

Saint Stephen's News

SAINT STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

13 January 2015

FROM THE RECTOR

In praise of Charm City's restaurants

Crossing the Williamsburg Bridge, which links Brooklyn to the island of Manhattan, required a certain intestinal fortitude back in the early 1980s. Years of deferred maintenance had taken their toll on what was (and, thankfully, still is) an engineering marvel.

Motorists trapped on the bridge by traffic snarl ups on Houston Street had the opportunity to study its corroded grey girders, punctuated at irregular intervals by holes testifying to missing rivets. And, as the structure heaved and swayed under its burden of throbbing V-8s, one could readily picture a myriad of other rivets working themselves loose.

But if crossing the Williamsburg Bridge to Manhattan could be a bane, it could also be a blessing. Shortly after it debouched on to Houston Street there stood a delicatessen that sold the best corned beef sandwiches that have ever passed my lips.

Its customers were drawn from across the social spectrum. Orthodox Jews from the diamond district, Wall Street types, blue collar workers and cops rubbed shoulders with the occasional denizen of the Bowery, which was just up the road.

I've had many an interesting experience at that deli – and not solely of the gastronomic variety. One day, for example, when standing in line for a sandwich, the sirens of what sounded like half a dozen police cruisers howled outside.

Moments later Houston Street was crawling with New York's Finest. It was hard at first to make out their quarry. It turned out to be a little old guy in a wheel chair. 'What's he done?' we asked as they bundled him into the back of a squad car.

'He just knocked over the bank round the corner,' came the reply, 'He made his getaway in the wheel chair. He had the money in a bag on his lap. That's chutzpah for you!'

When the little old guy arrived in court for his arraignment, he told the judge he had been released that morning from New York's notorious Rikers Island prison.

'I've been in jail most of my life,' he explained, 'I've got no family. I've got nowhere to go. I didn't want to hurt anybody. I just wanted to go home.' The judge granted his wish. He had no choice. Armed robbery even by an old guy in a wheel chair is a serious felony.

(This sad story is a reminder of how important resources such as At Jacob's Well are to the homeless mentally ill, many of whom have endured long periods of incarceration for lack of treatment facilities and a decent place to live.)

Back to the business of delicatessens: The only other places in the world where the delicatessens equal New York's are Germany and Austria. But this really should be no surprise because many of New York's greatest delis were started by German Jews who were fleeing Nazi persecution.

Indeed, the name 'delicatessen' is derived from the German *Delikatessenhandlung* or shop that sells delicacies. A more modern German name for a deli is *Feinkostgeschäft*.

Be that as it may, on coming here more than 25 years ago, I didn't miss much about New York. Sure the theatres, concert halls, the incomparable 'Met' and the restaurants were wonderful, but mostly they were beyond the means of earthlings like mere parish priests and their families.

It was easy to bid adieu to the grime, the crime and the men with squeegee bottles who held motorists to ransom by threatening to smear up their windshields with their filthy polishing rags.

(Mayor Guiliani straightened up the city in this regard, but, from

what I read about Mayor de Blasio, the squeegee men might well be soon be putting in a return appearance. What goes around comes around, they say.)

And it was no hardship to say farewell to New York's high cost of living that was in large part a consequence of extortionately high taxes. Even Maryland's excessive taxes seemed a bargain in comparison.

New York, thus, was a tough place to live for the ordinary family, and we found Baltimore infinitely more liveable . . . with four major exceptions – Chinese restaurants, Indian restaurants, Middle Eastern restaurants and, of course, delicatessens.

Sad to say, we have never found a Chinese restaurant in Baltimore that equals the ones we patronised in New York. But then I worked only a couple of block south of China town so that was only to be expected.

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. 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.

FOR REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Frank, Mark

FOR RECOVERY: Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, John, Rodney, Donald, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Edie, Adele, 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, Nina, James, Nancy, Janet, Connie, Hobie, Nathan

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

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

When we arrived here however, it was impossible to find an Indian restaurant that measured up those on Second Avenue in the neighbourhood of Bellevue Hospital or out in suburban Long Island.

That lack has now been remedied with the opening of Café Spice on York Road, just north of Warren Road. Unlikely though it seems, Cockeysville plays host to what without exaggeration can be described as one of the finest Indian restaurants on the Eastern Seaboard, if not the country.

Try its lunchtime buffet. It is exceptional. And, for dinner, its Lamb Madras curry (one of my favourites) is, like all of its curries, perfectly balanced. If you like something tasty but on the mild side, try a Korma.

When it comes to Middle Eastern food, it's hard to beat Lebanese cuisine, reputedly the region's best. And the Lebanese Taverna on President Street, Baltimore, not far from the Polish Memorial, is as good as any you'll find in New York.

And just couple of weeks ago Charlotte and I discovered a corn beef sandwich as good as the one on the menu at my Houston Street deli. You'll find it, too, in a modest little establishment on Cranbrook Road called the Corned Beef Factory. And if you favour a Reuben sandwich, they make one to die for.

In short, restaurantwise, life here in Timonium is near perfect. After all, it's probably asking just a bit too much to expect to come across a Chinese restaurant as good as the ones in New York's Chinatown. But one lives in hope... **GPH**✳

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

18 January 2015

8.00 & 9.15 AM EUCHARISTS

The Epistle. Romans 12:6–16

The Gospel. St Mark 1:1–11

11.00 AM MATTINS

The Psalter. Psalm 29

The First Lesson. Exodus 34:29–35

The Second Lesson. St Mark 1:1–11

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join us for lunch on 21 January

This month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at Joey Chiu's Greenspring Inn (10801 Falls Road, Lutherville) on Wednesday, 21 January at 12 noon. 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; she will need a final count by the 19th.

SAINT STEPHEN'S CHOIR ACADEMY



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To schedule an interview, please contact the Admissions Director, Mrs Cheryl Nickol: admissions@choiracademy.org • 410-329-6399

ChoirAcademy.org

Saint Stephen's Anglican Church

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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

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

Thursday, 15 January, 2 PM: Afternoon Tea

Wednesday, 21 January, 12 NOON:

The Ladies Who Lunch meet at Joey Chiu's

Tuesday, 27 January, 2.00–7.30 PM:

American Red Cross Blood Drive

(phone the Parish Office for an appointment)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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