

Last Chance! Only one Summer Supper Left. Join us Thursday at 6.30 pm.

St. Stephen's News

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

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Edited by Don Ruthig

September 17th, 2013

FROM THE EAGLE'S EYE

A centuries' old 'divine jest' that's shrouded in mystery

THE SHROUD of Turin – which many believe to be the burial cloth of Christ – is back in the religious news again.

Mr. Russell Breault, president and founder of The Shroud of Turin Education Project, Inc., is touring American churches and colleges with a life size, museum-quality replica of the controversial artifact.

The replica, made from “the highest quality digital scans,” is said to recreate every aspect of the Shroud's image revealing all the nuances between the bloodstains, the image, and the scorches from a fire which, in 1532, damaged the relic.

Mr. Breault has been lecturing on The Shroud for more than 25 years. He has appeared on numerous national television documentaries and has participated in nearly every international conference since 1981.

And he has a fascinating tale to tell: not least, The Shroud might aptly be described as a divine joke at the expense of skeptics. It is unique in that it would be even more miraculous if it were to be a fake than if it were to be genuine.

The shroud is a piece of linen some 4.8 yards long and 1.2 yards wide. Its first recorded appearance was in the small town of Lirey in 14th century France. It has been held in the Italian city of Turin since 1578.

On its front can be seen the image of a tall, bearded man bearing the marks of crucifixion. Experts, over the years, have detected traces of blood, as well as pollen and soil typical of Jerusalem.

Skeptics were cock-a-hoop, however, when, in 1988, three separate laboratories announced that Carbon 14 tests conducted on small piece of the shroud proved the artifact dated from the 14th century - indicating it, thus, was a fake.

This still left the doubters with problems on their hands – not least explaining, how, if the shroud is a forgery, the forgers had intimate knowledge of scientific discoveries and technologies that did not come into being until many centuries later.

For example, The Shroud - which bears the image of a crucified man - is a high quality photographic negative. But the principles of photography were not discovered until the 19th century.

Some skeptics have advanced the theory that Leonardo da Vinci painted the shroud using a projection method known as *camera obscura*.

Aside from the fact Leonardo was born long after the shroud was first exhibited, it still isn't a satisfactory explanation for the contention it is a “fake.”

The shroud appears to bear a conventional, two-dimensional image. But scientific studies show that it is, in fact, a precise, undistorted three-dimensional image.

Scientists, however, have been unable satisfactorily to reproduce the three dimensional image of the crucified man. Computer technology so far available has not been sufficiently advanced to decipher the huge volume of data encrypted in the shroud.

Be that as it may, the findings of shroud scholars has presented the skeptics with many more problems to resolve than those presented by the photographic nature of the image on The Shroud.

For starters, doubts have been cast on the Carbon 14 tests that initially appeared to call the authenticity of The Shroud into question.

It now appears that some of the fabric samples taken for testing came from portions of The Shroud heavily contaminated by centuries of human handling. Others were taken from a piece of Holland cloth sewn on to the shroud by nuns in the 16th century to cover up fire damage.

Testimony in support of the shroud's authenticity has also come from Swedish textile expert Dr. Mechthilde Flury-Lemberg, who discovered a seam on the back of the cloth apparently sewn in the first century AD.

“There have been attempts to date the shroud from looking at the age of the material,” she said, “But the style of sewing is the biggest clue. It belongs firmly to a style seen in the first century AD or before.”

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephens

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Bible Study at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall

Thursdays, 6.30 PM: Superior Summer Supper, Quimby Hall - *Hurry, only one evening left!*

Thursdays, 7.00 PM: Bridge Group meets in Quimby Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events

Wednesday, September 18th, 12.00 Noon. Ladies Who Lunch, California Pizza Kitchen

Wednesday, September 25th, 7.00 PM. The Vestry meets in the Cadwalader Room

Thursday, October 3rd, 2.00 PM. A Cuppa and a Cookie, Cadwalader Room

Tuesday, October 8th, 7.00 PM. Parish Life Meeting, Quimby Hall

On top of all this, Italian scientists have found images on the back of the shroud that match the face and possibly the hands on the front.

“The fact that the image is two-sided makes any forgery difficult,” Professor Giulio Fanti of the University of Padua said.

The findings of Professor Fanti – a life-long atheist -- and Roberto Maggiolo, both from the university's department of mechanical engineering, were recently published in the highly regarded journal of the Institute of Physics in London.

While the front of the shroud has been studied intensively over the years, the back has remained hidden under the Holland cloth sewn on by the nuns. However, in 2002, that protective layer was removed for restoration and the back of the cloth was photographed.

The two scientists studied these photographs, using mathematical and optical techniques to process the images. They discovered that the face that can be seen on the reverse of the shroud matches that on the front.

“We can detect the presence of a nose, eyes, hair, beard and mustache on the back surface that correspond in place, form, position and scale to those of the front,” Prof. Fanti said.

The findings, he said, support the contentions of those who maintain the cloth is genuine.

Don't expect the skeptics to take the news quietly. This is a comedy that isn't going to close any time soon. Indeed, it's already run for seven centuries.

Something over a decade ago the Adult Education Department gave a presentation on The Shroud as a Lenten Series. Perhaps it is time we revisited the issue. We would be interested to hear your views on the subject. **ISAAC THE EAGLE**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

A Cuppa and a Cookie

THIRTY ladies of the parish enjoyed tea and fellowship at afternoon tea on Tuesday, September 3rd. So much so, in fact, that Anne Hawkins and her team have offered to do it again, on a monthly basis.

Beginning on October 3rd, and continuing on the first Thursday of each month, the ladies of the parish are once again invited to enjoy a cup of tea and something sweet to eat at St. Stephen's monthly “A Cuppa and a Cookie” teas.

Join us at 2.00 PM on the 3rd in the Cadwalader Room and kick off a new St. Stephen's tradition.

Summer Suppers are winding down

OUR ANNUAL Summer Suppers are winding down and there is only one left before our chefs hibernate for the winter.

Last Chance! Only one Summer Supper Left. Join us Thursday at 6.30 pm.

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

September 22nd, 2013

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

For the Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

The Gospel: St. Luke 14:1-11

11.15 AM SUNG MATTINS

The Psalter: Psalm 33

The First Lesson: Ecclesiasticus 10:7-18

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 14:1-11

If you haven't joined us on Thursdays at 6.30 PM for these delicious meals, why not plan to attend the last one of the season.

It's a great chance to visit with old friends as well as meet new folks who have discovered our weekly culinary delight.

And, if you're so inclined, stay afterwards for a friendly game of bridge with our bridge group. Players of all levels are welcome.

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join us on September 18th

THIS month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at 12.00 Noon at California Pizza Kitchen, on the second level of the Hunt Valley Town Center, on Wednesday, September 18th. 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*, Joshua, Aida, Cherry, Susan, Kathleen, David, Ellen, Mimi, Val, Stacy, Dino, Michael, Finton, Morris, Charles, Dawn, Betty Jean, Elliot, Sharon, Paul, Andy, Michael, Rosina, Diane, John, David, Richard, Bill, Leo, Riley, Mary-Ann, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, Thelma, Mary, Linda, Jan, Liz, Bob, Wyatt, Jim, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, Heather, Laurie, Lynn, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Edithann, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, 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, John, Randy, James, Sarah, 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, Thomas, Jeanne, Maxine, Ann, Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Joanne, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Doris, Fran, Carol, Jimmy, Felicia, Susan, Christina, Dawn, Shirley, Daniel and Suzie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Connie, JoAnn, Larry, Aaron, Hope, Bob, Paige, 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, Daniel, David, Steve, and Ruth.

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, Ian Cadwalader serving in Afghanistan.

✠ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

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RECTOR: The Rev. Canon Guy P. Hawtin
PREBENDARY: The Rev. Canon Rhae E. Kelley
VICAR: The Venerable 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.

COLLECT FOR THE Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity and St. Matthew the Apostle

O LORD, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

ALMIGHTY God, who by thy blessed Son didst call Matthew from the receipt of custom to be an Apostle and Evangelist; Grant us grace to forsake all covetous desires, and inordinate love of riches, and to follow the same thy Son Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 212 and 250

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