

St. Stephen's News

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

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

May 6th, 2010

THE STATE OF THE PARISH 2009-2010: PART 2

The Rector's Report to The Annual Meeting

THE RECESSION is continuing to exert a negative effect on St. Stephen's finances. Pledged and unpledged giving which increased by a modest annual rate of 2.5 percent in 2009 to \$272,044 has fallen back by a worrisome 5.2 percent in the first four months of 2010 in comparison with the previous year.

While total income for January to April advanced by slightly in excess of 3 percent from \$104,742 to \$108,065, this growth was entirely attributable to a hefty increase in gifts from parishioners. It means that the parish needs to devote serious effort to increase pledged giving.

The fact of the matter is that other than financial, St. Stephen's enjoyed another year of growth. Membership and attendance continued steadily upwards. Church activities were enthusiastically supported and our mission work in outside community also increased.

We have been responding to the downward pressure on our finance by belt tightening measures that have considerably reduced our overheads. **Jim Halbert** has substantially reduced our electricity bill by renegotiating our utilities contract. Volunteers have taken over responsibilities for church and grounds maintenance following the retirement of our long-time sexton **Howard Sewell**.

Church officers and staff have also played their part in reducing overheads, giving up reimbursements for church related travel and covering their own expenses for attending events such as synods and diocesan and nation church committee meetings.

Our economies have reduced our operating deficit from 2008/2009's \$11,800 to \$3,888 last year. During the past four months we have been operating in the black – just. Finding savings has not been easy. We have always run a very tight ship, financially speaking. We don't have much choice in this. As a relatively young parish, we do not have the luxury of an endowment.

All we have is a "rainy day" fund – comprised of a very modest stock portfolio and a cash reserve account – which over that past 12 months has fallen from \$62,000 to just under \$50,000. This might sound comfortable enough, but it amounts to little more than two months operating expenses.

Things remain tight, but we are healthier financially than we were last year. Summer, however, is almost upon us and this is one of the most nerve-wracking times of the year for church treasurers.

Family vacations tend to play havoc with cash flow. If you are planning a trip, **Bill Hawkins**, our long-suffering treasurer, would much appreciate it if you paid pledge before you left rather than upon your return.

Bill reports that no matter what the Congressional Budget Office has to say, prices are continuing to rise. This means costs in many areas of operations are spiralling upwards. If you haven't yet increased your pledge, we beg you prayerfully to consider doing so.

Despite the squeeze on parish finances, our ministries both to our parishioners and to the many non-parishioners we serve in the wider Baltimore community have continued to expand. Thanks in large part to our non-stipendiary clergy, **The Rev. Rhae Kelley** and **The Rev. Robert Menas**, we are serving a growing number of civic organizations and health care institutions.

We provide chaplains for organizations including the U.S. Navy League, the Kiwanis, the English Speaking Union and the St. George's Society. We also provide pastoral care and support at **Union Memorial Hospital** and the **Greater Baltimore Medical Center**.

The clergy conduct regular church services at retirement communities and nursing homes, including **Glen Meadows, Mays Chapel Ridge, Genesis at Brightwood, Lorien at Mays Chapel, Lorien in Columbia and Roland Park Place and Edenwald**, as well as occasional services at other communities including **Heart Homes, Blakehurst and Keswick**.

The parish continues its monthly collections of non-perishable foodstuffs and household goods for **At Jacob's Well**, a charity that helps Baltimore's mentally ill homeless population. We also conduct services in the chapel we furnished for the

group at its East 25th Street Baltimore headquarters..

We also continue to provide chaplains, pastoral care associates and volunteers at the **Joseph Richey Hospice**. Indeed, our work at the hospice, which has been the particular focus of our community service efforts for upwards of 20 years, has increased further following the appointment of parishioner **Bea Kallina** as Joseph Richey's **Volunteer Coordinator**.

This will be an exciting year for the hospice. This fall it hopes to open its new hospice for children. Named **Dr. Bob's Place** after the late Dr. Robert Irwin, the hospice's much loved medical director, it will provide much needed hospice services for an estimated 120 children and their families annually.

A key player in St. Stephen's community service team is **Mrs. Anne Hawkins**, Director of Pastoral Care. Mrs. Hawkins – who not only organizes pastoral care in the parish and edits the newsletter -- is remarkably successful in organizing our community blood drives. Despite federal health directives that disqualify increasing numbers of potential donors from giving blood, the numbers of donors has steadily increased, as have the units of blood collected.

Our Tuesday and Friday morning **Bible Studies** are doing well. **Brock Johnson** leads the Friday Morning group and plays a major role in directing the Tuesday morning study.

The **Sunday morning adult discussion group**, which takes place between the 9.15 AM and 11.15 AM services last year, continues to attract a cadre of enthusiastic and opinionated participants. Currently, the members are hearing a presentation on **the Thirty Nine Articles of Religion** by **Dan Bursi**.

On Tuesday morning, our newly-founded knitting circle – mentored by **Happy Riley** and **Karen Ruthig** – meets in the parish hall to laugh and chat while producing beautifully crafted comforts for the patients and Joseph Richey Hospice and folks on the parish sick list.

It is not necessary to be physically present on a Tuesday to join the circle. To help in their work, all you need are knitting needles and generous heart. But the knitters in the parish hall seem to have an awful lot of fun.

The newsletter comes to you thanks to the hard-working ladies (and gentleman) of the mailroom: **Donna Szper, Joyce Perlberg (and Misty), Mar Bopst and Jim Halbert**. If you change your address or you're going a way for few days, please let them know so they can make the necessary adjustments to the mailing list.

The Parish Life Committee (PLC), led by **Chairman Stephanie Verhage**, excelled itself once again. Despite a deepening recession, sales at the annual **Cookie Walk**, organized by the irrepressible **Donna Szper**, were not far short of the previous year's returns. Donna also organizes the annual **British Garden Party**, which as in previous years, showed a profit, despite the downpours that preceded and followed the event.

The committee organized a host of other events, including summer picnics, autumn picnics and a diet-busting Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper. The committee's Silly Summer Suppers – a brainchild of **Anne Hawkins** and **Charlotte Hawtin** – continued to their extraordinary record of success.

The weekly Thursday night suppers ran through the summer and much of the fall, attracting an enthusiastic following not only among parishioners, but among folks in the neighborhood.

The program was so popular that heavy lobbying in support of continuing it through 2010 began last fall, immediately after the final meal was served in Fall 2009. As an added attraction, it has been proposed that the meal should be followed by Bingo. Help, however, will be needed to put the plan into action, as well as to cook and serve the meals. Volunteers are therefore needed.

The parish owes a considerable debt of gratitude to the Vestry for its work in overseeing the parish's affairs. They are **John Cobb**, Rector's Warden; **Gordon Turner**, People's Warden; **Paul Doiglas**, assistant to the People's Warden; **Donna Szper**, treasurer; **Dr. Kirby von Kessler**, registrar; **Alan Gushue**, fund-raiser-in-chief; **John Novicki**, parish verger, who also represents the Sunday School; **Brock Johnson**, director of Adult Education; and **J. Brice Richardson**, who is a member of the diocesan Standing Committee and the church's National Executive Council.

Special thanks are due to People's Warden **Gordon Turner** and his assistant **Paul Douglas** for their hard work maintaining

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
ROGATION SUNDAY**

being the Fifth Sunday After Easter, May 9th, 2010

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: St. James 1:22-27
The Gospel: St. John 16:23-33

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 67
The First Lesson: Ezekiel 34:25-31
The Second Lesson: St. Luke 11:1-12

the church building. Gordon and Paul also do a terrific job organizing work parties for events such as the Garden Party.

St. Stephen's Women's Group, under the leadership of **Ann Bonnell** and **Mavis Turner**, enjoyed another busy year. In addition to presentations by speakers, discussion groups and luncheons, they have helped brighten the lives of the patients at the Joseph Richey Hospice. Their cookie parcels were a particular hit at the hospice's Easter celebrations

The Altar Guild, led by **Ann Bonnell** and **Stephanie Verhage** has had its usual busy year. No experience is needed and membership is open to both men and women. So if you have an interest in this valuable work, please contact the parish office or an Altar Guild member. While we are on the subject of volunteers, we are also looking for more ushers particularly for the 11.15 AM Sunday service.

The Sunday School has again done well during the course of the year thanks to the creative work of **Diane Novicki**, **Tracey Gushue**, **Brock Johnson** and the **Sunday School mothers**. Diane also leads the Junior Altar Guild.

Our talented **Flower Guild** continues to deck the sanctuary with some of the most spectacular arrangements that have ever graced an altar. It was hard to imagine the church appearing more beautiful than it did at Christmastide until the flower ladies decorated the church for Easter. Wow! **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.

✦ **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. Lefliah, 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.l

✦ **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 EASTER IV AND
ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES**

O ALMIGHTY God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire than which thou dost promise; so that, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found. through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

O ALMIGHTY God, whom truly to know is everlasting life; Grant us perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way the truth and the life; that following the steps of thy holy Apostles. Saint Philip and Saint James, we may steadfastly walk in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 175 & 238

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St. Stephen's Traditional

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