



The St. Andrew's Society of Washington, DC
Presents the 69th Annual

National Kirkin' o' The Tartan

Saturday, April 18, 2009

4:00 p.m.



In the days of the Act of Proscription, wearing of the kilt was banned in the Scottish Highlands. According to legend, Highlanders hid pieces of tartan and brought them to church to be secretly blessed at a particular point in the service. The Kirkin' o' The Tartan serves as a remembrance of the liberties and religious freedom Scots endured to preserve, including their influence on freedoms shared by all Americans.

An American tradition, the "kirkin" or blessing of the tartans began in 1941. The Rev. Peter Marshall, originally from Coatbridge, Scotland, originated the service to raise funds for British war relief. Rev. Marshall was the pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington DC, and served as Chaplain of the United States Senate and the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, DC. At the service on April 27, 1941, Rev. Marshall gave a sermon entitled "the Kirkin' o' the Tartans"- thus a tradition was born.

Following this special service and stirring homily, the pipes and drums will fill the cathedral as tartan bearers lead a procession to the high altar for the blessing. Afterwards, we will be entertained by Highland dancers and the St. Andrews Society Pipes and Drums on the south side of the cathedral.

Don't miss this riveting springtime tradition at the National Cathedral.
Free of charge and no RSVP needed!