

St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Church, Timonium, Maryland
A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

August 3rd, 2010

ECCLESIA ANGLICANA III

Abbots, abbesses and co-ed monasteries

IF THERE is one thing that really gets my goat, it's the claim that our mother church, The Anglican Church, is only 450 years old and that it was founded by King Henry VIII. I actually heard this asserted at a church meeting recently. This is a nonsense. The British Church can, in fact, lay claim to being the oldest Church in the gentile world. So let's set the matter straight:

WITH the decline of the Roman Empire of the East, the British Church retreated in the face of Anglo-Saxon invasions, consolidating in the South West, West, and North West of England and in Ireland. From there it maintained contacts not so much with Rome – which had been sacked, pillaged and largely destroyed in a series of barbarian invasions – but rather with the Churches of Jerusalem, Antioch and Constantinople.

Archaeological excavations indicate that during this period, the British conducted a flourishing trade with those parts of the world. Moreover, British Primates – such as St. David,

Life Line Screening

Community preventive health screening program

Friday, August 13th - 8.30 AM to 5.00 PM
St. Stephen's Parish Hall

For info or to pre-register call the Church Office at 410-5606776 or Life Line at 1-888-653-6441 or go on the web to www.lifelinescreening.com

Dewi Sant – were traditionally consecrated not by the Pope, but by the Patriarchs of Jerusalem.

From its strongholds in the West, the British Church moved out to convert the Anglo-Saxon invaders, and together with colleagues from the Celtic Church in Gaul, British missionaries participated in the evangelization of Europe from the Alps to Scandinavian Border.

When, for instance, St. Boniface – the Saxon monk known as the Apostle of Germany – arrived there in the 7th Century, he found a large and flourishing Celtic Church whose sway extended from Burgundy, through Germany, Switzerland and Austria to the Italian border.

Boniface, I might add, earned his title "apostle" not so much by converting the heathen as by cutting political deals on the Pope's behalf with the secular authorities to suppress the Celtic Church – which had actually done the converting.

It is tempting to argue that the Celtic Church left a lasting impression on the peoples that it converted to Christ. Can it be, for example, entirely coincidental that the Reformation sprang up and took root in the regions converted to Christianity by the Celtic Church? There are definite parallels between doctrines enunciated by British theologians of the 7th and 8th Centuries and doctrines expounded by the more moderate English reformers of the 16th Century

This would seem to offer a rich field for scholarly research

St. Stephen's Church
CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS
sings

Choral Evensong

at 6.00 PM Sunday, August 1st
Reception to follow

and it would be interesting to learn if any recent doctoral dissertations have been produced on the topic.

We know a good deal about the manner in which the British Church operated. It was a loosely structured organization, centered around a number of great abbeys. These abbeys sent out the missionaries and parochial clergy. The most powerful ecclesiastics in the British Church were not bishops, but abbots and, on occasion, abbesses, such as the redoubtable Hilda, who hosted the Synod of Whitby at her abbey at the town of the same name in AD 664.

Rarely was an abbot also a bishop. Columba, the Apostle of Scotland, for example, was an abbot, but never a bishop. Aidan, the Apostle of Britain (Lindisfarne, AD 635) was for long a bishop, but not an abbot. Bishops lived in abbeys under the authority of the abbot. Like Aidan, they were often sent out as missionaries.

British religious houses differed greatly from their Roman and Greek counterparts. It was by no means unusual for abbeys to be populated by both male and female religious. There is also persuasive evidence that married couples also formed an integral part of some religious communities. St. Hilda's great abbey of Whitby, for instance, had two large dormitories – one for monks and another for nuns – while married couples appear to have been accommodated in individual houses or huts.

Like the orthodox churches, the secular clergy seem almost invariably to have been married. This practice continued well into the 13th Century in England, while in Wales it was never abandoned. It is recorded that many Welsh Parish priests were shocked when the English reformers informed them that they might now marry: They had never given up the practice.

The British Church's co-educational abbeys and its policy with regard to clerical marriage have been cited by both by Romanist partisans and anti-monastic Protestants as evidence that the British Church was corrupt and its clergy

THE RETURN OF THE SILLY SUMMER SUPPERS

Fun neighborhood get-togethers every

Thursday at 5.30 PM

Join us for fine food & fellowship

debauched and depraved. Perplexingly, many modern historians seem take these claims at face value. Such notions are hard to reconcile with the fruits of the British Church's labors. How could a corrupt Church and a depraved clergy have been so zealous in its efforts to convert the heathen?

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

being Sunday, August 8th, 2010

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Corinthians 12:1-11

The Gospel: St. Luke 19:41-46

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 43

The First Lesson: II Samuel 1:17-27

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 19:41-46

And how could they have been so remarkably successful in this endeavor? **GPH**✘

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE

**Life Line Screening on
Friday, August 13th**

LIFE LINE Screening will be visiting St. Stephen's on Friday, August 13th, with their community preventive health screening program. They will be offering screening and tests for stroke risk, vascular disease and bone density.

The screening team will be here from 8.30 AM to 5.00 PM for more information or to pre-register, call me at the Parish Office: 410-560-6776 or call Life Line at 888-653-6441. Alternatively, you can go on the web and visit Life Line at www.lifelinescreening.com. **ANNE E. HAWKINS**

✦ 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.

**✦ St. Stephen's Traditional ✦
Episcopal Church**

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093
Tel.: Office (410) 560-6776; Rectory (410) 665-1278
Web Address: <http://www.ststephens-md.org>

RECTOR: The Venerable Guy P. Hawtin

ASSOCIATE RECTORS:

The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley and The Rev. Robert Menas

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 (Nursery)

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

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday: 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Friday: Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday: 5.00PM Family Eucharist.

RECOVERY: Helen, Alma, Sara, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Linda, Robert, Nancy, Sharp, Edithann, Doris, Jay, Robert, Nancy, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Helen, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, James, Patty, Antonio, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Bob, Fran, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, Katherine, William, Betty, Cal, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom. Lelillah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, Steve, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Marian, Edith Anne, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy; Ellen, Jim, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Robert, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, George, Bryan, Jason, Jane, Joan, Frances, Ernie, Pat, Lynn, Michael, Ray, Leslie, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Robert, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, Alma, Christine, John, Henry, Naomi, Pam, John, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Elizabeth, 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, Carol and Debbie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: 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, Debbie, 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, Micki, Stephen, Carol, Sandra, Elsie, John, Mary, Michael and David

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: 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.

**COLLECTS FOR NINTH SUNDAY AFTER
TRINITY & THE TRANSFIGURATION**

GRANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

O GOD, who on the mount didst reveal to chosen witnesses thine only begotten Son wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening; Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may be permitted to behold the King in his beauty, who with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, one God, world with out end. *AMEN.*

Book Common Prayer, Pages 200 & 249

Return Service Requested

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Episcopal Church
St. Stephen's Traditional

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