

St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

Volume XXIX, Number 27

A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

July 17th, 2018

FROM THE PARISH CHEFS

Summer 's Silly Suppers

Each Wednesday the chefs of St. Stephen's will be serving the "Silly Summer Suppers." It's hard to think of a less appropriate name than "Silly Summer Suppers" for these remarkable gastronomic events. The food is absolutely scrumptious. The only thing silly about these suppers is the price -- entrée, dessert and salad for just \$10. Soda costs a buck and wine at \$3 per glass and \$5 for two.

FROM THE RECTOR

In the Church, parody is no laughing matter

Way back in the days when people still believed that the mainline churches might soon come to their senses, my friend Father Owen Groman and I decided to help things along by writing a parody of the "experimental" liturgies that were then all the vogue.

We named our effort "the Monosyllabic Liturgy", but rapidly found out that it was nigh on impossible to express even the most banal thoughts exclusively in single syllable words. Thus we renamed it "the Almost Monosyllabic Liturgy."

Mercifully, I am unable to remember our liturgy in its entirety, but I'm sure it was by no means as funny as we hoped it would be.

I recall that our substitute for the Salutation "The Lord be with you" was "Stay cool." We were confronted, however, with an abundance of alternatives for the response "And with thy spirit." We toyed with "Likewise I'm sure" and "Momentarily" before settling on the rather more colloquial "Awesome."

The *Sursum Corda*, thus, became:

Celebrant: "Stay cool"

Response: "Awesome."

Celebrant: "Cheer up, my hearties!"

Response: "Right on."

One Friday afternoon, however, when I arrived at Owen's rectory to continue our liturgical efforts, he met me at the door, his face as white as sheet: "I've destroyed it," he said, "I threw it in the furnace. These people are completely beyond parody."

He went on to explain that his Archdeacon had found the liturgy lying on the coffee table and leafed through it.

"Did he give you a rocket?" I asked.

"No," he said, "That's the trouble. He congratulated me on it and asked if he could try it out when it was finished."

And that's the trouble with parody. In the singularly humorless age in which we live some people are apt to take it seriously – even when its absolutely outlandish.

Proof of the veracity of this statement came in a recent phone call from a friend.

"Have you heard, Guy," he asked. "The Church of England is considering abolishing the Trinity to accommodate the Moslems." And he referred me to the following "report" on an up-coming meeting of the Church of England's General Synod.

I found it on the Internet . It was written by somebody called Jules Gomez and was clearly labelled "Parody." It's quite hilarious and how anybody could take it seriously is hard to understand. But judge for yourselves. Here are some excerpts:

"In a highly controversial proposal, the Church of England's General Synod is set to debate the abolition of the doctrine of immigrants to the UK. Bishop Josie-Josiah, the CofE's first openly transgender bishop, has been pioneer in the Holy Trinity as the first step towards being 'intentionally inclusive' of Muslims and moving towards healing and reconciling the centuries old divide between Islam and Christianity.

"The Church of England's highest legislative body is due to meet at the University of York from July 7 to 10, 2018. Papers circulated to members of General Synod ahead of its sessions in York have been published online in two batches.

"One briefing paper in the first circulation sets out how an existing Church of England service for reaffirming baptismal vows may form the liturgical basis for services which help transgender Christians mark their gender transition openly.

"In the second batch, a private member's motion (PMM) will move 'That this Synod: (i) having accepted that Christianity is a monotheistic religion; (ii) noting the lack of mention of the nomenclature of 'Trinity' in the Bible; (iii) recognising that Christians are condemned to hell by the Qur'an if they believe in the Trinity; (iv) emphasising the need for reconciliation with 2.2 billion Muslims and the catastrophic consequences of

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: 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, Theresa, Lisa, Larry, Jail & Scott

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

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.

disunity if this is not achieved; (v) moves to formally integrate Muslim festivals which have been rapturously received by a number of cathedrals and parish churches across the country; (vi) this motion requests the House of Bishops to review the mathematically inaccurate doctrine of the Trinity and consider whether it needs to be amended or abolished so as to ensure an equal place at all levels in the Church for Muslims, including ordination to the priesthood and episcopate, and to report to Synod by February 2020.'

Christians are condemned to hell by the Qur'an if they believe in the Trinity.

The PMM has been proposed by the Rt Rev'd Josie-Josiah Jimplecute, Bishop of Bradford, a diocese that has seen the highest number of Muslim g *Alpha for Allah*, a course for

Christians wanting to become Muslims.

'Alpha for Allah shows how the Qur'an supersedes the Bible, since the Qur'an was written centuries later,' explains Bishop Josie-Josiah, who has campaigned against the disturbance to Muslim sensibilities caused by church bell ringing.'

'Moreover, while higher criticism has destroyed the authority of the Bible by proving it was written by human authors, we can trust the authority of the Qur'an because we know it was dictated by the angel Gabriel to Muhammad,' she added.

"Commending the motion, Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, agreed he was strongly in favour. 'Islam finds the idea of a Trinity utterly blasphemous to the idea of one God,' he said in a BBC Radio 4 *Thought for the Day*.

'It wasn't dry academic theology and hair-splitting biblical exegesis, but all those delicious Iftar meals at Lambeth Palace and Southwark Cathedral that brought me closer to my Muslim siblings and resulted in a real change of heart . . . ,'

he said.
"Anglicans for Chrislam, a branch of Inclusive Church, have issued a statement arguing that 'Christians look like fools when they claim that $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$. Anglicanism is based on the three-legged stool of scripture, tradition and reason. So far, our maths has proved to be totally unreasonable. There are limits to which faith can push reason

St Stephen's Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093
Office: 410 560 6776 · Rector: 443-425-2420
Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Rev. Canon Guy P Hawtin, *Rector*
The Venerable Michael Kerouac, *Vicar*

Associate Rectors: The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki, The Rev. Wiley Hawks, The Rev. Robert Ludwig and The Rev. Dr. Norman Flowers.

Mrs Happy Riley, *Director of Pastoral Care & Wedding Coordinator*

SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Said Eucharist
9.15am: Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)
11am: Sung Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)
Choral Services (as announced) – evensong.ststeve.com

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6pm: Evening Prayer
Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist
Saturday, 5pm: Family Eucharist

'[N]umbers are not fluid. It was Arab Muslims who played an vital role in the transmission of mathematics to Europe from the 10th to 12th centuries and it is possible they are playing the most vital role today in getting us to correct our flawed understanding of God.'

Conservative evangelicals have begun lobbying in Synod to persuade members to vote against the motion. The Rev'd Janus Pliable, Rector of St Simplicio's Church, Bishopsbottom, London, has said that his church will consider leaving the Church of England unless his bishop the Rt Rev'd Pandora Doolally declares where she stands on the issue.

'For a very long time we have been talking about leaving the Church of England,' he told reporters. 'It's a bit like Brexit. We are following the politics of good sense laid down by Prime Minister Theresa May. Every time there is an issue of orthodoxy, we threaten to leave but we remain. We are remainers, not leavers.'

'Debates about the Trinity were common in the early church. We mustn't despair, because the Church of England at least hasn't yet given up on Allah. When that happens it will be a red line and we will leave. Until then, we will hang in there and hold on to our stipends"

Some people will believe anything, it seems. GPH

Calendar of Events

WEEKLY

Monday, 6.30pm: Bridge Club
Thursday, 10am: Knitting Circle
Friday, 10.30am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Silly Summer Suppers

Every Wednesday 6.30 pm

Community Blood Drive

July 17th: 1.30 PM - 7.00 PM

The Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday, Junly 18th 12.00 pm

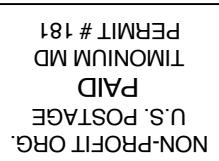
Bluestone Restaurant Aylesbury Rd Timonium

*For reservations: Call Sara Douglas
at 410-560-9026*

The Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, July 18th, 7.00 pm

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



11856 Mays Chapel Road
Timonium, MD 21093
St Stephen's Anglican Church