

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXIV, Number 37

Edited by Don Ruthig

September 24th, 2013

FROM THE RECTOR

A couch potato learns things rarely change

THREE months on one's back gives one plenty of time for thought. Sadly most of it seems to take the shape of shamefully sinful grouching – whining about the pains, whining about being confined to the couch, whining about the utter unfairness of it all.

The answer to the eternal question “Why me, O Lord?” is, of course, “Why not me?” Why should anybody imagine God has given them a free pass on the consequences arising from living in a fallen world?

But enough of this glum stuff! Three months on one's back gives one the opportunity of a visit from old friend in the literary world. A few weeks on a diet of modern mystery novels and one is ready once again to delve into Caesar's Gallic Wars, marvel at a little Virgil and to pore over the letters of the younger Pliny.

Today these great authors seem to have been contemptuously written off by opinion makers at the cutting edge of education as DWMs (Dead White Males) and banished from the classroom.

But these dear old DWM's have a remarkable tale to tell – the tale of the decline and fall of arguably the greatest civilization this world has ever hosted. And in doing so, they shed a remarkable light on our own times.

Rome's moral and political decline, for example, is illustrated by an incident that occurred when Pliny the Younger was a youthful army officer, working for the port administration at Alexandria.

In those days, Egypt was economically vital to Rome's well-being. 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 in port, 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.

The Books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles make it clear

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephens

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Bible Study at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall

Thursdays, 7.00 PM: Bridge Group meets in Quimby Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events

Wednesday, September 25th, 7.00 PM. The Vestry meets in the Cadwalader Room

Thursday, October 3rd, 2.00 PM. A Cuppa and a Cookie, Cadwalader Room

Tuesday, October 8th, 7.00 PM. Parish Life Meeting, Quimby Hall

Sunday, October 13th. Harvest Dinner. Details to Follow.

Saturday, December 7th, 9.00 AM. Cookie Walk, Quimby Hall

that 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.

God warned the people of Israel, through the Prophet Samuel, that this was way off the mark, and that it would ultimately cause far more problems than it resolved.

Perusal of the DWMs shows that the real cause of their problems was a lack of political honesty and the total absence of moral courage. **GPH✳**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

A Cuppa and a Cookie

THIRTY ladies of the parish enjoyed tea and fellowship at afternoon tea on Tuesday, September 3rd. So much so, in fact, that Anne Hawkins and her team have offered to do it again, on a monthly basis.

Beginning on October 3rd, and continuing on the first Thursday of each month, the ladies of the parish are once again invited to enjoy a cup of tea and something sweet to eat at St. Stephen's monthly “A Cuppa and a Cookie” teas.

Join us at 2.00 PM on the 3rd in the Cadwalader Room and kick off a new St. Stephen's tradition.

FROM ISAAC EAGLE

Old memories awakened

SINCE I'M firmly anchored to my perch here at St. Stephen's there isn't much that goes on around here that I don't notice.

Watching all the fun outside my window, I so much wanted to perch atop the Maypole at this year's extraordinary Garden Party, and the sound of the “chomping of jaws” at the Summer Suppers has been almost deafening.

I overheard the Parish Life Committee's treasurer saying that over \$5000 in profit would be achieved this year. Now that's a lot of chomping!

You cannot imagine how thrilled I was to observe the recent ladies' tea. What a joy to see many old friends who aren't able to attend church on a regular basis. And now I hear that “A Cuppa and a Cookie” is to become a regular event.

Which brings me to the point of my ramblings. Just hearing the word “Cookie” reminds me of our Annual Cookie Walk; another signature event of the St. Stephen's parish. While it's still months away, like every year, it will be upon us before we can say Snickerdoodle.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
THE FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL AND
ALL ANGELS**

September 29th, 2013

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

For the Epistle: Acts 5:12-16
The Gospel: St. Matthew 18:1-10

11.15 AM SUNG MATTINS

The Psalter: Psalm 8, 91
The First Lesson: Job 38:1-7
The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 18:1-10

One deadline is already looming large - submissions for our Healthy Body, Healthy Soul Cookbook are due by September 29th in order to be included in this year's book. Further information is on our website and you can submit recipes to Petrus@ststeve.com or drop them by the Parish Office.

Oh, and don't worry about calculating the nutritional values of your recipes as Peter Threadgill will take on that onerous responsibility for you.

There's also a new feature of the Cookie Walk that you can help with. Colby Hawks and Carolyn Kerouac will be making bows from men's holiday neckties to be sold at the event. If you have some Christmas ties, or ties in the seasonal colors, you would like to donate please bring them to the church where there will be a collection box. **ISAAC**

✠ 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*, Joshua, Aida, Cherry, Susan, Kathleen, David, Ellen, Mimi, Val, Stacy, Dino, Michael, Finton, Morris, Charles, Dawn, Betty Jean, Elliot, Sharon, Paul, Andy, Michael, Rosina, Diane, John, David, Richard, Bill, Leo, Riley, Mary-Ann, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, Thelma, Mary, Linda, Jan, Liz, Bob, Wyatt, Jim, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, Heather, Laurie, Lynn, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Edithann, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, Patty, Antonio, 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, Lelilah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Ray, John, Randy, James, Sarah, 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, JoAnne, John, Thomas, Jeanne, Maxine, Ann, Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Joanne, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Doris, Fran, Carol, Jimmy, Felicia, Susan, Christina, Dawn, Shirley, Daniel and Suzie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Connie, JoAnn, Larry, Aaron, Hope, Bob, Paige, Tom, Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Dean, Ned, Stephen, Rachel, Lydia; Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, Bobby, Kay & Emma, Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Susan, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, 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, John, Mary, Michael, Drake, Emily, Daniel, David, Steve, and Ruth.

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

✠ 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 Rev. Canon Guy P. Hawtin
PREBENDARY: The Rev. Canon Rhae E. Kelley
VICAR: The Venerable Michael Kerouac
ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric
DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Happy Riley
(410-252-8674)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATORS: Happy Riley (410-252-8674)
Martha Miller (410-321-9038)

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.

**COLLECT FOR THE Seventeenth Sunday
after Trinity and Lancelot Andrewes,
Bishop of Winchester**

LORD, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord,

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer, Page 213

O LORD AND FATHER, our King and God, by whose grace the Church was enriched by the great learning and eloquent preaching of thy servant Lancelot Andrewes, but even more by his example of biblical and liturgical prayer: Conform our lives, like his, we beseech thee, to the image of Christ, that our hearts may love thee, our minds serve thee, and our lips proclaim the greatness of thy mercy; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

AMEN

Return Service Requested

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