

# St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church,  
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXIII, Number 15

Edited by Anne Hawkins

April 24th, 2012

## FROM THE RECTOR

### DMWs put the finger on today's problems

MODERN educationalists don't have much time for what used to be called "a classical education." Cicero, Seneca, Julius Caesar, Livy, Pliny the Elder and Pliny the Younger are contemptuously dismissed as DWMs (Dead White Males) and banished from the classroom.

Back in the days when I sweated through interminable hours of Caesar's *Gallic Wars* and Virgil's *Aeniad*, I would cheerfully have endorsed such sentiments. But in the 40 years or so that have elapsed since then, I've developed a sneaking regard for those dear old DWMs -- not least because of the remarkable light they shed on our times.

Rome's moral and political decline, for example, is illustrated by an incident that occurred when Pliny the Younger [*In truth, it might well have been the Elder. My recall, I lament to say, is a tad hazy*] was a young army officer, serving on the port administration at Alexandria.

In those days Egypt was economically vital to Rome's wellbeing. It was both the granary of the empire and the main source of sand for its amphitheaters. (The circuses consumed huge amounts of sand to soak up the vast gouts of blood that were shed.)

Pliny was responsible for allocating cargo space -- a critically important job, as shipping at the time was in acutely short supply. Indeed, there were so few ships available he could load either grain to feed the citizens of Rome or sand to keep the circuses in business, but not both.

Not knowing what to do, Pliny asked his commander whether he should load the grain or sand. "Are you mad?" he was told, "Load sand!" The point was that the people might not riot if they were short of bread, but with the circuses closed and no entertainment, they'd riot for sure.

Pliny's illustration of the Romans' distorted priorities springs to mind in connection with the not-so-different priorities exhibited by America's mass media. Indeed, today's television producers and movie directors would feel quite at home putting on shows at the Circus Maximus and the Flavian Amphitheater (a.k.a. the Coliseum). They and their Roman counterparts share similar tastes for sex and violence.

Nor is there much difference between our news media and the news media of Rome in its more decadent phase. To be sure, they didn't have TV news, but they had daily newspapers posted in prominent places throughout their cities and all sorts of magazines, painstakingly hand copied by slaves in vast publishing factories (scriptoria).

Rome's media pundits put out the same sort of sensational mélange of political propaganda, scurrilous gossip and alarmism as passes for news in today's America.

That the folks who control our most influential media cover our nation's foreign affairs and domestic political and social agendas in such a cursory fashion is an affront not just to our intelligence, but to the principles upon which our republic is founded. Like Pliny's commander, their priority seems to be sensation rather than substance.

Books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles make it clear ancient Israel shared the same sort of problems as Rome and early 21st. Century America. What's more, Israel's cultural and political elite -- like the Romans and many of their American counterparts -- blamed their social ills on the lack of a strong central government. The real problem, however, was that they had lost their moral compasses. The Romans had abandoned their traditional civic virtues, while the children of Israel had forgotten their covenant with God and were flouting his commandments.

God warned the people of Israel, through the Prophet Samuel, that he was their king and that if they appointed a

## St. Stephen's British Garden Party & Fete

11:30 AM to 4:00 PM

In the Grounds of  
The Parish Church

Saturday, May 5th, 2012

human usurper in his place it would end in tyranny and high taxation, and ultimately cause far more problems than it resolved.

If you would like to learn more about God's views on the subject, why not join our Breakfast Bible Study. We meet at the Nautilus Diner on York Road, Timonium, at 7.00 AM on Tuesday mornings. They will be serving up food for the body, and we will be dishing out food for thought. **GPH**

## FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

### Sign up to become a Garden Party Patron

EVERY civic organization seems to sponsor some sort of the ethnic festival these days. The Greeks have bouzouki music and spinach pies. The Germans om-pah bands and bratwurst. Back in the old days Romans had orgies and roasted dormice.

But what do Anglican Churches have by way of ethnic festivals? Vicarage Garden Parties, of course! With snorkers, sausage rolls, cornish and welsh pasties, afternoon tea and plenty of real ale. As for entertainment, there are bagpipes for them that like them, May Pole dancing, sack races, egg and spoon races and a bouncy castle.

But Garden Party Day is coming up fast! The big event is scheduled to take place on May 5th to be precise. And 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. It might not get you on the Queen of England's Birthday Honors List, but your name will be listed in our complimentary program guide -- and that's almost as good.

Why not sign up for one of the four levels of patronage:

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

And May Day ... 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. Also on our wish list are **card tables and chairs for the tea room**. They don't need to be Chippendale or Sheraton from the Custis side of the family or the neat little Shaker ladder backs you inherited from Auntie Mimi last summer. Plain ordinary ones will do very nicely.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR  
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**

Being Sunday, April 29th, 2012

**8.00 AM & 9.00 AM  
HOLY COMMUNION**

The Epistle: I St Peter 2:11-17

The Gospel: St. John 16:16-22

**11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER**

The Psalter: Psalm 138

The First Lesson: II Samuel 12:15b-23

The Second Lesson: St. John 14:1-14

We are also in the market for **superior quality jumble** for our **White Elephant Stall**. This is your opportunity to at last get rid of the auto harp Uncle Thomas used to twang at family gatherings and the cage that once was home to Cousin Ebenezer's parrot. Please search your cupboards, attics, cellars and fallout shelters for salable treasures. You can start bring them to the church the week after Easter.

Other things we are badly in need of are **bottles of wine and spirits** only for our bottle stall and **pretty baskets** are also needed for our floral arrangements. We are hoping to offer our guests a selection calculated to appeal to every taste.

## The Shred-a-thon cometh

TIMONIUM United Methodist Church Women have invited the people of St. Stephen's to join them in a "Shred-a-Thon" paper shredding event. It will take place on Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> at Timonium United Methodist Church, 2300 Pot Spring Road Timonium from 10 am to 12 noon.

Here's the deal: The documents will be shredded on the spot by Proshred Security's mobile shredding trucks. The Methodist Women are asking for a minimum contribution of \$5 to \$10 per box of documents. The industrial strength shredding machines can pulverize 1,000 to 10,000 pounds of paper per hour. For more information call Mary Lou Brown at 410-252-4710 or the Timonium United Methodist Church Office at 410-252-5500

## ✠ 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:** Hope, Leo, Riley, Sallie, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Robert, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, Dr. Devadadson, Thelma, Mary, Adele, Linda, Jan, Liz, Bob, Wyatt, Jim, Reta, Sara, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, Melvin, Heather, Laurie, Diane, Don, Lynn, Helen, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Edithann, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, Patty, Antonio, Ray, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Fran, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erline, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tom. Lelillah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy; Ellen, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, Bryan, Jason, Joan, Frances, Pat, Michael, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, 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, Joanne, ✠Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Doris, Carol, and Suzie.

**LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Aaron, Tom, Jennifer, Brendan, Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Ned, Stephen, Rachel, Robert & Renee, Lydia; Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, Drake, Bobby, Kay & Emma, Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, David, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, 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, Charles Watts, Capt. Charles Bursi, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes, Major Benjamin Hawkins, British Army

### ✠ 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](http://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

8.00 am: Said Eucharist

9.00 am: Sung Eucharist (*with Nursery & Church School*)

11.15 am: Choral Mattins (*1st Sunday: Choral Eucharist*)

6.00 pm: Choral Evensong (*1st Sunday only*)

#### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6.00 pm: Evening Prayer

Friday Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5.00 pm: Family Eucharist.

### COLLECTS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER & ST. GEORGE

ALMIGHTY God, who has given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an ensample of godly life; Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 170*

ALMIGHTY God, who gavest thy servant George boldness to confess the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world, and courage to die for this faith: Grant that we may always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us, and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. *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