

St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Anglican Church,
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXII, Number 16

Edited by Anne Hawkins

April 26th, 2011

AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MARSH

Alleluia! Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

EASTER is the central message of our faith. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the historic and eternal event in the life of our world. It is so crucial to our understanding of who we are, that we cannot truly exist without it. Without the knowledge and understanding of the central fact of the Christian faith, we simply cannot be fully human.

A few days ago, as I drove about on the way to accomplishing several routine errands, I listened to Garrison Keillor on the car radio who narrates a show every weekday morning that is dedicated to writers. He notes the birthdays of any writers born on that day, relates a few biographical anecdotes and closes with a poem. Some of the poems he chooses are well known. Many are not. On this particular day, the poem he read to end his show got my full attention.

I don't remember the title of the poem or the name of the author, but it tells the story of a father, a mother and their two year-old daughter. At the beginning of this poem, the little girl waits impatiently for the door to her home to open.

She is waiting for a relative she hasn't seen in a long time. We never learn who this particular relative is; it could be a grandparent, an aunt, uncle or cousin. But when the door is opened and the relative appears, the child shrieks with joy. Her entire being radiates with happiness and love.

The father, whose voice narrates this little poem, leaves the room; he is so moved by the scene that he weeps. His wife asks him why he is weeping. He says simply: "because she will never be this happy again."

In a way, he is correct. Life will intrude on the happy little life of the child he so dearly loves. This father knows, as every parent does, the many difficult and sorrowful events that every human must endure tempers all of our joys. It is impossible to protect those we love, try as we might, from the difficult moments. But we learn to cope. We even out over time; it is a mark of maturity to "take the good with the bad."

The father in this poem is one we can all relate to. He is compassionate. He wishes only the best for his child, but knows that there are stern realities she must face. But perhaps that child who stands at the doorway knows something more profound. Perhaps she knows that, when the door is opened, there will be an outpouring of love that can only be celebrated with all the joy that a tiny human life can offer.

The father in this little poem made it to Good Friday; his child made it all the way to Easter II. Perhaps that is something she can teach him; perhaps that is something she can teach us all. It is the Easter message that transcends all those peaks and valleys of our tiny human lives. It is the Easter message that helps us beyond the Good Fridays all must endure.

As we approach the holiest time of the year, we, too, stand at a very particular doorway. Because we know the story; because we have learned so much in our lives; because we often pride ourselves on our endurance and our ability to withstand all sorrow, we steel ourselves for the inevitable disaster. It is our story, after all.

But there is another story that we should remember. It is a story of another child, one born long ago. We have grown to know Him and

ST STEPHEN'S CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS
sing a

Choral Evensong for Easter

at 6 PM on

The First Sunday After Easter

May 1st, 2011

Reception to follow

to love Him. We wish to spare Him the suffering we know He will endure. And yet, we cannot. He embraces His own human life so we may learn something of love, so that we may be drawn to Him.

And as we stand at that doorway on Easter morning, as we begin to realize He has risen from the dead, we come to know he will be with us always. In that moment, we too may feel the unbounded joy that comes from a knowledge and love of God. We, too, may know something of the God that reaches our hearts and embraces us without condition or qualification.

He embraces us because we are His own. Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your Brother in Christ,

**Brian*

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Garden Party flower theme: British Movies

THE GARDEN PARTY is fast approaching! The big day is Saturday, May 7th. This means you have only three weeks to plan your entry for our super colossal Flower Arrangement Competition. This year's theme is "Great British Movies." That rules out "Gone With The Wind."

There is still much to be done to ensure that this year's party is as successful as its predecessors. One way you can help is by becoming a Patron of the event. Your name will be listed in our complementary program guide – and that's almost as good. There are four levels of patronage. Why not pick one and sign up?

- Imperial Crown \$100 . . .
- House of Windsor \$75 . . .
- House of York \$50 . . .
- House of Lancaster \$30 .

And May Day, May Day . . . There are all sorts of items we need for the party: We are looking for: **Cakes for the**

Cake Stall. Last year your cakes were so scrumptious, we sold out completely in the first two hours. Please double your efforts. It's all in a good cause.

We also need **tea cakes and dainties for our Tea Room.** We can use all the help we can get to provide mouthwatering teas for our guests.

Card tables and chairs to go with them are also on our wish list. And **tea pots**, too. Not the George II sterling silver heirloom that you inherited from the Custis side of the family, but the pretty little pot that Aunt Mabel gave you a couple of Christmases ago would do very nicely.

We are also still in the market for **superior quality jumble** for our White Elephant Stall. This is your

EASTER SCHEDULE

GOOD FRIDAY - 12 NOON

The Seven Last Words From The Cross

3:30 PM Children's Way of the Cross

6 PM Communion of the Pre-sanctified

HOLY SATURDAY

7 PM The Great Vigil of Easter

EASTER DAY

8 AM Holy Communion

9:15 AM Choral Eucharist

10:15 AM Easter Egg Hunt

11:15 AM Choral Eucharist

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 24:36-49

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