

# St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH • TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

Volume XIX, No. 40 *A parish in the classical Anglican tradition* October 16th, 2018

FROM THE RECTOR

## Manners maketh man . . . or not as the case may be

The ugliness that has characterized what shamefully passes for political discourse in Washington represents a further escalation of the bitter partisanship that has been increasingly poisoning social relationships in the country since the late 1960s.

Once upon a time spirited partisanship was largely confined to the political arena, manifesting itself among the general public only at election times. Today, however, partisan acrimony has insinuated virtually every aspect of American life.

It is not just that many more people are voting straight party tickets rather than weighing the personal qualities the individual candidates and splitting the ticket.

Political partisanship is no longer solely related to the people to whom we give our vote. It now extends to the choice of the people with whom we elect to associate. The places where we worship even seem to be divided along partisan lines — liberal or conservative.

In fact, there's no escaping it. Even the products we buy inspire partisanship. A few years back we replaced an aging SUV with a Subaru Forester. It wasn't a political statement. But you'd never believe it from the reactions it prompted

"I never put you down as tree-hugging lefties," sniffed an acquaintance on learning of our purchase. Subarus are, it seems, regarded in some quarters at least as the "badges and tokens" of left wing political leanings.

Hopefully, the Subaru will protect us from the wrath of the proletariat when the revolution comes: Our Toyota pickup is probably regarded as tangible evidence of climate-change-denying, anti-environmental, gas-guzzling, rightwing extremism

Actually both vehicles were purchased for entirely practical reasons — price and utility. If we'd had the moola, we would much rather driven home with a Stutz Bearcat, or a Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith, or a 1954 Aston Martins, or a 1963 Cadillac convertible or a 1966 Ford T-Bird — or (what bliss!) all five of them.

But no matter: There is no place whatsoever, it seems, for the moderate, the neutral, or the apolitical on the battlefield of American social relations. Indifference to the vehement political disputes merely excites the antipathy of all sides.

The media's horror at the bitterness of the partisanship in Washington calls to mind the scene in the movie *Casablanca* where Captain Renault (Claude Rains) declares he is "shocked, shocked" to discover people gambling in Rick's Café.

Truth be told, it is the media that is in large part responsible for not merely for the bitter partisanship in Washington, but its proliferation into so many other areas of American life.

Hard though it might seem to believe, there was a time when politics were by no means a cause of social division. Political views were simply treated as personal opinions of no particular interest except at election time.

Back then a circle of friends was composed of folks of various political and religious persuasions united by common interests such things as freemasonry, the PTA, books, art, music, amateur dramatics, automobiles, sports and the like.

Politics and religion in no way hampered people's mutual enjoyment of each other's company. On occasion, however, such differences actually contributed to interesting and

informative discussions because, back then, people were expected to treat each other with civility and respect.

Back in the days of "Swinging London" dinner parties were tremendous, albeit occasionally raucous, fun. In those days, dinner guests were usually invited for their difference of their political persuasions — on grounds that too much uniformity of thought on any subject made for dull conversation. That, after all, is what diversity is supposed to be about.

Sad to say, all that had changed by the end of the 1970s. In New York, dinner parties in the media world — always self-congratulatory — had become relentlessly, not to say drearily, political. Parties even at friends' homes were either deadly dull gatherings of the like-minded or arenas for hand-to-hand political combat.

Weird though it might seem, dinners, cocktail parties and social gatherings in the Soviet Union and most of its satellites in the 1970s & 1980s were a good deal more enjoyable than they tend to be in today's London and Washington.

Sure, the political divisions profound, but, away from the conference halls and negotiating tables, conversation was

## 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:** 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, Jai & Scott

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

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**IN MEMORIAM:**

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**FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:**

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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.

generally good-natured, respectful and civil. Folks on either side of the divide who were anything less than courteous were not invited again.

What has changed here in America is not the profundity of political opinion? The political opinions of yesteryear were as strongly held as they are today — and, sad to relate, rather better informed. What has changed is our regard for civility, courtesy and tolerance.

Lamentably, we have become a society where rudeness and boorishness reign supreme. And the wellspring of this ugly disregard for common courtesy is the gross self-absorption fostered by our legal system, our body politic and, yes, the very media that bemoans its consequences.

In short, Washington's bitter partisanship is merely a symptom of our problem. And the only way to cure it is to treat the underlying disease. GPH✘

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

# Sign up to come to our Pretend Sleepover

Calling all Sunday School Kids! Wear your PJ's, bring your sleeping bag or favorite "Blankey" and Pillow to a night of full of fun!!!

On Friday, November 9th from 6 PM to 9 PM we shall be holding our grand **Pretend Sleepover** in the Parish Hall.

There will be Pizza, a movie ("Free Birds"), as well as bunches of games and crafts..

Calling all Moms and Dads! We invite you drop off your kids and have a few hours to yourselves!!!

Don't miss the sign-up sheet in the Sunday School Room..

Calling all Mr. Brock's students! Please volunteer to come and help out!! We really need you!

Hoping to see everyone there.

Lots of love!

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

## THE MONTHLY MUSIC SCHEDULE

### Sunday, October 14th

11 am – Choral Mattins

*Noble: Jubilate Deo in B*

### Sunday, October 21st

9.15 am – Choral Eucharist

*Sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir*

11 am – Choral Mattins

*Sung by the Gentlemen of the Choir*

### Sunday, 28 October

11 am – Choral Mattins

## 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 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: Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

11 am: Sung Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)

Choral Services (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

Noon: Bible Study

**Friday, 10.30am:** Bible Study

### MONTHLY & SPECIAL

TAKE NOTE: CHANGED DATE

## The Vestry Meeting

*Wednesday, October 24th, 7.00 pm*

## Ladies Who Lunch

*Wednesday, October 17th. 7.00 PM*

*at Basta Pasta, Timonium Road, Timonium*

*Reservations: Call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026*

## Cookie Walk 2018

*Saturday, December 1st from 9.00 AM to 12 noon*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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