

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XXI, Number 46

Edited by Anne Hawkins

November 23rd, 2010

FROM THE RECTOR

Hilda: wise counsellor to bishops and kings

LAST WEEK marked the feast of one of the greatest saints of the English Church: St. Hilda of Whitby. Hilda, who was born in the year 614, was not just the most influential church woman of her day. She was unquestionably the most influential Church leader in the British Isles.

Hilda was the grandniece of King Edwin of Northumbria – one of many small English kingdoms established by invaders from Scandinavia and Northern Germany. Hilda's people were "Angles" from the Jutland peninsula in Denmark

While she was still an infant, her father, Hereric, was murdered and Hilda was raised in her royal uncle's household. On Easter Day in the year 627, at the age of the 13, she was baptized, along with King Edwin and his whole court, in a modest wooden church built on the site of the renowned York Minster.

Ten years later she made her profession as a nun. Instead of joining her widowed sister in an abbey in Gaul, she remained in Northumbria under the tutelage of the great Celtic bishop and saint, Aidan of Lindisfarne.

Under his direction, she established several monasteries, the most important of which was the great Abbey of Whitby, an institution she founded in 657.

Whitby, then known as *Streonshalh*, was a double house – the ecclesiastical term for a community that included both men and women. Archaeological excavations indicate it consisted of a dormitory for unmarried men and another for unmarried women, separated by a chapel and small cottages housing married religious.

Hilda (whose name was simply *Hild* in Anglo-Saxon English) presided over the entire community and under her leadership the Abbey of Whitby became a major center of learning – *alma mater* to five bishops, as well as Caedmon, arguably the greatest poet in the Anglo-Saxon language.

In his *History of the English Church and People*, The Venerable Bede records that the original ideals of monasticism were strictly maintained in Hilda's abbey. All property and goods were held in common; Christian virtues were exercised, especially peace and charity. Everyone had to study the Bible and do good works.

Bede describes Hilda as a woman of great energy, who was a skilled administrator and teacher. "All who knew her called her mother because of her outstanding devotion and grace" he writes.

According to Bede, Hilda gained such a reputation for wisdom that kings and princes sought her advice. But she was also deeply concerned about the welfare of the ordinary people in her charge – people such as Caedmon, a monk, who started life as a cow herd at the monastery.

According to legend, Caedmon was so embarrassed at being tongue-tied, he spent his evenings in the cowshed rather than remain in the refectory where the community customarily listened to Gospel stories and sacred poetry.

However, one evening, after drifting off to sleep, Caedmon experienced a life-changing vision of Jesus in which our Lord asked him to compose a poem. That poem was a masterpiece that became famous as the *Song of Caedmon*.

Hilda recognized his gift and encouraged him to develop it, inspiring the former cow herd compose a large corpus of religious poems in the Anglo-Saxon tongue – most of them metrical paraphrases of narratives from Genesis and the Gospels.

In 664, King Oswy of Northumbria chose Hilda's monastery as the venue for the Synod of Whitby, the first synod of the Church in his kingdom. He invited churchmen from as far away as Wessex to attend the synod.

The king's intention was to reconcile Celtic and Roman ecclesiastical practice in order to standardize worship throughout his realm. Most of those present, including Hilda, accepted the king's decision to adopt the method of calculating Easter used in Rome, as well as the Roman style of eucharistic vestments and the tonsure as the monastic haircut is known.

The monks from Lindisfarne would not accept this and withdrew to Iona and later, to Ireland. Ironically, however, it turns out that their method of calculating of Easter was more accurate than the Roman one.

Hilda herself greatly preferred the Celtic customs in which she had been reared, but once the decision had been made, she used her moderating influence in favor of its peaceful acceptance.

Hilda suffered from a fever for the last six years of her life, but she continued to work until her death on November 17th, 680, at the age of 66. A nun named Begu claimed to have witnessed Hilda's soul being borne to heaven by angels.

Local legend has it that when sea birds fly over the the ruins of Whitby Abbey they dip their wings in honor of Saint Hilda.

Another local legend tells of a plague of snakes which Hilda turned to stone – supposedly explaining the presence of ammonite fossils on the shore. In fact, the ammonite genus *Hildoceras* takes its scientific name from St. Hilda.

Back in the Middle Ages, confidence tricksters in the locality would carve snakes' heads onto ammonites, and sell these "relics" to pilgrims as proof of her miracle. The coat of arms of Whitby includes three such 'snakestones'. GUY HAWTIN✠

FROM THE TREASURER

The Endowment Fund Drive reaches \$103,000

THE ENDOWMENT Fund has advanced to more than \$103,000 thanks a gift of Exxon Mobil shares worth in excess of \$5,000 in loving memory of Bruce H. Winand who passed away earlier this year. The gift brings us just over half way towards an initial goal of \$200,000. The Endowment Fund is intended to provide the parish with the financial stability to sustain its growth. The income will be primarily devoted to reducing the mortgage.

The Endowment Fund Drive team welcomes contributions

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
being Sunday, November 28th, 2010

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Romans 13:8-14
The Gospel: St. Matthew 21:1-13

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 50
The First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-6, 4:4-6
The Second Lesson: St. Luke 1:5-25

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. **BILL HAWKINS**

FROM THE COOKIE WALK KOOKS

Here's another recipe to try

JUST TO give you a taste of the treats you will find in our Cookie Cookbook. We are sure you'll love 'em so much, you'll have to rush out and buy our cook book.

CINNAMON CRISPS

*1/3 cup unsalted butter; 2/3 cup granulated sugar;
1 teaspoon cinnamon; 1 1/2 cup sifted all purpose flour;
2 teaspoons baking powder; 1/4 cup milk*

Cream together the butter & sugar until well combined. Sift together the flour, cinnamon & baking powder and add to butter and sugar mix, stirring to combine. Use just enough milk to make a dough that can be easily rolled out. Roll very thin

on a well floured board. Cut into shapes, squares or rounds. Bake in a 350 F oven for 8 to ten minutes until lightly browned. Remove from pans and cool on racks.

✦ **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: Diane, Don, Lynn, 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, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom, Leliliah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Marian, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy; Ellen, Jim, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Robert, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, George, Bryan, Jason, Jane, Joan, Frances, Pat, 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 and Carol.

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, 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 RECTOR:
The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley

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 SUNDAY BEFORE
ADVENT & ST HILDA OF WHITBY**

STIR UP, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 225

O MERCIFUL Saviour, who from the early days didst enlist and consecrate the devotion of women; and through whose grace Saint Hilda in her convent became a nursing mother to the Church of the North: Prosper the seed that she sowed out and the leaven that she hid within the souls of her household, and bring still to good effect among us what mercy began; through Christ our Lord. *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