

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

22 March 2016

FROM THE RECTOR

Not so much a call as a hefty shove in the back

The general impression of a Call to Holy Orders seems to be that it takes the form of a still, small voice whispering: 'Come to Jesus.' Not so, according to most clergymen with whom I've discussed the subject.

Most of them seemed to have experienced it as a hefty shove in the middle of the back – something that just couldn't be ignored. God, it appears, will not take 'No' for an answer.

For some, 'the call' came in the most dramatic fashion conceivable – as they crouched in shell holes with machine gun bullets spattering around them and artillery shells screaming overhead. Certainly that is true of the men I know who received their call during the Second World War.

The late Father Harry Shelly, the legendary chaplain at Union Memorial Hospital and The Joseph Richey Hospice, for example, was a corpsman in the U.S. Navy. I don't know if it was being sunk twice on D-Day that inspired his call, but I am sure, as Dr Samuel Johnson put it, it 'wonderfully concentrated his mind.'

One of my mentors had a similar experience. He was a youthful Chief Petty Officer in the British Navy, scarcely out of his teens and in command of a landing craft with a crew even younger than himself.

He ordered to take the vessel from Malta to Alexandria, Egypt, in preparation for the invasion of Sicily. It was a perilous voyage as German dive-bombers were known to be operating over the waters through which they were to sail.

They were some hours out of Valetta, Malta's capital and main seaport, when a German Stuka dive-bomber spotted them. They first became aware of it when they heard plane's signature 'howl' as it dove, almost vertically, to make its bombing run.

The landing craft went down in a matter minutes. My mentor and his crew, all of whom had miraculously survived the attack, took to their only life boat, a flimsy rubber dinghy, as the Stuka circled to begin its strafing run.

'Do, something, chief,' his crew begged him.

'What sort of thing?' he asked, at a total loss as to what to do.

'Do something Christian – like say a prayer,' came the reply.

My mentor's parents were not church-going people. He had never been to a worship service and, as his parents had asked for him to be excused from religious classes at school, he knew no prayers at all, even the Lord's Prayer.

However, he'd grabbed his hat in the panic of abandoning ship and this inspired him to do the only Christian thing he knew. He passed the hat and took a collection.

They circulated the hat continually while the dinghy wallowed helplessly in water roiled by machine gun bullets. By the time the Stuka broke off the attack the hat was overflowing with cash – almost all of their pay for an entire month.

In gratitude, they decided the money should go to the first clergyman or church they encountered on reaching land. The next day a British Royal Air Force search and rescue aircraft spotted them and radioed a naval patrol to pick them up.

A few days later they arrived in Alexandria where, true to their promise, they thrust the cash into the hands of the first clergyman they encountered – a bemused Coptic priest who didn't speak a word of English, but who was embarrassingly grateful for their gift.

'After that Stuka flew off, I decided I better learn a few prayers – just in case we got sunk again,' he told me, 'When we got to Alexandria I had a talk with a navy chaplain. One thing led to another and as soon as I was 'de-mobbed' at the end of the war I applied to study for the priesthood.'

Mercifully, my shove in the back was nowhere near as dramatic.

GPH✠

Holy Week Schedule

20–27 March 2016

Palm Sunday

8am: Said Eucharist

9.15 am: Choral Eucharist

11 am: Choral Eucharist

Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Spy Wednesday

6pm: Said Eucharist

Maundy Thursday

7pm: 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

7pm: The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Day

8am: 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, 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, Beth, Sophia, Bobby, Lee, Pam

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

Easter Flowers

Here is the selection of beautiful spring flowers to decorate the church for Easter. Please make your choice and return this form with your check to the church office no later than **Wednesday, 23 March**. Flowers may be taken home after the 11am service on Easter Day.

(# of plants)

- _____ **Daffodils** (6" pot) @ \$10
_____ **Field Azaleas** @ \$15
_____ **Hyacinths** (6" pot) @ \$10
_____ **Hydrangeas** (four plus blooms) @ \$20
_____ **Lilies** (small elite 6", 4-6 blooms) @ \$10
_____ **Tulips** (6" pot) @ \$10

Your name: _____

My gift is made...

(circle one): In **Honour** of · In **Memory** of · In **Thanksgiving** for

Dedicatee: _____

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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, 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

Sunday, 20 March – Saturday, 26 March

Holy Week (a schedule is provided overleaf)

Sunday, 27 March

Easter Day

There will be no Afternoon Teas offered in April or May

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