



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

A newcomer to our congregation recently came up to me after a Sunday service and exclaimed, "I have adopted you!" I was delighted! Another newcomer to our congregation recently came up to me after a Sunday service and said, "I want to be a member of your congregation. How do I do that?" I was delighted!

There are two ways in which people become part of our faith community. The first is simply coming to church and participating in worship and prayer with us. That is the way people adopt each other in this faith family. Regardless of what is on any of the paper documents, if you're worshipping with us you're part of the congregation. We thank God for each of you.

We are also happy to have an official recognition of your membership in our parish, and there are three ways to do that.

1. If you have been a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at any time in the past, even if you have been attending another congregation for several years, you can be a communicant simply by coming to church three times. No other action is necessary: it is that easy. The canons say "All members of this Church who have received Holy Communion in this church at least three times during the year are to be considered communicants of this Church." (I.17.2)
2. If you are a member of another parish in the Episcopal Church, you can transfer your membership to this parish with a "Letter of Transfer," a form that the rector of that parish fills out and sends to me. I'll make an announcement in church the next Sunday and the congregation will clap happily to welcome you.
3. If you have been baptized in any church of any denomination you can be officially received into St. Stephen's and into the Episcopal Church when the bishop comes for his annual visit. Before the bishop's visit we will have a series of 6-8 classes to help you get to know the Episcopal Church in general and this congregation in particular. These classes are an opportunity for you to explore your own faith more deeply. The ceremony itself is both your affirmation of your faith and a welcome into this faith community. The whole congregation reaffirms our faith with you. You can read the service yourself on pages 299-311 of the Prayer Book. It is a joyful celebration. If you have not been baptized in the past, you can be baptized at this ceremony too.

I am happy to talk with anyone about any of these topics. I love seeing the numerous ways this congregation lives the words of our vision statement to be "a welcoming and loving faith family" and the ways that newcomers experience that sense of welcome and love and want to be part of it. God welcomes you and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church welcomes you!

Grace and peace,

Lucia+



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

June

Treasurer's Report Income is again ahead of budget. The number of Bluegrass and Barbeque tickets sold was 502. The Plant Sale at Heathsville United Methodist Church was successful.

Shrine Mont retreat Rev. Michael Pipkin has invited the Continuing Churches join the Falls Church on their Shrine Mont retreat in October. The speaker will be the Rev. Barbara Crafton.

Service Schedule July services will be held outdoors every other Sunday.

Parish Life St. Stephens will again prepare lunches for the Northumberland Historical Society. The Society will charge \$12 per lunch; and we will receive \$10 of that amount. Mary Eager will prepare lunch for the workers.

A \$391/year Preventative Maintenance Agreement with Comfort Consultants for all HVAC systems was approved.

Outreach The Mustard Seed Grant is funding the continuance of study work regarding the selection of filtration system devices.

July

A motion to increase our priest-in-charge's working hours from 23 to 25 hours per week was approved effective July 1, 2010.

A follow up to the mutual ministry review will be forthcoming. Approved vestry minutes are posted on the website. No vestry meeting in August.

The Red Cross needs volunteers to serve in hurricane shelters this fall.

Funds are available for purchase of a new keyboard and sound system.

Rocco Tricarico, Register

SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR FALL

Outdoor services continue through the first Sunday in October, (October 3).

Indoor services for fall and winter begin Sunday, October 10.

SENIOR WARDEN



Dear Parishioners,

Wow, what a summer we had! 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 fall events are highlighted in this edition of the SIGNPOST.

After we completed the back porch project, folks seated in the rear had difficulty hearing the music from the keyboard in the front corner. The current keyboard, a generous loan from Margaret Horsmon, does have limitations. For example, individual keys may fail to sound when pressed and the volume is weak. Of course, our attendance has been strong right through the summer (not so true in many churches) which creates a wonderful wall of people the music must get around. ...so...

At the July vestry meeting funds from an unrestricted gift to us from Grace Church were earmarked for a new keyboard and sound system. Over this summer, Beverly Erickson, our music director, searched for the right replacement keyboard. We need one for use in a church environment, one that fits our current space, is good for traveling outdoors for summer services, and has modern outputs so we can connect to an external sound system. After a trip to Richmond to test drive for keyboard feel, a Yamaha model was chosen. AND we were even able to get it on sale. The vestry approved its purchase at the September meeting and we now have it at the Chilton House and will start to use it immediately.

For the time being we are not actively looking for an additional amplification system. The new keyboard's sound capability may meet our needs. We'll try it for a while and see. Please offer your opinions about this to Beverly, Lucia or the vestry.

Remember--bring a friend with you one Sunday this fall to enjoy our new sound.

Faithfully, Dick+

ANNUAL PLANT AND BAKE SALE IS A SUCCESS

St. Stephen's 3rd Annual Plant and Bake Sale was held on September 4, and the addition of baked goods and other food items proved to be very popular. The sale had its best financial results ever. Food items made up about one-third of the sale proceeds, and made it possible for folks to participate in the sale who otherwise do not have "green thumbs". Rocco and Barbara Tricarico prepared lemonade and iced tea which was served with cookies to our customers.



Dolly Rabalais developed a catalogue of plant descriptions for all the plants that will also be used in future sales. Thanks to all the many folks who donated plants, made wreaths, food items, and assisted with the sale! We will donate some leftover plants to the Cople Parish Barn Sale and the Wicomico Parish Market Days. The rest will be carried over for the 2011 Spring sale.

Bill and Ellen Kirby

UTO FALL INGATHERING

October 21st is the ECW annual meeting at St. George's, Fredericksburg. All ECW women are invited to attend. The last United Thank Offering In-gathering for this year will be at this meeting. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to present our church's offering.

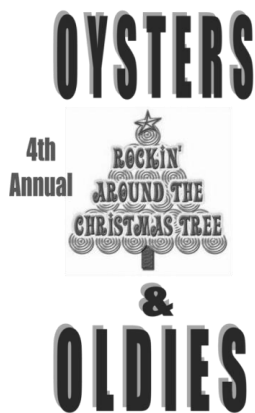
Through the United Thank Offering (UTO), men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in the United Thank Offering have discovered that thankfulness leads to generosity. UTO combines these generous offerings to fund significant projects that make a real difference in the work of the Episcopal Church and in the Anglican Communion and a real difference in people's lives. More information is available at: www.episcopalchurch.org.

Starting now at St. Stephen's we need to begin thinking about this year's gifts. We have offering boxes and envelopes available on the mantel. Take yours at any convenient time.

We will have our fall in-gathering to collect our 2010 offering on All Saints Sunday, November 7th.

Thank you for your generous support,

Mary Eager



**SET FOR
DECEMBER 4**

It's not too early to mark your calendars for St. Stephen's 4th Annual Christmas Oyster Roast at Roanoke farm in Heathsville on Saturday December 4 from 12:30 to 3:30. Oysters and Oldies is one of St. Stephen's major community events and fundraisers – as well as a terrific party!

Details about the event will be announced in early October. The Posse is seeking a few good men and women to help with planning and orchestrating the event. Please see me if you have an interest in getting involved.

Bill Kirby

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

We will be offering a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 2, in celebration of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The event will take place on the grounds at 10:00 am. Lucia will be officiating, and Beverly will provide music.

Pets of all faiths and descriptions will be welcome, so invite your friends and neighbors—canine, feline, human and otherwise. All pets must be on leashes or in secure carriers or cages.

Following the blessing there will be a live demonstration of a Virginia K9 Search and Rescue dog and handler team. At noon there will be a light lunch followed by a showing of the film, "Brother Sun, Sister Moon," the story of St. Francis of Assisi.

St. Francis, the patron saint of animals, birds, and the environment, established the Franciscan mode of charity and poverty. Francis believed that the world was created good and beautiful by God and he preached to man and beast the universal ability and duty of all creatures to praise God, and the duty of men to protect and enjoy nature as both the stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves. Legend has it that on his deathbed St. Francis thanked his donkey for carrying him throughout his life, and the donkey wept.

Remembering that we are called to be good stewards of creation, please join us for this special recognition of the service and companionship of our animal friends.

Dawn Mahaffey



BOXWOOD MINISTRY

Most of you have probably noticed the wonderful English Boxwoods that surround Chilton House. These grand specimens were started about 55 years ago from cuttings taken from Stratford Hall, Robert E. Lee's birthplace in Westmoreland County. Thus, in addition to their symbolic significance as a reminder of our church home for the past four years, the boxwoods also have a connection of sorts to a significant figure in American history.



I began rooting cuttings from the St. Stephen's boxwoods two years ago, and we have been selling them in decorative planters with some success at our plant sales. I am writing to ask for your help in making St. Stephen's English Boxwoods available for the parish to use as gifts to newcomers and as tokens of appreciation for kindnesses shown to us by friends of St. Stephen's. We will also continue to sell them at future plant sales.

I will continue to propagate and care for the plants. You can help by providing decorative ceramic or glazed clay pots or by making a donation to acquire them. Thanks in advance for your help!

Bill Kirby

BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

- September Lisa Lee's *Shanghai Girls*,
Wednesday, September 22,
Anne Freeman, hostess
- October John Irving's *A Prayer for
Owen Meany**
- November Kathryn Stockett's *The Help**

*Contact Bill Kirby for host information

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH RETREAT

TOGETHER WITH

THE FALLS CHURCH AND OTHER
CONTINUING EPISCOPAL CONGREGATIONS

WHERE: Shrine Mont – Orkney Springs VA

WHEN: October 8 – 10, 2010

PROGRAM: **Forgiveness:
 What It Is and What It Isn't**

Peter asks Jesus how often he should forgive someone who has injured him. "As many as seven times?" Jesus answers, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." (Matt. 18:21-22) Peter's response is not recorded, though he was probably stunned since most of us have a hard time forgiving injury even once.

Perhaps our inability to forgive rests, in part, on some mistaken ideas we have had for years about what forgiveness is. We will explore this possibility together, and will emerge from the day with a new sense of hope and freedom.

SPEAKER: **Barbara Cawthorne Crafton**

is an Episcopal priest, spiritual director and author of many books. She directs The Geranium Farm, an institute for spiritual growth which publishes her celebrated "[Almost Daily eMo](#)," read by



thousands of people worldwide. She was rector of St. Clement's Church in Manhattan's Theatre district. She was also a chaplain on the waterfront of New York, and served historic Trinity Church, Wall Street and St. John's Church in Greenwich Village. She was a chaplain at Ground Zero during the recovery effort after the WTC bombing. Most

recently, she was interim rector of St. James, the American church in Florence, Italy.

ACTIVITIES: Commune with one another, God and nature; experience the beauty and spirit of Shrine Mont as it nurtures the soul; play, relax, eat, hike, read, learn, discuss, shop, "porch," worship.

COST: The cost is \$165.00/adult; \$75.00/child ages 4 -12; children 0 - 3 are free. Please make checks payable to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Scholarships are available. Please contact Rev. Lucia Lloyd for details.

Registration deadline is October 1, 2010.

Forms available in church office .

Contact Ellen Kirby at evkirby@wildblue.net, or (804) 580-8104.



SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

This year we will work on the Shell curriculum for intermediate students prepared by Virginia Theological Seminary. The four units are: Covenant (Old Testament) Miracles (Old and New Testament) Baptism: New Life (Jesus' baptism and our own) and The Apostle Paul (a biographical examination of his life and work).

As an additional project for this year, we will be providing artwork for the bulletin inserts. We hope you will enjoy our views of the lectionary readings. We will continue to participate with the altar guild and the choir and to host the Valentine Day coffee hour.

We want to thank all those who worked with us last year—Mrs. Day, Mrs. Whiteside, Mrs. Tilbury, Mrs. Gates, and Rocco—and invite anyone else to spend some time learning about God with us after the service. We also encourage you to bring your young grandchildren to church with you when they visit. We promise to make them welcome.

Sandy, India, Angela, Kendall, Rain, and Mary



The following is an abbreviated version of the letter from Bishop Johnston emailed to all of us. The listening session closest to us is on November 3, 4-6 pm, St. Margaret's School, Tappahannock.

The Diocese of Virginia

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Dear Diocesan Family,

Five listening sessions will be held across the diocese over the next several weeks entitled "Listen and Be Heard: Faithful Sexuality and the Blessing of Same-Gender Unions"...I want to clarify for you what these listening sessions are and what they are not.

The bulk of the time will be in small groups in which each person present will have the opportunity to speak and be heard in answer to specific questions about faithful sexuality and the blessings of same gender unions.... The opinions expressed in all groups will be posted for all to see and consider by the evening's end. I will study your comments very carefully, as will the Standing Committee. I need to hear from you, and you should be assured to know that you are, by this process, reaching your diocesan leadership in a truly meaningful way.

The focus of these sessions is to listen and to be heard; it is not on convincing, cajoling, or changing one another's minds...I will speak at the end of each session about what I heard during the session and share a small piece of my journey with these issues.

Why are these listening sessions necessary, and why should you attend? ...The people of the Diocese of Virginia have been grappling with issues of human sexuality for over 30 years. During much of that time, however, diocesan conversations took place in task groups or dialogue groups that were appointed for that purpose. The conversations have not always ... included the people in the pews of our congregations. It is my desire to broaden the conversation and to give every person in our diocese an opportunity to speak and to be heard on the important matters of faithful sexuality.

I also want to make clear that these sessions are separate and distinct from the work the R-14s Task Group is doing. You may remember that Council passed a resolution that requested that I empanel a group of clergy and lay people, including lawyers and experts on canon law, to recommend consistent standards should services of blessing same-gender unions be authorized at some point. (You can find the full text of the resolution at: <http://ui.constantcontact.com>).

In closing,... I look forward to undertaking this vitally important work with you, and I remain confident that God's grace will prevail upon us and upon our common life as a diocese.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Shannon Sherwood Johnston
Bishop of Virginia

WATER MINISTRY SUCCESS

More than two years ago. I agreed to deliver water to a family that lived near me.

I quickly learned that their situation was dangerous. The mother and four school age children lived in a dilapidated trailer with no safe running water and an extremely dangerous electrical and heating system. There had already been a fire in the children's bedroom and several electrical items no longer worked. Lights dimmed if they turned on the stove at the same time as other equipment. Whenever they tried to install a pump in their old well, it burned out because of the household wiring problems. Besides supplying water, Gayl Fowler suggested that I contact Bay Family Housing which supervises the state indoor plumbing program for the county. Although this family had been turned down in the past, SAIF Water was able to get them officially qualified by showing that the well water was contaminated.

It took many months to get the wheels in motion. I continued to monitor progress and the family continued to display incredible patience. Today, finally, the mother and four children are in a brand new home with safe water, heating, and electricity. Kudos to St. Stephens, and to Gayl Fowler and SAIF Water. A huge difference has been made to a family in need.

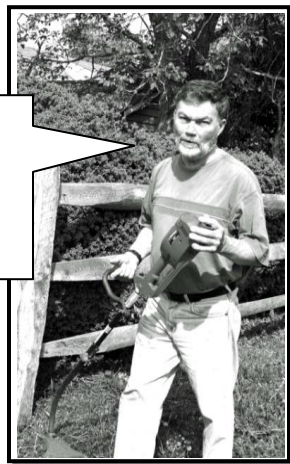
BIIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 20 Elsie Tolnich Susan & Joel Stubbs
Sept. 25 Carl & Marlene Alexoff
Sept. 26 Evelyn King
Oct. 1 Loretta Blakely
Oct. 1 Dick Eager
Oct. 5 Phil Gates
Oct. 12 Leslie Hatch
Oct. 23 Elspeth Scott
Oct. 27 Pauline Brashears
Nov. 1 Margaret Horsmon
Nov. 1 Rocco & Barbara Tricarico
Nov. 7 Ron Silver
Nov. 8. Justin Fulcher
Nov. 11 Bill & Ellen Kirby
Nov. 14 Ann Reamy
Nov. 18 Bob & Ann Reamy

MOWING SCHEDULE

<u>Week beginning</u>	<u>Mow</u>	<u>Trim</u>	<u>Weed</u>
Sept 20	J. Stubbs, S. K'patrick		B. Kirby
Sept 27	D. K'patrick, D. Eager, B. Tricarico		
Oct. 4	D. Eager,	P. Moore, S. Stubbs	
Oct. 11	B. Kirby,	E. Kirby,	L. Hatch
Oct. 18	J. Stubbs, D. K'patrick, P. Moore		

And that's
it for 2010!



THURSDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

September 23 **Eucharist with Healing Service**
September 30 **Grief and Faith**
October 7 **Meet Barbara Crafton**

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Ushers

Sept 19, 26 Phil Johnson
October (month) Herb Cox
Nov 7 Phil Johnson
Nov 14 Dick Eager



Altar Guild

Sept 19 Loretta Blakely
Sept 26 Suzanne Johnson
Oct 3 Beverly Erickson
Oct 10 Betty Whiteside
Oct 17 Leslie Hatch
Oct 24 Barbara Tricarico
Oct 31 Sunday School Class
Nov 7 Loretta Blakely
Nov 14 Suzanne Johnson

Lesson Readers

Sept 19 Ted Hower (L), S. Kirkpatrick (P)
Sept 26 Amy Jones (L), Ellen Kirby(P)
Oct 3 George Freeman (L), Bill Kirby(P)
Oct 10 Ted Hower (L), Dolly Rabalais (P)
Oct 17 Evie Cox (L), Dick Eager (P)
Oct 24 Angela Travis, M. Lloyd (L),
Amy Jones (P)
Oct 31 Dawn Mahaffey (L), Evie Cox (P)
Nov 7 Ellen Kirby (L), Lea Tilbury (P)
Nov 14 Nancy Gates (L), Ted Hower (P)

Eucharistic Ministers

Sept 19 Marshall Lloyd
Sept 26 Lea Tilbury
Oct 3 Loretta Blakely
Oct 10 Margaret Horsmon
Oct 17 Dawn Mahaffey
Oct 24 Lea Tilbury
Oct 31 Loretta Blakely
Nov 7 Dawn Mahaffey
Nov 14 Rocco Tricarico

Coffee Hour Hosts

Sept 19 Lea Tilbury & Rick Skelton
Sept 26 Pat Dean
Oct 3 Anne & Ron Silver
Oct 10 Tony & Dolly Rabalais
Oct 17 Meade Kilduff & KK Crowther
Oct 24 Loretta & Lew Blakely
Oct 31 Phil Moore & Gary Chafin
Nov 7 Rocco & Barbara Tricarico
Nov 14 Herb & Evie Cox