

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Don Ruthig

July 29th, 2014

FROM THE RECTORY

Random reflections on my morning prayers

(My wife, as you might know, is an excellent writer. But, then, as she once worked for Forbes magazine, I suppose that is unsurprising. Recently, while leafing through some of the things she has written, I came across the following article. It struck me that it bears reprinting. I hope you share my opinion. GPH)*

FOR SOME time now, I have engaged myself in saying my Morning Office from the family prayer section of the B.C.P. I began using these prayers in place of the regular Morning Office as they seemed more personal. They also fit the time I had allotted -- which is, of course, a poor excuse.

Nonetheless, I set a goal of reading the family prayer section and following the reading with a chapter of the Bible each day and so I have done for the past year or so.

There are some immediate benefits that come to mind from the exercise, not least on what portend to be the most difficult days.

It is then that the best words leap off the page for temper keeping and equanimity. That is not to say that they perfect the practitioner. Far from it! It is just that I am reminded of what I should aim for.

On many days the outside world intrudes, and I find myself under-concentrating until I am most of the way finished, or I must restart the prayer and this time pay attention.

Sometimes I have spontaneous thoughts about that which I might read elsewhere in the Bible, or a particularly good verse will abide with me in my thoughts throughout the day, being almost a sufficiency of interesting thought, though quite unintended. St. Francis' of Assisi's "Do good always" occurs to me frequently.

One of the things that set me on this course was an acquaintanceship with the works of sundry writers of the 18th century -- people like George Washington, my own distant relatives and such.

I was impressed, in reading their letters, at the presence of God constantly in their minds. They invoked God to their friends and business acquaintances. They used Christian virtues in their metaphors, and employed the concept of humility in their closing line.

For example, George Washington usually signed off a letter: "Your obedient servant". Even as general or president, this was his projection of himself upon another.

Meandering, as thought does, I began to ponder this, coming at last to the conclusion that the people of that earlier age were much more profoundly aware of the omnipresence of God in their lives than we are today -- myself included.

Putting God into one's life requires physically acting on the very thought of God each day. Most certainly God does not belong in a Sunday box.

The Bible recommends that we "pray without ceasing." Met anybody like that lately? No, neither had I. But, if I were to try to incorporate prayer without ceasing, it would have to be in the place where my unconscious thoughts put me in the small moments of the day.

To do that, one would need to organize some God thoughts. Hence, the notion of saying some prayers I liked, to start off the day. That helped.

My five-minute prayer regime pushed more of my random thoughts toward God than without the effort. It was so that when a problem arose, God occurred to me. It was so that when a solution was needed God occurred to me.

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

It was as James Montgomery's hymn says:

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, Unuttered or expressed,
The motion of a hidden fire, That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh, The falling of a tear. The
upward glancing of an eye, When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech That infant lips can try:
Prayer, the sublimest strains That reach the Majesty on high.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, The Christian's native
air, His watchword at the gates of death: He enters heav'n
with prayer.

O thou by whom we come to God, The Life, The Truth, The
Way, The path of prayer thyself has trod: Lord teach us how
to pray.

God Bless You -- CHARLOTTE HAWTIN

FROM DIANE NOVICKI

Dear Sunday School Parents

In order to teach the lesson of charity we will be collecting an offering in Sunday School every Sunday for the Zambia, Africa Anglican Diocese.

I have been telling the children about the church in Africa but would appreciate it if you could urge your child to bring a small age appropriate offering (\$.25-\$1.00) to church.

This offering of love teaches the children to care for others.
In Christ, DIANE NOVICKI

Help ...as the Beatles said.

There are so many ways we can serve our Lord, including giving thanks for the fellowship we share following the Sunday services, that being Coffee Hour.

This has been a long standing St. Stephen's tradition enjoyed by so many.

There is no blue print, all we ask is that you commit maybe once or twice a year to provide cookies, or, if the fancy takes you, share your culinary skills with your congregation.

Fear not! You will always be able to find a supply of cheese and crackers in the kitchen together with juice, coffee and cream.

If you feel able to commit, please email or call me and I will put together a monthly rota, if you feel unable to do so, that's ok, there is no pressure. You can reach me at 410-913-7405 or at anne.hawkins@me.com. ANNE HAWKINS

The Sounds of Silence

Although we anticipated the start of construction on our office addition by now, the sounds of hammers and saws has been deafeningly absent.

Hopefully these issues will be resolved expeditiously and construction will start shortly. **DON RUTHIG**

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.

✠ 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, Wendy, John, Joy

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.

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

August 3rd, 2014

8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Romans 6:19-23

The Gospel: St. Mark 8:1-9

For your MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: 18:1-20

The First Lesson: Hosea 14

The Second Lesson: Ruth 6:12-18

Last minute hitches in the permitting process have caused us to delay the start of the project.

The County wants us to enclose the current stairway with walls and doors, even though it was approved by the County when it was constructed in 2006. Their reasoning is related to fire egress, our objection is due to practical imperatives of how our office area is used. Stay tuned.

They have also raised the possibility of requiring modifications to at least one of our bathrooms for ADA compliance. We will remind them that, under the law, houses of worship are exempt from ADA compliance, not to mention that our bathrooms are wheelchair accessible already.

COLLECT FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY AND MARY AND MARTHA OF BETHANY

O GOD, who has prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding; Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

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O GOD, heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ enjoyed rest and refreshment in the home of Mary and Martha of Bethany: Give us the will to love thee, open our hearts to hear thee, and strengthen our hands to serve thee in others for his sake; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

AMEN

✠ 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.

Return Service Requested

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