

St. Stephen's News

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

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

June 23rd, 2009

FROM THE RECTOR

English prayer books go back to Dark Ages

MOST students of Church history are probably under the impression that the first English Prayer Book is the First Prayer Book of King Edward VI, which was authorized for use in 1549. True, this wonderful book is the ancestor of all the Books of Common Prayer in use in the world of Anglicanism today – albeit a very distant one in many cases, with its literary and theological DNA scarcely discernable. But it cannot fairly be claimed that it is the English Church's first prayer book.

The English Church has played a major role in the liturgical life of the Church catholic for more than one and a half millennia. Not only that, the liturgical works that survive from times prior to the Seventh Century demonstrate a lively liturgical tradition in which much, if not all, of the Eucharistic rite was celebrated in the vernacular rather than Latin. Thus it can be claimed they were distinctly English liturgies.

Latin, however, was the *lingua franca* of the polyglot British society which by the 6th & 7th Centuries embraced a number of languages, including at least three major strains of Gaelic (four if you include Pictish), Anglo Saxon and Old Norse, and numerous dialects of each.

When it came to the written word, Latin was a convenient compromise in an age when books, even of the cheapest sort, were laboriously hand copied by scribes. But while service books were often written in Latin, it was the custom for celebrants to make a running translation of the liturgy into the

written. Amen." Then, having completed his self-appointed task, he begged for the *Gloria in excelsis* to be sung and, as the brother sung the great hymn, Bede died.

Contrary to common belief, England from the late 6th Century to the early part of the 9th Century was among the most prosperous – and relatively tranquil – places in the West.

Europe, as St. Gregory of Tours records, was wracked by constant warfare. Northern and central Italy was laid waste by barbarians. Rome had been put to sack not only by the barbarian invaders, but its own unpaid soldiery. Sicily had been conquered by Moslem hordes, who used it as a base to invade southern Italy and threaten Rome itself.

But with the rise of the Frankish Empire in the mid-8th Century, the situation began to stabilize. Charles or Karl, the Frankish king, later proclaimed the Holy Roman Emperor. Charlemagne, as he came to be known, was not content to remain a semi-barbarian tribal leader.

He transformed the Palace School at his court in Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) – founded by his ancestors to teach royal children manners – into a center for the study of religion and the liberal arts. And the man he chose to lead it was a disciple of the Venerable Bede, an eminent English scholar named Alcuin from St. Peter's School at York. St. Peter's was renowned as a centre of learning not only in religious matters but also in the liberal arts, literature and science.

In about 780, Alcuin became Charlemagne's chief advisor on ecclesiastical and educational affairs. And from 782 to 790, Alcuin's pupils included the king, himself, his sons Pepin and Louis, the young men sent to be educated at the court, and the young clerics attached to the palace chapel.

Alcuin lastingly transformed education in Europe with the philosophy of the York School. And in the course of doing so, he – unintentionally perhaps -- preserved for future generations the works of ancient Rome's literary giants (Virgil, Livy, Cicero, Ovid, Tacitus, Horace, Terence, Martial, etc.). Alcuin, you see, insisted his apprentice scribes perfect their skills on secular writings before being permitted to tackle the sacred.

More directly relevant to the subject under discussion, Charlemagne considered the Eucharistic liturgy in use by the Roman pontiff too simple and primitive for use in an emperor's court. Thus he commissioned Alcuin to compose the Eucharistic liturgy for the Holy Roman Empire.

Ironically perhaps, until the Counter Reformation which began in the mid-16th Century, the Mass said by the Roman pontiffs was a rite essentially inspired by the Rite of York – one of the great English pre-reformation liturgies. Even more ironically, the Mass that emerged from the counter-reformation was largely derived from the Sarum Rite, the oldest of the English Eucharistic rites. **GPH**✘

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE

Life Line Screening on Wednesday, July 1st

Our Life Line Screening event is right around the corner – Wednesday, July 1st to be precise. Life Line Screening is a leading provider of community-based health screenings in the U.S. – serving some 1 million people a year.

They screen for risk of such illnesses as cardiovascular disease – the Number 1 killer of both men and women; stroke and osteoporosis. Appointments are limited and pre-registration is required. To register, please call 1-800-679-5192.

For osteoporosis, Life Line Screening uses a quantitative ultrasound bone densitometer, using the heel as a measurement site, to assess one's risk of osteoporosis. This screening compares your bone density to that of the average 20-year-old adult female, according to World Health Organization guidelines.

The osteoporosis screening is not only for women. Of the 10 million Americans who have been diagnosed with osteoporosis, 2 million are men.

Return of the best value in Baltimore!

SILLY SUMMER SUPPERS

Every Thursday at 6.00 PM
beginning June 11th, 2009

Menu: Salad, Entree & Dessert -- delicious!
Just \$10 per adult ■ Children \$5

Beverages: Wine, \$3 per glass; Soda, \$2

vernacular – a practice continued by priests today in places, such as the Philippines, which boast multiple languages.

You'll find evidence of this practice, for example in the autobiography of Ireland's patron saint. In his *Confessions*, written in the late 5th/early 6th centuries, St. Patrick grumbles that his native Latin has been ruined by years of speaking the "barbarous" Irish tongue. His *Confessions* show he wasn't exaggerating. Patrick's Latin is execrable – far worse than one would expect of a priest who routinely celebrated in Latin.

By the way, this habit of saying the liturgy at least partially in the vernacular seems to have continued into the early Middle Ages when the Epistle and Gospel were often read in the vernacular during parochial Masses. And it's worth noting that Archbishop Thomas Cranmer reinstated this practice as a temporary measure before the 1549 Prayer Book was authorized.

Latin, however, did not entirely displace the major local languages as the medium for religious publishing in Britain until late in the first Millennium. A considerable body of writings remains from the ancient church in Wales and Ireland; while among the towering literary achievements of the English Church in the 8th Century was the Venerable Bede's translation of the Gospels into Anglo Saxon.

The great historian and scholar, who spent virtually his entire life at the great Monastery at Jarrow, is best known today for his *History of the English Church and People*. But tradition has it that his last words were those of the final verse of St. John's Gospel:

"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sunday, June 28th, 2009**

8:00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION
The Epistle: I St. Peter 5:5-11
The Gospel: St. Luke 15:1-10
11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalm 103
First Lesson: Ezekiel 34:20-24
Second Lesson: St. Luke 15:1-10

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Summer courses from our new Anglican seminary

THE NEWLY-established Anglican Seminary, **Holy Trinity Theological Seminary**, is offering an exciting summer course on St. Thomas Aquinas at **The Church of Christ the King, 1102 Hart Road, Towson, 21286..** The instructor will be The Rev. John Worgul, Dean of Holy Trinity Seminary.

The course is academically more demanding than the recent four-day Prayer Book course. It will run for 11 Monday evenings from June 15th to August 24th. The cost to audit the course is only \$150, which works out at about the price of a dozen evenings at the movies. For further details about these courses, contact The Rev. John Worgul at Tel: 410-861-6876 or on the Internet at frjworgul@yahoo.com.

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

Second Sunday After Trinity

O LORD, who never failest to help and govern those whom thou doest bring up in thy steadfast fear and love; keep us, we beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence, and

✠ **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
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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.

make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN. BCP, Page 191*

✠ 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: Charlotte, Catherine, Algin, Sam, Rosemary, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, James, Patty, Antonio, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Rosemarie, Debbie, Jack, Grace, Bob, Fran, Doris, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, Polly, Katherine, Helen; William, Betty, Cal, Wendell, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Dorcas, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom. 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, 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, Naomi, Pam, John, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Elizabeth, Gloria, Lee Emily, Elsie, Bruce, Regina, Lewis, Madolin, Eudora, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, Mackie, Jody, Sheila, Jo Anne, Thomas, Jeanne, Sister Catherine-Grace, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Rebecca, Dorothy, Joanne, Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Geraldine, Maxine, Ann Sharon & Dennis.

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, David, 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.

REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Eugene Threadgill;

THOSE WHO MOURN: Peter Threadgill & Family

THE HYMNS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday, June 28th, 2009

PROCESSIONAL: 289 (St. Anne)

O God, our help in ages past

GRADUAL HYMN: 287 (Ebling)

Give praise and glory unto God

SERMON : 551 (Ein' Feste Burg)

A mighty fortress is our God

COMMUNION: 345 (Dominus regit me)

The King of love my shepherd is

RECESSIONAL: 523 (Russia)

God the Omnipotent

St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church

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