

# St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE TREASURER

## Please help keep the roof over our heads

*Old style flat roofs are particularly vulnerable to leaks and the 30-year-old roof over the Cadwalader Room is no exception. Indeed, over the past couple of years, it has had increasing difficulties keeping out the rain and snow. Sad to say, the time has come to replace it.*

*The Rev. Dan Bursi, an architect in secular life, has drawn up plans for a replacement that should eliminate the problems flat roofs present. The new roof will have a gentle slope that will enable it to shed rain and melting snow more easily.*

*Your vestry has sought bids for the job from roofing contractors and the replacement will cost some \$29,000. Donations to cover the cost will be most gratefully accepted.*

*Please prayerfully consider helping us keep the roof over our heads by sending your contribution to The Treasurer, St Stephen's Anglican Church, 11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21057. Mark your check "Flat Roof Fund."*

*God bless you – Bob Reynolds*

FROM THE RECTOR

## A political system that's at least good for a laugh

Politics is not generally my bag. I'm not in the least bit interested in how my friends or parishioners vote and I certainly disapprove of politics preached from the pulpit. But every now and then a few of the nation's self-anointed intellectuals manage to take me by surprise.

For instance, a mere 30 years have elapsed since the collapse of the Soviet Union and its European satellites, yet, judging by their recent rhetoric, a surprising number of manly younger folks seem to have forgotten the miseries socialism inflicted on the populations of the nations that embraced it.

True, by no means all practitioners of the system slaughtered their citizens with the alacrity of the Russians and Chinese. But the flaws inherent in socialism, both social and economic, proved to be so glaring that even the pragmatic Scandinavians have largely abandoned it.

If socialism failed to live up to its promises in small homogeneous nations like Denmark and Sweden, the havoc it wreaked on larger, socially, industrially and ethnically diverse economies was infinitely greater.

Great Britain, for example, endured 40 years stagnation and decline before it finally shrugged off the socialism imposed on it in the wake of World War II. Even so, its legacy of nationalized health care is still

ruinously expensive and, by American standards, horribly inefficient.

Despite its manifest deficiencies, a number of countries in the European Community are still enmeshed in its toils. The Greeks, whose economy has been devastated by decades of socialist nostrums, has just voted its socialist government out of office.

Italy, which has been similarly hamstrung, is witnessing a growing populist movement gaining strength with the promise of economic and constitutional reforms.

Indeed, the problems of socialism have long been the butt of Italian political humor – for instance in the story of an old socialist politician who is visited on his death bed by his life-long friend, a conservative Christian Democrat.

"I done for, Giovanni," says the socialist. "I've done so many bad things. I never went to mass. I never

## 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:** Catherine, Richard✘, Janis, Parisa, Daniel, 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 Ricard & Scott

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

**IN MEMORIAM:**

**THOSE WHO MOURN:**

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

made confession. I laughed at the Holy Father's funny hat. No purgatory for me. I'm going straight to hell."

"Oh, Luigi," says the Christian Democrat, "I'm afraid you're quite right. There's no escaping it. You're going straight to hell sure enough. But not all is lost. This is Italy. You have a choice."

"If I'm going to go to hell anyway, Giovanni," says the socialist, "What sort of choice can there be?"

"Well, Luigi," replies the Christian Democrat, "You can choose between the conservative hell or the socialist hell."

"What's the conservative hell like, Giovanni?" asks the socialist.

"It's really nasty, Luigi," says the Christian Democrat, "You stand up to you neck in a lake of sewage and the devil drives round in a speed boat, banging you on the head with a hammer."

"That's awful, Giovanni," moans the socialist, "What's the socialist hell like?"

"Well, Luigi," answers the Christian Democrat, "It's pretty much like the conservative hell. You're up to

your neck sewage and the devil drives round in a speed boat, banging you on the head with a hammer.”

“That doesn’t sound like much of a choice to me, Giovanni!” exclaims the socialist.

“Oh I wouldn’t say that, Luigi,” replies the Christian Democrat, “If I were you I’d choose the socialist hell. You know socialism – one day no sewage; another day no boat; another day no hammer.”

Actually, humor seems to be the one thing that socialism is actually good for. Take the Russians.

*Question:* Why do KGB officers travel in threes?

*Answer:* “One to read; one to write; and one to keep an eye on the two intellectuals.”

*Question:* What is the definition of the word ‘paranoiac’?

*Answer:* “Somebody who really knows what’s going on.”

My personal favorite, however, comes from the German Democratic Republic, more commonly known as East Germany. And it involves one of the most humorless political thugs of all time, Erich Honecker, the universally loathed General Secretary of the Social Unity Party, the East German Communist Party.

Honecker gets the feeling that he is not universally popular, so he goes *incognito* into the streets of East Berlin to discover what the people really think about him.

Approaching an ordinary sort of chap, he asks: “What do you think of Erich Honecker, the General Secretary of the Social Unity Party.

The man, clearly startled by the question, looks terrified. “Ssshush!,” he says, putting a finger to his lips and glancing furtively around.

“Don’t say a word,” he tells Honecker, “Just follow me and do everything I do.”

The man jumps on a bus and Honecker follows. They suddenly change to a street car and then take a train out into the countryside. Finally, the man jumps off the train and leads Honecker into the middle of a dense forest.

“Well, what do you think of Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Social Unity Party?” asks Honecker, catching up with him.

The man looks furtively over his shoulder to check nobody else is around and whispers: “Actually, I don’t think he’s too bad – but swear to God you won’t tell anybody I said so!” GPH✘

## St Stephen’s Anglican Church

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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)  
11am: 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, August 21st

## Ladies Who Lunch

Noon, Wednesday, August 21st

venue to be announced

Information, call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026

## Choral Events

As announced

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