

# St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

Volume XXIX, Number 16     *A parish in the classical Anglican tradition*     May 1st, 2018

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

## There'll be all the fun of the fair at our ethnic festival

St Stephen's annual ethnic festival, our British Garden Party and Fete, takes place from 11.00 AM to 4 PM next Saturday, May 5th. Please plan to join us for the event because the Parish Life Committee is laying on an absolutely 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. 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.

King Henry VIII will, of course, 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!)*

We hope you will get involved by lending your talents to making this the best Garden Party yet. 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.

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 4th.

Help us with our advertising. Information sheets for Garden Party Program ads are in the back of the church.

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.

Last but very far from least, we need plenty of willing hands to work the day before and the day of the Garden Party. Sign-up sheets for volunteers have been posted 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 RECTOR

## It's time to let the Gospel take a bite out of crime

The crime rate is a major American preoccupation. And this is hardly surprising in view of statistics that indicate one in every three of us can expect to become a victim of violent crime at least once in our lives.

Our politicians' response to this has been a stream of legislative measures – boot camps, “three strikes and your out” sentencing, and mandatory jail sentences for crimes perceived as particularly heinous – each of which was supposed to solve the problem for good and all.

These political nostrums should engender a certain sense of *deja vu* in folks with memories longer than that of the average fruit fly. There's nothing that we haven't tried that the Romans didn't try before us – mandatory sentences, boot camps, weapons control – with similarly disappointing results.

It just goes to show that President Harry Truman was right on the money when he said: “The only thing that is new in this world is the history you haven't read.”

History shows that there is nothing new about crime waves of the sort we are experiencing today. Indeed, folks worried about early Twenty First Century America's precipitous decline in civility, and

law and order might do worse than to take a look at the Book of Judges.

It is a remarkable mirror on our own age. Judges is a lurid supermarket tabloid of a book crammed with accounts of sordid happenings that make TV's afternoon Soap Operas look like children's stories. The reason is that it's the account of a society in the throes of the sort moral and social collapse we, ourselves, are experiencing.

And, just like so many of us today, back in the days of the Judges the Children of Israel believed the root cause of horrors they were experiencing was a lack of a strong central government. Just how wrong they were is plain for all to see in the Books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles.

Fast forward to the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, and we see that rampant crime was the norm in the great cities Europe and the Americas. And all the remedies now being proposed were tried back then – to utterly no avail.

In desperation, legislators adopted even more draconian measures than we have ever contemplated. Death sentences were meted out as a matter of course to repeat offenders. People convicted of serious crimes of violence were routinely disemboweled and dismembered.

When these punishments signally failed to make a dent in the crime rate, law makers decided the best way to handle the problem was quarantine. So they shipped out those who would not shape up.

### 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 & Sifa

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: 3 Melba, Sam, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Cindy, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Erin, Aubery & Kathy

FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL: **Rob**

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 best part of a century and a half, England's petty criminals were routinely transported to penal colonies throughout its growing empire – including the West Indies, the State of Georgia, the Carolinas and, latterly, Australia.

Nothing, however, seemed to work. Brutal or enlightened, draconian or moderate – all the anti-crime measures the human mind devise seemed inadequate to the task of deterring ordinary people from resorting to crime.

It would be quite wrong to ascribe this catalogue of abject failure to the idea that folks back in the 17th, 18th and early-to-mid 19th centuries were somehow more primitive than our selves, or less sophisticated. This simply isn't true.

Read their writings on the subject and you'll discover they were at least our intellectual equals. In fact, they had considered (and, in most instances, rejected on practical grounds) some of the remedies

we consider most "modern." Read, for example, Thomas Moore's *Utopia*, the works of Jean Jacques Rousseau, and Samuel Butler's *Erehwon*.

By the opening decades of the 19th Century, crime in England had gotten so out of hand parliament, in desperation, introduced a new London Metropolitan Police to replace the “thief takers” who worked for the individual magistrates' courts.

But there was no major improvement in the situation until 1830s when the Church of England finally woke up to the fact that a main reason for the moral decay was its sloth in preaching the Gospel.

There followed one of the most remarkable religious revivals the world has seen. A newly invigorated Church of England launched a crusade to carry Christ into the meanest streets of the inner cities.

“The Catholic Revival” as it became known saw the founding of the Church Army and the revival of Religious orders suppressed in the 16th Century. Magnificent new churches were constructed in slums more vile than anything we in modern America have ever known.

Within two decades the tide had been turned. Within four it had been reversed. It was not that the Gospel had eliminated poverty. It had not. (The poor, as Jesus observed, will always be with us.) But the awful spiritual and moral degradation that, absent the Gospel, inevitably accompanies poverty had been largely eliminated.

As the urban population's spiritual lives improved, so did morality. Crime was never completely eliminated – it is, after all, a fallen world – but it declined to manageable proportions. England's experience was repeated in America, with the same results. And it

is not accidental that during this period the Episcopal Church became the fastest growing church in the USA.

What worked 150 years ago is certainly worth trying today. Indeed, it is the only solution to work. Let's pray that we don't have to wait another century and a half implement it. **GPH✕**

## 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 St Stephen’s vestry has a plan that will take care of the problem as painlessly as possible. The 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 your orders of service.

## Plant sale pick up

Thanks to all who participated in the first Plant Sale at St. Stephen’s. Plants may be picked up on Friday May 4th and Saturday May 5 between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM both days.

### St Stephen’s Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093  
*Office:* 410 560 6776 · *Rectory:* 443-425-2420  
*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 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](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  
Thursday, 10am: Knitting Circle  
Friday, 10.30am: Bible Study

#### MONTHLY & SPECIAL

**The British Garden Party**  
*Saturday, May 5th, 11.00 AM - 4.00 PM*

**The Vestry Meeting**  
*Wednesday, May 16th, 7.00 pm*

**The Ladies Who Lunch**  
*Wednesday, May 16th 12.00 pm*  
*Sakura Japanese Steak House, Hunt Valley, upper level.*  
*Reservations: Call Sara Douglas 410-560-9026*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Timonium, MD 21093

St Stephen's Anglican Church  
11856 Mays Chapel Road

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