

Hallelujah! Christ is Risen Indeed!

St. Stephen's News

**St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland**

Vol. XXIV, Number 13

Edited by Don Ruthig

April 9th, 2013

FROM THE RECTOR

Change clearly isn't as good as a rest

TWO THOUSAND years of experience teaches us that churchgoers have never reacted well to change of any sort. And nowhere has this been more apparent than within the Anglican Communion.

In the 16th century, the replacement of liturgical Latin with English was by no means greeted with universal rejoicing. Nor was there unbridled joy when, in the 17th century, the venerable Coverdale Bible was supplanted by the new fangled King James' Version.

There was similar turmoil in the 18th and 19th centuries as hymns edged out psalms, traditional vestments replaced the Geneva gown, and the instrumental anarchy of the "parish choir" gave way to the magisterial discipline of the pipe organ.

The 1928 edition of the Book of Common Prayer bears eloquent witness to the lay people's stubborn resistance to change. The lections are taken largely from the King James' Version of the Bible, but the psalms are not.

The Gospels and much of the Old Testament in the King James Version followed the Coverdale Bible quite closely.

The psalms, however, did not. And for more than 300 years – right up to 1979 – churches echoed to the sonorous tones of the Coverdale Psalter.

If there is any lesson to be learned from this, it is that should it prove necessary to institute changes in the church, it is essential to do so very slowly, with great care and with an absolute abundance of Christian charity and understanding.

Needless to say, it is a lesson that has been entirely lost on the folks who, since the 1960s, have been promoting a program of far reaching change that has radically altered the face of Anglicanism both here in America and in England.

Change, helter-skelter, has been rushed after change. Liturgical revision, the abandonment of ancient doctrines, and a major departure from the church's traditional understanding of the authority of Holy Scripture: hardly had one change been instituted than the next was upon us.

My recent reading included an article by somebody advocating the abandonment of the Nicene Creed in favor of some cutting edge formula or other. As it turned out, I found the writer's arguments singularly unpersuasive, but that doesn't matter.

Even if I thought them valid, I would nonetheless have found them objectionable on the grounds that they would simply fuel further disputes.

Had the sound and fury of the debate engendered a mighty powerful spiritual and moral awakening, the proponents of rapid change might have been justified in the self-styled "reformers'" strategy. Had the turmoil swiftly abated, having inflicted no lasting damage, they might have been able to argue persuasively that their haste was justified.

But the fact of the matter is that their strategy has been an unmitigated failure. Church membership in America has fallen by more than a third, and even more precipitously than that in England.

In view of the unhappy consequences of all this turmoil, one might imagine even the proponents of change would see the

wisdom, temporarily at least, of dropping the subject of change in the interest of promoting harmony.

That, I fear, is mere wishful thinking. Harmony is that last thing on the mind of the "reformers." Their goal seems to be to stamp out, as ruthlessly as possible, even the faintest vestiges of dissent.

The utter lack of kindness and understanding shown to those who disagree with them goes far in explaining St. Paul's unpopularity in the church today. His contention that charity is the paramount Christian virtue is clearly quite out of step with the times. **GPH**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

April 9th Planning Meeting

WE HOPE You can join us on Tuesday, April 9th, (that's today!) for the last Parish Life Committee Meeting prior to the Garden Party.

Come and lend you valuable ideas and opinions at this your last chance before we finalize our plans.

We're planning a festive day. We'll have pipers and singers and Maypole dancers. Races and frolics for the kids. Lot's to eat - from high tea to hot dogs. A load of jumble. Games of chance.

And, of course, King Henry VIII will be joining us along with his motley jester. But beware, the King's goaler will looking for miscreants to put in the stocks.

There will be the grand opening of our new pub, The Barley Mow, serving ice cold frothy beverages. And much, much more.

We hope you will get involved by joining us on April 9th and lending your talents to making this the best Garden Party yet.

If you can't make it to the meeting you can still help! Let us count the ways....

Americans call it White Elephant, the Brits call it Jumble. But whatever you call it, please rummage the corners of your closets for bric-a-brac, collectibles, books, DVDs, CDs and oddities for our Jumble sale. But please no TVs or electronics. Tables are set up in the Parish Hall for your donations.

A new feature for this year will be a St Stephen's craft table. There are lots of talented people at St Stephen's creating all kinds of wonderful crafts. Here's a chance to show off yours by offering some of your handmade items for sale.

We'll need cakes for the cake table. This year we'll be selling whole cakes, half cakes, and quarter cakes for families both large and small. Cakes should be delivered to the church on May 3rd.

Help us with our advertising. Information sheets for Garden Party Program ads are in the back of the church. Help us by selling ads to the local merchants and businesses you frequent.

How about becoming a patron of the Garden Party? Your name will be listed in the Garden Party program acknowledging your generosity. There are several levels to choose from:

Imperial Crown - \$100

House of Windsor - \$75

House of York - \$50

House of Lancaster - \$30

Shortly we will have Garden Party posters to take to your grocery store, library, or any place else that has a bulletin board. We'll let you know as soon as they're available.

Finally, we need volunteers to work the day before and the day of the Garden Party. Sign-up sheets will be posted shortly in the vestibule. We hope you'll contribute your time to help us set up and run this great event. You'll be rewarded with lots of laughter and fellowship.

St. Stephen's Choir
**QUASIMODO SUNDAY
CHORAL EVENSONG**
at 6.00 PM
at The Parish Church
Sunday, April 7th, 2013

Hallelujah! Christ is Risen Indeed!

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

April 14th, 2013

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Peter 2:19-25

The Gospel: St. John 10:11-16

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 23, 146

The First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

The Second Lesson: St. John 10:1-10

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join us April 17th

This month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at Carlo's Italian Bistro (9926 York Road, in the Church Lane Shopping Center) at 12 noon on Wednesday, April 17th. 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✠, Kathleen, Michael, Finton, Morris, Charles, Dawn, Betty Jean, Elliot, Sharon, Paul, Andy, Michael, Rosina Donna, Diane, John, David, Richard, Bill, Charlotte, Leo, Riley, Mary-Ann, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Nancy, Judith, Deborah,

Dorothy, Thelma, Mary, 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, Lelillah, 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, Jimmy, Felicia, and Suzie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Hope, JoAnn, Larry, Aaron, Hope, Tom, Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Dean, Ned, 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 ✠

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

PREBENDARY: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley

VICAR: The Rev. Michael Kerouac

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Happy Riley
(410- 252-8674)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATORS: Happy Riley (410-252-8674)
Martha Miller (410-321-9038)

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 First Sunday after Easter and William Law

Almighty Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer, Page 170

O God, by whose grace thy servant William Law, enkindled with the fire of thy love, became a burning and shining light in thy Church: Grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipline, and may ever walk before thee as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for

ever.

AMEN

Return Service Requested

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St. Stephen's Anglican Church
11856 Mays Chapel Road
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