

St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church, Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XX, Number 22

Edited by Anne Hawkins

June 9th, 2009

FROM THE RECTOR

Blame discourtesy for our bitter partisanship

RECENTLY we have been treated to much wailing and gnashing of teeth in the media about the bitterly partisan atmosphere in Washington. Actually, it is hard to understand what all the fuss is about. There's no reason why Washington should be any less partisan than the rest of the country.

It's hard to believe the media hasn't noticed that bitter political partisanship has been afflicting social relationships in America since at least the late 1970s. Indeed, bitter partisanship is by no means confined to the political arena. It has insinuated itself into virtually every aspect of American life.

Political partisanship is no longer solely related to the people to whom we give our vote. It now extends to the choice of the people with whom we elect to associate. The places where we worship even seem to be divided along partisan lines – liberal or conservative.

In fact, there's no escaping it. Even the products we buy inspire partisanship. A couple of weeks ago my wife had to replace her ancient SUV. After much research and deliberation, she decided on a Subaru.

"I never put her down as a tree-hugging leftie," sniffed an acquaintance on learning of her purchase. Subarus are, it seems, regarded in some quarters at least as the "badges and tokens" of left wing political leanings.

Hopefully, her Subaru will protect me from the wrath of the

Return of the best value in Baltimore!

SILLY SUMMER SUPPERS

Every Thursday at 6.00 PM
beginning June 11th, 2009

Menu: Salad, Entree & Dessert -- delicious!
Just \$10 per adult ■ Children \$5

Beverages: Wine, \$3 per glass; Soda, \$2

proletariat when the revolution comes: My Ford Explorer, you see, is apparently an unequivocal expression of gas-guzzling, anti-environmental, rightwing extremism

As a matter of fact both vehicles were purchased for entirely practical reasons – price and utility. Given our 'druthers, we would rather own a Stutz Bearcats, or a 1954 Aston Martins, or a 1963 Cadillac convertible or a 1966 Ford T-Bird.

But no matter: There is no place whatsoever, it seems, for the moderate, the neutral, or the apolitical on the battlefield of American social relations. Indifference to the vehement political disputes merely excites the antipathy of all sides.

The media's horror at the bitterness of the partisanship in Washington calls to mind the scene in the movie *Casablanca* where Captain Renault (Claude Rains) declares he is "shocked, shocked" to discover people gambling in Rick's Café.

Truth be told, it is the media that is in large part responsible for not merely for the bitter partisanship in Washington, but its proliferation into so many other areas of American life.

Hard though it might seem to believe, there was a time when politics were by no means a cause of social division. Political views were simply treated as personal opinions of no particular interest except at election time.

Back then a circle of friends was composed of folks of various political and religious persuasions united by common interests such things as freemasonry, the PTA, books, art, music, amateur dramatics, automobiles, sports and the like.

Politics and religion in no way hampered people's mutual enjoyment of each other's company. On occasion, however, such differences actually contributed to interesting and informative discussions because, back then, people were expected to treat each other with civility and respect.

Indeed, when Charlotte and I were young in cosmopolitan

London, dinner parties were tremendous, albeit occasionally raucous, fun. In those days, dinner guests were usually invited for their different political persuasions – on grounds that too much uniformity of thought on any subject made for dull conversation.

Sad to say, all that had changed by the end of the 1970s. In New York, dinner parties, in the media world at least, had become relentlessly, not to say drearily, political. Parties even at friends' homes were either deadly dull gatherings of the like-minded or arenas for hand-to-hand political combat.

Weird though it might seem, dinners, cocktail parties and social gatherings in the Soviet Union and most of its satellites in the 1970s & 80s were a good deal more friendly and enjoyable than they tend to be in today's London and Washington.

Sure, the political divisions between us were profound, but away from the negotiating table debates were generally good-natured, respectful and civil. Folks on either side of the divide who were anything less than courteous were not invited again.

What has changed here in America is not the profundity of political opinion. The political opinions of yesteryear were as strongly held as they are today. The thing that has changed is our regard for civility, courtesy and tolerance.

Sad to say, we have become a society where rudeness and boorishness reign supreme. And the wellspring of this ugly disregard for common courtesy is the gross self-absorption fostered by our legal system, our body politic and, yes, the very media that bemoans its consequences.

All three have combined to drive the wellspring of courtesy and tolerance in our society – the teachings of the Christian faith – from the public square. As a consequence, "do as you would be done by" has been replaced by "do what you will."

In short, Washington's bitter partisanship is merely a symptom of our problem. And the only way to cure it is to treat the underlying disease. **GPH✕**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Summer courses from our new Anglican seminary

THE NEWLY-established Anglican Seminary, **Holy Trinity Theological Seminary**, is offering an exciting summer course on St. Thomas Aquinas. The instructor will be The Rev. John Worgul, Dean of Holy Trinity Seminary.

The course is academically more demanding than the four-day Prayer Book course which started on June 7th. It will run for 11 Monday evenings from June 15th to August 24th. The cost to audit the course is only \$150, which works out at about the price of a dozen evenings at the movies.

Thomas Aquinas is one of the church's most fascinating theologians. With him we reach the pinnacle of Medieval thought. We do well to think of him sitting upon the shoulders of all the best thinkers of his time, both classical Greco-Roman as well as Christian. As for philosophy, he not only accomplishes the incredible task of baptizing Aristotle, but weaves together Plato and Aristotle into one beautiful tapestry.

Like Augustine of Hippo, Aquinas is larger than life, and his thought is so cosmic and universal that we will only be able to scratch the surface of his thinking. We will strive to gain from this course a basic idea of the contours of his thought and a sense of his deep spirituality.

For further details about these courses, contact The Rev. John Worgul at Tel: 410-861-6876 or on the Internet at frjworgul@yahoo.com. Registrations for the Prayer Book Course close on June 7th, though we would appreciate as early notice as possible.

FROM THE YOUTH LEADERS

Thank you for your generosity

THE KINDNESS of St. Stephen's parishioners is quite overwhelming. Thanks to your unstinting support, we have raised the money to send all of our young people to summer camp.

Every year, there are children whose home economic circum-

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sunday, June 14th, 2009**

8:00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION
The Epistle: I St. John 4:7-1-21
The Gospel: St. Luke 16:19-31
11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalm 49
First Lesson: Job 21:17-33
Second Lesson: St. Luke 16:19-31

stances make it difficult for them come up with \$375 to pay for the week-long camp, This year the recession has not only bitten deep into parish finances, it has also made things hard for young families to spare money for "luxuries" like the summer camp.

But you, the parishioners of St. Stephen's, have come through in spades. Your support for our Youth Group's Sunday Brunch was so generous that not only will all of our parish youngsters be able to attend camp, there is money left over to help needy kids in other parts of the diocese to pay their way. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. **DIANE, JEANETTE & MARTHA**

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

Trinity Sunday

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity; We beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 186

**✠ St. Stephen's Traditional ✠
Episcopal Church**

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093
Tel.: Office (410) 560-6776; Night 665-1278
Web Address: <http://www.ststephens-md.org>

RECTOR: The Ven. Guy P. Hawtin
ASSOCIATE RECTOR: The Rev. James V. Johnson, Jr.
VICARS: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley, The Rev. Robert Menas & The Rev. Jonathan Filkins
ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric
DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)
WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)

SUNDAY SERVICES
8.00am -- Holy Communion
9.15am -- Holy Communion (Nursery & Church School)
11.15am -- Morning Prayer (Nursery)
(1st. Sun. of the month: Holy Communion at 11.15am)

WEEKDAY SERVICES
Wednesday: 6.00pm Evening Prayer
Friday: Noon: Healing Eucharist
Saturday: 5.00PM Family Eucharist.

✠ 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 list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the office at 410 560 6776.

RECOVERY: Catherine, Algin, Sam, Rosemary, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, James, Patty, Antonio, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Rosemarie, Debbie, Jack, Grace, Bob, Fran, Doris, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, Polly, Katherine, Helen; William, Betty, Cal, Wendell, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Dorcas, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom, Lelillah, Jennifer, Miriam, Harriet, Karen, Steve, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Marian, Edith Anne, Steven, Jeanne, Judith, Angela, Tammy; Ellen, Jim, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Robert, Christine, Ruth, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, George, Bryan, Jason, Jane, Joan, Frances, Ernie, Pat, Lynn, Michael, Ray, Leslie, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Robert, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Rachel, Laura, Stacey, Frank, Alma, Christine, John, Henry, Naomi, Pam, John, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Elizabeth, Gloria, Lee Emily, Elsie, Bruce, Regina, Lewis, Madolin, Eudora, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, Mackie, Jody, Sheila, Jo Anne, Thomas, Jeanne, Sister Catherine-Grace, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Rebecca, Dorothy, Joanne, ✠Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Geraldine, Maxine, Ann Sharon & Dennis.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Donna, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Georgetta, Carolyn, Perry, Suzanne, Tony, Robert, Doris, Drake, The Norris family; Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, David, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Tom, Susan, Debbie, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, Jo Anne, Mary, Gregory, Isabel, Bobby, Dorothy, Harriet, Darren, Scott, Rebecca, William, Charles, Joyce, Asfa, Eleanor, Kathy, Linda, James, Barry, Ann, Evelyn, Jeanette, Elizabeth, Virginia, Mildred, Chris, Micki, Stephen, Erik, Carol, Sandra, Elsie, Rhae, John, Robert, Mary, Michael & Loyal.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Alex Bursi, US. Navy; Capt. Charles Bursi & Lt. Col. Harry Hughes, U.S. Air Force; Lt. Col. R. J. Lytle & PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, U.S. Army.

FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Francis J Darrell and Ingrid Soper.

**THE HYMNS FOR
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Sunday, June 14th, 2009

PROCESSIONAL: 366 (Engelberg)
All praise to thee, for thou O King divine
GRADUAL HYMN: 277 (Old Hundredth)
From all that dwell below the skies
SERMON : 288 (Hanover)
O worship the King, all glorious above
COMMUNION: 204 (Adoro te devote)
Humbly I adore thee
RECESSIONAL: 304 (Beecher)
There's a wideness in God's mercy

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Episcopal Church**

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