

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH • TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

2 June 2015

FROM THE PARISH CHEFS

Silly Summer Suppers

The moment you have all been waiting for is here: at 6.30pm, each Wednesday, starting 24 June, the chefs of St Stephen's will be serving the 2015 series of *Silly Summer Suppers*.

It's hard to think of a less appropriate name than 'Silly Summer Suppers' for these remarkable gastronomic events. The food is absolutely scrumptious – and there is plenty of it. Actually, the only thing silly about these suppers is the price – entrée, dessert and salad for just \$10. Soda costs a buck and wine at \$3 per glass and \$5 for two.

And, by the way, if you are handy in the kitchen (or even if you are not) you are welcome to join our team of volunteer chefs. In fact, if you decide to do so, you'll be welcomed with open arms. When you come to think about it, cooking your way to heaven isn't such a bad idea.

FROM THE RECTOR

1st Amendment means free speech for God

Religion has been on so many people's lips in recent months – on TV, on the radio, in newspapers and periodicals, and even in the public square – that visitors from outer space might be forgiven for imagining the whole nation is caught up in the fervour of a full-scale religious revival.

There's no fear of that, however. It is simply that only a few months ago we emerged from the mid-term elections and now the presidential election campaign is already revving up.

And during elections politicians of all stripes would cheerfully invoke the name of Lucifer, himself, if they thought it would bring them just a single step closer to the offices they covet.

This being America, there's no need for that. Our politicians have no need to sell their souls to the devil because this is still a nation of people who overwhelmingly worship the God of the Old and New Testaments – hence, the unceasing appeals to the faith of our fathers.

Sure it's hypocritical, but hypocrisy, as Oscar Wilde once observed, is the tribute vice pays to virtue. And being routinely humbugged is part of the price we are obliged to pay for democracy.

The trouble is our politicians apparently take us for fools. For once in office, their tone changes. God once again gets put back in the closet – on the grounds that mere mention of his name in a public place somehow contravenes the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Actually, it's high time our legislators – not to mention jurists, journalists and lawyers – paid a little attention to what the amendment actually says.

It reads: 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of a religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or of abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.'

Only by the most perverse interpretation can these simple, unambiguous words be construed as inhibiting our freedom to witness for our faith in public places. The amendment enshrines the American people's right to freedom of religion and freedom of speech as constitutionally-affirmed liberties.

Freedom of speech necessarily means that people are free to express any views they may hold – religious, political, economic, philosophical or whatever. Exceptions to this rule are few and very narrowly defined.

When an influential political elite arbitrarily interprets the amendment as inhibiting the right to free speech about a topic that it finds objectionable, it is undermining the right to free speech about all subjects.

The amendment's prohibition of the establishment of a religion cannot reasonably be construed as placing any inhibition on a religious group's freedom to proselytise, preach and worship in public places where other forms of free speech are practiced.

Quite to the contrary: The prohibition has to be viewed in its context. And this demonstrates that the whole purpose of the amendment is to ensure that each individual religious and secular group enjoys equal rights with every other religious and secular group in America's market place of ideas.

Clearly, the intent of the amendment is to prevent government acting – either of its own accord or under popular pressure – to suppress the rights of people to express, propagate and proselytise unpopular ideas. In fact, the whole purpose of the amendment is to protect unpopular speech. Popular notions need no protection.

The funny thing is that the folks who really seem to object to any public expression of religion are politicians – the folks who invoke God's Name so freely at election times. It only goes to show how human they are. Like the rest of us, they are happy to accept the help God offers, but are not so happy to be judged by his standards. **GPH***

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, ring the parish office on 410 560 6776.

FOR THE DEPARTED: Sandra Johnson

FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE: Father James Johnson, Jr and the Johnson family

FOR RECOVERY: John ✕, Hilarie, Jack, Donald, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Edie, Cary, Judy, Julie, Phyllis, Steve, Wendy, Matthew, Adele, Starr, Helen, Emily, Kathleen, Marty, Don, Linda, Elizabeth, Mary Lou, Cathy, William, Dan, Lindsey, Shelby, Olan, Rob, Dick, Melissa, Ned, Paula, Sandra, Diane

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

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

ON THE KALENDAR

St Columba of Iona

St Columba is one of those British saints who has become more closely identified with the country he missionised, rather than his country of origin. St Patrick, for example, was born in England (probably in Cumbria), and did his missionary work in Ireland in the 5th century. St Columba was an Irish abbot who headed north to Scotland in the 6th century. (Columba's Irish name is Colm Cille, 'church dove', also seen as Columcille.)

Columba established a monastery on the isle of Iona, which had been given to him by Donall mac Comgaill, King of Dál Riata. Because of Columba's renown as a man of letters, and as a worker of miracles, and because of the monastery's position as a major centre of learning, Iona became a major center of pilgrimage. Columba's influence on the local population can be seen in the names of Clan MacCallum and Clan Malcolm, descendants of the original followers of Columba, and in Clan MacKinnon, which provided numerous abbots at Iona over the ensuing centuries.

One of the miracles reported in the *Vita Columbæ* is possibly the first reference to the Loch Ness Monster. In 565, Columba came across a group of Picts burying one of their fellows, who had been attacked by a strange water beast. Columba ordered one of his companions to swim across the river, as bait for the monster. When the monster appeared, Columba confronted him, making the sign of the Cross, and saying, 'Thou shalt go no further, nor touch the man; go back with all speed.' The monster retreated ignominiously. It

[continued] should be noted that this occurred in the Ness River, running out of Loch Ness, rather than in the Loch itself. But it perhaps explains why Nessie has been trapped in the Loch even to this day.

St Columba's Feast Day is 9 June. PT

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join the Ladies Who Lunch

Each month on the Third Wednesday, the Ladies Who Lunch meet at a select restaurant in the Cockeysville/Timonium/Towson area. Why not join us for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal? Good food and good fellowship – what more could you want? Please ring Joyce Perlberg on **410 252 2680** for more information.

FROM THE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School: Savannah Safari

St Stephen's will be offering Vacation Bible School once again this summer for children ages 4 through 10. Vacation Bible School will take place from Monday, 22 June to Friday, 27 June from 9am–noon.

There will be a modest \$20 fee to cover snacks, crafts and supplies. To process your child's registration, please telephone the church office on **410 560 6776** and speak to Happy Riley.

FROM THE PARISH TEA PARTY

Afternoon Teas continue through the summer

We are pleased to announce that we will continue to serve our popular Afternoon Teas throughout the summer months. The Teas are usually served on the Third Thursday of the month at 2pm in Quimby Hall.

Thus far, two dates have been set:

- **11 June** *the June Tea has been moved to the **Second Thursday** *
- **16 July**

If you have never before attended one of our Teas, you are in for a treat. We serve freshly cut sandwiches, savouries, cakes, cookies, and of course freshly baked scones, butter, strawberry jam with lashings of freshly whipped cream.

We so look forward to serving you! The invitation is extended to male and female members of our church as well as the outside community.

We are able to comfortably serve anywhere from 12 to 30 teatime revellers. It would help us to know in advance how many will attend, and we ask that you book a place at your earliest convenience. A sign-up sheet will be available in the church office, or you can contact Anne Hawkins by phone: **410 913 7405** or email: anne.hawkins@me.com

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

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 am: Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

Thursdays, 10 am: Knitting Circle

Fridays, 10.30 am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Sunday, 7 June, 6 pm:

Choral Evensong

Thursday, 11 June, 2 pm:

Afternoon Tea (*one week early this month!*)

Wednesday, 17 June, 12 noon:

The Ladies Who Lunch

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Timonium, MD 21093

11856 Mays Chapel Road

St Stephen's Anglican Church

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