

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

December 4th, 2012

AN EAGLE'S EYE VIEW

All the News That's Fit to Print....Again

Being firmly perched upon my brass pedestal at St Stephen's, I've had many years of sermons and newsletter articles to ponder. This Advent season we'll be reprising some articles, poems, and stories from years past, and reliving some of the timeless bits of wit and wisdom that have graced this space.

The following two articles were published in *St. Stephen's News* in December of 2010.

FROM THE RECTOR

There's Nothing "Bah! Humbug!" about Santa

The Salvation Army's Santas began ringing their bells three or four weeks ago, heralding not only the Saviors birth, but the start of the Christmas shopping season. And to be sure, recession or no recession, the malls have been as crowded as ever.

"Can you believe it? The 'shop-early-for-Christmas' crowd have started even earlier than usual this year." groused a friend in response to the Santa's pre-Christmas serenade.

But it is wrong to fault the Salvation Army for sending out its Santas earlier than usual - if that is indeed what has been done. It has been a particularly hard year for many ordinary families; not only the unemployed, but those whose incomes have been cut back by furloughs or reduced hours of work.

The Christian response to increased need is to dig deeper into our pockets - not mutter "Bah! Humbug!" or "Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?" like Ebenezer Scrooge.

Aside from the charitable aspects of the early arrival of the Salvation Army Santa, however, the "shop early for Christmas" advertising campaigns should be welcomed by all Christians in this apostate age. Indeed, one might argue that it would be better for Christianity if they started even earlier - in August, for example. After all, for many people, especially the young, it is pretty well the only mention of Jesus' name that they will hear all year.

It doesn't matter how commercialized the Christmas season becomes, it is quite impossible to separate it from the Christ Child in the Manger. The most barbarously vulgar advertising jingles cannot drown out the Christmas message of "Peace on Earth; and good will to all men."

Even the American Civil Liberties Union's obsessive/compulsive attempts to ban the public display of crosses, creches and Christmas trees work only to our advantage. The publicity generated by these grinch-like efforts to ban all public mention of the birth of Christ serves, ironically, not to suppress the Christmas messages but to promote it. The ACLU, it seems, cannot win for losing.

Recently I received notice of the launch of a campaign aimed at encouraging Christians to deluge the ACLU's headquarters with Christmas cards. The idea is that a flood of Christmas greetings will disrupt their operations. The staff will have to open every single card, or risk missing envelopes containing donations. Actually, I am all for sending Christmas greetings to the ACLU, but not in malice. Think of how much we would lose in public relations terms if they abandoned their anti-Christian obsession. We should be genuinely grateful to them.

But, then, the whole notion of "shopping early for Christmas" as a recent innovation is, as Henry Ford once said of history, pure "bunk." When I was seven - more years ago than I care to remember - an elderly lady who lived nearby asked me if I would like to see her Christmas dinner.

It was late August or early September and I was beguiled by the thought of seeing a table laid out for Christmas, complete with turkey and pudding, so far ahead of time. To my surprise, however, she led me not to her dining room, but to the garden

shed. There, in a roomy hutch, nibbling a juicy carrot, was the most handsome white rabbit I had ever seen. "He's going to be absolutely delicious!" she exclaimed.

Food was in short supply in England back in those days, but, even so, it seemed a terrible pity to eat such a beautiful creature. Naturally, when I got home, I begged grandmother to obtain a reprieve for the rabbit.

At length, grandmother weakened and negotiated a trade. The white rabbit was ransomed in exchange for two chickens. Our elderly neighbor got the better part of the bargain - a rabbit was not worth a single chicken in those days. But I guess that's what she was aiming for when she showed me her Christmas dinner. In any event, it was a very merry Christmas all round -- especially for the white rabbit. GPH✘

Ferrets and the Fate of My Large White Rabbit

"What happened to the White Rabbit?" asked Wiley Hawks, intrigued by the ultimate fate of the large and handsome rabbit I had rescued from a neighbor's Christmas dinner table. His interest had been sparked by a finely crafted antique English ferret cage he had acquired at a local auction.

"It must have been a very small ferret, don't you think?" he said, holding up the tiny, highly polished mahogany casket. As the world's living expert on English rural oddities, I am often asked for my opinion about such arcane artifacts.

I explained that ferrets didn't live in those miniature cages. They were merely used to transport them from the hutches where they lived to the burrows where their owners hunted rabbits. This was done by pegging nets over all but one of the exits to the rabbit burrows. The ferret was then released from the cage into the burrow.

Rabbits - rightly terrified of the vicious little predators - soon started fleeing the burrows only to be trapped in the nets over the exits and swiftly dispatched by little boys wielding what in my part of the world were called "ruddy girl sticks."

The knack was not to hit the ferret - a feat easier said than done. I was present when Reuben Packer fatally whacked his dad's favorite ferret. It was the first time I had ever seen a grown man sit down and weep.

My white rabbit enjoyed a long, well fed and slothful life in a warm and roomy hutch. Field rabbits, by contrast, figured often on country folks' menus. Some were shot, more were trapped, but most, I suspect, came courtesy of the men with the ferret cages. GPH✘

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join Us on December 19th

The Ladies of St Stephen's will hold their Christmas lunch at Bluestone Restaurant on Aylesbury Road, Timonium, at noon on Wednesday, December 19th. As has become custom, ladies are invited to bring their gentlemen with them to this time of good fellowship and good food. Call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680

✠ PARISH PRAYER LIST ✠

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List as well as the guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice & Dr. Bob's Place. 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: Fr Guy✘, Ray✘, Morris, Charles, Dawn, Betty Jean, Elliot, Sharon, Paul, Andy, Michael, Rosina Donna, Diane, John, Robert, David, Richard, Bill, Charlotte, Leo, Riley, Mary-Ann, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, Thelma, Mary, Adele, Linda, Jan, Liz, Bob, Wyatt, Jim, Reta, Sara, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, Melvin, Heather, Laurie, 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,

HAVE PITY ON THE POOR TREASURER. REMEMBER TO GET YOUR PLEDGES IN!

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Being December 9th, 2012

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

For The Epistle: Romans 15:4-13

The Gospel: St. Luke 21:25-33

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 25

The First Lesson: Isaiah 52:1-10

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 1:26-56

Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, Patty, Antonio, 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, Ray, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Steven, 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, Maxine, Ann, Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Joanne, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Doris, Carol, and Suzie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Hope, JoAnn, Larry, Aaron, Hope, Tom, Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Stephen, Rachel, 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, Carol, Sandra, John, Mary, Michael and David

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, USA; Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Charles Watts, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes.

FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Nancy

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: Susan Bissell

Christmas Memorial Flowers

To make a contribution towards the Church Christmas decorations in honor or memory of a loved one please complete this form and return it with a check (payable to St. Stephen's Church and marked Christmas flowers) by December 19th.

Name of Donor:.....

Poinsettias (Pink, Red or Jingle Bells) 6 inches, single (5-8 blooms) @ \$10 (# of plants)

7 inches, double, (10-12 blooms) @ \$16 (# of plants)

8 inches, triple, (red) (12-18 blooms) @ \$27 (# of plants)

Total # of plants _____ Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

My gift is **IN HONOR OF, IN MEMORY OF, IN THANKSGIVING FOR** (Please Circle)

.....

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

9.15 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 First Sunday of Advent AND Bishop Channing Moore Williams

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer, Page 225

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank thee for thy servant Channing Moore Williams, whom thou didst call to preach the Gospel to the people of China and Japan. Raise up, we beseech thee, in this and every land evangelists and heralds of thy kingdom, that thy Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN

Return Service Requested

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