

# St Stephen's News

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

Volume XXVIII, Number 28

*A parish in the classical Anglican tradition*

July 25th, 2017

FROM THE RECTOR

### In praise of joyful noises made unto the Lord

My childhood friend, David Parker, was an exceedingly bright child, but he never expected to experience a college education. David was born into a long line of agricultural laborers and expected to follow his father's footsteps into the milking parlor. That he didn't do so is a tribute to the tenacity of our parish choirmaster.

David could sing pretty well, but his voice wasn't anything special. He enjoyed music and worked hard at it, but he wasn't a budding Benjamin Britten. He went to college only because our choirmaster devoted hours, days, weeks and years to persuading David's mother and father that it would be wrong to deny their very bright son the chance of winning a scholarship to university.

Actually, David's was by no means a special case. The choirmaster played an important role in the lives of most of the young men who sang in our church choir. David was simply the first to spring to mind, remembered as much for his parents' obtuse rejection – on class warfare grounds – of higher education than anything else.

In any event, our small village buzzed with activities for young people: scouts, bell ringers, stamp collectors, a radio and television builders' club, tap dancing and ballet, as well as a gamut of sports, including – heaven forefend -- a baseball club, founded by veterans of the Pacific campaigns.

Tap dancing and ballet tended to be a female preserve. Boys, in the main, didn't seem to have a talent for it. Some of us, I confess, considered it "sissy." The church choir, on the other hand, was anything but.

Doubtless, the choir might also have fallen into the realm of "sissy" if it had not had an exceptional leader. Membership, after all, entailed wearing weird clothes and singing music far different from popular numbers like "Pistol Packin' Momma," "Mares Eat Oats," "Run Rabbit Run" and "Knees Up Mother Brown."

But, thanks to our choirmaster, membership in the Choir of Men and Boys was a much sought after privilege. Competition was tough for a place as probationer, and it didn't ease up much once officially vested as a chorister.

Practice nights for trebles and altos were Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Roll call was taken at 6.00 PM prompt and arriving even two minutes late earned you a big black "L" against your name in the attendance book. Too many of those and you were relegated from the choir stalls to the organ loft with the unvested probationers.

An absence earned a big black A against your name, and unless you had a very good excuse – typhoid, scarlet fever or the draft -- an absence meant the ignominy of suspension.

The choir, above anything else, imbued in us an understanding of what it meant to have taken on an obligation – and a very important obligation at that. The clergy and choir, together, were responsible for the conduct of worship, and as such, young as we were, we were part of our parish's spiritual leadership.

To emphasize the weight of our responsibility, like clergymen, we were paid a modest stipend – the equivalent of 18 cents a week in the first year. On top of this, we got 12 cents for weddings and 6 cents for funerals, which, being acts of corporal mercy, commanded a lower fee.

It was not a great deal of money – though enough to make you heartily sick if squandered on candy and gorged at one sitting. Such jobs as delivering newspapers, groceries and the like paid a lot better and demanded far less effort. But nothing offered the same sort of growing experience or job satisfaction as the Choir of Men & Boys.

When I was a kid, virtually every boy in England had the opportunity to grow as I grew in a Choir of Men and

### 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, Jeannie, Peter, June, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Alan, Terry, Helen, Jim, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Aida, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Robert, David, Jan, Susie, Sophia, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Cour Marie, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John, David, Adrian, Tom, Michell, Aida, Mai, Al, Kathy, Jack, Lewey & Stephen

**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.

Boys. Virtually every parish in the country had one. Today, there are less than 40 such choirs still in existence. Nor are there very many more in America. All have been sacrificed on the altar of political correctness.

To be sure, we still have many mixed choirs, but they are not the same thing. The music they make is different, in part – but not solely -- because girls' voices mature at markedly different pace from boys.

In short, our obsession with political correctness is not merely denying boys an opportunity to serve the church in a sphere in which they do particularly well, it is also denying all of us the opportunity to hear great music the way their composers intended. Most of the classical Anglican church music was written specifically for male voices.

The dissolution of choirs of men and boys throughout

the Anglican world in the name of sexual equality is sheer cultural vandalism – the equivalent of the book-burnings in 1930s Germany. It is one of the reasons St. Stephen's Choir of Men & Boys is such an important trust. GPH✳

FROM THE KNITTING CIRCLE

## Have a ball on Thursdays

Are the cares of the world weighing on your shoulders? Here's a way to relax in friendly and interesting company and acquire, or simply improve, a useful skill that not only calms the fevered brow.

Join us in the parish library on Thursdays at 10.00 AM. You can't knit? Cindie Baker, one of our most experienced knitters will teach you. Just set the time and place with her and she will get you started. You'll have a ball.

FROM THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE

## Your plants for the churchyard

The strip of grass along the entrance driveway has been cleared by Scott Taylor and his crew of volunteers. Now we are seeking perennial plants from home gardens to put in that space.

Our suggestions for plant donations include Stella D'Oro

lily or other day lily, dusty miller, corabells, columbine and any other deer resistant plants.

FROM THE TREASURER

## Pity the poor treasurer!

“Are there no work houses? Are there no prisons?” that was Ebenezer Scrooge's to people who begged him for alms at Christmas time. But I hope it won't be your response to your church treasurer's annual summertime plea.

The trouble is that folks cast all cares aside when they go away vacation and among the cares they cast aside are all thoughts of poor church treasurers struggling to make ends meet with no pledge money coming in.

Parishioners go on vacation. Church treasurers get to go on vacation too – but only if they are up-to-date with the bills. And, sad to relate, bills never take a holiday.

Please bring your pledges up to date before you go away. That way I can take care of the bills and go away myself. Scrooge would say: “Bah! Humbug!” Personally, I'd rather say: “Have a great vacation.”

WHJH

## St Stephen's Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093

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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 Youth Play Group

Every Sunday After the 9.15 Eucharist

## Silly Summer Suppers

The season starts on at 6.30 PM on Wednesday, July 12th

## The Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday, August 16th, 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm

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