

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH • TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

Volume XIX, No. 45 *A parish in the classical Anglican tradition* November 20th, 2018

COOKIE WALK '18

Our extravaganza needs you! No experience required

While our volunteer sheets continue to be filling up, there's still room for you. Our annual Cookie Walk has many faithful patrons from years past, and we hope to attract many more of our local friends and neighbors to help 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 "the nitty and the gritty" and pull it all together. For this *we really need your help!* It doesn't matter if you do not know how to make a centerpiece or decorate a wreath. What better time to learn than from our PPs (Parish Pros)?

Our Cookie Walk work days listed below are always infused with the holiday spirit, lots of laughter, and good old-fashioned fellowship.

First and foremost, of course, are the cookies. Our goal is to produce at least 10 lbs. of cookies per family. We have met this goal before, and we are going to meet it again! With your help our tables will be straining under the weight of tasty morsels of many varieties. Last year we had the best selection of cookies 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 to Cookie Walk day. A drop-off bin will be located outside the front door if no one is in the church.

We still 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!

Finally, 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 all the logistical arrangements. Greens can be dropped off at the back of the church from this point forward.

Again, volunteers needed! And Cookie Walk at a glance:

- **Nov 16:** Nov 25: Bring in greens
- **Nov 25 to Dec 1:** Bake and bring in cookies
- **Nov 25:** Parish Hall set up (9:00 – 11:00); start wreaths
- **Nov 26:** Wreaths and arrangements workshop (9:00 – 4:00)
- **Nov 27:** Clean up/Decorating Parish Hall (9:00 – 2:00)
- **Nov 28:** Decorating church (9:00 – 2:00) – Lunch served
- **Nov 29:** Organize cookies/Finishing touches (9:00 – Noon)
- **Nov 30:** **ALL HANDS ON DECK!**

More Cookie Recipes *Fruit Cake Cookies*

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. Make these delicious cookies and we guarantee they will be eaten.

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 fruit cake 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 before eating.

Butter Pecan Cookies

INGREDIENTS: 1 cup of butter or margarine, softened; 2/3 cup packed brown sugar; 1 egg; 2 cups all-purpose flour; Pecan halves. (Makes 4 dozen)

Cream butter and sugar; blend in egg. Stir together flour and 1/2 teaspoon of salt; stir into creamed mixture. Chill 1 hour. Form into 1 inch balls; place two inches apart on un-greased cookie sheet. Flatten in one direction with fork tines; top each with a Pecan half. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes.

FROM THE RECTOR

It's caveat emptor when it comes to commentaries

Laity, and many clergy for that matter, would be well advised to bring a skeptical eye to bear when studying many of the books on religious subjects currently on sale. This applies to histories,

Parish Prayer List

Our Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List and 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 at (410) 560 6776.

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FOR RECOVERY: Leona, Charlotte, Bryan, Dorothy, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Robert, Jan, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John, Adrian, Tom, Michell, Al, Kathy, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, Judy, Elizabeth, Wade, Sifa, Theresa, Lisa, Larry, Dan & Scott

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FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Caroline, Mavis, Melba, Sam, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Cindy, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Erin, Aubrey & Kath

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IN MEMORIAM:

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FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:

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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.

books on archaeology and well the many commentaries on the scriptures.

The reason for this arises from an intractable fact of academic life these days. Academics who want to keep their jobs must "publish or perish!" For new authors particularly, getting published in the many academic journals in circulation is far easier than persuading publishers to produce a book.

One might imagine that books that advance controversial or sensational theories would be sure fire sellers. And to this, to a degree is true. But certain subjects almost seem to have been declared off limits. It hard to find books challenging the theory that the "Dead Sea Scrolls belonged to an obscure Jewish sect called the Essenes. Indeed, a ruined building complex discovered not far from the caves is popularly known as an "Essene Monastery."

Yet very little is known about the Essenes from contemporary sources. They receive a cursory mention from Josephus, the

First Century A.D. Jewish historian. He says they were celibate, pacifist, austere, interpreted Jewish Law in an eccentric fashion, and kept themselves to themselves in city-based communities.

The paucity of contemporary sources about the Essenes affords scholars rich opportunities for speculation. So little is known about them that the details are all up for grabs unlike better known religious groups such as the Pharisees and Sadducees. What is rather less well known about the scrolls is that the Essene theory is by no means generally accepted. In fact, it is hotly denied by a number of distinguished academics..

Father Roland de Vaux, a French Dominican friar-archaeologist, was the originator of the Essene theory. And while he never actually referred to the building complex, itself, as "a monastery," he constantly relied upon monastic imagery to describe it. Fr. de Vaux died with his work unfinished in 1971.

In 1988, his institution – *the Ecole Biblique et Archeologique Francaise de Jerusalem* – engaged Belgian scholars Robert Donceel and Pauline Donceel-Voute to analyze his material and produce a final report on the excavations. They came to a quite different conclusion from Fr. de Vaux, pointing out that the buildings were too luxurious for a monastery. They argued the complex was a luxury villa.

Yet a third theory comes from Professor Norman Golb of the University of Chicago. He contends that the building complex

was a fortress. Golb's claims are dismissed by most scholars on the grounds that the site not suitable for a fortress, even though the complex sports a solid fortress-like tower.

Golb's explanation for the scrolls is, however, much less easy to dismiss. He points out that this region was the last open area accessible from Jerusalem when it was besieged by the Romans from AD 66 to AD 70. The desperate citizens hid their valuables to the Caves of Qumran in order to save them from pillage. Among their most valued possessions, Golb, points out, would have been their books.

Yet a fourth theory arises from large deposits of potters' clay found in the pools that protagonists of the Essene theory claim are ritual baths and the folks who advance the luxury villa theory describe as cisterns for drinking water. The potters clay, coupled with the 700 or so earthenware bowls found at the site, lead some scholars to claim the place was simply a pottery factory.

As the medieval philosopher William of Ockham famously pointed out, the simplest answer is usually the right one. But academic publishers are canny enough to know there's more mileage in mad monastics than prosaic potters or a horde of terrified book worms. Perhaps the best advice, however, comes from the old theology professor who warned his students: "Read the Scriptures, gentleman. They shed an amazing light on the commentaries." 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 Ven. Michael Kerouac, *Vicar* ·

Associate Rectors:

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki,

The Rev. M Wiley Hawks, The Rev. Robert Ludwig. &

The Rev. Dr. Norman Flowers

Mrs Happy Riley, *Director of Pastoral Care & Wedding Coordinator*

SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Said Eucharist

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

11am: Sung Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)

Choral Services (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

Noon: Bible Study

Friday, 10.30am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

The Vestry Meeting

December 5th at 7.00 PM.

The Ladies Who Lunch

The Bluestone Restaurant, Timonium

Wednesday, Noon, December 19th

Reservations: Joyce Perlberg (410) 252-2680

Cookie Walk 2018

Saturday, December 1st from 9.00 AM to 12 noon

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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