

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXV, Number 26

Edited by Don Ruthig

July 8th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

Humid recital stirs Bangkok

YOU don't believe God's got a sense of humor? Just look at the camel and the duckbilled platypus! And who do you think invented laughter in the first place? In any event, a good laugh is balm for the soul. So here's something to giggle about over the July 4th holiday. The following music review appeared under the above heading some years ago in the English language Bangkok Post. I cannot believe the anonymous author wrote it with a straight face, but I could be wrong.

THE RECITAL last evening in the chamber music room of the Erawan Hotel by U. S. pianist Myron Kropp, the first appearance by Mr. Kropp in Bangkok, can only be described by this reviewer and those who witnessed Mr. Kropp's performance as one of the most interesting experiences in a very long time.

A hush fell over the room as Mr. Kropp appeared from the right of the stage, attired in black formal evening wear with a small, white poppy in his lapel. With sparse, sandy hair, a sallow complexion and a deceptively frail looking frame, the man who has re-popularized Johann Sebastian Bach approached the Baldwin Concert Grand, bowed to the audience and placed himself upon the stool.

It might be appropriate to insert at this juncture that many pianists, including Mr. Kropp, prefer a bench, maintaining that on a screw-type stool they sometimes find themselves turning sideways during a particularly expressive strain. There was a slight delay, in fact, as Mr. Kropp left the stage briefly, apparently in search of a bench, but returned when informed that there was none.

As I have mentioned on several other occasions, the Baldwin Concert Grand, while basically a fine instrument, needs constant attention, particularly in a climate such as Bangkok. This is even more true when the instrument is as old as the one provided in the chamber music room of Erawan Hotel.

In this humidity the felts which separate the white keys from the black keys tend to swell, causing an occasional key to stick, which apparently was the case last evening with the D in the second octave.

During the "raging storm" section of the D-Minor Toccata and Fugue, Mr. Kropp must be complimented for putting up with the awkward D. However, by the time the "storm" was past and he had gotten into the Prelude and Fugue in D Major, in which the second octave plays a major role, Mr. Kropp's patience was wearing thin.

Some who attended the performance later questioned whether the awkward key justified some of the language which was heard coming from the stage during softer passages of the fugue.

However, one member of the audience, who had sent his children out of the room by the midway point of the fugue, had a valid point when he commented over the music and extemporaneous remarks of Mr. Kropp that the workman who had greased the stool might have done better to use some of the grease on the second octave D.

Indeed, Mr. Kropp's stool had had more than enough grease, and during one passage in which the music and lyrics both were particularly violent Mr. Kropp was turned completely around. Whereas before his remarks had been aimed largely at the piano and therefore somewhat muted, to his surprise and that of those in the chamber music room, he found himself addressing himself directly to the audience.

But such things do happen, and the person who began to laugh deserves to be seriously reprimanded for this undignified behaviour. Unfortunately, laughter is contagious, and by the time it had subsided and the audience had regained its composure Mr. Kropp appeared somewhat shaken.

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

- Mondays, 6.30 PM:** Bridge Club meets in Quimby Hall
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

- Wednesdays, 6.15 PM:** Silly Summer Suppers in Quimby Hall
Tuesday, July 8, 7.00 PM: Parish Life Committee Meets
Wednesday, July 16th, 12.00 Noon: The Ladies Who Lunch at the California Pizza Kitchen
Tuesday, July 22nd, 2.00 PM - 7.30 PM: Red Cross Blood Drive

Nevertheless he swiveled himself back into position facing the piano and, leaving the D Major Fugue unfinished, commenced on the Fantasia and Fugue in G Minor.

Why the concert piano's G key in the third octave chose that particular time to start sticking I hesitate to guess. However, it is certainly safe to say that Mr. Kropp himself did nothing to help matters when he began using his feet to kick the lower portion of the piano instead of operating the pedals as is generally done.

Possibly it was this jarring, or the un-Bach-like hammering to which the sticking keyboard was being subjected. Something caused the right front leg of the piano to buckle slightly inward, leaving the entire instrument listing at approximately a 35-degree angle from that which is normal.

A gasp went up from the audience, for if the piano had actually fallen several of Mr. Kropp's toes, if not both his feet, would surely have been broken.

It was with a sigh of relief, therefore, that the audience saw Mr. Kropp slowly rise from his stool and leave the stage. A few men at the back of the room began clapping and when Mr. Kropp reappeared a moment later it seemed he was reappearing for an ovation. Apparently, however, he had left to get the red handled fire axe which was hung at the back of the stage in case of fire, for that was what he had in his hand.

My first reaction at seeing Mr. Kropp begin to chop at the left leg of the grand piano was that he was attempting to make it tilt at the same angle as the right leg and thereby correct the list.

However, when one of the weakened legs finally collapsed altogether with a great crash and Mr. Kropp continued to chop, it became obvious to all that he had no intention of going on with the concert.

The ushers, who had heard the snapping of piano wires and splintering of sounding board from the dining room, came rushing in and, with the help of the hotel manager, two Indian night watchmen and a passing police corporal, finally succeeded in disarming Mr. Kropp and dragging him off the stage.

Have a wonderful Fourth of July – GPH✘

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Plan to join us on July 16th

THIS month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at 12.00 Noon at The California Pizza Kitchen, on Wednesday, July 16th. Why not join us for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal? Good food and good fellowship -- what more could you want? To reserve your place call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680.

Grill Needed

Have a gas barbecue grill you no longer need? St. Stephen's could make use of it. Call Don Ruthig at 410-592-2567.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

July 13th, 2014

8.00 AM, & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Romans 8:18-23

The Gospel: St. Luke 6:36-42

11.00 AM CHORAL MATTINS

The Psalter: 91

The First Lesson: Lamentations 3:22-33

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 6:36-42

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Summer suppers at a silly price

The best dining deal in town has begun once again. Join us on Wednesday evenings following evening prayer (around 6.15 pm) for the best meal \$10 can buy - an entree, salad, and dessert all for just one sawbuck.

Non-alcoholic beverages are provided and inexpensively priced beer and wine are also available.

Like to cook? There's still a need for additional chefs to fill out the season's roster. Sign up for all or part of a meal on the sheet posted in the Cadwalader Room.

Confirmation Classes to begin

In anticipation of the upcoming visit of Bishop John Vaughan in September, confirmation classes will begin shortly. For further information or to sign up for these classes please call Brock Johnson at 410-825-8007.

Red Cross Blood Drive July 22nd

Sign-up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary for the upcoming Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, July 22nd.

Summertime is a particularly critical time of need for blood donations. Please plan to give if you are able.

✠ 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 Mike✠, Fr Tim✠, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, 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, Steve, Judy, David.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Ann, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan, Paula, 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 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY AND SAINT BENEDICT OF NURSIA

O LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to hear us; and grant that we, to whom thou hast given an hearty desire to pray, may, by thy mighty aid, be defended and comforted in all dangers and adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Page 192

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, whose precepts are the wisdom of a loving Father: Give us grace, following the teaching and example of thy servant Benedict, to walk with loving and willing hearts in the school of the Lord's service; let thine ears be open unto our prayers; and prosper with thy blessing the work of our hands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

AMEN

✠ 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.

Return Service Requested

St. Stephen's Anglican Church
11856 Mays Chapel Road
Timonium, MD 21093

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
TIMONIUM MD
PERMIT NO. 181