

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Don Ruthig

July 22nd, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

Can Golf really be a spiritual exercise?

RECENTLY, while sorting through a pile of ancient sermons, I came across some musings on "The Grand Old Game" of Golf by Bill Downey, who passed away in 12 years ago come November.

Bill was the parish's senior warden when I first arrived here some 25 years ago and not a day passes that I don't remember him with great fondness. He was a prince of a fellow – generous, kindly, patient and unfailingly polite. No less important, behind that affable exterior lay a steely inner resolve that served the parish well on many notable occasions.

Bill was deeply devoted to the game of golf and it was his contention that the game of golf established 8.00 AM Eucharist as a Sunday institution.

I asked him if he thought it a tad sacrilegious to attend a service simply because it afforded a good tee time afterwards. "Oh no," he replied, "It couldn't be that! Golf reinforces your Christianity."

At first, I thought he was joking, but then I saw the steely glint in his eye. The next Sunday, he handed me the following article to amplify his contention. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do. **GPH**✘

THE RECTOR surely will arch an eyebrow (maybe two) at the following observations, but it is my intention to show in the least boring manner possible, the similarities of honest churchmanship to the determination of a dedicated golfer.

For those who have, at best, preconceived ideas about the Grand Old Game, let me just briefly try to define the fundamental facts about what it is.

First it is a GAME. It requires self-discipline, concentration, a plan and patience. It is governed world wide by one set of rules covering every conceivable situation.

Now right here, a more scholarly work would insert a footnote to the effect that, being an invention of man some 500 years old, the rules have had to conform to endless numbers of situations previously inconceivable. Nevertheless it is, and always has been since its inception, a game in which the object is to propel a ball with a stick over a prescribed course of terrain and into a hole in the fewest possible strokes.

And the basic rule for 500 years has been and continues to be that one plays the ball as it lies, neither improving nor changing its position. So much for the religion of golf. Now, to my analogy.

Not everyone who shouts "Fore, Fore" shall enter the kingdom of Old Tom Morris, Bobby Jones or Jack Nicklaus. As we said, golf is a game for anyone silly enough to challenge it. The fact that there are great numbers of people who do, made it obvious long ago that there was opportunity for the few skillful practitioners to make a living teaching us hackers how to better our hacking.

Obvious also was the fact that a gathering of these masters of the game made for a popular spectacle. Thus it can be legitimately stated that golf is a business. But only

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 22nd, 2.00 PM - 7.30 PM: Red Cross Blood Drive

secondarily. Primarily, golf is a game.

The four requirements of the game, previously stated, are certainly admirable ambitions for everyone. Physical coordination, of course, is involved and is something we all have, to whatever degree God intended, but the flawless variety of a ballet star or a trapeze artist is not required for the game.

Few of us can claim the mental capacity to concentrate on one objective for upwards of four hours. The self-discipline required to accept an otherwise excellent stroke that hits a pebble and ends up in a sand bunker puts a strain on the saintliest of men. The strategy one plans for the best route to a given hole may not have accounted for a gust of wind, or an unbalance swing, but patience might provide a result that cancels the error.

Through all of this, I have failed to point out that one never plays the game of golf by one's self. That would be practice only. The rules stipulate the order of play (the liturgy), and each player is silent and motionless while the other struggles with his ability without delay.

We can put an end to this tedious analogy by telling the story (parable) of a fine local golfer seated by a lovely young lady at a dinner party. Searching for a conversational jump-start, she gushed, "I hear you are an excellent golfer. Is that true?" The young man blushed in reply: "That's like asking me if I am a good Christian. If I really am, I don't think so."

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

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

July 27th, 2014

8.00 AM, & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Romans 6:3-11

The Gospel: St. Matthew 5:20-26

11.00 AM CHORAL MATTINS

The Psalter: 85

The First Lesson: II Samuel 19:16-23

The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 5:20-26

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 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY AND ST JAMES THE APOSTLE

GRANT, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

GRANT, O merciful God, that, as thine holy Apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, without delay was obedient unto the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ, and followed him; so we, forsaking all worldly and carnal affections, may be evermore ready to follow thy holy commandments; though the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Pages 195 and 246

✠ 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

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