

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XXI, Number 41

Edited by Anne Hawkins

October 19th, 2010

FROM HAPPY RILEY

The tears and the cheers at our mission in Peru

This summer, parishioner Happy Riley set off on the trip of a life time -- a children's medical mission, led by the Sisters of Mercy to a remote community in Peru. For Happy, one of the team's laboratory technicians, it was a life-changing experience. This concludes her story:

LIFE WAS always busy at the Chulucanes Mercy Medical Mission in northern Peru. We treated case after case of childhood illnesses, many of which are rarely, if ever, seen in the United States. Quite a number of children, for example, came to us for "frenulectomies" – an operation to free the tongue from the lower palate.

It is a minor operation to correct a relatively common oral deformity -- one that is usually performed automatically soon after birth in the U.S. But minor though it is, the procedure can make a profound change in the patients' lives. For most of the children who underwent frenulectomies in our clinic, the operation enabled them stick out their tongues – a favorite childhood prank – and talk normally for the first time.

After one such operation, a little girl whose tongue was particularly severely restricted was able speak for the very first time – to her parents' overwhelming joy.

The primitive conditions in which people lived were eye-opening. We treated many cases of scabies and tape worms -- one a foot long. Amazingly, Sister Karen's graphic lecture on tape worms was followed by a spaghetti dinner. The unsavory nature of the subject matter, however, didn't seem to stop anyone from devouring the excellent dish.

Some of our cases were heart rending. We treated a very sick seven-year-old boy with a kidney stone the size of a golf ball. He was in such terrible pain he couldn't walk, and for two weeks he had been carried everywhere by his father.

He arrived on the Monday and was sent for a scan. It turned out that surgery was vital to prevent him going into renal failure, but the procedure at the local hospital would have cost 2000 Soles (\$600), and the family could scrape together only 50 Soles (about \$16). Thanks to the mission, he underwent the life-saving operation the next day.

Tragically, some children were quite beyond our help. One very sad child had been quite normal as a toddler, but at the age of three his body began aging rapidly.

He was 10 years old when he came to us, but he looked like a malnourished little old man. He had become so frail he could not even walk and his mother carried him everywhere. We had no alternative but to tell the poor woman that there was nothing we could do for him and that his life expectancy was very short. It was heart breaking.

Another little girl was suffering from tubular sclerosis – a rare, multi-system genetic disease that causes benign tumors to grow in the brain and on other vital organs, including the kidneys, heart, eyes, lungs and skin.

She had already lost her sight, and had previously experienced a seizure which had been treated with brain surgery. But nobody had bothered to tell the family that her illness was invariably fatal. The job fell to Sister Susie. Gently, she explained to them how the disease would progress, and both the girl and her mother were relieved and comforted to hear that at least she still had some years to live.

But although we were constantly busy at the mission, it was by no means entirely a case of all work and no play. Chulucanes, the small town where our mission was based, is heir to a long ceramic tradition that dates back to the pre-Columbian Vicus, Tallan, Moche and Chimu civilizations.

And the Chulucanan pottery is located near the remains of the ancient Vicus archaeological site at the village of La

Encantada, some five kilometers out of town.

The local ceramics have their particular roots in the Tallan and Vicus cultures that flourished in the region. In fact, the Chulucanan potters still use their Vicus forbears' "negative technique" to highlight the main figures of the ceramics, generally in white and black.

Chulucanan ceramics have become so acclaimed internationally that in May, 2005, they were declared a "flag product of Peru" – meaning they symbolize Peru internationally. They are as yet the only handicraft to receive this award.

After work on the day after our arrival we were taken in a convoy of five moto-taxis to La Encantada to see where the potters make their wares. We were warned not to take cameras, extra money or passports in case of a robbery ambush -- not wholly reassuring, but we had a wonderful time all the same.

The Andes loomed over us as we drove. The ground was bare earth. Dusty banana trees lined the dirt road. The town consisted largely of stucco or concrete buildings with living quarters at the rear of the stores. Chickens, cats and very thin dogs roamed everywhere. Farm animals were fenced in by large sticks set side-by-side to form an enclosure.

Strange to relate, for such an out-of-the-way place, traffic was heavy and ever present. Indeed, Juancavrillica Street on which our convent was located seemed to be Chulucanas' equivalent to our Rt. 695. There was a constant roar of traffic outside our windows, mainly moto-taxis and big trucks.

On our first Sunday we attended mass at the local cathedral. It was packed with about a thousand people. Following the service, the cathedral square bustled with townfolks chatting and passing the time of day. It was a charming local custom for the young people of the town to stroll around the square, the boys making eyes at the girls and vice versa.

Each Sunday there was a church parade and the raising of the national flag at the cathedral, and on Sunday, August 29th the townfolk celebrated the Feast of St. Rose of Lima. There was a procession accompanied by school bands, each with the musicians proudly dressed in their school uniforms.

Later we set off for the Pacific Ocean. The two hour journey took us through desert, where the only vegetation was scrub bushes and small trees. It was a barren landscape dotted with small family homes and make-shift corrals. The construction materials of choice (or necessity) were woven reed of some sort and topped off by tin roofing, held down with old tires.

We finally arrived at our destination – a modest resort, complete with restaurant and small, old fashion cabins for motel guests. An adorable baby goat met us at the door and dogged our footstep all afternoon.

The sand on the beach was beige, interspersed with pebbles. The ocean was pleasantly warm, although, I only ventured in up to my knees. We lounged on the deck of the restaurant. Some played rummy, and others lounged around in hammocks.

We ordered lunch immediately on arrival and waited one and one half hours for it to be served. The consensus was that the staff waited until we ordered the fish of the day before they attempted to catch it. Folks who'd ordered fried chicken went hungry. Guess the cooks couldn't catch the little devils!

But a very relaxing time was had by all. And the long wait for lunch was more than made up for on the return journey. We stopped in the town of Piura for ice cream – the best rum raisin I've had in a very long time. Mmmmm! **HAPPY RILEY**

FROM THE TREASURER

The Endowment Fund

THE VESTRY is appealing to our parishioners and friends prayerfully to consider making a gift to the parish's newly established Endowment Fund. The fund is intended to provide the parish with the financial stability essential to sustain its growth.

No ultimate target has yet been set for the fund, but the initial goal is to raise at least \$200,000. The fund will be invested in a

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
being Sunday, October 24th, 2010

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-20
The Gospel: St. John 4:46b-54

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalms 30

The First Lesson: II Kings 5:1-15a
The Second Lesson: St. John 4:46b-54

parish money market account, managed by the investment firm T. Rowe Price. The income will be primarily devoted to reducing the parish's outstanding mortgage.

The Endowment Fund Drive team welcomes contributions large and small. If you would like to donate to the fund, please send your check to the Treasurer, made out to *St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church* and marked on the memo line "*Endowment Fund*."

If you wish to make an donation in memory, or in honor of a loved one or friend, please give us the information in a separate note. Also let us know if you would like to be named in the newsletter as a donor to the fund. We hope you will respond as generously to this as you have to past appeals. **BILL HAWKINS**

AN INVITATION

Join the ladies who lunch

THIS month we will be meeting at the California Pizza Kitchen on the Second Level of the Hunt Valley Center. So why not make a note on your calendar to join us there at 12 noon on Wednesday, October 20th? We can promise you good fellowship, good conversation and a very good meal. To reserve your place, call Ann Bonnell at (410) 560-1130.

**✠ St. Stephen's Traditional ✠
Episcopal Church**

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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: Helen, Georgetta, Katherine, Hindra, Sara, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Linda, Robert, Nancy, Sharp, Edithann, Doris, Jay, 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, 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, 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.

**COLLECTS FOR SUNDAY, TRINITY XX
& ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST**

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things which thou commandest; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *AMEN. BCP, Page 217*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who didst inspire thy servant Saint. Luke the Physician, to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of thy Son; Manifest in thy Church the like power and love, to the healing of our bodies and souls; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN. BCP, Page 253*

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St. Stephen's Traditional

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