

St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

Volume XXVIII, Number 16

A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

May 2nd, 2017

FROM THE TREASURER

Spring is sprung, da grass is riz, I wonder where da money is

The stock market is booming. Business confidence is growing. Manufacturing output is up. Capital investment is increasing. The unemployment rate is dropping and workforce participation is headed upwards. The economic outlook, say the experts, is the best it has been in eight years.

Sad to say, according to early monthly returns, the only thing doesn't seem to be improving greatly is the cash flow at America's churches – and St Stephen's is no exception.

It is not that the pledges are down. They aren't. True, they haven't grown appreciably over the past few years. The problem is that their arrival in the offertory plate is rather more spasmodic than usual.

This makes it difficult to meet our monthly outgoings without either resorting to our revolving credit arrangement or, worse, dipping into our modest reserves.

Unlike Baltimore's historic churches, St Stephen's does not have a hefty endowment to fall back on. We are trying to build one, but, as with most new and growing churches, the effort to build an endowment has to compete with many other pressing needs.

It's wonderful, for example, to see the Sunday School students crowding the communion rail for their blessings. They, after all, are the church's future. Even so, the more children served inevitably the more the costs of doing so increase.

The vestry does its very best to hold down costs. Administrative overheads have been pared to the bone. We have negotiated considerable reductions in our mortgage interest and our energy bill.

Volunteers perform the bulk of the maintenance and janitorial work. At the same time, the Parish Life Committee has increased its efforts to increase its income from events and fundraisers.

Personnel costs represent a smaller proportion our parish budget than the average parish without any reduction in pastoral services. This is owed in large part to our cadre of unpaid, volunteer clergy.

Salaries for our small stipendary staff have also been held in check for the past few years in an effort to keep cost down.

Even so inflation – affecting everything from altar candles to maintenance materials and janitorial supplies – exerts continual upward pressure on overheads..

St. Stephen's modest size belies the great contribution it makes both to the lives of its parishioners and to the community as a whole. Our pastoral care team, for example, brings the comforts of the church to many local retirement communities and hospitals.

The parish provides chaplaincy services to volunteer organizations and patriotic societies. Our exceptional choir is once again taking the classical choral music that graces our liturgy to the people not just of our own neighborhood, but to greater Baltimore.

Our Parish Life Committee promotes good fellowship

throughout the community not just with major events like the English Garden Party and the Cookie Walk, but in the more intimate settings of such things as the Silly Summer Suppers.

It is your time, talent and treasure that enabled us to institute these great ministries, and your increased financial support helps to maintain and expand them.

Our situation, today, however, is a bit like that of the preacher who stood up at announcement time on Sunday and declared: "Friends, the good news is that we have already got the money we need to build our new church. The bad news is that its still in your pockets." We do hope you will be able to help us. God bless. **WILLIAM HAWKINS**

FROM THE GARDEN PARTY PLANNERS

The Fun Flower Show theme is 'Anything British; Anything Goes'

Our theme for this year's Garden Party Fun Flower Show is really wide open – giving you plenty of scope to find a theme

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, June, 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, Al, Kathy & Don

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

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; MSGT Michael Holter, USAF; Cpt Fiodor Strikovski, US Army

for your own floral creation. Your arrangements can be traditional, classical, fun-filled or whimsical! They can be large, medium, small or miniature.

We ask that you deliver the exhibits to the church office by 10:00AM on the day of our Garden Party Saturday May 6th. Judging this year will be early – at 10:30AM. This will enable everybody visiting the garden party to enjoy the exhibits and decide if they agree with the judges.

Remember, there is no limit to number of arrangements you are allowed to enter. And please don't forget to label each arrangement with a clearly printed title.

One other thing: Please stick your name and contact number UNDERNEATH each entry to ensure anonymity during the judging. Once the competition has been judged your name will shine together with awarded ribbon and prize.

Meanwhile with under a week to go to the Garden Party we are still accepting for volunteers to help make this the best Garden Party ever. And if you haven't done so

already, now is the time to drop off your jumble for the “Jumble Table” – in America we call it the White Elephant stall.

Please rummage the corners of your closets for bric-a-brac, collectibles, books, DVDs, CDs and oddities for our Jumble sale. But please no TVs or electronics. We will set up in the Parish Hall for your donations.

We’re planning a festive day. We’ll have pipers and singers and Maypole dancers. Races and frolics for the kids. Lot’s to eat - from high tea to hot dogs. A load of jumble. Games of chance.

And, of course, King Henry VIII will be joining us along with his entourage. But beware, the King’s goaler will looking for miscreants to put in the stocks. Our traditional British pub, The Barley Mow, serving fine wines and ice cold, frothy beverages. There will be pub food aplenty, and much, much more.

We hope you will get involved by joining us on April 11th and lending your talents to making this the best Garden Party yet. If you can’t make it to the meeting you can still help! Let us count the ways

There will also be a St Stephen’s craft table. There are lots of talented people at St Stephen’s creating all kinds of wonderful crafts. Here’s a chance to show off yours by offering some of

your handmade items for sale.

We’ll need cakes for the cake table. We’ll be selling whole cakes, half cakes, and quarter cakes for families both large and small. Cakes should be delivered to church on May 6th.

Help us with our advertising. Information sheets for Garden Party Program ads are in the back of the church. Help us by selling ads to the local merchants and businesses you frequent.

How about becoming a patron of the Garden Party? Your name will be listed in the Garden Party program acknowledging your generosity. There are several levels to choose from:

- Imperial Crown - \$100
- House of Windsor - \$75
- House of York
- House of Lancaster - \$30

We have Garden Party posters available to take to your grocery store, library, or any place else that has a bulletin board.

Again, we need volunteers to work the day before and the day of the Garden Party. Sign-up sheets have been posted in the vestibule. Please contribute your time to help us set up and run this great event. You’ll be rewarded with lots of laughter and fellowship.

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: Choral Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

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

Parish Youth Play Group

Saturday April 29th, 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

British Garden Party

Saturday, May 6th

Ladies Who Lunch

Razorbacks Restaurant

826 Dulaney Valley Rd Towson

Wednesday May 17th 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm

(call Sara Douglas 410-560-9026 or church office)

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