

St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

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FROM THE RECTOR

À la recherche du temps perdu

One of Charlotte's favorite pastimes these days is poring over old photograph albums searching for memories – family, old friends, former homes, long forgotten second cousins thrice removed. For her it is not simply nostalgia, but a means of staying in touch with the present.

Recently her journey into the past took her back to our home in Germany, a tiny mountain village, high in the Taunus range that separates Frankfurt am Main, Europe's financial capital, from the elegant spa town of Wiesbaden.

We discovered the village, Ruppertshain, by accident. At the time we were living in downtown Frankfurt – a city with air quality arguably even worse than that of Bonn – Beethoven's birthplace – the “small town in Germany” that before reunification became the capital of the Federal Republic.

Both cities are located in river valleys. This rendered them subject to thermal inversions – atmospheric conditions that occur when a layer of warm air settles over a layer of cooler air that lies near the ground. The warm air holds down the cool air and prevents pollutants from rising and scattering.

During a thermal inversion – *tiefdruck* in German – the trapped pollutants make it more difficult to breathe, nerve ends literally tingle, and even the most unflappable people are liable to fly off the handle at the drop of a hat.

Traffic accidents abound and hospital emergency rooms gear up to deal with an unusually heavy workload. Not surprisingly, among those who suffer the most are the elderly and expectant mothers nearing the end of their terms.

It was unusually hot during the summer of 1976 when Charlotte was expecting our daughter Catherine and for her the *tiefdrukken* made life in the city almost intolerable. To escape the discomfort we took long drives in the mountains where, high above the inversions, the air was crisply cool and invigorating.

Usually we would stop for lunch or supper at a small village inn where, for an amazingly reasonable sum, one would be served vast portions of hearty country fare, washed down with a glass or two of Riesling or *apfelwein*, hard cider, the regional specialty.

Naturally, it didn't take long for us to realize that the mountains were an ideal place to place to raise a family – an epiphany that had also occurred to hordes of the senior executives who managed the myriad of banks and businesses located in Europe's premier economic center.

Finding a house in the mountains was not difficult. There was an ample supply in the exclusive enclaves populated by wealthy Germans and foreigners – cynically dubbed by the locals “*prominenzgebieten*” or celebrity areas – in the fashionable small towns that dotted the mountainsides.

But we didn't want to live in glorious isolation. We were foreign correspondents and our job was not to report solely on the doings of Europe's rich and famous but on the daily lives of ordinary Germans. Finding a place to live where we could rub shoulders with the average Joe (or *Josef*) was, however, not easy.

We discussed the problem with a friend who suggested one way to avoid the enclaves of the wealthy would be to look for a home in a village where the shopkeepers and tradesmen didn't speak English. And this is how we came to find our house on Ruppertshain's main street.

Moving from Frankfurt to Ruppertshain turned out to be quite an ordeal. It was a journey of less than 30 miles and as the moving men had our entire household – including Charlotte's Steinway – in the truck by 9.30 in the morning, we figured we would be moved in by early afternoon at the latest.

As things turned out, the truck didn't arrive at our new home

until six in the evening. The moving crew explained that the *tiefdruck* had given them all a desperate thirst, thus they had been forced to stop to refresh themselves on the way. The explanation was entirely unnecessary. They were plainly reeling drunk.

Undeterred, they immediately started to unload the truck – staggering up the stairs to the second floor dining room casually juggling tottering loads of Charlotte's treasured porcelain and Waterford glass.

For poor Charlotte, the breaking point came when a muscle-bound gnome, reeking of *apfelwein*, wrapped a canvas strap around her beloved Steinway, slung it over his shoulder and proceeded singlehandedly to carry the piano up to the staircase to the second floor drawing room.

“I can't bear to watch this any longer,” she wailed, “Let's go and get something to eat.”

We must have looked quite flustered when we arrived at the pub around the corner from our new house. “What's the matter?” asked Hans, the landlord, “Your wife looks really upset.”

I explained we were moving into the new house on main street and that moving crew had arrived with our furniture very late and very drunk. “They generally do,” he said, reassuringly. “But they rarely seem to break anything.”

Holy Week Schedule

9 April through 16 April

Palm Sunday

8 am: Said Eucharist

9.15 am: Choral Eucharist

11 am: Choral Eucharist

Holy Monday

6 pm: Said Eucharist

Holy Tuesday

6 pm: Said Eucharist

Spy Wednesday

6 pm: 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

8 am: Said Eucharist

9.15 am: Choral Eucharist

followed by Easter Egg Hunt (for children 9 and under)

11 am: Choral Eucharist

“Anyway, things will look better after a hot meal and a couple of beers,” he went on. “How about a smoked pork chop with sauerkraut and creamed potatoes? And you look like you could use a little peace and quiet. I'll look after the kids over at the *stammtisch* [the table reserved for regulars] while you eat”

With that he took the baby from Charlotte's arms and led seven-year-old Nicholas to the *stammtisch*, put oomph music on the jukebox and fed Nicholas sausage and French fries.

Funnily enough, Hans was absolutely right. Things did look very much better after a hearty meal and a couple of beers. What's more, when we arrived back at the house, we found everything unpacked and in good order. The only thing broken was a table lamp that had been on the verge of collapse long before the moving men got their hands on it.

I thanked the crew profusely, gave them their *trinkgeld* (tip) and the customary crate of *apfelwein*, upon which they lurched off cheerfully into the night.

“You know,” said Charlotte as their truck pulled away, “I think we are really going to like this place.” GPH✠

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

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

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

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 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: Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)
 (3rd Sunday Choral Eucharist)
 11am: Choral Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)
 6pm: Choral Evensong (as announced) –
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

Ladies Who Lunch

The Green Turtle, Hunt Valley
 Wednesday March 15th 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm

Lenten Study

Wednesday March 15th 6.00 pm

Parish Youth Play Group

Saturday March 18th 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Easter Flowers For St Stephen's Altar

Here is a selection of beautiful spring flowers to decorate the church for Easter. Please make your choice and return this form to the church office with your check by Wednesday April 12th. Flowers may be taken home after the 11.0 am service

Your Name: _____

Lilies Small elite 6" 4-6 blooms @ \$10 (# of plants.....) Field Azalea @ \$15 (# of plants.....)

Hydrangeas Four plus blooms @ \$20 (# of plants.....) Hiacynths @ \$10 (6" pot) (# of plants.....)

Tulips @ \$10 (6" pot) (# of plants.....)

Total # of plants _____ Total amount enclosed _____

My gift is IN HONOR, IN MEMORY OF, IN THANKSGIVING FOR (please circle)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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