

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXV, Number 11

Edited by Don Ruthig

March 25th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

God isn't scriptwriting Tinsel Town sermons

IT SEEMS decidedly odd to me that folks often complain about

parsons who preach the word of God for more than 10 minutes at a stretch when they cheerfully let Hollywood's rather more secular philosophers preach to them for hours on end.

True, Hollywood's leading men and leading ladies are infinitely cuter than the average parson, but the fact of the matter is that God's ideas make a great deal more sense than the average sermon preached on prime time television.

For example, Hollywood's philosophers have long been promoting the notion that for it is a reasonable and responsible "life style option" for women – young and not so young – to have babies out of wedlock.

To be sure, there are many single mothers (and fathers, for that matter) who are successfully raising children without a spouse. But, at the same time, there are many others who are making a terrible hash of it.

Yet, even the very successful ones will usually agree that single parenting is not the best option.

The trouble with Hollywood – and much of the nation's news media – is that many folks who work there seem to have major problems telling the difference between the real world and the world of make-believe.

In the real world, babies dirty their diapers, have colic, experience teething trouble, develop diaper rash, howl all night, reject their bottles, refuse to burp and contract all manner of frightening illnesses.

In the world of make-believe, of course, they do all these things, too. But in the world of make-believe, the baby and parent are following a script. Things turn out happily – or unhappily – in exactly the manner the scriptwriter dictates.

The real world, however, is by no means so tidy. In the real world, there is nobody to write the screenplay. People are obliged to speak their own lines. And if they're tempted to follow Hollywood's script, they are likely to end up in awful trouble – because the real world doesn't conform to Hollywood's rules.

When things go wrong in the real world, they tend to stay wrong because there is no scriptwriter to tie up the loose ends and give the story a happy ending.

Wishing on a star works only in Tinsel Town. The real world works according to an older and entirely different maxim: "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride."

In the real world, there is only one person who can play God – and that's God, himself. The devil may try to make you think otherwise, but he's lying.

This, perhaps, lies at the heart of the problem. Hollywood has treated producers, directors, scriptwriters and actors as gods for so long they have lost sight of the real one.

If Hollywood truly wants to get back in touch with the real world, it needs to get back in touch with God. As things stand, there is something decidedly bizarre about Hollywood and its media groupies presuming to advise folks who live in the real world how to live their lives.

A glance behind the tinsel shows the reality of the lives of many denizens of Hollywood bears little resemblance to the screenplays served up on TV and in our movie houses.

The newspapers, TV and the supermarket tabloids regularly bear witness to the tragic consequences suffered by so many of the beautiful people – young and old – who live and work in this unwholesome environment.

Hollywood has been trying to follow its own script for best part of 70 years and the toll in wrecked and broken lives is quite incalculable. It's high time we said: "Physician, heal thyself." **GPH**

Holy Week Schedule

April 13th through April 20th

Palm Sunday

8.00 AM Holy Eucharist
9.15 AM & 11.00 AM Sung Eucharist
6.00 PM Service of Lessons and Anthems for
Passiontide

Holy Monday

6.00 PM Holy Eucharist

Holy Tuesday

6.00 PM Holy Eucharist

Holy Wednesday

6.00 PM Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday

7.00 PM Choral Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday

12.00 Noon The Seven Last Words from the Cross
3.30 PM Children's Way of the Cross
6.00 PM Communion of the Presanctified

Holy Saturday

7.00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Day

8.00 AM Holy Communion
9.15 AM Choral Eucharist
(Followed by Easter Egg Hunt for Children 7 and under)
11.00 AM Choral Eucharist

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Ah, spring! Well maybe...

With five more inches of snow covering the ground from our St. Patrick's Day storm we're beginning to wonder if spring really is just around the corner. Just in case we're planning a new event for the Garden Party this year - snowball fights.

This year our Garden Party will be held on Saturday, May 3rd, from 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM - snow, rain, or shine. 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.

Last year our Garden Party Program was a huge success due to the number of ads and patronages which were sold. Judy Kight has agreed to coordinate this effort again this year but she needs your help.

Please pick up some information sheets from the table in the Cadwalader room and take them to local businesses you patronize regularly -- your hairdresser, local coffee shop, your veterinarian -- any place you frequent and ask them to purchase an ad. There is also a printed information sheet, put together by Peter Threadgill, describing our garden party for those who have never experienced it to make your sales pitch easier.

Of course ads don't have to be for businesses. Consider placing an ad in honor of a graduating senior, a significant anniversary, or just to wish someone well. Ads are not expensive, ranging from \$25 for a quarter page to \$100 for a full page.

You might also consider becoming a Garden Party Patron. The Parish Life Committee relies on the generosity of our Patrons to provide the seed money to purchase supplies. The following levels

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

Sunday, April 13th, 6.00 PM: Service of Lessons and Anthems for Passiontide

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
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
March 30th, 2014
8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION
The Epistle: Galatians 4:21-31
The Gospel: St. John 6:1-14
11.00 AM CHORAL MATINS
The Psalter: Psalm 147
The First Lesson: Exodus 16:4-15
The Second Lesson: Galatians 4:21-31

are available: Imperial Crown Patron (\$100), House of Windsor Patron (\$75), House of York Patron (\$50) and House of Lancaster Patrons (\$25).

And don't forget 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.

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.

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN
LENT AND THE ANNUNCIATION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

WE BESEECH thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defense against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

WE BESEECH thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that, as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Pages 128 and 235

Return Service Requested

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