

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXIV, Number 17

Edited by Don Ruthig

May 7th, 2013

FROM THE RECTOR

Meet South Africa's Bishop Gill

THE BEST outcome to be expected from a major meetings of church leaders, according to an old and cynical friend of mine, is that no lasting damage is done to the church catholic. I guess that meetings of the National Council of the Anglican Church in America falls into the above category – thus the council's gathering a couple of weeks ago in Brockton, Massachusetts qualifies as a roaring success.

Actually, the most interesting aspect of National Council meetings is not so much what takes place around the conference table as the people one meets there.

And, perhaps, the most interesting person at this gathering was The Rt. Rev. Michael Gill, Bishop of Pretoria and Southern Africa, and secretary of the Traditional Anglican Communion.

Bishop Gill's enormous jurisdiction spans many thousands of square miles. It encompasses eight of the Southern African Development Community countries and its members speak at least 30 languages.

Witnessing for the faith in Southern Africa can be a dangerous business. Not so long ago, in South Africa's townships where murder rates top those of Baltimore, two of his priests were brutally assaulted and a deacon was killed.

Bishop Gill's jurisdiction is anything but wealthy. A majority of his people are desperately poor, but the parishes are generally large – some with as many as 7,000 or 8,000 people.

"We don't get a lot of financial help from places like America," he says, "But you would be surprised how far we can make a little money go. For \$50, for instance, I can put a priest in a parish . . ."

Bishop Gill has little time for the defensive posture of so many American Christians in the face of the constant attacks from secularists determined to drive all expressions of the faith out of the public square.

"[Anglicans] often [seem to believe] that ours is a rearguard action – a last ditch defense; a walling in of what we know and hold dear," he says, "If that is so then I am afraid that we are all lost. And so is Anglicanism, and so ultimately will be the Christian Faith."

Evangelism has to be our top priority, he declares, adding: "Father Wellington Murinda, the Vicar General of Zimbabwe, is a true evangelist and a great missionary priest. He tells his men in the field: 'Don't speak to me; show me the work.'"

In Southern Africa, as in America and Europe, Islam – fueled by millions of Saudi dollars – is making massive strides particularly among the youth.

"The church has to be on the march against such a concerted onslaught," he says. "Souls are being lost – and this while we are the ones responsible for this particular era of the Church.

"We have shown that we are prepared to stand up for what we believe, even at great personal cost. But what is needed amongst us is a far more offensive mentality. The first Disciples faced the same difficulties, and yet they triumphed. Should we not be able to do the same?" **GPH ✽**

STATE OF THE CHURCH: PART II

2012 Report of the Treasurer

NO MATTER what Washington tells us about a recovery, it still feels as though we are in the midst of a deep recession. But grim news from national economic front notwithstanding, the parish enjoyed a reasonably successful financial 2012.

Pledged, unpledged and plate income – officially classed as ordinary income – went up by \$12,413 to \$280,281 – an

increase of some 4.6 percent. And, largely thanks to a hefty reduction in overheads, the parish ended the year in the black to the tune of \$26,873.

That's the good news. The less happy news is that overall income was down by 16.2 percent primarily because of an 83 percent decline in contributions to the endowment fund and a 92 percent fall off in financial gifts from parishioners.

A substantial decline in contributions to the endowment fund was to be expected. Giving to such funds usually tails off in the year after the initial appeal. The size of last year's decline, however, took us somewhat by surprise.

The fall off of individual financial gifts from parishioners was by no means quite so surprising. Certainly, the continuing recession or exceedingly sluggish recovery (whichever you prefer) played a role in the decline.

Another factor, however, was a measurable drop in number and size of bequests. This is not something about which to complain. After all, it is decidedly unchristian to grouse about a decline in the number funerals.

The deciding factor in this year's financial outcome, however, was a substantial "across the board" reduction in overheads.

For example, banking and finance costs (primarily mortgage interest, etc.) were cut by 18.5 percent. This was attributable almost entirely to the renegotiation of our mortgage by Rector's Warden John Cobb.

Spending on buildings and grounds went down by a staggering 31 percent. This was due in part to the mild winter which substantially reduced the need for snow plowing.

A primary reason for the savings, however, is that responsibility for maintaining the buildings and grounds has been assumed by a group of enthusiastic and hard working volunteers.

Overheads for operations and administration fell back by 10.4 percent, and even personnel costs were down – albeit by a very modest 0.7 percent. (After all, they've gotta eat!). Advertising expenditure was down by 13.7 percent and the cost of the music program went down by 15.8 percent.

Savings on this magnitude are the fruit of a major effort on the part of your vestry to keep cost in check. However, it is unlikely that we will be able to repeat this performance in the coming year.

Costs are bound to rise. Inflationary trends have been noted in many of the essential services provided by outside suppliers, and there is nothing we can do about this but pay up and look pleasant. But be assured, we shall hold down the lid on costs as tightly as possible.

Meanwhile, remember that cash flow is a perennial headache for the poor treasurer. Things aren't too bad in the spring, but, come summer, the Cash Flow Monster, like his cousin in Loch Ness, rears his ugly head.

Please help keep the Cash Flow Monster at bay by paying your pledge for your vacation weeks before you go away rather than sometime after you get back. My ulcers will thank you for it. **BILL HAWKINS**

Sunday morning discussion group

JOIN us on Sunday mornings between the 9.15 and 11.15 services for a lively discussion of the collects and lessons appointed for that day.

Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday, May 19th, Following 9.15 AM Service

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION
 May 12th, 2013
8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION
 The Epistle: I Peter 4:7-11
 The Gospel: St. John 15:26 - 16:3
11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
 The Psalter: Psalm 93, 96
 The First Lesson: Wisdom 9*
 The Second Lesson: Ephesians 1
**Apocrypha*

We meet upstairs in the Rector's office immediately following the 9.15 service. The discussions are led by Dan Bursi.

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join us May 15th

THIS month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at The Peppermill at 12 noon on Wednesday, May 15th. 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, Lelilah, 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, Susan, Anita, Christina 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, Bobby, Kay & Emma, Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Susan, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, JoAnne, 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, Drake, Emily, and David

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

FOR REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Joan

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: Mavis and Gordon Turner, The Cobbett Family

✠ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✠
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 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

COLLECTS FOR Rogation Sunday and The Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ

O Lord, from whom all good things do come; Grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ.

AMEN

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 175 & 177

Return Service Requested

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