

# St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

Volume XXVIII, Number 49    *A parish in the classical Anglican tradition*    December 19th, 2017

FROM THE RECTOR

## Who benefits in the fight against national obesity?

May be it's because Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat, I recently called to mind a conversation I overheard many years ago between three elderly, distinguished and decidedly rotund bishops. They were discussing the nature of sin. Ultimately they decided that gluttony was their favorite.

Gluttony, of course, is listed as one of the Seven Deadly Sins. However when reflecting on the three prelates' conclusions, it's important to remember that sins of the flesh are, generally speaking, rather less serious than sins of the spirit.

I raise the issue because, for most people, the sin of gluttony is virtually unavoidable at this time of the year. After all, it is asking just a bit too much of our fallen nature to resist that extra helping of turkey, goose, duck, beef or ham you've been looking forward to all year.

That said, Christmas is also the time when the killjoys of world – led more often than not by former Mayor Bloomberg of New York – smugly ramp up their campaigns against . . . wait for it . . . obesity.

(I don't mean to point fingers but doesn't demonizing obesity seem a tad odd when Mayor Bloomberg does not exactly appear undernourished. But I digress . . .)

Even so, trumpeting a decade-old study of the subject by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the anti-gluttony brigade claims that obesity has taken over where tobacco left off as America's "top underlying preventable cause of death."

Granted one supposed vice or other had to assume tobacco's role as ritual demon for the enrichment of the members of America's tort bar. After all, they and the state governments have squeezed as much cash as they can reasonably expect – in the short term at least – from the nation's smokers.

But, frankly, the protestations of the nation's health police would be just a tad more convincing if they had singled out rather more politically correct bad habits for demonization.

Why on earth, for example, did they pick on obesity for when they could with no less justification pointed out the very considerable health risks entailed in promiscuous sex? After all, evidence suggests that sexually transmitted infections, such as HIV and the various ghastly strains of venereal disease, disable and kill

people a darned sight faster than overeating.

Recreational drug use might also have been a rewarding field of battle. After all, we have been fighting the drug war for best part of 50 years and cocaine, opioids, meth and the like are still a good deal more damaging to the health of the nation than hot dogs and hamburgers.

I am not trying to suggest that smoking and over-eating are without risk. Far from it! They are certainly unhealthy habits. But they are not the only widespread unhealthy habits in the country, nor are they by any means the most unhealthy.

Indeed, the long drawn crescendo of allegations by food faddists and the tort bar about the fast food industry's responsibility for the "national epidemic of obesity" is more than a little disquieting. I might feel a bit more comfortable with it were it easier to serve writs on the advocates of unbridled promiscuity and

### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

Dec. 24th, 2017 to Jan. 1st, 2018

#### CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday, December 24th

4.00 PM: Children's Christmas Service &  
Blessing of the Creche

7.00 PM: Family Candlelight Eucharist

10.30 PM: Choir sings carols followed by

Solemn High Christmas Eucharist

#### CHRISTMAS DAY Monday, December 25th

10.00 AM Sung Holy Communion

#### PATRONAL FESTIVAL

The Feast of St. Stephen Comm. Sunday, December 31st

8.00 AM: Holy Communion

9.15 AM: Choral Eucharist

11.15 AM: Choral Mattins

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE The Feast of St. Sylvester

Sunday, December 31st, 2017 11.15

recreational drug use than it is to serve them on folks in the nation's multi-billion dollar fast food industry.

Before endorsing the anti-obesity cause, we'd be wise to ask *cui bono* – who benefits? Otherwise *aficionados* of cheese burgers and foot long cold-cut subs might soon find themselves shivering on the sidewalk, disconsolately indulging their vice alongside the smokers.

So have a very merry Christmas, and don't feel in the slightest bit guilty about it. GPH✂

**NOTA BENE:** *This will be our last edition of the Newsletter until January 16th next year. Meanwhile we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.*

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 410 560 677

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

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

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.

St Stephen’s Anglican Church

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Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Rev. Canon Guy P Hawtin, Rector  
The Venerable Michael Kerouac, Vicar  
The Rev. Michael Belt and The Rev. John Novicki  
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)  
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

A Christmas Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 17th, 6.00 pm

Ladies Who Lunch

(Bluestone Restaurant)  
Wednesday, December 21st 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm

Christmas Memorial Flowers

To make a contribution towards the Church Christmas decorations in honor or memory of a loved one please complete this form and return it with a check (payable to St. Stephen’s Church and marked for Christmas flowers) by Friday December 22nd.

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettias (Red, White or Pink) 6 inches, single (3-5 blooms @ \$10 (# of plants.....)  
6 inches, single, (6-8 blooms) @ \$16 (# of plants.....)  
7 inches, double, (9-12 blooms) @ \$20 (# of plants.....)

Total # of plants \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
My gift is IN HONOR, IN MEMORY OF, IN THANKSGIVING FOR (please circle)

\_\_\_\_\_

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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