

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XX, Number 9

Edited by Anne Hawkins

March 10th, 2009

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

St. Patrick Party is best eating deal in Baltimore

ST. STEPHEN'S parties are not merely gastronomic events, they offer the best eating out deal in Baltimore. Where else can you get corned beef, roast beef, an array of tempting salads and dessert for a mere \$10 per adult? (Children are \$5 for the first two, the others eat free.)

You can't find it anywhere else but St. Stephen's, that's what!

This is why you mustn't miss our St. Patrick's Party on Saturday, March 14th. Celebrate the great Irish saint to the music of that magnificent Celtic band **Dark Horse**. It will be a rip-roaring party. There'll be lemonade in plenty, with ale and wine and soda available at modest prices.

It doesn't matter where your forebears hailed from. Everybody's Irish on St. Patrick's Day! Just deck yourself out in a bit of green and join in the fun.

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.

THE LENTEN SERIES

"Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis,

6:45 PM, WEDNESDAY EVENINGS UNTIL APRIL 1ST
Soup, food for thought and the
best bread in Baltimore!

FROM THE RECTOR

Competence trumps character? That is simply self-deception

EXPERIENCE teaches us that human beings have an infinite capacity for self-deception. This leads us to put our trust in the most untrustworthy ideas, both great and small.

I first came to this realization when I was quite a small boy – not, I hasten to add, that I was then, or am now, entirely immune to the tendency, myself.

The first time I remembering encountering it was while talking to an elderly gentleman in our village. He was an old sailor, who constantly chewed tobacco, and I was utterly fascinated by his ability to spit over vast distances with remarkable accuracy.

I had secretly practiced spitting myself, but was nowhere near as accomplished as the old sailor, so I asked him to what he attributed his great skill. "Chewing tobacco" was his reply and he commended the habit to me both to improve my spitting and on health grounds.

"Chewing tobacco is really good for the teeth," he explained, earnestly, "I don't need to brush my teeth because chewing tobacco keeps them healthy. I'm 82 years old and I've chewed 'baccy all my life and I've never had a tooth pulled. Just look at them."

With that he opened his mouth to demonstrate the veracity of his statement. To be sure they were all there – as far as I could tell – but they were just as black as the ace of spades, and his breath would have paralysed a polecat. The evidence, I decided, simply didn't support his claims.

I next encountered the phenomenon while chatting with Sam Walker, my grandfather's gardener. He had been a soldier in the South Africa War and in the First World War, too. He attributed his survival to always having a rabbit's foot in his pocket.

"Nothing like a rabbit foot for bringing you luck and keeping

you safe," he assured me.

It struck me that there was something wrong with the logic of his assertion. After all, possession of a rabbit's foot hadn't done much for the rabbit's survival. The prayers he said might have had more to do with it, I concluded.

Later, I learned that people deceive themselves about much more important things than chewing tobacco and rabbits' feet.

In the 1930s, for example, large numbers of people in Europe deluded themselves into thinking Adolf Hitler's intentions were essentially peaceful despite the fact that he had openly revealed quite the opposite in his book *Mein Kampf*.

Similarly, during the same period, a vast majority of people on the political left took Soviet show trials orchestrated by Josef Stalin seriously. They actually believed the poor souls hauled before his kangaroo courts were guilty of the grotesque crimes to which they had been tortured into confessing.

In the wake of the Vietnam War it was a common self-deception to regard the Soviet Union as somehow the moral equivalent of the United States. Now that the Iron Curtain has fallen, it is an equally common self-deception to regard post-Soviet Russia as a natural ally.

But perhaps the most serious self-deception of all has been the belief that the 50-year-long campaign to banish the moral teachings of the faith of our Founding Fathers – the Christian faith – from the public square has had no baleful consequences for our nation.

For starters, it has given birth to the notion that competence trumps character – to the destruction of the American family, the coarsening of personal and public behavior, and widespread dishonesty the spheres of both politics and business.

Indeed, the origins of our present economic distress arise directly from the efforts of the judiciary – aided and abetted by politicians and business leaders – to exclude God and his Commandments from the nation's public life. **GPH**✘

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE

Blood Drive on March 23rd

OUR NEXT Community Blood Drive will take place on Monday, March 23rd., from 3:00 PM until 8.30 PM. There is still a tremendous shortage of blood in our area and donors are urgently needed. If you can spare an armful and would like to become a donor, please contact the Parish Office at 410-560-6776. Alternatively you can sign on the forms provided at the back of the church. **ANNE HAWKINS**

FROM MARTHA MILLER

Got any old Christmas cards?

PLEASE remember we are looking for your old Christmas cards -- the more colorful the better. We use them for crafts, such as making decorative lids for our Cookie Walk jams and jellies. If you still have some tucked away, please bring them to church and drop them off at the church office. **MM**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Pancake Supper a great success

THE SHROVE Tuesday Pancake Supper was a tremendous success in terms of both fellowship and finances. We took in some \$506 at the door (that's an awful lot of \$5s and \$2.50s) and made a net profit of \$257. It means we served more than 100 people. Normally, we don't make a profit on the pancake supper, thanks to you support we did really well and in these hard times every dollar we can make for the parish counts.

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

The Second Sunday in Lent

ALMIGHTY God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN. BCP, Page 127*

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
March 15th, 2009**

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION
The Epistle: Ephesians 5:1-14
The Gospel: St. Luke 11:14-28
11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalm 34
First Lesson: Zechariah 1:1-6, 12-17
Second Lesson: St. Mark 8:27-9:1

riet, Karen, Steve, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Marian, Edith Anne, Steven, Jeanne, 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, 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, John, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Elizabeth, 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, Al-bion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Wendell, Vivian, Geradine, John, Maxine, Ann Sharon, Tom, Dennis & 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: James, Trisha, Mary, McKayla, Randy, Rosemarie, Debbie, David, Skippy, Jack, Grace, Bob, Fran, Doris, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, Polly, Katherine, Helen; William, Betty, Cal, Wendell, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Dorcas, Walt., Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Leliliah, Jennifer, Miriam, Har-

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Donna, 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

MyName.....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 THIRD
SUNDAY IN LENT**

Sunday, March 15th, 2009

PROCESSIONAL: 340 (Breslau)
We sing the praise of him who died

GRADUAL: 158 (Puer nobis)
O splendour of God's glory bright

SERMON: 56 (Jesu dulcis memoria)
Kind maker of the world

COMMUNION: 194 (Unitas fratrum)
Very bread, good Shepherd, tend us

RECESSIONAL: 477 (Tysk)
God himself is with us

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Episcopal Church**

11856 May's Chapel Road
Timonium, MD 21093

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