

St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

Volume XXVIII, Number 45 *A parish in the classical Anglican tradition* November 21st, 2017

A BRAZEN APPEAL FROM THE EAGLE

Cookie Walk: Help wanted, no experience necessary

Our volunteer sheets are filling up, but there's still room for your name. Our Cookie Walk has a faithful following from years past, and we hope to attract many more of our local neighbors to kick off the Christmas season at St Stephen's.

We certainly don't want to disappoint all those customers, so now it's time to "get down to brass tacks" and pull it all together. For this we need *your* help! Don't know how to make a centerpiece or decorate a wreath? What better time to learn than from our Parish pros? And our Cookie Walk work days are always infused with the holiday spirit, lots of laughter, and good old fashioned fellowship.

First and foremost, of course, are the cookies. With your help our tables will be sagging under the weight of tasty morsels of many varieties.

Remember, we have a lofty goal (and who knows about "lofty" better than an eagle?) of ten pounds of cookies from each parish family. Last year we had the best selection yet. So break out the sugar and flour, soften the butter, heat up the oven, and BAKE! Cookies may be dropped off at the church from Sunday, November 26th onwards right up to Cookie Walk day. A drop-off bin will be located outside the front door if no one is in the church.

We also need donations for our gift and children's tables. We're looking for new gift items – anything that would make a good Christmas gift for adults and children alike. There's a table in the Parish Hall for your donations and items are being accepted right now!

And now is the perfect time to prune your trees and bushes while they are dormant. We've always relied on your generosity. We need boxwood, magnolia, all pine, cedar and fir evergreens.

If cutting your greens is a problem, don't worry. We'd be only too happy to cut them for you. Call the parish office - 410-560-6776 - and we'll make arrangements. Greens can be dropped off at the back of the church from this point forward.

Finally, we need volunteers.

Here's the Cookie Walk at a glance: *Nov 18 – Nov 27, Bring in greens; Nov 26 – Dec 2, Bake and bring in cookies; Nov 27, Parish Hall set up (9:00 am – 2:00 pm); Nov 28, Wreaths and arrangements workshop (9:00 am – 2:00 pm); Nov 29. Clean up/Decorating Parish Hall (9:00 am – 2:00 pm); Nov 30, Finish decorating church (9:00 am – 2:00 pm); Dec 1. Organize cookies/Finishing touches (9:00 am – 2:00 pm); Dec 2, ALL HANDS ON DECK!*

A Final Cookie Recipe

It's been rumored that there exists in this world only one Christmas Fruit Cake and it's gifted from house to house every year but never eaten. This recipe would never share the same fate. We guarantee these delicious cookies will be eaten.

Fruit Cake Cookies

INGREDIENTS: 1 Cup Butter, 2 Cups Sugar (all white or all brown or one cup of each); 3 Cups Sifted All Purpose Flour; 2 Eggs; 3 Tbs Baking Powder; 1/2 Tsp each of Salt, Cloves and Nutmeg; 2 Tsp Cinnamon; 1/4 Cup of Brandy, Rum, Sherry, Port, Wine or Fruit Juice; 1 Cup Raisins; 1 Cup Coarsely Chopped Walnuts, Pecans, Filberts, or Unblanched Almonds; 2 Cups (1 pound) Chopped Fruit Cake Fruits.

Cream the butter, cream in the sugar and beat in the eggs. Stir in the flour sifted with the baking soda, salt and spices. Add the liquid and then the raisins, nuts, and fruitcake fruits.

With a greased teaspoon dip up 3/4 teaspoon of dough, push from the spoon with another greased teaspoon onto a well-buttered or

oiled cookie sheet. Bake in a pre-heated 350F oven for 10 minutes or until the edges are a delicate brown.

Do not over-bake or the fruit will become hard. Remove from the pans while still warm. Cool on a rack to room temperature and store in airtight containers. These freeze well and are better if aged for a week. Thanks awfully! ISAAC EAGLE

Very special talent needed

Leaf blowers and rakers needed to prep our lawn to welcome visitors shopping our Cookie Walk. We plan to do the leaves on Saturday, November 25th, 10 AM to 1 PM. Please bring blowers and rakes. Of course, Coffee and Donuts will be provided.

Thanks, Dick & Priscilla

FROM THE RECTOR

There are perils in hiding from unfashionable realities

Geography has not been taught as a subject in public schools, here or on the other side of the Atlantic, for decades. The same is true of history, geography's companion discipline. The two subjects are

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: Peter, Charlotte, Dorothy, Rodney, June, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Aida, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Robert*, David, Jan, Susie, Sophia, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Cour Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John, David, Adrian, Tom, Michell, Aida, Mai, Al, Kathy, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Isobel & Judy

IN MEMORIAM: Lynn Mikulsky. John H. Ehrhardt III
THOSE WHO MORN: Richard Mikulsky. Mrs Gail Ehrhardt and family

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Melba, Sam, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Cindy, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Erin, Aubery & Kathy

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; MSGT Michael Holter, USAF; Cpt Fiodor Strikovski, US Army.

now loosely lumped together under the heading "Social Studies." If Social Studies were simply a harmonization and rationalization of two closely related subjects, that would be one thing – unnecessary, perhaps; excessive, probably; but essentially benevolent in its intent.

When one examines its fruits, however, one can see the results have been anything but laudable. Today a majority of American children have only the haziest picture of the geography of the country in which they live and an even sketchier idea of its history. As to world geography, forget about it.

This has serious implications for the future of democracy: Not least, an electorate which cannot locate Puerto Rico, still less San Jose and Ponce, on a map can scarcely be expected to pass an informed judgment on claims the federal government's response to the recent hurricane was woefully inadequate.

Nor is an electorate so wholly ignorant of world geography, geology and geopolitics equipped to assess the logistical, political, economic and military implications for the U.S. in crises in such far away places as North Korea, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Afghanistan.

In short, our abandonment of the serious study of geography in our public schools leaves America prey to demagogues, deceivers and fanatics of every stripe. And the same goes for the bowdlerization of our history.

Some 30 years have passed since my daughter asked: “Mommy, what did men do during the Revolution?” Her schoolbooks dealt extensively with how it affected women, Native Americans and slaves. But the roles of the founding fathers and the fighting men were treated so casually as to virtually ignore them. Things have not improved in the interim.

The problem is that social studies as a subject was conceived neither to teach us history nor inform us about the world in which we live. Its primary purpose seems to be social engineering – to impart “proper attitudes” and foster “appropriate behavior.” In short, it is history and geography bent to the purpose of social engineers.

Why, for example, teach children to locate the continents or the world’s capitals when learning how far flung places are tends to undermine the goal of teaching them to think globally?

The same goes for history. Our self-anointed Solons, for instance, have expurgated religion from Western history – presumably on grounds that religion is divisive, or gets in the way of our sex lives, or some such nonsense.

A typically egregious example occurred a decade or so ago at an exhibition on William Shakespeare’s life and times at the National Portrait Gallery in London, England. There are few authentic portraits of the bard, so the curators who staged the exhibition

assembled all manner of artifacts he would have encountered or employed during the course of his daily life and work.

In addition to art works, there were clothes, weapons, tools, household utensils, literature and manuscripts in the hand of contemporary playwrights. But three things that exerted an overwhelming influence on Shakespeare’s life and work were notable solely by their absence – the 1558 Book of Common Prayer, Miles Coverdale’s Great Bible and the Geneva Bible.

Yet Shakespeare was so intimate with the Prayer Book, he plundered it continually for felicitous expressions and figures of speech. Much the same is true of the two great translations of the Bible. In other words, the role of theology – the hot button issue of his age – were entirely ignored in this exploration of the psyche of a major public figure whose life was dominated by issues of religion.

I suppose this is only to be expected of people who applaud the notion of excising the role of the Church from the political, social, intellectual and spiritual history of the Middle Ages?

However, while one might not like religion or the religiously minded any more than one likes leprosy, syphilis and the Black Death all three played a major role in shaping the foundations upon which our history is laid. And discussion of them should not be suppressed simply because they are distasteful.

Moreover, if we fail to understand the past, it is unlikely we shall understand the present, and this bodes evil for that which is to come. As George Santayana so presciently said: "Those who will not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." GPH✂

St Stephen’s Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093
Office: 410 560 6776 · Rectory: 443-425-2420
Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Rev. Canon Guy P Hawtin, Rector
The Venerable Michael Kerouac, Vicar
The Rev. Michael Belt and The Rev. John Novicki
Associate Rectors
The Rev. M Wiley Hawks, Pastoral Care Chaplain
Mrs Happy Riley, Director of Pastoral Care & Wedding
Coordinator

SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Said Eucharist
9.15am: Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)
11am: Choral Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)
6pm: Choral Evensong (as announced) –
evensong.ststeve.com

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6pm: Evening Prayer
Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist
Saturday, 5pm: Family Eucharist

Calendar of Events

WEEKLY

Monday, 6.30pm: Bridge Club
Thursday, 10am: Knitting Circle
Friday, 10.30am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Thanksgiving Sung Eucharist

Thursday, November 23rd, 10.00 am

Cookie Walk 2017

Saturday, December 2nd. 9 am -12.00 noon

Advent Choral Evensong

Sunday December 3rd, 6.00 pm

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St Stephen’s Anglican Church
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