

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

9 June 2015

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** [note the correction from last issue: the June Tea has moved to the **Second** Thursday] and **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 contact Anne Hawkins by phone: **410 913 7405** or email: anne.hawkins@me.com

FROM THE RECTOR

Actually, Anglicanism is in pretty good shape

The turmoil afflicting the Episcopal Church leads many people to assume that Anglicanism is in trouble on a global scale. This is quite untrue. The Anglican Church is going great guns in many parts of the world notably Africa, the Indian sub continent and the Far East.

Anglicanism's heady affair with New Age neo-paganism is largely confined to Britain, America, Australia and New Zealand – branches of the worldwide Anglican Communion, which are, not coincidentally, in disarray and decline.

English, sad to relate, is rapidly becoming a minority language in the Anglican Communion. In the realm of traditional Anglicanism, it ranks only as the seventh most widely spoke language.

And the decline of English as a language of worship seems destined to continue. While attendance figures in the English speaking world are falling, converts are flocking to the church in parts of the world where orthodoxy reigns supreme.

Indeed, confirmations in many African dioceses are running at the rate of tens of thousands per year, while African bishops – scandalised by the shenanigans in America and Britain – refer, straight-faced, to their visits to England and America as 'missionary journeys'.

All this is more than a little embarrassing for folks as concerned with 'being proper' as traditional Episcopalians – prompting an acquaintance recently to pose the plaintive question: 'Where will it all end?'

There is no easy answer to this. Certainly, murmurings of rebellion among younger evangelical clergy in Virginia and the Carolinas has aroused a degree of puzzlement at the more radical end of TEC's House of Bishops, with one prelate asking: 'What are they complaining about? They knew what they were getting into.'

Actually, that is the problem. Most people didn't know what they were getting into when they accepted what were presented as modest, but much needed reforms, aimed at bringing an out-dated church into the modern world. Curmudgeons who pointed out that a vital aspect of the church was the unchanging nature of its faith were condemned as reactionaries, misogynists, fundamentalists and pretty well every other epithet in the politically correct lexicon.

Now, 50 years on, it turns out the curmudgeons were right. The agenda was not, in fact, modest reforms but, rather, a full-scale revolution, encompassing not merely a radical theological revision of the church's most fundamental doctrines, but also the advancement of a decidedly earthly political agenda with a heavy emphasis on the realm of sexuality.

Viewed from the perspective of a half century later, it is clear that, intellectually speaking, the agenda wasn't up to much – merely a broad reflection of notions and fancies that emerged from the miasma of pot

smoke that hung over the university campuses of the 1960s.

What has been truly impressive, however, is the manner of its implementation. Instead of storming the Winter Palace, the revolutionaries boiled the frog – implementing their programme incrementally over five or more decades. And, as far as one can tell, there is yet more to come.

For example a liturgy is reportedly being prepared for folks who are changing their names because they have changed their sex. 'It's not exactly a baptism,' I was told, 'But is is pretty close to it.'

How have they gotten away with it? First, the radicals didn't allow themselves to be inhibited by a fondness for candour. They built coalitions, advancing reforms on an 'I'll scratch your back if you'll scratch mine' basis. And they took their time consolidating one gain before they launched out for another.

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 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, Hobie, Nathan

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

They were also aided by our remarkable human adaptability, by which what was once utterly unacceptable becomes the norm – something I experienced at first hand as a journalist in the late unlamented Soviet Union.

It was amazing how swiftly I adjusted to being spied on, followed, having my mail opened and my telephone constantly tapped. I could even accept that my East Bloc friends and acquaintances were routinely reporting on my doings to the secret police. But what alternative did they have? They need to do so in order to survive.

It was awful and unacceptable, but it was the way it was and the price one had to pay for a glimpse at a fascinatingly horrid and alien society. And so it has been for many Episcopalians attached by deep emotional ties to stained glass and ancient parish churches.

But for everyone there eventually comes a breaking point – a point at which the compromise of faith to cling to time-hallowed stones becomes no longer possible.

For some, it came early with the replacement of a prayer book. For others, it was appearance of a medicine man at the altar at a national convention. For still others, it was the refusal of a diocesan convention to acknowledge Jesus as 'the way, the truth and the life'. For others, it was the ordination of women. For others the breaking point is yet to come. But come it inevitably will. Revolutions are like that.

Some folks have retired to the golf course, the yachting marina and the backyard, having discovered it is possible to skip church on Sunday and not be struck dead – at least not immediately.

Others have drifted off to other denominations, where they have discovered that most of the 'mainline churches' are afflicted with problems similar to ones afflicting the Episcopal Church.

It is, however, possible to remain both Episcopalian and uncompromised. That is by attending a parish church in communion with the vast majority of churches in the Anglican world that uphold the faith in its authentic understanding. St Stephen's is one of them; St Alban's in Joppa is another. And our numbers are growing. **GPH✠**

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. This year's theme is 'Savannah Safari – Where Kids Discover How Love H.E.L.P.S. Others'. It is themed around life in an African village and is based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

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 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; wine is \$3 per glass or \$5 for two.

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 LADIES WHO LUNCH

The Ladies will Lunch on 17 June

This month the Ladies Who Lunch will meet at Tark's Grill on Wednesday, 17 June at noon. Tark's is located in Greenspring Station, 2360 West Joppa Road, in Lutherville. (Visit tarksg grill.com to view a menu.) 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** to make your reservation; she will need a final count by the 15th.

FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE

Saint Stephen's Choir Academy, the voice-training programme which provides the choristers for our parish choir, is looking for new recruits. If you know a family member, neighbour, or random kid on the street who enjoys singing, wishes to receive a *free* classical music education, and who might be interested in earning a stipend in the process, please contact the Admissions Director, Mrs Cheryl Nickol, on **410 329 6399** or at admissions@choiracademy.org

St Stephen's Anglican Church

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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, 6.30pm: Bridge Club
Tuesdays, 7 am: Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)
Thursdays, 10am: Knitting Circle
Fridays, 10.30am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Thursday, 11 June, 2pm:
Afternoon Tea (*one week early this month!*)
Wednesday, 17 June, 12 noon:
The Ladies Who Lunch meet at Tark's Grill
Wednesday, 24 June, 6.30pm:
Silly Summer Suppers begin!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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