

# St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church  
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXIII, Number 25

Edited by Anne Hawkins

July 3rd, 2012

## FROM THE TREASURER

### Financial Report to the Annual Meeting

THE YEAR 2011/12 was not an easy one – largely owing to a sluggish technical recovery from a deep recession that has lasted for more than three years, depressing activity in virtually all sectors of the economy.

Unemployment, particularly in the state's private sector, continues high – a consequence of fiscal and regulatory uncertainty, coupled with tight credit. This has continued the squeeze on personal income, which, in turn, has resulted in a continuation in the decline in congregational giving.

In this respect St. Stephen's has fared better than many of the state's church communities. Pledged and unpledged giving was off during the 12 months only 0.8 percent – falling from \$120,383 to \$119,445. But this should be seen against the previous three years during which the declines in income averaged more than an annual 10 percent.

Total giving for the 12 months – which includes financial gifts to the parish, as well as contributions to designated funds, such as the Endowment Fund, the Building Fund, the Music Fund and the Flower Fund – amounted to \$148,946. This was a full 31 percent down from giving during the previous 12 months.

The decline, however, was not quite as dramatic as it might at first appear, inasmuch as a generous legacy gave a substantial boost to the 2010/11 total.

So far we have managed to keep the parish's figures in the black with a mixture of hefty cost cutting and the creative use of volunteer labor. The clergy have voluntarily been swallowing many of the expenses in connection with their duties that in normal circumstances the parish would be obligated to pay. Most maintenance work on the church fabric is now performed by voluntary labor, as is all the work on the grounds with the exception of snow clearing.

Unanticipated expenses, however, are bound to occur. During the past 12 months, for example, we were obliged to spend an unexpected \$2,400 more on electrical work than we did in the previous fiscal period. This entirely accounted for the 63 percent increase in Building and Maintenance spending.

Operations and Administrative overheads, on the other hand, were reduced by 11 percent, declining from \$30,008 in 2010/11 to \$26,751. Further savings are anticipated, thanks to Jim Halbert who has negotiated a further hefty reduction in our electricity rates, bringing them down from 9 cents per KWH to 7 cents.

In most other areas of our activities, costs remained stable or showed modest reductions. Even so, total expenses for the 12 months showed only 0.5 percent reduction over the period under review – falling from \$157,607 to \$156,769. Thus, the parish is showing a \$7,822 deficit for \$2011/12.

The explanation is that the vestry recently renegotiated the mortgage on the church buildings that is expected to show us a savings of some \$800 per month. As is usual in such matters, the renegotiation involved expenses of some \$9,000, which we thought more prudent to pay "up front" rather than add to the loan. This money, however, will be relatively quickly recouped in lower mortgage and interest payments.

In short, your clergy and vestry have done a creditable job in holding parish overheads in check, but, financially

speaking, we are still sailing very close to the wind. Costs have been cut to such a degree that there is little more that can be cut. This is why we are asking you prayerfully to examine your giving and try to increase your annual pledge, as well as making a gift for the endowment fund. Remember, the Church will make a lot better use of your hard-earned cash than the IRS. God Bless – **BILL HAWKINS**

## FROM THE RECTOR

### A depressing display of American generosity

THE You-Tube video of a group of middle school boys callously terrorizing an elderly school bus monitor with vicious and obscene verbal abuse has brought out the best – and arguably the most depressing -- aspects of our national character.

**The best:** There was an outpouring of sympathy for the unfortunate woman from all over the country. And, in an effort to comfort her, tens of thousands of people opened their wallets to contribute to a fund, initially aimed at sending her on the vacation of a lifetime.

By the time, \$300,000 had rolled in, the goals of the fund had broadened to buying her a home and enabling her to quit her low-paid, under-appreciated and utterly unrewarding job.

By all accounts, this extraordinary example of American generosity couldn't have happened to a nicer person. Despite having been treated in such a hideously cruel fashion, the lady has declined to press criminal charges against the culprits and has even refused to ask the school authorities to punish them.

**The depressing:** This remarkable display of Christian forbearance is entirely misplaced. A failure to punish the culprits will only encourage further bad behavior both by them and by

children with similarly vicious dispositions.

This bodes evil for everybody living in an America already wracked by a growing plague of youthful violence. Here in Baltimore, for example, a horde of school children, most of them in uniforms, recently pillaged a convenience store and assaulted the owner.

In a brazen display of cowardice and folly, city prosecutors announced they would not be pressing charges against the culprits even though many are easily identifiable from the store's security cameras.

What's more, the city authorities seem to be taking a similarly laid back approach to the ugly gangs of youthful marauders who regularly descend on the Inner Harbor, intimidating – and often assaulting and robbing – visitors to our attractive waterfront.

If there are no consequences to youthful criminal activity, we can only expect it to increase. As the Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman sagely observed: If you subsidize something, you're going to get more of it.

**Even more depressing:** Instead of doing something about youthful violence, we take the easy way out and throw money at it! Usually this takes the form of costly but utterly ineffective and unappreciated programs aimed at keeping kids busy and off the streets. Occasionally – as in the case of the unfortunate bus monitor – it takes the form of cash to comfort a victim and salve our consciences.

We will pay any price, it seems, to avoid tackling the problem in the way that historically has been the most effective. Until the advent of modern sociological theory, we

St. Stephen's  
JULY PATRIOTIC  
HYMN FEST  
at 6.00 PM  
at The Parish Church  
Sunday, July 1st, 2012  
[hymnfest.ststeve.com](http://hymnfest.ststeve.com)

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR  
THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Being Sunday, July 8th, 2012

**8.00 AM & 9.00 AM  
HOLY COMMUNION**

The Epistle: I St. Peter 3:8-15a

The Gospel: St. Luke 5:1-11

**FOR YOUR MORNING PRAYER**

The Psalter: Psalm 65

The First Lesson: Judges 6:11-23

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 5:1-11

civilized our children – and all children need civilizing – by turning little boys into “Christian gentlemen” and little girls into “Christian ladies.” Reactionary, it might be, but it worked.

Today, by contrast, we’ve stood the process on its head: We try to turn little boys into little girls and little girls into little boys. And we are amazed it doesn’t work. Go figure! **GPH**

**FROM THE PARISH CHEFS**

**Silly Summer Suppers**

THE MOMENT you have all been waiting is here. Each Thursday the chefs of St. Stephen’s will be serving the 2012 series of “Silly Summer Suppers.” It’s hard to think of a less appropriate name than “Silly Summer Suppers” for these remarkable gastronomic events. The food is absolutely scrumptious – and there is plenty of it. The only thing silly about these suppers is the price -- entrée, dessert and salad for just \$10. Soda costs a buck and wine at \$3 per glass and \$5 for two.

**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE**

**Lifeline Screening, July 10th**

LIFELINE Screening will visit St. Stephen's on Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, to offer preventive health screening to the parishioners and folks who live in our community. They will be offering screening and tests for stroke risk, vascular disease and bone density. The

screening team will be here from 8.30 AM to 5.00 PM for more information or to pre-register, call me at the Parish Office: 410-560-6776 or call Life Line at 888-653-6441..

**ANNE E. HAWKINS**

**✠ 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:** Robert, David, Richard, Bill, Charlotte, Leo, Riley, Mary-Ann, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Robert, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, Dr. Devadadson, Thelma, Mary, Adele, Linda, Jan, Liz, Bob, Wyatt, Jim, Reta, Sara, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, Melvin, Heather, Laurie, Diane, Lynn, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Edithann, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, Patty, Antonio, Ray, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Fran, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tom, Leliliah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy; Ellen, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, Bryan, Jason, Joan, Frances, Pat, Michael, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, 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, Joanne, Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Doris, Carol, and Suzie.

**LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Aaron, Hope, Tom, Jennifer, Brendan, Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Ned, Stephen, Rachel, Robert & Renee, Lydia; Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, Drake, Bobby, Kay & Emma, Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, 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, Capt. Charles Bursi, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes, Major Benjamin Hawkins, British Army

**✠ 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](http://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**

8.00 am: Said Eucharist

9.00 am: Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

11.15 am: Choral Mattins (1st Sunday: Choral Eucharist)

6.00 pm: Choral Evensong (1st Sunday only)

**WEEKDAY SERVICES**

Wednesday, 6.00 pm: Evening Prayer

Friday Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5.00 pm: Family Eucharist.

**COLLECTS FOR TRINITY IV AND THE  
FEAST OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE**

O GOD, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy; Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*AMEN.*

O ALMIGHTY God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to thy Apostle Saint Peter many excellent gifts, and commandedst him earnestly to feed thy flock; Make, we beseech thee, all Bishops and Pastors diligently to preach thy holy Word, and the people obediently to follow the same, that they may receive the crown of everlasting glory; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN..*

*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 194 & 244*

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