

St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

Volume XXIX, Number 1 *A parish in the classical Anglican tradition* January 16th 2018

FROM BISHOP PAUL HEWETT

Nicknames as terms of divine affection

We get so much spam in our e-mail it is hard to give the worthwhile stuff the attention it deserves. In any event, I was skimming the Fortnightly Newsletter of the Diocese of the Holy Cross recently and was much taken with a meditation on nicknames by The Rt. Rev. Paul Hewett SSC, the diocese's Bishop Ordinary. I hope you find it as interesting as I did,

On the First Sunday after the Epiphany we find Jesus in the Temple with Mary and Joseph. Jesus is manifested in His Father's house as the Wisdom of God. After the great Finding, Jesus returns to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph, and is subject to them there, in the Holy Family. And so sometimes this Sunday is observed as the Feast of the Holy Family.

One of the Lessons for this Feast is Colossians 3:12ff, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a complaint against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts ..."

Here is a description of the Holy House in Nazareth, where Jesus lived in obscurity with Mary and Joseph for the first 30 years of His earthly life. Of course, this is a Jewish family, with ardor for God and warm piety in the observance of His Law, and devotion to His prophets, and delight in the Psalms of Israel, all leading to a great capacity for joy and for delight, and yes, even for mirth and merriment.

Close-knit families eventually fall upon a nickname as a term of endearment for one or another of its members, or pets, or farm animals. We do not know what nick-names might have been used in the Holy Family, but we do know that when our Lord began His ministry, and called His twelve apostles, he gave nick-names to all three in the innermost circle.

Simon becomes Peter, the Rock, or "Rocky." James and John become *Boanerges*, or "Sons of Thunder." (Mark 3:17) Jesus used, as a nickname for His Father, *Abba*, which translates as "Papa."

The central theme of the Gospel is the good news that we are beloved of God, and endeared to Him, and have boldness of access to His throne of grace, through the precious Blood of His dear Son, in whom we now live forevermore, free from sin, and free for a life in exuberant love with God, and with one-another-in-God.

As the Family of God, bought with Jesus' Blood, we have accumulated many nicknames over the millennia. In this amazing Family we are free to show our devotion and affection for the great milestones we all celebrate.

The nickname we have been using of late is "Merry Christmas. Merry, derived from *mirth*, can mean jolly,

cheerful or delightful. Christmas is the Mass of Christ, and *Mass* is a nickname that could have come from the Deacon's dismissal, *Ite, missa est*, or "Go, it is sent," "it" meaning the Church.

Mass may also have connotations with the word "mess," or food, as in "mess hall." In Christ, God has made Himself our food!

Before long we will begin Lent, another nickname, from the old English "lengthen," for the days which get longer before Easter. *Maundy* is a nickname for Thursday in Holy Week, when, during the foot washing, we remember our Lord's commandment, or *mandatum*, to love one another.

Calling Friday "good" is a brilliant theological "handle," for the Day that the heavenly Father will, in the Holy Spirit, turn the absolute worst into the absolute best, through the sacrifice of His Son. Easter probably comes from the German, *aufstehen*, (the German word for resurrection) which became *erstehen*, "first standing," in old English.

Just before Ascension Day we have "Rogationtide," from the Latin, *rogare*, as in "interrogate," or ask – a time of asking for God's blessing on the crops being planted,

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: Peter, Charlotte, Dorothy, Rodney, June, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Aida, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Robert✕, David, Jan, Susie, Sophia, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Cour Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John, David, Adrian, Tom, Michell, Aida, Mai, Al, Kathy, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, Isobel, Judy & Elizabeth

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Melba, Sam, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Cindy, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Erin, Aubery & Kathy

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; MSGT Michael Holter, USAF; Cpt Fiodor Strikovski, US Army.

and of the ultimate asking, for the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost was known to our Christian ancestors in England as Whitsunday, from *whit*, which could mean either the color white, or, more likely, *wit*, meaning wisdom, or *wits*, the crown of the seven-fold Gifts.

Four times a year we have the Ember Days, and ember is probably an Anglicization of the French, *quatre temps*, or four times, when we pray for those preparing for Holy Orders. English Christians take a mischievous delight in sticking with Anglicized French words ... all in the Family!

It could be said that Lord and Lady are nicknames, as in "Our Lord" and "Our Lady." Lord and lady are today quite solemn or dignified words, but they have a homespun origin, from old English, from the period following the Viking invasions. Curiously, they bear no relation to their

counterparts in other Germanic languages, *Herr* and *Frau* in German or *Herre* and *Fru* in Scandinavian. “

Lord and Lady are both contractions of little phrases descriptive of men’s and women’s roles as understood in Scripture. Lady comes from *hlaefknidige*, Scandinavian for *hlaef*, or loaf, as in “loaf of bread.” *Knidige* is old Scandinavian for knead, as in “knead the loaf.” *Hlaefknidige* was shortened to *Hlaefdige*, which was contracted further to Lady: “she who kneads the loaf.

Lord comes from *hlaef*, loaf, and *ward*, Scandinavian for “warden” or “protector.” *Hlaefward* becomes Lord, he who is the loaf-ward or loaf protector. The lady kneads the bread and the lord is the husband, the band of protection around the house, to let the lady get on with the homemaking.

There is no doubt any number of other nicknames used throughout the Church, terms of endearment, ways of being at home in the household of Faith.

One of the pleasant surprises of Heaven may be the new nicknames we discover from distant parts of the Church. We will all be given a new name there (*Rev. 2.17*) And perhaps, for those who do not now have one, our Lord will even give a nickname.

THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Serving parish and community

In case you are wondering, the Parish Life Committee is the social and fundraising arm of this church. We plan numerous events to bring parishioners, friends, family and neighbors together and, also, to raise money for our many endeavors..

We pledge to the church the sum of \$12,000 a year. We raise this with events such as the British Garden Party in May, the Cookie Walk in December, and Summer Suppers. Reaching beyond our physical plant, we support others of our community and the world.

The Knitting Circle auction proceeds go to outreach here and abroad. Heifer International receives a gift of a Knitters basket which includes a sheep, a llama, an alpaca and an Angora rabbit. At Jacobs Well receives warm knitted hats and scarves, as well as non-perishable items and cash donations.

The Christ Child Society of Baltimore receives baby blankets, sweaters and toys for their layettes for new mothers and their babies, as well as a cash donation for the many needs of the women and children of Baltimore. And, of course, we knit prayer shawls and squares for those who need comfort.

In addition to our pledge to this church, this year the Parish Life committee was also able to pay for the new Lawn Tractor and the rack for the folding chairs.

We are always looking for more people to join us for ideas that will benefit our mission both here and around the world. Many hands make light work and we have fun doing work with our fellow parishioners. CYNTHIA L. BAKER,

St Stephen's Anglican Church

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www.ststeve.com

The Rev. Canon Guy P Hawtin, *Rector*
The Venerable Michael Kerouac, *Vicar*
The Rev. Michael Belt and The Rev. John Novicki
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: Sung 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
Thursday, 10am: Knitting Circle
Friday, 10.30am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Parish Life

Sunday, January 14th, 10.30 am

The Ladies Who Lunch

The Peppermill Restaurant
Wednesday, January 17th, 12.00 pm
To reserve: Call Sara Douglas 410-560-9026

Vestry Meeting

Wednesday January 17th, 7.00 pm

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