

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XXI, Number 48

Edited by Anne Hawkins

December 7th, 2010

FROM THE RECTOR

There's nothing "Bah! Humbug" about Santa

THE SALVATION Army's Santas began ringing their bells three or four weeks ago, heralding not only the Savior's birth, but the start of the Christmas shopping season. And to be sure, recession or no recession, the malls have been as crowded as ever.

"Can you believe it? The 'shop-early-for-Christmas' crowd have started even earlier than usual this year," groused a friend in response to the Santas' pre-Christmas serenade,

But it is wrong to fault the Salvation Army for sending out its Santas earlier than usual – if that is indeed what has been done. It has been a particularly hard year for many ordinary families; not only the unemployed, but those whose incomes have been cut back by furloughs or reduced hours of work.

The Christian response to increased need is to dig deeper into our pockets – not mutter "Bah! Humbug!" or "Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?" like Ebenezer Scrooge.

Aside from the charitable aspects of the early arrival of the Salvation Army Santa, however, the "shop early for Christmas" advertising campaigns should be welcomed by all Christians in this apostate age. Indeed, one might argue that it would be better for Christianity if they started even earlier – in August, for example. After all, for many people, especially the young, it is pretty well the only mention of Jesus' name that they will hear all year.

It doesn't matter how commercialized the Christmas season becomes, it is quite impossible to separate it from the Christ Child in the Manger. The most barbarously vulgar advertising jingles cannot drown out the Christmas message of "Peace on earth; and good will to all men."

Even, the American Civil Liberties Union's obsessive/compulsive attempts to ban the public display of crosses, crèches and Christmas trees work only to our advantage. The publicity generated by these grinch-like efforts to ban all public mention of the birth of Christ serves, ironically, not to suppress the Christmas messages but to promote it. The ACLU, it seems, cannot win for losing.

Recently I received notice of the launch of a campaign aimed at encouraging Christians to deluge the ACLU's headquarters with Christmas cards. The idea is that a flood of Christmas greetings will disrupt their operations. The staff will have to open every single card, or risk missing envelope's containing donations. Actually, I am all for sending Christmas greetings to the ACLU, but not in malice. Think how much we would lose in public relations terms if they abandoned their anti-Christian obsession. We should be genuinely grateful to them.

But, then, the whole notion that "shopping early for Christmas" is a recent innovation is, as Henry Ford once said of history, pure "bunk." When I was seven – more years ago than I care to remember – an elderly lady who lived of nearby asked me if I would like to see her Christmas dinner.

It was late August or early September and I was beguiled by the thought of seeing a table laid out for Christmas, complete with turkey and pudding, so far ahead of time. To my surprise, however, she led me not to her dining room, but to the garden shed. There, in a roomy hutch, nibbling a juicy carrot, was the most handsome white rabbit I had ever seen. "He's going to be absolutely delicious!," she exclaimed.

Food was in short supply in England back in those days, but, even so, it seemed a terrible pity to eat such a beautiful creature. Naturally, when I got home, I begged grandmother to obtain a reprieve for the rabbit.

At length, grandmother weakened and negotiated a trade. The white rabbit was ransomed in exchange for two chickens. Our elderly neighbor got the better part of the bargain – a rabbit was not worth a single chicken in those days. But I guess that's what she was aiming for when she showed me her

Christmas dinner. In any event, it was a very merry Christmas all round -- especially for the white rabbit. GUY HAWTIN✳

FROM THE TREASURER

Please make life easier by sending in pledges

A TREASURER'S lot is not a happy one (apologies to Gilbert & Sullivan) at this time of the year. The problem, you see, is that the poor treasurer has to prepare a budget for the coming year and -- as always -- there are still a lot of pledges to come in.

If you haven't yet sent in your pledge, please pop it in the mail as soon as possible. It will make my life so much easier. Take pity on poor treasurers at this time of year. We like to celebrate Christmas too! BILL HAWKINS

Cookie Walk 2010

Saturday, December 4th.

9.00 AM to 1.00 PM in the Parish Hall

Floral baskets, table arrangements, gorgeous decorated wreaths, assorted greens, home made jams, jellies, spiced & candied pecans, Elsie's peanut brittle, brandied pears, old fashioned mincemeat, gifts and much, much more . . . & home baked

**COOKIES . . . COOKIES . . . COOKIES
COOKIES GALORE!**

Stock up for Christmas! Come buy!

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

Consider a gift of shares

A SEASONAL gift of shares is always warmly welcome by folks like us who are establishing an endowment fund. A gift of shares can also provide the giver with a useful tax write off, especially if they have an highly appreciated value. St. Stephen's maintains a brokerage account and we can either hold the shares you donate or sell them if you think that best. The parish has already benefitted from gifts of highly appreciated shares.

Currently the fund stands at over \$100,000 -- 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 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 LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join us on December 20th

THE LADIES of St. Stephen's will hold their Christmas lunch at Patrick's Restaurant on Cranbrook Road, Cockeysville, at noon on Monday, December 20th. Join us for good fellowship and good food. Call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
being Sunday, December 12th, 2010**

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Corinthians 4:1-5
The Gospel: St. Matthew 11:2-10

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalm 99
The First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19
The Second Lesson: St. Luke 1:57-80

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, Lelillah, 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.

✠ **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,

Christmas Memorial Flowers

If you wish to make a contribution towards the Church Christmas decorations in honor or memory of a loved one please complete this form and return it with a check (payable to St. Stephen's Church and marked Christmas flowers) by December 20th.

Name of Donor:

Poinsettias (Pink, Red or Jingle Bells)	# of plants
6 inches, single (4-6 blooms) @ \$8	_____
7 inches, double, (7-10 blooms) @ \$15	_____
8 inches, triple, (red & white) (10-15 blooms) @ \$22	_____

My gift is made **IN HONOR OF, IN MEMORY OF, IN THANKSGIVING FOR** (please circle)

Total enclosed: \$ _____

✠ **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: SECOND SUNDAY IN
ADVENT & ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA**

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scripture to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 92

O GOD, who art ever glorified by the miracles wrought through thy saints: Give us a true devotion to those, both known and unknown, who have been the channels of thy grace in word and power to us thine unworthy servants; that we may praise thee for all the signs and wonders done in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and God. *AMEN.*

Return Service Requested

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

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