

St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church, Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XX, Number 4

Edited by Anne Hawkins

February 2nd, 2009

FROM ALLAN GUSHUE

The challenge posed by the hard times we face

NO GOOD deed, they say, goes unpunished. And in St. Stephen's case, we have learned to our considerable dismay that this maxim applies to the careful way in which we have managed the parish's money.

We have always run on a bare bones budget and kept a watchful eye on expenses. For example, we have only three full-time employees -- the rector, the associate rector and the director of pastoral care -- and a part-time janitor. Believe me, their pay by no means exceeds their dreams of avarice.

The other three clergy attached to the church are volunteers. In other words, they pay for the privilege of working for us. You'll never find a better deal than that.

By being frugal, we have been able offer a range of services to our members, friends, their families and the community at large that is far greater than that of many much bigger churches. But in the present economic climate our thrift has come back to bite us.

Last year, thanks to the steep economic downturn, we operated at a deficit and it looks as though this unhappy situation is continuing into current fiscal year. We are by no means unique in this. Many churches have seen their income drop as their contributors struggle to handle the challenges posed by the recession.

Unlike a lot of other institutions, however, our frugality means there is very little fat to trim in our budget. This, in turn, means that if we have to cut, we will be cutting into muscle.

A very real loss to us all

This would be a very real loss to all of us. The church, you see, plays an even more important role in difficult times than it does when things are going well. It is in hard times that people truly rely on the pastoral care, counsel, spiritual comfort and guidance, the fellowship and material support that the church offers.

[Read the following article: "What the church does." You are likely to quite surprised by just how much our small parish actually does.]

As Stewardship Chairman, the problem of making up as much of this shortfall as possible falls on my shoulders. I calculate that if just 40 percent of our parishioners were prepared to give \$15 a week over and above their present pledges our money problems would largely be solved.

Of course, not everybody will be able to afford that sort of increase, while some of us might well be able to give more. If an extra \$5 a week is all you can afford, it will still be very much appreciated. If you prefer to give lump sum, that will be just fine too. Pledge cards will be available this weekend.

Good stewardship is not solely a matter of money, of course. The Parish Life Committee will be working as never before in the cause of promoting fellowship and raising funds to support the work of the parish.

Among other things, we will be starting up our highly successful "Silly Summer Suppers" program in the very near future and we use your help both in the kitchen and, just as important, to promote it in the community.

Your help would also be greatly appreciated with events such as our Pancake Supper, the St. Patrick's Night, the English Garden Party and the Cookie Walk.

Ideas are things that are no less important. If you have an idea fund raising -- or for anything else that will advance the work of the church -- don't be shy. Please let us know. We

cannot promise that every idea will be implemented. After all, there are limits to what we can do -- dictated by resources, skills and available manpower. All advice will be gratefully received, and carefully considered.

Please join with me and my vestry colleagues and prayerfully consider what you can do to help the parish in these difficult times. I need this church and the faith it preaches. And I have faith in you that together we can do what's needed.

Your Friend in Christ -- ALLAN GUSHUE

What the parish does

THE SLOGAN "We never close" has been used by all manner of institutions from stock brokerages to hamburger joints to decidedly risqué vaudeville theatres, but it is also an axiom equally applicable to St. Stephen's Church.

The work of parish and its clergy does not grind to a halt when the sanctuary doors are finally locked on Sunday afternoon. Nor is it merely a matter of the clergy driving off to conduct Sunday services at other local institutions. Nor is it just that our clergy are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to meet the pastoral care needs of parishioners, their families and their friends.

Consoling, counselling and comforting our members and friends is a vitally important component of St. Stephen's mission. However a parish that takes Jesus' Great Commission seriously has a solemn obligation reach out to the community at large -- not only in preaching and prayer but with a practical ministry of help and healing that has characterized of the Church since its very inception.

St. Stephen's is not a large parish nor is it a wealthy one. It has no endowment and has always operated an extremely lean budget. But for the past 20 years, it has striven to serve in practical fashion the sick, poor, neglected and needy folk not only in our own community, but in the inner city as well.

The parish provides pastoral care and support at many area health care facilities. These include the Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Union Memorial Hospital and Howard County General Hospital in Columbia. Since 1990, The Joseph Richey Hospice has been a particular focus of our community service efforts. Our pastoral care and chaplaincy commitments are expected to increase when construction starts on its long-awaited children's hospice, which will provide much needed hospice services for an estimated 300 children and their families annually

Serving the elderly

Another of the parish's long-standing missions is At Jacob's Well, a charity that helps Baltimore's large mentally ill, homeless population. We have helped At. Jacob's Well to set up and equip a chapel at its East 25th Street Baltimore headquarters. In addition to holding services there and providing pastoral care, we also conduct monthly collections of non-perishable foodstuffs and household goods to furnish its apartments and feeds its tenants.

Senior citizens constitute one of the most neglected sectors of the population. Therefore, for the past two decades, St. Stephen's has sought to serve the elderly by providing pastoral care and worship services at many local nursing homes and retirement communities. These include Glen Meadows Retirement Community, The Maples Assisted Living in Towson, the Genesis facilities at Brightwood, Timonium and -- shortly, we hope -- Columbia. We also conduct occasional services for residents at Edenwald, Blakehurst and Keswick.

The parochial clergy of St. Stephen's also serve as chaplains to local civic organizations, including the Navy League, the Kiwanis, and the St. George's Society of Baltimore.

Closer to home, the parish organizes regular neighborhood blood drives for the American Red Cross -- an especially difficult and time consuming business in view of federal health directives that disqualify increasing numbers of potential donors from giving blood.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
February 1st, 2009

8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION
The Epistle: Roman 13:1-7
The Gospel: St. Matthew 8:1-13
FOR YOUR MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalm 66
First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-11
Second Lesson: St. Luke 4:16-32

FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPT.

Lenten Study: "Mere Christianity"

THIS YEAR'S Lenten Series will be interactive study of C.S. Lewis' thought-provoking book "Mere Christianity." The series will begin at 6.45 PM after Evening Prayer on Wednesday, March 4th, 2009, and will continue every Wednesday evening until April 1st.

We are announcing the study earlier than usual because some of you may wish to read "Mere Christianity" ahead of time. If you have already read it, why not root around your bookshelves for your copy and re-read it? It is truly one of the great Christian classics. **BROCK JOHNSON**

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

O GOD, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright; Grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 114

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

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Web Address: <http://www.ststephens-md.org>

RECTOR: The Ven. Guy P. Hawtin
ASSOCIATE RECTOR: The Rev. James V. Johnson, Jr.
VICARS: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley, The Rev. Robert Menas & The Rev. Jonathan Filkins
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: McKayla, Rosemarie, Debbie, David, Skippy, Jack, Grace, Bob, Fran, Doris, Carolyn., Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erline, Jack, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, Polly, Katherine, Helen; William, Betty, Cal, Wendell, Jack, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Dorcas, Walt., Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Leliliah, Jennifer, Miriam, Harriet, Karen, Steve, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, James, Suzanne, Marian, Edith Anne, Steven, Jeanne, Betty, Judith, Angela, Tammy; Ellen, Jim, Patricia, Henry, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Robert, Christine, Ruth, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, George, Bryan, Jason, Jane, Joan, Frances, Mary, Ernie, Pat, Lynn, Michael, Ray, Leslie, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Robert, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Rachel, Laura, Stacey, Frank, Alma, Christine, John, Henry, Eric, Naomi, Pam, Betty, John, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Elizabeth, William, Gloria, George, Lee Emily, Elsie, Bruce, Regina, Lewis, Madolin, Eudora, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, Mackie, Jody, Sheila, Jo Anne, Thomas, Jeanne, Sister Catherine-Grace, Mae, Marilyn, Lawrence, Rebecca, Dorothy, Joanne, ✠Albion, Martha, Matthew, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Wendell, Vivian, Geradine, John, Maxine, Ann Sharon, Tom, Dennis, Alice & Anita.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Georgetta, Carolyn, Perry, Suzanne, Tony, Robert, Doris, Drake, David, The Norris family; Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Tom, Susan, Debbie, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, Jo Anne, Mary, Gregory, Isabel, Bobby, Dorothy, Harriet, Darren, Scott, Rebecca, William, Charles, Joyce, Asfa, Eleanor, Kathy, Linda, James, Barry, Ann, Evelyn, Jeanette, Elizabeth, Virginia, Mildred, Chris, Micki, Stephen, Erik, Carol, Sandra, Elsie, Rhae, John, Robert, Mary, Michael & Loyal.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Alex Bursi, US. Navy; Capt. Charles Bursi & Lt. Col. Harry Hughes, U.S. Air Force; Lt. Col. R. J. Lytle & PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, U.S. Army.

**HYMNS FOR THE SUNDAY
CALLED SEPTUAGESIMA**

Sunday, February 8th, 2009

PROCESSIONAL: 329 (Frankfort)
How bright appears the Morning Star

GRADUAL: 362 (Monk's Gate)
Master of eager youth

SERMON: 479 (Hyfrydol)
Love divine, all loves excelling

COMMUNION HYMN: 210 (Schmuecke Dich)
Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

RECESSIONAL: 539 (Truro)
Soon may the last glad song arise

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