



# St. Andrew's Society of Washington, DC

April 12, 2010

Fellow member,

Our **National Kirkin' o' The Tartan** is very near (**May 1<sup>st</sup>**) and we need your participation to make it successful. Over the years I have witnessed member attendance of varying degrees. There doesn't seem to be a pattern but maybe it pertains to degrees Fahrenheit - 80 degrees or 45 degrees. This year the weather will certainly be pleasant, clearing the way for you to join us at this important event and show attendees how our society members support their Scottish heritage.

**Why is it important to have members march in the procession?** In the past few years, we have tried to demonstrate to leaders at the Cathedral how this service is integral to their calendar of events and how it's important to our nation, accentuating the positive Scottish influence woven throughout. If they observe low turnout amongst our members, it hurts our case and, quite frankly, dampens the energy and enthusiasm for hundreds of other services occurring across the nation each year. After all, our service – the National Kirkin' o' The Tartans – was the originating service upon which most others are based.

In conjunction with the **National Capital Tartan Day Committee** (NCTDC), I'm pleased to say we are also bringing back the reception we had for several past years following the service (**see enclosed RSVP form**). Several special guests will be in attendance, including representatives from the U.S. House of Representatives and British Embassy's Office of Scottish Affairs. There is limited space for this attractively priced reception, so please RSVP today. Thanks to the NCTDC for co-hosting.

So grab your tartans and invite your friends to this unique and meaningful service. Consider posting a copy of the enclosed flyer at your church and spread the word. There are no tickets required but, if you would like reserved seating for your guests, contact David McKenzie at [calvingpi@aol.com](mailto:calvingpi@aol.com) or (703) 528-6030. If you will participate in the procession, please gather on the south side of the cathedral no later than 3:30 p.m. on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for your time and participation in the society.

Vern McHargue, President



1760-2010

**The St. Andrew's Society of Washington, DC**  
**Presents the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**National Kirkin' o' The Tartan**

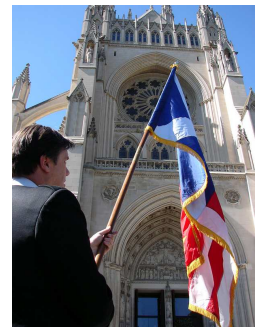
May 01, 2010 – 4:00 p.m.  
National Cathedral, Washington, DC

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**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 liberty and religious freedom Scots endeavored 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 also 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. The service has been held at the National Cathedral since 1959.



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 of the tartans. Afterwards, you 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.**



**The National Capital Tartan Day Committee, Inc.  
and  
The St. Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C.**



*Request the honor of your presence for*

**A Cocktail Reception  
Following the National Kirkin O' the Tartan on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

***Heavy Hors d' Oeuvres \*\*\* Open Bar \*\*\* Guest Speakers \*\*\* Bagpipers &  
Other Scottish Entertainment***

*Advance Reservations Required- Suggested Donation of \$20 per Person*

**Location:** The Trophy Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, St. Alban's School for Boys. On the Grounds of the Washington National Cathedral, Washington, DC (building faces onto 3500 Blk. of Garfield Street, NW - at the southeast side of the property).

**Date:** Saturday, May 1, 2010

**Time:** 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

**Dress:** Daywear kilt or business attire

*For more information, call John King Bellasai, Event Chairman, at (202) 258-4876.*

***Yes, I/we want to co-sponsor the Cocktail Reception following the Kirkin' on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Enclosed is my donation (suggested amount, \$20/person) to NCTDC, in support of their mission to promote awareness of, and celebration of, the Tartan Day holiday.***

**Yes, I will attend.**     No, I cannot attend, but my contribution is enclosed.

**Enclosed is my check, made payable to NCTDC, for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of my other guests: \_\_\_\_\_

***I wish to donate by credit card: Visa / MasterCard (circle one). I agree to the charges to my credit card as listed below:***

Name as it appears on the card: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount to be charged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Mo. Year

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO John Bellasai, Chairman - Kirkin Reception, 4007 Garrison Street, NW, Washington, DC 20016. If you have questions, please call 202-258-4876.**