

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XXI, Number 21

Edited by Anne Hawkins

May 29th, 2010

FROM THE TREASURER

You too can help end a nail-biting tradition

IT HAS become something of a tradition at this time of the year for me to beg you to have "pity on the poor treasurer" and send in your offering before you go on vacation rather than when you come back.

Church income often declines quite steeply in the summer months when folks are off enjoying themselves in the mountains or on the shore. The trouble is that the bills don't take a vacation. They just keep rolling in.

Misery likes company, they say. But it is not really much comfort to know that all of the nation's churches suffer from the same problem – especially during this current deep recession.

As I said at the annual parish meeting, the recession has hit young churches like St. Stephen's particularly hard. The problem is that we have no endowment and little in the way of reserves – something the vestry is working hard to rectify.

But translating plans into action takes time. And while we are confident the parish's long-term financial stability will be assured, the short term financial management occasions some fingernail biting.

The problem is cash flow. As I have told you, financially speaking, we are just scraping by. Giving is currently down by 7

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

percent on 2009, itself a hard financial year. But we have cut our expenses to the bone and are keeping our financial heads above water.

If you are able maintain your giving during the summer months, things should not be too difficult. But the fact of the matter is that our short-term money troubles could be largely solved for not much more than the price of a pack of cigarettes a week from each of you.

In fact, if each of you were able to add \$5 or more to your weekly contribution, I might be able to give up writing "Pity the Poor Treasurer" articles entirely -- and may be even stop biting my finger nails. **God Bless You All – BILL HAWKINS**

FROM THE RECTOR

Why quick brown foxes failed to jump lazy dogs

MY FIRST typewriter set me back all of ten bucks or, rather its equivalent in British pounds. It was a "portable," in a smart beige plastic case, and the price was incredibly cheap even by the standards of those antediluvian days.

It was on sale at the British Railways' Lost Property Office. Before I forked over my money, however, I should probably have paused to ask myself why anyone in his right mind would have abandoned a consignment of perfectly good portable typewriters at the railway freight depot?

The answer to this question was made manifest shortly I got the machine back to my room. I opened the case, put paper in the roller and typed: "the quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog" and followed it up with "now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party."

But when I inspected my handiwork what appeared on the paper was sheer gobbledegook: "awgstunkeledo, etc, etc." And, on closer inspection, the reason for this curious phenomenon became clear.

The typewriter keyboard was not the standard English language "qwerty." It was arranged for typing in some other language – Magyar, perhaps; Outer Slovenian; or even Aztec.

The man at the lost property office refused me a refund,

pointing smugly to a tiny typewritten sign that read "ALL SLAES FINAL." Nor was he amused when I asked him if he had typed the misspelled sign on my typewriter.

Anyhow, economics dictated that I abandon touch-typing in favor of the "hunt-and-peck method" – a system I still employ today in the age of the Internet, Texting and Twitter.

Sadly, I am no better at typing that I was way back in the days of my first "portable." And this, I fancy, explains why I have so much trouble "interfacing" with such things as the Internet.

It's not an age thing. Nobody could be more at home behind a computer keyboard than my 96-year-old friend, Wynne. I ascribe my ineptitude to the trauma suffered at the hands of the British Railways' Lost Property Office.

I relate all this not as an exercise in nostalgia or self-pity, but to explain that I am not snooty, stuck-up or arrogant. The simple truth is that I am not very good at figuring out the mysteries of the Internet.

You see, I have just discovered that I have something called a "Face Book Page." I have never seen it. I can't access it, and I have no idea how I got it. Maybe it was a created when I inadvertently clicked on one of those "pop-ups" announcing I had won \$500 million and a trip to Ulan Bator.

In any event, my email is now filled with messages from people asking to be my "Face Book Friend." They are, in the main, people I had always thought of as friends – parishioners, colleagues, nieces, nephews, a cousin or two and even my brother.

It is all very flattering, but, sad to relate, I have no idea how to comply with these thoughtful requests. All I can say is: "I'd love you all to be my Face Book friends, but unfortunately it is beyond my technical capacity, which currently extends not very much further than opening my e-mail."

I was reflecting on this when an e-mail arrived from my wife Charlotte. It was headed "Idiot Sighting." It was shriekingly funny, yet somehow a tad frightening. Here's a sample:

■ *I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on our road. The reason: "Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore."*

■ *My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce.*

■ *I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" To which I replied, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" He smiled knowingly and nodded, "That's why we ask."*

■ *The stop-light on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged co-worker of mine. She asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, "What on earth are blind people doing driving?"*

■ *I work with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and for the sake of her life, couldn't understand why her system would not turn on.*

The trouble with laughing at this sort of thing is the uncomfortable feeling it's myself that I'm laughing at. **GPH***

ADULT EDUCATION DEPT.

Study Psalms and 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

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

being Sunday, June 6th, 2010

8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I St. John 4:7-21
The Gospel: St. Luke 16:19-31

FOR YOUR MORNING OFFICE

The Psalter: Psalm 73
The First Lesson: Jeremiah 23:23-32
The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 7:13-29

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.

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.

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. 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. Auditing the course costs \$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. For the registration form and more information contact Fr. John Worgul, Dean, (410) 861-6876

frjworgul@yahoo.com

**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.

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, Erlene, 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, Gerardine, Thomas, Jeanne, Sister Catherine-Grace, Maxine, Ann Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Rebecca, Dorothy, Joanne, Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Carol 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

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: 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: Katherine Brown

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: Bea Kalina & the Brown family

**COLLECTS FOR TRINITY SUNDAY
& THE VENERABLE BEDE**

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who has given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity: We beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 186

GRANT, O Lord, we beseech thee, that, as the Venerable Bede, living his whole life in retirement from the world, never ceased his diligence in prayer and study: So we, laying aside all discontent and idleness, may cheerfully perform the works which thou givest us to do, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Return Service Requested

St. Stephen's Traditional
Episcopal Church
11856 Mays Chapel Road
Timonium, MD 21093

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TIMONIUM MD
PERMIT NO. 181