

St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Anglican Church,
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXII, Number 22

Edited by Anne Hawkins

June 7th, 2011

RECTOR'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

The State of the Parish 2010 to 2011

THE PARISH Endowment Fund drive has done remarkably well. Thanks to your generous contributions, it currently totals some \$191,000. This brings us to within \$9,000 of our initial \$200,000 goal. This success gives us the necessary confidence to proceed to the second, longer term, phase of the drive – to increase the amount in the fund to \$500,000.

The Endowment Fund is intended to cushion church programs that serve both in the parish and to the wider community from the financial downturns that periodically afflict the economy.

The Endowment Fund has amply proved its worth during the current recession. The economic slump has taken a hefty 17 percent bite out of pledged and plate offerings. But while earnings from the fund have helped offset (albeit not completely) the decline, we are still not out of the woods.

Thus we are asking you prayerfully to consider increasing your pledges this year. We know that times are tough, but parishes just like parishioners are feeling the pinch.

Finances always get tight as summer approaches. Family vacations tend to play havoc with church cash flow. If you are planning a trip, **Bill Hawkins**, our long-suffering treasurer, would much appreciate it if you paid your pledge before you went away, rather than upon your return.

Our books are still in the black thanks to a good deal of creative thinking, ruthless cost-cutting measures, financial sacrifices by the staff and a hefty increase in volunteer hours.

But there is a limit to how much fat can be trimmed before you start hacking away at bone, blood, muscle and sinews.

Aside from fiscal woes, the parish has enjoyed another successful year. We have welcome new members although, sadly, we have said a final earthly farewell to a number of old friends – including a couple of our founders.

Church activities, however, were enthusiastically supported and our work in the wider community has continued to expand, serving a growing a growing number of civic organizations and health care institutions.

The key organizer of the parish's community service team is **Mrs. Anne Hawkins**, Director of Pastoral Care. She also edits the newsletter, and coordinates our remarkably successful community blood drives.

We provide chaplains for organizations including the U.S. Navy League, the English Speaking Union and the St. George's Society. We also provide pastoral care and support at **The Joseph Richey Hospice, Union Memorial Hospital and the Greater Baltimore Medical Center.**

The clergy conduct regular church services at retirement communities and nursing homes, including **Glen Meadows, Mays Chapel Ridge, Genesis at Brightwood, Genesis at Mays Chapel, Lorien at Mays Chapel, Lorien in Columbia and Roland Park Place**, as well as occasional services at other communities including **Heart Homes, Blakehurst, Edenwald and Keswick**. The parish continues its monthly collections of non-perishable foodstuffs and household goods for **At Jacob's Well**, a charity that helps Baltimore's mentally ill homeless population.

On June 3rd, **The Joseph Richey Hospice's** new hospice for children, **Dr. Bob's Place**, opened its doors. The hospice has been a particular focus of our community service for upwards of 20 years and parishioner **Bea Kallina**, the Volunteer Coordinator, estimates that the new children's hospice will ultimately increase demand for our pastoral care and volunteer services.

Our Tuesday and Friday morning **Bible Studies** are led by **Brock Johnson** who took over the Friday Morning group from veteran Bible teacher **Cal Collier**.

The Tuesday morning, Knitting Circle – mentored by **Happy Riley and Karen Ruthig** – meets in the parish hall to laugh and chat while producing beautifully crafted comforts for the patients at the Joseph Richey Hospice and folks on the parish sick list. They are always ready to welcome new members – learners or expert. And it is not necessary to be physically present to join the circle.

The newsletter comes to you thanks to the hard-working ladies (and gentleman) of the mailroom: **Donna Szper, Joyce**

Perlberg (and Misty), Mar Bopst and Jim Halbert. If you change your address or if you're going away for few days. Please let them know so they can make the necessary adjustments to the mailing list.

The Parish Life Committee (PLC), led by **Chairman Stephanie Verhage**, excelled itself once again. The annual **Cookie Walk**, organized by the irrepressible **Donna Szper** was as successful as ever. Donna also organizes the annual **British Garden Party**, which netted a hefty \$3,000 profit.

The committee organized a host of other events, including summer picnics, autumn picnics and a diet-busting Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper. The committee's Silly Summer Suppers – a brainchild of **Anne Hawkins and Charlotte Hawtin** – ran through the summer and much of the fall, attracting an enthusiastic following not only among parishioners, but among folks in the neighborhood.

Adric, our Choirmaster & Organist, and the Choir of Men & Boys have continued their splendid program of Choral Evensongs. These services are generally sung on the first Sunday of the month and the offertory is in aid of the choir's special charity, **Dr. Bob's Place**, the Joseph Richey Hospice's new pediatric hospice.

Three or four Sundays a month during the academic year, the choir sings **Choral Mattins**. The officiant is usually **Peter Threadgill**, our head lay reader and resident composer. Indeed, from time to time, you will hear the choir singing music Peter, himself, has composed.

Our thanks also to lay readers **Gordon Turner, Paul Douglas, Dan Bursi, J. Brice Richardson, Bob Reynolds, Allan Gushue and Dr. Kirby von Kessler**, as well as **postulants John Novicki and Michael Belt**

An award for making bricks without straw should be presented to **Adric**. Thanks to his creative choir direction and innovative music selection, the choir has maintained a remarkably high standard despite an acute shortage of trebles.

Veteran trebles **Xander Nickol and Davis Pfund** have graduated to the choir's back benches. This, in turn, has put the burden of the treble line on our two novices – **Avery Schweitzer and Michael Hill**, both of whom have risen to the challenge magnificently.

We are always on the look out for trebles, experienced singers, as well as probationers and learners. If you know a boy who would enjoy singing and who would appreciate a splendid musical education – all for free – please let us know his name. We'd love to recruit him.

Thanks also goes to assistant organist, **Llwyd Bowers**, formerly organist at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Carey Street, Baltimore. Llwyd good-naturedly turns out on Sunday – often at short notice – to play for the 9.15 service.

The parish owes a considerable debt of gratitude to the Vestry for its work in overseeing the parish's affairs. They are **John Cobb**, Rector's Warden; **Gordon Turner**, People's Warden; **Paul Douglas**, assistant to the People's Warden; **Bill Hawkins**, treasurer; **Dr. Kirby von Kessler**, registrar; **Alan Gushue**, fund-raiser-in-chief; **John Novicki**, parish verger, who also represents the Sunday School; **Brock Johnson**, director of Adult Education; **Donna Szper** who represents the parish life committee and **J. Brice Richardson**, who is a member of the diocesan Standing Committee and the church's National Executive Council.

The church building and grounds have never looked better thanks to the efforts of **Grounds Chairman Martha Miller, Buildings Chairman Don Ruthig and Brock Johnson (a.k.a. "Sparkles")**, who lead a team of enthusiastic volunteers, including **Colby Hawks, Judy Elliot, Sev Miller and Bill Hawkins**.

A special vote of thanks goes to the talented **Don Ruthig**. He seems to set on singlehandedly refurbishing the church. Not least, he has completed painting the much admired frieze on side and west walls of the sanctuary.

He has also presented **Adric** with a handsome oak music stand and a cupboard for the choir's vestments; the clergy with a much needed vestment chest; and the Altar Guild with a chest for the altar hangings. And with only four days notice, he "ran up" a gorgeous crozier for Bishop Brian March to use for confirmations and the recent Diocesan Synod.

St. Stephen's Women's Group, under the leadership of **Ann Bonnell and Mavis Turner**, enjoyed another busy year. Recently Ann retired from the leadership, and her shoes have been ably filled by **Joyce Perlberg**.

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

commonly called Whitsunday, June 12th, 2011

8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.15 AM

HOLY COMMUNION

For The Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

The Gospel: St. John 14:15-31

FOR YOUR MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 68

The First Lesson: *Wisdom** 1:1-7

The Second Lesson: St. John 4:19-26

* *Apocrypha*

The **Altar Guild**, led by **Stephanie Verhage**, and **Joyce Perlberg** has had another busy year. Membership is open to both men and women. If you are interested in this vital work, please contact the parish office or an Altar Guild member. We are also looking for more **ushers** -- particularly for the 11.15 AM Sunday service.

The Sunday School has again done well during the course of the year thanks to the creative work of **Diane Novicki**, **Tracey Gushue**, **Brock Johnson** and the **Sunday School mothers**. Diane also leads the **Junior Altar Guild**.

Our talented **Flower Guild** continues to deck the sanctuary with spectacular floral arrangements. It was hard to imagine the church appearing more beautiful than it did at Christmastide until we saw the Easter flowers.

Last, but far from least, the parish now boasts a terrific new website -- one with all the latest bells and whistles. It is a home grown creation the work of a team, including Peter Threadgill, Adric, Michael Belt, John Novicki and Bill Hawkins.

If you want to keep abreast of parish affairs, check a date, read a sermon or hunt through ancient newsletters, the new website is the place to do it. You will find it at our new web address: www.ststeve.com **GPH***

FROM THE PARISH CHEFS

Silly Suppers 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. You get a home-cooked

entrée, dessert and salad for a meager \$10 with soda for a buck and wine at \$3 per glass and \$5 for two. Join us on Thursday, June 9th?

✠ 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: Michael, Gracie, Paula, 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, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom, Lelilah, 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.

REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Peggy McFaden

THOSE WHO MOURN: The Gushue & McFaden families.

✠ 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.

COLLECTS FOR THE ASCENSION & SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION

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*

O GOD, the King of Glory, who has exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send thy Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ has gone before, who livest and reignest with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God world without end. *AMEN*

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 177 & 179

Return Service Requested

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