

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

Polo - a game of princes played here in Maryland

Forget about movie stars! One of Britain's most popular heroes in the 1950s – for boys, at least – was Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. It was not so much that he appeared on postage stamps alongside the newly crowned Queen Elizabeth, no less important to us, he was a highly decorated war hero.

Prince Philip was on active service as an officer in the Royal Navy from the outset of the Second World until the Japanese surrender at Tokyo Bay – an epoch-making event at which he was present.

He graduated top of his class from Dartmouth, the Royal Naval Academy, and by the war's end had been Mentioned in Dispatches for Gallantry, and awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Palm and the Greek War Cross of Valor.

During the invasion of Sicily in July, 1943, as first lieutenant and second in command of the destroyer HMS *Wallace*, he is credited with saving his ship from a night bomber attack. The 21-year-old Philip distracted the bombers from their target by launching a raft with smoke floats.

His quick thinking – echoes of the great Admiral Horatio Nelson – enabled the ship to slip away unharmed. In 1952, following Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne, he left active naval service as a lieutenant commander in command of the frigate HMS *Magpie*.

All this is a rather long-winded way of explaining why one of our favorite boyhood summer sports was "bicycle polo." Prince Philip, you see, was an enthusiastic horseman and an avid polo player.

Naturally enough, we were keen to emulate our hero – especially if a risky sport, inviting grievous bodily harm, was involved. There was, however, no way our weekly allowances would run to a string of polo ponies, thus a trusty two-wheeled steed had to suffice.

But not just any two-wheeler would do. It had to be a bicycle with rear brakes operated by peddling backwards. The right hand, you see, was fully occupied wielding a croquet mallet (a cricket bats would serve in a pinch) and the left hand was similarly occupied with steering.

(Actually, it was also considered a good idea to disconnect the front brakes. Inadvertent application of the front brakes was virtually guaranteed to send the rider sailing over the handle bars.)

Other than back-peddling bicycles and croquet mallets, the only other essential was a cricket or field hockey ball. (Baseballs were probably used by American bicycle polo enthusiasts.) Tennis balls were hopeless because they bounced too much.

(I guess most mothers today would insist that a decent first aid kit (not to mention bicycle helmets) would be essential. After all, it was a rare game that did not yield a crop of grazes, bruises, lacerations and even the occasional bash on the head.

Mothers were generally not so finicky in the 1950s. So in those days, a grubby pocket handkerchief sufficed as first aid for most injuries.)

Rules, of course, were somewhat sketchy. None of us had the faintest idea of the rules of horse polo. So we tended to make the rules up as we went along. Games

were, thus, frequently punctuated by debates about "good form" and "bad form."

Basically it was considered "bad form" to deliberately whack another player with one's croquet mallet and to deliberately stick one's foot between the spokes of an opponent's bicycle wheel. Punching, biting, gouging and scratching were also considered bad form.

As none of us owed a watch, there was no fixed time for quarters, halves or matches. Games paused when most players were out of breath and formally ended when everyone was tired, hungry, thirsty or (on rare occasions) bored.

Sad to relate, children don't seem to play bicycle polo today. May be back-peddling brakes have gone out of fashion. Perhaps croquet mallets are not as robust as they were years ago. More likely, moms today consider the game's a tad too dangerous.

However, if you'd like to see the real thing, you might consider taking a trip to the Maryland Polo Club grounds

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

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

IN MEMORIAM: -Sally Fiske

THOSE WHO MOURN: Rosa Halbert

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

at 3663 Fallston Road, Jarrettsville, at 2.00 PM on Sunday, July 7th to watch the **St. George's Polo Cup**.

It is polo at its best – an exciting annual event sponsored by the **St. George's Society of Baltimore**. Why not make a very special day of it? The society is offering summer cocktails and a luncheon buffet for the subscription of a modest \$30. For details, call **Scott Watkins at (443) 253-4272** or the parish office. GPH✉

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School to run from June 24th to June 28th

This year's Vacation Bible School will run from Monday, June 24th to Friday June 28th, beginning at 9 AM and ending at 12 Noon. The theme will be "The Fruits of the Spirit." It is open to children from four to 11. There will be a modest \$20 fee to cover snacks, crafts and supplies. To register, please call the church office, 410-560-6776, with your name and address. Please bring the fee with you on the first day of VBS.

FROM THE RECTOR

Living with anti-Christians

America, judicially and politically, has become decidedly anti-Christian, and the Bible shows that persuading the faithful to collaborate in their own spiritual destruction is one of our opponents' oldest tricks. The Book of Daniel, for example, the Book of Daniel deals with the subject at length.

It tells how Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, following his conquest of Jerusalem in the 6th Century BC, was confronted with a problem remarkably similar to that facing today's anti-Christian secularists..

He ruled a sophisticated empire and the Jewish people were obstacles both to civil order and economic and social progress. They clung to a primitive and intolerant religion that asserted that there was only one God and that they were his Chosen People.

This God, moreover, held them to a ludicrously rigid moral code that made it difficult for them to live harmoniously with the far more enlightened subjects of the Babylonian empire.

Nebuchadnezzar decided win the hearts and minds of Judah's brightest young people with an intensive three-year course in Babylonian liberal arts and sciences at the University of Babylon.

Everything was free: housing, education and clothes, as well the singular honor of food and wine from Nebuchadnezzar's own kitchen. Those who graduated with honors would be given the

glittering prize of a senior post in the imperial civil service. And Daniel and his companions took full advantage of these educational opportunities. They became star students.

Daniel was well aware that the purpose of the exercise was eradicate his Jewish faith by overwhelming it with Babylonian culture and he accepted it without demur. However *Daniel 1:8* records: "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." Instead, he asked to be fed only vegetables.

What Daniel was doing was drawing a line beyond which he would not cross; establishing a point beyond which he would not compromise with the Babylonians. It was intended serve as a constant reminder of his faith. Equally important, Daniel and his companions maintained their spiritual purity through constant prayer and worship.

Daniel's example provides today's Christian with a blue-print for survival in an anti-Christian nation. It's vital to draw a line beyond which you will not cross. It's hard to avoid some elements of compromise with the secular world -- at school, in business, in personal relations, in politics.

But it's important to establish the point beyond which you will not go. If you don't draw that line, you'll find yourself on the slippery slope to apostasy. You can worship God made man or man made god, but you can't have it both ways. That's the way it was for Daniel. And that's the way it is today. 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 Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, 7.00 PM, June 19th

Ladies Who Lunch

*Michael's Restaurant, York Road, Timonium
Noon, Wednesday, June 19th
Reservations, call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026*

Vacation Bible School

*Monday, June 24th to Friday, June 28th,
from 9 AM tp 12 Noon.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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11856 Mays Chapel Road
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