

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Don Ruthig

July 15th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

Let the Gospel take a bite out of crime

THE CRIME RATE is a major American preoccupation . . . which is hardly surprising in view of statistics which indicate that one in every three of us can expect to become a victim of violent crime at least once in our lives.

Our politicians' response to this has been a stream of legislative measures – boot camps, “three strikes and your out” sentencing, and mandatory jail sentences for crimes perceived as particularly heinous – each of which is designed to solve the problem for good and all.

These political nostrums, doubtless, engender a certain sense of *deja vu* in folks with memories longer than that of the average fruit fly. Such feelings are entirely justified. Mandatory sentences, boot camps, weapons control: There's nothing that we haven't tried that the Romans didn't try before us – and with similarly disappointing results.

History shows that there is nothing new about crime waves of the sort that we are experiencing today. Indeed, in the 17th, 18th and early-to-mid 19th centuries, rampant crime was the norm in the great cities of Europe and the Americas. And all the remedies now being proposed were tried back then – to absolutely no avail.

In desperation, legislators adopted even more draconian measures than we have ever contemplated. Death sentences were meted out as a matter of course to repeat offenders. People convicted of serious crimes of violence were routinely disemboweled and dismembered.

When these punishments signally failed to make a dent in the crime rate, law makers decided the best way to handle the problem was quarantine. So they shipped out those who would not shape up.

For best part of a century and a half, England's petty criminals were routinely transported to penal colonies throughout its growing empire – including the West Indies, the State of Georgia, the Carolinas and, latterly, Australia.

Nothing, however, seemed to work. Brutal or enlightened, draconian or moderate – all the anti-crime measures the human mind devise seemed inadequate to the task of deterring ordinary people from resorting to crime.

It would be quite wrong to ascribe this catalogue of abject failure to the idea that folks back in the 17th, 18th and early-to-mid 19th centuries were somehow more primitive than ourselves, or less sophisticated.

This simply isn't true. Read their writings on the subject and you'll discover they were at least our intellectual equals. In fact, they had considered (and, in most instances, rejected on practical grounds) some of the remedies we consider most "modern." Read Thomas Moore's *Utopia*, the works of Jean Jacques Rousseau, and Samuel Butler's *Erehwon*.

By the opening decades of the 19th Century, crime in England had gotten so out of hand Parliament, in desperation, introduced a new London Metropolitan Police to replace the police forces attached to the individual magistrates' courts.

But there was no major improvement in the situation until the 1830s when the Church of England finally realized that a main reason for the moral decay was its sloth in preaching the Gospel.

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

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

There followed the most remarkable religious revival the world has seen. A newly invigorated Church of England launched a crusade to carry Christ into the meanest streets of the inner cities.

The Church Army was founded. Religious orders were revived. Magnificent churches were constructed in slums more vile than anything we in modern America have ever known.

Within two decades the tide had been turned. Within four it had been completely reversed. It was not that the Gospel had eliminated poverty. It had not. (The poor, said Christ, are always with us.) But it had eliminated the awful spiritual and moral degradation that, absent the Gospel, inevitably accompanies poverty.

As the urban population's spiritual lives improved, so naturally did morality. Crime was never completely eliminated, of course – it is, after all, a fallen world – but it declined to manageable proportions.

England's experience was repeated in America, with the same results. And it is not wholly accidental that during this period the Episcopal Church became the fastest growing church in the USA.

What worked 150 years ago would certainly work today. Indeed, it is the only solution that is likely to work. Let's pray that we don't have to wait another two centuries to implement it. **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.

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.

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

July 20th, 2014

8.00 AM, & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I St. Peter 3:8-15

The Gospel: St. Luke 5:1-11

11.00 AM CHORAL MATTINS

The Psalter: 62, 63

The First Lesson: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, 18-23

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 5:1-11

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.

✠ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093
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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 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY AND ST SWITHIN

O GOD, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy; Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Page 194

Most gracious God, who didst glorify the Church by the life and labours of thy holy Bishop Saint Swithun: Send down, we beseech thee, showers of blessing upon thy people, that they may grow in grace, and in the knowledge and love of thee, and of thy Son Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

AMEN

Return Service Requested

St. Stephen's Anglican Church
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