

St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Anglican Church,
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXII, Number 21

Edited by Anne Hawkins

May 31st, 2011

FROM THE RECTOR

A Rogationtide toast with "Ganging Beer"

ROGATION Sunday (the Fifth Sunday After Easter) and the three Rogation Days that follow tend to be treated with short shrift by most churchgoers today. If they are observed at all it is merely in the singing of hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter" and antique sounding prayers for a plentiful harvest.

But until very recently Rogation Sunday and the subsequent Rogation Days played a major role in parish life. Indeed, they were among the jolliest times of the church year – enlivened by processions, parties and all manner of celebrations.

Rogationtide didn't start out that way, of course. It originated in Vienne, France (not to be confused with Vienna, Austria), in 470 AD after a series of natural disasters that had caused great suffering in the locality.

In response, St. Mamertus, Archbishop of Vienne, proclaimed a fast and ordered special litanies to be said as the population processed around their fields, begging God's protection and seeking his blessing on the newly germinating crops.

Rogationtide was, thus, a specially designated occasion for asking God's aid and predictably perhaps its name is derived from the Latin word *rogare*, which means "to ask."

It takes no time at all for good customs to spread – especially in societies closely connected with the soil and highly dependent on the vagaries of nature. Soon Rogation was being celebrated all over Europe, including the British Isles.

Technically, of course, Rogationtide was a time of fasting. Indeed, Rogation Days were originally nicknamed "Grass Days," because the eating of meat was forbidden.

But people have always adored parades and it didn't take long for Rogationtide to develop into a popular festival, celebrating the arrival of spring and the planting season.

New nicknames for it abounded. Just as some Americans call Thanksgiving "Turkey Day," in England some folks dubbed Rogationtide the "Gang Days," from the Anglo-Saxon word *gangan*, "to go." Others called Rogation the "Cross Days." Both names refer to the fact that Rogation was celebrated with processions toting crosses and banners around the countryside.

In some parishes, the procession took more than one day and the whole business became an occasion for several days of picnics and parties of all sorts – not exclusively of an entirely religious nature.

In Britain, the parish was not merely an ecclesiastical term. It was also the basic unit of government. Vestries or parish councils were responsible not just for the upkeep of the church, but for the civil administration of the village as well.

Rogation processions, which generally circled the entire parish, were useful for teaching people, particularly the young, the parochial boundaries. This was vital knowledge in days when the parish was responsible for maintaining the roads within its boundaries, for keeping the peace and relieving the poor.

The custom of "beating the bounds" was in part an educational process. The processions customarily stopped at boundary marks and other significant landmarks of the

parish, such as an ancient tree, or a rock, or perhaps a pond.

After the priest read the Gospel and perhaps placed a cross on the landmark, tradition required the boys of the parish to be beaten with willow wands or subjected to some other indignity to help them to remember the parish borders.

In later, gentler times, the boys were allowed to beat the boundary markers with the willow wands rather than being beaten themselves.

The annual beating of the bounds also afforded a natural opportunity to resolve boundary issues. This, in turn, led to a tradition of settling personal disputes during Rogationtide.

Making up quarrels being a cause for celebration, the participants ended the Rogation processions by sharing a tankard or two (or three or four or more) of specially brewed ale, called Ganging Beer, and munching so-called Rammalation Biscuits.

All in all, it sounds an awful lot more fun than just singing "We plough the fields and scatter" and heading to McDonalds for a burger. (*No disrespect to that fine Scottish restaurant intended: Ed*).

But if anyone should have a recipe for Ganging Beer or Rammalation Biscuits to hand, drop it off at the Church Office and see what the Silly Summer Supper chefs can do. **GPH**

ST STEPHEN'S CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS

will sing a

Choral Evensong for the
Sunday After The Ascension

at 6 PM on
Sunday, June 5th, 2011

People of all faith traditions
are heartily welcome
Reception to follow

FROM THE PARISH CHEFS

Silly Summer Suppers are coming on June 9th

THE MOMENT you have all been waiting for now approaches. On Thursday, June 9th, the chefs of St. Stephen's will begin the 2011 series of "Silly Summer Suppers."

Truth to tell, it's hard to think of a less appropriate name than "Silly Summer Suppers" for these remarkable gastronomic events. Not least, the food is absolutely scrumptious – and there is plenty of it.

The only thing silly about these suppers is the price. Where else can you get a home-cooked entrée, dessert and salad for a meager \$10. Add to that soda for a buck and wine at \$3 per glass and \$5 for two.

Actually, a Silly Supper Supper is much more than a meal. It is a social occasion – a time to meet your neighbors and fellow parishioners for food, fun and – if it appeals to you – a light hearted game of bingo.

Why not join us on Thursday, June 9th? Your stomachs will thank you. Your friends will thank you. And our chefs will thank you for appreciating their good cooking.

FROM THE EDITOR

Get the newsletter by email

AT LONG last we have a new publishing program which gives us the capability of delivering St. Stephen's News by e-mail. If you would rather receive the newsletter by e-mail, please email the Treasurer at treasurer@ststeve.com or give me a call at the parish office and I will arrange it. **AEH**

FROM THE VESTRY

Annual Meeting, June 5th

ST STEPHEN'S Annual Parish Meeting will take place between the 9.15 AM and the 11.15 AM services on Ascension Sunday, June 5th. Members attending the meeting will hear

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION**

being the Sixth Sunday After Easter, June 5th, 2011

8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.15 AM

HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I St. Peter 4:7-11

The Gospel: St. John 15:26-16:4

FOR YOUR MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 21:1-6 & Psalm 24

The First Lesson: Isaiah 33:5-22

The Second Lesson: St. John 17:1-26

the Rector's report on the state of the parish, the reports of the Treasurer and Wardens, and elect candidates for the Vestry. The candidates nominated for the vestry this year are all sitting members. They are: Mr. William H.J. Hawkins, Treasurer; Dr. Kirby von Kessler, Registrar; and Mr. G. Brock Johnson, Vestryman.

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Please join us on June 15th

THE LADIES Who Lunch will be sampling the food at Piv's Restaurant on York Road (just north of Padonia Road) Cockeysville on Wednesday, June 15th. As usual, we will be meeting at 12 noon, which allows plenty of time for leisurely studying the menu.

Why not join us for good food, sparkling conversation, fellowship and fun? All it takes to make your reservation is to lift up the phone and call me at Tel: \$10-252-2680 and say you'll be coming. We'll look forward to seeing you. **JOYCE PERLBERG**

✠ PARISH PRAYER LIST ✠

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List and guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice. To add a name to the list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the office at 410 560 6776.

RECOVERY: Blair, Jim, Georgetta, Melvin, Noah, Mavis, Heather, Laurie, Diane, Don, Lynn, Helen, Katherine, Hindra, Sara, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Linda, Robert, Nancy, Edithann, Doris, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Helen, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, Patty, Antonio, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Bob, Fran, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erline, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom, Leliliah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Marian, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy; Ellen, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Robert, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, Bryan, Jason, Jane, Joan, Frances, Pat, Michael, Ray, Leslie, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Robert, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, Alma, Christine, John, Henry, Naomi, Pam, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Gloria, Lee Emily, Elsie, Bruce, Regina, Lewis, Madolin, Linda, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, Jody, Sheila, Jo Anne, John, Geradine, Thomas, Jeanne, Sister Catherine-Grace, Maxine, Ann Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Rebecca, Dorothy, Joanne, Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian and Carol.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Ned, & Stephen, Rachel, Robert & Renee, Lydia; Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Georgetta, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, Doris, Drake, The Norris family; Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, David, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Tom, Susan, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, Jo Anne, Mary, Gregory, Isabel, Bobby, Dorothy, Darren, Scott, Rebecca, William, Charles, Joyce, Asfa, Eleanor, Kathy, Linda, James, Barry, Ann, Evelyn, Jeanette, Elizabeth, Virginia, Mildred, Chris, Stephen, Carol, Sandra, John, Mary, Michael and David

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; LTC. R. J. Lytle, PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, U.S. Army; Alex Bursi, US. Navy; Capt. Charles Bursi & LTC Harry Hughes, U.S. Air Force.

✠ 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 Venerable Guy P. Hawtin

VICAR: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am -- Holy Communion

9.15am -- Holy Communion

(Nursery & Church School)

11.15am -- Morning Prayer

(1st. Sun. of the month: Holy Communion at 11.15am)

(1st Sun. of the month: Choral Evensong at 6.00pm)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday: 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Friday: Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday: 5.00 PM Family Eucharist.

**COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER EASTER & THE ASCENSION**

O LORD, from whom all good things do come;
Grant to us, thy humble servants, that by thy holy
inspiration we may think those things that are good,
and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same,
through our Lord Jesus Christ. *AMEN.*

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we
do believe thy only begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to
have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart
and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell,
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost,
one God, world without end. *AMEN*

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 175 & 177

Return Service Requested

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