

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XX, Number 37

Edited by Anne Hawkins

September 22nd, 2009

FROM THE RECTOR

Why not let the Gospel take a bite out of crime

BALTIMORE'S murder rate has long been one of the highest in the nation. Currently, we are second only to Detroit as murder capital of America. Motown's murder rate stands at 46 per 100,000, only shade higher than Charm City's 45 per 100,000.

Not surprisingly, crime is a major preoccupation in Baltimore – so much so that many folks who live in the suburbs are even chary about visiting the attractions in the inner harbor. And who can blame them when statistics indicate that more than one in every three residents can expect to become a victim of violent crime at least once in their lives.

The politicians' response to the crime problem has been a stream of legislative measures – boot camps, “three strikes and you're out” sentencing, and mandatory jail sentences for crimes perceived as particularly heinous – each of which has been touted as the solution to the problem for good and all.

These political nostrums, doubtless, engender a certain sense of *deja vu* in folks with memories longer than that of the average fruit fly. Such feelings are entirely justified. Mandatory sentences, boot camps, weapons control: There's nothing that we haven't tried that the Romans didn't try before us – with similarly disappointing results.

History also shows that there is nothing new about crime waves of the sort that we are experiencing today. Indeed, in

Return of the best value in Baltimore!

SILLY SUMMER SUPPERS

Every Thursday at 5.30 PM

Menu: Salad, Entree & Dessert -- delicious!

Just \$10 per adult ■ Children \$5

Beverages: Wine, \$3 per glass; Soda, \$1

the 17th, 18th and early-to-mid 19th centuries, rampant crime was the norm in the great cities of Europe and the Americas. And all the remedies now being proposed were tried back then – to absolutely no avail.

In desperation, legislators adopted even more draconian measures than we have ever contemplated. Death sentences were meted out as a matter of course to repeat offenders. When these punishments signally failed to make a dent in the crime rate, law makers decided the best way to handle the problem was quarantine. So they shipped out those who would not shape up to penal colonies – including the West Indies, the State of Georgia and, latterly, Australia.

Nothing, however, seemed to work. Brutal or enlightened, draconian or moderate – all the anti-crime measures the human mind could devise seemed inadequate to the task of deterring people from resorting to crime.

It would be quite wrong to ascribe this catalogue of abject failure to the idea that folks back in the 17th, 18th and early-to-mid 19th centuries were somehow more primitive or somehow “less sophisticated” than our selves. This simply isn't true. Read Thomas Moore's *Utopia*, the works of Jean Jacques Rousseau, and Samuel Butler's *Erehwon*.

By the opening decades of the 19th Century, crime in England had gotten so out of hand that parliament, in desperation, authorized a new London Metropolitan Police to replace the random squads of “thief takers” recruited by forward thinking magistrates.

But there was no major improvement in the situation until the 1840s when the Church of England finally realized that a main reason for the moral decay was its sloth in preaching the Gospel. There followed the most remarkable religious revival.

A newly invigorated Church of England launched a crusade to carry Christ into the meanest streets of the inner cities. The Church Army was founded. Religious orders were revived. Magnificent churches were constructed in slums more vile than anything we in modern America can imagine.

Within two decades the tide had been turned. Within four it had been completely reversed. It was not that the Gospel eliminated poverty. It did not. (Jesus said the poor are always with us.) But it had eliminated the awful spiritual and moral degradation that, absent the Gospel, accompanies poverty.

As the urban population's spiritual lives improved, so naturally did morality. Crime was never completely eliminated, of course -- it is, after all, a fallen world -- but it declined to manageable proportions.

England's experience was repeated in America, with the same results. And it is not accidental that during this period the Episcopal Church became America's fastest growing church.

What worked a century and a half ago would certainly work today. Indeed, it is the only solution that is likely to work. Let's pray that we don't have to wait another century and a half for we, Christians, to wake up to it. **GPH**✕

FROM THE TREASURER

Don't leave me out in the wet!

RAIN is nasty stuff any time of the year, but in the summer it spoils everybody's fun. Forget about relaxing on the beach and soaking up the sun. Forget walking in the forests and hiking in the hills. Even swimming isn't much fun in the rain.

But if the rain is bad news for you, it's even worse news for church treasurers. It sends shivers down our spines—literally and figuratively.

The trouble with rain is that when it falls on a Sunday, folks look out of their windows and decide to lie snug in bed rather than risk getting soaked on the way to church. And when folks don't come to church, they don't put anything in the collection plate. And when there is no money in the collection plate bills tend to go unpaid.

And the consequences of bills not getting paid is just too horrible to contemplate – starving clergy begging in the street; church treasurers pulling out their hair at the prospect of being carted off by the bailiffs . . . you get the picture.

This summer has been the rainiest in recent memory. As a consequence, it made a hefty dent in of our cash flow. If you haven't done so already I would be very much obliged if you could help make up the shortfall. You'll not only be helping the church, you'll be saving me a fortune in hair restorer. **BILL HAWKINS**

Join us to hear

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

6.00 PM Sunday, October 4th, 2009

FROM THE REV. DR. JOHN WORGUL

Courses for Fall Semester

THE Holy Trinity Theological College and Seminary has created a new program, the Associate in Theological Studies (A.T.S.) and is also opening its Master of Ministry Courses to all people – clergy and lay – who would like to audit them in order further their biblical theological knowledge. .

The ATS program consists of six courses and three seminars that can be completed in three years. There is one course per term, and each course meets for eight weeks on Monday evenings. A certificate from the Seminary will be granted to those who complete the program.

Our first course offering is: **SF110 Walking With God: The Joseph Story**. We will carefully work through Genesis 37-50 taking note of the Hebrew text, literary structure, and spiritual significance of this timeless story. **Place, time and dates:** We meet from 7:15-9:15 PM. Classes will be held at St. Stephen's Church, 11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium,

MD 21093. The course begins on Monday, September 21st, and ends on Monday, November 9th.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sunday, September 27th, 2009**

8:00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION
The Epistle: Ephesians 3:13-21
The Gospel: St. Luke 7:11-17
11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalm 146
First Lesson: I Kings 17:8-9,17-24
Second Lesson: St. Luke 7:11-17

To join the A.T.S. program, classes are \$200.00. To audit the course, the cost is \$150.00. Make Checks payable to Christ the King Church marked "Seminary."

The following Master of Theology courses are being offered:
TH501 Systematic Theology*: An overview of Christian theology. With special focus on how theology is necessary for daily life It will meet from 7:30-10:00 PM on Friday,: **September 18; October 2, 23; November 20; December 18.**

BS501 Pentateuch*: An overview of the first five books of the Bible With special focus on how the ancient Hebrews thought theologically. It will meet from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM: on Saturday **Sept. 19; Oct. 3, 24; Nov. 21; December 19.**

* Both courses are being taught in the Parish House at Christ the King Church; 1102 Hart Road, **Towson, MD 21286.** The Audit fee is \$150.00 each plus \$25.00 for BS501 Saturday Lunch. For more information contact Dr. John Worgul, Dean, (410) 861-6876 or frjworgul@yahoo.com

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

KEEP, we beseech thee, O Lord,thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord *AMEN. The Book of Common Prayer, Page 210*

**✠ 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: Brook, Helen, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Frank, Carl, Charlotte, Cal, Catherine, 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, Erline, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, Polly, Katherine, 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, 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, Geradine, Thomas, Jeanne, Sister Catherine-Grace, Ann Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Rebecca, Dorothy, Joanne, ✠Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, John, & Maxine.

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. Arny, 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
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Sunday, September 27th, 2009

PROCESSIONAL: 366 (Engelberg)
All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine

GRADUAL: 598 (Merionydd)
For thee, O dear, dear country

SERMON: 431 (Nyland)
In heav'nly love abiding

COMMUNION HYMN: 466 (Lytlington)
God be in my head

RECESSIONAL: 524 (Mannheim)
God of grace and God of glory

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

11856 May's Chapel Road
Timonium, MD 21093

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TIMONIUM MD
PERMIT NO. 181