

St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

Volume XXIX, Number 13 *A parish in the classical Anglican tradition* April 10th, 2018

FROM THE RECTOR

When it's a matter of behavior, handsome is as handsome does

It is not without irony that, in Britain at least, the decline in standards of personal conduct can be dated to the time municipal councils began rewording the signs on public rest rooms – replacing the traditional "Ladies" and "Gentlemen" with the more politically correct "men" and "women."

Up to that time, most people subscribed to the notion that children should be raised in such a manner that they would not have to enter public rest rooms on false pretenses. Little girls were expected to be "ladies" and small boys "gentlemen."

The status of "lady" or "gentleman" was not conferred by birth: you either became one -- or you didn't. At the age of 10 or so, for example, the masters at my prep school worked hard at ironing out my East Anglian diphthongs, making me say "I" instead of "oy" and "my" instead of "moy" in an effort to make me "speak like a gentleman."

Eventually, they succeeded. But folks back home were not notably impressed. "Handsome is as handsome does" was the watchword. The measure of people's worth was not how they spoke, but how they behaved.

Back in those days, small boys took their reputations very seriously. We weren't goody-goodies. To the contrary. But we lived by a code of conduct that required us to act like . . . gentlemen.

Friendships, for example, were not made lightly and it was a matter of the deepest dishonor to turn one's back on a friend.

It was not an option to lie your way out of trouble. If you were rightly accused of a transgression, you admitted the crime forthrightly and took your punishment without complaint.

If somebody was being punished for something you'd done, you were morally obligated to own up. To allow somebody else to suffer for a thing you had done was unthinkable.

It was beneath contempt to fight unfairly. You never fought anybody smaller or weaker than yourself, no matter how gravely they might have insulted you. And you never – and I mean never – hit somebody when they were off guard.

If you knocked your opponent down you helped him to his feet. Fists were the only acceptable weapon. You never hurled a stone, or used your feet, or a stick. When your opponent asked for quarter, you gave it immediately. And it was your absolute duty to help and protect people smaller or weaker than yourself.

The ultimate indication of one's worth, however, was the reliance that could be placed on one's word. When you gave your word, you kept it – no matter how dire the consequences might be.

And you never cheated at little things, like cards, because if you couldn't be trusted in small things, who would trust you in truly important matters?

Adults lived by the same rules. Phrases like "women and children first" and "my word is my bond" were not mere high-flown rhetoric. The history of the two World Wars and countless civil tragedies, such as the sinking of the Titanic, provide ample evidence that these principles were taken seriously.

They were also a fundamental principle in the realm of commerce. A London insurance broker, for example, tried at a late hour to obtain coverage for the interior fittings of ocean liner that was already at sea.

At Lloyds, he could find nobody from the marine syndicates but a junior underwriter who was rushing off to catch a train. "I'll sign the contract in the morning," said the young man, "I can't do it now or I shall miss my train."

That night the liner, the Andrea Doria, sank and the syndicate paid out claims amounting several million dollars on the word of their junior employee. Folks these days are often surprised that this casual contract was honored without demur.

But for them it would have been unthinkable to have done otherwise. Their word had been pledged. If they had failed to honor the commitment, nobody would have trusted them again.

Today such notions seem hopelessly antique. Today, corporate

lawyers are employed to write loopholes into contracts nobody intends to honor. And today's brides-to-be hire attorneys to draw up prenuptial agreements defining the legal limits of loving, honoring and cherishing – for how long, and for how much.

But such ideas aren't antique. They merely sound like it. They were still the norm 50 years ago, which gives you an idea of how far we've come – and how fast.

We might be materially richer today than 40 years ago, but in all other respects we are the poorer. Are we really any happier than we were when the highest personal compliment of all was to be described as a good Christian lady or gentleman? GPH✠

FROM THE RECTOR

Church & Missions Sundays

The word "parochial" is used as a metaphor in the secular world for a very good reason. Parishes tend to be inward looking, mindful of the needs of their parishioners and the communities in which they are located. The Church's mission to the wider world tends to take a back seat.

However the national Church and its missions at home and abroad still need funding. The good news is that there are funds available to take care their needs. The bad news is the money is still in your wallets.

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: Anne, Priscilla, Michael✠, Peter, Charlotte, Bryan, 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, Pamela, Isobel, Judy, Elizabeth, Wade, Michael✠, Priscilla, Annie & Sifa

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.

More good news: St Stephen's vestry has a plan that will take care of the problem as painlessly as possible. The four Sundays After Easter are designated as "Church and Missions Sundays."

We are asking you each Sunday prayerfully to set aside – in addition to your usual pledge – an extra \$10 or so for the national Church and its missions. Envelopes will be provided with you orders of service.

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Mark your calendars for our British Garden Party

Please set aside Saturday, May 5th, on your calendar and join us at St Stephen's annual ethnic festival: our British Garden Party and Fete. The Parish Life Committee has been planning for months to

lay on anabsolutely spiffing show.

We'll have a bagpiper 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. *(Editor's note: Gaoler is the English English for jailer. What's more, it is pronounced the American way – "jailer." Go figure!)* Our traditional British pub, The Barley Mow will be 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 Sunday, April 8th, and by 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

Americans call it White Elephant, the Brits call it Jumble. But whatever name you use, please rummage the corners of your closets for bric-a-brac, collectibles, books, DVDs,CDs and oddities for our Jumble sale. We interested in everything except TVs or electronics. Tables are set up in the Parish Hall for your donations.

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 the church on Fri. May 5th.

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 - \$50
- House of Lancaster - \$30

Shortly we will have Garden Party posters to take to your grocery store, library, or any place else that has a bulletin board. We'll let you know as soon as they're available.

Finally, we need volunteers to work the day before and the day of the Garden Party. Sign-up sheets will be posted shortly in the Cadwalader Room. We hope you'll contribute your time to help us set up and run this great event. You'll be rewarded with lots of laughter and fellowship.

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Potted Plant fundraiser

The Parish Life committee is having a fund raiser for the. church. Order forms for potted plants for the garden, patio or balcony are in the Cadwalader Room. Order by April 9th, and pick up on May 4th and May 5th 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

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 andThe 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
Thursday, 10am: Knitting Circle
Friday, 10.30am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL
Parish Life Meeting
The Sunday After Easter, April 8th. 10.30 AM

The Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, April 18th, 7.00 pm

The Ladies Who Lunch
Wednesday, April 18th 12.00 pm
Barrett's Grill, Hunt Valley
Reservations: Call Sara Douglas 410-560-9026

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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