

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

23 February 2016

FROM THE RECTOR

There is nothing heroic in feigning victimhood

Once upon a time (not so very long ago, as a matter of fact) accidents were just that – accidents. Today, it seems, there is no such thing as an accident. There is always a guilty party to whom blame can be assigned and from whom financial compensation can be extracted.

Indeed, there are some folks who appear to regard accidents not as calamities, but as windfalls – welcome opportunities for instant, undeserved enrichment. An automobile accident in which a friend was recently involved is a case in point.

The young woman who had struck my friend's car refused an offer by the policeman at the scene to call an ambulance. Later, however, she started complaining about feeling ill, though she was somewhat inconsistent as to where the pain was located.

'I offered to call an ambulance, but you turned me down,' said the cop, 'I think you've missed your chance.' At this, the young woman appeared to experience a miraculous recovery.

A glance at the TV set or the daily paper reveals that my friend's experience was extraordinary only in the fact that nothing came of it.

Accidents frequently result in questionable claims for medical expenses which insurers find cheaper to pay out than to fight. Indeed, fraudulent claims are a primary reason why our automobile insurance premiums are so high.

There is something decidedly disturbing about this. And it is by no means solely the thought that larceny lurks in the hearts of so many of our fellow citizens.

What, for instance, does it tell us about our education system? For one thing, it demonstrates that our educators' relentless efforts to foster 'pride' and 'self esteem' among the nation's children are clearly a dismal failure.

People possessed of a genuine sense of pride and self-esteem would never stoop to feigning victimhood. Indeed, even if they were genuine victims, they would do everything in their power to avoid being perceived as such.

Half a century or so ago – when accidents were accidents and they just 'happened' – the 'victims' would simply pick themselves up, dust them selves down and go about their daily lives.

Our handyman, Mr Coacker, for example, never complained about the 'whiff of gas' during the First World War that ended his promising boxing career.

Mr Coacker – a 5ft 2in bantam weight – had been a rising star in the London boxing ring at a time when a plucky fighter with a lightning fast left and right had a sure ticket out of the slums.

A gas attack, however, damaged his lungs so badly he found it hard to go three rounds, let alone 10 or 15. But Mr Coacker was no quitter. He devoted himself to coaching us, kids, in the Noble Art, and would never accept a penny piece for it.

'It'll take more than the Kaiser to put me down for the count,' he would say, 'Besides, the wife's pleased I've still got my looks.' By this, he meant that he didn't have cauliflower ears like his brother, Fred.

In England back in those days, a lot of machinery was driven by heavy duty leather belts that ran from a central drive shaft. The belts were often unguarded and they moved so swiftly they would take off a hand or a foot in a trice.

Thus it was by no means unusual to meet men who, as a consequence of momentary lapses of attention, had lost fingers, toes, hands, feet, and occasionally even arms and legs.

Surprisingly, perhaps, by today's way of thinking, I never heard any of these accident victims complain that their injury was anybody's fault but their own.

Most of them would take great pains to warn youngsters: 'Pay close attention to what you're doing or you'll end up like me.' And most of them took enormous pride in their ability to overcome their handicaps.

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: Hilarie, Jack, Cal, Phyllis, Edie, Bill, Terry, Helen, Jim, Adele, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Aida, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Tom, Rosemary, Robert, David, Jan, Susie, Stephanie

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Melba, Scott, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Ned, Cindy,

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; Lt Cdr Emma Hawkins, RN

One of our church lay readers had lost his left hand in a belt accident while operating a threshing machine. In place of his hand, he had hook that he used with marvellous dexterity.

We boys would watch, fascinated, as he tucked into a church harvest supper – using the hook instead of a fork while cutting his meat, spearing apples and chunks of bread and cheese, and carefully wiping it clean with a napkin after each course.

We thought he was just about the coolest person on the face of the earth. In fact, one of our favourite games was pretending to be Mr Quilter with his hook.

One day I plucked up the courage to ask him if it had hurt when he had lost his hand. 'Oh, yes, young Guy,' he replied, 'Hurt something fierce, it did. I had to go to the doctor's and get it all bandaged up. I had to take a whole afternoon off work!'

Then he paused and ruminated for a bit. 'But, you know,' he continued, 'Every cloud has got a silver lining: If I hadn't lost my hand, I wouldn't have this hook!'

For all that we boast about the amazing progress we have made during the past 50 years, I can't help thinking that Mr Coacker and Mr Quilter knew something about life that completely eludes us today. **GPH**✘

FROM THE PARISH TEA PARTY

Afternoon Teas resume on 10 March

Saint Stephen's Afternoon Teas will resume on Thursday, 10 March at 2pm. We left January and February off the 2016 calendar as inclement weather has presented problems in past years.

Another change to note: The Afternoon Teas will now be served on the *second* Thursday of the month, rather than the third, to avoid clashing with the meetings of the Ladies Who Lunch.

We are so looking forward to our new spring get-together – not just for the fellowship we enjoy, but because your generous donations last year not only funded the Afternoon Teas, but, more importantly, raised \$896 to support At Jacob's Well, our parish's chosen charity.

Lastly, we have decided that rather than set a fixed price of \$10 for our teas, we will continue with an unrestricted free-will donation.

FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE

Now hiring choirboys – apply today!

Saint Stephen's Choir Academy, the voice-training programme which provides the boy choristers for our parish choir, is looking for new recruits. If you know a family member, friend, neighbour, or random

kid on the street who enjoys singing, wishes to receive a *free* classical music education, and who might be interested in getting paid in the process, please contact the Admissions Director, Mrs Cheryl Nickol, on **410 329 6399** or at **admissions@choiracademy.org**

THE LENTEN STUDY

The English Church and English-speaking people

This year's Lenten Study explores the extraordinary influence of the unique relationship between the ancient English Church and people has had not just on our own nation, but on English-speaking peoples throughout the world – even those who do not share our Christian faith.

Each instalment of the five-part series begins after Evening Prayer at 6.45pm on each Wednesday evening until 17 March. Each session will be completely contained so you can miss one but not lose the thread of the story.

As usual we will be offering you both food for both body and soul – not least a choice of hearty soups, beverages and the best bread in Baltimore. If you think that you'll need more than that, just bring a sandwich.

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, The Rev. Robert Ludwig, *Associate Rectors*

The Rev. M Wiley Hawks, *Pastoral Care Chaplain*
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

Monday, 6.30 pm: Bridge Club

Tuesday, 7 am: Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

Thursday, 10 am: Knitting Circle

Friday, 10.30 am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Wednesday, 24 February, 6.45 pm

Lenten Studies

Thursday, 10 March, 2 pm

Afternoon Tea

Wednesday, 16 March, 12 noon

The Ladies Who Lunch meet at Padonia Ale House

Sunday, 20 March – Sunday, 27 March

Holy Week and Easter

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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