

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church,
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

June 5th, 2012

FROM THE RECTOR

'Pull Yourself Together' School of Psychiatry

IT HAS been just over six months since my mother passed away -- peacefully, at home -- just a short while shy of her 97th birthday. She had suffered a stroke three weeks before her death and her doctors had declared her unresponsive, But she left my sisters and I in no doubt that she could hear us reading her favorite prayers and poetry -- by frowning mildly at every mispronunciation.

Mother was one of the calmest people I have ever known -- a marked contrast with our mercurial father. She rarely raised her voice and usually expressed her disapproval with a mild frown and a gentle suggestion that there were ways in which things could be improved.

The dynamics of her relationship with father were a constant source of fascination to us children. Dad would arrive home in a state of high dudgeon over the folly of politicians or the gross incompetence of the average English businessman. "What do you say to that, Doris?" he would ask at the end of a prolonged rant. "Quite so, dear," she would reply, "We're having fish for dinner."

Mother, however, was by no means passive. Crass stupidity or a refusal to listen to reason always incurred her wrath. "Sometimes," she would say, "You really give me the pip!" The only time I ever saw her threaten violence was when father once uttered a particularly coarse expletive.

"Robert," said mother severely, "If you say that word again I shall come over there and poke you with my finger."

"Sorry, Doris," said father, utterly cowed.

Father was an exceedingly social person who reveled in parties, dances and political gatherings. Mother was not so keen on such affairs. She much preferred solitary pursuits such as listening to music and reading.

Her passions were poetry and crossword puzzles. Indeed, going through her effects after her death, we found the very first present father gave her when they were courting: a finely bound book of contemporary verse.

Poetry, of course, had to be read aloud. In her view habitual silent reading and the television set had almost destroyed the average person's ability to appreciate both poetry and fine prose. It wasn't until the latter half of the 19th Century, she claimed, that silent reading became common place and the spoken word had been on the decline ever since.

If she felt strongly about poetry, she was positively fanatical about crossword puzzles. As a child, I could gauge what sort of day it would be by the speed by which she did *The Times* crossword. If it was completed in 20 minutes or less life would be good. If it took appreciably longer the only sensible recourse was to flee.

Mother's aura of calm did not mean she did not have strong opinions. She believed, for instance, children should have names that would not embarrass them. She heartily detested her own Christian names -- Doris Winifred -- and forbade the entire family to name children after her.

Fortunately, for my grandfather, she didn't time for grudge bearing. He was responsible for saddling her with the despised "Doris" and "Winifred." Grandmother and grandfather had decided before her birth that she should be called "Julia Ann." The mistake was to send grandfather off to register her birth on a market day.

He, naturally enough, devoted some time to examining the livestock. Thus it was near closing time when he arrived at the Registry Office. It was then to his chagrin he discovered he was not a natural multi-tasker -- for he had quite forgotten the names he and grandmother had chosen. Rather than go home and confess, he blurted out the first names that came into his head. Why they should have been "Doris" and "Winifred" remains a complete mystery.

Mother, however, did not hold his absentmindedness against him. She bore the burden of her names with such good grace that we only learned of her dislike of them when she issued her *diktat* against them when her grandchildren came along.

But, then, mother never let us dwell on the wrongs that had been done us or nurse our grievances. Nothing, she said, was more crippling than a sense of self pity. In her opinion encouraging victims to embrace a sense of victimhood served only to victimize them all over again.

Nor did she have any time for the now fashionable notion that making another person feel "guilty" is the greatest crime a human being can commit. She belonged to what she called "The Pull Yourself Together School of Psychiatry." She espoused a straight forward and uncomplicated philosophy: Transgressors admitted their guilt, took their punishment without whining or bleating, and all was forgotten.

She had no time for any notion that the primary purpose of psychiatry is to eradicate all feelings of guilt or that behavior traditionally regarded abhorrent -- even criminal -- can be excused on the grounds that its practitioners "can't help it."

Mom was well aware of the difference between reasonable feelings of guilt -- about things done and left undone for which we are personally responsible -- and irrational guilt. But while folks suffering from irrational guilt needed help, most folks, she argued, felt guilty for very good reason.

Feeling guilty, she claimed, was entirely healthy. It is what repentance is all about. Without repentance, there can be no true freedom from guilt because repentance is the prerequisite for the only lasting forgiveness -- God's forgiveness. **GPH**

FROM THE VESTRY

Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 17th

THE ANNUAL Parish Meeting will take place on Sunday, June 17th. Over the years, we've tried all manner of strategies to improve attendance at our annual meetings. We've even tried feeding you breakfast. The response has been underwhelming.

Thus we have decided to revert to the original annual meeting plan for Sunday, June 17th: The meeting will take place during the Coffee Hour between the 9.00 AM Sung Eucharist and the 11.15 Service of Morning Prayer. At the meeting, the clergy and vestry will report on the parish's progress, discuss plans for the future and answer parishioners questions.

We shall also be electing vestry members. This year the nominating committee has nominated Don Ruthig, J. Brice Richardson, whose terms expire this year, and Severn Miller(to replace Allan Gushue . Herewith their biographies below:

DON RUTHIG, PEOPLE'S WARDEN

Don retired a couple of years ago from a varied career that included 20 years managing information technology at the Los Angeles Times and Baltimore Sun, and several less stressful years managing a marina here in Baltimore. His spare time is spent creating sawdust in his basement shop, some of the results of which can be seen around St Stephen's. For the past three years he has co-chaired the church Buildings and Grounds Committee with Martha Miller, and together they have been responsible for many repairs and upgrades to our church facilities. He has served on the vestry for the past year, filling the unexpired term of John Novicki.

J. BRICE RICHARDSON

BRICE lives with his wife Reta in Reisterstown and has been an independent businessman for more that 30 years. He has been a member of the parish for 18 years and has served the church in several capacities for more than 15 years -- including vestryman, member of the diocesan standing committee and member of the national Executive Council. He was instrumental in starting the Tuesday morning Bible study and eating circle.

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

Being Sunday, June 10th, 2012

**8.00 AM & 9.00 AM
HOLY COMMUNION**

The Epistle: I St. John 4:7-21

The Gospel: St. Luke 16:19-31

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 73

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 23:23-32

The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 7: 13-14, 21-29

SEVERN MILLER

SEVERN Miller was educated at Episcopal schools (St. Matthew's Parish School, Pacific Palisades, CA; The Harvard School, Studio City, CA; and St. Albans School, Washington, DC) before being awarded a degree in English and American Literature from Brown University and a law degree from the Washington & Lee University School of Law, with several honors. Sev was in the private practice of law in Baltimore City until 2006, when he served as General Counsel to Bob Ehrlich's reelection campaign. Sev was subsequently appointed by President Bush to be Chief Counsel to the Federal Transit Administration and is now a principal of and counsel to Spartan Solutions, LLC, which supports public infrastructure development. Sev is a member of the Society of the Cincinnati of Maryland, the Roland Run Club and Sam's Club. He and his wife Martha have three children: Sevvy, Natalie and Emily.

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Please join us on June 20th

LADIES and their gentlemen are invited to Tarks Restaurant at 12 noon on Wednesday, June 20th, at the Greenspring Center on Falls Road. Why not plan to join us for good food and great fellowship? To reserve your place, call Joyce Perlberg at Tel: 410-252-2680.

✠ 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: Richard, Bill, Leo, Riley, Mary-Ann, 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, Lynn, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Edithann, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, 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, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tom. Lelilah, 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, Hope, 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, 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

REPOSE OF THE SOUL: The Rev. Paul Hart

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: The Hart family.

✠ 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

8.00 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 TRINITY SUNDAY &
THE VENERABLE BEDE**

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity; We beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us stedfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 186

O HEAVENLY Father, who called thy servant Bede, while still a child, to devote his life to scholarship in thy service: Grant that as he labored in the Spirit to bring the riches of thy truth to his generation, so we, in our various vocations, may strive to make thee known in all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end. *AMEN.*

Return Service Requested

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