

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM ALAN WALDEN

Let's face coronavirus with the facts, not fear

This was forwarded to me by Alan Walden, the veteran broadcaster at WBAL Radio and Television as well as many other famous stations, with the message: "As the author urges: Get a grip!"

While the doctor in question wishes to remain anonymous, his advice seems sensible and it makes a welcome contrast to the hysteria currently emanating from the airwaves.

I'm a doctor and an Infectious Diseases Specialist. I've been at this for more than 20 years seeing sick patients on a daily basis. I have worked in inner city hospitals and in the poorest slums of Africa.

HIV-AIDS, Hepatitis, TB, SARS, Measles, Shingles, Whooping cough, Diphtheria . . . there is little I haven't been exposed to in my profession. And with notable exception of SARS, very little has left me feeling vulnerable, overwhelmed or downright scared.

I am not scared of Covid-19. I am concerned about the implications of a novel infectious agent that has spread the world over and continues to find new footholds in different soil. I am rightly concerned for the welfare of those who are elderly, in frail health or disenfranchised who stand to suffer mostly, and disproportionately, at the hands of this new scourge. But I am not scared of Covid-19.

■ What I am scared about is the loss of reason and wave of fear that has induced the masses of society into a spellbinding spiral of panic, stockpiling obscene quantities of anything that could fill a bomb shelter adequately in a post-apocalyptic world.

■ I am scared of the N95 masks that are stolen from hospitals and urgent care clinics where they are actually needed for front line healthcare providers and instead are being donned in airports, malls, and coffee lounges, perpetuating even more fear and suspicion of others.

■ I am scared that our hospitals will be overwhelmed with anyone who thinks they "probably don't have it, but may as well get checked out no matter what because you just never know . . ." Those with heart failure, emphysema, pneumonia and strokes will pay the price for overfilled ER waiting rooms with only so many doctors and nurses to assess.

■ I am scared that travel restrictions will become so far reaching that weddings will be canceled, graduations missed and family reunions will not materialize. And well, even that big party called the Olympic Games . . . that could be kyboshed too. Can you even imagine?

■ I'm scared those same epidemic fears will limit trade, harm partnerships in multiple sectors, business and otherwise and ultimately culminate in a global recession.

■ But mostly, I'm scared about what message we are telling our kids when faced with a threat. Instead of reason, rationality, open-mindedness and altruism, we are telling them to panic, be fearful, suspicious, reactionary and self-interested.

Covid-19 is nowhere near over. It will be coming to a city, a hospital, a friend, even a family member near you at some point. Expect it. Stop waiting to be surprised further.

The fact is the virus itself will not likely do much harm when it arrives. But our own behaviors and "fight for yourself above all else" attitude could prove disastrous.

I implore you all. Temper fear with reason, panic with patience and uncertainty with education. We have an opportunity to learn a great deal about health hygiene and limiting the spread of innumerable transmissible diseases in our society.

Let's meet this challenge together in the best spirit of compassion for others, patience, and above all, an unflinching

effort to seek truth, facts and knowledge as opposed to conjecture, speculation and catastrophizing.

*Facts not fear. Clean hands. Open hearts.
Our children will thank us for it.*

FROM THE RECTOR

Coronavirus and mother's school of psychiatry

My mother had no tolerance for whining, moaning, sniveling self-pity or anything approaching panic. Her response to such would invariably be: "I belong to the 'pull yourself together' school of psychiatry."

I'd wager she would have little time for folks in panic over the corona virus. Her reaction to serious epidemics was: Stay calm and take sensible precautions. Don't let them impact normal life any more than necessary.

All of us children were vaccinated against deadly menace of tuberculosis. But there were no vaccinations to be had against influenza, measles, German measles, mumps and chicken pox. Contacting them was virtually inevitable and

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: Eileen, Rebecca, Catherine, Richard✕, Janis, Parisa, Daniel, Leona, 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, Judy & Scott

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

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.

mother simply took them in her stride.

Two children on our street died of scarlet fever – one of the most deadly childhood diseases. We were told to avoid playing with their particular friends, but life went on as usual.

Whooping cough was highly contagious and most of us caught it. Mercifully none of us died of it, and it did have a bright side. Children recuperating from it were bussed to the local gas works where fumes from the heaps of coking coal were believed to mitigate the symptoms.

For most of us the first visit to the gasworks was the last. We returned smothered in coal dust and our mothers decided the extra laundry was worse than the disease.

Infantile paralysis, as polio was known, was a scourge of an far greater order. The Salk vaccine had not yet been developed and carbolic soap was the best available preventative.

Children who contracted it were quarantined as they were with scarlet fever. The local swimming bath was closed, but not the schools. Otherwise life went on as usual.

In short, the human race in the past routinely coped with far more serious risks than coronavirus without the benefits to today's medical knowledge and modern public health practices. Mother would say prayer and commonsense precautions make sense. Panic does not. GPH✕

Easter Flowers For St Stephen's Altar

Here is a selection of beautiful spring flowers to decorate the church for Easter Please make your choice and return this form to the church office with your check by Holy Wednesday, April 8th. Flowers may be taken home after the 11.0 am Service

Your Name: _____

Lilies Small elite 6" 4-6 blooms @ \$10 (# of plants.....)

Field Azalea @ \$15 (# of plants.....)

Hydrangeas Four plus blooms @ \$20 (# of plants.....)

Hiacynths @ \$10 (6" pot) (# of plants.....)

Tulips @ \$10 (6" pot) (# of plants.....)

Total # of plants _____ Total amount enclosed _____

My gift is IN HONOR, IN MEMORY OF, IN THANKSGIVING FOR (please circle)

St Stephen’s Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093
Office: 410 560 6776 · Rector: 443 425-2420
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: Said 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

The Lenten Study continues

Wednesday, March 18th, 1.00 PM the Parish Hall

The Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, 7.00 PM, March 18th

Ladies Who Lunch

Noon, Wednesday, March 18th
Venue: Kooper, Padonia Road
Information: Call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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