

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXV, Number 15

Edited by Don Ruthig

April 22nd, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

History repeats itself as tragedy in Ukraine

HISTORY, they often say, starts as tragedy and repeats itself as farce. But in Ukraine tragedy is being repeated as tragedy. Russian strongman Vladimir Putin's creeping occupation of the Ukraine is taken directly from the playbook Adolf Hitler devised for the invasion of Czechoslovakia in the late 1930s.

And the truly chilling aspect of Putin's unwarranted aggression is that the leaders of the Western democracies are responding to it with exactly the same shameful spineless and cowardly shortsightedness their counterparts of three quarters of a century ago treated Hitler's equally unwarranted aggression in 1938.

Washington and its European allies are showing the same craven lack of concern about their betrayal of the Ukrainians – whose security they not so long ago guaranteed by treaty – displayed by British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain when in 1938 he declared Czechoslovakia to be just “a small country of which we know nothing.”

Events in Czechoslovakia 75 years ago graphically illustrate just how dangerous it is to respond to a demagogue's naked aggression with the sort of gutless complacency the West's leaders are displaying in their handling of the Ukraine crisis today.

Indeed, it is reasonable to argue that the West's lack of resolve when faced with Nazi aggression in late 1930s Czechoslovakia was one of the primary causes of World War II.

According to former members of the German General Staff, the West's failure to face down the Fuehrer over Czechoslovakia led Hitler to believe he would face a similarly pusillanimous response when he launched his attack on Poland.

Folks in the Baltic States and Poland, not to mention Finland, Romania, Moldova and Georgia – all of which have suffered Russian aggression in the recent past – must all be feeling more than a little insecure.

If I sound a trifle strident about this issue, I can only plead that my childhood was – like that of many Britons of my generation – largely dominated by World War II and its aftermath. Rationing was in force during the entire first decade of my life, and the reconstruction of our bomb ravaged cities continued into my late 20s.

Moreover, as a journalist covering the affairs of the Soviet Union and the nations in its thrall behind Churchill's Iron Curtain, my mentor was Kurt Weisskopf, a Czech émigré who had escaped Nazi occupied Prague by the skin of his teeth.

Kurt was a sagacious and kindly councilor who generously shared his extensive store of knowledge about the USSR and its satellites with any young journalist with wisdom enough to listen.

His father, a doctor and colonel in the Austro-Hungarian Imperial Army's Medical Corps, was stationed in the Balkans during Kurt's early childhood. And it was there he developed what can only be described as a remarkable flair for languages..

In 1914, his father – who commanded the army's Sarajevo Medical District – performed autopsies on Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the imperial throne, and his wife, whose assassinations prompted the outbreak of World War I. For that unhappy task, he was made a Count of the Holy Roman Empire – a title Kurt inherited but never used.

Following Austria's defeat and the break up of its empire, Kurt's father became a general practitioner in the Sudetenland -- a largely German speaking area of Czechoslovakia, abutting the German border. On his graduation from high school, Kurt studied law at Prague University

Be that as it may, after graduation Kurt never practiced law. Instead he gravitated to Prague's decidedly Bohemian literary world, where he rubbed shoulders with luminaries like Franz Kafka, Max Brod and other contemporaries of Jaroslav Hašek, anarchist, bigamist and author of the great comic novel about the archetypal Czech character, *The Fateful Adventures of the Good Soldier Švejk in the World War*.

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

Mondays, 6.30 PM: 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

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

Thursday, May 15th, 2.00 PM: Afternoon Tea

Wednesday, May 21st, 12.15 PM: The Ladies Who Lunch at the Macaroni Grill

Thursday, June 19th: Silly Summer Suppers begin

In March, 1939, when Nazis occupied Prague, Kurt was working as an editor on a Social Democratic newspaper. As the Germans marched into the city, Kurt and his colleagues were in the paper's basement feeding compromising documents into the furnace.

As both a Jew and a Social Democrat, Kurt was a marked man. His situation was made all the more dangerous by the Social Democratic Party uniform he was wearing, a navy blue shirt and trousers and a red neckerchief.

With no time to go his apartment and change, he dashed to a tailor's shop, owned by a Social Democrat friend. The man kitted him out with civilian clothes, and asked: “Have you got a passport?” Kurt's passport was in his desk at his home.

They called another Social Democrat acquaintance – a senior detective at Prague's police headquarters. “Stay put,” he told Kurt, “I'll pick you up in a squad car.”

When he arrived, he told Kurt to put out his hands and snapped handcuffs on his wrists. Kurt was stunned. “What are you doing?” he asked.

“Don't worry, Kurt.” said the cop, “The Germans are very orderly people. It would never occur to them to arrest a person who's already under arrest.”

When they arrived at police headquarters, Gestapo agents had already taken over the passport department. However his detective friend managed to issue him an official ID card identifying him as a stateless Hungarian salesman of herbal tea. Fortunately, Kurt's stepmother was Hungarian and had taught him to speak the language fluently.

Even so, he was arrested by the Gestapo as he tried to cross the Polish border and thrown into holding prison run by the SS. Amazingly, six weeks later, he was thrown out on the street.

How did he pull it off?

“First you have to keep your strength up,” he told me, “So you have to eat everything they give you no matter how horrible it is.

“Then don't play the hero. You must accept that, one way or another, they will make you talk, so you babble your head off. You tell them everything you can think of that can't get somebody else into trouble.

“Their goal is to get you to confess to some thought-crime or other, so you need to confess to something really ridiculous. They accused me of slandering the Reich. ‘Oh, yes I did, Major,’ I told the corporal who interrogating me.

“ ‘What did you do?’ he asked. ‘I wrote in the Traveling Salesmen's Gazette that the toilets on German railway stations are utterly disgusting.’ I told him. He beat me up a bit, but he had me thrown out of jail as mentally incompetent.”

Doubtless Ukrainian patriots in Russian hands today might find Kurt's advice exceedingly helpful. **GPH**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Hey, Ho, Come to the Fair

Strains of “Scotland the Brave” and other traditional Scottish and Irish music will once again kick off the annual Garden Party and Fete at St. Stephen's at 11.00 AM on May 3rd, performed by the John F Nicoll Pipe Band.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**

May 4th, 2014

8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I St. Peter 2:19-25

The Gospel: St. John 10:2-16

For Your MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: 23, 146

The First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

The Second Lesson: St. John 10:2-16

For over 35 years the John F. Nicoll Pipe Band has been carrying on the tradition of its namesake, a piper in the British Army during World War I who taught piping to many children in Glasgow.

They have become a tradition at the Garden Party, leading the opening procession in their brilliant uniforms adapted from uniforms of Scottish Regiments of the British Army. In addition to the opening ceremonies they will also perform additional sets during the afternoon.

Our colorful Maypole will occupy the center of the green and the Baltimore Folk Music Society will be there to demonstrate and teach the Maypole dance. Later in the afternoon there will be time to show off what we've learned by doing our own Maypole dance sans their expert guidance. What our dance lacks in precision is more than made up for with laughter.

A new feature for 2014 will be Punch and Judy shows presented by Professor Horn, the third generation of the Horn family to continue the legacy of "Horn's Punch and Judy" started in 1897. The performances will take place in the children's area but they are really for the child in all of us.

Camerata Musica will once again stroll the green performing Renaissance madrigals dressed in period costumes. Like the pipe band, they have become a Garden Party tradition and have also added to the festive atmosphere of our Cookie Walk.

King Henry the Eighth will preside over all of this and so much more - children's activities and races, an overflowing jumble table, delicious homemade baked goods, craft items made by St. Stephen's crafters, delicious afternoon tea in the tea room, British "Pub Grub" accompanied by a pint or two, and much, much more.

✠ **St Stephen's Anglican Church** ✠

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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.

Bring your family, invite your friends and neighbors and come to the fair.

Good News!

Fr. Mike was cleared to start putting weight on his leg and walk using his crutches for support. He says his leg felt like jelly, but is getting better with each hour!! He celebrated Easter Monday and even though he cannot turn it was a great experience! So glad to be back on the altar!!

Thanks for all of the fervent prayers. Keep up the good work!

FROM JUDY ELLIOT

Monthly in-giving for At Jacob's Well

Sunday, May 4th, being the first Sunday of the month is our designated collection day for At Jacob's Well. They are extremely thankful for the ongoing faithfulness and generosity of the St. Stephen's parish.

They continue to need basic food items and household supplies; canned ham, yams, sauerkraut, mayonnaise, mustard, paper towels, toilet paper and twin size sheet sets. They have requested, however, that clothing donations (clothing, shoes, purses, etc.) be sent to the Salvation Army or other such charity that accepts them in lieu of At Jacob's Well.

✠ 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, Adele, Baby Charlie, Angie, Oona, Cary, Janna, Martina, Leela, Bobby Sally, Isabelle, Julie, Ray, Courtney, Mary, Phyllis, Liz, Joe, Indra, Ally, Marjorie.

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.

COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER and ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES

ALMIGHTY Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

O ALMIGHTY God, whom truly to know is everlasting life; Grant us perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth and the life; that, following the steps of thy holy Apostles, Saint Philip and Saint James, we may stedfastly walk in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Pages 170 and 238

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