

Saint Stephen's News

SAINT STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH • TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

Volume XXV, Number 45

Now in our Twentieth Anniversary Year!

18 November 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

Progress?

Ah, yes! I remember it well!

iPhones clearly exercise the most extraordinary fascination upon the American mind. It's impossible to go anywhere today – restaurants, airports, hospital waiting rooms, ballgames – without encountering hordes of people staring, seemingly witlessly, at tiny rectangular screens.

It's not so different, I suppose, from the New York daily commute of 30 years ago when like numbers of people were similarly engrossed in newspaper crossword puzzles.

Even so, newspapers and crosswords feel somehow more wholesome than iPhones. Perhaps it's a matter of size, but the sight of folks apparently mesmerised by a broadsheet or even a tabloid is not as "other-worldly" as people transfixed by a tiny shimmering rectangle. Yet they say this is progress!

Before we embrace unreservedly the notion of that progress is invariably good, remember the geni who brought us the iPhone et al. are the same sort of technocrats – albeit on a rather higher plain – as the creators of the modern toaster and refrigerator. And nobody in their right minds can claim we've seen progress in these spheres.

It is, I submit, impossible to find a toaster today that actually toasts. Our recent toasters have boasted two settings – warm, white and soggy or scorched black and crunchy.

What's more, after a couple of years on our kitchen counter, they can generally be relied upon to yield up the ghost and take off for the great electronic graveyard in the sky.

By contrast, the toaster my mother-in-law bought at her local hardware store 60 years ago is still churning out delicious, golden broad slices of whatever manner of bread my nephew Jim chooses to put into it.

The same thing goes for her refrigerator. (Well, she called it an icebox.) She bought it at about the same time as the toaster, and it is still chilling beer in the basement of the neighbour who bought the thing when she sold up and moved out.

Charlotte and I, by contrast, are on our third refrigerator in a dozen years. And, despite all the bells and whistle, we still have to buy ice every time we have a family party.

The one product in which we have seen genuine progress is the automobile. In the 1970s, '80s and even the '90s it was difficult to find a car that didn't require monthly trips to the shop to repair some small, seemingly obscure but obviously vital, part.

Today one can drive them for 7,000 miles between oil changes with nary a hiccup. Of course servicing the blessed things — oil changes and the like — costs an arm and a leg so the increased reliability isn't actually reflected in the pocket book. Savings are largely counted in

reduced frustration and stress.

Come to think of it, though, what we think of progress in the realm of automobiles was simply a return to the *status quo*.

My first car was 17 years older than I was when I acquired it (for the British equivalent of \$45) from an elderly neighbour who had just been banned from driving. It was a 1927 Austin Seven, and I was its proud owner for more than a year.

During that time, I put oil in the engine and the rear differential largely when the spirit moved me. But it just kept on trucking.

Eventually, in a display of shameless profiteering, I sold it for \$300 to an airman who desperately needed to go to Scotland. I never heard from him again so I guess it must have gotten him there.

Admittedly, the little Austin had rather fewer things to go wrong with it than the modern family sedan. It had a three speed, crash gearbox, cable brakes and cable steering. Road-handling might, thus, best be described as somewhat less than responsive.

Calendar of Events

WEEKLY

Mondays, 6.30 PM: Bridge Club

Tuesdays, 7 PM: Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

Thursdays, 10 AM: Knitting Circle

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Tuesday, 11 November, 7 PM: Parish Life Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 19 November, 12 NOON

The Ladies Who Lunch meet at the Peppermill

Wednesday, 19 November, 7 PM: Vestry Meeting

Thursday, 20 November, 2 PM: Afternoon Tea

Saturday, 6 December, 9 AM: The Cookie Walk

It was also lacked a starter motor so to it had to be hand cranked. What's more, it had a dynamo rather than an alternator. As a consequence, every time you took your foot off the gas pedal the lights went out. Night driving was, thus, more than a little hairy.

No less disconcerting, it did not have a fuel pump. Instead the carburettor was filled from a "drip feed" fuel tank located behind the dashboard. This meant that the only way to climb relatively modest hills was backwards.

These minor inconveniences, however, were but a small price to pay for an entirely trouble free driving experience.

After the Austin Seven, I went to the opposite end of the automobile spectrum with equally satisfying results in terms of reliability. For \$350 I acquired the ultimate in automotive sophistication: a Rolls-Royce.

The reason it was so cheap is that it was a 1933 model hearse in the process of being retired by a local undertaker. "It's bit worn in second," he warned me mordantly.

Even so, it had a remarkably smooth ride, a handsome walnut dashboard, headlights twice the size of soup plates, and a most impressive turn of speed. The bier had been removed from the back, which created a cavernous luggage space. I thought it had the makings of an excellent camper.

Sadly, nobody seemed to share my opinion. Girls point blank refused invitations to a trip to the movies if it meant riding in the darned thing. My friends all seemed to have prior engagements when I proposed camping expeditions. Moreover, when I parked at campsites, the folks next to would invariably pack up their kit and move to another part of the field.

It was the nearest thing I have experienced to an Amish "shunning." So reluctantly, I sold it to a farmer who converted it to a pickup truck for \$50 less than I paid for it.

There's a price to pay for being ahead of the pack, which why I don't yet own an iPhone. Sometimes the only way to be "progressive" is to be totally opposed to progress. **GPH✘**

Cookie Walk at a Glance

Now!

- Now accepting donations for gift and children's tables
- Bidding is now open for the Knitters' Silent Auction
- Volunteer sign-up sheets are posted — *Please sign up!*

Saturday, 29 November—Wednesday, 3 December

- Bring cut greens for wreaths and centrepieces

Sunday, 30 November—Friday, 5 December

- Drop off cookies

Tuesday, 2 December (10 AM & 5 PM)

and Wednesday, 3 December (10 AM)

- Volunteers needed to make wreaths and centrepieces

Thursday, 4 December—Friday, 5 December

- Volunteers needed to set up and decorate

SATURDAY, 6 DECEMBER (8 AM–4 PM): *All hands on deck!*

- Volunteers needed for serving and cleanup

Sunday, 7 December

- Bidding ends for the silent auction following 11 AM service

THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

23 November 2014

8.00 & 9.15 AM EUCHARISTS

For the Epistle. Jeremiah 23: 5–8

The Gospel. St John 6: 5–14

11.00 AM MATTINS

The Psalter. Psalm 145

The First Lesson. Jeremiah 3: 14–18

The Second Lesson. St John 6: 5–14

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Knitters' Silent Auction open for bids

The knitters have been at it again! Now in its fourth year, the knitters' Silent Auction is open for bids with another phenomenal array of knitted items to be auctioned off in conjunction with the Cookie Walk.

Their impressive display is located in the hallway outside Quimby Hall. Come and check it out. You won't find affordable hand-knitted items of this quality anywhere — and just in time for holiday giving.

To bid simply put your name, phone number, and bid on the sheet accompanying each item. Check back often to see if you've been outbid on something you really, really, really want! Bidding ends after the 11AM service on Sunday, 7 December.

Bid early and bid often!

THE COLLECTS *for* TRINITY XXII & HUGH, BISHOP OF LINCOLN

LORD, we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness; that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 220

O HOLY God, who didst endow thy servant and bishop Hugh of Lincoln with wise and cheerful boldness, and taught him to commend the discipline of holy life to kings and princes: Grant that we also, rejoicing in the Good News of thy mercy, and fearing nothing but the loss of thee, may be bold to speak the truth in love, in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Plan to join us on 19 November

This month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at **11.30AM** at the Peppermill (1301 York Road, Lutherville). Why not join us for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal? Good food and good fellowship — what more could you want? Please phone Joyce Perlberg on 410 252 2680 to make your reservation.

Saint Stephen's Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093

Office: 410 560 6776 · Rectory: 410 665 1278

Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Ven. Canon Guy P. Hawtin, *Rector*

The Ven. Michael Kerouac, *Vicar*

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki, *Associate Rectors*

The Rev. Mr M. Wiley Hawks, *Deacon* · Adric, *Magister Chori*

Mrs Happy Riley, *Director of Pastoral Care & Wedding Coordinator*

SUNDAY SERVICES

8 AM: Said Eucharist

9.15 AM: Choral Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

11 AM: Choral Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)

6 PM: Choral Evensong (as announced: evensong.ststeve.com)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6 PM: Evening Prayer

Friday 12 NOON: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5 PM: Family Eucharist

The 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: Mike ✠, 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, James, Nancy.

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

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt Col. Harry Hughes.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Timonium, MD 21093

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