

# St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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*A parish in the classical Anglican tradition*

31 March 2015

FROM THE RECTOR

## Old timers shed light on modern problems

Today's educationalists don't seem to have much time for what used to be called 'a classical education'. Cicero, Seneca, Julius Caesar, Livy, Pliny the Elder and Pliny the Younger are contemptuously dismissed as DWMs (Dead White Males) and banished from the classroom.

Back in the days when I sweated though interminable hours of 'Latin Unseen', I would cheerfully have endorsed such sentiments. But in the half century that has elapsed, I've developed a sneaking regard for those dear old DWMs – not least because of the remarkable light they shed on our times.

Rome's moral and political decline, for example, is illustrated by an incident that occurred when Pliny the Elder [*In truth, it might well have been the Younger. My recall, I lament to say, is a tad hazy*] was a young army officer, serving on the port administration at Alexandria.

In those days, Egypt was economically vital to Rome's well-being. It was both the granary of the empire and the main source of sand for its amphitheaters. (The circuses consumed huge amounts of sand to soak up the vast gouts of blood that were shed.)

Pliny was responsible for allocating cargo space – a critically important job, as shipping at the time was in acutely short supply. Indeed, there were so few ships available he could load either grain to feed the citizens of Rome or sand to keep the circuses in business, but not both.

Not knowing what to do, Pliny asked his commander whether he should load the grain or sand.

'Are you mad?' he was told, 'Load sand!'

The point was that the people might not riot if they were short of bread, but with the circuses closed and no entertainment, they'd riot for sure.

Pliny's illustration of the Romans' distorted priorities springs to mind in connection with the not-so-different priorities exhibited by America's mass media. Indeed, today's television producers and movie directors would feel quite at home putting on shows at the Circus Maximus and the Flavian Amphitheater (aka the Coliseum). They and their Roman counterparts share similar tastes for sex and violence.

Nor is there much difference between our news media and the news media of Rome in its more decadent phase. To be sure, they didn't have TV news, but they had daily newspapers posted in prominent places throughout their cities and all sorts of magazines, painstakingly hand copied by slaves in vast publishing factories (*scriptoria*).

Rome's media pundits put out the same sort of sensational mélange of political propaganda, scurrilous gossip and alarmism as passes for news in today's America.

That the folks who control our most influential media cover our nation's foreign affairs and domestic political and social agendas in such a cursory fashion is an affront not just to our intelligence, but to the principles upon which our republic is founded.

Like Pliny's commander, their priority seems to be sensation rather than substance. **GPH**✠

## Holy Week Schedule

29 March through 5 April

### Palm Sunday

8 am: Said Eucharist

9.15 am: Choral Eucharist

11 am: Choral Eucharist

### Holy Monday

6 pm: Said Eucharist

### Holy Tuesday

6 pm: Said Eucharist

### Spy Wednesday

6 pm: Said Eucharist

### Maundy Thursday

7 pm: Choral Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar

### Good Friday

12 noon: The Seven Last Words from the Cross

3.30 pm: Children's Way of the Cross

6 pm: Communion of the Presanctified

### Holy Saturday

7 pm: The Great Vigil of Easter

### Easter Day

8 am: Said Eucharist

9.15 am: Choral Eucharist

followed by Easter Egg Hunt  
(for children 7 and under)

11 am: Choral 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. 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 RECOVERY:** John ✠, Hilarie, Jack, Donald, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Edie, Cary, Judy, Julie, Phyllis, Steve, Wendy, Matthew, Adele, Starr, Helen, Emily, Kathleen, Ned, Marty, Mark, Don, Linda, Elizabeth, Mary Lou, Cathy, William, Dan

**FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Stephen, Melba, Susan, Scott, Charles, Vinnie, Doug, Rusty, Ian

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

# Recalling General Lee's surrender

The Ninth of April marks the sesquicentennial of the day on which General Robert E. Lee surrendered his 26,000 men, the remnant of the once invincible Army of Northern Virginia, to General Ulysses S. Grant of the United States Army in the parlour of the McLean House at Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia.

To commemorate that seminal period in American History, Confederate Major General Isaac Ridgeway Trimble and a lady of the period will appear before us to tell the story of what happened and why. They will be portrayed by Alan and Jeannie Walden.

All are invited to join us at 7.00 pm on Thursday, 9 April for what promises to be a very informative and enjoyable evening.

## Easter Flowers for St. Stephen's Altar

Here is the selection of beautiful spring flowers to decorate the church for Easter. Please make your choice and return this form to the church office with your check by Wednesday, April 1st. Flowers may be taken home after the 11 am service on Easter Sunday.

	# of plants		# of plants
Lilies Small elite 6" 4-6 blooms @ \$10	_____	Field Azalea @ \$15	_____
Hydrangeas Four plus Blooms @ \$20	_____	Hyacinths @ \$10 (6"pot)	_____
Daffodils @ \$10 (6"pot)	_____	Tulips @ \$10 (6" pot)	_____

Your Name:..... My gift is made IN HONOR OF,

IN MEMORY OF, IN THANKSGIVING FOR (Please Circle) .....

.....

## St 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](http://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](http://evensong.ststeve.com))

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6 PM: Evening Prayer

Friday 12 NOON: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5 PM: Family Eucharist

## Calendar of Events

### WEEKLY

(excepting Holy Week)

**Mondays, 6.30 pm:** Bridge Club

**Tuesdays, 7 am:** Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

**Thursdays, 10 am:** Knitting Circle

**Fridays, 10.30 am:** Bible Study

### MONTHLY & SPECIAL

**Wednesday, 9 April, 7 pm:**

Recalling General Lee's Surrender

**Wednesday, 15 April, 12 noon:**

The Ladies Who Lunch meet at Razorback's Grill,  
826 Dulaney Valley Road ([www.razorbacksgrill.com](http://www.razorbacksgrill.com))

**Thursday, 16 April, 2 pm:** Afternoon Tea

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St Stephen's Anglican Church  
11856 Mays Chapel Road  
Timonium, MD 21093

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