

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE PARISH CLERGY

Hopes of "reopening" have been dashed by the county

When Governor Larry Hogan announced that the state of "lockdown" would be cautiously lifted, we hoped that we would be able to resume worship services, subject to the constraints of social distancing and the like. Our county executive, however, decreed otherwise.

With no end of this situation in sight, we will, thus, for the foreseeable future be continuing our video recordings of Feast Day and Sunday Eucharists that are posted on the parish website (www.ststeve.com), YouTube and Isaac the Eagle's Facebook page. You'll find them from 9.00 AM onwards every Sunday and Day of Obligation at ststeve.com at the bottom of the Home Page, under "Recent Blog Posts."

A new midweek "broadcast" talk by the rector can be found on the website every Wednesday or Thursday.

When the county authorities see fit to allow us to start returning to normal many restrictions — such as social distancing among non-family members — will probably remain in place. This might present problems at our 9.15 AM Eucharist. It might make Sunday School difficult as children 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.

Meanwhile, please remember that in a bid to prevent the theft of checks mailed to the church, we have opened a Post Office Box for the exclusive use of the treasurer. 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.

Indeed, as a general rule, it would be wise to post all of your important mail — especially letters containing checks or money orders -- exclusively in mail boxes located inside Post Offices. The Postal Inspectors have recently warned that mail is being stolen from a number of the free-standing U.S. Mail boxes in the area, and it is reasonable to assume that this explains the fate of some checks mailed to St. Stephen's. GPH& JPN&

MUSINGS ON MEMORIAL DAY

When it comes to heroes, forget the TV stereotypes

The television stereotype of hero rarely holds true in real life. Whatever you might see in the movies, heroes are by no means invariably young, confident and athletic. Sometimes they are old and wrinkly: Moses, for example, was nearly 80 years of age when God called him to lead the children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt.

If you think Moses was a bit long in the tooth to be a hero, he did, too. In fact, he spent best part of day trying to talk God out of the whole notion.

Oddly enough, he didn't plead that he was too old — vanity, I expect. But he tried just about every other excuse in the book to wriggle out of the job. "They won't believe a word I say." "I haven't studied theology." "I'm no good at public speaking."

But God wouldn't take no for an answer. And, much to Moses surprise, when he was put to the test, he passed with flying colors. Search human history, and you won't find a more courageous leader than

Moses or a leader with more grit and determination. And it took all of these qualities to transform the children of Israel from a cowardly, self-centered rabble into a disciplined, self-confident nation, dedicated to the service of God.

These great accomplishments, of course, were not entirely Moses' doing. The Lord told him before he set out for his first big showdown with Pharaoh: "Who hath made man's mouth? Or who maketh the dumb, or the deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."

In other words, Moses submitted himself entirely to God's will, and the Lord gave him the strength and the courage and the wisdom to see the job through.

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: The Very Rev. Mark Siegel

THOSE WHO MOURN: Mrs Victoria Siegel & family

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

Curiously enough, the first British naval captain to engage the German fleet in the Second World War was a man, who to his much younger colleagues, must have seemed almost as old as Moses. He was a Royal Navy reservist who'd been recalled to the colors to augment an officer corps desperately lacking both in numbers and experience.

Captain Kennedy was in his late sixties: While most of his contemporaries were playing with their grandchildren or working in their "Victory Gardens," he had been put in command of a superannuated destroyer and given the task of protecting a small convoy of merchant ships in the North Atlantic. -

The crews of those merchant ships reported that Captain Kennedy must have known his ancient vessel didn't stand a chance against modern warships when the German battle group was first sighted. But to their amazement, instead of turning away from the German warships, Kennedy ordered his helmsman to steer straight at them. After breaking out the battle ensign, he ordered his gun crews to open fire.

Kennedy knew his ship's guns were hopelessly out-ranged and out-classed. Most shorts fell short, but

Kennedy knew the longer his ancient vessel stayed afloat, the better the chance the merchantmen had of getting away.

Within an hour, Kennedy's old ship had gone down with all hands. All that was left was flotsam and jetsam: There wasn't even an oil slick. The old ship had been a coal burner. But Kennedy's sacrifice of himself and his men saved the life of every soul on the convoy.

Kennedy was not a man who had nothing left to live for. He'd married late in life and had just become the proud father of a son, who was never to know him. But he was a professional sailor and he knew his duty.

Gideon, who led the children of Israel in a battle to the death against the Midianites, on the other hand, was anything but a professional soldier. When the Angel of the Lord first spoke to him, he was threshing his wheat in wine press so that the Midianites wouldn't find it and steal it.

Nothing very brave about that – something the Angel clear with his ironic greeting: "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor."

Gideon wasn't a man moved by irony, urging, or insults, but He was a man of deep abiding faith. He understood that if God gave him a task, God would give him the means to carry it out without flinching.

St Stephen's Anglican Church

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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

9.15 am: Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)
11 am: Sung Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)
Choral Services (as announced) – evensong.ststeve.com

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6 pm: Evening Prayer
Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist
Saturday, 5 pm: Family Eucharist

Some 32,000 men flocked to his banner, but. God wanted to demonstrate that what matters is not numbers, but whether or not he is with us.

By the time God's winnowing process was over only 300 men remained. But with God's help they vanquished the Midianite host.

The story of Gideon has echoed wherever people have prepared to lay down their lives for the fellow men:

His example inspired the men at Brooklyn Heights, at Yorktown, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Paschendale, Dunkirk, Corregidor, Guadalcanal, on the beaches of Normandy, in the Ardennes, the Pacific, Korea, in the jungles and paddy fields of Vietnam, the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan.

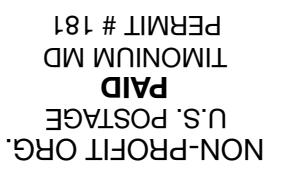
When we give thanks for the sacrifice of the brave men and women who have kept and preserved us a nation, we should also give thanks to God who gave them the strength and the courage they needed.

The reason we who are alive today are enjoying life in this great land has to offer is that God has inspired ordinary men and women to love their fellow men more than they love life, itself. And as Jesus Christ said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." GPH¤

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



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