

St. Stephen's News

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

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

May 25th, 2010

FROM THE EDITOR

Parish to launch an endowment drive

ST. STEPHEN'S is to launch a drive to raise an endowment fund to generate income to provide the young parish with the sort of financial underpinning enjoyed by older established churches, it was announced at the parish's annual meeting on the Sunday After Ascension, May 16th.

No final target for the fund has yet been established, but an initial goal in the range of \$200,000 is current under discussion.

Endowment funds have traditionally been established to provide churches with income to sustain growth and to provide financial stability during difficult economic times.

Newly founded parishes like St. Stephen's are rarely blessed with endowments because there are even more basic needs to be satisfied such as building worship facilities and paying clergy, etc.

The current recession has hit St. Stephen's finances hard, Treasurer Bill Hawkins told the meeting. The decline in giving was noted towards the end of 2008, continued through 2009 and has persisted during the opening months of 2010.

Pledged and unpledged giving in the opening months of this year was down 6.3 percent on the same period of 2009. Econo-

THE RETURN OF THE SILLY SUMMER SUPPERS

Our popular weekly neighborhood get-togethers start up again at 5.30 PM on Thursday, June 3rd, 2010
Join us for fine food & fellowship

mies particularly in the realms of payroll (down 8 percent), operations and administration (down 5 percent), utilities (down 35 percent) had substantially reduced total running costs. Even so finances were exceedingly tight.

"We have made economies, redoubled our fund raising efforts, and we are getting by," said Mr. Hawkins, "But, financially speaking, the parish is on a knife edge."

The Vestry this week will be discussing measures to improve the parish's financial position, including the establishment of a development committee. There will be a report on these discussion in the next issue of *The News*. AEH

FROM THE RECTOR

Living life dangerously in an unmannerly world

AUTOGRAPH books were all the rage when I was a schoolboy. But, unlike girls who, in our opinion, tended to fill them with sappy, sissified sentiments, boys preferred witticisms and humorous rhymes.

For a typical example of schoolboy wit, one need go no further than my brother-in-law Robert's old autograph book. An entry, chosen at random, reads: "When you get old and think you're sweet, take off your socks and smell your feet."

Admittedly as humor this is several grades below sophomoric, but, then, so was the writer. Even so, it is actually not bad advice. There's nothing more dreary than an old codger raving on about how much more awful things are today compared with the way things were five or six decades ago.

The fact of the matter is things today are, in many respects, an awful lot better than they were back then – health care, for starters. Indeed, if medicine had not progressed over the past 50 years, many of us would not be here to whine about it.

Food in the main is much better, too. American bread, for instance, was once merely a means of conveying ham, cheese, tuna or peanut butter and jelly to the mouth. Folks not raised on the stuff might be forgiven for thinking that spoons, on the whole, would have been more efficient and less damaging to the health.

Today, however, local bakeries turn out some of the finest bread in the world. And the same goes for beer – not all beer of course, but even major breweries are at least making a stab at introducing improved products.

That said, there are some things that are an awful lot worse – not least manners. It is not so much that younger people rarely bother to stand when an older person enters a room, though it is sad to see such courtesies go the way of the dodo.

Nor is it that the words "please" and "thank you" are becoming increasingly obsolete – and not merely among the young. Recently, for example, I had reason to visit the Baltimore County Dump.

"Show me your driver's license," demanded the man in charge peremptorily.

If his manners left something to be desired, so, I fear, did mine. "What's the magic word?" I snapped.

"Baltimore County," he stammered, nonplussed..

"Good try, but no cigar," I replied, handing him my driver's license, "The magic word is *please* . . ."

The light of understanding spread across his countenance. "Thank you," he said with a smile as he handed back me the license. "Not at all," I replied as I drove away.

Reflecting on the incident, I realize the chap at the dump was as familiar with such minor courtesies as I am, but that he had simply abandoned them – as though there might be something unmanly about common politeness.

This attitude is by no means unique to my friend at the dump – an observation that was eloquently (if that's the right word) confirmed for me during a recent visit to a local high school.

Courtesy there was remarkable mainly in its absence. Instead of offering assistance to visitors, students simply pushed by, occasionally uttering the ugliest expletives. It was shocking even for someone who lived for years in New York City.

But not only is this sort of thing shocking. It is dangerous as well. It is life without brakes – life in which might makes right and the devil takes the hindmost. It is life blind to *Proverbs 15:1*: "A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger."

Good manners do not merely demonstrate respect for the feelings of others. They are the lubricant that enables society to run smoothly – soothing the sting of inadvertent offences, quelling the anger occasioned by thoughtless actions.

It is difficult to pinpoint the cause of our sad decline in manners, but, doubtless, our modern technology has much to do with it. E-mail does not favor *Proverbs 15:1*. Rather, it encourages us impulsively to bare the ugliest of our innermost feelings and send them flashing across the ether in the blink of an eye. Texting enables us to do the same, only even faster and still more tersely.

But could these be symptoms, rather than the disease itself? Could it be that a growing number of people spend so much time on the Internet – both at work and play – that their "virtual lives" become more real to them than reality itself? In a "virtual life" one can't do too much harm playing Lord of the Universe. But in "real life" it's quite another matter. GPH✘

ADULT EDUCATION DEPT.

A seminar on the Psalms and a course on Hebrew

HOLY TRINITY Seminary's summer schedule will be getting underway in June this year with a three day seminar on the Book of Psalms and a 12-part course on Old Testament Hebrew. The instructor for both courses will be The Rev. Dr. John Worgul, Dean of Holy Trinity.

Book of Psalms BS520

The seminar on the Book of Psalms will discuss the worldview of the original Hebrew Psalter, the structure of the Book, its function in ancient Hebrew worship, and its messianic character.

This course is designed to open up a fresh new way of looking at this critically important book of the Bible that is so familiar, yet at the same time so strange, to us.

The seminar will take place on Thursday and Friday, June 17th and 18th, from 7:30-9:00 PM and on Saturday, June 19th, from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Classes will be held at St. Stephen's Church, 11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
TRINITY SUNDAY**

being Sunday, June 6th, 2010

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

For the Epistle: Revelation 4:1-11
The Gospel: St. John 3:1-16

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalm 29

The First Lesson: Isaiah 1:1-8
The Second Lesson: I St. Peter 1:1-12

For those who want to audit this seminar, the cost is \$160.00. This fee includes snacks and Saturday lunch. Make Checks payable to Christ the King Church marked "Seminary."

Hebrew I BL501

Have you ever gazed at a beautiful text of the Hebrew Bible and wished that you could read it? This is your chance.

Learning a foreign language is nowhere near as hard as you think. Join our BL501 Hebrew introduction course and start learning to read the Old Testament as Jesus read it. It is open to all who desire to take it.

By the end of this course students will be able to vocalize the text, distinguish basic parts of speech, and read simple Hebrew sentences. You do not have to be good at languages, but come with the desire to learn and find out what fun it can be.

The course will meet on Mondays from 7:00-9:30 PM. Classes will be held at Christ the King Church, 1102 Hart Road, Towson, MD 21286. The course will begin on Monday, June 7, and ends on Monday, August 23.

For those who want to audit the course, the cost is \$150.00. Make Checks payable to Christ the King Church marked "Seminary."

Trinity is opening a number of its Master of Ministry Courses for audit to all of those interested in furthering their biblical theological knowledge. You do not have to be enrolled in a degree program to audit these courses.

For the registration form and more information contact Fr. John Worgul, Dean, (410) 861-6876
frjworgul@yahoo.com

✠ 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: Sara, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, 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, Lelillah, 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, 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, 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

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

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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 WHITSUNDAY
& ST. DUNSTAN OF CANTERBURY**

O GOD, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 180

ALMIGHTY GOD, who didst raise up Saint Dunstan to be a true ruler of thy flock, a restorer of monastic life, and a faithful counsellor of kings; Mercifully grant that thy Church may never lack gifted rulers and thy people leaders fearing thee and working righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Return Service Requested

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St. Stephen's Traditional

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