

# St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church  
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Don Ruthig

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013

## FROM THE RECTOR

### Archaeologists jousting over Dead Sea Scrolls

CLAIMS that the Dead Sea Scrolls are the most sensational archaeological find of the century might well be justified. They do not, however, contain material that requires us to radically revise our thinking on the Christian faith.

Certainly, the scrolls are greatly increasing our knowledge of Jewish religious thought before and at the time of Christ. But far from undermining the Christian faith, they uphold and affirm it.

In fact, the most striking thing about them – as the late Israeli archaeologist and soldier Yigael Yadin observed – is that they confirm that Holy Scripture has been transmitted from generation to generation with quite remarkable accuracy since at least 200 BC.

This much, at least, is clear – for every book of the Old Testament is represented in this cache of documents. However, many of the other conclusions scholars have drawn from them are controversial – some of them extraordinarily so.

People who have read or seen television programs on the scrolls will, no doubt, be under the impression that the "library" unearthed in the caves at Qumran, near the Dead Sea, belonged to an obscure Jewish sect: the Essenes.

A ruined building complex that was discovered not far from the caves is popularly known as an "Essene Monastery."

Visitors to the site are invited to view the "scriptorium" where some of the scrolls were supposedly written. They may gaze upon the "refectory" where the Essene monks allegedly ate and the "lustration baths" where they underwent their complicated ritual ablutions.

This "Essene Theory" is attractive to many scholars. It affords rich opportunities for speculation and, publication – a most important consideration in the "publish or perish" world of modern academia.

Very little is known about the Essenes, you see. They receive a cursory mention from Josephus, the First Century A.D. Jewish historian. But he tells us little beyond the fact that they were celibate, pacifist, austere and rigorous in matters of Jewish Law, which they interpreted in their own eccentric fashion.

This offers glittering prospects for archaeologists and scriptural scholars. So little is known about the outfit that the details are all up for grabs. It is much easier to speculate in scholarly fashion about obscure folks like Essenes than people who are rather better known such as the Pharisees.

Indeed, unhampered by facts, one can make assertions of the most exotic nature and be treated, if not seriously, at least not with open derision. And some folks have not been slow to take advantage of this.

What is rather less well known about the scrolls is that the "Essene Theory" is by no means generally accepted. In fact, it is hotly denied by a number of distinguished academics, all of whom offer less exciting, but rather more persuasive explanations for the ruined building complex and the hoard of scrolls.

The first cache was unearthed by a Bedouin shepherd who sold them on the black market. Some came into the hands of Father Roland de Vaux, a Dominican friar-archaeologist, who tracked down the site of the discovery and excavated the bulk of the hoard.

Fr. de Vaux was the originator of the "Essene Theory." And while he never actually referred to the building complex, itself, as "a monastery," he constantly relied upon monastic imagery to describe it – "scriptorium," "refectory" etc.

Fr. de Vaux died with his work unfinished in 1971. In 1988, his institution – the *Ecole Biblique et Archeologique Francaise de Jerusalem* – engaged two Belgian scholars Robert Donceel and Pauline Donceel-Voute to analyze Fr. de Vaux's material and produce a final report on the excavations.

The husband and wife team came to a quite different conclusion from that apparently espoused by Fr. de Vaux. They offer persuasive evidence indicating that the buildings were too luxurious for a monastery. They think the complex was a luxury villa.

## Calendar of Events

### Weekly Activities at St Stephens

**Tuesdays, 7.00 AM:** Bible Study at the Nautilus Diner

**Wednesdays, 5.00 PM:** Bible Study in the vestibule

**Thursdays, 10.00 AM:** Knitting Circle meets in the Parish Hall

**Thursdays, 7.00 PM:** Bridge Group meets in the Parish Hall

**Fridays, 10.30 AM:** Bible Study in the vestibule

### Special Events

**Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>:** Parish Life Committee meets at 7.00 PM in the Parish Hall

**Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>:** First "Silly Summer Supper" of the season at 5.30 pm in the Parish Hall

**Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>:** Vestry meets at 7.00 PM in the vestibule

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>:** Parish Picnic at the home of Ellen Reather

Yet a third theory comes from Professor Norman Golb of the University of Chicago. He contends that the building complex was a fortress, basing his argument on the fact that it was clearly destroyed after a bitterly fought siege.

Golb's claims are dismissed by most scholars on the grounds that the site not suitable for a fortress, even though the complex sports a solid fortress-like tower.

Golb's explanation for the scrolls is, however, much less easy to dismiss.

He points out that this region was the last open area accessible from Jerusalem when it was besieged by the Romans from AD 66 to AD 70. The desperate citizens hid their valuables to the Caves of Qumran in order to save them from pillage. Among their most valued possessions, Golb, points out, would be their books.

One of the latest theories is that the complex was a ceramics factory. The so-called "lustration baths" were actually pools for washing impurities from potters' clay – a contention supported by potters' clay residue found in them. The ceramics factory theory is also supported by some 700 clay bowls found at the site.

In archaeology, as just about everything else, the simplest answer is usually the right one. But archaeologists are canny enough to know there's more mileage in mad monastics than in prosaic potters or hordes of terrified book worms. **GPH**✘

## News from the Diocese

The Diocese of the Eastern US (DEUS) has begun publication of a Diocesan newsletter, "DEUS Among Us." To learn more about what's going on around the Diocese pick up a copy in the literature rack outside the church office, or check it out on our website in our newsletter archive.

### FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

## It's time for some summer silliness

Can there be a better way to kick off summer than enjoying one of St Stephen's legendary Silly Summer Suppers? We'll be launching this year's dinners on the eve of the summer solstice, Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Our chefs are combing their cookbooks for tasty menus for your enjoyment. And what a deal it is; entree, salad, delicious bread, and dessert for a mere \$10 per person. And it all comes with a side of St Stephen's fellowship.

## Silly Summer Suppers - Thursdays beginning June 20<sup>th</sup>

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE  
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**  
June 16<sup>th</sup> 2013

**8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION**

The Epistle: I St. Peter 5:5-11

The Gospel: St. Luke 15:1-10

**11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER**

The Psalter: Psalm 145

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:1-14

The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 9:9-13

As usual we will have beer, wine, and sodas for a nominal charge, and the lemonade is still complementary.

As has become tradition, stay after dinner for a lively game of Bingo led by our colorful caller, Bill Hawkins. And, since it's a Thursday night, you can cap the evening off with a friendly game of bridge with the bridge group.

All this, and still only \$10. There's no better deal in town.

**FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH**

### Join us June 19<sup>th</sup>

THIS month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at 12 noon at Tark's Grill, 2360 W. Joppa Road, Lutherville, on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. 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:** Brice, Reta, Kathleen, David, Ellen, Mimi, Val, Stacy, Dino, 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, Sara, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, 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, JoAnne, 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, Dawn 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, 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. Harv 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](http://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 THE Second Sunday after Trinity and Saint Barnabas

O LORD, who never failest to help and govern those whom thou dost bring up in thy stedfast fear and love; Keep us we beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

*Book of Common Prayer, Page 191*

O LORD God Almighty, who didst endue thy holy Apostle Barnabas with singular gifts of the Holy Ghost; Leave us not, we beseech thee, destitute of thy manifold gifts, nor yet of grace to use them alway to thy honour and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Return Service Requested

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