

# St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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TIME FOR REFLECTION

## Lest we forget to give thanks on July the 4th

In nine days' time, we shall be celebrating Independence Day, the nation's birthday. Amid the flag waving, the patriotic speeches, the parades and barbeques, we would do well to spare a thought for the thing that made all the hullabaloo possible.

The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost as a mighty rushing wind and dancing tongues of fire turned a tiny group of fearful people into fearless evangelists who went on to transform the world with Jesus Christ's Gospel of Salvation.

They taught that every individual, no matter how high or low their estate, is equally precious in the eyes of their creator and that our most important duty, after our duty to love God, is to love our fellows as much as we love ourselves.

Over the millennia, this radical doctrine totally reordered what was once unashamedly referred to as "Christendom" and is now blandly – and inaccurately – referred to as the West.

It swept away the rationalizations and intellectual accommodations that permitted the tyranny of kings, the twin evils of chattel slavery and wage slavery, and the murderous revolutionary utopians who have sought to enshrine human beings on God's throne.

And nowhere has its effects been felt more acutely than in this land of ours. Contrary to what folks might be taught at school these days, America's founding fathers were inspired by the Christian vision animated by Christ's Comforter – a vision which holds that the most noble act people can perform is to lay down their lives for the good of their fellow men.

Such acts can take the form of lives devoted to the altruistic service of others – by no means solely in the military, but as teachers, nurses, doctors, scientists, clergy and folks who work with the poor, the needy, the troubled in spirit and the dying – all those selfless folk who commit their lives to the service of others.

But especially on the Fourth of July, we should pay homage the people who have made the ultimate sacrifice – the people who have, literally, laid down their lives to enable the rest of us to live in peace, freedom and dignity. Officer and enlisted, black, brown, white,

Native American and Asian, they have always been citizen soldiers who came to the colors to defend a country whose liberties and commitment to justice they cherished.

They have come from all walks of life – farmers and foundry men, bankers and bakers, stock brokers and stockyard hands, cabbies and cowboys – to

honor an obligation the general acceptance of which stretches back more than 300 years to the time when the first settlers set foot on these shores.

It is a sense of duty rooted in America's unique, intensely close relationship with that extraordinary book the Bible. This relationship, in turn, arises from the fact that from the very beginning this land, this blessed land, was regarded by those who settled it as a "Promised Land" -- a "Land of Milk and Honey."

It is by no means accidental that the people who stormed out of the Wilderness into the Land of Canaan 3,500 years were also citizen soldiers – men whose normal occupations were as far from soldiering as it is possible to get: herdsman, metal workers, carpenters, potters, fishermen.

These ordinary folk took up arms only when called

## 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, Michell, 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:** Those who laid down their lives for us.

**THOSE WHO MOURN:** A grateful nation.

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

upon to defend their faith, their homes, and their loved ones. When the call to arms came, the situation was invariably desperate. At the time the Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon in the days of the Judges, the whole land was under occupation by the Midianites, who came from what today we call Saudi Arabia.

And the man God had singled out to save the country was so frightened of the hosts of Midian, he was threshing his wheat in his wine press in hopes that the Midianite soldiers wouldn't find it – not at all your average run-of-the-mill superhero.

All-too-often the Israelite volunteers had to turn to unorthodox methods to make up for their lack of skill at the business of soldiering. King David was the prototype of the American Minute Man when he used his prowess with a slingshot on the hunting field to slay the giant Goliath.

Often they relied on inventiveness and command of technology to make up for deficiencies in numbers and military expertise: Often, they had nothing to rely on but faith that God would come to their aid, And God miraculously preserved them in much the same way that he sustained and preserved America during the Revolution.

If the benefits of living in here in America are great, the duties and obligations are great also. Young Americans have never shirked those duties and obligations – even at the cost of their lives.

Memorial Day – originally named Decoration Day – was instituted to enable us to express our gratitude to who sacrificed their lives in order that we should continue to enjoy ours. The poet Laurence Binyon paid tribute on behalf of all of us in a poem called "A Song for the Fallen": It reads, in part:

*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them . . . GPH✳*

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

## Vacation Bible School begins

This year's Vacation Bible School runs from Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday June 28<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9 AM and ending at 12 Noon. The theme is "The Fruits of the Spirit." It is open to children from four to 11. There is 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 ST GEORGE'S SOCIETY

## Watch the sport of princes

For an exciting afternoon out, visit the Maryland Polo Club grounds at 3663 Fallston Road, Jarrettsville, at 2.00 PM on Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup> to watch the St. George's Polo Cup?

It is polo at its best – an annual event sponsored by the **St. George's Society of Baltimore**. And 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✳

## 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 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](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

## The Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, 7.00 PM, July 17th

## Ladies Who Lunch

Noon, Wednesday, June 17th

Venue to be announced

Reservations, call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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11856 Mays Chapel Road  
Timonium, MD 21093

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