

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXIV, Number 4

Edited by Anne Hawkins

February 5th, 2013

FROM THE RECTOR

Something fishy in the campaign against fat

MANY years ago, I overheard three distinguished and decidedly rotund bishops discussing the subject of sin. They ultimately decided that gluttony was their favorite.

I find it hard to disagree with their assessment – albeit, thanks to heart surgery, I have recently (and, I hasten to add, quite involuntarily) joined the ranks of the trim and buff.

Despite my newly svelte figure, I find it difficult to be anything but cynical about our ruling elite's continuing campaign against (horror of horrors!) obesity.

Not content with having driven smokers to huddle furtively in alleys and doorways to indulge their habit, folks like Mayor Bloomberg of New York are set on dishing out the same treatment to the plump.

A couple of decades back, the notion of the mayor of a major city banning large containers of soda would have been seen for what it is – a gross intrusion on personal liberty, not to say totalitarianism stretched to the limits of lunacy.

Today Bloomberg – who, himself, does not appear to be in the least bit undernourished – is hailed as a hero by the food fascists.

It is little short of amazing to see how much the food faddist lobby has achieved in the decade or so that has passed since the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention launched the campaign to demonize obesity.

It did so with “a study” claiming that obesity was taking over where tobacco left off as America's “top underlying preventable cause of death.”

Naturally, one vice or other had to assume tobacco's role as ritual demon for the country's health police. After all, government and its allies at the tort bar had squeezed about as much cash as they could reasonably hope to extract – in the short term at least – from the nation's smokers.

Frankly, I would have found the CDC study just tad more convincing if it had singled out a rather more politically correct habit for investigation and demonization.

Why on earth, for example, did the CDC pick on obesity for study when they could with greater justification have studied the very considerable health risks entailed in promiscuous sex?

Indeed, evidence would suggest that sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV, present a far greater health threat. Indeed, they incapacitate and kill people a darned sight faster than overeating.

The effects of recreational drug use on health might also have been a rewarding field of inquiry for the CDC. After all, we have been fighting the “drug war” at enormous expense for best part of half a century, presumably on the grounds that cocaine and heroin are a good deal more damaging to the health than hot dogs and hamburgers.

But, instead, the CDC opted to study obesity and, by George, they swiftly got to the heart of the matter.

“It's tragic,” explained Dr. Julie Gerberding, the author of the study, “Our worst fears were confirmed . . . Obesity has got to be job No. 1 for us in terms of chronic diseases.”

I am not suggesting that smoking and overeating are without risk and are to be encouraged. Far from it. They are certainly unhealthy habits. But they are by no means the only unhealthy habits adopted by folks in this country. Neither are they the most unhealthy of habits.

The fact of the matter is that this study would have been rather more convincing if it had not been preceded by a long drawn-out crescendo of complaint about the fast food industry's alleged responsibility for the “national epidemic of obesity” from food fascists and the tort bar.

Come to think of it, I might have felt a tad more comfortable with this study if, for instance, it were easier to serve writs on the advocates of unbridled promiscuity and recreational drug use than it is to serve them on folks in the nation's multi-billion dollar fast food industry.

LENTEN STUDY

Questions about the BCP you never had the courage to ask

FOLKS familiar with Church history usually claim 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 discernible. 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. Yet most Anglicans are entirely ignorant of the fact. This year's Lenten Study will trace the development of the BCP from pre-Saxon times onwards.

Our Lenten Series “The Development of the Prayer Book” runs for four Wednesday evenings beginning after 6.00 PM Evening Prayer on February 27th and ending on March 20th. The presenter will be the Rector.

We are offering the usual deal – a hearty winter soup, the best bread in Baltimore and beverages. If you need more to eat, you are welcome to bring a sandwich. GPH✂

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

February meeting

Since our normal meeting time for February falls on Shrove Tuesday, we will be holding our monthly meeting on **Wednesday, February 6th, at 7:00 pm** instead. We will be planning our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, a St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner, and we will begin preparing for the Garden Party in May. Please join us!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 12, 2013

5.00 pm to 7.30 pm

in the Parish Hall

Ash Wednesday Services

February 13, 2013

12.00 pm Holy Communion

6.00 pm Holy Communion

Lenten Studies

Wednesdays, February 27th,

March 6th, 13th, and 20th

6.45 pm (Following 6.00 pm Evening Prayer)

“The Development of the Prayer Book”

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

Being February 10th, 2013

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Corinthians 13:1-13

The Gospel: St. Luke 18:31-43

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 103

The First Lesson: Wisdom 7:7-14*

The Second Lesson: St. John 15:1-17

**Apocrypha*

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join us February 20th

This month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at the Ashland Cafe at 12 noon on Wednesday, February 20th. Why not join us for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal. Good food and good fellowship -- what more could you want? To reserve your place call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680.

✠ PARISH PRAYER LIST ✠

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List as well as the guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice & Dr. Bob's Place. 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: Fr Guy✠, Ray✠, Morris, Charles, Dawn, Betty Jean, Elliot, Sharon, Paul, Andy, Michael, Rosina Donna, Diane, John, Robert, David, Richard, Bill, Charlotte, Leo, Riley, Mary-Ann, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy,

Thelma, Mary, Adele, Linda, Jan, Liz, Bob, Wyatt, Jim, Reta, Sara, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, Melvin, Heather, Laurie, 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, 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, Ray, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Steven, 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, Maxine, Ann, Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Joanne, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Doris, Fran, Carol, and Suzie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Hope, JoAnn, Larry, Aaron, Hope, Tom, Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Stephen, Rachel, 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, Carol, Sandra, John, Mary, Michael and David

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, USA; Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Charles Watts, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes.

✠ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

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Web Address: ststeve.com

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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

9.15 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 Sexagesima Sunday
and Cornelius the Centurion**

O Lord God, who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do; Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 120

O God, who by thy Spirit didst call Cornelius the Centurion to be the first Christian among the Gentiles: Grant to thy Church, we beseech thee, such a ready will to go where thou dost send and to do what thou dost command, that under thy guidance it may welcome all who turn to thee in love and faith, and proclaim the Gospel to all nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *AMEN*

Return Service Requested

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