

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XXI, Number 5

Edited by Anne Hawkins

February 9th, 2010

FROM THE RECTOR

Learning from history so as not to repeat it

THE THREE Pre-Lenten Sundays -- Septuagesima, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima – have gradually slid into disuse over the past century or so. Indeed, St. Stephen's is one of the few churches in the Baltimore area that still observes them.

They were introduced to the Church Calendar some 1,400 years ago, at a time when the whole of the civilized world appeared to be in the process of disintegration.

Barbarian hordes howled at the gates of Europe's great cities and, one by one, these bastions of civilization fell to these heathen savages.

The Church added the "Gesimas" to the Lenten Fast in order to afford Christians an additional period of self-examination to identify the spiritual and social failings that had brought about this catastrophic situation..

Curiously enough, the problems that were afflicting the Roman Empire – which at that time embraced much of the civilized world – were very similar to the social problems that are afflicting our society today.

Crime of all sorts was rampant; white collar crime such as fraud and political corruption, as well as muggings, rape and murder.

The traditional family structure was disintegrating. Despite an increasingly heavy tax burden, the physical and social infrastructure of the empire's major cities was crumbling.

The dual burden of crime and taxes served as a powerful incentive for the upper class and middle class – indeed, anyone who could beg, borrow, or steal the money – to abandon the towns and flee to the suburbs .

Back in those days the Pre-Lenten observances consisted of solemn public processions and recitations of litanies, accompanied by the intensive study – and meditation upon – Holy Scripture.

Christians, of course, naturally believed the Bible might have some answers and, lo and behold, they discovered was that that their situation was by no means unique. The children of Israel had gone through the same experience – not once, but several times.

And, to their surprise, they discovered the first period of social disintegration occurred shortly after the children of Israel had entered Canaan to take possession of the Promised Land – at a time which should have heralded an era of universal joy and prosperity.

Under the leadership of Joshua, God's hand picked successor to Moses, the Children of Israel had miraculously conquered the formidable armies of the Canaanites, a people with a far longer and stronger military tradition than their own.

The children of Israel had every reason to be supremely confident. National morale was at an all time. They were united in a common bond of Faith, commonality of purpose, and in universally esteemed laws.

Yet, according to the Books of Judges, within two or three decades of their arrival, the children of Israel had abandoned the one true god who had given them victory and were worshipping the Canaanite deities Baal and Ashteroth.

A generation after they entered the Promised Land their society was unraveling fast. No longer were they invincible. The land was overrun by marauding bands of Bedouin – the Midianites. Then the Philistines, sea pirates who had settled in cities along the coast, forced upon them a disarmament treaty that denied them the use of iron weapons and tools.

The Children of Israel have traditionally exerted a powerful fascination on Americans. Our founding fathers felt a shared experience. They often spoke of America in Biblical terms – the New Jerusalem; the Land of Milk and Honey.

Today we live in uncertain times with latter day barbarians are howling at the gates. It might, thus, be a profitable Lenten exercise to do as the Christians of the Seventh Century did and study the Scriptures with a view to identifying our own society's spiritual and social failings. **GPB**✘

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Do come to our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 16th

ST STEPHEN'S Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper takes place on February 16th. These famous suppers are not only gastronomic events, they are also true inflation fighters. The ticket price has remained unchanged for a full 20 years. We challenge you to find anything in Baltimore with a comparable record!

For a mere \$5 per adult you can feast on three different types of scrumptious pancakes – American, English and Polish – and a heaped helping of the finest sausages the city has to

THE SCHEDULE FOR QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

February 14th, 2010

8.00 AM: Holy Communion

9.15 AM: Holy Communion

11.15 AM: Morning Prayer

Saturday, February 13th,

5.00 PM: Family Eucharist

offer. (You could manage seconds? Be our guest . . .) Naturally, there will be lashings of syrup, butter and apple sauce, with diet equivalents for folks watching their weight. Beverages will be available at nominal cost.

The Pancake and Sausage Supper offers an especially good deal for the children. Kids are half price (\$2.50) for the first two and the rest eat free. You simply can't find a better deal than that!

We have managed to hold our prices steady without compromising quality because the Pancake Suppers are not fundraisers but family affairs aimed at fostering fellowship and fun. On the occasions we make a profit, it's entirely accidental.

Join us for fellowship, fun and fantastically good food at this year's Pancake and Sausage Supper. It's the best value in Baltimore. Doors open at 5.00 PM and close at 7.30 PM.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Lenten Studies begin on Wednesday, February 24th

THIS YEAR'S Lenten Study series will begin at after 6.00 PM Evening Prayer on Wednesday, February 24th. It will run for five Wednesday evening sessions, ending on Wednesday in Passion Week, March 24th.

The series will investigate the origins of the Gospel St. Paul and his fellow apostles took to the world of the First Century AD. We will also assess the challenge it presented to the Roman Empire that encompassed so much of the known world

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY**

Sunday, February 14th, 2010

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Corinthians 13:1-13

The Gospel: St. Luke 18:31-43

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 103

The First Lesson: *Wisdom (Apochrypha)* 7:7-14

The Second Lesson: St. John 15:1-17

at the time and the effects it had on society, both then and now.

As usual, we will be offering food for the body as well as the soul. So why not join us at about 6.45 PM on February 24th for one of our traditional hearty soups, the best bread in Baltimore and beverages. If you feel you might need more, bring a sandwich. **BROCK JOHNSON**

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.

✠ **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, Erline, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, Polly, Katherine, William, Betty, Cal, Wendell, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom. Lelillah, 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: 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, 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.

✠ **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.

**COLLECTS FOR SEXAGESIMA
& SAINT TITUS**

O LORD God, who seest that we put not our trust in anything that we do; Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 120

O GOD, who by thine Apostle Saint Paul didst consecrate thy servant Titus a bishop in the Church that he might set in order things that were wanting: Give grace, we humbly beseech thee, to the Bishops and Pastors of thy flock that they may supply in every place faithful stewards of thy mysteries, who shall constantly affirm sound doctrine and shew themselves patterns of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Return Service Requested

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

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