

St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Anglican Church,
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

March 14th, 2011

FROM THE RECTOR

Nothing tabloid about St. Pat's confessions

ST. PATRICK was neither an Irishman nor a Roman Catholic. He was raised in the British branch of the great Celtic Church – the church from which our mother church, the Church of England, sprang. We know more about him than many early British saints because he wrote an autobiography -- *Confessio* in Latin -- which is published in English under the somewhat misleading title *The Confessions of St. Patrick*.

Readers looking for confessions of the "I tore my lover's heart out and stomped on it" variety found in supermarket tabloids are likely to be profoundly disappointed with St. Patrick's *Confessio*. It is an unembellished account of his life.

He tells us that his father Calphurnius, a member of a high-ranking British/Roman family, was a deacon of the Church and also held the office of decurion, a municipal councilman at Banna Venta, a town somewhere in the West of England. His mother, Conchessa, was a near relative of St Martin of Tours. His grandfather, Potitus was a priest.

His influential parentage did not prevent his kidnapping at the age of 16 by pirates who sold him as a slave to an Irish chieftan named Milchu. For six years he tended his master's flocks at the valley of the Braid and the slopes of Slemish, near the modern town of Ballymena in County Antrim.

During his six years of captivity, Patrick was sustained by his intensifying Christian faith. He became fluent in Gaelic and, through his master Milchu, a high druid, he also became familiar with Irish pagan beliefs and practices.

Patrick escaped after a voice told him in a dream that it was time to go home. "Behold, your ship is ready," it said. He embarked on a 200 mile-walk to find the vessel. At first the captain refused to take him aboard because he had no money to pay for his passage. Eventually he struck a deal to work his passage by taking care of some fierce Irish hunting dogs which were being shipped to Britain.

Shortly after his return, Patrick began his studies for the priesthood. After his ordination, somewhat to his dismay, he again had a vision. He wrote: "I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland . . . and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. I read the heading: The Voice of the Irish.

"As I began the letter, I imagined in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood of Foclut, which is beside the western sea — and they cried out, as with one voice: 'We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us.'"

Consecrated bishop, Patrick returned to Ireland in the summer of AD 433, landing near Wicklow Head. His first act was to travel to Dalriada, where he had been a slave, to pay the price of ransom to his former master.

Much of the *Confessio* concerns charges made against Patrick by his fellow Christians at a trial. What these charges were, he does not say explicitly, but he writes that he returned the gifts which wealthy women gave him, did not accept payment for baptisms, nor for ordaining priests, and indeed paid for many gifts to kings and judges, and paid for the sons of chiefs to accompany him. In short, it seems he was accused of some sort of financial impropriety, and perhaps of having obtained his bishopric in Ireland with personal gain in mind.

From this same evidence, something can be seen of Patrick's mission. He writes that he "baptized thousands of people". He ordained priests to lead the new Christian communities. He converted wealthy women, some of whom became nuns in the face of family opposition. He also dealt with the sons of kings, converting them too.

Patrick's position as a foreigner in Ireland was not an easy one. His refusal to accept gifts from kings placed him outside the normal ties of kinship, fosterage and affinity. Legally he was without protection, and he says that he was

on one occasion beaten, robbed of all he had, and put in chains, perhaps awaiting execution.

According to the old Irish annals, Patrick died in AD 461 on March 17th. This date is generally accepted, although prior to the 1940s it was believed that he died in 420 and thus had lived in the first half of the 5th century.

Patrick's own writings contain no dates, but they can be roughly dated. He quotes from the Acts of the Apostles follow the Vulgate, suggesting his ecclesiastical studies did not take place before the early 5th century. He also refers to the Franks as pagans. Their conversion Christianity dates to 496–508. St. Patrick is buried at Down Cathedral in Downpatrick, County Down, alongside St. Brigid and St. Columba. **GPH**

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE

Sponsor a slimmer for Lent

THERE is not much merit in giving up steak, chocolate, sausages or beer for Lent these days. Most of us could do with losing an inch or two off the waistline, thus fasting could well be viewed as a self serving exercise.

But we have a means by which you can lose a few inches for Easter and still retain your sense of virtue. It is called a sponsored slim. You can sponsor yourself or choose a slimmer to sponsor. How much you pay per pound lost is up to you.

You can sponsor as many people as you like and for as much as you like. And it doesn't matter if you sponsor slimmers already being sponsored by other people.

Folks who need a bit of help to lose weight should speak to parishioner **Reta Richardson**. Reta represents "Medifast" -- a very effective weight loss program that supplies every thing a slimmer needs, including medically formulated diet foods, advice and moral support. You can contact her at **410-833-9543**. Ten per cent of her profits will go to the church.

You can sign up for the "Slim" at coffee hour on Sunday or any time during the week at the church office. The proceeds will go to our Buildings & Grounds Committee -- the folks who keep St. Stephen's spick and span. **ANNE HAWKINS**

AN INVITATION

Join the ladies who lunch

The Ladies Who Lunch will be dining at Patrick's Restaurant on Cranbrook Road, Cockeysville, at 12 Noon on Wednesday, March 16th. Join us for good food, fellowship and a good deal of fun. To reserve, call Joyce Perlberg at Tel: 410-252-2680.

THE LENTEN SERIES

Discover why the right time was exactly the right time

QUESTIONS about the timing of the Incarnation have exercised Christian minds for the best part of two thousand years: Just why, for instance, did Jesus choose to take on our human flesh in the year 6 BC or thereabouts rather than any other time in history? Theologically speaking, the answer is that it was "the right time." This, of course, does not satisfy inquiring minds.

The crux of the matter is: What made it the right time? This years Lenten Series, which will examine this issue beginning at 6.45 PM on Wednesday, March 16th and continuing on Wednesday, March 23rd, Wednesday, April 6th and Wednesday, April 13th.

(There will be no presentation on Wednesday, March 30th because the Diocesan Synod will be taking place at the parish church on March 30th, March 31st and April 1st.)

Entitled "St. Paul's World," the series will explore the Roman Empire of the First Century AD. In order to explore the conditions that made it exactly the right time for the arrival of the Messiah?

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**
being Sunday, March 20th, 2011

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Thessalonians 4:1-8
The Gospel: St. Matthew 15:21-28

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalm 86

The First Lesson: I Kings 8:37-41
The Second Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17

Join us for hearty soups, the best bread in Baltimore and beverages. Feel free to bring a sandwich if you wish. We'll provide the food for thought. **GPH**

FROM THE TREASURER

The Endowment Fund Drive

THE ENDOWMENT Fund has advanced to more than \$140,000 thanks the series of smaller donations the followed the gift of \$30,000 from Dr. Bill Young and his wife, Culver. This brings us to \$65,000 of our initial goal of \$200,000.

The Endowment Fund is intended to provide the parish with the financial stability to sustain its growth. The income will be primarily devoted to reducing the mortgage.

The Endowment Fund Drive team welcomes contributions large and small. If you would like to donate to the fund, please send your check to the Treasurer, made out to *St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church* and marked on the memo line "*Endowment Fund.*"

If you wish to make an donation in memory, or in honor of a loved one or friend, please give us the information in a separate note. Also let us know if you would like to be named in the newsletter as a donor. **BILL HAWKINS**

✠ PARISH PRAYER LIST ✠

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List and guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice. To add a name to the list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the office at 410 560 6776.

RECOVERY: Gordon, Georgetta, Merryll, Melvin, Noah, Mavis, Heather, Laurie, Diane, Don, Lynn, Helen, Katherine, Hindra, Sara, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Linda, Robert, Nancy, Edithann, Doris, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Helen, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, James, Patty, Antonio, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Bob, Fran, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erline, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom, Leliliah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Marian, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy; Ellen, Jim, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Robert, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, Bryan, Jason, Jane, Joan, Frances, Pat, Michael, Ray, Leslie, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Robert, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, Alma, Christine, John, Henry, Naomi, Pam, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Gloria, Lee Emily, Elsie, Bruce, Regina, Lewis, Madolin, Linda, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, Jody, Sheila, Jo Anne, John, Geradine, Thomas, Jeanne, Sister Catherine-Grace, Maxine, Ann Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Rebecca, Dorothy, Joanne, Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian and Carol.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Ned, & Stephen, Rachel, Robert & Renee, Lydia; Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Georgetta, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, Doris, Drake, The Norris family; Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, David, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Tom, Susan, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, Jo Anne, Mary, Gregory, Isabel, Bobby, Dorothy, Darren, Scott, Rebecca, William, Charles, Joyce, Asfa, Eleanor, Kathy, Linda, James, Barry, Ann, Evelyn, Jeanette, Elizabeth, Virginia, Mildred, Chris, Micki, Stephen, Carol, Sandra, Elsie, John, Mary, Michael and David

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: LTC. R. J. Lytle, PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, U.S. Army, Alex Bursi, US. Navy; Capt. Charles Bursi & LTC Harry Hughes, U.S. Air Force.

THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Myrrel Hendricks
THOSE WHO MOURN: Allison Hendricks & Family

✠ St. Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

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RECTOR: The Venerable Guy P. Hawtin
VICAR: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric
DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)
WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am -- Holy Communion

9.15am -- Holy Communion

(Nursery & Church School)

11.15am -- Morning Prayer

(1st. Sun. of the month: Holy Communion at 11.15am)

(1st Sun. of the month: Choral Evensong at 6.00pm)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday: 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Friday: Noon: Healing Eucharist

**COLLECTS: FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
& ST. PATRICK OF IRELAND**

O LORD, who for our sakes didst fast forty days and forty nights; Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit, we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness and true holiness. to thy honour and glory, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 125

O GOD, who in thy providence didst choose thy servant Patrick to be the Apostle to the Irish people that he might cause the light of the Gospel to shine in the world: Grant so to walk in that light, that we may come at last to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Return Service Requested

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