

St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Anglican Church,
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXII, Number 17

Edited by Anne Hawkins

May 3rd, 2011

FROM THE RECTOR

Charity and tolerance pay healthy dividends

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

TIME FLIES, they say, when you're having fun – and for me time is certainly flying. It feels as if it was a mere a couple of years ago when Charlotte and I arrived in Maryland. Yet to my utter astonishment I realise I shall soon be entering my 23rd year as rector of St. Stephen's.

Building a new-planted parish has taken a lot of hard work on everybody's part, but along the way we have had a great deal of fun, not to mention the occasional heartache.

Perhaps the our greatest challenge -- and greatest success -- has been forging a cheerful and united congregation in spite of the fact that so many of us hailed from Baltimore's remarkably diverse traditions of Anglican worship.

Matters of usage don't present problems in such places as Chicago and the Carolinas, for example. There the choices are simple. The former is overwhelmingly "Anglo-Catholic" or "High Church" and the latter is overwhelmingly "Low Church."

Baltimore's worship traditions, by contrast, embrace the entire Anglican liturgical spectrum from "spike high" to "snake-belly low" with all stops in between.

How does one reconcile the disparate liturgical eccentricities of long-established city parishes, each of which is claimed to represent the 'one true Anglican tradition'? Lo and behold! The answer turns out to be good, old fashioned Christian charity.

It was by no means an accidental discovery. Shortly after my arrival, the vestry unanimously decided that, as Baltimore's sole traditionalist parish, we had a duty to pay particular heed to St. Paul's admonitions and serve people of all Episcopalian liturgical traditions, not just those of a favored few.

The fruits of this decision are manifest in the parish's rich and varied liturgical tradition and the wide variety of services – liturgical and pastoral – it offers to the community at large.

The fact of the matter is that the validity of the Eucharist is in no way dependent on whether a parish favors "smells and bells" or a hangs a "presence light" above the ambry containing the Blessed Sacrament.

Nor are the Sacraments' validity affected one way or the other by the way in which the clergy are addressed – whether "Father," "Mister," "Padre" or "Tom, Dick or Harry" -- or whether they wear Eucharistic Vestments or Cassock and Surplice, or a plain alb and stole.

Such things are merely ecclesiastical fashion. They confer on each parish its own unique character – but they do not make one parish more "right" or for that matter more or less "catholic" than the others

St. Vincent of Lerins, back in the Fifth Century, defined the meaning of the word "catholic" as applied to churches.

Differences in church customs and usage were not the important thing in defining "catholicity," he declared. The "catholic faith" was that which had "always been believed by all Christians everywhere" (*quod semper, quod ubique, quod in omnibus creditum est*).

By St. Vincent's standard – the classical definition of "catholicity" – the English Church was from its very inception

"catholic" and the Reformation in its English expression served only to reinforce its "catholicity".

Parishes like St. Stephen's continue in that faith (which is why we sometimes refer to ourselves as "Continuing Churches"). But the fact that some of us employ customs and usages that differ from others is simply a manifestation of the rich (and supremely Christian) Anglican tradition of tolerance.

Our efforts to follow St. Paul's lead and cultivate a strong sense of charity and tolerance has blessed the parish with a remarkable spirit of camaraderie and fellowship – a spirit evident in the monthly receptions that follow Choral Evensong, the Silly Summer Suppers, the British Garden Party, the Cookie Walk and the other events that enliven the year.

It has also fostered a culture of service exemplified by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, whose members – without fanfare and fuss – consistently keep the church and its grounds shipshape and sparkling.

No less impressive, the spirit of tolerance seems to extend even

to the occasional visitor who makes comments or asks questions that might be interpreted as not a little discourteous. It would, for example, be considered grossly ill mannered to walk into a person's home and loudly criticize the choice of wallpaper. Yet there are folks who doubtless consider themselves the epitome of *politesse* seem to feel no such inhibitions when it comes to other people's churches.

But I'm pleased to report that here at St. Stephen's I recently witnessed an event rare in the annals of 21st Century Christianity. An obnoxiously brash visitor's critical comments were not met with a snarl, but a smile, and a

shrug and: "Well that's the way we do it at St. Stephen's."

It was a clear case of Christians 10; Lions, zip. If pride were not a sin, my heart would have swelled with it. Thank you all for another wonderful year. **GPH**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Garden Party flower theme: British Movies

THE GARDEN PARTY is fast approaching! The big day is Saturday, May 7th. This means you have only three weeks to plan your entry for our super colossal Flower Arrangement Competition. This year's theme is "Great British Movies." That rules out "Gone With The Wind."

There is still much to be done to ensure that this year's party is as successful as its predecessors. One way you can help is by becoming a Patron of the event. Your name will be listed in our complementary program guide – and that's almost as good. There are four levels of patronage. Why not pick one and sign up?

- Imperial Crown \$100 . . .
- House of Windsor \$75 . .
- House of York \$50 . . .
- House of Lancaster \$30 .

And May Day, May Day . . . There are all sorts of items we need for the party: We are looking for: **Cakes for the Cake Stall**. Last year your cakes were so scrumptious, we sold out completely in the first two hours. Please double your efforts. It's all in a good cause.

We also need **tea cakes and dainties for our Tea Room**. We can use all the help we can get to provide mouthwatering teas for our guests.

ST STEPHEN'S CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS

sing a

Choral Evensong for the Sunday After The Ascension

at 6 PM on
Sunday, June 5th, 2011

People of all faith traditions
are heartily welcome
Reception to follow

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**
commonly called Good Shepherd Sunday, being May 8th 2011

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM

HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I St. Peter 2:19-25

The Gospel: St. John 10:11-16

11.15 MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 23

The First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

The Second Lesson: St. John 10:1-10

Card tables and chairs to go with them are also on our wish list. And **tea pots**, too. Not the George II sterling silver heirloom that you inherited from the Custis side of the family, but the pretty little pot that Aunt Mabel gave you a couple of Christmases ago would do very nicely.

We are also still in the market for **superior quality jumble** for our White Elephant Stall. This is your opportunity to at last get rid of the banjo Uncle Thomas used to twang at family gatherings and the cage that once was home to Cousin Ebenezer's parrot. Please search your cupboards, attics, cellars and fallout shelters for salable treasures.

And we are badly in need of **bottles of wine and spirits** only for our bottle stall.

Pretty baskets are also needed for our floral arrangements. We are hoping to offer our guests a selection calculated to appeal to every taste.

Last, but far from least we desperately need help. Please volunteer to give a hand, both for set up on Friday, May 6th and on Party Day, Saturday, May 7th.

THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join us on Wednesday May 18th

THE LADIES will be lunching at the Peppermill Restaurant on York Road at 12 noon on Wednesday, May 18th. We cordially invite all ladies to join us for fine food and fellowship. To reserve a place, please call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680.

✠ 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: Jim, Georgetta, Melvin, Noah, Mavis, Heather, Laurie, Diane, Don, Lynn, Helen, Katherine, Hindra, Sara, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Linda, Robert, Nancy, Edithann, Doris, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Helen, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, Patty, Antonio, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Bob, Fran, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom, Lelilah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Marian, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy; Ellen, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Robert, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, Bryan, Jason, Jane, Joan, Frances, Pat, Michael, Ray, Leslie, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Robert, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, Alma, Christine, John, Henry, Naomi, Pam, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Gloria, Lee Emily, Elsie, Bruce, Regina, Lewis, Madolin, Linda, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, 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 Carol.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Rosa, June, Anna, 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, 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, Stephen, Carol, Sandra, John, Mary, Michael and David

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; LTC. R. J. Lytle, PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, U.S. Army; Alex Bursi, US. Navy; Capt. Charles Bursi & LTC Harry Hughes, U.S. Air Force.

✠ St. Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

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

RECTOR: The Venerable Guy P. Hawtin

VICAR: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley

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

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

(1st Sun. of the month: Choral Evensong at 6.00pm)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday: 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Friday: Noon: Healing Eucharist

**COLLECTS: TUESDAY IN EASTER
WEEK & 1st SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we who celebrate with reverence the Paschal Feast, may be found worthy to attain to everlasting joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; Grant us to to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 168 & 170

Return Service Requested

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
TIMONIUM MD
PERMIT NO.181