

# St Stephen's News

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

Volume XXVIII, Number 4     *A parish in the classical Anglican tradition*     February 7th, 2017

FROM THE RECTOR

### The civilizing influence of great Western thought

If there is one thing that events of the past year should have taught us it is that manners in this country have reached an all-time low – and by no means solely in the realm of political discourse.

People far too often treat each other inconsiderately, often abominably, in all spheres of life – not only in matters of political opinion, but in both business and personal relationships as well.

Blame for this lies partly in the home: Many families have abandoned the traditional evening meal – where basic manners were once imparted – in favor of individual grazing. Conversation has been replaced by television and video games.

But the education system is no less responsible for the precipitate decline in the way in which people treat each other. It is partly a matter of discipline, or, rather, the lack of it. Indeed, students routinely subject teachers to appalling rudeness and disrespect.

This is by no means a problem confined to poverty stricken inner cities. The pathologies are on view everywhere – from the middle class suburbs to the enclaves of the upper crust.

It's not just the children of the poor who take drugs. When New York City was confiscating the drug buyers' cars in an attempt to crack down on crack, the police department's pound was crammed with wealthy high school kids' automobiles.

The same is true when it comes to the problem of teenage pregnancy. Two thirds of America's pregnant teenagers are not minority children. They're not only white. They are very often middle and upper class.

And this despite the fact that we educate our children from yea-high up in the technicalities of reproduction and child bearing. Indeed, if children learn nothing else in school, they learn, in lurid detail, the manner in which children are brought into the world.

Ignorance, therefore, is not an explanation for why so many teenage girls get pregnant. Nor is the problem likely to be solved by ambivalent homilies on comparative ethics and morality by university professors.

But how can one put the genii back in the bottle? One sure way of ridding society of these pathologies would be at return to the ethics and morality of two or three generations ago.

Some favor doing so by adopting a vast array of social programs to serve children from before the cradle to adulthood – pre-natal care, post-natal care, pre-school programs, post school programs, holiday programs, feeding programs, health maintenance programs.

This would, of course, be costly, but advocates argue that a dollar spent on solving problems before they occur will save three dollars down the pike – the price of coping with the problems after they happen.

A primary objection to such a policy is that it would amount to a government assumption – usurpation actually – of parental rights. But there's more to it than that. Government is likely to be a lamentable parent. Take a look at the welfare services already in place and the less than impressive way it has addressed the problems of the inner cities.

Moreover, it's worth asking how government would propose to restore the morality and ethics of past generations when public prayer is forbidden in a wide range of venues – including schools and sports fields.

A more practical solution to the problem was advanced more than two decades ago by William J. Bennett, who served as U.S. Secretary of Education under President Reagan.

And, no matter what one thinks of Bennett's ideology, his

### 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:** Peter, Hilarie, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Bill, Alan, Terry, Helen, Jim, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Wiley✕, Aida, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Tom, Robert✕, David, Jan, Susie, Sophia, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Courtney, Marie, Joanna, Finnie, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John, David, Adrian & Michell

**FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Stephen, Melba, Sam, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, 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 Holter, USAF; Cpt Fiodor Strikovski, US Army

ideas could be implemented in a politically benign fashion because they involve harking back to ages long past .

Schools and universities, Bennett argued, should be obliged to educate their students in the great classics of Western philosophy, literature and science – works that shaped the thinking of our Founding Fathers and that form the intellectual framework upon which America's democratic institutions have been erected.

According to Bennett, students unacquainted with the works of such great writers as Homer, Erasmus, Voltaire, St. Augustine, Thomas Hobbes, John Stuart Mill, Adam Smith and Jean Jacques Rousseau are ill-equipped to understand – and therefore operate in – the society in which they live.

His proposed curriculum encompasses a broad range of philosophical, spiritual, economic and political thought, some utterly at odds with Christian ethics and morality. But this does not mean they should not be taught – far from it.

Admittedky, Thomas Aquinas' writings stand in contrast to those of he atheist Voltaire, who despite his brilliance and wit, was a money-grubber, ingrate and cynic, whose intellectual integrity was a variable commodity. Similarly, Augustine of Hippo’s exploration of the sinful nature of the human condition interestingly juxataposes Jean Jacques Rousseau’s premise that man is naturally good.

That said, the ethics and morality embraced by the nation’s Founding Fathers were forged in thoughts expressed in the great works of Western civilization. But while those thoughts were refined in the crucible of Christian critical thinking, they nevertheless gave us a Constitution that guarantees the liberties of both believer and unbeliever alike.

Restoring these great works to the educational curriculum would be a step towards restoring a modicum of civility to a nation apparently intent on demonstrating the truth of Oscar Wilde's assertion that America has gone from barbarism to decadence without a period of civilization in between. GPH✕

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

# Join us at Joey Chui's

On Wednesday, February 14th, the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting for an hour or two of good fellowship and great

Chinese food at Joey Chui's Restaurant at Greenspring Station. Why not join the fun and reserve your place by calling Joyce Perberg at (410) 252-2680 or the Parish Director of Pastoral Care Hasppy Riley at (410) 560-6776?

FROM ANNE HAWKINS

# Inviting you to a Tea Party on Thursday, March 9th

Tea parties are wonderful affairs for meeting new friends and renewing old acquaintances. This is why St Stephen's teas are so pupular.It has been a very long time since we have had a good old fashioned tea party. Things have been so busy of late what with preparing for the Cookie Walk and decorating the church from Christmas (then taking it all down again after the Epiphany) that we just haven't had the time to prepare for one..

However we are planning to hold a Tea Party on at 2.00 PM on Thursday, March 9th. The only variable is the weather. In case of snow and ice, we shall have to move things to a later date. To reserve your place, call Happy Riley in the Parish Office. Tel: (410) 560-6776.

## 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 Rev. 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

## Parish Life Committee

*Tuesday February 14th, 7.00 pm*

## Vestry Meeting

*Wednesday February 15th, 7.00 pm*

## Ladies Who Lunch

*at Joey Chui's, Greenspring Station,  
Wednesday February 15th, 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm*

## Parish Tea Party

*Thursday, March 9th, 2.00 pm  
RSVP: Happy Riley (410) 560-6776*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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