

# St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XX, Number 32

Edited by Anne Hawkins

August 18th, 2009

## FROM THE RECTOR

### Loving one another is harder than they think

A CALLER on a radio talk show recently ventured to suggest that all would be right with American society if only people would love each other a bit more.

It's hard to quarrel with that. Clearly, if drug dealers loved addicts a bit more they wouldn't enslave them with narcotics. If muggers loved their victims a bit more they wouldn't rob and maim and kill them. If rioters loved their neighbors a bit more they wouldn't burn their homes and pillage their property. And so *ad infinitum*.

There is, however, nothing profound about this thought. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that loving each other a bit more is the answer to almost all society's ills -- at least those that aren't occasioned by accident or infirmity. But the problem is not identifying the problem. If that's all there is to it, the Flower Children would have solved things back in the 1960s.

Trouble is that while we know things would be very much better if we all did love people just a little bit more,

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the sad fact of the matter is that we don't love each other more -- not in the least. In fact, these days it seems that we love each other an awful lot less.

Nor should we find this entirely surprising. There is nothing very natural about people loving other people in a generic sense -- beyond our immediate relatives and, perhaps, the folks in our own social circle. As for the wider world, most of the people in it are definitely suspect.

So where does this notion that we should all love one another come from? The answer is that Jesus commanded his followers to love their fellow men as much as they love themselves.

But the very fact that Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors is a sure indication that loving people outside our immediate circle of family and friends does not come naturally or easily. It isn't, say to say, one of our natural human inclinations.

If loving our neighbors came naturally Jesus wouldn't have bothered to waste his breath on the subject. And if loving them came easily once he'd pointed it out, he wouldn't have made such a big deal about it.

This should dispose of the question as far as Christians are concerned, but the talk show caller was not a Christian. Indeed, she spoke disparagingly of Christians as she was making her point.

It is something of a paradox that so many non-Christians seem to subscribe to the idea that it is natural for people to love one another. How could they possibly have gotten such a bizarre idea?

There is nothing, for example, in evolutionary theory to lead them to believe such a thing. What's more, the grisly, blood stained history of 2th century provides ample evidence to the contrary.

Philosophically speaking, the concept of altruistic love as a natural phenomenon hardly squares with the general acceptance of assertions that there are no such things as moral absolutes. Nor is it reflected in the widespread adoption of the practice of "situation ethics" -- ethics the change according the situation confronting people.

An obvious example of "situation ethics" at work can be seen in the media on a daily basis. Journalists who demand they be told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth seem to see no contradiction serving up to their audiences a distorted melange of omissions, half truths and evasions.

The contention that there are no moral absolutes and that ethics change according to the situation provide the rationale for championing the cause of one sector of society at the expense other sectors.

But such behavior is scarcely calculated to engender feelings of affection. Indeed, the feelings such conduct is likely to inspire is very far from love. Envy and hatred are the most likely emotional products of pitting one group of people against another.

How, then, can it be that so many otherwise quite sensible people here in the West subscribe to the idea that people would quite naturally love one another if only they were offered the opportunity?

Certainly it accords with of Dr. Samuel Johnson's cynical observation about of second marriages: "A triumph of hope over experience." But there is more to it than that.

It is also an illustration of the dangers inherent in a nation shrugging off its fundamental animating principles without bothering to consider the effects it will have on its society -- a phenomenon all too evident in today's America.

Americans once subscribed to the Golden Rule -- the Judeo-Christian ideal of "do as you would be done by." But while they accepted that it was the rule to live by, they realized that the only way to do so was to censure those who did not do so.

It didn't work perfectly, but it worked well enough for folks with a "post Christian" mindset to blandly assume that it is possible reap the benefits of the Golden Rule by talking the talk without walking the walk.. **GPH**✘

Join us to hear

**ST. STEPHEN'S  
CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS  
CHORAL EVENSONG**

**6.00 PM Sunday, September 6th, 2009**

## FROM THE CHURCH WOMEN

### Lunch with the ladies on Wednesday, August 19th

GOOD COMPANY, good food, and good conversation in comfortable surroundings -- what's not to like about that? This is what we offer when you join the Church Women for their monthly luncheon and get-together.

This month we will be lunching at Sabors restaurant at the Graul's Center on Padonia Road, in Timonium. Why not pencil it in your diary and plan to meet us there?

If you would like to come, please call Ann Bonnell at tel: 410-560-1130 as her to reserve a place for you. You won't regret it.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR  
THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
Sunday, August 23rd, 2009

8:00 AM & 9.15 AM  
HOLY COMMUNION  
The Epistle: I Corinthians 15:1-11  
The Gospel: St. Luke 18:9-14  
11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER  
The Psalter: Psalm 101  
First Lesson: Ecclesiastes 5:1-7  
Second Lesson: St. Luke 18:9-14

**FROM THE CHOIRMASTER**

## Join us at Choral Evensong

EVENSONG, a fusion of the monastic prayer offices of Vespers and Compline, is one of the jewels of the Anglican tradition. Presented by St. Stephen's Choir of Men & Boys on the First Sunday of every month, Choral Evensong begins at 6.00 PM and generally lasts between 30 and 40 minutes.

Visitors from all faith traditions are heartily welcome to join us in prayer, and all are invited to stay for a light reception following the service. Bring a friend. **ADRIC**

**COLLECT FOR THE WEEK**

## Tenth Sunday After Trinity

LET THY merciful ears, O God, be open to the prayers of thy humble servants; and, that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

*Book of Common Prayer. Page 203*

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

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

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:** Joseph, Rachel, Frank, Carl, Charlotte, Cal, 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:** Richard, 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, John, Robert, Mary, Michael

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE:** Col. Scott Taylor, U.S. Army, 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.

### THE HYMNS FOR THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday, August 23rd, 2009

**PROCESSIONAL: 157 (Christe Sanctorum)**  
Father, we praise, now the night is over

**GRADUAL: 411 (Grace Church)**  
O thou to whose all-searching sight

**SERMON: 517 (St. Matthew)**  
Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old

**COMMUNION HYMN: 189 (Unde et Memores)**  
And now, O Father, mindful of thy love

**RECESSIONAL: 394 (St. Asaph)**  
Through the night of doubt and sorrow

## St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church

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