

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Don Ruthig

March 18th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

Conversation with God means we should listen

WORLD War II was raging when I was born and most of the younger men from our village had volunteered or been drafted into the armed forces – even the Vicar was in uniform, serving as an Army chaplain. Thus my youthful role models were largely men of my grandfather's age.

This, doubtless, explains why my idea of "cool" manly attributes included a receding hairline, false teeth, wire-rimmed spectacles and a nicotine-stained mustache. Fortunately my grandmother convinced me that a four-year old would look pretty stupid with a bald head and a nicotine-stained mustache.

I didn't give up on the false teeth until a couple of years later, however.

After all, they seemed such fun. You could make such droll faces with them. In any event, I eventually acquired a set of those longed-for false teeth. They had belonged to a great aunt who had passed away and no longer needed them.

Funnily enough, by the time I was big enough to cram them into my mouth, I discovered I no longer wanted them at all.

Not so a motorbike – the object of my heart's desire since I had first seen an Army dispatch rider careening around the country lanes on a glorious 500cc Norton. Ah, the sound and the smell of the thing were utterly enrapturing!

Naturally, a motorbike featured in my prayers, initially ahead of the receding hairline, false teeth, wire-rimmed spectacles and nicotine-stained mustache, and ultimately replaced them entirely.

To begin with it came well down the prayer list – after my parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. But when no motorcycle arrived, I decided God obviously hadn't gotten the message so I moved it up the list a bit.

Eventually, the miserable thing displaced all but my immediate family in my intercessions. At this point, grandmother broke the news God had most certainly got my message, but that he probably thought six-year-old boys were just a bit too small for motorcycles.

Chagrined, I abandoned the quest in favor of praying for a big white rabbit with pink eyes. On its arrival my faith in prayer was immediately restored.

Not surprisingly, as adults our prayers still tend to resemble shopping lists. Of course, we don't ask for motorcycles or Barbie Dolls; still less receding hairlines, false teeth, wire-rimmed spectacles and nicotine-stained mustaches.

But while our requests to God are generally more altruistic, they more often than not conform to the age old shopping list format.

Please don't think I'm denigrating this sort of intercession – especially when we do so on behalf of others. Such altruistic intercessions certainly conform to Jesus' commandment that we love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves.

But prayer is essentially a conversation with God, and conversations require us to listen as well as to speak. Indeed, when we are in conversation with the almighty Creator of the Universe, it should surely behoove us to listen an awful lot more than we speak.

A good place to start is by reading the beautiful collect on Page 595 of the Prayer Book, entitled *For Quiet Confidence*:

"O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest shall we be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God. AMEN" **GPH***

It's not too late to join us in our study of the Shroud of Turin

THE Shroud of Turin – a relic many Christians believe to be the cloth in which Jesus was wrapped after being taken down from the cross – has long fascinated both believers and disbelievers alike.

It has been embroiled in controversy ever since late 1970s when, for the first time, it was subject to scientific scrutiny. Images discovered on the reverse of the shroud are bound to intensify the debate.

While our study has already begun, it's not too late to join us for the remaining sessions.

Each study will take place after Evening Prayer at 6.15 PM on Wednesday evenings. The series will continue on March 19th, March 26th, and April 2nd, and conclude on Wednesday, April 9th.

As usual, we will be providing beverages, hearty winter soup and the best bread in Baltimore. If you think you'll be hungrier than that, just bring a sandwich. **GPH***

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Ah, spring!

It's hard to tell from the mounds of snow along the roads and heaped in every corner of parking lots, but spring really is just around the corner. And we sure deserve a lovely one this year!

We have our own special definition of spring here at St. Stephen's; "SPRING: That season of the year during which we hold our annual Garden Party and Fete."

This year our Garden Party will be held on Saturday, May 3rd, from 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM. That's a mere six weeks from this coming Saturday and just two weeks after Easter!

The success of the Garden Party has always been the result of the enthusiasm and esprit de corps of the members of this parish and we hope we can count upon you once again for your support and participation.

There are lots of ways you can help and over the coming weeks you will hear lots more about them. As always we need donations for our book table of books, CDs and DVDs, and lots of "jumble" for the white elephant table. So start rummaging through your basements, attics and closets for those forgotten items you never use but will be a real find for someone else.

Lenten Studies

Wednesdays through April 9th.

6.15 pm

(Following 6.00 pm Evening Prayer)

"The Shroud of Turin"

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

Mondays, 6.30 PM (Temporary Lenten Schedule):

Bridge Club at the home of Fr. Mike

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Breakfast Fellowship at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events

Tuesday, March 18th, 7.00 PM: Vestry Meets in the Cadwalader Room

Wednesday, March 19th, 12.00 Noon: The Ladies Who Lunch at Christopher Daniel

Sunday, April 13th, 6.00 PM: Choral Evensong

Saturday, May 3rd, 11.00 AM-4.00 PM: British Garden Party and Fete

Lenten Studies of the Shroud of Turin - Wednesdays following 6 PM Evening Prayer

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

March 23rd, 2014

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Ephesians 5:1-14
The Gospel: St. Luke 11:14-28

11.00 AM CHORAL MATINS

The Psalter: Psalm 25
The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25
The Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:1-14

Donations may be dropped off in Quimby Hall on Sunday mornings or during the week. And, if you're really in a bind, arrangements can be made for someone to pick them up. Just call the Parish Office at 410-560-6776 to make arrangements.

✠ 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✠, Fr. Mike✠, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, Suzie, John, Rodney, Hamilton, Donald, Annie, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Linda Lou, Edie, John, Adele, Baby Charlie, Angie, Oona, John, Cary, Janna, Martina, Leela, Bobby Sally, Isabelle, Julie, Ray, Courtney, Mary, Phyllis.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Ann, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan, Paula, John, Hannah.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes.

For Repose of the Soul: Mary

For Those who Mourn: The Kirwin Family

Easter Flowers for St. Stephen's Altar

Here is the selection of beautiful spring flowers to decorate the church for Easter. Please make your choice and return this form to the church office with your check by Wednesday, April 16th. Flowers may be taken home after the 11:15 am service on Easter Sunday.

	# of plants		# of plants
Lilies Small elite 6" 4-6 blooms @ \$10	_____	Field Azalea @ \$15	_____
Hydrangeas Four plus Blooms @ \$20	_____	Hyacinths @ \$10 (6"pot)	_____
Daffodils @ \$10 (6"pot)	_____	Tulips @ \$10 (6" pot)	_____

Your Name:..... My gift is made 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 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*)

11.00 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 SECOND SUNDAY
IN LENT AND ST. PATRICK**

ALMIGHTY GOD, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Page 127

ALMIGHTY God, who in thy providence didst choose thy servant Patrick to be the apostle of the Irish people, to bring those who were wandering in darkness and error to the true light and knowledge of thee: Grant us so to walk in that light that we may come at last to the light of everlasting life; 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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