

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH • TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

Praise ye the Lord in the beauty of holiness

The Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer are among the great glories of Anglicanism. A measure of the regard in which they have been held is that some of Christianity's greatest choral music has been specifically composed for Mattins and Evensong.

Until the middle of the last century, Morning and Evening Prayer services were conducted virtually all Anglican and Episcopal Churches of a Sunday, while at larger churches the offices were said publicly on a daily basis.

Today, however, these two great services are utterly unfamiliar to the vast majority of Anglicans and Episcopalians. Indeed, folks whose churchgoing does not date back to at least the 1960s are unlikely ever to have attended either service. Here in Baltimore, only at St. Stephen's can worshippers regularly hear Morning Prayer.

This is a terrible loss both spiritually and culturally. The Daily Offices are for use by all people, lay and clerical. They are by no means solely formal forms of worship. They also provide a wonderful focus for one's private daily prayer life.

As the area's only truly traditional Anglican parish, St. Stephen's has always taken very seriously its responsibility to maintain all the traditional forms of Anglican worship, including Morning and Evening Prayer.

It has not always been easy because of the dwindling numbers of Episcopalians and Anglicans familiar with the Daily Offices. By 1997, for example, attendance at the Sunday Morning Prayer services had fallen off substantially.

The situation was saved by the arrival of the Choir of Men & Boys. Attendance once again picked up, boosted by long-time Episcopalians drawn by music that was no longer being sung in other area churches.

Over the past couple of decades, however, there has been continuing downward spiral in Sunday attendance at Morning Prayer, by contrast with the steadily growing congregation at the 9.15 AM service of Holy Communion.

Thus we need to figure out how to attract worshippers to a service that we love, but that for most people today is utterly unfamiliar. The traditional tool for doing so is music.

The Choir of Men & Boys sing the Morning and Evening Offices as they were intended to be sung – from the preces, through the psalm, canticles, suffrages and anthem, to the closing hymn. And they make a splendid job of it

It is quite a challenge, however, for one Choir to convert a whole new generation into devotees of the Anglican Daily Offices – especially a generation raised not only solely on the Eucharist, but on popular music that is utterly alien to the majestic cadences of Thomas Tallis and John Merbecke. Thus they need your help in spreading the word.

In other parts of the country, notably the Mid-West, young folk, particularly university students, are filling the pews of churches that offer the choral Offices. And

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.

FOR RECOVERY: Gene, 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

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

IN MEMORIAM:

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:

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.

while they are drawn by the music, they are being held by the liturgy and the faith it expresses.

Meanwhile, if you are a Morning Prayer *aficionado*, you can help save the service you love for future generations by inviting some youngsters to join you one Sunday. And if you are one of those folks who is unfamiliar with the Offices give yourself a treat and come to a service where you can “be still, and know that he is God.” GPH✕

More to a prayer than a mere four short lines

The “Serenity Prayer” – composed by the famous 20th Century theologian Reinhold Niebuhr – is a favorite of many people who are under heavy stress. Indeed, it is virtually the official prayer of Alcoholic Anonymous. However, most of those who frequently resort this great prayer are familiar only with its first three lines.

*“God, grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.”*

That’s fine – as far as it goes. But it is a pity that they aren’t familiar with the rest of its wonderfully eloquent petitions. It is an elegant and economical summary of the greatest comfort God can give those struggling under the pressures of the modern world.

Here is the prayer in its entirety:

*God, grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.
Taking this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it.
Trusting that he will make all things right
if I surrender to his will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life,
and supremely happy forever in the next.*

Niebuhr (1892-1971) thought of himself, first and foremost, as a preacher and social activist. But the influence of his theological thought on social ethics and society made him a significant intellectual figure in America and Europe. GPH✠

St Stephen’s Anglican Church
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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

The Ladies Who Lunch
Wednesday, September 19th at 12.00 PM
Mother’s North Grille, 2450 Broad Ave. Timonium,
Reservations: Call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026

The Parish Life Committee
Sunday, September 16th,
In Quimby Hall, after the 9.15 Service

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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