

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XXI, Number 36

Edited by Anne Hawkins

September 14th, 2010

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Service is at 10.30 AM on Picnic Sunday, Sept. 12th!

THE Parish's Fall Picnic will take place in the churchyard on September 12th -- the Sunday the Choir of Men & Boys returns from the 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, followed 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 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 RECTOR

Drawing a line with the anti-Christian world

A MAJORITY of Americans attend church every Sunday. Yet, far from being a Christian nation, America, judicially and politically, has become decidedly anti-Christian.

Such are the pressures from the secular world that many churches have altered both their liturgies and doctrines to accommodate – to a greater or lesser degree – today's politically correct orthodoxies. Indeed, such is the transformation in some churches it is questionable as to whether they can actually be called Christian.

They are, in fact, today's false prophets, who – as the Scriptural record shows – have led God's people astray since the Days in Wilderness. Christians who fail to recognize this are imperiling their own salvation and that of others.

The Bible shows that persuading the faithful to collaborate in their own spiritual destruction is one of our opponents' oldest tricks. The Book of Daniel, for example, the Book of Daniel deals with the subject at length.

It tells how Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, following his conquest of Jerusalem in the 6th Century BC, was confronted with a problem remarkably similar to that facing today's anti-Christian secularists..

He ruled a sophisticated empire -- far more advanced than the vanquished Judah. The Jewish people were obstacles both to civil order and economic and social progress. They clung to a primitive and intolerant religion that asserted that there was only one God and that they were his Chosen People.

This God, moreover, held them to a ludicrously rigid moral code that made it difficult for them to live harmoniously with the far more enlightened subjects of the Babylonian empire.

Nebuchadnezzar decided that the best way to solve the problem was win the hearts and minds of Judah's brightest young people. So he instituted a sort of scholarship program. He ordered a number of promising young Jewish aristocrats to report to the University of Babylon to undergo an intensive three-year course in Babylonian liberal arts and sciences.

They were to study the Babylonian culture: languages, literature, fine arts and sciences. All this was to be provided free: housing, education and clothes, as well the singular honor of food and wine from Nebuchadnezzar's own kitchen. Those who graduated with honors would be given the glittering prize of a senior post in the imperial civil service.

Daniel and his companions took full advantage of educational opportunities Nebuchadnezzar held out to them. They became star students. Daniel, however, seems to have been well aware that the purpose of the exercise was eradicate his Jewish faith by overwhelming it with Babylonian culture.

Daniel accepted all this without demur. But *Daniel 1:8* records: "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." Instead, he asked to be fed only vegetables.

It's telling that Daniel and his companions didn't reject the King's food by way of making a demonstration -- like a sit-in at Babylon University. They did so by politely asking their Babylonian guardians simply to serve them vegetables.

Actually, what Daniel was doing was drawing a line beyond which he would not cross; establishing a point beyond which he would not compromise with the Babylonians.

It's difficult to say why he decided to draw the line at Nebuchadnezzar's gifts of food and wine. It was really a rather arbitrary choice, but it was intended serve as a constant reminder of his faith. Equally important, Daniel and his companions maintained their spiritual purity through constant prayer and worship.

Daniel's example provides today's Christian with a blue-print for survival in an anti-Christian nation. It's vital to draw a line beyond which you will not cross. It's hard to avoid some elements of compromise with the secular world -- at school, in business, in personal relations, in politics.

But it's important to establish the point beyond which you will not go. If you don't draw that line, you'll find yourself on the slippery slope to apostasy.

You can worship God made man or man made god, but you can't have it both ways. That's the way it was for Daniel. And that's the way it is today. **GPH✠**

Howard Burnham returns as Sherlock Holmes' biographer Dr. Watson in The Game's Afoot

Weds. September 15th at 7:00 PM

Admission: Suggested donation \$10 adults & \$5 children

RECEPTION FOLLOWS

HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

Two new courses on offer

HOLY TRINITY Seminary has initiated a program, the **Associate in Theological Studies (A.T.S.)**, for all who wish to deepen their knowledge of the Bible, spirituality, and theology. The program consists of six courses and three seminars that can be completed in three years. There is one course per term, and each course meets for eight weeks on Tuesday evenings. A certificate from the Seminary will be granted to those who complete the program.

Holy Trinity has also opened a **Master of Ministry (M.Min.)** course 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 this course.

The first A.T.S. Course is entitled "TH110 Christian Worldview, Apologetics, and Evangelism." It will introduce students to the concept/importance of understanding and embracing an overall Christian worldview and provide them with some basic tools for Christian apologetics (i.e., defending the faith in the face of our neo-pagan culture), and equip them with some ideas, training and encouragement in personal evangelism.

The class will be team taught by Dn. Michael Burns, M.Min., and Fr. John Worgul, Ph.D. It will meet on Tuesdays from 7:15-9:15 PM at St. Stephen's Church, 11856 Mays Chapel

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
being Sunday, September 19th, 2010

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Ephesians 3:13-21
The Gospel: St. Luke 7:11-17

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 142
The First Lesson: I Kings 17:8-9, 17-34
The Second Lesson: St. Luke 7:11-17

Road, Timonium, MD 21093 from Tuesday, September 28th, and until on Tuesday, November 16th. For those who want to sign up for the A.T.S. program, classes are \$200.00. For those who want to audit the course, the cost is \$150.00. Make Checks payable to Christ the King Church marked "Seminary."

The M.Min. Course – BS530 Gospels and Acts will meet the following five Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 2 PM: September 18; October 9, 30; November 13; December 11. Classes will be held in the Parish House at Christ the King Church 1102 Hart Road Towson, MD 21286

Students will "walk" with Jesus on the road to Emmaus and experience the wonderful reality that the whole Old Testament speaks of Christ, and not just a few isolated prophecies. Students will learn and appreciate how Jesus and the Apostles approached theology, transforming the world in which they lived. Students will appreciate how the Kingdom motif established in the Old Testament pervades the Gospels and Acts.

Audit fee is \$150.00. You will have to bring your own lunch. Make Checks payable to Christ the King Church marked "Seminary." The instructor will be Fr. John Worgul, Ph.D

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

An invitation for Sept. 15

WHY NOT join us for fellowship, conversation and a splendid meal at 12 noon at The Reef on Padonia Road (near York Road)

on Wednesday, September 15th? 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: 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, Erlene, 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 XV
AND THE EMBER DAYS**

KEEP, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *AMEN.*

O ALMIGHTY God, who hast committed to the hands of men the ministry of reconciliation; We humbly beseech thee, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, to put it into the hearts of many to offer themselves for this ministry; that thereby mankind may be drawn to thy blessed kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book Common Prayer, Pages 210 & 260

Return Service Requested

St. Stephen's Traditional
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Timonium, MD 21093

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