

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XXI, Numbers 8

Edited by Anne Hawkins

March 2nd, 2010

EXITS AND ENTRANCES

We reflect God's glory by the mere fact we exist

THE COLLECT for Ash Wednesday starts with these words: "Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou has made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent . . ."

God, who holds all the power of heaven and earth; the Creator of all reality; the one who has no beginning and no end; the one who gives life and sustains us by the word of his power, hates nothing that he has made. He views us the way an artist views his greatest work, or a sculptor his greatest creation.

This is amazing when you think about it. The artist's canvas reflects the glory conceived in the mind of its creator, but nothing more. The painting stays as it is. It does not argue about why it looks as it does. It does not have a mind of its own. It is not a living thing.

We, on the other hand, reflect God's glory by the mere fact we exist and at the same time spend many moments of our waking lives trying to tell the Divine Artist why he didn't get it right – why our creative power is greater than his and our distorted wills more worthy of devotion. Yet, in spite of it all, he loves us all the more.

This is radical stuff and it should shake us to the core. Since God hates nothing he has made, it means murderers, drug addicts, prostitutes – even politicians – are loved by God regardless of any inherent goodness or lack of it.

That is what makes sin so horrible. It distorts our loving Father into something he is not. Sin does not change God's goodwill towards you. It changes your receptivity to him. God becomes an angry despot we must hide from rather than the loving father that we cleave to.

The collect goes on to say that this same God forgives all those who are penitent. Amazing: no matter who we are, how many sins we have committed, or how much hurt we have caused others, God leaps to forgive at the first signs of godly sorrow.

In fact he wants to forgive us more than we want to be forgiven. He can and does show this mercy because of the death of his only Son Jesus Christ. In the words of the Holy Communion service, Jesus "made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and

sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world.

Indeed, one drop of his precious blood has infinite merit. Your sins were placed on Christ at his death. In return, his righteousness has been given to you – and not only as a covering, but as an infusion of God's grace that changes your very soul and makes it a temple for the blessed Trinity to dwell in.

Since Christ has died for you, you are not loathsome in his eyes but precious. He is closer to you than your own heart, and his love covers you more perfectly than your own skin. He is not angry with you. You do not need to change to be loved, to need only to love to be changed. **ROBERT MENAS ✕**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Lenten Studies continue until Weds., March 24th

THIS YEAR'S Lenten Study series will continue after 6.00 PM Evening Prayer every on Wednesday evening until 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 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, Erline, Kathleen, Earle, Judy,

The Holy Week Schedule

PALM SUNDAY, March 28th: 8 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.15 AM, Palms & Holy Communion;
5 PM, The Choir sings Evensong

MONDAY BEFORE EASTER, March 29th: 6 PM, Holy Communion.

TUESDAY BEFORE EASTER, March 30th: 6 PM, Holy Communion.

WEDNESDAY BEFORE EASTER, March 31st: 6 PM, H.C & 7 PM.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 1st: 7 PM Choral Eucharist, followed by Vigil

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2nd: NOON, The Seven Last Words From The Cross
3.30 PM, Children's Way of the Cross ✕ 6 PM, Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

HOLY SATURDAY, April 3rd: 7 PM, The Great Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter

EASTER DAY (Sunday, April 4th)

8 AM: Said Holy Eucharist.

9.15 AM: Choral Eucharist, (followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for children aged 7 and under).

11.15 AM: Choral Eucharist

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
Sunday, March 7th, 2010**

8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Ephesians 5:1-14
The Gospel: St. Luke 11:14-28

FOR YOUR MORNING OFFICE

The Psalter: Psalm 27
The First Lesson: Proverbs 4:7-18
The Second Lesson: St. Luke:11:29-36

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, Geraldine, 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.

Easter Flowers for St. Stephen's Altar

Here is a selection of beautiful spring flowers to decorate the church for Easter. Please make your choice and return this form to the church office with your check by March 26th. Flowers may be taken home after the 11:15 am service.

| | # of plants | | # of plants |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Lilies Small elite 6" 4-6 blooms @ \$10 | _____ | Keepsake Azalea @ \$14 | _____ |
| Hydrangeas Four plus Blooms @ \$15 | _____ | Hyacinths @ \$8 (6"pot) | _____ |
| Daffodils @ \$8.50 (6"pot) | _____ | Tulips @ \$ 8.50 (6" pot) | _____ |

Your Name:

My gift is made IN HONOR OF, IN MEMORY OF, IN THANKSGIVING FOR (please circle).....

✦ **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 THE SECOND SUNDAY
IN LENT & ST DAVID'S DAY**

ALMIGHTY God who who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.. *AMEN.*

O GOD, who in thy providence didst choose thy servant David to be the Apostle of the Welsh people that he might cause the light of the Gospel to shine in the world: Grant us to walk in that light, that we may come at last to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, who livest and reignest with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *AMEN.*

Return Service Requested

St. Stephen's Traditional
Episcopal Church
11856 Mays Chapel Road
Timonium, MD 21093

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