

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

Volume XXXI, No. 52 A parish in the classical Anglican tradition December 17th, 2020

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

Schedule, Dec. 24th, 2020, to Jan. 6th, 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24th

4.00 PM: Children's Service & Blessing of the Creche

7.00 PM: Family Candlelight Eucharist

10.30 PM: Carols followed by
Solemn High Christmas Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 25th

10.00 AM: Sung Holy Communion

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Commemoration of the Feast of St. Stephen

Sunday, December 27th

8.00 AM: Holy Communion

9.15 AM: Holy Communion

11.15 AM: Morning Prayer

NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Feast of St. Sylvester

Thursday, December 31st, 2020

11.15 PM: Holy Communion

NEW YEAR'S DAY

The Feast of The Holy Name

Friday, January 1st, 2021

10.00 AM: Holy Communion

SECOND SUNDAY AFYER CHRISTMAS

The Commemoration of St John the Evangelist

Sunday, January 3rd, 2021

8.00 AM: Holy Communion

9.15 AM: Holy Communion

11.15 AM: Morning Prayer

THE EPIPHANY

Wednesday, January 6th, 2023

6.00 PM: Holy Communion

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: Duane, Pam, Eileen, Rebecca, Catherine, Bill, Richard✕, Janis, Daniel, Leona, Rachel, Elizabeth, Kim, Dan, Dorothy, Donna, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Heidi, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Neal, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Jan, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Gloria, June, Tom, Michell, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamelan Wade, Sifa, Eileen, Maxine, Theresa, Larry, John✕, Judy, Ian & Scott

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

IN MEMORIAM: Ardith Curran.

THOSE WHO MOURN: Stacey Lindsey & family.

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

FROM THE RECTOR

Lessons in tolerance for 'the Ministers of Truth'

Oscar Wilde famously declared that hypocrisy is the tribute vice pays to virtue. And nowhere is the truth of his observation more evident than in our politically correct elite's unceasing demands for America's Christian majority to show "tolerance" towards religious minorities.

What this means in practice is the complete suppression of public Christian and Jewish religious expression and the concomitant glorification of non-Christian religious forms and festivals – Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, pagan and neo-pagan.

This is not "tolerance" as the word is rightly understood. Rather it is rather the reverse of it: "tolerance" as defined by the Ministry of Truth in George Orwell's seminal novel *1984* – "war is peace," "love is hate," etc.

However there is such a thing as genuine religious tolerance -- as my wife Charlotte and I discovered years ago when we lived in a village, 3,000 feet or so up in Germany's Taunus Mountains.

Early on the first Saturday morning after our arrival we were awakened by the pealing of the bells of the village church. Soon our church bells were answered by church bells in the next village along the mountain range . . . then the next, and the next, and the next. To our amazement, the merry cacophony echoed through the clear mountain air for what seemed an hour or more.

The following Saturday we were awakened in the self-same way, and the following Saturday and the Saturday after that. Indeed, each Saturday morning was greeted with the cheery sound of church bells. Intrigued, we asked the elderly man who lived next door to explain the custom.

He told us that it started early in the 17th century, during the Thirty Years War, when protestant princes battled their Roman Catholic neighbors for the domination of northern Europe. By the end of the slaughter more than a third of the German population had been wiped out.

"Half the villages in the Taunus were predominantly protestant, while the other half were predominantly Roman Catholic," our neighbor said.

"But the soldiers didn't take much notice of who was protestant and who was catholic. They killed and pillaged quite indiscriminately. People discovered that whether they were protestant or catholic didn't really matter. They were equal partners in misery.

"Our village is mainly catholic. The sole survivors of the war were eleven women. And the situation wasn't much better in the protestant village just below us. Things were so desperate villagers began ringing their church bells just to tell folks in the other villages – protestant and catholic – they were still alive. After 30 years, it just became a habit."

The villagers' hard-learned religious tolerance was especially manifest at Christmastide. Churches in Roman Catholic villages would be thrown open for protestant Christmas services, while protestant churches would welcome Roman Catholics priests to celebrate Midnight Mass..

"The horror of the Thirty Year War taught us that our religious differences are not important," said our neighbor, "What really matters is we share a common humanity."

Somewhere in this there is a lesson for America's self-anointed "Ministers of Truth." GPH✕

Christmas Memorial Flowers

To make a contribution towards the Church Christmas decorations in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete this form and return it to the church office by Tuesday, December 22nd.

Make checks payable to St Stephen's Church and note for Christmas flowers.

In view of the Covid19 restrictions, this year's decorations will be a little less formal than usual.

We are therefore asking our parishioners and friends to make a freewill offering to defray the costs rather than order specific flowers.

Name of Donor _____

Total amount enclosed _____

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

St Stephen's Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093

Office: 410 560 6776 · Rector: 443 425-2420

Vicar: 717-398-6603 · 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. 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

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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