



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

"Thirst for life-long spiritual growth and knowledge" is one of the essential elements of the vision statement of this congregation. One of the ways we will be offering a cool drink for that spiritual thirst in the upcoming weeks is in a series on monastic spirituality and wisdom on Thursday evenings at 7:00.

We will be listening to sermons by the Episcopal monks at the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, Massachusetts. These sermons draw from the faith that is cultivated in the brothers' lives devoted to prayer, worship, contemplative silence, community, and service to the world. We will have time for discussion of how these sermons connect with you in your life and faith.

We will conclude with the service of Compline, which is the Church's bedtime prayers, designed to be prayed as we make the transition from a busy day to a restful night. Compline is the most peaceful of the prayers in the prayer book. As part of the monastic theme, we will also listen to the SSJE monks singing the musical parts of the Compline service. Come enjoy a sense of the peace, the wisdom, and the prayerfulness this can offer to your own life and faith.



Grace and peace,

Lucia

Dear Lucia,

I was ecstatic to receive the letter and gift cards from you and the congregation. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

It is very gratifying to know that there are such great people rooting for me back home. I want you to know that I keep the parish and the Episcopal Church in my daily thoughts and prayers. I cannot wait to see everyone upon my return to Virginia as well as at the Oyster Roast, where I will be volunteering.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Sincerely

Tommy Scott

P.S.. I bought three extra plants from the plant sale as symbols of our prayers for a continuing Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh:

- an Aloe plant as a symbol for healing
- a Peace Lily plant as a symbol of peace
- a Mother of Thousands plant as a symbol of growth.

After the ACNA congregation ("Anglicans") moved out of St. James Church in Penn Hills, the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh restarted Episcopal worship services there the next Sunday, July 3rd. My family and I were in Pittsburgh for that service, and I was able to attend another service there late in September. During those two months, nineteen people had become part of the congregation, they'd had confirmations, elected a vestry, and are planning a day care center. Their sense of hope, faith, and trust in God is clearly visible as they move forward.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

August 2011 Vestry Meeting

Ellen Kirby reported that the Historical Society was very happy with their box lunches and expects that we will be asked to undertake this fundraiser again next year.

Phil Johnson was appointed to fill an opening on the Finance Committee. The July financials show us on target with the budget; the June and July Treasurer's reports were accepted as presented.

Rector's Items: Our annual retreat to Shrine Mont on October 7-9 will again be in partnership with the Falls Church, another continuing church. Lucia and the rector of St. Mary's will lead worship at each other's parishes when the other is away at Shrine Mont. Ellen Kirby suggested that in the future we should again partner with St. Mary's, Fleeton, in order to bond with our neighbors

Lucia, who serves on the Diocese's Nomination Committee for the selection of a new Suffragan Bishop to replace retiring Bishop Jones, stated that a very good number of excellent candidates have been nominated.

Senior Warden: There was a general discussion regarding stewardship and the possibility of a move. The finance committee will meet and the vestry will discuss further what our expenses in 2012 might be and review our savings over the past four years.

At the Annual Meeting on the 2nd Sunday in December we will elect two new vestry members to replace Dick Eager and Rick Skelton. The nominating committee, which will be made up of the two outgoing vestrymen and two members of the congregation (Bill Kirby and Betty Whiteside), will propose two candidates.

Bylaws: Lucia pointed out our by-laws had not been updated since 1994. We discussed ways of making our by-laws more consistent with the Canons of the Episcopal Church, including changing the age at which members can vote from 18 to 16.

There is one "Safe Water" installation to be made, due to the recommendation of Gayl Fowler. Cost of the installation is \$435.00.

September 2011 Vestry Meeting

Ellen reported that we are on track with our budget. Revenue from the two plant sales, spring (with Heathsville United Methodist Church) and fall, was virtually the same as last year's. Eleven rum cakes were sold at \$20 apiece.

Bill Kirby has prepared a draft budget for 2012/2013 that covers two different scenarios—another year at Chilton House or a return to the Episcopal Church property—which will be reviewed by the finance committee.

Rector's items: Lucia distributed notes on Frances Caldwell's stewardship presentation which presented four questions to address the issue of tithing: Do you pledge? Have you ever regretted a gift to your church? Have you ever said "I wish I could do more"? Could you live on 90% of your income?

A musician who plays both piano and organ has been found. She played hymns at the Thursday night program and met members of the congregation.

Two changes to our bylaws will bring them into agreement with diocesan and national canons: 1) lower the voting age from 18 to 16, and 2) elect a council delegate and alternate annually for one year terms rather than biannually for two year terms. Lucia pointed out that the second change increases our flexibility. The vestry voted unanimously to approve these two changes. A second vote at the October meeting is required.

Lucia has prepared a list (attached) of supply clergy in the area.

Blessing of the Animals events will include search and rescue dogs, Northumberland County's bloodhound, and a state trooper's demonstration of criminal apprehension techniques. There will be an agility dog demonstration and a Frisbee dog performance. Dawn Mahaffey has sent articles to the newspapers and distributed flyers.

Committee reports: Lucia and Ellen reported on our efforts to assist Sylvia Pencak, whose house was destroyed by fire while she was on vacation. Lucia reminded the vestry that donations to her discretionary fund make it possible for us to respond immediately in situations like this one.

SENIOR WARDEN



Dear Parishioners,

I just love the change in season! It's such a natural thing to be in touch with the natural world. It's also a good time to reflect on happenings just past and those to come. As always, much is happening at St. Stephen's. For example, we have just had the most successful Blessing of the Animals event ever. Let's look at other happenings in each of our goal areas for the year.

GROWTH We have already met our new member growth goal for this year. Visitors to St. Stephen's comment positively about our welcome, our worship service and our hospitality. Our reputation as a welcoming and inclusive community is growing. Sunday attendance remains steady, but we must maintain a strong newcomer's ministry as it is a key to continued growth. Please invite a friend or neighbor to share Sunday worship with us this fall. The Thursday night dinner and program is another easy way to introduce friends and neighbors.

WORSHIP There is room in the choir and on the Altar Guild for several more members to participate. We can use additional ushers and lesson readers as well. Everyone's participation in worship enriches the experience for all of us, so let Lucia or Terry know how you would like to be actively involved (or additionally involved!) in the conduct of our Sunday and Thursday night worship services.

INREACH Continuing to regularize visitations is a goal. We are doing well at communicating our needs and supporting our members in need. Lucia makes this a high priority so we feel well taken care of. Just for the change of pace, some

entertaining get-togethers or field trips will likely be scheduled this fall.

OUTREACH This year St. Stephen's will again participate in Hospice program, the Heifer Project, and the Northumberland school children's food collections. Please leave your food offerings in the box by the fireplace. This fall, projects are expanding the Water Ministry program beyond distribution of drinking water. New filter technology available that is enabling us to upgrade water systems to meet safety standards. We have Mustard Seed funding from the Diocese for this effort and for water safety education programs.

Other outreach events include the box lunch fund raiser in July for the Historical Society, the Blessing of the Animals (see the featured article) and Shrine Mont retreat weekend in October. Of course we are all looking forward to a wonderful Oyster Roast the first Saturday in December.

The vestry recently voted to bring the St. Stephen's by-laws into compliance with the diocesan and national canons. Two changes were made, to elect delegates to Council annually instead biannually and to change the voting age from 18 to 16 years. This first change will give us greater flexibility.

Frances Caldwell, Director of Development and Stewardship at the Diocese, came recently to worship with us and share how other churches like ours are conducting successful stewardship programs. Her presentation was especially timely for us as we start to consider and plan for our next steps. She reminded us that "stewardship is what we do with all we have all the time." She urged us to be clear about how we spend our money. We will make this clarity a priority in our stewardship.

Your suggestions are always important; please share them with Lucia or any vestry member.

Faithfully,

Dick

FALL PLANT AND BAKE SALE

St. Stephen's Fall Plant and Bake Sale was held Labor Day weekend, exactly one week after Hurricane Irene's unwelcome visit. Headlined by more than a dozen of Meade's Famous Rum Cakes—which all sold in short order—the sale found new homes for hundreds of hybrid daylilies, perennials, herbs, and other plants and comestibles.

Combined Spring and Fall sales exceeded 2010 sales by over 10%! Unsold plants are resting for the winter and will be featured at our Spring Sale in May.

We are always in need of decorative pots and planters for our St. Stephen's Boxwoods (and other plants), which have proven to be very popular.



Bill and Ellen Kirby

BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

The Jesus Wars by John Phillip Jenkins

(October 18)

The fifth-century Christian church faced a doctrinal issue, now largely forgotten, that precipitated intramural Christian savagery.... The bone of contention was the nature of Jesus Christ.[W]as he a human-divine cross-breed, or was he purely divine and his human body an illusion? Neither was accepted, but the conclusion of the council of Chalcedon in 451 [was] that he was fully divine and fully human....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, not the later Dark and Middle Ages, is the most violent (un-Christian?) in Christian history and that it may have lessons for the present and future conflict between Christians and Muslims over the nature of God.

In the garden of Beasts by Erik Larsen
(November 15)

A vivid portrait of Berlin during the first years of Hitler's reign, brought to life through the stories of two people: William E. Dodd, who in 1933 became America's first ambassador to Hitler's regime, and his scandalously carefree daughter, Martha. Ambassador Dodd, an unassuming and scholarly man, is an odd fit among the extravagance of the Nazi elite.... Martha, on the other hand, is mesmerized by the glamorous parties and the high-minded conversation of Berlin's salon society.... Both become players in the exhilarating (and terrifying) story of Hitler's obsession for absolute power....Erik Larson has crafted a gripping, deeply-intimate narrative with a climax that reads like the best political thriller..."
—Shane Hansanuwat

The Matchmaker of Kenmare by Frank Delaney
(January 17)

In Delaney's panoramic sequel to *Venetia Kelly's Traveling Show*, matchmaker Kate Begley plies her profession in neutral WWII Ireland. Into her life come Venetia Kelly, narrator Ben MacCarthy, whose wife has gone missing, and Charles Miller, a U.S. intelligence officer who sends Kate and Ben on a secret assignment to France.

Kate and Charles marry, but after D-Day, Charles disappears while on a dangerous mission, and Kate enlists Ben's help in finding him. They travel to France and Germany, where they stumble across the German army about to launch its last-gasp assault in the Ardennes and end up questioning the wisdom of remaining neutral in the face of overwhelming evil.

An expert at mining Irish lore for congenial fiction, Delaney spins an exciting yarn of romance and intrigue, and, in *Kate*, he has created an indomitable, unforgettable character. Though the novel's leisurely pace is at odds with the wartime plot, ...Delaney wrings the pulp out of a Jack Higgins-like premise and turns it into something more satisfyingly literary. (Feb.)

Discussion always lively, new readers always welcome!

UTO FALL ACTIVITIES

Fall 2011 has come upon us and that means it's United Thank Offering (UTO) time. Several events take place during October.

The last UTO ingathering for this year will be held at the 2011 Diocese of Virginia Episcopal Church Women's (ECW) annual meeting to be held on October 25th at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Annandale, VA. If you would like to attend, please see Sandy Kirkpatrick for more information or to sign up.

The UTO Blue Boxes for our home collections are available on the mantel at Chilton House. Please take yours home and ask your family to contribute pocket change. People all over the world recognize and use these boxes. Collectively they do make a difference in our lives and those of many others. We will be making reminder announcement on Sundays.

A Blue Box Prayer

Our Father, please bless these Blue Boxes for use in the world you have given us. Bless the coins and other gifts that are put in them and the people these gifts will benefit. Help us who use them to remember all we have to be thankful for and to offer our gifts with grateful hearts. And thru their use please make us, your children, joyful.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

The first ingathering at St. Stephen's for 2012 will be on Sunday, November 6th. Your full Blue Boxes and other donations will be collected during this service. These proceeds will be help fund the 2012 grants.

Thank you for your support,

Blessings,

Mary Eager

SUFFRAGAN BISHOP ELECTION PROCESS

I am excited to be representing St. Stephen's on the Nominating Committee for our new Suffragan Bishop. This person will succeed Bishop Jones after his retirement in January.

Caring for the Continuing Episcopal Congregations is one of the ministries specified for the new bishop, and a priest from a Continuing Congregation serves on the Nominating Committee (me) and on the Transition Committee (The Rev. Kate Chipps, from St. Margaret's, Woodbridge).

In July, laypeople, clergy, and bishops from all around the country sent us names of potential nominees. In a spirit of prayerful discernment, we read the written materials from these candidates during August. We agreed on which priests to do phone interviews with, and conducted those phone interviews in September. In October, we are traveling in small groups to meet some of these priests in person, interview them and some of the people who know them well, and attend the worship services they lead.

On February 3rd, we will present to the Diocese a slate of four to six nominees. Members of the Diocese will have a chance to listen to these nominees during "walkabouts" in various locations around the diocese during the week of March 19-23rd. We at St. Stephen's will probably be able to attend one of these sessions at St. Margaret's School in Tappahannock.

At an Electing Council, which will take place April 21st, lay delegates from every parish in the diocese, as well as all clergy delegates, will vote for which of the six nominees we believe God is calling to be the next Bishop Suffragan for our Diocese. On July 28th, we will celebrate the consecration of the new Suffragan Bishop.

It is inspiring to be getting to know so many extremely gifted and faithful priests with a variety of wonderful ministries. Please keep us and them in your prayers for God's guidance.

Lucia Lloyd

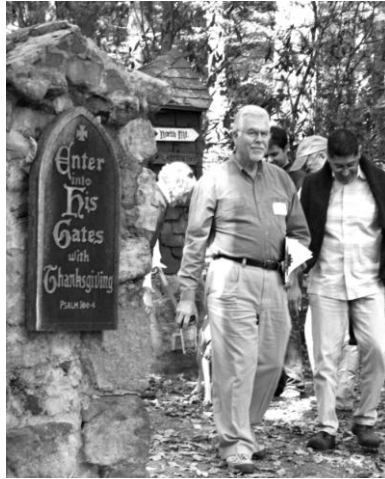
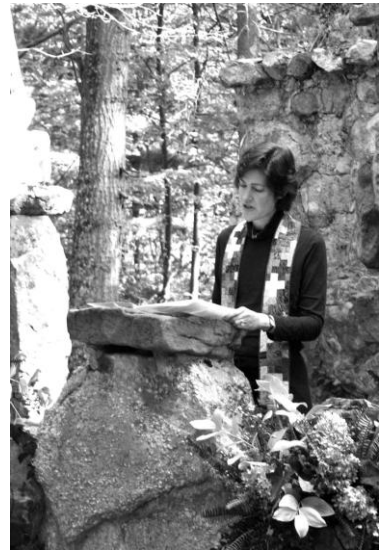
PARISH RETREAT AT SHRINEMONT

Ten St. Stephen's parishioners joined the continuing congregation of The Falls Church (Episcopal) at Shrinemont for a weekend of study and relaxation.

Hiking, napping, reading, porching, knitting and socializing were prominent activities.

The speaker, The Rev. Christopher Wilkins, addressed the issue of healing a parish's broken heart. He focused on three steps:

- conversion,
- confession,
- and celebration.



Our home away from home.

In conversion a bad thing can be changed to a good one, or a good thing into an even better one (consider the analogies of moldy bread into penicillin, and sugar into alcohol, for starters).

We confess our sins, but we equally strongly confess our faith.

We need to celebrate the new thing we have become, not continue to mourn for what we once had, but will never have again.



Having a wonderful time! Wish you were here



Sarah Ellington, Nancy Gates' sister, was the photographer for our group portrait.

EVERYONE'S HELP NEEDED FOR OYSTERS & OLDIES

Proceeds from the Oyster Roast fund a significant portion of our outreach expenses and donations. For it to be a success we need everyone's assistance. Here's how you can help:

1. Buy tickets and sell or give tickets to friends and neighbors. Please consider taking a block of 5 or 10 tickets. We rely on our members selling tickets and promoting the event by word of mouth. Tickets make great gifts for family and friends, and are a nice way to say thanks. Our tickets are a bargain: our prices are well below what other local oyster roasts charge.

2. Make a gallon or 2 of chili. We need 25 gallons for the event. We provide all the ingredients and a standard recipe. Volunteers will be contacted to pick up ingredients on Election Day (November 8).

3. Bake a pan or two of brownies. Our brownie coordinator will be accumulating 400 brownies!

4. Hang a flyer (or two or three). Our goal for this year is to extend into some new areas (e.g. Warsaw, Kilmarnock, Montross, Kinsale, etc. Flyers will be available after October 15.

5. Volunteer to help with event set up, decorate, take down, and event day tasks. It takes "all hands"—plus the hands of a number of generous St. Stephen's friends—to run such a large event. We expect more than 300 guests, so we need all our members to sign up for a shift, if they can.

6. Help develop our oldies "play list". Let us know your favorite songs for the oldies playlist. If we can find it, we'll try to play it (except for anything by Abba)!

Sign up lists will be waiting for you at the parish house. Please help us with as many of these tasks as you can.

If you've been to the Oyster Roast in the past, you know what a terrific event it is! Mason Brent's lovely Roanoke Farm, great food, and your favorite music make for a great party.

Bill Kirby



Jazz on point.



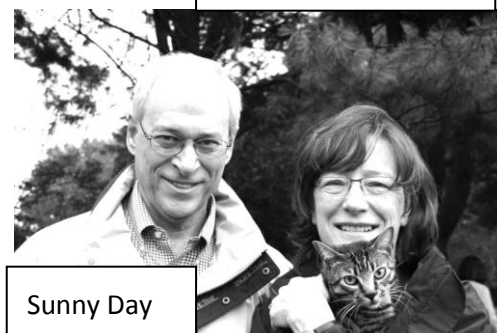
Hershey Rabelais,
meet Cricket Hatch.



I'm Burt .



Molly English Woods



Sunny Day

BLESS THE BEASTS

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Over 60 animals were blessed including dogs, cats and rats!!

On Saturday, October 1, St. Stephens Episcopal Church honored all that our four-footed companions do keep us safe and entertain us.

VA State Troopers Barrack and Davis and their patrol dog, Denny, demonstrated criminal apprehensions under various circumstances and answered numerous questions

Northumberland County Sheriff Chuck Wilkins and Deputy Kevin Keeve demonstrated Search Dog Mike Hammer's ability to locate a lost person (although Kendall wasn't very lost and the audience had to yell at her to crouch down and hide better).

K9 Search and Rescue Handler Kay Guy and her Cadaver Dog, Lucy, demonstrated how these highly trained dogs can find human remains and provide closure when a tragedy strikes.

The event featured dog sport events as well. Jeff Stanaway and the Great American Disk Dog Show demonstrated the Frisbee routine that garnered them the National Championship in 2002.

Northern Neck Kennel Club member Sandy Saxer and her Bassett Hound Dudley performed an entertaining agility demonstration. And, no, he didn't trip over his ears.

The service in honor of St. Francis was conducted by our rector, Lucia Lloyd, and Hal White, our beloved interim, assisted her with the individual blessings. He did not, however, bless the two rodents, Ben and Jerry. (Lucia's comment when Evie Cox and Dawn Mahaffey presented the rats was a mild "What degree of physical contact would be appropriate?") A diocesan photographer did record the scene so we may see Lucia laying a cautious finger on a rat when his film is shown at annual council.

Northumberland County has already seen her doing so on the front page of the *Echo*. !

Dawn Mahaffey

Bite suits don't prevent bruises.



Mike Hammer's secret weapon

Rodents need God's love too.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 1	Dick Eager	
Oct 12	Leslie Hatch	
Oct 23	Elsbeth Scott	
Oct 27	Pauline Brashears	
Nov 1	Margaret Horsmon	Rocco and Barbara
Nov 7	Ron Silver	Tricarico
Nov. 8	Justin Fulcher	
Nov 11		Bill and Ellen Kirby
Nov 14	Anne Reamy	
Nov 18		Bob and Anne Reamy
Dec 2	Anne Silver	
Dec 6		George and Anne Freeman
Dec 8		Phil and Nancy Gates

RADIO SERMON SPONSORS

31 Jul **For What Has Been, Thank You. For What Will Be, Yes** Sponsored by Dolly and Tony Rabalais, in memory of Bill Martin.

7 Aug **Father Damien, William Wilberforce, and Jesus** Sponsored by Tom and Betsy Sue Scott, in memory of their dear friend Jane Koeller.

14 Aug **Take Your Time** and 21 Aug **Why Are You Afraid?** Sponsored by Thomas Scott, Jr. and Betsy Sue Scott in honor of their 3 children: Elsbeth Watts Scott, Marghuerita Taylor Scott, and Thomas Jefferson Scott III.

28 Aug **Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make Scripture** Sponsored by a supporter of St. Stephen's ministry in grateful appreciation of those contributing to the plant and bake sale.

Please consider becoming a sermon sponsor!

*** Brunch at the Lottsburg Café on the first Sunday in December has become a St. Stephen's tradition. It commemorates the day the congregants who refused to consider leaving the Episcopal Church met in an "alternative coffee hour" to consider the points they would make at the meeting where the two votes—to leave the Episcopal Church and to retain the church property—would be taken. At that coffee hour we discovered exactly who we were and how strongly we were committed to maintaining an Episcopal Church in Heathsville.

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Ushers

Oct 16	Herb Cox
Oct 23	Phil Moore
Oct 30	Bill Kirby
Nov 6	Herb Cox
Nov 13	Phil Moore
Nov 20	Bill Kirby
Nov 27	Joel Stubbs
Dec 4	Joel Stubbs



Altar Guild

Oct 16	Loretta Blakely
Oct 23	Suzanne Johnson
Oct 30	Beverly Ericson
Nov 6	Betty Whiteside
Nov 13	Leslie Hatch
Nov 20	Sunday School class
Nov 27	Sunday School class
Dec 4	Loretta Blakely

Lesson Readers

Oct 16	Arlene Crabbe (L), Evie Cox (P)
Oct 23	Betty Whiteside (L) and (P)
Oct 30	Nancy Gates(L), Bill Kirby (P)
Nov 6	Kendall Lloyd(L), Nancy Gates (P)
Nov 13	Anne Freeman (L), Ellen Kirby (P)
Nov 20	Amy Jones (L), Lea Tilbury (P)
Nov 27	Lea Tilbury(L), Sandy K'patrick(P)
Dec 4	Angela Travis (L), Nancy Gates (P)

Eucharistic Ministers

Oct 16	David Kirkpatrick
Oct 23	Rocco Tricarico
Oct 30	Nancy Gates
Nov 6	Nancy Gates
Nov 13	Lea Tilbury
Nov 20	Rocco Tricarico
Nov 27	Dawn Mahaffey
Dec 4	Lea Tilbury

Coffee Hour Hosts

Oct 16	Barbara & Rocco Tricarico
Oct 23	Pat Dean & Lynn Issac
Oct 30	Sylvia Pencak & Don Shearouse
Nov 6	Nancy & Phil Gates
Nov 13	Barbara & Rocco Tricarico
Nov 20	Sunday School Class
Nov 27	Dawn Mahaffey & Betty Burroughs
Dec 4	Brunch at Lottsburg Café***