

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XXI, Number 34

Edited by Anne Hawkins

August 31st, 2010

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Come to the Fall Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 12th

THE Parish's Fall Picnic will take place in the churchyard on September 12th -- the Sunday the Choir of Men & Boys return from their summer vacation.

To make it easier for all parishioners to attend, the Rector has agreed to combine the 9.15 AM and 11.15 AM services. This means there will be the usual 8.00 AM Eucharist, follow by a Choral Eucharist at 10.30 AM. The service will be over in time for you to dig into the hamburgers, hot dogs and the traditional picnic fare -- all provided free of charge by the folks at the Parish Life Committee.

As usual we are asking folks whose family names begin with letters A to M to bring a salad or some such and folks whose names begin with letters N to Z to bring a dessert. See you at the picnic! STEPHANIE VERHAGE

FROM THE CHOIR MASTER

Sing hymns to cast off the chains of tradition

OUR Fourth of July Hymnfest was such an overwhelming success, we decided to repeat the experiment with a Labor Day Hymnfest on Sunday, September 5th. The Hymnfest, which will be followed by a gala reception, will take place at the Parish Church at 6.00 PM -- the same time as our monthly services of Choral Evensong.

For many Maryland families Labor Day is traditionally celebrated in superheated automobiles in miles-long traffic jam in locations like the Bay Bridge or on I 95. Here, at last is an opportunity to cast off the chains of tradition. How much nicer it would be to celebrate the last public holiday of summer by singing your favorite hymns in the comfort of an air-conditioned church.

Come and join your voice with ours in a musical tribute to the people who built the USA. The program will be largely devoted to the parish's most popular hymns. This means we are giving you another opportunity to vote for your favorite hymn or hymns.

*We will be giving out voting slips with the orders of service at Sunday services. Submit the numbers and tunes of your favorites and drop your votes in the alms bason along with your offering. Alternatively you can mail them or drop them at the office. Then get ready to sing your heart out. **ADRIC***

ECCLESIA ANGLICANA VI

The Reformation was by no means a revolution

A FAIR-MINDED review of past events would seem to warrant two conclusions. Firstly, the history of the English Church is an unbroken continuum running back to its founding in the Apostolic Age, or least shortly thereafter. Secondly, its legitimacy is in no way dependent on Rome.

Howard Burnham Returns

as Dr. Watson

Wed. Sept. 15th At 7:00 PM
in

The Game's Afoot –

Come sing
your heart out
at St. Stephen's Church
Labour Day Hymnfest
at 6.00 PM Sunday, September 5th
Reception to follow

The fact that it stayed in communion with Rome long after the Eastern Orthodox Churches severed their relationship with the Roman Pontiff is to its credit – for the relationship was maintained despite uncanonical Roman meddling in the English Church's affairs. One might add – with sincere regret – it was Rome, not the English Church that severed that communion in the wake of the Reformation.

The English Reformation was exactly that: a reformation, not an ecclesiastical revolution. The Anglican Church reclaimed what had always been hers: Her right as a free, independent jurisdiction to return to the pure Apostolic Faith – a faith untrammelled by theological novelties and foreign tradition.

This is not mere rhetoric. It is easily documentable that the Reformation genuinely did restore to the English Church its original theological truths. Take, for example, the doctrine of the Eucharist expounded by Archbishop Aelfric, who was translated from the See of Wilton to Canterbury in 1005. In a long and learned letter to Bishop Wulfsin, shortly after the latter's consecration, Aelfric explains the mystery of the Eucharist in precisely the same way it is explained in Article XXVIII of the Articles of Religion.

That Aelfric – and the whole Church at the time – espoused the Anglican understanding of the real presence is clear from the fact that he repeats his explanation (in more succinct form) in another pastoral letter. "This sacrifice of the Eucharist," he writes, "is not Our Saviour's Body in which He suffered for us; nor His Blood which He shed on our account: it is made His Body and Blood spiritually, as the manna was which fell from the sky, and the water which flowed from the rock in the wilderness."

That's not the Roman doctrine of transubstantiation. It is the true voice of the English Reformation a full 500 years before it took place. The pope, I might add, did not have the temerity to call Aelfric a heretic. And nor did anybody else. For Aelfric was simply enunciating what was then the official doctrine of the Holy Catholic Church.

As to the domestic polity of Ecclesia Anglicana, one certainly cannot maintain that no Englishman – layman or prelate in a position of authority – acknowledged Rome as the English Church's spiritual and temporal overlord. Clearly, plenty did.

Monastics did so in their struggle to usurp the prerogatives of the secular clergy. So did nobles in battles with the monarch, the Church and their peers. So did bishops in their wranglings with kings. And kings genuflected to the pope in exchange his support shoring up shaky claims to the throne. But then, of course, a particularly painful flaw in the human character is our ability to rationalize away any betrayal and falsehood, our willingness to grasp at any straw, in order to further personal ambitions.

But those who bent the knee to Rome did so in breach of both English Canon Law and English Common Law, and in direct contradiction of the continuum of the Church's history and tradition.

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

being Sunday, September 5th, 2010

8.00 AM, 9.15 & 11.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Galatians 3:16-22
The Gospel: St. Luke 10:23-37

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalms 11 & 12
The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 15:7-15
The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 26:6-13

History, you see, does not uphold the assertions of Romanist or Protestant. The Church of England was never the creature of Rome. Neither was it cut out of whole cloth during the Reformation. The English Church is what it has always claimed to be: An independent and autonomous branch of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. And to deny that is to deny history – admittedly something that historians are very good at doing.

But does any of this matter? I believe it does. We have, after all, been members of a Church that has lost its way. The best means of regaining our sense of direction is retrace our steps along the path we have traveled. In doing so, we will discover signposts to put ourselves back on track. And those sign posts point neither to Rome, nor to Germany, and certainly not to Geneva. Our path will lead us back directly to the uniquely English Reformation Prayer Book tradition and, thence, to Canterbury, York, Winchester, Salisbury, Whitby and, yes, to Glastonbury.

It is a journey back in time that is well worth taking – for only by understanding where we came from can we learn the direction in which we should be heading. **GPH**✠

✠ **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, Doris, 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, 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, Frances, 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, 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.

✠ **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 SUNDAY TRINITY XIII
& BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, of whose only gift it cometh that thy faithful people do unto thee true and laudable service; Grant, we beseech thee, that we may so faithfully serve thee in this life, that we fail not finally to attain they heavenly promises; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book Common Prayer, Pages 207

ALMIGHTY God, by whose providence thy servant John Baptist was sent to prepare thy way of thy Son our Saviour, by preaching of repentance: Make us so to follow his doctrine and holy life, that we may truly repent according to his preaching; and after his example constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

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Episcopal Church

St. Stephen's Traditional

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