

# St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE PARISH CLERGY

## A P.O. Box for the treasurer and plans for a “reopening”

In an effort to prevent the theft of checks mailed to the church, we have opened a Post Office Box for the exclusive use of the treasurer. In future, please mail your offerings to: **The Treasurer, St Stephen's Anglican Church, P.O. Box 6161, Timonium, MD 21094**. All other mail should be sent to the parish at our street address.

We have also learned that it is unlikely the missing checks have been stolen from the mail box in front of the church. The Postal Inspectors have posted notices on official U.S. Mail boxes in the area warning that mail has been stolen from them. The safest course would, thus, be to use only the mail boxes located inside Post Offices.

Meanwhile, when Governor Larry Hogan permits the state to gradually begin returning to normal many restrictions will remain in place. We expect, for example, be obliged to monitor attendance at services to maintain “social distancing” among non-family members.

This might present problems at our 9.15 AM Eucharist. The rule might also make running the Sunday School difficult as children generally like to be in close contact with one another .

Because of these constraints, we believe it best to celebrate the Eucharist at all three Sunday services until we are able to resume our normal worship schedule. This will enable parishioners who usually attend the 9.15 AM Eucharist to consider occasionally worshipping at the 8.00 AM or 11.00 AM services.

We will also continue for the foreseeable future the video recordings of Feast Day and Sunday Eucharists. These are posted on the **parish website** ([www.ststeve.com](http://www.ststeve.com)), **Youtube** and **Isaac the Eagle's Facebook** page by 9.00 AM every Sunday. You'll find them at [ststeve.com](http://ststeve.com) at the bottom of the Home Page, under “Recent Blog Posts.”

The midweek broadcast talks by the rector that we began in late April can be found on the website and will be continued every Wednesday or Thursday for the foreseeable future. God bless you all, **GPH✠ & JPN✠**

MORE ROGATIONTIDE RUMINATIONS

## Mixed blessings that move us farther from the land

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century steam power, almost overnight, transformed an agrarian economy that had existed largely unchanged since the Middle Ages into our modern industrial society.

But despite the sweeping nature of the changes steam power wrought, the vast majority of Americans were acutely aware of the role agriculture played in the maintenance of their standard of living. And because of this, they were no less acutely aware of God's vital role in providing their daily bread.

The technological advances that have taken place over the past 100 years, however, have far outpaced those of the previous century.

Innovations such as electric power, the internal combustion engine, nuclear fission, computers and the like have combined to create an industrial and commercial infrastructure way beyond the imaginings of earlier generations. Men who fought Indians in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century lived to fly in passenger jets. People who

had been driven to school by horse and buggy drove their own kids to school in automobiles.

Yesterday bookkeepers who had painstakingly kept corporate accounts in ledgers saw themselves replaced by mainframe computers, while today the mainframe programmers — a scant two decades later — have been edged aside by kids with personal computers.

Not unsurprisingly perhaps, each new advance, each new invention, each new industrial process has taken us further from the land.

If, for instance, in springtime at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, you paid a weekday call on Bishop Samuel Seabury, America's first Anglican bishop, chances are you would have found him ploughing his glebe land. That's how clergy earned their stipends in those days — on parish land.

But back then almost everybody in America, except the residents of a few large cities, relied for at least part of their living on what they could grow. It wasn't until the

## 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, Mitchell, 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:** Mrs Patricia Hall

**THOSE WHO MOURN:** The Hall family

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

mid-20<sup>th</sup> century that the industrial sector replaced agriculture as the nation's primary employer. Yet even as industry took over substantial numbers of families particularly in rural areas still supplemented their budgets by growing their own vegetables and even raising their own chickens, geese, ducks and livestock.

One September, when I was a boy, an elderly neighbor asked me if I would like to see her Christmas dinner. I was utterly beguiled by the notion of gazing on table laid out for Christmas dinner more than two months ahead of time.

I was even more surprised when she led me to a shed in the back yard. “What a strange place to have Christmas dinner,” I thought. All became clear when she threw open the door and there, in a hutch, stood a big white rabbit with pink eyes.

It wasn't just country folk who raised their own poultry and grew their own vegetables. City people were just as eager to supplement their budgets with home grown produce and eggs from their own chickens. Those that didn't have back yards rented patches of publicly owed ground for vegetable gardens.

During the Second World War, for instance, my friend

Howard Katzander, then lowly PFC, was based in London, England, and assigned to a U.S. Army team planning the D-Day invasion. Food – especially eggs and meat – was in very short supply and, when available, was strictly rationed.

Unlike the officers and NCOs, Howard was billeted in a bed and breakfast guest house. Like many enterprising Londoners at the time, the landlady kept chickens on her roof and, much to the envy of his superiors who had to make do with army rations, Howard never went without eggs for breakfast.

Today chickens on the roof are the stuff of distant memories. Industrial technology and factory farming are moving us further and further from the source of our food supply. And in doing so, they are also moving us further from God. At least they are moving us further from our appreciation of God's vital role in providing our daily bread.

Seventy years ago Rogation Sunday had an even more important place in many people's hearts than Christmas or Easter because a successful planting season was a first step towards a bountiful harvest — the difference between a bountiful Christmas and a long, hard and hungry winter.

Today, Rogation Sunday is often simply written off as a relic of a bygone era. But, then, today obesity is regarded as a health problem. This wasn't always so. Even when I was a

boy, to be plump was a considered sign of good nutrition. In many parts of the world this continues to be the case,

An acquaintance who came here from India told me of a childhood friend who had been doggedly awaiting for a visa to settle in the United States for 15 or so years. “

Why do you bother?” he asked the friend, “You've got a great job. You earn a lot of money. You have an extremely comfortable home. It's unlikely you'd enjoy the same standard of living here in America.”

“I know that,” replied his friend, “I just want to live in a place when even the poor people are fat.”

Our attitude towards folks who are plump must be an absolute puzzlement to hungry folks in the Third World. Indeed they, doubtless, consider us extremely ungrateful to God. It's a no brainer to say they would cheerfully exchange the constant threat of death from malnutrition and starvation for the more manageable diseases associated with obesity.

America is a land so bountiful that gratitude to God for the good things he showers upon us is an alien concept to a growing segment of the population. Instead of counting their blessings and resolving to use them wisely, many folks ungratefully grouse and complain about the problems arising from the misuse of plenty. Shame on them! GPH✘

## 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](http://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](http://evensong.ststeve.com)

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6pm: Evening Prayer

Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5pm: Family Eucharist

## For Our Country.

*ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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