

P a r t y P a r t y P a r t y

Mark your calendar for Monday, December 10: it's time for our annual Christmas Party! As is our custom, instead of a regular member meeting on the second Monday of December, we'll gather for a gala holiday fete at Neshoba Unitarian Church 7350 Raleigh La Grange Road at 6:00. (See directions and map on pg 4.)

As an opener we'll tuck into an elegant pot-luck. This is your opportunity to reveal your skill in the culinary arts: pick your favorite holiday or party dishes and let your Scottish friends revel in them. Use the following as a guide (so we don't all show up with 7-layer salad) by last-name initial: A through F – entrees; G through L – desserts; M – appetizers & salads; N through R – side dishes & vegetables; S through W – breads & relishes. And remember, you need not feel limited to these suggestions.

For entertainment, the Caledonia Chorale will sing. Additional music will be provided by several of our

talented instrumental musicians.

Did someone mention gifts? We certainly will have gifts! First, we will have big boxes in which you may deposit new, unwrapped Toys-for-Tots which Ben Kemker will convey into the Marines Corps' larger collection.



(Don't be surprised if a well-known gent from the North Pole shows up to help with this worthy endeavor!) We will also indulge in the annual Prove-You're-a-Real-Scot \$5 gift challenge: find a gender-appropriate gift to exchange (that is, ladies bring a lady's gift, men bring manly presents) COSTING NO MORE THAN \$5.

There will be games with prizes and as we introduced last year, a holiday table decorating contest. Table covering, napkins, centerpiece, dishes and flatwear, serving pieces, Granny Janet's cut-glass salt cellars– whatever strikes your fancy. Let Mary Ann Lucas (901-725-1879 or MaryAnn.Lucas@memphisscots.com) know you want to enter the contest & she will set aside a table on which you can display your masterpiece. Those sitting at that table will enjoy their meal even more using your finery.

Come prepared for a fun & festive evening – see you there!

Keep up with Burns Nicht 2008 Page 3

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SCOTTISH CONNECTION

In December even the Scroogiest of us begins to think of eleemosynary activities and altruistic giving. And that would be just fine with one of the greatest theologians of the 20th century, who, as it happens, has a **Scottish Connection**.

William Barclay was born in Wick on December 5, 1907 and died in Glasgow in 1975. He was an author, radio and television presenter, Church of Scotland minister and Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism at the Univer-

sity of Glasgow. He is best known, however, as an author of profound theological works of long-lasting influence. As a theologian he is enigmatic, controversial, mysterious, and, as comes as no surprise to the rest of us Scots, an insightful contrarian.

But just attend for a moment to this quote from Barclay, which echoes the sentiments of that most well-known of seasonal stories *A Christmas Carol* from a century earlier: "...the only test of the reality

of a man's religion is his attitude to his fellow man. The only possible proof that a man loves God is the demonstrated fact that he loves his fellow men."

So, even if you get your spiritual enlightenment from Charles Dickens but once a year, this holiday season whenever you drop a mite in a bell-ringer's pail, fund/deliver food baskets, or buy your tree from the Scouts, rejoice in the words of William Barclay and remember his **Scottish Connection**.

Review of Lawhon Exhibit

I had my fourteen year old daughter with me and our plans were in place to go to Plough Library at Christian Brothers University for "A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland" by Greg Lawhon. After just a few steps up into the Library, then a few more down to the exhibit on the lower level, our eyes were treated with a stunning set of photographs that will take you as close to Scotland as you can get, here in mid-town Memphis. The number of photographs are not so many that you cannot enjoy each one individually and they are not so few that you think why did I bother coming down here for so little. I am the first to admit that I don't know a lot about photography but I will tell you the paper they are printed on and the techniques used to print them, leaves nothing to the imagination to try and figure out except for what may be on the outside of the picture. My hat's off to the artist and to CBU for hosting the exhibit.

As if the photographs weren't enough, there was another exhibit by Kelly Buntin Johnson that would

be worth going to see, in and of itself. Her exhibit is called "Tangible Meditation" and is part sculpture, doll-making, and bead work. All of these combined together create Holy Dolls, that are designed to cause the viewer/reader to pause with a reintroduction of the lives of the saints throughout the ages. Her goal is "to cause the viewer/reader to pause in meditation and

to see the messages portrayed in a new light."

If the above two exhibits aren't enough to come to midtown for, the parkways are offering stunning color this fall and a ride around them is one of my favorite diversions in and around the home I call midtown. Come see them all.
S Rich

GRACE NOTES

Grace Notes is the official publication of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. It is published monthly. Like the Society itself, the credo of *Grace Notes* is "to foster education and promote understanding of things Scottish."

If you have something of interest to readers of this newsletter, please submit a typewritten manuscript to the editorial staff. If the article or notice is very brief (30 words or fewer), just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs (preferably black and white; no Polaroids, please).

The deadline for all submissions is the second week of each month preceding the month of publication. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with each submission, if you want the material returned.

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to foster education and
promote understanding of
things Scottish



Burns Nicht 2008

Our 2008 Burns Nicht Dinner on Saturday, January 26, is now less than two months away, and plans are well underway for another wonderful night to enjoy the songs and poetry of our favorite Scottish poet. This year's dinner will again be held at Woodland Hills at 6:00 PM, with dinner served at 7:00 PM, preceded by the Patrons' Reception from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. Our main entertainment for the evening will be provided by "Celtic World." The evening will include the mandatory ceremonial pre-

sentation of the haggis, with Burns's "Address to a Haggis" in its homage, the toasts to the Lads and Lasses, "The Immortal Memory," and "Auld Lang Syne." Also not to be missed will be the skirl of the pipes of the Wolf River Pipes and Drums and the reels and strathspeys of the Memphis Scottish Country Dancers. A vegetarian entree



will be available, please inform at the time of ticket purchase.

Tickets must be purchased by Saturday, January 19, and are \$50 for members (if ordered by December 31), \$60 for non-members, with \$70 for Patrons and \$100 for Benefactors. There is a \$10 discount for seniors over 65. The cost for a table of 10 is \$500. Send ticket requests to Burns Nicht, c/o Memphis Scottish Society, P.O. Box 241934, Memphis, TN 38124-1934, or call 901-757-4200 for more information.

News for Scots

November 25th (the Sunday after Thanksgiving) was a great day for Scots to watch CBS Sunday Morning (CBS 8 – 9:30 a.m.). Those who caught the broadcast were treated to two articles and one advertisement that Scots would find of interest.

The first article was about a lad in New Orleans who, by his name, COULD be of Scottish extraction, but, by his own initiative and personal application, we will want to claim as a Scot even if he isn't. Young Jack McShane, age 13, of New Orleans, is a true citizen of that woebegone city. While the city, parish, and state governments continue hamstringing in the scope of recovery necessary after the 1-2 punch of Hurricanes Katrina & Rita, Jack saw a need & filled it. Observing that the famed and beloved City Park was not being tended, he took his family's lawn mower to the Park and commenced to mow. (No, it's not a

riding mower, just a regular push-style gas-powered model.) He called himself a "mow-ron" and, in good Tom-Sawyer-fence-painting fashion, was soon joined by several other youths, now sporting matching "Mow-Rons" T-shirts, all mowing away on the 1300-acre park which is the 6th largest & 7th most-visited municipal park in the nation.

The second article was about a lovely new coffee-table book entitled *Tartan: Romancing the Plaid*, a loving review of the history of the cloth that both binds us together and at the same time separates us. The book is written by haute coutouriers Jeffrey Banks and Doria De La Chapelle and was released in October 2007. Banks, an African American, admits to being crazy for tartan. In the interview he faithfully used the terms "tartan", "plaid", and "check" accurately and even gently corrected the reporter when she misused them. He owns closets

of tartan garments, tartan home furnishings, and even a multi-tartan teddy bear. In his hands tartans comprise ball gowns, teen grunge wear, designer-labeled upholstery, and everything in between. The book is a work of love in the hands a true devotee of the stuff.

The advertisement also worthy of a Scot's regard was the trailer for the upcoming movie *The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep*. The movie features the adventures of a Scottish boy during World War II who finds what he takes to be a sea rock and from it hatches a Nessie-like creature. Adapted from a book written by Dick King-Smith, author of the ever-popular "Babe," the film features many familiar Scottish players: Emily Watson, Brian Cox, and David Morrissey among them. It opens on Christmas Day. (Watch for a delightful contratemps between the new Nessie and an English bulldog!)

OOT n OOH

I will concede that it is really busy at this time of the year, even if one tries not to be, (that would be myself). I find that my plate continues to stay full to overflowing regardless of my best intentions to just kick back and enjoy the season as it comes to me, ready or not.

So, as I type this and put out our annual plea for nominations for the **Order of the Thistle** and **Order of the Heather** awards, please take a few moments to think about our members and how they have served our society and let's give them a little love back in the form of

this really quite simple recognition of a job well done. There is always room for one more the next year. Please submit nominations to the Grace Notes staff or our President before January 15th because we will announce at Burns Nicht! Thanks SRich

Plaid Tidings – Circuit Playhouse

There is now a sequel to the well-loved dinner theater staple *Forever Plaid*. It is entitled *Plaid Tidings* and runs 11/16 through 12/23 at Circuit Playhouse, 1705 Poplar Avenue.

The original play follows a 1950s close-harmony “guy group” quartet who, on the way to their first performance, (before the play opens) tragically die in a car wreck (with a bus full of Catholic schoolgirls and

their nun chaperons going to see the first American concert of the Beatles). Since they are thus denied the chance ever to perform, Heaven permits them to return to Earth to perform that one show (which includes the most beautiful arrangement of “Scotland the Brave” ever penned, in the humble opinion of our editor).

In this new holiday-themed sequel, the clean-cut four get a Heavenly

phone call from Rosemary Clooney (herself!) to go back to Earth for a one-time Christmas show. As they did in the earlier play, the boys perform in Royal Stewart dinner jackets (hence the “Plaid” in the titles).

For great nostalgic songs, for breath-taking harmonies, for the gentle humor, for the impressive costumes, be sure to include *Plaid Tidings* in your holiday plans.

Invitation to our Celtic Christmas Service from Evergreen Presbyterian Church

Please join us for a special service of lessons, prayers and Celtic music, expressing the Advent hope and Christmas commitment to peace and justice in all of God’s creation.

Wednesday, December 5, 2007 6:30 pm in the Evergreen Sanctuary

The service will include liturgy from the Iona Community in Scotland live music from the band Celtic World along with Pipers For information, call Evergreen at 274-3740.

Directions to Neshoba Unitarian Church - MSSSI Christmas Party

(northeast of Shelby Farms): (Note: Raleigh Lagrange Road is CLOSED between Macon Road and Mullins Station Road: You cannot get to the

Church from the north! None of the online map services currently reflects this.)

From the east: From Germantown

Parkway turn west onto Trinity Road. As Trinity turns right (north), its name changes to Raleigh Lagrange. Follow Raleigh Lagrange through the intersection with Mullins Station Road. (Do not turn left onto Mullins Station.) You’ll see a small sign reading “CLOSED EXCEPT FOR CHURCH TRAFFIC”. About 40 yards north of the sign, turn right into the church driveway. You’re there!

From the west: From I-40 take Sycamore View south to Mullins Station; turn left (east) onto Mullins Station. [OR from Walnut Grove Road take Farm Road (or Farm Road & Pine Lake Road) north to Mullins Station Road; turn right (east) onto Mullins Station.]

Where Mullins Station veers right and becomes Raleigh Lagrange, turn left (north) onto Raleigh Lagrange. You’ll see a small sign reading “CLOSED EXCEPT FOR CHURCH TRAFFIC”. About 40 yards north of the sign, turn right into the church driveway. You’re there!



Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7 pm
Church of the Holy Communion,
Walnut Grove at Perkins,
272-7159 for info.

Thursdays

Sgt.W.K.Singleton Pipes & Drums
6:30-8:30 at Bethel Pentecostal
Church, Stage Road in Bartlett;
call 386-2052 for info.

Wolf River Pipes & Drums,
6:30-9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran;
Germantown Parkway. 753-9494
for info.

Fridays

Dancing: 7:30-10 pm, Idlewild
Pres.; 1750 Union Ave,
West Entrance
1st, 3rd & 5th Friday
Scottish Country Dancing.
274-1889

Monday, December 10

Annual Christmas Party
Neshoba Unitarian Church
7350 Raleigh LaGrange Rd
Cordova, TN 38018

For directions call 757-4200 or
go to memphisscots.com.
6:00 pm Pot Luck Dinner &
7:00 pm Program: Annual
Christmas Party

Thursday, December 27

Board Meeting: Perkins at
1340 S. G'town Rd. 5:30 pm.

Scottish/Celtic
RadioMusic

Sundays, 6-7 p.m.

"The Thistle and Shamrock"
WKNO-FM 91.1

Saturdays, 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

"Strands of the Celtic Knot"
Robert Campbell, host
WEVL-FM 89.9

Sun and Mon 6 p.m. and

Fridays, 7 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"



December 9 |The Singing Kettle
Cilla Fisher and Artie Trezise have created Britain's most successful children's singing group, the Singing Kettle. Fiona Ritchie met the couple in their home village of Kingskettle to learn about their music - new songs and others passed down through generations of Scottish children - and to enjoy hearing the stories behind such classics as "The Train to Glasgow."

December 16 |Celtic Dance
Inspired in part by the success of theatrical shows featuring traditional dance styles, Celtic instrumentalists are today increasingly keen to re-connect their music with dancers, both on stage and in the recording studio. Hear the rhythms of the Scottish Stepdance Company, the Cherish the Ladies stepdancers, The Occasionals country dance band, and the step-driven score

of Bill Whelan's "Riverdance."

December 23 |Season's Greetings from The Thistle & Shamrock
Our seasonal music, greetings, and readings will beam light and life into your holiday gatherings.

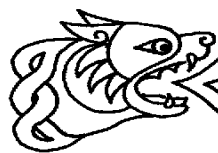
December 30 |Fiona's First Foot
The most revered of the ancient Scottish Hogmanay (New Year's Eve) pagan rituals dates back to Viking days and involves visiting the homes of neighbors and friends soon after the bells at midnight. To bring most luck to the household, a first footer should be a tall dark stranger, bearing gifts of Scotch whisky, a lump of coal, and rich fruit cake or shortbread. Fiona talks you through the traditions of the celebration, glass in hand, with gifts of music to set your new year off on the right footing.

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Celtic Woman's Christmas

Stay tuned to Channel 10 on December 3rd, @7 pm and on December 8th @ 6:30 pm for the Celtic Woman concert.

Your 2007 membership expired on September 30. To re-new membership send in dues of \$20 per family, \$17 per individual, \$10 for military or student. Note: this year the membership rosters are being built from scratch: they will not be carried over from last year's roster, so only those who send in their dues will appear on the roster.



Don't Forget to get your Burns Nicht tickets before the New Year.



MSSI Officers 2008

Please join your nominating committee in welcoming and helping our newly elected board, by acclamation, at the November meeting. The following slate of officers. Well done.

President John Schultz
 Vice-Pres Debbie Sellmansberger
 Treasurer Tom Lewis
 Secretary Mary Clausi
 Members-at-Large
 Sue Malone
 Jackie Garner
 Mary Ann Lucas

Banner Contest

Just a reminder for all of you artisan types out there: The Board has decided to give the winner of our banner contest a free ticket to Burns Night. All designs (3' X 5') should be submitted to a board member this month so we can present our new colors in times for Burns Night. The design can be drawn freehand or on the computer. The choice is yours. So up with your pens and lend us your creative side.

Grace Notes Staff

We would like to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season. Don't eat to much, drink to much, or laugh to much, for it is in moderation we learn to the joy of all we have been offered. Have a glorious year end and don't forget to tell someone that they are special. Mary Ann Lucas, Gavin Anderson, Melissa Gibson and Sammy Rich.

Next Monthly Meeting - December 10th - Annual Christmas Party, 757-4200 or online
www.memphisscots.com - Neshoba Unitarian Church Pot Luck at 6:00, Program at 7:00.

Board Meeting, Thursday, December 27th at 5:30, Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.



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