
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

July 2 Talmadge Day
 July 3 Betsy Sue Scott
 July 9 Rain Eguiguren
 July 13 Phil Moore
 July 24 Barbara Tricarico
 July 26 Susan Stubbs
 August 5 Johna Jones
 August 7 Herb & Evie Cox
 Anne & Ron Silver
 August 21 Alice Cooper
 August 24 Phil Moore & Gary Chafin
 August 27 Ted Hower

MOWING SCHEDULE

Although the grass is growing more slowly now in the heat and drought, the mowers work is never done.

Please be vigilant in doing your assigned mowing, weeding and trimming chores during these miserable depth -of-summer months.



Week beginning	Mow	Trim	Weed
July 5	D. K'patrick	B. Kirby	L. Blakely
July 12	D. Eager	E. Kirby	S. K'patrick
July 19	P. Johnson	P. Moore	B. Kirby
July 26	B. Kirby	S. K'patrick	B. Tricarico
Aug. 2	E. Kirby	J. Stubbs	S. Stubbs
Aug. 9	P. Moore	E. Kirby	L. Hatch
Aug. 16	J. Stubbs	D. Eager	P. Moore
Aug. 23	P. Johnson	B. Kirby	E. Kirby
Aug 30	D. Eager	P. Moore	N. Gates
Sept. 6	D. K'patrick	S. K'patrick	L. Blakely
Sept 13	P. Moore	P. Johnson	S. K'patrick
Sept 20	J.Stubs	S. K'patrick	B. Kirby

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Ushers

July Bill Kirby
 Aug. 1, 8 TBA
 Aug. 15 Dick Eager
 Aug. 22, 29 TBA
 Sept. 5 David Kirkpatrick



Altar Guild

July 11 Betty Whiteside
 July 18 Barbara Tricarico
 July 25 Sunday School
 Aug. 1 Loretta Blakely
 Aug. 8 Suzanne Johnson
 Aug. 15 Lynn Hower
 Aug. 22 Betty Whiteside
 Aug. 29 Leslie Hatch
 Sept. 5 Barbara Tricarico

Lesson Readers

July 11 Bill Kirby (L), Dawn Mahaffey (P)
 July 18 Sandra Kirkpatrick (L), Nancy Gates (P)
 July 25 Betty Whitesides (L), Amy Jones (P)
 Aug. 1 Kendall/Marshall Lloyd (L), Evie Cox (P)
 Aug. 8 Evie Cox (L), Lea Tilbury (P)
 Aug. 15 India/Rain Eguiguren (L), Ted Hower (P)
 Aug. 22 Ellen Kirby (L), Dolly Rabelais (P)
 Aug. 29 Lea Tibbury (L), Amy Jones (P)
 Sept. 5 Anne Freeman (L), Tal Day (P)

Eucharistic Ministers

July 11 Nancy Gates
 July 18 Rocco Tricarico
 July 25 Marshall Lloyd
 Aug. 1 Lea Tilbury
 Aug. 8 Loretta Blakely
 Aug. 15 Ellen Kirby
 Aug. 22 Dawn Mahaffey
 Aug. 29 Margaret Horsmon
 Sept. 5 Ellen Kirby

Coffee Hour Hosts

July 11 Tom & Betsy Sue Scott
 July 18 Lynn & Ted Hower
 July 25 Susan & Joel Stubbs
 Aug. 1 Meade Kilduff & KK Crowther
 Aug. 8 Anne & George Freeman
 Aug. 15 Nancy & Phil Gates
 Aug. 22 Marshall Lloyd & Johnny Travis
 Aug. 29 Suzanne & Phil Johnson
 Sept. 5 Tom & Betsy Sue Scott