

St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Anglican Church,
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXII, Number 12

Edited by Anne Hawkins

March 29th, 2011

FROM THE RECTOR

Bibles: Great profits throughout the land?

PUBLISHING house publicity departments never tire of trumpeting the fact that The Bible is world's best selling book. But, truth to tell, it has been on the bestseller list ever since it first came out.

Next time you visit a bookshop, stroll over to the Religious Section and look at the different editions of The Bible on sale. You will find a selection that takes your breath away.

A good book shop's range should include such offerings as The Good News Bible, The New International Bible, The Jerusalem Bible, The Revised Standard Version, The American Revised Standard, The New Revised Standard, The New English Bible, The Revised New English Bible, The Living Bible, The Readers' Digest Bible, The Authorized [King James] Version and the New King James Version. And this but scratches the surface.

The publishing houses aren't doing this from the goodness of their hearts; because they have dedicated their lives, their talents and their treasure to spreading Christ's Gospel. Not a bit of it. They are publishing all these Bibles because it is highly profitable to do so.

Profitability also explains the proliferation of the different editions available. The King James Version of the Bible is not copyrighted. Anybody can publish it, free of charge. By contrast, a vast majority of modern editions are copyrighted, which creates a sales monopoly for the individual publishing houses that own the rights to the various versions.

This, in turn, explains why the modern translations of The Bible are much more heavily promoted than the King James Version. Copyrighted versions are where the real money is.

Sharp-eyed folks might have noticed that I've been using the word "edition" or "version" rather than "translation" to describe the variety of Bibles on sale. This is quite deliberate.

While some of The Bibles are, indeed, translations from the original tongues (Ancient Hebrew, Aramaic and Koinetic Greek) a large number of them are not. They are merely paraphrases or rewrites of other editions, usually the Revised Standard or, less often these days, the King James.

Though it is probably a bit unkind to say so, the motive behind the paraphrasing and rewriting has not been so much to give readers a better, more easily understood, version of The Bible as to create a "product" that can be copyrighted.

However, the fact that an edition is a new translation from the original tongues doesn't necessarily mean that it is superior to earlier versions. Far from it.

The quality of a translation depends upon three things: the ability of the translators, the policy with regard to paraphrasing, and the quality of the text to be translated.

Paying top dollar by no means ensures the best translation. And certainly no modern commercial publishing house can afford a translation committee of comparable size and quality to the 54-man team that produced the King James Bible. The team was divided into six committees -- two based at Westminster, two at Oxford and two at Cambridge.

Each committee was assigned a portion of the Scripture and each committee member translated the whole of the portion before meeting to compare notes and agree on a final form. The next step was to send their work to the other committees for their comment and consent. After this, a select committee carefully reviewed the whole work once again. Two of the most distinguished scholars then made a final check before submitting it to the king.

Things, quite naturally, have changed a great deal since the 1611 when the King James Bible was published. Not only are translation teams far smaller, but also one suspects that attention to detail is by no means as scrupulous as in the days when a scholar was liable to be called upon to pay for his mistakes with his head.

Policy on paraphrasing -- or, more accurately, policy on the latitude translators are given in rendering passages that are particularly complicated, grammatically or conceptually -- is extremely important.

The translators of the original King James Version, for instance, translated the text word for word where possible. In better editions of the King James, words that do not actually appear in the original text, but have been inserted to make literal sense of a passage are printed in italic type.

In these days of lower reading scores, many publishers encourage their translators to translate "for sense" -- to paraphrase -- rather than follow the precise wording of the text. However, when the priority is clarity rather than accuracy, instead of the word of God, readers are in danger getting the translation committee's take on the word of God.

Buy a modern translation by all means if it makes Bible study easier, but keep a King James Version handy as a corrective and final authority. What's more, don't expect your modern translations to stay "modern" forever. Indeed, some already sound as dated as Bill Haley and the Comets.

For four hundred years the King James Bible was hailed as the gold standard of the English language -- a fact that gives the lie to critics who claim it is outmoded because it is written in 16th Century English, not the language of Texting and Twitter.

But the fact that the King James Version has been admired for so many generations is strong evidence for the contention its English is, in fact, timeless -- and will remain that way for long after Texting and Twitter have gone the way of the buggy whip. **GPH**

ST STEPHEN'S CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS
sing a

Lenten Choral Evensong

at 6 PM on the

The Fourth Sunday in Lent,

April 3rd, 2011 .

Reception to follow

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE

Sponsor a slimmer for Lent

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. And we have a way of helping you to 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.

You can sign up for the "Slim" at coffee hour on Sunday or any other time 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**

THE LENTEN SERIES

Why is the right time right?

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? What made it the right time? This year's Lenten Series continues at 6.45 PM on Wednesday April 6th and Wednesday, April 13th. (There

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

being Sunday, April 3rd, 2011

8.00 AM, 9.15 & 11.15AM

HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Galatians 4:21-31

The Gospel: St. John 6:1-14

FOR YOUR MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 147

The First Lesson: Exodus 16:4-15

The Second Lesson: St. John 6: 27-40

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. 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**✱

THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join us on Monday, April 11th

THE LADIES will be lunching at Joey Chu's Restaurant at Greenspring Station on Falls Road at 12 noon on Monday, April 11th. We cordially invite all ladies to join us for fine food and fellowship.. Usually we meet on Wednesdays, but we changed the date this month so Anne Hawkins, our hard working Director of Pastoral Care, can share the fun. To reserve a place, please call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680

✠ 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, 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. Lelilah, 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: Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; 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.

THANKSGIVING: Cindie & Dan Baker for the birth of their grand daughter, Willa Jane, 6 pounds 12 ounces

✠ St. Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093
Tel.: Office (410) 560-6776; Rectory (410) 665-1278
Web Address: ststeve.com.

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: THIRD SUNDAY IN
LENT & THE ANNUNCIATION**

WE BESEECH thee, Almighty God, look upon the heart desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

WE BESEECH thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that, as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 128 & 235

Return Service Requested

St. Stephen's Anglican Church
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