

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXV, Number 38

September 30th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

My thanks to you – from the bottom of my heart!

WHAT a wonderful weekend it was – the Rededication of the parish church, the Setting Apart of two subdeacons, the Confirmation of four candidates and the Ordination of two priests and a deacon! And it being St. Stephen's, celebrations would not have been complete without the two terrific parties.

Congratulations go to our two new associate rectors, Fr. Michael Belt and Fr. John Novicki. Their road to ordinations involved what must have seemed to them like an endless ordeal of more than a decade of study. It is a testament to the strength of their calling that they didn't give up the quest.

And congratulations are also in order for our newly minted deacon, The Rev. Mr. Wiley Hawks. The manner in which Mr. Hawks buckled down to study for his canonical examinations and the enthusiasm that he brought to his work as subdeacon should be an inspiration to all our people seeking Holy Orders.

Likewise congratulations are due to our own Dan Bursi and Mark Newsome, a postulant from Burlington, North Carolina, who were set apart as subdeacons, and we look forward to seeing them ordained to the diaconate when they have completed their studies.

It was a great pleasure to welcome Bishop John Vaughan, our Ordinary, to the parish. His affection for St. Stephen's was evident throughout his stay. Indeed, he spent the two weeks before the big weekend with Deacon Wiley Hawks and Happy Riley, Director of Pastoral Care, visiting the retirement communities and health facilities served by the parish

It was also a joy to receive visitors from the Anglican Province of America: The Very Rev. Gordon Anderson, Rector of St. Albans Anglican Church, Belair, and his colleague The Rev. Canon Rob Tregenza, Rector of Mount Calvary Church, Lothian, MD

We also owe a hearty vote of thanks to the St. Stephen's alumni who spent the hours behind the wheel in order to celebrate with us. Fr. John Filkins drove all the way from Picayune, Mississippi, to be with us, and Fr. Rhae Kelley and his wife, Molly travelled here from North Carolina.

The church looked magnificent, courtesy of the Flower Committee, especially Anne Hawkins and my wife, Charlotte. The buildings sparkled and the grounds were well manicured thanks to the efforts of Brock Johnson, Martha Miller, Don Ruthig, John Karlsen, Colby Hawks, Bill Hawkins, Anne Hawkins, Happy Riley, Courtney Buchness, Ellen Reather, Judy Kight, Judy Elliott, Mar Bopst, Sara & Paul Douglas, Mavis and Gordon Turner, Barbara Parker, Lynn DeWitt *et al.*, *et al.* (I'm sure I have forgotten some hard-working people. Please ascribe it to old age and forgive me.)

It was a weekend in which the parish truly lived up to its reputation. We were blessed with glorious music courtesy of Adric. All kudos for the boundless hospitality goes to the Parish Life Committee and its leaders Priscilla and Dick Huffman.

It is a group so efficient and well organized that it makes the most complicated of tasks look effortless.

As for me, it was one of the most wonderful (and certainly the most embarrassing) weekends of my life. I confess I did not entirely recognize myself in Fr. Kerouac's sermon on Saturday. But I thank him for thinking well of me, and for paying tribute to Charlotte for the way in which she has shared my ministry. She has been a truly wonderful partner.

The truth is that I feel very privileged that God granted me the opportunity to serve as your rector. I could not have asked for a nicer group of people. Thank you so much for 25 momentous and happy years.

Lastly, what a surprise it was to be presented with such a marvelous portrait! Usually, parish priests are not immortalized on canvas until they have shuffled off this mortal coil and everyone

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.

Sunday, October 5th: Monthly In-giving for At Jacob's Well

Tuesday, October 14th, 7.00 PM: Parish Life Committee Meets in the Cadwalader Room

Thursday, October 16th, 2.00 PM: Afternoon Tea

Saturday, December 6th: Cookie Walk

has forgotten what a trial they were as rectors.

Allison Belt is not just a talented artist. She is one of my favorite talented artists. (I own two of her paintings.) I am most flattered to think that the likeness she has captured not only looks like me to me, but looks like me to everybody else as well.

Some folks might say that generations long in the future might think better of it if she'd made me look just a tad more like a Harrison Ford, say, or a Clark Gable. But I confess I'm quite content with my long-standing resemblance to the rather less than romantic Peter Ustinov. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. **GPH**

Privacy rules designed to defy common sense

ONE OF THE more cynical axioms of the Law of Unintended Consequences is that any attempt to make things better can usually be relied upon to make things worse.

A particularly cruel example of this took place in New York City's Germantown some years ago when well-meaning neighbors attempted to help the daughter of a pair of particularly hapless junkies.

The little girl's parents frequently disappeared for days on end, leaving her to fend for herself. Neighbors who regularly found the child searching trashcans for food scraps, would take her in and care for her until her parents returned.

During one of her parents' absences, a woman who had a particularly close relationship with the child, took her to the New York Children's Hospital for a check up. There, it was discovered the little girl was desperately undernourished – so undernourished, in fact, that, at the age of seven, she was the size of an average four-year-old.

At the urging of the hospital, New York's child welfare authorities were informed of the little girl's plight. The woman, who had taken her to the hospital, sought permission to become her foster mother.

But the child welfare workers had different ideas. They returned the child to her parents. When, six months later, they discovered their solution was not working, they shifted the girl to a foster home – not with the neighbor who knew and loved her, but to professional foster parents miles away in The Bronx.

There is no happy ending to this story. The neighbors later learned the girl had been removed from The Bronx foster home on suspicions that she had been abused, and shunted from foster home to foster home until, finally, she ran away – presumably to live on the streets.

Why had she not been placed in care with the neighbor who wanted to take her in? Government regulations: The woman didn't fit the department's criteria. No matter that she knew and loved the child, she was deemed to be too old to be a foster parent.

Another example of efforts to make things better making things infinitely worse can be found in the health care regulations guaranteeing the confidentiality of our medical records – not least,

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

October 5th, 2014

8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Ephesians 3:13-21

The Gospel: St. Luke 7:11-17

For your MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 116

The First Lesson: Isaiah 12

The Second Lesson: St. John 11:21-44

those imposed by HIPPA or, to give its full name, the Health Insurance Portability and Privacy Act.

Nobody can deny that a guarantee of privacy is, on the whole, a very good thing. It is quite unacceptable for government, or anyone else for that matter, to troll vicariously through our personal medical records.

It seems, however, reasonable to argue the right to privacy is trumped by an even more important right – the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Not so, according to the health care regulators. People's right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is put in jeopardy on a daily basis by medical confidentiality regulations.

One of the most egregious examples forbids the notification of the spouse of people suffering from AIDS and similarly deadly and infectious illnesses unless the sufferer specifically authorizes it. What's more, this right to privacy continues even after death.

You would be surprised how many people go to their graves leaving the spouses in ignorance of the nature of the deadly illness that carried them off. Spouses, of course, have a right to see the death certificate, but by that time, of course, it's a bit late to take precautions.

Yet another worrisome example of things being made worse is to be found in the nation's psychiatric institutions. Even folks with disorders that endanger the lives of themselves and others enjoy a right to total privacy.

Husbands and wives of people who have threatened, or actually committed, violent acts against them can only be informed of their loved one's diagnosis with the express permission of the patient – the person of all people least qualified to make that judgment.

Nothing could be better designed to undermine further the bonds of trust between spouses already gravely impaired by the frightening effects of mental disorders manifested in acts of violence.

And it's hard to imagine anything more cruelly calculated to hamper the recovery of vulnerable, mentally ill people than to deprive them of the loving care and support of their families and friends. Yet this is the effect, if not the intention, of the draconian application of the medical privacy rules. **GPH**

✠ 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, 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, Walt, Tina, Irma, Nina, Jamesi.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Ann, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan, Paula, Hannah, Joseph, Scott, Charles.

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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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 FIFTEENTH
SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY and
ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS**

KEEP, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

O EVERLASTING God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order; Mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so, by thy appointment, they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Pages 210 and 251

Return Service Requested

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