

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

VOL. XXX, No. 42 A PARISH IN THE CLASSICAL ANGLICAN TRADITION NOVEMBER 5TH, 2019

FROM THE RECTOR

Downsizing one's home: The ultimate nightmare

Let's face it! If there's a human activity that people genuinely dread it is moving house. Moving from one city neighborhood to another is a pain in the neck, but by no means as bad as moving from one part of the country to another.

With a local move, it is possible to keep things under a certain degree of control. There is no need, for instance, to pack fragile lamps and ornaments in cardboard boxes and entrust them to the less than tender mercies of the mover's men.

They can easily be loaded into the back seat of the family sedan or SUV. And who cares how many trips it takes to shift them all? Local journeys are no great problem.

Moving from one part of the country to another is a different matter altogether. It is not just that the packing turns out to be infinitely more complicated than one ever expected, but the unpacking seems to take forever.

When we moved house from New York to Baltimore, we found ourselves – to our shame – loading the moving van with some cartons we had failed to unpack from our previous move.

Charlotte used to accuse me of being a hoarder. This was entirely unfair. It is simply that I find it hard to throw away or discard things handed down in the family – both her family and mine, for that matter.

As a consequence, the walls of my small cottage are crammed with paintings, most rather fine, but some less so – such as a “primitive” seascape of a Norwegian four-masted barque, daubed by an unknown distant relative.

It is true that a few ruthless relatives have taken unfair advantage of my unwillingness to allow items produced by the inept, but loving hands of family members to go to the dump. But I am not a complete patsy.

After my father passed away, for example, my mother – for reasons of sentimentality, I guess – was unwilling to throw away his spare pair of false teeth.

“Here, Guy,” she said, “You like this sort of thing. You can have them.”

I politely, but firmly, declined.

“I can't understand you,” she protested, “You were keen enough to take your Great Aunt Elizabeth's false teeth when you had the chance.”

“Mother,” I said, “I was four years old at the time. My interests have changed over the years.”

But if moving from one place to another is a nightmare, downsizing is infinitely worse. It is not just your own stuff you have to roust out, give away, or otherwise dispose of, there is the stuff your children have abandoned in your cellar and attic.

It is easy enough to get rid of boxes of toy soldiers, once loved dolls and ancient electric train sets. They have collector value. But what to you do with the piles of moldering military equipment Uncle Sam lavished on your son during his military service?

When I was forced to downsize three years ago, I learned, the hard way, that it was the ultimate nightmare.

First, there was the library to consider. Charlotte and I were voracious readers and we had spent more than 40 years acquiring books on all manner of subjects – fiction, non-fiction and, of course, theological.

I donated the theological library – more than 3,000 volumes, all told – to the parish, but this still left the best part of 7,500 books on my hands. After giving away half of them, I still have some 3,500 that I cannot bear to part with packed up in cartons in the garage.

More problematic was the furniture, ornaments, vases and the like. Some of the stuff went to the children, other to the dump, but one of the problems was trying to figure out what would fit in the new, very much smaller, house.

Sadly, Charlotte, already suffering from advanced dementia, was unable to help me, and, while my daughters tried their best, our tastes and priorities are so different their assistance was limited.

Parishioner **Anne-Stuart Darrell** has come up with a solution to the problems of moving and downsizing – albeit just a tad too late for me. She has founded a company called **Maryland Move Managers, Inc.** the purpose of which is to take the pain out of saying farewell to the old family homestead.

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: Catherine, Richard✘, Janis, Parisa, Daniel, Judy, Leona, Charlotte, 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, George & Scott

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

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.

“It takes courage, strength and an unsentimental heart to downsize a lifetime of possessions,” says Anne-Stuart, “Many of us need a hand to hold, a strong back to help and a practical heart to enable us to look forward, not backward. Fear, sadness, guilt, that feeling of being overwhelmed and other stifling emotions may paralyze us from making decisions and taking actions to clear out the excess baggage in our lives.

“Maybe we just don't know where to begin,” she goes on, “Or perhaps we feel disloyal if we decide to donate Uncle Harry's tool chest or toss Grandma's chipped dishes. But why do we keep those things we never use?”

“The truth is, we deserve to be free of those things that just take up space, nag at us and no longer bring joy to our lives. There is peace with living a life unencumbered.”

If downsizing, or simply moving, is a problem for you why not give Anne-Stuart a call at **443-823-9792** to schedule a free one-hour consultation to see if her team of hard-working, kind, well trained and great problem solvers can help. GPH✘

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish meeting will take place on Sunday, November 17th between the 9.15 and 1.00 AM services. The rector and officers will present reports on the parish's progress during the year past and elections for the vestry will also take place.

Retiring vestry members offering themselves for re-election are not Mrs Collins and Mr Cobb: They are Mr. Brock Johnson and Mr. Peter Threadgill. Vestrymen Mr. John Karlsen and Mr. Brice Richardson have resigned and Mr Jai Seunarine and Mr. Thomas FitzGerald have been nominated to replace them.

FROM THE TREASURER

Please help repair the roof

The time has come to replace the flat roof over the Cadwalader Room. The cost of replacing it will besome \$29,0000. The Vestry has appealed for donations to cover the cost. To date we have received checks and pledges totaling rather more than \$14,600. So we still have a long way to go.

Please prayerfully consider helping us keep the roof over our heads by sending your contribution to The Treasurer, St Stephen's Anglican Church, 11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21057.

DUTCH TREAT: SPECULAAS

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups unsalted butter, 2 cups sugar, 2 large eggs, 1 1/2 teaspoons grated lemon rind, 4 1/2 cups sifted all purpose flour, 3/4 teaspoon salt, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves, 1/2 teaspoon ground cardamon

*Cream the butter, then cream the sugar until the mixture is very light. Beat in the eggs and lemon rind. Sift the flour with the remaining ingredients and blend well with the creamed mixture. The cookies can be rolled to a depth of 1/3 inch and cut into desired shapes or pressed into a **spekulaas** board, which has been floured, using a pastry brush to push flour into the pattern. Press the dough into the board and level it off to a depth of 1/3 inch, by drawing a thin bladed sharp knife across the board. Sometimes the dough handles with greater ease when chilled. Unmold by holding board over a cookie sheet and tapping lightly. A carved **springerle** rolling pin can also be used. Roll dough to 1/3 inch in thickness, then roll with floured **springerle** rolling pin. Cut between the **springerle** designs and transfer with a spatula to the cookie sheet. Bake in a preheated 375 F oven until very delicate brown 6 to 12 minutes depending on the thickness and circumference of the cookies. This recipe can be easily halved.*

St Stephen's Anglican Church

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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)
11 am: 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 Cookie Walk

*Cookie Walk will take place in the Parish Hall at
9.00 AM, December 14th*

The Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, 7.00 PM, November 20th

Ladies Who Lunch

*Noon, Wednesday, November 20th
Venue: To be announced*

Information: Call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026

The Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, November 17th

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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