

# St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XX, Number 10

Edited by Anne Hawkins

March 17th, 2009

## FROM THE RECTOR

### A case of animal rights or Animal Crackers?

*The Tale of Peter Rabbit* was one of my favorite books when I was a small boy, and rabbit pie was one of my favorite dishes. I raise the subject because, aged five, I was able to do two things that many adults today are apparently unable to do: distinguish between fantasy and reality; and recognize that animals are not simply "less-abled" human beings.

This struck me while listening to an earnest young student discuss animal behavior. It rapidly became clear that the learning being propounded was second hand – acquired from textbooks authored by folks who had no more first hand knowledge of animal behavior than the student.

A genuine understanding of animal behavior might seem a less than important item on the school curriculum compared, say, with English literature, foreign languages, social studies and sex-ed. But actually a lack of a first hand acquaintanceship with animals and, indeed, the land, itself, is gravely skewing social – and political – attitudes, especially in the realms of biology and the environment.

## 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!"

It is not merely a case of people not knowing where their food comes from or how it is produced – though that is truly a serious matter. Indeed, judging by the exceedingly odd shapes of the chunks of meat on display in supermarkets these days, even butchers are ignorant of the anatomy of the animals they are paid to dismember.

Our ignorance of things agricultural creates serious confusion in many areas of plant and animal husbandry – not least the realm of genetic engineering, a science that has made a tremendous contribution to feeding the world's hungry.

It is by no means a new phenomenon. We have been engaged in genetic engineering for millennia, creating higher yielding cereals and improving breeds of domestic animals. One of the oldest examples of genetic engineering in animal husbandry on record is found in the 30<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Book of Genesis – an account of Jacob's efforts to improve to quality of his herds of cattle and goats.

The difference between genetic engineering in Jacob's day and our own is that while methodologies are essentially the same, modern science enables us to speed up the process enormously.

It is important to bear this in mind when weighing arguments about genetically engineered food – for many of the objections fall into the realms of ignorance and "vain superstition."

Furthermore, many animal rights groups appear to be labouring under a similar ignorance of animal behavior and husbandry. Indeed, farmers and others in the field of animal husbandry find the contention that animals have "rights" similar to human rights entirely perverse. Of course, it is wrong to harm or maltreat animals in our care, but it is equally wrong to anthropomorphize them by endowing them with near human qualities.

While evolution certainly represents scientific orthodoxy, leading evolutionists no longer subscribe to Darwin's "stairway" theory. Darwin theorized that there are many "steps" between us and the great apes and chimpanzees, but the distance between us and them is one of degree and not kind (*Darwin, 1871/1982, p 445*).

Modern theory, by contrast, asserts that people differ in kind and in degree from animals. Evolution is really about diversity and differences rather than progress up a stairway. For instance, they believe only people can take the perspective of others. Only humans have minds that can reinterpret observable events, attribute reasons and causality, and see the world as others see it.

Actually, folks who worked on farms could have told them that centuries, nay, millennia ago. "Dumb animals" are by no means dumb, but nor are they intellectuals.

How on earth did we develop our strange modern fads and fancies? Part of the explanation might be that in 1938, agricultural workers accounted for about 25 percent of the U.S. labor force, while a majority of people lived in small rural communities. Today less than two percent of American workers work on the land, while most people live in cities or suburban communities.

As our direct acquaintanceship with farm animals and their counterparts in the wild has declined, so our impressions about them have been increasingly formed by fantasy stories, cartoons, Disney movies and the like. Deer have morphed into Bambi, bears into Yogi, and chimpanzees into Bozo, the animal world's lovable, cuddly clown.

This is an utterly false impression. Animals do not have our reasoning powers – or anything like them. Treating animals in the field or in the wild as pets is fraught with danger. Indeed, the most vicious creature I ever met was the cutest little Jersey bull you ever set your eyes on. The runner up was Oliver, an ever-so-appealing Basset Hound. **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**

## COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

### The Third Sunday in Lent

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth the right hand of thy majesty to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN. BCP, Page 128*

## ✠ 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 SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**March 22nd, 2009**

**8.00 AM & 9.15 AM**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Epistle: Galatians 4:21-31**

**The Gospel: St. John 6:1-14**

**11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER**

**The Psalter: Psalm 116**

**First Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-13**

**Second Lesson: St. John 6:41-51**

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, Harriet, 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, Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Wendell, Vivian, Geradine, John, Maxine, Ann Sharon, Tom, Dennis & Anita.

**LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Donna, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Georgetta, Carolyn, Perry, Suzanne, Tony, Robert, Doris, Drake, 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 FOURTH  
SUNDAY IN LENT**

Sunday, March 22nd, 2009

**PROCESSIONAL: 585 (Land of Rest)**

Jerusalem, my happy home

**GRADUAL: 201 (Malabar)**

Strengthen for service

**SERMON: 570 (Llangloffan)**

O Jesus, I have promised

**COMMUNION: 504 (Rhosymedre)**

Our Father, by whose Name

**RECESSIONAL: 337 (Rockingham)**

When I survey the wondrous cross

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

11856 May's Chapel Road

Timonium, MD 21093

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