

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXV, Number 13

Edited by Don Ruthig

April 8th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

The most frightening passage in the Bible

A YOUNG couple were recently trying to decide on the scripture lessons to be read at their wedding. One they were certain they wanted was the 13th Chapter of St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians.

It is the epistle appointed to be read on Quinquagesima – you'll find it on Page 122 of the Book of Common Prayer. It begins with the words: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal"

Folks who find it puzzling that people about to be married should want to hear a lesson about the centrality of charity to the Christian Gospel should bear in mind that in Martin Coverdale's Bible – the one in use before the King James' Version – the passage reads:

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not **love** I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal . . ." The same goes for most modern versions of the Bible.

Sad to relate, some of the more clunky modern versions manage to render, what in the KJV and Coverdale translations is one of the most beautiful pieces of prose in the English language, into the cheesiest sort of doggerel. But I digress . . .

But *I Corinthians 13* is, in reality, quite inappropriate for weddings. The love Paul is commending in this passage is quite different from the sort of love associated with nuptial celebrations.

The Greeks had many words for love, each describing a different form of it – paternal love, filial love, erotic love, for instance.

The word Paul chose for *love* in this passage is the Greek word *agape* – a word that means love of mankind. In Latin, the word would be translated as *caritas*. And in English, *agape* is best rendered as *charity*.

But that is not the only objection to reading the passage at

weddings. While it might seem simply to express beautiful thoughts about the centrality of love to the Christian message, Paul, in writing it, did not intend to make the newly founded Corinthian Church feel comfortable. Far from it.

Corinth was one of the most dissolute cities in the Roman Empire. And while the Corinthian Christians were certainly rather better behaved than the average Corinthian, their behavior left much to be desired.

At the Eucharist, for example, they were apt to guzzle the food and the wine, which in other Christian Churches was distributed to the poor. Some led love lives that were far from monogamous.

In short, Paul was dressing them down, and calling them to account. Indeed, were they alive today those Corinthian Christians would probably regard *I Corinthians 13* as one of the most frightening passages in the New Testament.

And we should, too. For Paul's message is not merely addressed to the Corinthians. Indeed, it is applies to each and every one of us.

Today's Christians fail to recognize the terrifying nature of the message encapsulated in *I Corinthians 13* because we frequently do not read, mark, learn and inwardly digest what we read.

We tend skim everything we read – the Bible included – as casually as we skim the back of a cornflakes box at the breakfast table. If ever we bother to pause and ponder, the things that we read can frequently take on quite a different meaning.

And nowhere is this more apparent than in *I Corinthians 13*.

To be sure, St. Paul is talking about the importance of Christian love. But his message is by no means an anodyne First Century version of the Beatles' song "Love is all you need."

What Paul concentrates on expounding are the consequences of not loving one's fellow men in a Christian manner.

Bereft of this quality of charitable love, all of our other Christian virtues are absolutely worthless, he declares.

It does not matter, for example, how hard we work to spread the Gospel, if we are not acting in a spirit of love for our fellow men, our endeavors are useless.

It doesn't matter how great we are as preachers, teachers, singers and church builders. If we do have love towards our fellow men are talents are valueless.

In other words, if there is one ability we need to cultivate above all others, it is the ability to love our fellow men, no matter how unlovely they might appear. This is not an option. It is an obligation. Nothing else we have to offer can make up for its lack.

It is a thought that should rightly terrify us when ever we find ourselves griping about other people, even horrible ones. **GPH**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Garden Party Checklist

How can you help make our Garden Party a success? Let us count the ways.....

- ✓ Rummage through your house for unwanted bric-a-brac, collectibles, books, DVDs, CDs, etc. and drop them off on the jumble table in Quimby Hall.
- ✓ Sell advertisements and sponsorships for the brochure. Must be received by April 25th.
- ✓ Pick up a poster or two from the coffee room table and post at your local "haunts."
- ✓ Donate bottles of wine and spirits for our liquor wheel
- ✓ Bake cakes, pies, cookies or breads for our Bake Table. Bake small dessert items for the tea room. Baked goods should be delivered to the church on Friday, May 2nd.

Holy Week Schedule

April 13th through April 20th

Palm Sunday

8.00 AM Holy Communion
9.15 AM & 11.00 AM Sung Holy Communion
6.00 PM Service of Lessons and Anthems for
Passiontide

Holy Monday

6.00 PM Holy Communion

Holy Tuesday

6.00 PM Holy Communion

Holy Wednesday

6.00 PM Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday

7.00 PM Choral Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday

12.00 Noon The Seven Last Words from the Cross
3.30 PM Children's Way of the Cross
6.00 PM Communion of the Pre-sanctified

Holy Saturday

7.00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Day

8.00 AM Holy Communion
9.15 AM Choral Eucharist
(Followed by Easter Egg Hunt for Children 7 and under)
11.00 AM Choral Eucharist

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

Mondays, 6.30 PM (Temporary Lenten Schedule):

Bridge Club at the home of Fr. Mike

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Breakfast Fellowship at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events

Tuesday, April 8th, 7.00 PM: Parish Life Committee Meets in the Cadwalader Room.

Wednesday, April 9th, 11.30 AM: The Ladies Who Lunch at Ginza Restaurant. Please note earlier time.

Sunday, April 13th, 6.00 PM: Service of Lessons and Anthems for Passiontide

Saturday, May 3rd, 11.00 AM-4.00 PM: British Garden Party and Fete

- ✓ Lend us card tables for the tea room. Be sure to put your name on them so we can make sure you get them back.
- ✓ Lend us teapots for the tea room - but not your best silver or Limoges.
- ✓ Create a beautiful floral entry for our "Typically Britist" flower contest. Deliver to the church prior to 10.00 am on May 3rd.
- ✓ Crafters: Donate an item or two for sale on our Crafts Table.
- ✓ Sign up to help setup and/or work the day of the Garden Party.

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Plan to join us on April 9th

THIS month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at **11.30 am** at Ginza Japanese Restaurant, 56 Cranbrook Rd, Cockeysville, on Wednesday, April 9th. 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.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
PALM SUNDAY**
April 13th, 2014
8.00 AM, 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION
The Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
The Gospel: St. Matthew 27:1-54
11.00 AM
The Psalter: Psalms 24, 97
The First Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-12
The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 27:1-54

RECOVERY: Fr Guy✠, Fr. Mike✠, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, Suzie, John, Rodney, Hamilton, Donald, Annie, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Linda Lou, Edie, Adele, Baby Charlie, Angie, Oona, Cary, Janna, Martina, Leela, Bobby Sally, Isabelle, Julie, Ray, Courtney, Mary, Phyllis, Liz, Joe, Indra, Ally, Marjorie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Ann, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan, Paula, John, Hannah.

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

FOR REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Joe

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: Cindy, Susan

Easter Flowers for St. Stephen's Altar

Here is the selection of beautiful spring flowers to decorate the church for Easter. Please make your choice and return this form to the church office with your check by Wednesday, April 16th. Flowers may be taken home after the 11:15 am service on Easter Sunday.

<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"></td> <td align="right"># of plants</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lilies Small elite 6" 4-6 blooms @ \$10</td> <td align="right">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hydrangeas Four plus Blooms @ \$20</td> <td align="right">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tulips @ \$10 (6" pot)</td> <td align="right">_____</td> </tr> </table>		# of plants	Lilies Small elite 6" 4-6 blooms @ \$10	_____	Hydrangeas Four plus Blooms @ \$20	_____	Tulips @ \$10 (6" pot)	_____	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"></td> <td align="right"># of plants</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Field Azalea @ \$15</td> <td align="right">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hyacinths @ \$10 (6"pot)</td> <td align="right">_____</td> </tr> </table>		# of plants	Field Azalea @ \$15	_____	Hyacinths @ \$10 (6"pot)	_____
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	# of plants														
Field Azalea @ \$15	_____														
Hyacinths @ \$10 (6"pot)	_____														
Your Name:.....															
My gift is made IN HONOR OF,															
IN MEMORY OF, IN THANKSGIVING FOR (Please Circle)															
.....															

✠ 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 Rev. Canon Guy P. Hawtin
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)
11.00 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 PASSION SUNDAY
AND ST. LEO THE GREAT

WE beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people; that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Page 132

O GOD our father, who madest thy servant Leo strong in the defense of the faith: we humbly beseech thee so to fill thy Church with the spirit of truth that, being guided by humility and governed by love, she may prevail against the powers of evil; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

AMEN

Return Service Requested

St. Stephen's Anglican Church
11856 May's Chapel Road
Timonium, MD 21093

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