

St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

Volume XXVII, Number 39

A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

October 18th 2016

FROM THE REV. JAMES JOHNSON

Celebrate the saint hailed as Father of the English Bible

The day upon which the Anglican World celebrates the life and work of William Tyndale, the "Father of the English Bible" is October 6th – the day upon which he was martyred, exactly 480 years ago, in 1536.

Tyndale, hailed as an Anglican saint, was an English priest and scholar, who became a leading figure in Protestant reform in the years leading up to his execution.

He was fluent in seven languages and proficient in Ancient Hebrew and Greek, and is particularly remembered for translation of the Bible from the original languages into English. In this he was influenced by the work of Desiderius Erasmus, who made the Greek New Testament available in Europe, and by Martin Luther.

Tyndale's translation was the first English Bible to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, the first English one to take advantage of the printing press, and first of the new English Bibles of the Reformation.

It was taken to be a direct challenge to the hegemony of both papal authority and the laws of pre-Reformation England that maintained the Roman Church's position.

Tyndale began a Bachelor of Arts degree at Magdalen Hall (later Hertford College) of Oxford University in 1506 and received his B.A. in 1512, the same year becoming a subdeacon. He was made Master of Arts in July 1515 and was held to be a man of virtuous disposition, leading an unblemished life.

The M.A. allowed him to start studying theology, but the official course did not include the systematic study of Scripture.

As Tyndale later complained: "They have ordained that no man shall look on the Scripture, until he be noselled in heathen learning eight or nine years and armed with false principles, with which he is clean shut out of the understanding of the Scripture."

Tyndale left for London in 1523 to seek permission to translate the Bible into English. He requested help from Bishop Cuthbert Tunstall, a well-known classicist who had praised Erasmus after working together with him on a Greek New Testament.

The bishop, however, declined to extend his patronage, telling Tyndale that he had no room for him in his household.

Tyndale preached and studied "at his book" in London for some time, relying on the help of a cloth merchant, Humphrey Monmouth. During this time, he lectured widely, including at St Dunstan-in-the-West.

Tyndale left England and landed on continental Europe, perhaps at Hamburg, in the spring of 1524, possibly traveling on to Wittenberg. He began translating the New Testament at this time, possibly in Wittenberg, completing it in 1525 with assistance from Observant friar William Roy.

A full edition of the New Testament was produced in 1526 by printer Peter Schoeffer in Worms, a free imperial city then in the process of adopting Lutheranism. More copies were soon printed in Antwerp. And the book was smuggled into England and Scotland.

However, it was condemned in October 1526 by Bishop Tunstall, who issued warnings to booksellers and had copies burned in public. Marius notes that the "spectacle of the scriptures being put to the torch . . . provoked controversy even amongst the faithful."

Cardinal Wolsey, then the English Lord Cancellor,

condemned Tyndale as a heretic – a condemnation first stated in open court in January 1529.

In 1530, Tyndale also wrote "The Practyse of Prelates," opposing Henry VIII's divorce from Catherine of Aragon on the grounds that it contravened Scripture and that it was a plot by Cardinal Wolsey to get Henry entangled in the papal courts of Pope Clement VII.

The king's wrath was aimed at Tyndale. Henry asked Emperor Charles V to have the writer apprehended and returned to England under the terms of the Treaty of Cambra. The Emperor, however, responded that formal evidence was required before extradition.

Tyndale developed his case in a work entitled "An Answer unto Sir Thomas More's Dialogue."

Eventually, Tyndale was betrayed to the imperial authorities,

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. To add a name to the prayer list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, ring the parish office on 410 560 6776.

FOR RECOVERY: Hilarie, Edie, Bill, Alan, Terry, Helen, Jim, Adele, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Aida, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Tom, Robert, David, Jan, Susie, Sophia, Bobby, Lee, Pam, Cary, Courtney, Marie, Joanna, Finnie, Kim, Kendall, Gloria & John.

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Melba, Scott, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Ned, Cindy, Jacob, Casey & Beth

IN MEMORIAM: Shaggy, a much loved Parish dog

THOSE WHO MOURN: Brock & Jody Johnson & the Parish staff

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; Lt Cdr Emma Hawkins, RN; MSGT Michael Holton, USAF

seized in Antwerp in 1535, and held in the castle of Vilvoorde (Filford) near Brussels. He was tried on a charge of heresy in 1536 and was condemned to be burned to death, despite Thomas Cromwell's intercession on his behalf.

Tyndale "was strangled to death while tied at the stake, and then his dead body was burned". His final words, spoken "at the stake with a fervent zeal, and a loud voice", were reported as "Lord! Open the King of England's eyes."

Tyndale's final prayer was answered. Within four years of his martyrdom, four English translations of the Bible were published in England at the King's behest, including Henry VIII's official Great Bible. All were based on Tyndale's work.

Perhaps even more ironical, the Roman Church's English language version of the Scripture, the Douay-Rheims Bible, also relied heavily on Tyndale's translation.

Father Johnson, the Rector of All Saints Anglican Church, Lancaster, PA., was formerly an Associate Rector at St. Stephen's Church

FROM THE RECTOR

A debt we owe the bug lady

Many, many moons ago, when I was a small boy, there two organizations it was essential to join if you wanted to be perceived

as truly cool: The Cub Scouts and our parish Choir of Men and Boys.

Not every boy could aspire to the choir, of course. Kenny May, for instance, couldn't carry a tune in a bucket. But everyone – without exception – could join the Cub Scouts. The two outfits could not have been more different. The choirmaster was Mr. Mitchell, an exacting taskmaster whose luxuriant eyebrows signalled instantly communicated displeasure, shock, surprise, horror and – very, very rarely – satisfaction.

Miss Curtis, our cub leader, couldn't have been more different. She was small, blond and decidedly good looking, She was also exceptionally good at practical things like tying knots, making fires and organizing the sort of activities that little boys absolutely adore.

But what really endeared her to us is that she was the only female we had ever met who liked – and knew everything about – bugs, mice, snakes and all of the other creepy crawlies we could rely upon to make our sisters (and more often than not our mothers) shriek with disgust.

In short, Miss Curtis was very cool – super cool, in fact. (We, of course, didn't use the word "cool." It hadn't yet been coined. We used the term "absolutely wizard.") Mr. Mitchell and Miss Curtis were far more than instructors. They were our counsellors, comforters, philosophers and guides. The debt we owe them is incalculable. GPH✘

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Worship, fellowship, coffee and cookies

Worship and fellowship are a tradition at St Stephen's where the call to worship is followed by the warmth of chatting and refreshments at Coffee Hour. Part of the value of the after service mingling is in its preparation by your fellow members who set out the goodies for all to share.

The preparation is simple, especially when the value is considered. The church provides coffee, juice, cheese, crackers, cookies and fruit, and the preparer simply plates them in the kitchen and sets them out on the table. Supplies, napkins etc are in the cabinet under the coffee urn.

For those who enjoy preparing something home cooked, feel free to bring that as well.

Coffee Hour prepping is open to all gals or guys who wish to serve. Also, a coordinator is needed to help follow up on sign ups. To help with coffee hour, fill in your name for a date on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board by the side door or contact Priscilla or Dick Huffman, (301-646-4422) (443-764-6554).

St Stephen's Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093

Office: 410 560 6776 · Rectory: 410 665 1278

Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Ven. Canon Guy P Hawtin, *Rector*
The Venerable Michael Kerouac, *Vicar*
The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki and
The Rev. Robert Ludwig, *Associate Rectors*
The Rev. M Wiley Hawks, *Pastoral Care Chaplain*
Mrs Happy Riley, *Director of Pastoral Care & Wedding Coordinator*

SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Said Eucharist

9.15am: Choral Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

11am: Choral Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)

6pm: Choral Evensong (as announced) –
evensong.ststeve.com

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6pm: Evening Prayer

Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5pm: Family Eucharist

Calendar of Events

WEEKLY

Monday, 6.30pm: Bridge Club

Tuesday, 7am: Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

Thursday, 10am: Knitting Circle

Friday, 10.30am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Parish Life Committee

Tuesday, October 10th, 7.00 pm

Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday October 19th, 12 noon

(Famous Dave's, 2235 York Road, Timonium)

Trafalgar Day Tea

Sunday, October 30th, 2.00-4.00 pm

Choral Evensong

6.00 pm, Sunday, November 6th

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TIMONIUM MD

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