

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXIV, Number 38

Edited by Don Ruthig

October 1st, 2013

FROM THE RECTOR

Medical progress is not echoed in civil society

TWO MONTHS ago I was having great difficulty reading the 18 point type in our altar missal and Adric and Peter Threadgill were debating the merits of stepping up the type size to 20 point or maybe even 24 point.

Today, thanks to a course of injections directly into my left eye at the Johns Hopkins' Wilmer Institute, I can read the tiny, 10-point type in my daily newspaper. My recovery, thanks be to God, was little short of a miracle.

Like many other people in their "riper years" I suffer from macular degeneration, a condition that affects the retina, and which, if untreated, can lead to blindness.

Mine is probably hereditary. My mother was also a sufferer and she had been blind for the best part of 20 years by the time she was my age. The fact that I can still see so well illustrates the enormous strides that American doctors have been made in fighting this affliction over the past couple of decades.

At risk of boring you with my recent medical history, the list of my "sufferings" over the last 11 months also includes a triple bypass and a three hour operation to remove a chunk of bone lodged between my sciatic nerve and my spine.

I was left with virtually no scars after either operation. What's more, I was back at work (albeit part time) six weeks after the bypass. Not only that, I was the celebrant at the Healing Eucharist the day after my back surgery.

All this is illustrative of the truly remarkable progress American medicine has made in the past half century. Just a few years ago patients who underwent similar operations faced either no prospects of a cure or long, painful and debilitating recovery periods.

My purpose in making these observations is not to pat my doctors on the back (even though they richly deserve it), but to demonstrate how very much better our lives are today in terms of healthcare than they were when our parents were our age.

Sad to say, such progress is not discernible in our social, public and civic lives. Actually, far from improving, the quality of life in these areas is not just declining, it is in free fall.

The unfortunate truth is that life in all of these aspects was very much better in the 40s, 50s, 60s and even the 70s than it is today. Certainly this is not an especially original observation. Most thinking people today are uncomfortably aware of it.

Some folks are inclined to ascribe it to the television and that so much of what we deem to be entertainment consists of displays of extreme violence, sadism and soft (and increasingly hard) core pornography.

Others, perhaps more cerebral, claim the real culprit is air conditioning. They point out that until its advent, people spent time on their front stoops or verandas and that this encouraged a sense of neighborliness that our air conditioned comfort discourages and even denies.

There is a considerable degree of truth in all of these observations, of course. In reality, however, they are mere symptoms, not the disease. The real culprit behind the catastrophic decline in the quality of our social, public and civic lives is, in fact, our abysmal public education system.

The nature of the problem confronting us was neatly summed up by Professor Jonathan Jacobs in a recent article in *The Wall Street Journal*. Professor Jacobs is president of the Institute for Criminal Justice and Ethics, and chairman of the Department of Philosophy at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

"We're familiar with the laments of graduates," he wrote, "Who emerge from college burdened with student loans and wondering if their studies have prepared them for jobs and careers.

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, 6.30 PM: Bridge Group meets in Quimby Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events

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

Sunday, October 6th. Monthly In-Giving for At Jacob's Well

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

"A less familiar and even more troubling problem is that their education did not prepare them for responsible civic life. A decline in education means a decline in the ability of individuals – and ultimately the nation as a whole – to address political, social and moral matters in effective considered ways."

The trouble begins in high school," says Professor Jacobs, where students face "so few challenges and demands they are badly underprepared for college." Yet colleges serve them no better. Many emerge from their under graduate education with little ability to grasp the difference between "saying something" and "constructing an explanation and formulating an argument."

According to Professor Jacobs, the situation is exacerbated by college instructors who "urge students to regard all theories, intellectual perspectives and views as ideology – without acknowledging the difference between theories, beliefs, hypotheses, interpretations and other categories of thought."

Thanks to the politics of higher education, many graduating students have little or no experience of genuine intellectual inquiry and, indeed, have been encouraged to despise it.

"Too often learning to think is replaced by ideological scorekeeping, and the use of adjectives replaces the use of arguments," Professor Jacobs wrote.

This explains not just the ugliness of political discourse in this country, but the unpleasantness that so often mars life in our business and communal life, even in our homes. This, in turn, promotes the fragmentation of society, discouraging meaningful conversation and encouraging people to mix only with those who share like ideas.

The inability to think constructively reduces debate – political and civil – to name calling and vituperation. And if this is the standard set by Washington, Annapolis and lesser seats of government, small wonder it leads to such mayhem in our inner cities.

The barbarians are inside the gates! And they are our children! The only way to prevent them overrunning us completely is to take back our schools, colleges and universities from the political ideologues who have hijacked American education. **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

At Jacob's Well Monthly In-Giving - Sunday, October 6th

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

October 6th, 2013

**8.00 AM, 9.15 AM, & 11.15 AM HOLY
COMMUNION**

For the Epistle: Ephesians 4:17-32

The Gospel: St. Matthew 9:1-8

FOUR YOUR MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 72

The First Lesson: Job 24:1-17

The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 9:1-8

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 Annie's Tea Room (also known as the Cadwalader Room) and kick off a new St. Stephen's tradition.

In-Giving for At Jacob's Well

This month's special needs are: canned tuna, chicken, and ham; pasta sauce (they have lots of pasta but little sauce); toilet paper, Kleenex, and paper towels; peanut butter; cereal (corn flakes, Cheerios, etc.).

Please remember AJW on Sunday, October 6th.

✠ 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, Sandra, 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 Feast of St. Michael and All Angels and St. Francis of Assisi

O EVERLASTING God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order; Mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so, by thy appointment, they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer, Page 251

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant unto thy people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of thee delight in thy whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

AMEN

Return Service Requested

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