

St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Church, Timonium, Maryland
A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

Vol. XXI, Number 23

Edited by Anne Hawkins

June 15th, 2010

FROM THE RECTOR

It's time Christians put aside their differences

RECENTLY we celebrated the memories of two giants of our Church: The Venerable Bede and Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. These two men could hardly have been more different – not least, they were born some eight centuries apart – yet each played a vital role in shaping the unique Anglican expression of the Christian faith.

Bede, who was born in 673 AD, helped define our understanding of the role of the Christian faith in national life. Cranmer, born in 1489, gave the Anglican Church its basic mode of worship, and, in doing so, brought into being modern English.

The English Church of Bede's day traced its founding back to five years or so before the Roman invasion in 42 AD – thus staking a claim to being the oldest Church in the gentile world.

Uniquely, perhaps, the Anglo Saxons regarded the Church and people as an inseparable entity. Consequently, the Anglo-Saxon council of state, the Witan Agemot, governed both the spiritual and temporal affairs of the people, combining the roles of Great Synod and secular legislature.

Join us to to make glorious music at
The St. Stephen's Church
FOURTH OF JULY HYMN SING
6.00 PM Sunday, July 4th, 2010
Reception to follow

Curiously enough, the Witan survives in recognizable form today. The English Parliament still retains some of the powers of the Great Synod – its guardianship of the Book of Common Prayer, for example. Like its forebear the Witan, it also elects monarchs, albeit since the Norman Conquest in 1066 there has usually been only one candidate for the job: the deceased monarch's heir.

Even so, parliament has exercised, or threatened to exercise, its right of refusal on a number of occasions – most recently denying Mrs. Wallace Simpson a queenly crown.

This melding of the people's spiritual and secular lives from the earliest of times arguably gave people in the British Isles a sense of nationhood far earlier than in the rest of Europe.

France and Spain, for example, came into being as national entities many centuries after England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Germany and Italy were not united in a national sense until the latter half of the 19th century.

This early sense of nationhood (coupled with the belief that life spiritual and secular are inseparable) led to the evolution of a Church best described as the catholic faith in its English expression – an expression given voice in Thomas Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer.

Traditional Anglicans uphold the catholic faith as classically defined by St. Vincent of Lerins (died c. 445 AD), namely that which has been believed at all times, in all places, by all Christians. [*quod semper, quod ubique, quod ab omnibus creditum est*]. But they do not believe it necessary for churches to submit to supranational in governance in order to be catholic.

They, thus, recognize the right of churches in other nations to give expression to the faith catholic in their own unique manners. This, in turn, explains the very considerable differences among the national churches of the Anglican world.

Our Anglican understanding of the nature of the church lies at the root of the friction that has afflicted our relationship with the Roman Church for the best part of 1,400 years. Our differences, however, are more cultural rather than doctrinal.

The Roman understanding of the church is supranational in character because the cultural crucible in which it was formed

was vastly different from that of the Anglican Church. The Emperor Constantine's decision in the 4th Century to move the capital of the empire from Rome to Byzantium played a major role in shaping the Roman Church's vision of itself.

Constantine's move ultimately led to the city's political and military eclipse. The popes, as the most prominent civic leaders remaining in Rome had little alternative but to fill the power vacuum left by the departure of the imperial administration.

As secular and spiritual leaders of Rome, the popes had to contend not only with civil strife but a series of invasions that left Rome and its western provinces in a state of economic and social collapse. This, in turn, inevitably forced upon the Roman Church a supranational *weltanschauung*.

But whatever our differences, it is essential Anglicans, Romans and the rest of the Christian world put them aside to unite against the common threats that confront all expressions of the faith. Currently, the forces of secularism and the fundamentalist Islamic jihadists appear to have the upper hand. And, as Benjamin Franklin so presciently observed, if we don't hang together we most assuredly shall all hang separately. **GPH**

FROM THE VESTRY

Endowment drive to be unveiled in near future

TREASURER Bill Hawkins has already received promises of substantial sums of money from a number of parishioners eager to launch the campaign to establish St. Stephen's first parish endowment fund. The initial goal is to raise some \$200,000, the income from which will be dedicated to reducing the church's \$480,000 mortgage.

The fund drive, which is being enthusiastically received by church members, will be getting underway very shortly. St. Stephen's does not presently have an endowment fund. Like many new churches, it had many more immediate calls on its income -- not least building and equipping its worship facility.

Details of plans for the fund drive will be announced in the coming weeks. They are expected to include, among other fea-

THE RETURN OF THE SILLY SUMMER SUPPERS

Fun neighborhood get-togethers every
Thursday at 5.30 PM
Join us for Evensong at 5.00 PM

tures, a challenge to match pledged funds.

Meanwhile, the treasurer begs to remind you to send in your offering before you go on vacation rather than when you come back. The parish's income often declines quite steeply in the summer months when people leave town to go on vacation. The trouble is that while people take a holiday, bills don't. They keep rolling in just the same.

The recession, moreover, has taken a toll on the finances of most young churches like St. Stephen's. They significant reserves and endowments. Thus cash flow fluctuations can be a major headache. If you are able maintain your giving during the summer months, things should not be too difficult.

FROM THE CHOIRMASTER

A Fourth of July Hymn Sing

AS YOU will see above, we are planning a Hymn Sing to celebrate the Fourth of July. Naturally, we will be including the old favorites we usually sing on the Nation's Birthday. But we would also like to sing some of your favorite hymns as well. Submit the numbers and tunes of your favorite hymns by Sunday, June 27th and we will try to include them. Just hand them in at the office or include them with your offering. Looking forward to singing along with you. **ADRIC**

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

being Sunday, June 20th, 2010

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I St. Peter 5:5-11
The Gospel: St. Luke 15:1-10

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 145
The First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:-14
The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 9:9-13

ADULT EDUCATION DEPT.

Study the Book of Psalms

HOLY TRINITY Seminary is conducting a three day seminar on the Book of Psalms 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 take place at St. Stephen's Church, and the instructor will be The Rev. Dr. John Worgul.

The fee for auditing the seminar is \$160, including snacks, and lunch on Saturday. Checks should be made payable to Christ the King Church marked "Seminary."

The seminar will discuss the worldview of the original Hebrew Psalter, the structure of the Book, its function in ancient Hebrew worship, and its messianic character. The course offers a fresh way of looking at this critically important book that is so familiar, yet so strange, to us. Contact Fr. John Worgul at (410) 861-6876 or frjworgul@yahoo.com

THE WOMEN'S GROUP

Join us at the Bluestone

ST. STEPHEN'S Ladies will be meeting for lunch at noon on June 16th at the Bluestone Restaurant 11 West Aylesbury Road, Lutherville, MD 21093. To reserve your place call Ann Bonnell at (410) 560-1130

✠ 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: Alma, 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, 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, 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: Donald King

**✠ 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 SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER TRINITY & ST. BARNABAS**

O LORD, who never faileth to help and govern those whom thou dost bring up in thy stedfast fear and love; Keep us, we beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 191

GRANT, O God, that we may follow the example of thy faith servant Barnabas, who, seeking not his own renown but the well-being of thy Church, gave generously of his life and substance for the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. *AMEN.*

Return Service Requested

Timonium, MD 21093
11856 Mays Chapel Road

Episcopal Church
St. Stephen's Traditional

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