

# St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XXI, Numbers 13

Edited by Anne Hawkins

April 6th, 2010

## FROM THE RECTOR

### Enough with "change" already -- let's start work on charity!

TWO THOUSAND years of experience teaches us that churchgoers of all jurisdictions and denominations have never reacted well to change of any sort.

In the world of Anglicanism, for example, the replacement of liturgical Latin with English in the 16<sup>th</sup> century was by no means greeted with universal rejoicing. Nor was there unbridled joy when, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the venerable Coverdale Bible was supplanted by the new fangled King James' Version.

There was similar turmoil in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries as hymns edged out psalms and traditional vestments replaced the Geneva gown. The tumult was even greater when the cacaphonic instrumental anarchy of the "parish choir" gave way to the magisterial discipline of the pipe organ and the organist/choirmaster.

The 1928 edition of the Book of Common Prayer bears eloquent testimony to the lay people's stubborn resistance to change. The lections in the 1928 revision are taken largely from the King James' Version of the Bible, but the psalms are not.

The King James' text of the Old and New Testaments followed the Coverdale Bible text reasonably closely. The text of the psalms, however, represented a radical departure – and the laity stubbornly resisted their use in the liturgy. Indeed, the only KJV psalm with which the average Anglican is familiar is the felicitously worded Twenty Third Psalm.

With that one exception, for more than 300 years – right up to the 1979 revision – our churches echoed to the sonorous tones of the Coverdale Psalter.

If there is any lesson to be learned from this, it is that should it prove necessary to institute changes in the church, it is essential to do so very slowly, with great care and with an absolute abundance of Christian charity and understanding.

Needless to say, it is a lesson that has been entirely lost on the folks who, since the 1960s, have been promoting a program of far reaching change that has radically altered not just the face of Anglicanism but that of all denominations and jurisdictions – catholic and protestant -- both here in America and in England.

Change has been rushed after change: liturgical revision, the abandonment of ancient doctrines and major departures from the church's traditional understanding of the authority of Holy Scripture. Hardly had one change been instituted than the next was upon us.

Had the sound and fury of the debate engendered a powerful spiritual and moral awakening, the proponents of rapid change might have been justified in their strategy. Had the turmoil swiftly abated, having inflicted no lasting damage, they might have been able to argue persuasively that their haste was justified.

But the fact of the matter is that their strategy has been an unmitigated failure. Church membership in America has fallen by more than a third, and even more precipitately than that in England. Indeed, if debate within the church were to be governed by a modest degree of humility, even the proponents of change might see the wisdom, temporarily at least, of dropping the subject of change in the interest of promoting harmony.

The trouble is the idea that the notion that change

equates with virtue is so deeply ingrained in the modern political lexicon, that politicians – secular and spiritual – simply can't stop babbling about it.

Frankly, I am rapidly adopting the belief that the only way to be genuinely "progressive" is to be adamantly opposed to progress. Enough already! I am heartily sick and tired of disputations. How about working on promoting charity for a change. **GPH**✕

## FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

### A bare four weeks to get ready for the Garden Party and Fete

THERE are just six weeks to go until our Annual British Garden Party & Fete, which takes place on Saturday, May 1st. This means time is running out for you to join the ranks of the nobility by signing up as one of our patrons.

There are four levels of patronage and you will receive a visible sign of recognition for your support an exclusive "gong" which is a lapel pin with tri-colored ribbon attached.

■ Imperial Crown \$100 will have a crest befitting the category

■ House of Windsor \$75 will have a neat little unicorn

■ House of York \$50 will have white rose motif

■ House of Lancaster \$30 will have a red rose motif

Why not sign up? The Garter King of Arms awaits.

There are also all sorts of things we need to help make the event a success. We are looking for:

**Cakes for the Cake Stall:** Last year your cakes were so absolutely scrumptious, we sold out despite the weather. Please redouble your efforts -- because it is all in a good cause.

We also need **tea cakes and dainties** for our Tea Room.

Rosa Halbert could use all the help she can get to provide mouthwatering teas for our guests.

Also on our wish list are **tea pots** -- not the George II sterling silver heirloom that you inherited from the Custis side of the family. 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 zither 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.

We also need **volunteers** to help set up on Friday, April 30th, and to man the stalls and side shows on Party Day, Saturday, May 1st.

And don't forget to bring along your family and friends to Baltimore's only and only absolutely British Garden Party & Fete. Tell them they'll not see anything like it this side of the pond.

We will be taking them back to the good old days when this annual event of **color and pageantry** took place in churchyards and village greens all over England. Entice them with a promise of a fabulous traditional English Cream Tea.

Enter our **Glamorous Grandmother** competition where you will have the chance to be crowned on a beautiful throne. Dads and grandads are not left out as they can enter our **Knobbly Knee** competition and walk off with the much desired title. For the children there will be many, many games and competitions for them to enter as well as a **Bouncy Windsor Castle**.

The theme chosen for our prize winning competition for **Floral Exhibits** - "British Pubs". Further details will soon appear. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 1st!

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR  
LOW SUNDAY**

being The First Sunday After Easter, April 11h, 2010

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM  
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I John 5:4 -12  
The Gospel: St. John 20:19-23

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 103  
The First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-12  
The Second Lesson: St. Luke 24:36-49

**FROM THE VESTRY**

## Annual Meeting, May 9th

ST. STEPHEN'S Annual Parish Meeting will take place between the 9.15 AM and the 11.15 AM services on Rogation Sunday, May 9th. Members attending the meeting will hear the Rector's report on the state of the parish, the reports of the Treasurer and Wardens and elect candidates for the Vestry. Nominations for the vestry and their biographies will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

### ✠ 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:** Tracey, Linda, Robert, Nancy, Earnie, Sharp, Edithann, Jay, Robert, Nancy, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Helen, Joseph,

Joshua, Rachel, 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, Katherine, William, Betty, Cal, Wendell, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom. Leliliah, 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, LFrances, 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, Linda, 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:** June, 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, 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.

**FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL:** Frank E. Curran and Carol Ann Degiulio.

**FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:** Ardith Curran & family; Carolyn V. Antlitz & family..

### ✠ 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 EASTER DAY & EASTER MONDAY

ALMIGHTY God, who through thy only begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life; We humbly beseech thee that, as by thy special grace preventing us thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, world without end. *AMEN.*

O GOD, whose blessed Son did manifest himself to his disciples in the breaking of bread; Open, we pray thee, the eyes of our faith, that we may behold thee in all thy works; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 163 & 166*

Return Service Requested

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