

Bruton Parish Shop Talk

February 2010

Williamsburg, VA.

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"Saint Valentine?" If it's February, it's time to come in for all your cards for Valentine's Day. But do you really know WHY you give cards on Valentine's Day? The day was first celebrated on the Ides of February and began as the ancient festival of Lupercalia intended to cleanse cities of evil spirits and restore health and fertility to the inhabitants. During Roman times, this fête turned more towards matchmaking and interfered with the Emperor's (Claudius II's in particular) ability to raise armies to keep his empire growing. Curiously, young men, newly wed, did not want to leave their new wives and families - even for the glory of Rome! When Claudius forbade marriages during Lupercalia, St. Valentine lost his head (sadly, literally) and jumped in to marry these young people in secret. Prior to his execution, Valentine is reported to have sent a note to his beloved, the beautiful young blind daughter of his jailer. Valentine is to have so filled the note with his faith in God and belief in the power of love to transform, that upon receiving the note, the beautiful blind girl's sight was restored and she too could see the transforming power of love. Help spread His love and continue in Valentine's tradition. Come in and get a Valentine's card to send to someone who won't expect it.

Hail! And Farewell! At its last meeting, the Bruton Parish Shop Board said farewell to the three retiring members of the Shop Board - Mary Ann Brendel, Bill Kafes, and Helen Phillips - and expressed its sincerest appreciation for the excellent three years of service these faithful and committed parishioners gave to us. The Board welcomed three new members -- Charlie Clapper, Dick Estes, and Sally Hancock. We now all look forward to working alongside them and growing this important part of Bruton's outreach and evangelizing ministries.

We Counted on You! Inventory is over and done and you did a fantastic job! Our goal was to be counted and opened again by Martin Luther King Weekend, but we were all counted, cleaned and back in business by that Wednesday. We counted on you, but you were all more than AMAZING! Many, many thanks!

Plea for Beads! How many of you have marveled at how clever (and environmentally responsible) it is to sell our service bulletins and Chronicles reformatted as beaded necklaces? Have you ever wondered from whence they come? It's **not** the Episcopal Kiebler Beaders! It's the "Olsen Twins" (Bettie and Dave) and Bev Kelly! We need more help for this important part of our ministry. These beads are PURE PROFIT! They cost us nothing and make money for outreach.

Can't you help, too? You can make the beads at home while you're watching TV or a movie. So give Bettie a call (757-564-4513) and volunteer to help keep this important Shop staple stocked.

Oops! Check the Tag! Last month we asked you all to be more watchful about cash register shortages and to count back change -- bill-by-bill and penny-by-penny - - into each customer's hand. Now, after our inventory last month, we noticed another shortage problem: with the jewelry. We had more loses from our jewelry counter than has typically been the case in previous years. We all need to become more diligent about making sure the jewelry counter is staffed at all times. We also need to try to avoid selling the display pendants and chains without removing the double-sided price tags. Some of our shortages may have resulted from the register person not being made aware that the item had prices on both sides of the price tag. Let's all try to help our register ringers out more by separately bagging pendants and chains or pointing out any double-sided tags.

Jewelry Sale! And speaking of jewelry, it's never too early to start collecting your used jewelry, ties and scarves for the Shop's annual Memorial Day Jewelry Sale. When you clean out those drawers and closets this year, don't set them aside to forget. Bring them on into the Shop and tell Laura or Carol they're for the Jewelry Sale.

New and Noticeable! While the town may be empty, the Bruton Parish Shop is not! Come on in and see all the wonderful things we have for Valentine's Day or just for a special friend or loved one. There are cards, of course, and inspirational plaques that say, "Believe all Things are Possible" or "May Loving Angels Guard & Keep You" or "Never get so busy making a living to make a life." Lois Polifka's favorite one (and I must agree) is: "When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot and Hang On." We've also gotten in the Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan book, The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Mean. Charles is using this wonderful book for his upcoming Lenten program, so I'll let our "Biker Priest" tell you more about it in his piece in The Chronicle. Just remember, copies of the book are available in the Shop. February's always a slow month. So remember, we are Bruton's outreach funding source and please come in and shop here.

Keep In Your Prayers: Claudette Davis, Scottie Phillips and Margaret Wright.
Blair Turrentine

Shop Prayer: Almighty God, we give thanks for your loving care. Grant us strength and courage as we seek to do your work through the mission and ministry of the Bruton Parish Shop in reaching out to the visitors, our community, and the world. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*