

# St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Anglican Church,  
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXII, Number 38

Edited by Anne Hawkins

September 28th, 2011

## FROM THE RECTOR

### Change isn't always as good as a rest

CLERGY of all denominations frequently joke that our parishioners assume we work only one day a week. But we are only joking. We don't really believe you think we are such slackers.

On the other hand, the nature of work has changed so radically over the past half century and, it is not unreasonable that folks should wonder what we do with our time. And, indeed, the rapid pace of technological advance has changed life in the parsonage just as radically as it has changed the secular workplace.

It is, I think, fair to say that the most profound changes in the nature of parochial work have been wrought by the automobile, the cellular telephone and the computer.

The computer has radically altered the way we communicate – by no means always for the better. It is much easier to publish parish newsletters, but e-mail enables people to send ill-considered and uncharitable messages even more swiftly than by the fax machine.

The cell phone means, theoretically at least, that we are never out of touch with our parishes. It means that usually we can be reached quite easily in an emergency, but it also means we can be reached equally easily by colleagues who just want to gossip. As a consequence, time to think is a shrinking commodity.

But, of all things, the car has produced the most wide-reaching change in the parson's life. Until quite recently, my cars were racking up an average of more than 25,000 miles a year. That's a powerful lot of driving, considering that virtually all of these miles are "church miles."

Driving an extraordinarily high annual mileage is by no means an unusual experience for today's parsons. It reflects the radical changes that modern life styles have imposed on our parishes.

Parishes today mirror the styles and personal tastes of their members to a far greater degree than they ever have before, thanks largely to the automobile and urban flight.

When folks lived in cities and could walk to the corner store without getting mugged, they attended their local church and accepted without much complaint what was offered. In this way, families who were frequently on the move experienced the whole gamut of Anglican liturgical expressions – "high and crazy, low and lazy, broad and hazy."

Nowadays things are vastly different. For all we complain about our road system, an half-an-hour's travel takes us from one side of the city to the other. And this remarkable mobility, coupled with attitudes molded in the crucible of modern consumerism, has radically changed the face of Episcopal parishes.

Today people are less likely to put up with things that are not to their taste – whether in the realms of politics, food, fashion or religion. Today people tend to shop for a church to join in much the same way they shop for everything else.

This can pose problems, particularly for traditional churches like St. Stephen's. Basically, the choice seems to be between maintaining the theological truths expressed in one's liturgy, or changing one's message to appeal to contemporary tastes.

The trouble that contemporary tastes are transient, and subject to the dictates of fashion, while God is eternal and unchanging. One thing that seems clear from the Scriptures is that people don't change very much. In

fact, we are doing exactly the same dumb things today as the ancient Isaelites were doing three thousand years ago.

Pepping up the liturgy might make us more popular, but it risks subtly changing the faith being expressed. The prophets of Baal who led the children of Israel astray were mistakenly convinced it was God they were worshipping.

The fact of the matter seems to be that the way that you worship actually defines who you are worshipping. Whether this is good, bad or indifferent is not the point. The

fact of the matter is that we have no choice but to live with it. However, it's another headache for the clergy.

Complications also arise from the fact that our flocks no longer live within a few blocks of the church. Today they are scattered all over the metropolitan area and longer travel times have greatly increased the time taken for pastoral work, such as visitation of the sick.

Pastoral work is a joy whether it takes place just around the corner and 40 miles up the road. The extra time required in the pastoral sphere, however, means less time available for other tasks, such as sermon writing and administration – hence our reliance on computers and cell phones. **GPH**✘

## AN EAGLE'S EYE VIEW

### We need your favorite drinks for our Cookbook

OUR NEW Cookie Walk 2011 Cook Book is going to be an encyclopedia of beverages. Well perhaps it is not going to be so much an encyclopedia, but more a comprehensive guide to the art of making beverages -- alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

To this end we are calling for your recipes for punches, teas, shrubs, smoothies, malts, shakes, hot and cold drinks, and favored alcoholic drinks. Anything you love that is potable.

Please bring your favorite recipes to church or email our editor Peter Threadgill (that's the best way, actually) his address is [petrus@ststeve.com](mailto:petrus@ststeve.com). Thanks. All recipes must be in no later than Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your help!

**St. Stephen's Church**  
*come celebrate with us*  
**Harvest Festival**  
**Sunday, Trinity XV**  
**October 2nd**  
**Holy Communion at**  
**8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.15 AM**

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR  
THE HARVEST FESTIVAL**

being Sunday, Trinity XV, October 2nd, 2011

**8.00 AM 9.15 AM & 11.15AM**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

The Epistle: Galatians 6:6-10

The Gospel: St. John 4:31-36

**FOR YOUR MORNING PRAYER**

The Psalter: Psalm 103

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 7:6-13

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 12:13-31

**... and don't miss Howard!**

I DON'T mean to be picky, but I really don't think the folks who run the newsletter have given a fair shake to that great classical actor Howard Burnham who is coming here at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 27th, to present another one of his terrific one man shows.

This time he's giving us the low down on King James I of England and VI of Scotland -- the bloke who gave his name to the King James Version of the Bible.

I am very partial to King James I. If it weren't for his Bible, I'd be out of work today. In fact, I'd probably have been melted down to make door knockers.

In any event, this year marks the 400th anniversary of the KJV and Burnham is giving us one of his acclaimed characterizations of the quirky king -- the first to rule both England and Scotland.

Howard always puts on a terrific show. I can attest to that because I've been here for them all. In fact, I've had the honor of taking part in a couple of them.

Mark your calendars for 7 PM, Tuesday, September 27th. And remember, there is a Wine & Cheese reception afterwards! The suggested donation is \$10 (\$5 for kids under 14). **ISAAC EAGLE**

**✠ 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 prayer list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office at 410 560 6776.

**RECOVERY:** Mary, Adele, Reta, Sara, Michael, Tammy, Sophie, Gracie, Paula, Blair, Jim, Melvin, Noah, Mavis, Heather, Laurie, Diane, Don, Lynn, Helen, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Linda, Robert, Nancy, Edithann, Doris, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Helen, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, Patty, Antonio, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Bob, Fran, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom, Lelilah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Marian, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy; Ellen, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Robert, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, Bryan, Jason, Jane, Joan, Frances, Pat, Michael, Ray, Leslie, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Robert, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, Alma, Christine, John, Henry, Naomi, Pam, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Gloria, Lee Emily, Bruce, Regina, Lewis, Madolin, Linda, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, Jody, Sheila, Jo Anne, John, Geradine, Thomas, Jeanne, Sister Catherine-Grace, Maxine, Ann Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Rebecca, Dorothy, Joanne, \*Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian and Carol.

**LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Ned, & Stephen, Rachel, Robert & Renee, Lydia; Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, Doris, Drake, Bobby, Kay & Emma, Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, David, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Tom, Susan, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, Jo Anne, Mary, Gregory, Isabel, Bobby, Dorothy, Darren, Scott, Rebecca, William, Charles, Joyce, Asfa, Eleanor, Kathy, Linda, James, Barry, Ann, Evelyn, Jeanette, Elizabeth, Virginia, Mildred, Chris, Stephen, Carol, Sandra, John, Mary, Michael and David

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE:** LTC R.J. Lytle, PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, USA; Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Charles Watts, USN; Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt. Col. Harry Hughes, USAF.

**✠ St. Stephen's Anglican Church ✠**

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093  
Tel.: Office (410) 560-6776; Rectory (410) 665-1278  
Web Address: ststeve.com.

RECTOR: The Venerable Guy P. Hawtin

VICAR: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley

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

(1st. Sun. of the month: Holy Communion at 11.15am)

(1st Sun. of the month: Choral Evensong at 6.00pm)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday: 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Friday: Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday: 5.00 PM Family Eucharist.

**COLLECTS FOR TRINITY XIV AND  
ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS**

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and that we may obtain that which thou doest promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN*

O EVERLASTING God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order; Mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, by thy appointment, they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN*

*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 209 & 251*

**Return Service Requested**

St. Stephen's Anglican Church  
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Timonium, MD 21093

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