

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXV, Number 43

November 4th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

Peck's Bad Boy & The Cookie Walk

THE AUTHOR of the Cookie Walk was John I. Kohler II who, until shortly before his death in 1998, was the immensely talented "Peck's Bad Boy" of the parish. He coined the name Cookie Walk soon after he assumed chairmanship of the Parish Life Committee – another term attributable to Jack

Actually Jack's enduring legacy to St. Stephen's is the Parish Life Committee. It existed in embryo form as the Ad Hoc Committee at the time he assumed its chairmanship, but it was Jack who changed its name and galvanized it into action.

Folks shook their heads and muttered when Jack came up with "Cookie Walk." But he was not to be gainsaid. And the fact that the words "Cookie Walk" still pull in the crowds close on a quarter of a century later is a vindication of his offbeat genius.

Jack had strong opinions about the dreaded "Every Member Canvass." He firmly believed "giving" was not simply a question of cash. He maintained that it was an obligation every parishioner to support the church not only with their treasure, but with their time and their talents, too.

Thus, under his leadership, our pledge drives sought commitments under the slogan: "Time, talents and treasure."

Jack invariably springs to mind whenever we bemoan the desperate need for volunteers to serve on the Altar Guild, the Flower Committee and as Coffee Hour hosts and hostesses. None of these vitally important jobs are particularly onerous. Nor are they "gender specific."

Jack volunteered for all of them in his time. Indeed, surprisingly, perhaps, for such a tall, strapping individual, he had a remarkably deft hand when it came to flower arrangement.

(St. Stephen's most dramatic Christmas decorations are eloquent testimony to his artistry – the huge wreathes that grace the East Wall and the boxwood backdrop to the altar cross.)

You don't need the talents of a Japanese noblewoman to be a member of the Flower Committee. If you have never arranged flowers before they will teach you how to do it. The same goes for the Altar Guild. All that is required is a modest commitment in time.

As far as Coffee Hour goes the Parish Life Committee has decided to approach things slightly differently from the way things have been done in the past. Instead of obliging the Coffee Hour hosts to lay on the entire spread, the Committee will provide the food, while the hosts provide the service and the welcome. (If, of course, the hosts want to augment comestibles, they would be more than welcome!)

If you feel you could help out in one – or all of these capacities – we would very much appreciate it if you would call the Parish Office at (410) 560-6776. And if we are out visiting, please leave a message on the answering machine. It's really not that difficult.

Certainly, it is nowhere near as embarrassing as trying to leave messages on a parish answering machine carrying spoof greetings, secretly recorded by Jack Kohler. People trying to reach the clergy would, to their astonishment, be told they had reached a Chinese laundry, an Indian restaurant or a noisy Irish watering hole. Not all of Jack's ideas were unreservedly welcome.

But with his passing, the Maryland Church lost one of its great "characters" – a vastly talented man with a broad spectrum of aptitudes, abilities and interests and still sorely missed by his friends with whom he worshipped, worked and wrangled over the years.

Jack was a raconteur and wit, and natural comedian who wrote, directed and produced a wide range of dramatic entertainments from historical vignettes to intimate cabaret. He had a fine eye for porcelain and silverware and an eclectic taste in art.

He stitched exquisite needlework and in his younger days, was much sought after as a lecturer and instructor on the subject at

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

- Mondays, 6.30 PM:** Bridge Club meets in Quimby Hall
Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Breakfast Fellowship at the Nautilus Diner
Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall
Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events.

- Tuesday, November 11th, 7.00 PM:** Parish Life Committee Meets in the Cadwalader Room
Wednesday, November 19th, 12.00 Noon: The Ladies Who Lunch at the Peppermill.
Wednesday, November 19th, 7.00 PM: Vestry Meets in the Cadwalader Room
Thursday, November 20th, 2.00 PM: Afternoon Tea (*Please note: the tea will be on the 20th, not the 13th as previously announced*)
Saturday, December 6th: Cookie Walk

meetings of women's clubs, associations and altar guilds all over the city. He was also a talented calligrapher. Indeed, examples of his work can still be seen for sale in art shops.

In striking juxtaposition to his diverse artistic abilities stood Jack's considerable prowess as a businessman. Indeed, his acumen in the stock market during the late 1980s and early 1990s won him national acclaim for his portfolio management.

Jack, in fact, was endowed with such a wide array of talents that had he concentrated on developing any single one of them, he would undoubtedly have reached the top of the tree. But Jack's mind was too restless, too mischievous, too insatiably curious, to submit to being permanently tethered – even with golden chains. ..

A man born out of his time, Jack would have cut a notable dash as a 19th century actor/manager or swashbuckling 18th century merchant adventurer. He would, to be sure, have made a perfectly terrifying Italian renaissance prince, but it is intriguing to imagine what the Sistine Chapel would have looked like if it had been a JIK, II, commission.

History's loss was our gain: Jack's abiding interest was the Church and he open-handedly shared his talents with many of the city's churches.

Here at St. Stephen's, Jack was a catalyst for many of the activities and associations that have made major contributions to building our parish. Before we acquired the Mays Chapel property where the church now stands, Jack generously hosted parish picnics and parties at his home in the Greenspring Valley – a manse he flamboyantly dubbed Ravenscall Plantation.

He was the fast-talking, wise cracking auctioneer at our fund raising auctions. He wrote, produced and directed our remarkably successful "Together Again" cabarets. The image of Jack as a positively elephantine "fairy" – complete with wand, pink tights and a tutu – is indelibly etched on my memory.

Like many vastly talented people, Jack was not always easy to live with. He was, however, never boring. His taste in clothing, for example, was decidedly flamboyant – running a gamut from mildly eccentric to downright bizarre.

It was by no means unusual for him to attend church decked out like King Edward VII in full morning dress (swallow-tailed coat, pinstriped pants, double-breasted gray vest, ascot cravat: the works) – an outfit he occasionally adorned with the star and ribbon of a *commendatore* of an eminent Papal order.

At the ground breaking for the parish church, he provoked my ire by slyly sneaking into the procession (just behind me and slightly ahead of a bemused Bishop John Gramley) clad in the gorgeous red

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER
TRINITY**

November 9th, 2014

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-20

The Gospel: St. John 4:46-54

11.00 AM CHORAL MATTINS

The Psalter: Psalms 76, 121

The First Lesson: Isaiah 59:15b-21

The Second Lesson: St. John 4:46-54

parliamentary robes of an English nobleman.

Thankfully, he'd resisted the temptation to don the ermine-trimmed coronation robes of a belted earl (oh, he had those too) and to top things off with the coronet that went with the outfit.

In short, not all of Jack's notions were entirely suitable for application in, or by, Anglican churches. But a downside of his mercurial temperament was that he was by no means invariably inclined to take their rejection with equanimity.

Sooner or later, Jack would stalk majestically off in an enormous huff to seek pastures new.

Somewhere out there another Jack is waiting out to amuse, fascinate, frustrate, irritate, enrich and bless us with his presence. If you are a candidate, why not give us a call. **GPH**

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

**Plan to join us on
November 19th**

THIS month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at **11.30 AM** at the Peppermill. Why not join us for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal? Good food and good fellowship -- what more could you want? Please call Joyce Perlberg at (410) 252-2680 to make your reservation.

✠ PARISH PRAYER LIST ✠

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List as well as the guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice & Dr. Bob's Place. To add a name to the prayer list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office at 410 560 6776.

RECOVERY: Fr Mike, Fr Tim, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, John, Rodney, Donald, Annie, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Linda Lou, Edie, Adele, Baby Charlie, Angie, Oona, Cary, Janna, Martina, Leela, Bobby Sally, Isabelle, Julie, Ray, Courtney, Mary, Phyllis, Liz, Joe, Indra, Ally, Marjorie, Steve, Judy, David, Wendy, John, Joy, Walt, Tina, Irma, Nina, James, Rita, Nancy.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Ann, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan, Paula, Hannah, Joseph, Scott, Charles, Devon, Mitch, Silas.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes.

✠ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093

Tel.: Office (410) 560-6776; Rectory (410) 665-1278

Web Address: ststeve.com

RECTOR: The Rev. Canon Guy P. Hawtin

VICAR: The Venerable Michael Kerouac

ASSOCIATES: Rev. Michael Belt, Rev. John Novicki

DEACON: Rev. Wiley Hawks

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Happy Riley

(410-252-8674)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATORS: Happy Riley (410-252-8674)

Martha Miller (410-321-9038)

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00 am: Said Eucharist

9.15 am: Sung Eucharist (*with Nursery & Church School*)

11.00 am: Choral Mattins (*1st Sunday: Choral Eucharist*)

6.00 pm: Choral Evensong (*As Announced*)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6.00 pm: Evening Prayer

Friday Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5.00 pm: Family Eucharist.

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Return Service Requested

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