

St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Anglican Church,
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXII, Number 37

Edited by Anne Hawkins

September 20th, 2011

AN EAGLE'S EYE VIEW

It's time to give Howard Burnham a fair shake!

I DON'T mean to be picky, but I really don't think the folks who run the newsletter have given a fair shake to that great classical actor Howard Burnham who is coming here at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 27th, to present another one of his terrific one man shows.

This time he's giving us the low down on King James I of England and VI of Scotland -- the bloke who gave his name to the King James Version of the Bible.

I am very partial to King James I. If it weren't for his Bible, I'd be out of work today. In fact, I'd probably have been melted down to make door knockers.

In any event, this year marks the 400th anniversary of the KJV and Burnham is giving us one of his acclaimed characterizations of the quirky king -- the first to rule both England and Scotland.

Howard always puts on a terrific show. I can attest to that because I've been here for them all. In fact, I've had the honor of taking part in a couple of them.

Mark your calendars for 7 PM, Tuesday, September 27th. And remember, there is a champagne reception afterwards! The suggested donation is \$10 (\$5 for kids under 14). **ISAAC EAGLE**

THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join us on September 21st

THE LADIES who lunch will be getting together at 12 Noon on Wednesday, September 21st at Michael's Restaurant on York Road (near the Timonium Road junction) for a wonderful afternoon of great food and fellowship. You are heartily invited to join us. to reserve, call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680.

FROM THE RECTOR

The secret is: 'Know how to live the faith'

SAINT PAUL'S Epistle to the Philippians is almost certainly the last one he wrote. He probably penned it shortly before his execution by the Emperor Nero. In it, Paul mentions he is expecting his case to be resolved in the imminent future.

Intellectually, the epistle is a bit boring. It's simply a nice letter to his most beloved church. Of all the churches Paul founded or nurtured, the Philippian Church is apparently the only one that didn't give him any major headaches.

Indeed, we know from other epistles -- notably to the Corinthians -- that when Paul feels a need to cite an example of commendable behavior on the part of a church, he refers to his mission in Macedonia: in short, the Philippian Church.

Human beings tend to think of their own situations as unique. We look at the state of the church in America and we see the mainline denominations, once bastions of orthodoxy, in total disarray. At the same time, we see the blossoming of numerous sects, all professing to be Bible-based, yet preaching novel doctrines. And we imagine this has never happened on this scale before.

Paul's epistles are proof that this is an entirely false impression. The disarray, the dissention, the abandonment of fundamental tenets of faith, the strange and novel doctrines -- they have all been stooping around since the very founding of the church. But studying Philippians offers us a useful lesson in how this little church -- one so much like our own --

managed to remain faithful while everything was going to pieces around them.

The Philippian Church flourished in what might seem to have been extremely unfertile soil. The city of Philippi was a Roman colony settled primarily by battle-hardened veterans of the Roman Legions -- not notably spiritual people. The tiny Jewish population -- folks who usually formed the backbone of the new churches -- didn't even have a synagogue.

They met to pray in an open-air place, down by the river

outside the gates of the city and it was here Paul, with St. Luke and their companions, first preached the Gospel. Yet in this decidedly unpromising environment a church flourished that was far more successful in living Christ's gospel than any of its peers.

It took courage to be a faithful Christian in Philippi -- just as it does in America today. Indeed, the unremitting hostility by the pagan Roman population seems to have inspired a degree of zeal and commitment in Philippi's Christian community that exceeded that of other churches in the empire. Its members were totally dependent on each other for spiritual support and sustenance. And out of this mutual dependence came harmony.

The antipathy of the local authorities meant Philippi was an unpretentious church. Membership carried no particular social cachet -- far from it. It embraced a broad cross section of Philippian society. We know from the Book of Acts that its earliest converts included a woman who was a wealthy cloth trader, a poor slave girl who Paul had saved from demonic possession and the Roman warden of the city jail.

Perhaps it was because of its broad social base, it was a warm and loving church, noted for its members' generosity not only to their fellows but to other churches scattered throughout the empire.

The Philippians funded Paul's mission in Corinth. It was the Philippians Paul commended for their generosity to the impoverished Christian community in Jerusalem. When Paul was imprisoned in Rome, it was the Philippians who rushed money to him to ease the conditions of his imprisonment. They gave freely -- and without having to be asked. And their open-handedness and generosity put many far richer churches to shame.

St. Stephen's
Choir of Men & Boys
will hold its next
Choral Evensong
on the first Sunday in October,
Sunday, October 2nd
at 6.00 PM
A reception will follow

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

being Sunday, September 25th, 2011

8.00 AM & 9.15AM

HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Galatians 5:16-24

The Gospel: St. Luke 17:11-19

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 92

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 8:1-14, 17-30

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 17:11-19

This doesn't mean to say the Philippian Church was entirely without faults. There are hints of occasional dissension in the ranks. We learn of "murmurings and disputings" involving two ladies who led the church women's group – Euodias and Syntyche -- but it doesn't seem to have involved any major doctrinal issue or heresy. Rather, it seems to have been a petty squabble that had grown out of all proportion to its actual importance.. Folks don't change much, do they?

Paul's advice to the feuding Philippians is well worth heeding today: "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Perhaps the most vital lesson to be learned from the Philippians is that living is even more important than learning. The Philippians might not have been the best Bible students. Their church might not have produced brilliant teachers or cutting edge theologians. But the Philippians knew how to live their faith – and in living it, they bore a hundredfold more fruit than many of their more learned and prosperous counterparts. The message from Philippi is that studying the faith is all very well, but

sooner or later it is absolutely essential to put it in practice. **GPH**✠

✠ **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 prayer list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office at 410 560 6776.

RECOVERY: Mary, Adele, Reta, Sara, Michael, Tammy, Sophie, Gracie, Paula, Blair, Jim, Melvin, Noah, Mavis, Heather, Laurie, Diane, Don, Lynn, Helen, Katherine, Hindra, 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, Leliah, 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, 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, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, Doris, Drake, Bobby, Kay & Emma, 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: LTC R.J. Lytle, PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV USA; Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, USN; Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt. Col. Harry Hughes, USAF.

REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Those who died on 9/11.

✠ **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 TENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

A PRAYER FOR OUR ENEMIES

SAVIOUR of the world, our Redeemer, whose love embraces all mankind, we hear thy prayer from the Cross: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Forgive, O Lord, those who have poured out the innocent blood and caused suffering in the world. May our prayers be for them a ministry of reconciliation. We ask it, O Lord Jesus Christ, in thine own Name. *AMEN*

A PRAYER FOR THE DEAD

ALMIGHTY God, we remember this day before thee thy faithful servants departed, and we pray thee that, having opened to them the gates of larger life, thou wilt receive them more and more into thy joyful service; that they may win, with thee and thy servants everywhere, the eternal victory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN*

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
TIMONIUM MD
PERMIT NO.181

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