

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XX, Number 6

Edited by Anne Hawkins

February 17th, 2009

FROM THE RECTOR

A disintegrating society ushered in the Gesimas

THE THREE Pre-Lenten Sundays -- Septuagesima, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima -- have gradually slid into disuse over the past century or so. Indeed, St. Stephen's is one of the few churches in the Baltimore area that still observes them.

They were introduced to the Church Calendar some 1,400 years ago, at a time when the whole of the civilized world appeared to be in the process of disintegration. Barbarian hordes howled at the gates of Europe's great cities and, one by one, these bastions of civilization fell to heathen savages.

The Church added the "Gesimas" to the Lenten Fast in order to afford Christians an additional period of self-examination to identify the spiritual and social failings that had brought about this catastrophic situation..

Curiously enough, the problems that were afflicting the Roman Empire -- which at that time embraced much of the

fascination on Americans. Our Founding Fathers felt a shared experience and often spoke of America in Biblical terms -- the New Jerusalem; the Land of Milk and Honey; and the like.

Today we also live in uncertain times. Frequently it feels as though barbarians are howling at our gates. It might, thus, be a profitable Lenten exercise to do as the Christians of the 7th Century did and study the Scriptures with a view to identifying our own society's spiritual and social failings. GPH✘

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Eat your fill at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

MAKE SURE you don't forget one of the top gastronomic events of the year -- St. Stephen's great 2009 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, which takes place in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, February 24th, from 5.30 PM to 8.00 PM.

It is a truly unique occasion. It is organized and conducted by the Men of the Parish (albeit they are sponsored and exceedingly closely supervised by the ladies of the Parish Life Committee).

They cordially invite all members and friends of St. Stephen's to partake of their traditional Shrove Tuesday fare: Home made American, English AND Polish pancakes, smothered in butter and syrup, accompanied by generous helpings of succulent sausage and a wide selection of soft drinks.

This is the best deal in Baltimore. For adults, admission will be \$5 to defray expenses, while for children admission will be half price (\$2.50 each) for the first two in the family; all the others eat free. Come one! Come all! This is dining at its best!

...And by the way, we are having a St. Patrick's Party!

MARK your calendars as we shall be celebrating the feast of the blessed St. Patrick with a rip roaring Irish party on Saturday, March 14th at 6:00pm. And, naturally, all things Irish will be warmly welcomed.

So your forebears hail from Outer Mongolia! No problem! Everybody's Irish on St. Patrick's Day! Just dress yourself in a bit of green and then sit back to enjoy fine food and hearty entertainment. Feast on corned and roast beef with all the trimmings. Gorge yourself on mouth watering deserts. Ale and soft drinks will be served and you'll have the chance to try our green beer -- if we can find the coloring!

The cost is a modest \$10:00 per adult. Children are welcome at \$5:00 for the first two; thirds, fourths and fifths are free.

NOTE: We would much appreciate some male muscle (female too, for that matter) to set up the Parish Hall for the party. Please be at the parish hall at 3:00 PM on Saturday, March 14th.

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.

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

The Sunday called Sexagesima

O LORD God, who seest that we put not our trust in anything that we do; Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN. Book of Common Prayer, Page 120**

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE February 25th, 2007

Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

8.00 AM: Union Memorial Hospital Auditorium

10.00 AM: The Parish Church

12 Noon: Union Memorial Hospital

7.00 PM: The Parish Church

Choral Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

civilized world -- were very similar to the social problems that are afflicting our society today.

Crime of all sorts was rampant; white collar crime such as fraud and political corruption, as well as muggings, rape and murder.

The traditional family structure was disintegrating. Despite an increasingly heavy tax burden, the physical and social infrastructure of the empire's major cities was crumbling.

The dual burden of crime and taxes served as a powerful incentive for the upper class and middle class -- indeed, anyone who could beg, borrow, or steal the money -- to abandon the towns and flee to the suburbs .

Back in those days the Pre-Lenten observances consisted of solemn public processions and recitations of litanies, accompanied by the intensive study -- and meditation upon -- Holy Scripture.

Christians, of course, believed that the Bible might have some answers and, lo and behold, they discovered was that that their situation was by no means unique. The children of Israel had gone through the same experience -- not once, but several times.

And they also learned that the first period of social disintegration occurred shortly after the children of Israel had entered Canaan to take possession of the Promised Land -- an event that should have heralded universal joy and prosperity.

At that time, the children of Israel had every reason to be supremely confident. They had conquered armies much more powerful than their own. National morale was at an all time high. They were united in a common bond of Faith, commonality of purpose, and in universally esteemed laws.

Yet, according to the Books of Judges, within two or three decades of their arrival, the children of Israel had abandoned the one true God who had given them victory and were worshipping the Canaanite deity Baal. Soon their society was unraveling fast. No longer were they invincible. The land was overrun by marauding bands of Bedouin called Midianites.

The Children of Israel have traditionally exerted a powerful

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE SUNDAY CALLED QUINQUAGESIMA
February 22nd, 2009**

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION
The Epistle: I Corinthians 13:1-13
The Gospel: St. Luke 18:31-43
11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalm 139:1-16
First Lesson: Isaiah 51:1-8
Second Lesson: I Corinthians 13:1-13

riet, 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.

✠ 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, Randy, 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, Lelilah, Jennifer, Miriam, Har-

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.

A pledge card for those who have not received one at church - Allan Gushue, Stewardship Chairman

✠ St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church ✠

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093

My contribution towards helping the Parish through a difficult time.

I pledge to contribute an additional \$..... weekly to reduce the operating deficit.

The pledge will begin on

My Name..... Date

Address:

✠ St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church ✠

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093
Tel.: Office (410) 560-6776; Night 665-1278
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.

**HYMNS FOR THE SUNDAY
CALLED QUINQUAGESIMA**

Sunday, February 22nd, 2009

PROCESSIONAL: 456 (St. Fulbert)
My God, I love thee

GRADUAL: 353 (Caithness)
Majestic sweetness sits enthroned

SERMON: 360 (Bishophthorpe)
Immortal love, for ever full

COMMUNION HYMN: 195 (St. Chrysostom)
Jesus, my Lord, my God, my all

RECESSIONAL: 498 (Gardiner)
Where cross the crowded ways of life

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Episcopal Church**

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Timonium, MD 21093

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