

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XXI, Numbers 6 & 7

Edited by Anne Hawkins

February 23rd, 2010

EXITS AND ENTRANCES

Parish to bid "adieu" to Rev. James Johnson

"PARTING," Juliet told Romeo, "is such sweet sorrow." Over the years her statement has come to be regarded as a cliché. Even so, it is nonetheless apt – especially when bidding *adieu* to a friend like The Rev. James Johnson, our Associate Rector.

Fr. James will be leaving St. Stephen's in mid-April to accept a call the rectorship of St. Paul's Anglican Church at Whitehall, Pennsylvania. St. Paul's is a newly formed congregation and one of James' primary tasks will be to preside over the construction of a new parish church.

This presents quite a challenge as anyone who remembers the construction of St. Stephen's own parish church doubtless remembers. Anglicans tend to be folks with strong opinions and keeping them all on the same page is a bit like herding cats. But we are sure James' is more than equal to the task.

James will be greatly missed – and not only for his presence at the altar, his soaring operatic tenor and his infectious laugh. A gifted teacher, his command of Scripture and theology has been a tremendous asset in the pulpit, at Bible studies and other educational venues.

His departure will also be felt in the wider community. James is a great favorite with the residents of Glen Meadow and Edenwald and the people of At Jacob's Well. He is also an active member of the Kiwanis.

A farewell party is being planned for James. It is to take place on Saturday, April 10th at the home of Rosa and Jim Halbert, 7929 Ruxway Road, Towson. Note the date in your diary. Details to follow.

FROM THE RECTOR

Feeling totally cool about global warming

IT IS HARD to believe in global warming when the people of Baltimore are buried up to their necks in a record fall of snow. But then I confess that, as a student of history, I harbor doubts about the notion that our present climatic conditions constitute some sort of norm.

After all, when the Romans arrived in Britain wine grapes were growing in Scotland. And, what's more, when Eric the Red named Greenland he wasn't fibbing: It was warm enough to sustain an agriculturally-based civilization.

All of that changed towards the end of the Middle Ages with the advent of the "Mini-Ice Age", the tail end of which still affects our climate today. The steep drop in temperatures forced British monks to abandon wine-making and obliged Greenland's Nordic settlers to up stakes and set sail for more temperate climes.

The situation is nowhere near as desperate as that here in Baltimore County, but the snow and ice have certainly caused a great deal of trouble. Not least, the weather forced us to cancel Sunday services on February 7th and to suspend for a week publication of the newsletter.

(Take a look at the box top of the page, and you'll see this as a combined edition.)

Church attendance has also been heavily down. The churchyard and the surrounding streets have been well plowed, but folks have been understandably chary about venturing out on the highways.

The drop in attendance means parish finances have taken it on the chin. There's nothing unusual about this, of course. If people cannot make it to church, they cannot put their offertory

in the alms bason.

Even so, while income goes down, the bills not only continue to come in, some of them – heating, snow clearing, etc. – actually go up.

If the snow has prevented you from coming to church, it would certainly warm the poor treasurer's heart if you popped your Sunday offering into an envelope and mailed it to St. Stephen's marked for the Treasurer's attention.

Meanwhile, why not curl up with a good book and comfort yourself by trying out one of the hearty soup recipes from our St. Stephen's soup cookbook? **GPH**✘

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Cheers to volunteers who make the church sparkle

THE VESTRY faced a serious dilemma at the end of last year when Howard Sewell, our long-serving sexton, retired: Finding the money to hire his replacement when church finances are tight owing to the recession.

It was vestryman Brock Johnson who came up with a solution – asking a newly constituted Buildings and Grounds

THE SCHEDULE FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 28th, 2010

8.00 AM: Holy Communion

9.15 AM: Holy Communion

11.15 AM: Morning Prayer

Saturday, February 27th,

5.00 PM: Family Eucharist

Committee to take over the job.

Since the beginning of the year, the church has sparkled like never before thanks to a group of volunteers led the committee's newly appointed joint chairmen, Martha Miller and Don Ruthig. (Martha is responsible for the grounds, Don for the buildings).

Every Tuesday you'll find a group of volunteers, including Martha, Don, Brock, Colby and Wiley Hawkes, Karen Ruthig and Judy Kight wielding brooms, mops and vacuum cleaners.

Martha and Colby have also been touching up the paintwork inside the sanctuary. And Don has been repairing the kneelers in the nave and padding the kneelers in the choir stalls.

Hard winters like the present one exact a heavy toll on church fabric. We owe our hardworking volunteers a big debt of gratitude for devoting so much of their time to the care of our place of worship.

By the way, Martha and Don could always use more volunteers. If you have an hour or so to spare in the mornings, please consider volunteering your time to help out. For more information, call the parish office at Tel: 410-560-6776.

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 SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
Sunday, February 28th, 2010**

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 142
The First Lesson: I Kings 8::37-43
The Second Lesson: I Colossians 3:12-17

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 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**

✠ **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, Robert, Nancy, 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. 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. Arny, 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: Polly.Hoeflich

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: Joyce Perlberg

✠ **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.

**COLLECTS FOR QUINQUAGESIMA
& THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

O LORD, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Ghost and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. *AMEN.*

O LORD, who for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights; Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued unto 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, Pages 122 & 125

Return Service Requested

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