Ugly Hermit Finds a Home in St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Waldorf, MD, March 23, 2009 --(PR.com)-- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, located in Waldorf, Maryland, has opened its doors and kitchen to the Ugly Hermit Cookie Company, a Maryland-based start-up.

After searching for close to a month for a suitable commercial kitchen to lease, the cookie start-up learned of St. Paul’s through a casual conversation with a parishioner of the church.

“Most of the shared-use commercial kitchens are located in Montgomery County,” says Regie Simmons, Co-founder of the Ugly Hermit Cookie Company. “We needed a kitchen that was conveniently located near our home in Prince George’s County. We had almost given up hope of finding a local kitchen, when we learned of St. Paul's Church and Reverend Joy Rose.”

St. Paul's has a long history of outreach to the community. “We are delighted to be able to continue our community outreach by supporting a local family as they begin this exciting new endeavor,” says Rev. Joy Rose.

Using a small-batch technique, the Ugly Hermit Cookie Company bakes cookies on demand using only the freshest ingredients such as plump raisins, savory nuts, or dried cranberries. “As soon as the cookies are baked, they are packaged and shipped to you. It's as close to homemade as you can get,” adds Ugly Hermit Cookie Company Co-Founder, Valyncia Simmons.

The foundation of the Ugly Hermit Cookie Company is a generations-old family recipe. More than three generations of our family have baked and enjoyed ugly little cookies known as “hermits” during the holidays. Each family member worked from the same basic recipe, but each also was allowed a certain amount of creative license. For years, the best of these bakers was Granny Helen who had the truest interpretation of the hermit recipe. Granny Helen received the recipe from her mother and handed it down to her two daughters, Charlotte and Joan.

Over the last few decades, the hermit has become synonymous with Aunt Joan, who routinely customized the recipe and sent out batches across the country for holidays, birthdays and other special occasions.

Hermits are presently offered in five flavors: Perfectly Plain Jane (plain), Fenelon Flavor (raisin/nut), Juicy Jubilee (raisin), Off-The-Wal Nuts (nut) and a favorite of many, Cranberry Celebration (cranberry). While not yet in stores, orders for Aunt Joan's Ugly Hermits can be placed over the phone at 888.308.UGLY (8459) or via the internet at www.uglyhermits.com.

About St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Founded in 1754, St. Paul's is one of the oldest Episcopal churches in Southern Maryland and the Diocese of Washington. Members of the church have roots that trace back to the founding of Waldorf itself. In
fact, many of the streets, squares, and buildings in the area are named after parishioners.

About Ugly Hermit Cookie Company
The Ugly Hermit Cookie Company is a family-owned and operated business located in Southern Maryland. Started at the end of 2008, the company uses a generations-old family recipe to compete in the $6 billion cookie market.

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