

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXV, Number 3

Edited by Don Ruthig

January 28th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

Say a prayer for the patients at the VA

THE VETERAN'S Administration might be trying to ban Jesus from its facilities, but God, being omnipresent, there's no way to keep him out. However, even though God doesn't need our help, it is our duty as Christians to help him.

The best – and most effective – way for us to help the patients undergoing treatment in VA hospitals, medical centers and clinics is to pray for them.

Doubtless the notion that prayer is the “best and most effective” way to help the veterans – or anybody else of that matter – sounds odd in this day and age. After all, people are apt to say “All I can do is pray for you” as though prayer is somehow a last hopeless resort.

Truth to be told, however, it is quite amazing what prayer can accomplish when we try it. Of course, God doesn't always answer our prayers in exactly the way we think he should. But, then, he knows our needs better than we do.

As the prayer composed by St. John Chrysostom so elegantly puts it, he answers our prayers in the way that is “most expedient” for us. And Chrysostom points out, the most expedient answer of all is knowledge of his truth while we are in this world and life everlasting in the next.

You will find St. John Chrysostom's prayer in the Book of Common Prayer in the Morning Prayer section on Page 20 and in the Evening Prayer section on Page 34.

Meanwhile, as far as the VA,s patients are concerned, you will find two eloquent prayers for recover in the BCP's Family Prayer sections on Page 597. They are entitled: “*For the Recovery of a Sick Person*” and “*For One about to undergo an Operation.*” Another useful prayer is “*The Birthday Prayer*” at the bottom of the page. It is a prayer appropriate for much more than birthdays.

There is also a splendid prayer for people suffering from psychological problems, Such as Post Traumatic Stress. It is on Page 598 and is entitled “*For Those in Mental Darkness.*”

While I'm delving around at the back of the BCP, another prayer is located there (at the bottom of Page 594) that strikes a particular chord in people's hearts – the collect entitled “*At Night*” The prayer with which we often end services at St. Stephen's.

The author of this wonderful prayer is Cardinal John Henry Newman, who wrote it while he was a profoundly unhappy Anglican. Sometime later he swam the Tiber (Romans who convert to Anglicanism are said to “swim the Thames”) and became a profoundly unhappy Roman Catholic.

While we are on the subject of veterans, it is always important to remember those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. You will find the collect for “*Memorial Days*” on Page 42. It reads:

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, in whose hands are the living and the dead; We give thee thanks for all those thy servants who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant to them thy mercy and the light of thy presence, that the good work which thou hast begun in them may be perfected; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. AMEN.

The Memorial Day Collect is a model of classical Anglican liturgical prose. It is a splendidly composed prayer – one that conveys a heartfelt expression of gratitude to God, yet exquisitely balanced in terms dignity and restraint.

In view of its great merit it somewhat surprising that the identity of the author is unknown. It appears to have been based on a similar one in a slim volume entitled “*Hymns and Prayers for Use of The Army and Navy*” that was published in 1917, shortly after the U.S. entered the First World War.

The collect was included in the 1928 Book of Common Prayer because the revisers considered earlier editions of the BCP deficient in the realm of prayers for the departed.

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Breakfast Fellowship at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall

Wednesdays, 6.30 PM: Bridge Group meets in Quimby Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events

Sunday, February 2nd: Monthly In-giving for At Jacob's Well

Sunday, February 2nd, 5.00 PM: Candlemas Evensong

Friday, February 14th, 7.00 PM: Valentine's Dinner and Auction, Quimby Hall

Tuesday, February 18th, 2.00 PM - 7.30 PM: Blood Drive, Quimby Hall

Thursday, March 13th, 2.00 PM: Afternoon Tea in Quimby Hall

This had become increasingly apparent in the wake of the War between the States with the institution of the practice of publicly memorializing servicemen who had died in battle.

The Memorial Day prayer is both a thanksgiving for the self-sacrifice of those who have laid down their lives and the traditional petition for God's mercy upon them. It is a particularly thoughtful prayer in as much as it tacitly recognizes that there are other ways of laying down one's life for one's fellow citizens than dying on the field of battle.

This great collect, for example, would serve admirably to memorialize the pioneers of radiography, many of whom died of radiation sickness caused by their primitive X-Ray machines. Its sentiments similarly apply to public servants, such as policemen and firefighters, who die in the line of duty.

What makes the prayer especially memorable is its expression of hope that the dead will continue to grow in God's service; that “the good work which thou hast begun in them may be perfected . . .”

In making this petition, the author is echoing St. Paul in his Epistle to the Philippians (1:6) in which he says: “Being confident of this very thing that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

This petition makes the collect particularly appropriate for those who lay down their lives while expanding the frontiers of knowledge whether it be here on earth or in that far reaches of outer space.

And nothing could better describe the crews of the Space Shuttles Challenger and Columbia, who were engaged in the beginning of a very good work of immense importance for the future of all mankind.

For all those who have laid down their lives for us, we could do far worse than echo the sentiments of the prayer of blessing found on in the Burial Office on Page 332.

UNTO God's gracious mercy and protection we commit them. May the Lord bless them and keep them. May the Lord make his face to shine upon them and be gracious unto them. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon them and give them peace, both now and evermore. AMEN.

This is one of the most ancient of all the Judeo Christian blessings/ The oldest recorded version of this blessing, I believe, was found among the graffiti scrawled on the wall of an ancient Egyptian copper mine in the Sinai presumably by a Hebrew slave **GUY HAWTIN**☩

Monthly In-Giving for At Jacob's Well

Sunday, February 2nd, being the first Sunday of the month, is the time for us to share with our homeless mentally ill neighbors by giving generously to At Jacob's Well.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
THE PURIFICATION OF THE VIRGIN
MARY**

February 2nd, 2014

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

For the Epistle: Malachi 3:1-5
The Gospel: St. Luke 2:22-40

FOR YOUR MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 84
The First Lesson: I Samuel 1:21-28
The Second Lesson: St. Luke 2:22-40

In addition to their ongoing need for household cleaners and food staples, they are particularly needful of canned meats: tuna, chicken, ham, Spam etc. They also need small bottles of mayonnaise.

Snow, ice and cold keep their residents housebound so they would also appreciate board games and cards. Games like Clue, Monopoly and checkers would be most appropriate. **JUDY ELLIOT**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Valentines Dinner and Auction

THE PARISH Life Committee is pulling out all the stops for its Valentines Gala Dinner and Auction on February 14th.

The evening will kick off at 7.00 pm with light hors d'oeuvres in the Cadwalader Room followed by an elegant dinner in Quimby Hall. A choice of entrees, beef tenderloin, salmon, or vegetarian, will be accompanied by wine and a choice of desserts from our dessert cart.

Following dinner, let the bidding begin! Our auction already features many desirable items including a weekend in Ocean City complete with parking passes for the beach, dinner for four deliciously prepared by Annie and Bill Hawkins, a dessert a month for a year prepared by the aptly named Cindie Baker, a handcrafted sterling silver necklace, a handcrafted gold and rhodium pen with matching letter opener, floral arrangements for your dining table to celebrate three special occasions, and a hand-knit lace shawl. And the list keeps growing! If you have a service or item you would like to contribute call Judy Kight at 410-592-9291

We hope you will invite your friends to join you for the evening. What better way is there to celebrate with your valentine and introduce your friends and neighbors to St. Stephen's?

Tickets must be purchased in advance and there will be people at each service selling them. Please be prepared to specify your entree choice when you purchase your tickets. The cost for the dinner, including wine is a modest \$20 per person.

✠ 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, Donna, Aida, Eunice, Cherry, Ruth, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, Suzie, Mary John, Charlene, Rodney, Hamilton, Jane, Donald, Annie, Cynthia, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Linda Lou, Edie, John, Beth, Adele, Melba, Lydia, Chandra, Brady, Nina, Baby Charlie, Maryann, Angie, Oona.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Connie, Azalea, Stephen, Ann, Paige, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: 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

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 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY AND ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Page 112

O GOD, who didst give to thy servant John Chrysostom grace eloquently to proclaim thy righteousness in the great congregation, and fearlessly to bear reproach for the honor of thy Name: Mercifully grant to all bishops and pastors such excellency in preaching, and fidelity in ministering thy Word, that thy people may be partakers with them of the glory that shall be revealed; 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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