

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XXI, Numbers 14

Edited by Anne Hawkins

April 13th, 2010

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE

Red Cross apologises for Blood Drive foul ups

THE RECENT Community Blood Drive should have been a highly successful event. We had 30 prospective donors signed up as well as two unscheduled "walk ins" -- a much larger drive than usual.

Sad to say, the Blood Drive turned out to be a great disappointment thanks to the discourtesy and lack of professionalism of the Red Cross team assigned to collect the donations.

They arrived late,. They disqualified prospective donors for what appeared to be trivial reasons, and treated donors with less than the customary politeness. Their behavior was such that after the event a number of people called to complain about the way they had been treated.

When told of their conduct, Tonya S. Peters, the American Red Cross District Manager sent us an apology: "Thanks so much for taking time to talk with me today," she wrote,

"Again I apologize for all of issues yesterday. Please know that I will do my best to make sure that all future drives are a pleasant experience for you as well as your donors."

Organizing blood drives is a difficult business, and I hope that those of you who were treated less than civilly will not be put off. Remember to err is human, but to forgive divine.

Most of us fall far short of the divine, but giving blood is giving the gift of life -- a gift that is desperately needed. And even though it was a disappointing day, we still managed to collect 17 units -- enough to help up to 34 people. That, in itself, is a great blessing. **AEH**

FROM THE RECTOR

God decides what is sinful and what's not

PEOPLE today are increasingly approaching the business of finding a church in much the same way that they would go about buying a car or a house, or even the weekend's groceries. Our consumer culture has been extending itself into the ecclesiastical realm for more than a decade -- transforming America into what might best be described as a nation of church shoppers.

Like consumers in the secular world, church shoppers prowl the outlets (i.e. churches of the various jurisdictions and denominations) and surf the Internet searching for the best possible deal.

Aesthetic considerations often rank high on the list. Some folks are looking for colorful vestments, smells and bells, armies of acolytes and a certain flamboyance on the part of the clergy.

Others, by contrast, are into stark austerity. For them, the Geneva gown, the pulpit and the unadorned Holy Table reign supreme.

That's cool, as my children say. Tastes differ.

But it is worth remembering it is God we should be trying to please in our acts of worship. Thus, it is his taste that counts -- not our own.

Shopping for liturgical satisfaction is one thing. Shopping for convenience of belief, however, is quite another. Even so it is what large numbers of people seem to be doing.

It might be reasonable enough if the "belief shoppers" were actually seeking enlightenment -- a clearer understanding of the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Faith.

A few probably are engaged in such a quest. But experience shows that many are doing nothing of the sort. Many, in fact, are hunting around for the best deal on sin.

Clergy can usually recognize them by their first question: "Do you believe adultery/sexism/lying to a federal grand jury/eating tofu/membership in PETA/cruelty to animals/gun ownership, etc/etc is a sin?"

It is important to note that these people don't actually want to know what the Scriptures have to say on the matter. They aren't seeking enlightenment. They have made up their minds already. What they're looking for is a parson who will affirm whatever they deem to be "sinful" or "non-sinful."

Come up with an answer that doesn't appeal, that's the last you'll see of them. They are off once again on the eternal quest for a pastor who thinks the way they do.

This consumer-oriented approach to the faith offers rich fields of endeavor for clergymen with none too many scruples. Sadly, however, honest parsons have a much tougher time.

The problem is that defining sin isn't the clergy's job at all. Nor, for that matter, is it the job of the Church. It is God who defines sin -- and he did that many thousands of years ago. You'll find his ideas on the subject in a handy dandy little consumers' guide called the Bible.

The truth is that it doesn't matter a hang what I, or any other human being, thinks about sin. The only opinion that counts is God's. And it is his opinion we need to worry about.

If God approves of something, there's no need to ponder any further. If he says that something is sinful, believe me, there is nothing that I, or anybody else can say -- or do -- to change the situation.

The Church, you see, hasn't been given the job of deciding what's sinful and what's not. The Church's business is the forgiveness of sins -- and that's a horse of an entirely different color. **GPH**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Just three weeks to prepare for the Garden Party and Fete

THERE are a mere three 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 church-

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

being the Second Sunday After Easter, April 18th, 2010

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Peter 2:19 -25
The Gospel: St. John 10:11-16

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalm 23
The First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11
The Second Lesson: St. John 10:1-10

yards 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 granddads 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!

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 a coming issue of the newsletter.

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

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Web Address: <http://www.ststephens-md.org>

RECTOR: The Venerable Guy P. Hawtin

ASSOCIATE RECTORS:
The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley and 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.

✠ 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, Edith-ann, 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.

**COLLECTS FOR EASTER I
AND THE BLESSED JOHN KEBLE**

ALMIGHTY Father, who has given thine only Son to die for our sins, and rise again for our justification; Grant us so 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 170*

GRANT O God, that in all time of our testing we may know thy presence and obey thy will; that following the example of thy servant John Keble, we may accomplish with integrity and courage that which thou givest us to do, and endure that which thou givest us to bear; though Jesus Christ our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. *AMEN.*

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Episcopal Church
St. Stephen's Traditional

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