

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XXI, Number 4

Edited by Anne Hawkins

February 2nd, 2010

THE CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS

Come to choral evensong on Sunday, January 31st

THERE are certain occasions upon which the only possible thing a reasonable human being can do is scream: "If you can beat them – join them!" And the Superbowl is one of them.

To make things easier for choristers and congregation, we try to adhere unswervingly to our "first Sunday of the month" Choral Evensong schedule. But honesty demands we admit that even our schedule has to yield to Baltimore's deep and abiding enthusiasm for the Superbowl.

After much soul-searching, we have decided to bow to the inevitable and reschedule our monthly Chorale Evensong. It will take now place at **6.00 PM on Sunday, January 31st**.

This means you can hear some glorious music and enjoy the traditional reception afterwards, without missing a minute of the Superbowl. Life doesn't get any better than that, does it?

FROM THE RECTOR

Gospel's challenge to Rome's political class

THIS year our Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper will take place on February 16th. The following day (February 17th) Lent starts with the Ash Wednesday observances. Lenten Studies will begin on Wednesday, February 24th, after the 6.00 PM Service of Evening Prayer and will continue at the same time every Wednesday until March 24th (the Wednesday in Passion Week).

As always, the Lenten Studies will offer nourishment for the body and for the soul. Our Lenten Suppers will feature our traditional hearty soups and "the best bread in Baltimore." As to nourishment for the soul, this year we thought we would try something a little different with a five part series exploring the first planting of the Church.

Indeed, if you were to ask Henry Ford or John D. Rockefeller, Sr. to name Jesus Christ's most significant accomplishment here on earth, it is unlikely they would refer to any of his miracles – not even his virgin birth, his resurrection or his ascension. And they most certainly wouldn't mention his first miracle of all: Changing water into wine at the Wedding Feast of Cana. Such a miracle, they would point out, would be mere child's play for the almighty Creator of the Universe.

In all probability, the great American capitalists would single out the establishment of the Church and the transmission of the Gospel throughout the world as Jesus' most remarkable accomplishment here on earth

This might strike some folks as strange, but only because people today tend to take the Church for granted. After all, it has been around for an awfully long time – two millennia, in fact. And that is time enough and to spare for people here in the West to have grown so familiar with it that they are scarcely conscious of its existence. For them, it is simply part of the fabric of life – no more remarkable than the wallpaper in the kitchen or cereal they eat for breakfast.

They are, thus, entirely oblivious to the profound influence the Gospel has exerted in framing our society and shaping our thoughts and aspirations. Indeed, the Christian Gospel is the foundation upon which the whole of Western civilization is constructed. They are equally unaware of the remarkable speed with which this was accomplished.

History tells us that within a decade of Jesus' resurrection, the Christian Gospel had been preached throughout the Roman Empire. This is tantamount to saying it had been preached throughout the whole of the known world.

Within 20 years of the resurrection, the faith was exerting such an influence on the Empire that the emperor took the first step towards persecution, expelling 50,000 Christian Jews from Rome. (In those days, Christianity was still considered an expression of the Jewish faith.)

Within 30 years of the Crucifixion, Christianity had its own separate identity and, furthermore, was believed to pose such a threat to the social and political order of the empire that full-scale efforts were under way to stamp it out completely.

Not only were the leaders of the Christian communities automatically arrested and sentenced to death, but the little people were treated in the same draconian manner.

Rational, well-ordered societies like the Roman Empire do not behave this way unless they are confronted with a challenge of quite overwhelming proportions. The degree of the threat Christianity was perceived to present can be gauged from the fact that religious persecutions were entirely alien to the Roman tradition. Indeed, the Romans were remarkably tolerant of foreign faiths and usually embraced exotic new religions with enthusiasm.

THE SCHEDULE FOR SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY

February 7th, 2010

8.00 AM: Holy Communion

9.15 AM: Holy Communion

11.15 AM: Choral Eucharist

Saturday, February 6th,

5.00 PM: Family Eucharist

Christians terrified Rome's political class with their rejection of relativism. They taught that God is perfect in all respects – almighty, all knowing, absolutely good, absolutely loving and absolutely righteous. And as such, he holds the people he created to absolute standards of goodness and righteousness.

No less frightening, they taught that all people – male, female, bond or free, no matter their race, class or condition -- are equal beloved in the eyes of God. What's more, they taught that man's duty to God comes way ahead of their duty to the state.

No message could be more calculated to dismay amoral, power-hungry politicians than that.

No less terrifying was the speed with which the Christian Faith was spreading. In AD 33, Christianity had been an obscure Jewish sect. By AD 63, it had become not just a major religion, but a unifying force that transcended ethnic and national boundaries, binding peoples of all races, creeds and colors together in a common faith that taught that all their vast differences -- background, upbringing, and economic circumstances -- were superficialities in light of their duty to God.

When one recalls that politicians in places such as France and Russia regard McDonalds and Coca Cola – hamburgers and soft drinks – as a dire threat to their nationhood, one begins to appreciate how frightening this new religious faith must have been to the Romans, and would be to any dictator trying to compel a similar degree of loyalty.

This year's Lenten Study will explore the world of the 1st Century AD to which St. Paul and his fellow apostles took the Gospel – the nature of the Roman Empire and the challenge the Christian faith presented to it. We will also investigate the manner in which Christianity has shaped today's America and consider what society would be like without it. GPH✠

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY
Sunday, February 7th, 2010**

8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: II Corinthians 11:19-31
The Gospel: St. Luke 8:4-15

FOR YOUR MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 71
The First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-10
The Second Lesson: II Corinthians 12:1-12

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 as 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**

FROM THE CHURCH WOMEN

Ladies' lunch Weds, February 10th

St. STEPHEN'S Women's monthly lunch will take place noon on Wednesday, February 10th at the Bluestone Restaurant on Aylesbury Road. Call Ann Bonnell at 410-560-1130 for reservations and directions. (Note: This change is from the third Wednesday of the month because of Ash Wednesday.

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

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

✠ 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: Laura, Linda, Rachel, Louisa Rose, Robert, Nancy, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, 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, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom, Lelilah, Jennifer, Miriam, 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 and Debbie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: 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, Debbie, 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: 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: Bruce H, Winand

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: Jean Winand & family

**COLLECTS FOR SEPTUAGESIMA
& THE PURIFICATION**

O LORD, we beseech thee favourably to hear the prayers of thy people; that we, who are justly punished for our offences, may be mercifully delivered by thy goodness, for the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever, one God, world without end. *AMEN.*

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we humbly beseech thy majesty, that as thy only begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same thy son Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 118 & 231

Return Service Requested

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St. Stephen's Traditional

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