Kirking of the Tartan
Knox Presbyterian Church 2015

Clan MacGregor never misses this event. Looking sharp!

Piper Jeff Christman always performs beautifully.

All of the service flags were presented at the Kirking.

SST Founding member, Gerry McDowell, center, with her daughter and son-in-law, Robin and Manny Willis. Beautiful!

See more Kirking photos on pages 4
The Scottish Society of Tidewater exists to promote the preservation and study of Scottish culture, including music, language, art, history, folklore, dance, literature, athletics, and all other things distinctively Scottish among interested persons in the Hampton Roads, Virginia area and to cooperate with like-minded persons, groups and organizations here and abroad.

A meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Church of Ascension Community Center, 4853 Princess Anne Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462-4446. Social time begins at 7:00pm, and the meeting starts at 7:30pm. Anyone interested in Scottish culture and history is invited to attend.

301 E. Randall Ave., Norfolk, VA 23503 www.tidewaterscots.org

SST Executive Board

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The SST Board of Directors

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About the Scottish Society of Tidewater, Inc.

Holiday greetings to all reading this. Thanksgiving is just days away, the Christmas Céilidh, then Christmas, Hogmanay/New Years, and Burns Suppers. It is a time of celebration, and spending time with family and friends. Let’s not also forget that not all have the same benefit of family and extended family we may have. Go see a shut-in, a neighbor who rarely goes out of the house, or a friend you haven’t seen for a long time. Participate in an Angel tree or similar gift opportunity to give a small amount of holiday joy to those with almost nothing.

Keep a paper/plastic bag in the car containing an apple, a bottle or two of water, a pull-top can of fruit, a pack of Nabbs, and a pair of warm gloves. When you see the homeless person on a corner asking for money, hand them the bag. It will be gladly received. Whatever their reason for being on that corner, they surely are worse off than you are.

Upcoming events are the Christmas Céilidh on December 2nd, the Hogmanay walk in Old Towne Portsmouth on Dec 31st, and the Burns Supper on January 23rd. Details on these events are being emailed to the membership, and are available on the website.

Have a happy holiday time, and I hope to see all who can come at the Céilidh!

Merry Christmas –

Stacy Elliott Apelt, FSA Scot
President Scottish Society of Tidewater

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
You’re Invited!

Christmas Ceilidh and Silent Auction

Hosted by

Scottish Society of Tidewater

Wednesday, December 2, 7 pm

Church of the Ascension Community Center

4853 Princess Anne Rd., Virginia Beach

Please join us for fellowship, great food, Scottish music and dance, and lots of holiday merry making!

Come make new friends and reconnect with old ones!

Need a ride? We can arrange that.

For questions or to RSVP, contact

Laurie MacPherson Walker

757-536-7976

maephersonlaurie@yahoo.com
Ron Blake, Pastor, blesses the Tartan during the service. His Tartan Day message of family and tradition are always inspiring.

Flag bearers, including Dale Walker, right, exit after the service.

Colin McGlynn, above, and Connie Smith, right, provided an excellent afternoon of Scottish fiddle and Gaelic singing in the Church Fellowship Hall. We are so lucky to have you two!
“Celtic Cousins” Fall Picnic 2015
Hosted by the SST, St. Andrews Society and the Irish Society of Tidewater Society

From left Betsy & Jack Kennedy, Lisa Hunt Burgess, and Scott MacGregor.

Brenda & George Phillips.

SST Founding Member Nancy McKay, left, and Donna Looney

“Oats” vs. “Spuds” Cornhole Classic. We were robbed...again.

A wee picnic Ceilidh!
Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Highland Games 2015

From left, Sandy MacGregor, Edward Brash, and Scott MacGregor

From left, Jeanne & Bob Rider, and Cheryl Brown.

The SST partnered with the IAS, HRHC, CnamB and the Richmond hurlers, sharing a row of tents. Lots of fun activity the whole weekend!

Skip Hunter, far left, and Lynnette Fitch Brash, far right, hanging out with the members of the Richmond Battery Gaelic Athletic Assoc.
SST Members Making Us Proud!

Colin McGlynn, upper left, and Baird Scholarship recipient Sean Heely competed in Scottish Fiddle at the Richmond Games, and both won 1st place in their respective divisions. Good on ya, lads!

Meet Our Very Own Gold-Medalist Gaelic Singer
by Joanne Kimberlin, Virginian-Pilot, 10-26-2015

Ever heard of a Mòd? Yeah, us neither. Turns out there’s a U.S. National Mòd, and one of our very own - Connie Smith, a dietitian from Chesapeake - won a gold medal at it last month in Pennsylvania.

Smith won by warbling Gaelic tunes - part of a competition known as a Mòd that celebrates Scottish culture and language.

Apparently, the Highlands heritage is hot. Popular enough that The Scottish Society of Tidewater holds weekly Gaelic classes in Virginia Beach and crowds were expected in Richmond last weekend for the Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games.

Perhaps it’s not surprising. Roughly 34 million Americans hail from Scottish stock - many of them in the south. In Colonial times, more Scots settled in North Carolina than any other state.

For Smith, it’s not about her own ancestry - she describes herself as “a mutt.” She’s simply drawn to the colorful history that’s carried on in ancient melodies. Work songs that helped women weave in rhythm. Dance tunes that provided a beat when traditional instruments like bagpipes were banned. Haunting ballads of love, loss and joy - still timeless.

Connie Smith, SST Board Member and Baird Scholarship recipient, competed in US National Scottish Gaelic Mod at the 2015 Ligonier Highland Scottish Games, and took the title! Gle Mhath! Very Good! You can enjoy Connie’s beautiful singing at the SST Christmas Ceilidh on Dec. 2.

Connie McGlynn, upper left, and Baird Scholarship recipient Sean Heely competed in Scottish Fiddle at the Richmond Games, and both won 1st place in their respective divisions. Good on ya, lads!
SST Out and About

Randy and Carolyn Bruce are settling nicely in their new home in Radford. They are enjoying the local artist scene and love living in the mountains. Good for you!

Former SST President Nancy Miller and her husband CG at a Halloween event at their church. They are dressed as...who else? Claire and Jamie from the popular Highlander Series! Hey, I'm convinced!

Former SST President John McGlynn and his lovely wife Donna had a belated honeymoon in sunny France this past September. Here they are at the Pont du Gard, which is one of the surviving Roman aqueducts. Donna reports that they enjoyed lots of bread and cheese and a healthy amount of wine. Ooo La La!
On a rainy afternoon in September, Laurie Macpherson & Dale Walker got hitched, Scottish style! Best wishes from the SST for many, many happy years together! Slainte!

Introducing Mr. & Mrs. Dale Walker!

Gud Scottish Weather!

The Happy Couple!

Only at Laurie & Dale’s wedding would you see aquatic piping & Highland Dancing!

Wedding photos by Melanie Wasiko
### At Your Service

**MUSIC**

**Newport News Police Pipe & Drum Corps**  
Tom Crouch waylon23703@aol.com  
http://newportnewspolicepipe.homestead.com

**Pipers For Hire**  
Rob Lockwood piobmor@juno.com  
http://www.roblockwood.com

**Scottish Gaelic Song Performances**  
Edward Brash brash99@hotmail.com  
Connie Smith caus10smith@hotmail.com

**CELTIC DANCE**

**Scottish Highland Dancing**  
Scottish Dance Theatre of Virginia  
Eleanor Unger SDTOFVA@aol.com

**Scottish Highland Dancing**  
**Scottish Ceilidh (Social) Dancing, & Scottish Step Dancing**  
Lynnette Fitch Brash l.fitch.brash@gmail.com

**Southside Ceili(dh) Class & Irish Ceili Dancing**  
Lisa Hunt lhunt23@cox.net

**MISC.**

**Kilts, Alterations**  
Christine Lawler vakilter@juno.com

**Photography - British Isles**  
Manny Willis mannyandrobins@gmail.com

**Photography - Scotland**  
Linda Lucas ljluscas@cox.net

**Scottish Gaelic Lessons**  
Scots Gaelic Society of Tidewater  
Marcey Hunter marcey9@cox.net

**Travel in Scotland**  
Highland Ways  
Arthur & Anne Korff 757-596-6063  
acorff32@mycidco.com

**Scotch Whisky Tasting**  
Mike Lawler william.lawler@verizon.net

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**Autumn at Kincaig**

Yellow birch leaves fall like flakes  
on rooted rutted forest tracks  
rain splatters  
on plastic hoods among the woods.

Tawny oaks and bronzy bracken  
beech leaves thickly dark and molten  
as we walk  
in single rank along the bank.

The living river far below  
a dark brownish steady flow  
then shower of sun  
gently catches golden larches.

Tessa Ransford

from Not Just Moonshine: new and selected poems (Edinburgh: Luath,
Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 2  
SST Christmas Ceilidh & Silent Auction  
Church of the Ascension, 7 pm  
4853 Princess Anne Rd., VB  
This is a pot luck event, so please bring a dish to share. And bring your checkbook!

December 31  
Olde Tounie Portsmouth Scottish Walk  
3:30 PM Gathering Corner of Queen and Washington Streets.  
4:30 PM Step off Behind the St. Paul’s Catholic and Monumental United Methodist Churches.  
5:30 PM Pipe Music Barons Pub, Bier Garten

January 6  
SST Monthly Meeting  
Church of the Ascension  
4853 Princess Anne Rd., VB  
Social time 7 pm, meeting at 7:30 pm  
Speaker: TBA  
Please bring a snack to share and/or an item for the church food pantry

January 23  
Burns Night Supper  
Hosted by the St. Andrew’s Society of Tidewater  
Princess Anne Country Club  
Tickets must be purchased in advance  
Contact Stacy Apelt at sapelt@cox.net

February 3  
SST Monthly Meeting  
Church of the Ascension  
4853 Princess Anne Rd., VB  
Social time 7 pm, meeting at 7:30 pm  
Speaker: TBA

March 2  
SST Monthly Meeting  
Speaker TBA

March 19  
Ocean View St. Patrick’s Day Parade

Don’t miss the annual Olde Towne Portsmouth Scottish Walk & Hogmanay Celebration!

Thursday, December 31st  
3:30 Gathering  
Corner of Queen & Washington Streets  
Ring in the new year, Scottish style!

CEUD MILE FAILTE!  
“One Hundred Thousand Welcomes” to New SST Members!

John & Marrillyn Bair  
Virginia Beach, Virginia  
ffgdoc@hotmail.com  
Merri bair@outlook.com  
Clan MacDonald

Corey Roy  
Chesapeakke, Virginia  
scottishcorey@yahoo.com  
Clan Anderson