

# St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XXI, Number 28

Edited by Anne Hawkins

July 20th, 2010

## FROM THE EDITOR

### Our July 4th Hymnfest was a howling success

TRUTH in advertizing compels me to confess that this headline is somewhat misleading. Our July Fourth Hymnfest was by no means a howling success. Indeed, it was decidedly melodious.

The choir and packed congregation almost literally raised the chancel roof as they enthusiastically sang their way through a program of patriotic and parish favorites, deftly arranged by Adric, our Choirmaster and Organist.

Indeed, the event was such a success that Adric is mulling the idea of making the Hymnfest a quarterly event. For further news watch this space. Meanwhile, the Choir of Men & Boys will be singing Choral Evensong at 6.00 PM on Sunday, August 1st. Naturally, there will be a reception to follow. **AEH.**

## ECCLESIA ANGLICANA I

### Time to stop cooking church history books

*IF THERE is one thing that really gets my goat, it's the claim that our mother church, The Anglican Church, is only 450 years old and that it was founded by King Henry VIII. I actually heard this asserted at a recent church meetin. This is a nonsense. The British Church can, in fact, lay claim to being the oldest Church in the gentile world. **GPH✘***

IT IS OFTEN claimed that history is written by the victors. This is not true – at least, it has not been true for the last 150 years or so. Histories are usually written by historians, and this is, most decidedly, a mixed blessing. The problem is that, more often than not, historians have an axe to grind: a particular *weltanschauung* or social theory to propound. This, naturally, tends to distort the picture they present to the world. History, far from being a dispassionate appraisal of past events, is frequently heavily tinged with partisanship, polemic and propaganda.

This, lamentably, is especially true in the sphere of Church history. Nor should it be surprising. The competing claims of various denominations to be the sole repositories of the Christian Truth inevitably foster bitter partisanship. Rarely has partisanship more gravely distorted the historical truth than in history of the Church of England. Students of Anglican history today are sandbagged not only by Roman, Orthodox and Protestant propagandists and apologists, but also by fellow Anglicans of different liturgical and theological persuasions.

As a consequence, at this point in the 21st Century, there seems to be a general acceptance of the notion that the English Church, as we know it, came into being as the result of St. Augustine's mission to Kent in the year AD 597. Indeed, The Most Rev. Robert Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, made obeisance to the theory during his visit to the Vatican some 25 years ago or so.

Actually, Augustine did not establish the English Church. Far from it, in fact. When he arrived in Kent -- an obscure Saxon kingdom in South England -- it was virtually the only part of the British Isles that remained almost entirely heathen. I say almost entirely because there was a Christian presence in Kent: priests and monks from Gaul (now France) who ministered to Queen Bertha, a Christian princess from Gaul, who was consort of the Kentish king. The West and North of the British Isles were, to all intents and purposes, wholly Christian. And there was an extensive network of Christian missions throughout the rest of Britain.

Far from converting Britain to Christianity, Augustine found that the task had largely been accomplished by a Church one

rarely hears about these days. It was the indigenous British Church -- commonly called the Celtic Church; the Church that we, today, call the Church of England.

Claims that Augustine was Primate of Britain are, thus, quite empty. Britain already had its own Primate -- the Archbishop of Carleon, the successor to St. David, the patron saint of Wales, who had died some 20 years before Augustine's arrival. The British Isles also boasted 120 bishops and thousands of priests, not to mention many thousands of monks and nuns.

It is difficult to know what Augustine would have made of the claims made on his behalf by modern historians. Certainly, he tried to assert Pope Gregory the Great's authority, but his efforts were not in any great degree successful.

This might well be because the Romans had not yet declared the pope "Christ's Vicar on Earth." Indeed, it is not until more than 100 years later we encounter a pope who felt secure enough assert (albeit somewhat tentatively) that he was "St. Peter's Vicar upon Earth." That pope was Gregory VII and the assertion is to be found in the oath that St. Boniface took upon being consecrated bishop in 722 AD. Demands for fealty based on this claim were rejected by the English, in word and deed, from that time onward until the Reformation.

The best argument that a pope could put forward for his claim to authority over the British Church was that he had traditionally occupied a position of *primus inter pares* (first among equals) among Christian Bishops. Such a claim -- which would certainly be challenged in the world of Eastern Orthodoxy -- would give him no more authority than a right to the courtesy of presiding at ecumenical gatherings.

THE RETURN OF THE  
SILLY SUMMER SUPPERS  
Fun neighborhood get-togethers every  
Thursday at 5.30 PM  
Join us for fine food & fellowship

The manner in which Pope Gregory the Great sent Augustine to England illustrates this: Gregory, for example, didn't assert the right to consecrate Augustine a British bishop. Rather he asked one of the bishops of Gaul -- whose see was closest to Britain -- to consecrate Augustine as a personal favor.

The Gallican bishop appears to have been reluctant to do so. He must surely have had contacts with the British Church. This means he must have been well aware that he had no authority to perform such a consecration. In any event, he kept Augustine kicking his heels for a very long time before finally -- and apparently with considerable reluctance -- acceding to Gregory's importuning.

Moreover, it wasn't until Augustine managed to establish himself at the Kentish Court that Gregory actually sent him the pallium, designating him "Rome's man" and, by implication, Kent (not England; for Kent was, at that time, a sovereign state) "Rome's territory." Gregory, however, must have been fully aware that his claims in this regard were decidedly shaky.

The English Church's relationship to Rome is -- and has always been -- the same as that of the Eastern Orthodox Churches. Indeed, Rome, *de facto*, acknowledged this for the best part of 1,200 years. **GPH✘**

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE

### July 26th Blood Drive and Life Line Screening

THE RED CROSS will be coming to St. Stephen's at 3.00 PM on Monday, July 26th, for our summer Community Blood Drive. You can make your appointment by putting your name

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE  
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
being the Feast of St. James, July 25th, 2010

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM  
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Romans 8:12-17  
The Gospel: St. Matthew 7:15-21

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 92  
The First Lesson: Proverbs 11:24-31  
The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 7:15-21

and preferred appointment time on the sign up sheet at the rear of the church, or you can call me at the office.

Please be sure to eat plenty of iron rich foods in preparation for giving blood. If you would like some dietary recommendations, you find a list of iron rich foods at the rear of the church.

Meanwhile, on Friday, August 13th, Life Line Screening will be visiting St. Stephen's to offer preventive health screening to the community. They will be offering screening and tests for stroke risk, vascular disease and bone density.

The screening team will be here from 8.30 AM to 5.00 PM for more information or to pre-register, call me at the Parish Office: 410-560-6776 or call Life Line at 888-653-6441. Alternatively, you can go on the web and visit Life Line at [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com). **ANNE E. HAWKINS**

**FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH**

**Come join us on July 21**

ST. STEPHEN'S Women will be lunching at 12 Noon the **Ginza Japanese Steakhouse** on Wednesday July 21st, at the shopping center on Cranbrook Road, Cockeysville. Exercise your sense of adventure. Make your reservation by calling **Ann Bon-**

nell at 410-560-1130. Anne will also provide directions. Please join us for good food and plenty of good fellowship, too.

**✠ 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:** Helen, Alma, Sara, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Linda, Robert, Nancy, Sharp, Edithann, Jay, Robert, Nancy, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Helen, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, 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, 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, Linda, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, 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, Stephen, Carol, Sandra, Elsie, John, Mary, Michael and David

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE:** LTC. R. J. Lytle, PFC Charles E. Heintz,

**✠ 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 SEVENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER TRINITY & ST. JAMES**

LORD of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things; Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and in thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

*Book Common Prayer, Page 198*

MERCIFUL Saviour who didst love Mary, and Martha and Lazarus, blessing their home with thy sacred presence: Help us, we beseech thee, to choose that better part which shall not be taken away from us. that we may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of thee, who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, livest and reignest, ever one God, world without end. *AMEN.*

Return Service Requested

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

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