

# St Stephen's News

## St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

Volume XXVII, Number 41

*A parish in the classical Anglican tradition*

November 1st, 2016

FROM THE RECTOR

## Tales from the Crypt - or how St Stephen's began

St Stephen's has the distinction of being the only traditionalist parish actually founded by the Prayer Book Society of the Episcopal Church. And I strongly suspect the society's national leaders were anything but pleased with its Baltimore Chapter's Declaration of Independence from the Episcopal Church.

Back in the 1980s the society's official policy was to try to persuade the Episcopal Church's House of Bishops to reach an accommodation with clergy and laity who wanted to preserve the traditional Prayer Book liturgy. Its leaders seemed unaware, or even willfully ignorant, of the fact that the argument had little to do with the merits of traditional English versus the stripped down modern version, but rather the theology expressed in the liturgy.

The proponents of the 1979 Prayer Book knew that if the traditional liturgy continued in use alongside the new book, the departures from theological orthodoxy they planned to impose on the church would be far more difficult to institute.

In any event, the members of the Baltimore chapter of the society were made of sterner stuff than its national leadership. They realized that an awful lot more than aesthetics were involved, and, thus, in 1982 they brought St Stephen's into being.

One of the prime movers was a former member of St Michael and All Angels named Fred Himes. A radio and television pioneer, he had had made a fortune from the sale of his interest in a large Maryland media company which owned TV and radio stations throughout the mid-Atlantic states.

Fred believed the best way to preserve doctrinal orthodoxy was to foster the planting of traditionalist parishes throughout the United States. A canny corporate strategist and a skilled money manager, he put his expertise, and a large chunk of his fortune, at the service of the Anglican traditionalist movement.

Some of St Stephen's founders looked towards Fred to donate a lion's share of the cash needed to construct a church building for the newly founded St Stephen's. But, fortunately, he did nothing of the sort. He realized that for the parish to survive its members needed financial skin in the game.

Instead, Fred, a shy, self effacing fellow, worked behind the scenes, acting by turns, in the roles of *de facto* chief executive, chief fundraiser and chief strategist – doing everything necessary to keep the project going. It is fair to say that without him the parish would never have survived.

At the same time as working to build St Stephen's, Fred developed a broad national strategy to promote and foster the Anglican traditionalist movement. It involved setting at a Church Information Center with offices in Towson in a building he owned.

The information center's role was to provide research, data and clerical services for newly planted parishes. It helped with costs of advertising, as well as the printing of orders of service and the like. Most important in the days before the Internet, it provided free telecommunications services to clergy and lay people.

As director of the center, Fred appointed Bishop Albion Knight, a man who had squared a theological circle by combining a military and ecclesiastical career – achieving both promotion to the rank of brigadier general and consecration to the episcopate.

By virtue of the fact that he was based in Towson, Bishop Knight, as presiding bishop of the United Episcopal Church, provided episcopal oversight for St. Stephen's and eventually the parish joined the jurisdiction of which he was presiding bishop, the United Episcopal Church.

My own association with the Anglican traditionalist movement had begun soon after our family arrived here early in 1980. Initially, being then a Brit, I didn't have much of dog in the fight, beyond being aghast at the hokiness of the Episcopal Church's new liturgies. The Bishop of New York's attachment to Marxism was also distressing. He was a prime example of Lenin's "useful idiot" – an active supporter of communist guerrillas in Nicaragua and Namibia, as well as an advocate for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

In any event, by the mid-1980s or so, I found myself under the authority of Bishop Knight, who, to put it mildly, was an

### 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, Edie, Bill, Alan, Terry, Helen, Jim, Adele, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Aida, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Tom, Robert, David, Jan, Susie, Sophia, Bobby, Lee, Pam, Cary, Courtney, Marie, Joanna, Finnie, Kim, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John & David

**FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Stephen, Melba, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Ned, Cindy, Jacob, Casey & Beth

**IN MEMORIAM:**

**THOSE WHO MOURN:**

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE:** Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; Lt Cdr Emma Hawkins, RN; MSGT Michael By virtue of the fact that he was based in Towson, Bishop Knight, as presiding bishop of the United Episcopal Church, provided episcopal oversight for St.

aggressively Low Churchman. It was not an entirely comfortable arrangement. I am a son of both the Church of Ireland and the English High Church – a combination that encompasses both ends of the liturgical spectrum. I was, thus, rather more tolerant of ecclesiastical eccentricities than the bishop.

Bishop Knight's activities, despite protestations to the contrary, did little to advance the cause of unity in the traditionalist movement. As a consequence, our relationship deteriorated somewhat following my election as president of his Council of Advice.

The bishop seemed perpetually engaged in wrestling "against principalities, against powers, against rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" – these, it turned out, were primarily fellow traditionalists who did not share his liturgical and theological tastes or who did not agree with his political maneuverings.

Occasionally, he even appeared to take his Council of Advice from the enemy – for example when we clashed over his acceptance of an invitation to consecrate *in sole* a bishop for the English Protestant Reformation Society. A consecration is usually considered irregular when fewer than three bishops take part.

Our primary objections were fourfold: (1) The Protestant Reformation Society as a whole denied the sacramental nature of

the Church; (2) Their candidate disavowed the sacramental role of the episcopate; (3) He had not been properly elected. (4) The proposed consecration would not only be irregular, but, by virtue of the candidate's sacramental beliefs, invalid.

As was his wont, Bishop Knight gleefully ignored the advice and went ahead anyway. However, he suffered intermittently from heart trouble, and, just before the prayers of consecration, he collapsed on the floor. Folks less convinced of their own rectitude might have interpreted this as a sign the Holy Spirit was not entirely pleased with the venture. But Bishop Knight was made of sterner stuff. He gestured for the candidate to lie down beside him, and proceeded with the consecration prone.

A few wags proposed contacting the Guinness Book of Records to have it listed as the lowest episcopal consecration ever. But, mercifully, more sober heads prevailed, and church unity was preserved – at least for a while longer. GPH✳

**FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE**

## The Ladies' Recognition Tea

The Ladies of St Stephen's are instituting a Service Award for women who have given special service to the parish and the local community. Please join us at a Tea Party from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm on Sunday, November 12th to institute the award and congratulate the first honorees.

There will no charge for the event. Tea, sandwiches and cakes will be provided by the Parish Life Committee. If you have ever been to one of Annie's monthly teas, you'll know you are in for a treat. If you have never had the experience, come and discover what you have been missing.

Please call the Parish Office at Tel (410)-560-6776 to let us know you are coming. It makes catering so much easier.

## Worship + fellowship = coffee

Worship and fellowship are a tradition at St Stephen's where the call to worship is followed by the warmth of chatting and refreshments at Coffee Hour. Part of the value of the after service mingling is in its preparation by your fellow members who set out the goodies for all to share.

The preparation is simple, especially when the value is considered. The church provides coffee, juice, cheese, crackers, cookies and fruit, and the preparer simply plates them in the kitchen and sets them out on the table. Supplies, napkins etc are in the cabinet under the coffee urn.

For those who enjoy preparing something home cooked, feel free to bring that as well. Coffee Hour prepping is open to all gals or guys who wish to serve. Also, a coordinator is needed to help follow up on sign ups. To help with coffee hour, fill in your name for a date on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board by the side door or contact Priscilla or Dick Huffman, (301-646-4422) (443-764-6554).

## 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 Venerable Michael Kerouac, *Vicar*  
 The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki and  
 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**

8am: Said Eucharist  
 9.15am: Choral Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)  
 11am: Choral Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)  
 6pm: Choral Evensong (as announced) –  
[evensong.ststeve.com](http://evensong.ststeve.com)

**WEEKDAY SERVICES**

Wednesday, 6pm: Evening Prayer  
 Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist  
 Saturday, 5pm: Family Eucharist

## Calendar of Events

WEEKLY

**Monday, 6.30pm:** Bridge Club  
**Tuesday, 7am:** Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)  
**Thursday, 10am:** Knitting Circle  
**Friday, 10.30am:** Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

### Trafalgar Day Tea

Sunday, October 30th, 2.00-4.00 pm  
 (Admission forms in Office \$40.00)

### Choral Evensong

6.00 pm, Sunday, November 6th

### Parish Life Committee

Tuesday, November 8th, 7.00 pm

### The Ladies' Recognition Tea

Sunday, November 13th, 2.00 pm

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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