

St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

Volume XXVIII, Number 48 *A parish in the classical Anglican tradition* December 12th, 2017

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Cookie Walk 2017 was a huge \$9,000-plus success!

In the fall of 1992, St. Stephen's bought land for our church building. Even though we had not yet broken ground, the late Jack Kohler – a prickly, but remarkably talented character who over the years had graced many Baltimore parishes – suggested we hold a Christmas sale in the house on the property.

"We will call it the 'CookieWalk'." he declared, grandly. Nobody knew what a Cookie Walk was. "That's the whole point," said Jack, "People will be intrigued and come to find out what it is. All we need to do is ask each parish family to bake at least five pounds of cookies and bring them to church the week before the sale".

We sent flyers to the neighborhood and piled the donated cookies high on trays all around the house. And people came!

Our neighbors chose from the selection of cookies and paid by the pound. Some of our parishioners contributed greens and some gave us some homemade jam. And some of our neighbors became parishioners. Cookie Walk was born.

On Saturday December 2nd, 2017 we held our 26th annual Cookie Walk. Like the Church itself, this sale has grown – neighbors and friends turned up in droves to buy our scrumptious home-baked cookies.

Work for Cookie Walk begins in the spring when Cindie Baker starts making jams and jellies. Parties assembled throughout the autumn to make Christmas puddings, peanut brittle and candied nuts. Last, but very far from least, cookie baking begins. This year parishioners contributed more than 1,000 pounds of cookies.

In the week before the sale, we had a wonderful turnout of volunteers to decorate fresh balsam wreaths and make table decorations from donated greens. People scoured their houses to contribute gift items for the gift table. This year, at the end of the three-hour sale we had made more than \$9,000 dollars. Best of all we had a great deal of fun and fellowship.

To each and every one of you who baked cookies, donated greens, gave gifts for the table, made peanut brittle, pudding, nuts, jams, jellies, wreaths and arrangements, our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. Your gift of time and talent to man the tables and attend the work parties was terrific.

It's truly a team effort, and the culmination of planning by lots of capable folks who volunteer their time and talent. So far, Cookie Walk's gross receipts represent a 15 percent increase over our proceeds from last year.

FROM THE RECTOR

Whose Christmas is it?

Twenty years or so ago a stalwart of our weekly Communion at the Glen Meadows Retirement Community was a retired radio broadcaster called Miss Alice Thomas.

Unlike today when folks with all manner of ugly and irritating voices populate the airways, Alice had a golden voice. You could sit and listen to her for hours.

This should not have been altogether surprising. For many years Alice had served on the staff of the Voice of America as one of the nation's first African American news anchors. It was a remarkable achievement – one that required grit, determination and extraordinary talent.

Alice was more than just a worshipper, she was a major participant in the liturgy. For more than a decade, she served

as lector – reading the epistle and intercessory prayers.

Miss Thomas passed away in 2003. But her absence is still felt on Tuesday mornings by those of us who remember her fondly. Her radio manner and warm, velvet smooth voice added vastly to the quality of the reading during the service.

When it came to broadcasting, Alice was the consummate professional and retirement in no way slowed her down. Indeed, for many years, she gave a weekly news broadcast for the retirement community's residents – a program that compares more than favorably with those of the local radio stations. Alice was always on the lookout for stories that aptly reflected the nature of the seasons. Here is one of her Christmas favorites.
GPH*

Mary's Dream

"I HAD a dream Joseph. I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our son. I think that was what it was all about.

"The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

Dec. 24th, 2017 to Jan. 1st, 2018

CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday, December 24th

4.00 PM: Children's Christmas Service &
Blessing of the Creche

7.00 PM: Family Candlelight Eucharist

10.30 PM: Choir sings carols followed by

Solemn High Christmas Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY Monday, December 25th

10.00 AM Sung Holy Communion

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

The Feast of St. Stephen Comm. Sunday, December 31st

8.00 AM: Holy Communion

9.15 AM: Choral Eucharist

11.15 AM: Choral Mattins

NEW YEAR'S EVE The Feast of St. Sylvester

Sunday, December 31st, 2017 11.15

shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our son.

"They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right in their house. They decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on top of the tree. It looked like an angel might look.

"Oh, it was beautiful. Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our son. I don't think they even knew him. They never mentioned his name. "Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all the trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they didn't know him? I had the strangest feeling that if our son had gone to this celebration, he would have been intruding.

"Everything was so beautiful and everyone so full of cheer. But it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus not to be wanted at his own birthday celebration. "I'm so glad it was only a dream. How terrible it would have been, Joseph, if it had been real . . ."

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 410 560 677

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

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.

St Stephen's Anglican Church

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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

Tuesday, 7am: Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

Thursday, 10am: Knitting Circle

Friday, 10.30am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Parish Life

Tuesday December 12th, 7.00 pm

Afternoon Tea

Thursday December 14th, 2.00 pm

A Christmas Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 17th, 6.00 pm

Ladies Who Lunch

(Bluestone Restaurant)

Wednesday, December 21st 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm

Christmas Memorial Flowers

To make a contribution towards the Church Christmas decorations in honor or memory of a loved one please complete this form and return it with a check (payable to St. Stephen's Church and marked for Christmas flowers) by Thursday December 22nd.

Name of Donor: _____

Poinsettias (Red, White or Pink) 6 inches, single (3-5 blooms @ \$10 (# of plants.....)

6 inches, single, (6-8 blooms) @ \$16 (# of plants.....)

7 inches, double, (9-12 blooms) @ \$20 (# of plants.....)

Total # of plants _____ Total amount enclosed _____

My gift is IN HONOR, IN MEMORY OF, IN THANKSGIVING FOR (please circle)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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11856 Mays Chapel Road
Timonium, MD 21093