

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM JOHN DARLINGTON

Only two weeks left to go! Get ready to party!

It is later than you think! In two short weeks we will be celebrating St. Stephen's Annual British Garden Party on Saturday, May 4th. I have it on good authority (Fr. Hawtin) that we can expect another excellent day, weather wise, with sunny spring-like temperatures. However, just in case something should fall through, it probably would be a good idea to bring a light jacket or sweater in the event our usually accurate weather forecaster is not quite so.

As you probably know, our Parish Life Committee has been working very hard to put together a wonderful day of festivities, including gastronomic enjoyments, outdoor entertainments, wonderful baked goods for purchase, games of chance and an authentic British tea party.

Returning this year are the, always entertaining, Punch & Judy Show, and of course the Scottish Bagpipers. In addition to our Baked Goods table, we will continue to have our Book Sales, Jumble, the Booze Bros, and Flower tables. Along with the Punch & Judy Show, there are many activities planned for the youngsters and the young at heart, including face painting, flower pot painting, the "bubble station" and color table.

Now, if all this sounds like our British Garden Party is all put together, it is not! We need your help and quickly. First out of the box is neighborhood advertising and sponsorship. We would like you to distribute our Garden Party Posters, as well as solicit ads for our Garden Party Brochure from local merchants as you go about your everyday tasks. This needs to be done now in order to get the maximum advertising momentum.

These posters are available now and can be found in the Cadwalader Room. In addition, there are several additional tasks that need to be completed at various stages in our run-up to the big day. These include volunteers for the various food and sales tables, providing fresh baked goods, "white elephant goods for our "Jumble" table, and bottles of wine and spirits to stock the Booze Bros. stand.

You can bring your "Jumble" items and the wine & spirits bottles to the auxiliary kitchen for storage. Sign-up sheets for all the volunteer tasks can be found in the Cadwalader Room as well. If any of these volunteer jobs do not strike your fancy, tell a member of the Parish Life Committee, and I am sure they will find something for you to do.

Finally, we need a crew of "deck hands" to help erect the tents, tables and booths *the day before our big event*. This activity usually takes around three hours, depending on the number of volunteers who show up. It is not hard work, but we need a lot of "hands". Lastly, don't forget to consider being a Contributing or an Ad Patron. The following are the levels of patronage:

Contributing Patron

Imperial Crown @\$100.

House of Windsor @\$75 House of York @\$50.

House of Lancaster @ \$25

Ad Patron

Quarter Page @\$25.

Half Page @50.

Whole Page @\$100.

If you choose to be a Contributing Patron, your name will be printed in the event program. Please indicate how you want your name displayed. Should the Ad Patron category appeal to you, the text of your ad should be included with your check.

Either way, all checks should be made out to St. Stephen's Anglican Church and deposited in Cindie Baker's mailbox which is in the Church Office just off the Cadwalader Room. OK, now let's all get ready for the Big Day!

FROM THE RECTOR

The growth of the church: A miraculous achievement

If you were to ask Henry Ford or John D. Rockefeller, Sr. to name Jesus Christ's most significant accomplishment here on earth, it is unlikely they would refer to any of his miracles – not even his virgin birth, his resurrection or his ascension.

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: Daniel, Leona, Charlotte, Bryan, Rachel, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Robert*, Jan, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John, Tom, Michell, Al, Kathy, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, Judy, Elizabeth, Wade, Sifa, Theresa, Lisa, Larry, Dan & Scott

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Bethany, Caroline, Ardis, Mavis, Melba, Sam, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Cindy, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Kath, Rebecca, Catherine & Elizabeth

IN MEMORIAM: David Lashar and Joy Ramquar

THOSE WHO MOURN: Lois Lashar and family;
Jannette Mungroo and family

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

And they most certainly wouldn't mention his first miracle of all: Changing water into wine at the Wedding Feast of Cana. Such a miracle, they would point out, would be mere child's play for the almighty Creator of the Universe.

In all probability, the great American capitalists would single out the establishment of the Church and the transmission of the Gospel throughout the world as Jesus' most remarkable accomplishment here on earth

This might strike some folks as strange, but only because people today tend to take the Church for granted. After all, it has been around for an awfully long time – two millennia, in fact. And that is time enough and to spare for people here in the West to have grown so familiar with it that they are scarcely conscious of its existence. For them, it is simply part of the fabric of life – no more remarkable than the wallpaper in the kitchen or cereal they eat for breakfast.

They are, thus, entirely oblivious to the profound influence the Gospel has exerted in framing our society and shaping our thoughts and aspirations. Indeed, the Christian Gospel is the foundation upon which the whole of Western civilization is constructed.

They are equally unaware of the remarkable speed with

which this was accomplished. History tells us that within a decade of Jesus' resurrection, the Christian Gospel had been preached throughout the Roman Empire — tantamount to saying it had been preached throughout the whole of the known world.

Within 30 years of the Crucifixion, Christianity had its own separate identity and, furthermore, was believed to pose such a threat to the social and political order of the empire that full-scale efforts were under way to stamp it out completely.

Not only were the leaders of the Christian communities automatically arrested and sentenced to death, but the little people were treated in the same draconian manner. Rational, well-ordered societies like the Roman Empire do not behave this way unless they are confronted with a challenge of quite overwhelming proportions.

The threat Christianity was perceived to present can be gauged from the fact that religious persecutions were alien to the Roman tradition. The Romans were remarkably tolerant of foreign faiths and usually embraced exotic new religions with enthusiasm.

Christians terrified Rome's political class with their rejection of relativism. They taught that God is perfect in all respects — almighty, all knowing, absolutely good, absolutely loving and absolutely righteous. And as such, he holds the people he created to absolute standards of goodness and righteousness. No less frightening, they taught that all people — male, female, bond or

free, no matter their race, class or condition — are equal beloved in the eyes of God. What's more, they taught that man's duty to God comes way ahead of their duty to the state.

No message could be more calculated to dismay amoral, power-hungry politicians than that. No less terrifying was the speed with which the Christian Faith was spreading.

In AD 33, Christianity had been an obscure Jewish sect. However by AD 63, it had become not just a major religion, but a unifying force that transcended ethnic and national boundaries, binding peoples of all races, creeds and colors together in a common faith that taught that all their vast differences — in background, upbringing and economic circumstances — were superficialities in light of their duty to God.

When one recalls that politicians in places such as France and Russia regard McDonalds and Coca Cola — hamburgers and soft drinks — as a dire threat to their nationhood, one begins to appreciate how frightening this new religious faith must have been to the Romans, and would be to any dictator trying to compel a similar degree of loyalty.

Small wonder then that the Christian faith terrifies the members of the self-anointed secular elite in whose hands are the levers of power that control our national life, nor that it inspires a similar degree of dread among the leftist radicals who aspire to replace them. GPH*

St Stephen's Anglican Church

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Office: 410 560 6776 · Rectory: 443-425-2420
Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Very Rev. Guy P Hawtin, Dean & Rector
The Ven. Michael Kerouac, Vicar ·
Associate Rectors:

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki,
The Rev. M Wiley Hawks
and The Rev. Dr. Norman Flowers

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 British Garden Party
Saturday, May 4th at 11.00 AM to 3.30 PM

Choral Evensong
Sunday, May 5th at 6.00 PM

The Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, May 15th, 7.00 pm

Ladies Who Lunch
*Wednesday, Noon, May 15th,
Venue to announced,
Information, call all 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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