

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

VOLUME XXX, No. 15 A PARISH IN THE CLASSICAL ANGLICAN TRADITION APRIL 30TH 2019

FROM JOHN DARLINGTON

The British Garden Party is coming soon!

Well, it is only a few days now (May 4th) until our annual British Garden Party, and there is still a lot to be done. The long-range weather prognostication given earlier by our resident forecaster, Fr. Hawtin, for good weather seems to be holding up so far.

The Parish Life Committee (PLC) is getting into high gear, but still looking for more volunteers to help with ramped up efforts of these last few days. The sign-up sheets in the Cadwalader Room still have vacancies that need filling. Those of us that have worked on previous Garden Party efforts know, that in organizing a successful event such as this, there always seems to be one more thing to do. We can never have too many volunteers, so if you have the time and inclination, your help in these next few days is critically needed and greatly appreciated.

A word about the "Grounds Crew". Friday morning May 3rd is the day that this all comes together *physically*. Tents and booths need to be assembled and erected early so that last minute touches can be completed. Although the work is not hard or strenuous, it does require a number of "hands" so the more crew that is available the easier it will be in time and effort for those involved. All Grounds Crew will rendezvous, rain or shine, on Church grounds at 9AM sharp!

Let us not forget that April 27 is the deadline to become a Contributing or an Ad Patron. Your checks and ad/instructions must be in on or before that date

Contributing Patron

Imperial Crown @\$100.

House of Windsor @\$75

House of York @\$50.

House of Lancaster @ \$25

Ad Patron

Quarter Page @\$25.

Half Page @50.

Whole Page @\$100.

If you choose to be a Contributing Patron, your name will be printed in the event program. Please indicate how you want your name displayed. Should the Ad Patron category appeal to you, the text of your ad should be included with your check. Either way, all checks should be made out to St. Stephens Anglican Church and deposited in Cindie Baker's mailbox which is in the Church Office just off the Cadwalader Room.

Finally, the week leading up to P Day will be the busiest. If you are contributing baked goods, or items for sale, please try to follow the delivery schedule, so that the roll-out plans can be adhered to . . . Let's Get With the Flow!

FROM THE RECTOR

There's nothing natural about loving neighbors

A caller on a radio talk show recently ventured to suggest that all would be right with American society if only people would love each other a bit more.

It's hard to quarrel with that. Clearly, if drug dealers loved addicts a bit more they wouldn't poison them with narcotics. If muggers loved their victims a bit more they wouldn't rob, maim and kill. If politicians loved their rivals a bit more they wouldn't slander and smear one another. And so *ad infinitum*.

There is, however, nothing especially profound about this thought. It requires the IQ of a genius to figure out that loving each other a bit more is the answer to almost

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 visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office (410) 560 6776.

FOR RECOVERY: Daniel, Leona, Charlotte, David, Bryan, Rachel, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Jan, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John, Adrian, Tom, Michell, Al, Kathy, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, Judy, Elizabeth, Wade, Sifa, Theresa, Lisa, Larry, Dan & Scott

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Bethany, Caroline, Ardis, Mavis, Melba, Sam, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Cindy, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Kath, Rebecca, Catherine & Elizabeth

IN MEMORIAM: Dorothy Lewis

THOSE WHO MOURN: Tracy Collins & family

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt. Col. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; USAF; Cpt Fiodor Strikovski, US Army.

all of society's ills -- at least those that aren't occasioned by accident or infirmity.

But the problem is not identifying the problem. If that's all there is to it, the Flower Children would have solved everything back in the 1960s. That's what their "love-ins" and "give peace a chance" songs were all about.

The trouble is that while we know things would be very much better if we all did love people a bit more, the sad fact of the matter is that we don't love each other even the tiniest bit more. Truth to tell, these days it seems that we love each other an awful lot less.

Nor should we find this entirely surprising. There is, you see, absolutely nothing natural about people loving other people in a generic sense. It is far more natural for us to be highly suspicious of each other. Indeed, not to put too fine a point on it, it is very much more natural for us to hate one another than to love one another.

Think about it: It is highly probable that we love our parents, our spouses and our children. It is probable that we feel affection towards most of our relations and most

people in our immediate social circle. But, as for the wider world, most of the people in it are suspect. What's more, the depth of our suspicion increases in direct proportion to the distance, literally but also socially, they are from us.

Where, then, does this notion that we should all love one another come from? The answer should be obvious to folks who go to church. Christians don't have much choice in the matter. Jesus commands us to love one another. Indeed, he doesn't give us an option in the matter.

Consult his Summary of the Law: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The fact that Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors is a sure indication that loving people outside our immediate circle of family and friends does not come naturally or easily. If it came naturally he wouldn't have bothered to mention it. If it came easily, he wouldn't have made such a big deal about it.

This solves the problem as far as Christians are concerned, but our talk show caller was most definitely not a Christian. Indeed, she spoke disparagingly of Christians as she was making her point. It is something of a paradox that so many non-Christians seem to think it is natural for people to love one another. How

could they possibly have gotten such a bizarre idea? After all, there is nothing in the Theory of Evolution that should lead them to believe that it to be the case.

The idea of folks altruistically loving other folks doesn't square very well with the concept of the survival of the fittest. The notion of folks trampling other folks into the ground to gain some slight advantage is rather more in keeping with orthodox evolutionary theory.

Nor, for that matter does the concept of altruistic love as a natural phenomenon square with modern thinking on the subject of ethics. It is utterly illogical for people who subscribe to the idea that there are no such things as moral absolutes and who practice "situation ethics" [ethics that change according to the situation in which they are being applied] to practice the sort of altruistic love the radio caller is advocating.

Love is not an abstract concept – or at least it cannot be if the intention is that it should transform us into kinder, gentler people. This sort of transforming love manifests itself in the way you *treat* people, not in the way you *think* about them.

Ethics that change according to the situation in which they are being applied essentially spring from an intrinsic cynicism and selfishness that is the complete antithesis of the altruistic love for which our radio caller so desperately yearns. GPH*

St Stephen's Anglican Church

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Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Very Rev. Guy P Hawtin, Dean & Rector
The Ven. Michael Kerouac, Vicar ·
Associate Rectors:

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki,
The Rev. M Wiley Hawks
and 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

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 British Garden Party
Saturday, May 4th at 11.00 AM to 3.30 PM

Choral Evensong
Sunday, May 5th at 6.00 PM

The Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, May 15th, 7.00 pm

Ladies Who Lunch
*Wednesday, Noon, May 15th,
Venue to be announced,
Information, call all Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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