

# St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church, Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXI, Number 1

Edited by Anne Hawkins

January 12th, 2010

## FROM THE RECTOR

### St. Paul's world: A study in how the gospel spread

THIS week I shall be teaching a three-day course for Holy Trinity Seminary that will explore St. Paul's World, the Roman Empire of the First Century AD. The aim is to shed light on how the Christian evangelists operated and why they were so remarkably successful.

If you are interested in taking part, the class will meet here at St. Stephen's on Thursday and Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> from 7.30 PM to 9.00 PM, and on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9.00 AM to 3.00 PM.

For those who want to take this A.T.S seminar, the cost is \$210. For those who want to audit the seminar, the cost is \$160. Both fees include Saturday lunch. Make checks payable to Christ the King Church, marked "Seminary."

The timing of Jesus Christ's arrival here on earth has fascinated people for best part of two millennia. God is all-knowing, and thus we must necessarily conclude that our Lord arrived at precisely the right time.

Proof of the pudding lies in the initial rapid spread of the Christian faith throughout the world. Within 30 years of the resurrection, St. Paul and his fellow apostles and evangelists had taken the Gospel from the "Tin Isles" in the North to India in the South, and from Spain in the West to Persia in the East.

*What was so special about the First Century that made this extraordinary evangelical endeavor possible?*

It was, in many respects, an age much like our own. The world was dominated by a sole super power, the Roman Empire, yet governmental stability was threatened by political turmoil both internally and externally.

It was an era of unparalleled and growing economic prosperity, but the revenue demands of the highly centralized, bureaucratic administration imposed an increasingly heavy tax burden on both the empire's citizens and its subjects.

It was an age in which patriotism and morality were under assault. Faith in the old gods was fading fast in face of the acceptance of a rationalistic world view by the empire's political and cognitive elite. Yet, paradoxically, it was an age of deep spiritual hunger – an appetite that evangelists of other ancient religions, not least Judaism, were vying to satisfy. GPH✘

### A different approach to bids to ban Christmas

CHRISTMAS has been publicly celebrated in America since at least the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century – about as long as it has been publicly celebrated in Britain. And in both countries, it is only over the past 20 to 25 years or so that crèches, carols, street decorations, public school parties and Salvation Army Santas have become objects of virulent controversy.

The difference between Britain and America, however, is in the way the nation's non-Christian leaders react to attempts to do away with the public celebration of Christmas.

Take for example, the announcement by the city council of Oxford – the famous English university town, the city's traditional Christmas celebration was to be renamed the 'Winter Light Festival' to make it inclusive.

The idea was the brainchild of a charity named Oxford

Inspires, a cultural development charity, which organized the event.

Townspeople and shoppers were outraged by the notion and demanded a return to the traditional way of doing things. But they weren't the only people outraged by the imposition of political correctness on Christmas.

Sabir Hussain Mirza, chairman of the Muslim Council of Oxford, told the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper: "I am really upset about this. Christians, Muslims and other religions all look forward to Christmas."

And Rabbi Eli Bracknell, who teaches at the Jewish Educational Center in the city, said: "It is important to maintain a traditional British Christmas. Anything that waters down traditional culture and Christianity in the UK is not positive for the British identity."

Oxford Inspires spokesman Ted Williams said: "In Oxfordshire we have Winter Light which is a whole festival spanning two months. Within that festival will be Christmas Carol services."

Ed Turner, deputy leader of the city council, said the renaming of the festival was "unfortunate and sends out a problematic message. It is the charity's festival. Among councilors there is certainly no desire to downgrade the importance or the prominence given to Christmas."

## THE SCHEDULE FOR THE SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Commemoration of the Epiphany,  
January 10th, 2010

**8.00 AM:** Holy Communion

**9.15 AM:** Holy Communion

**11.15 AM:** Morning Prayer

**6.00 PM:** A Festival of Lessons & Carols

It matters not a whit that the council had "no desire" to downgrade the importance or the prominence given to Christmas. The fact that they permitted this to happen does exactly that.

What's more, as the non-Christian religious leaders in Britain clearly understand, doing away with the celebration of Christmas potentially threatens the public celebration of all religious festivals – including Jewish and Muslim ones.

The Rev. Brian Van-Dungey, a local priest, commented: "I am a Christian and pleased to see my Muslim brothers joining in the condemnation of this stupid and dangerous idea. This sort of thinking creates racial problems and should be stopped in its tracks."

It's hard to disagree. GPH✘

## FROM THE CHOIRMASTER

### Epiphany Lessons & Carols on Sunday, January 10th

On Sunday, January 10th, 2010, the Choir of Men & Boys will present its annual **Festival of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany**. Through scripture readings, carols and beloved hymns, the service celebrates the joy of Christmastide and the revelation of Jesus to humanity.

The Carol Service begins at 6.00 PM and generally last for between 60 and 75 minutes. All are invited to a light reception after the service, and there will be a freewill

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR  
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
Sunday, January 17th, 2010**

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Romans 12:6-16  
The Gospel: St. Mark 1:1-11

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 62  
The First Lesson: Isaiah 54:11-17  
The Second Lesson: St. John 1:35-51

offering in aid of the Choir's Charity: Dr. Bob's Place, a hospice for children. ADRIC

**THE TREASURER**

**Please send in your pledges**

CHURCHES, like families, need to plan their budgets, but, also like families, they find it very hard to do so if they are unable to forecast what their income will be. St. Stephen's is in the process of drawing up its budget for the year, but we cannot finalize things until you have all sent in your annual pledges.

We know that most folks regard making a pledge is just a formality and that you will be making the contribution whether you notify us or not. We realize making a pledge is a chore at a time of the year when there are already enough chores. But like Linus in the Peanuts cartoon, we need our "pledge security blanket." Please send in your pledge to make our New Year more happy and secure! **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:** Rachel, Louisa, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Deborah, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Helen, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Frank, Carl, Charlotte, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, James, Patty, Antonio, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Bob, Fran, Doris, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, Polly, Katherine, William, Betty, Cal, Wendell, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Dorcas, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom. Lelilah, Jennifer, Miriam, Harriet, Karen, Steve, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Marian, Edith Anne, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy; Ellen, Jim, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Robert, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, George, Bryan, Jason, Jane, Joan, Frances, Ernie, Pat, Lynn, Michael, Ray, Leslie, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Robert, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, Alma, Christine, John, Henry, Naomi, Pam, John, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Elizabeth, Gloria, Lee Emily, Elsie, Bruce, Regina, Lewis, Madolin, Eudora, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, Mackie, 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, Debbie.

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

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

**FOR THE DEPARTED:** John Sterling (Jack) Young. and Dorcas Roggenkamp

**FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:** Jeanne Young & family. and the Roggenkamp family

✠ **St. Stephen's Traditional** ✠  
**Episcopal Church**

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093  
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Web Address: <http://www.ststephens-md.org>

RECTOR: The Ven. Guy P. Hawtin  
ASSOCIATE RECTOR: The Rev. James V. Johnson, Jr.  
VICARS: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley, The Rev. Robert Menas

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

**WEEKDAY SERVICES**  
Wednesday: 6.00pm Evening Prayer  
Friday: Noon: Healing Eucharist  
Saturday: 5.00PM Family Eucharist.

**THE EPIPHANY COLLECTS**

O GOD, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; Mercifully grant that we, who know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

*Book of Common Prayer. Page 107*

O LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people who call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may also have the grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

*Book of Common Prayer, Page 109*

Return Service Requested

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