

St. Stephen's News

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

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

April 27th, 2010

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING: PART I

The State of the Parish 2009-2010

HOW MANY Marylanders does it take to change a light bulb? The answer is . . . C-H-A-N-G-E!!!!!! Well, the past year has been one of change for St. Stephen's – some of it good, some of it sad and some of it worthy of celebration.

Good news: A group of parishioners – under the leadership of **Brock Johnson, Martha Miller, Don Ruthig and Colby Hawks** – have volunteered to take over the maintenance of the church and grounds. This follows the retirement in November of **Howard Sewell**, our long-serving sexton, and the death last spring of **Joyce Holmes**, the much-loved horticulturist who chaired our Building and Grounds Committee.

The team's hard work is already evident in the gleam of the pews, the sparkle of the windows and the high polish on the lectern, affectionately dubbed Isaac the Eagle by the Choir of Men & Boys. Now that spring is here the churchyard is receiving close attention, not least the grass, which is being groomed courtesy of a John Deere tractor mower presented to the parish by **Colby and Wiley Hawks**.

If you would like to offer your services to help maintain the church fabric, please contact Martha Miller or Don Ruthig, who jointly chair the Building and Grounds Committee. (Martha is in charge of grounds and Don, the buildings.) Alternatively, you can speak to **Gordon Turner**, the People's Warden and vestryman with overall responsibility for the church fabric.

Sad news: Last year we bade adieu to two of the clergy who have served the church so well. Last summer **The Rev. Jon Filkins**, who had served as vicar at St. Stephen's on a voluntary basis for just over a year, was called to assume the rectorship of the Church of St. Barnabas in Picayune, Mississippi.

Though he was with us but a short time, Fr. Jon has been greatly missed -- not least, because he is a remarkably good sport. How else can you describe a guy who consents dress up as King Henry VIII, replete with auburn wig and tights to open our Annual Garden Party & Fete? Actually, he enjoyed himself so much he will be returning to reprise the role at this year's event!

Recently, we said goodbye – but, hopefully, not farewell -- to our Associate Rector, **The Rev. James V. Johnson, Jr.** He has been called to lead the newly-founded St. Paul's Anglican Church at Whitehall, PA.

Fr. James' departure will leave a gap in our ranks that will be very hard to fill. His shoes are very large, literally and figuratively. Not least, none of the other parochial clergy has a singing voice to compare with Fr. James' fine operatic tenor. Indeed, two of them scarcely sing at all.

It will not only be the parish's music *aficionados* who will miss Fr. James. His departure will break the hearts of his many fans in retirement communities and nursing homes all over Baltimore.

We gave Fr. James a true St. Stephen's send off at an exceedingly jolly party at the home of **Rosa and Jim Halbert**. Tears were shed, however, as farewells were exchanged and parishioners presented him with a purse in appreciation for his nearly five years of service.

Cause for celebration: In addition to a hectic schedule that includes the annual Advent Festival of Lessons at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, **Adric, our Choirmaster & Organist, and the Choir of Men & Boys** have instituted a magnificent monthly program of Choral Evensong.

The services, generally sung on the first Sunday of the month, have enjoyed gratifying support from the wider community. Credit for this goes not just to the hard working choristers, but especially to Adric for his creative choir direction and innovative music selection. The amount of high quality sound he can get out of only two – admittedly talented – trebles, **Xander Nickol and Davis Pfund**, is really quite remarkable.

Recently **Avery Schweitzer** and **Bennett Gushue** have joined the choir as probationers. However a strong treble section is vital for a choir of men and boys, and – Xander and Davis notwithstanding – two trebles and two probationers do not constitute a strong treble section.

It is absolutely critical for the parish to develop a source of recruits for the treble section. We are looking for experienced singers, as well as probationers and learners.

Sadly, finding recruits has become more and more difficult. Not least, the atmosphere of antipathy towards the Christian faith manifest in the public schools has made music teachers – once an enthusiastic cadre of recruiters – understandably reluctant incur the wrath of militant secularists.

Therefore we have no choice but to fall back on our own resources. If you know a boy who would enjoy singing and who would appreciate a splendid musical education – all for free – please let us know his name. We'd love to recruit him.

Remember, music is a gift that stays with you all your life. And, moreover, music scholarships are much more readily available than sports scholarships.

Even lacking a full complement of trebles, the choir maintains an extraordinary repertoire. Thanks to Adric's painstaking research, we are frequently privileged to hear the works of great church composers of church music who have been largely forgotten. It is no mean achievement to maintain such a consistently high artistic standard.

It is also worth mentioning that this year the choir adopted a charity of its own: **Dr. Bob's Place**, the new hospice for children, currently under construction at the **Joseph Richey Hospice**, itself long a mission of this parish. The offertory at Sunday Choral Evensong is dedicated to the Children's Hospice.

Dr. Bob's Place is named for the late **Dr. Robert Irwin**, Joseph Richey's much loved medical director. When it is completed later this year, it will provide much needed hospice services for an estimated 120 children and their families annually.

In talking about the choir, it would be remiss were the occasion to pass without mention of **Peter Threadgill**, our head lay reader and resident composer. Not only does he officiate with unhurried grace at Morning Prayer, Sung Mattins and Choral Evensong, it is by no means unusual to hear the choir singing music Peter, himself, has composed.

Peter, moreover, is admirably supported by lay readers **Gordon Turner, Paul Douglas, Dan Bursi, J. Brice Richardson, Bob Reynolds, Allan Gushue and Dr. Kirby von Kessler**, as well as postulants **John Novicki and Michael Belt**.

Thanks also goes to our assistant organist, **Llwyd Bowers**, formerly organist at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Carey Street, Baltimore. Llwyd good-naturedly turns out on Sunday – often at short notice – to play for the 9.15 service. **GPH**✕

NOTE: The Annual Meeting will take place between the 9.15 AM and 11.15 AM services on the Sunday After the Ascension, May 16th. As an inducement to attend, a slap up breakfast will be served during the meeting.

The candidates renominated *en bloc* to serve on the vestry are retiring members John Cobb, Rector's Warden; Gordon Turner, People's Warden; and Donna Szper, who chairs the Garden Party and Cookie Walk committees.

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

May Day! May Day! Only one week left until the Garden Party

THERE is just one week 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.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**

and a Commemoration of St. George, May 2nd, 2010

8.00 AM, 9.15 & 11.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: St. James 1:17-21
The Gospel: St. John 16:5-15

FOR YOUR MORNING OFFICE

The Psalter: Psalm 116
The First Lesson: Job 19:21-27a
The Second Lesson: St. John 12:44-50

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. 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.

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 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 compe-

titions 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!

✠ **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, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, 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, 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, Beverly, 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: Mrs. Lily Grill

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: Mr. John Grill

✠ **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 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.

**COLLECTS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EASTER & ST. MARK'S DAY**

ALMIGHTY God, who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

ALMIGHTY God, who hast instructed thy holy Church with the heavenly doctrine of thy Evangelist Saint Mark; Give us grace that being not like children carried away with every blast of vain doctrine, we may be established in the truth of thy holy Gospel; though Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 173 & 237

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Episcopal Church**

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