

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

3 November 2015

COOKIE WALK 2015

We need vast quantities of your glorious cookies

On Saturday, 5 December, we will be holding our 24th annual Cookie Walk. And, as always, the success of this sale depends on the generosity of our parishioners and friends.

We count on you to make the cookies! Each year we request two batches of cookies from every parish family. In recent years, we have had hundreds of pounds of cookies on sale, thanks to you!

We also count on you to help us with our gift table. We seek new, never-used items that are pretty or seasonal. Volunteers have been working to craft ornaments and treasures for the table.

Please bring your contributions to the parish office. We use your donations for the children's table too, so please take a look in your drawers and cupboards for items suitable for our sale.

We need greens – as many varieties as possible – especially magnolia, boxwood, fraser (and other) fir, hemlock, white pine, blue spruce, nandina, holly, variegated holly, cedars, berried juniper, etc. Also on our list are pine cones (large and small), dried pods, and other dried items, and decorative items for our table arrangements and greens assortments. We can also use small baskets for our arrangements. Greens should be brought to the church on the weekend of 27/28 November.

And please, please, mark your calendars for the date of the Cookie Walk, Saturday, 5 December from 9.00am until 1.00pm. We hope you will plan to come and invite your friends to visit our wonderful sale!

CHARLOTTE HAWTIN

Here is another Cookie Recipe for you to prepare now and freeze ready for our big day. Maybe you could make a weekly batch whilst it's quiet before the Christmas rush. These two recipes are tried and tested and freeze extremely well; both were taken from our Cookbook 2000, copies of which are still available from the church office at a give away price of \$3.00!

Snickerdoodles

1 cup shortening	1 teaspoon cream of tartar
1½ cups sugar	1 teaspoon baking soda
2 eggs	¼ teaspoon salt
2¾ cups flour	

Heat oven to 375°F. Mix shortening, sugar and eggs thoroughly. Measure flour by sifting. Blend all dry ingredients, stir into shortening mixture. Roll into balls the size of walnuts, then roll each one in a mixture of 2 tablespoons of sugar and 2 teaspoons of cinnamon. Place on cookie sheet. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes. Cool, place in airtight container, label and freeze until ready to use.

FROM THE RECTOR

The automobile ousts the vicar's old bicycle

Forget about the cell phone, the fax machine and the computer. Of all the innovations of the past century or so, the one that has had the most profound effect on the life of the church is undoubtedly the automobile.

To be sure, the phone, the fax and the Internet spread uncharitable sentiments at a pace undreamed of by St Jerome, patron saint of rude letter writers. But they really haven't changed the basic nature of the problem. Mail delivery has been accelerating for at least four centuries.

The automobile, however, has not merely rendered obsolete the archetypical parson's bicycle (the one with a shopping basket strapped to the handlebars), it has radically restructured parish demographics.

Parishes today mirror the styles and personal tastes of their members to a far greater degree than they ever have before – thanks largely to the automobile and urban flight.

When folks lived in cities and could walk to the corner store without getting mugged, they attended their local church and accepted without much complaint what was offered.

In this way, families that were frequently on the move experienced (and tolerated) the whole gamut of Anglican expression: 'High and crazy; Low and lazy; Broad and hazy.'

Nowadays things are vastly different. For all we complain about our road system, a half-an-hour's travel takes us from one side of the city to the other. And this remarkable mobility, coupled with attitudes moulded in the crucible of modern consumerism, has radically changed the face of Episcopal parishes and, I'd venture to guess, the churches of most other jurisdictions and denominations.

Today people are far less likely than those of yesteryear to tolerate things that are not precisely to their taste – whether in the realms of fashion, food or religion.

The 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. To add a name to the prayer list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, ring the parish office on 410 560 6776.

FOR RECOVERY: Philip ✠, Hilarie, Jack, Cal, Phyllis, Edie, Adele, Linda, Elizabeth, Shelby, Melissa, Sandra, Ralph, Nathan, Hobie, Hayley, John, Nancy, Gloria, Judy, Pam, Neal, Will, Aida, Julie, Samantha, Jorge

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Melba, Scott, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Ned

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

Today people tend to shop for a church to join in much the same way they shop for everything else.

Whether this is good, bad or indifferent is not the point. The fact of the matter is that we have no choice but to live with it.

However, it's rather hard on the clergy. For starters, our flocks are no longer within a few blocks radius of the church. Today they are scattered all over the place in town and country area.

The distances parsons need to travel today have greatly increased the time required for pastoral work, such as visitation of the sick. Indeed, a driving license is no less important than a theological education for today's Anglican parson.

Pastoral work is a joy whether it takes place just around the corner or 40 miles up the road. But the extra time required in the pastoral sphere means less time available for other tasks, such as sermon writing and administration – hence the desperate need for all those computers, cell phones and fax machines.

Sometimes I'm driven to think the only way to be progressive these days is to be implacably opposed to progress. **GPH✠**