

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH • TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM FATHER LUDWIG

Fighting is one surefire way to push God aside

Make no mistake about it: Fighting is bad. It doesn't matter if the fight is a knockdown drag out or merely verbal. I have always felt a bit queasy when in the presence of those doing battle.

For the life of me, I have never understood those who turn on the TV, or worse yet pay good money, to watch two people beat the stuffing out of each other. I have never considered sparring, whether physical or verbal, a spectator sport. Further, I am wholly convinced that the verbal and the physical fights can be equally violent.

This was recently driven home to me when two people I know started to argue over something quite trivial. It was in a quiet and peaceful place, and that made the altercation that much the more unpleasant. At once, I began to get a knot in my stomach, which I could not alleviate by leaving as the melee had me hostage.

What was left to me was to pray for peace and ponder the sinking feeling that by now was overwhelming me. Sadness and fear were the two strongest emotions I felt; and as the battle waged on, and I continued to pray, I realized something very interesting.

That I was sad because two people I considered friends were fighting was at once evident. That I was afraid lest verbal sparring turned to actual combat was also an element, but it did not account for the actual dread these two emotions combined to create.

Sure, I was worried about these two people, myself, and anyone else luckless enough to stumble across the scene; and the shrill bickering certainly had my nerves on edge. But with all this action and emotion playing out in this small space, it suddenly occurred to me that something was missing. When it hit me I was terrified! The thing missing was God! He had not left. He had been pushed out. And the void was awful in the truest sense of the word.

I realized that in this combat zone (for that's what it was) no room had been left for him. Anger, self-interest, brute animal force, and total misuse of free will were the only things for which there was room. I felt a total separation from him and the profound sense of loss was overwhelming.

Some theologians speculate that hell is a total separation from God for eternity. If this is so, the suffering must be unbelievably horrid. I had just a glimpse of it and that was enough for me. The term "Hell on earth" has new meaning for me.

With the argument over, I could actually feel the return of God to that space and peace was restored. The whole thing couldn't have lasted a few minutes, but it seemed like hours.

I learned that day that when we fight, be it verbally or physically, we leave no room for God between us. Nature is God's creation and nature abhors a vacuum. If we exclude God from our consciousness, something else must take this space. Believe me, that something is absolutely terrifying. RHL✠

FROM THE RECTOR

Sorry, but Hymns ain't what they used to be

"Not to know what happened before we were born," wrote the Roman orator Cicero, "is to remain perpetually a child — for what is the worth of human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history."

Cicero was certainly no slouch when it came to observing the human condition and his words strike at the heart of the greatest failing of modern education — its manifest contempt for the history of Western culture.

To forget our past, is to lose the way to our future: If we don't know where we've come from, how can we know where we are going? For Christians, this loss of respect for the past is particularly serious. It cuts us off

Parish Prayer List

Our Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List and 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 at (410) 560 6776.

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FOR RECOVERY: Priscilla,, 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

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

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IN MEMORIAM: Ethel Darrell

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FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: The Darrell family.

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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.
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from communion with the vast majority of the members of our faith — those who have gone before us and who worship with us daily, but, as the great Bidding Prayer puts it, "on another shore."

The Church is not composed solely of "Christ's Church Militant Here In Earth." The Church Expectant and the Church Triumphant actually have a rather more important say in the matter. Losing touch with them means losing touch with our faith. Nowhere are we losing touch with our past faster than in the realm of hymnody. With this mind, I'd like to share this very clever and decidedly apt parody of Hymn 435. GPH✠

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
For most of us, when asked our mind,
Admit we still most pleasure find,
In hymns of ancient days.*

*The simple lyrics, for a start,
Of many a modern song,
Are far too trite to touch the heart;
Enshrine no poetry, no art;
And go on much too long*

*O, for a rest from jollity
And syncopated praise!
What happened to tranquility?
The silence of eternity
Is hard to hear these days.*

*Send thy deep hush subduing all
Those happy claps that drown
The tender whisper of thy call;
Triumphalism is not all
For sometimes we feel down.*

*Drop thy still dews of quietness
Till all our strummings cease;
Take from our soul the strain and stress
Of always having to be blessed;
Give us a bit of peace.*

*Breathe through the beats of praise-guitar
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let drum be dumb, bring back the lyre,
Enough of earthquake, wind and fire,
Let's hear it for some calm.*

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Mays Chapel school supplies

Again this year, St Stephen's is collecting supplies for Mays Chapel Elementary School. A container in the Cadwalader Room, and a list of needed supplies posted on the wall. In addition to traditional supplies such as backpacks, notebooks, pens and pencils, donations also needed are baby wipes, gallon and quart re-sealable plastic bags, Post-It notes, and paper towels. The response last year was greatly appreciated by the school. Tuesday, August 29th, is the last day for collection of supplies.

St Stephen's Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093

Office: 410 560 6776 · **Rectory:** 410 665 1278

Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Ven. Canon Guy P Hawtin, *Rector*

The Ven. Michael Kerouac, *Vicar* ·

Associate Rectors:

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki,

The Rev. M Wiley Hawks, The Rev. Robert Ludwig. &

The Rev. Dr. Norman Flowers

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Said Eucharist

9.15am: Sungl Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

11am: Sungl 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

Calendar of Events

WEEKLY

Monday, 6.30pm: Bridge Club

Thursday, 10am: Knitting Circle

Noon: Bible Study

Friday, 10.30am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

The Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, September 19th, 7.00 pm

Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday, September 19th at 12.00 PM

Reservations: Call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026

Farewell Picnic for Bill & Anne

Sunday, September 9th at 4.00 PM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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