

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

VOL. XXXI, NO. 3 A PARISH IN THE CLASSICAL ANGLICAN TRADITION FEBRUARY 4TH, 2020

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Please join us at 10.30AM on Sunday, February 9th

The Parish Life Committee is responsible for planning the parish's social life, and, as usual, it has an awful lot on its plate this spring. For starters, there is the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper to organize. It takes place on February 25th and is great favorite for all the family.

It is our proud boat that it is the best inflation fighter in Baltimore. The price has been the same for 30 years – \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for your first two children under 12; the rest eat free. It's great value, but it takes a lot of creative thinking to keep it that way.

Then there is the British Garden Party – the Anglican world's answer to the "Ethnic Festival." It is not just a fund raiser. It is an event St Stephen's puts on to entertain the entire Mays Chapel and Timonium community. This means it takes a good deal of organizing, but many hands make light work.

Everybody who crosses St Stephen's threshold qualifies for membership of the Parish Life Committee, so we hope you will join us on Sunday, February 9th, immediately after the 9.15 Eucharist, to plan the parish's social schedule. The time is 10.30 AM and the place the parish hall. at 10. We hope to see you there.

FROM THE RECTOR

Gratitude to God is not a show of patriotic zeal

Doctor Samuel Johnson, the sage of Fleet Street and one of my great literary heroes, authored many expressions that have found themselves a permanent place in the English language on both sides of the Atlantic.

One of the most famous was coined during the American Revolution. It is: "Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel."

It is an aphorism that has been widely misinterpreted in recent years. Johnson did not mean to assert that all patriots are scoundrels. Far from it. Johnson, himself, was a great patriot.

What Johnson meant by it is that when scoundrels are in danger of finally being exposed for what they really are, particularly in the political sphere, they can generally be relied upon to pose as patriots and wrap themselves in the flag.

These days patriotism, at least in academic quarters and the like, tends to be frowned upon. But while Johnson's aphorism might have had something to do with this, a more likely explanation is that patriotism has come to be associated with "Jingoism."

"Jingoism" might best be defined as a bellicose approach to world affairs. It comes from an poem in *Punch*, the English satirical magazine, summing up attitudes towards prospects of war with Russia in the mid-19th Century. It read:

*"We don't want to fight,
But, by jingo, if we do,
We've got the men,
We've got the guns,
We've got the money, too!"*

Patriotism, best defined as a deep regard for one's native land, is by no means the same "Jingoism." To be sure, some patriots have been known to express "Jingoistic" notions, as, indeed, have many scoundrels, but the two things are entirely different.

Unfortunately, however, in this age of rapidly increasing inarticulacy, patriotism and "Jingoism" have increasingly become to be regarded as synonymous. As a consequence any expression of regard for the country tends to be regarded as politically incorrect.

Until quite recently, for example, it was a time hallowed custom in many of America's Episcopal Churches to present the nation's flag after the Offertory and sing the fourth verse of Hymn 141: "*My country, 'tis of thee...*"

Sad to say, over the part 30 or 40 years, the practice has fallen into abeyance in most of the nation's churches – reflecting, I'd venture to guess, the notion that it is somehow politically incorrect.

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, Rachel, Elizabeth, Kim, Dorothy, Donna, Skip, Dan. Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Heidi, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Neal, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Jan, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John Tom, Michell, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, David, Wade, Sifa, Eileen, Ravi, Theresa, Lisa, Larry Ricard & Scott

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

St Stephen's is one of the few parish's that still maintain this ancient custom at most sung services. But, perhaps because it is so rarely practiced these days, some people are not entirely aware of the nature of the sentiments it expresses.

Indeed, I have heard it described disparagingly as "flag worship" – in other words that it is "Jingoistic." That, most emphatically, is not the case. The sentiments that actually underlie the custom are expressed in the words that we sing to accompany it, namely:

*"Our fathers' God, to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright;
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us with thy might,
Great God, our king."*

In short, far from being a vainglorious expression of national pride, this modest ceremony is, if anything, penitential in nature. It acknowledges the fact that the

the liberties we enjoy as citizens of this country are owed not to our own cleverness, or even that of the Founding Fathers.

Rather our liberties are derived entirely from God and are endowed on us, not by our forefathers, but by our creator. Moreover, if these liberties are to be maintained, it is essential for us and our nation as a whole to continue to enjoy God's almighty protection.

The final phrase "*Great God, our King*" acknowledges that he is the ultimate authority in the land and that the people we elect to lead us are actually supposed to be governing in his name.

In other words, far from "flag worship," this brief ceremony is an act of penitence – a weekly reminder how far we fall short in fulfilling our obligations to God.

This, in turn, is why we take the liberty of not performing this ceremony on major feast days, such as Easter and Christmas – days when we really don't need a "downer" like that. GPH✘

AN APPRECIATION

God bless low tech rice!

My dear old dad used to claim that the only way to be progressive was to be totally opposed to progress. His words struck a chord with me recently when I discovered that my mobile phone had fallen into the washing machine.

The reason it fell into the ghastly piece of machinery is that it has a very high I.Q. This means it is very choosy about what it will wash and how it will wash it. The mobile phone fell out of my top vest pocket unbeknownst to me as I tried to wrestle the clothes into a state acceptable to the machine.

When I recovered it, it seemed as dead as a doornail and all my contacts were lost forever. But we popped the thing in a bag of rice and three days later the thing sprang back to life. But by that time I'd sought a new phone. Still, I managed to transfer all my contacts to my new phone. So I can't really complain. GPH✘

St Stephen's Anglican Church

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Vicar: 410 878-5275 · Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Very Rev. Guy P Hawtin, Dean & Rector

The Rev. John Novicki, Vicar ·

Associate Rectors:

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. C. Daniel Bursi,

The Rev. Dr. Norman Flowers,

The Rev. M. Wiley Hawks & The Rev. Mark Newsome,

Mrs Happy Riley, Director of Pastoral Care

& Wedding Coordinator

SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Sung Eucharist

9.15am: Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

11am: 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

Parish Life Committee

meets on 10.30 AM, in the Parish Hall

The Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, 7.00 PM, February 19th

Ladies Who Lunch

Noon, Wednesday, February 19th

Venue: To be announced

Information: Call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

5.00 PM to 7.30 PM, Tuesday, February 25th

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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