

St. Stephen's News

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

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

July 14th, 2009

FROM THE RECTOR

A few reflections on the American Revolution

THE AMERICAN Revolution is unique among the many revolutions that have taken place since the Surrender at Yorktown -- not least in that it is the one revolution that did not consume its authors or its children.

And this is because it is unique in a more fundamental way: Contrary to the contentions of the politically correct, it is the only revolution that was animated by a genuine spirit of Christianity. Far from seeking to impose any particular political or religious vision on people, the purpose of the American Revolution was to enable individuals to exercise their God-given gift of free will.

This is what was meant when the men who drafted and signed the Declaration of Independence, affirmed that our Creator has endowed each and everyone of us with the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Certainly, the founding fathers expected that our individual pursuit of happiness would, somehow or other, involve the practice of some form of the Christian faith -- that's what they

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meant by the word "religion." But they did not seek to dictate what brand of Christianity people should profess or, indeed, that they should espouse any religion at all. Indeed, they left the question of religious belief entirely up to the individual.

In short, they were careful not to tamper with one of the most fundamental human yearnings: Freedom to make our own decisions about everything, including politics and religion: right or wrong, wise or foolish. This might seem perfectly reasonable notion today, but at the time it was an entirely novel concept.

This is the critical difference between the American Revolution and the other great revolution of the 18th Century, the French Revolution. The French revolutionaries claimed to have been inspired by the American example. But this is true only to a superficial degree.

The French revolutionaries were not seeking to uphold the God-given rights of the individual to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Quite the opposite, in fact. Theirs was a collectivist vision. The motto by which they defined their enterprise was "liberty, equality and fraternity." Their aim was to subordinate the individual to the common good -- an entirely theoretical concept defined by a political elite.

But the fundamental difference between the American and French revolutions lies not so much in the visions of the protagonists as in their respective religions. The Americans were inspired by the teachings of Jesus and the belief that each one of us is equally beloved by his Creator and endowed with certain inalienable rights.

The French revolutionaries, by contrast, worshipped an entirely different God: the mind of man. They acknowledged no higher authority than that of human reason. In fact, they instituted worship of the "Goddess of Reason" as France's official state religion -- abandoning the public worship of the human mind only when the appalling consequences of it brought human reason into disrepute.

It is not accidental that the fruits of the American Revolution have been a degree of human intellectual achievement and material prosperity hitherto unrealized by the human race.

History teaches us we'll continue to prosper so long as we uphold the rights endowed upon the individual by our creator.

Nor, I would further contend, is it accidental that the fruits of French Revolution and the others it has inspired -- notably the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, the Nazi revolution in Germany, the Fascist revolution in Italy, Mao's revolution in China, Pol Pot's revolution in Cambodia -- has been a tidal wave of misery and death unprecedented in human history. While God is a benevolent creator, human reason turns out to be an insatiably blood-thirsty tyrant.

If you've ever puzzled over the increasingly brutal history of the two centuries that have past since our founding fathers first issued the Declaration of Independence, it is vital to understand that the two revolutionary visions are utterly incompatible. It is impossible to reconcile governance founded on the principle of the divinely endowed rights of the individual with a collectivist vision directed by the political and sociological fads and fancies derived from human reason.

Small wonder then that young Americans have been called upon many times over the past 225 years to shed their blood, indeed to lay down their lives, to uphold the rights and worth of the individual against the dictates of the human intellect. Few of them have been philosophers.

But most of them have been instinctively aware that their obligation to fight was rooted in America's special and intensely close relationship with the Bible -- a relationship recognized at the very beginning when the settlers hailed America as a "Promised Land," a "Land of Milk and Honey."

However we who worship the Creator that has endowed us with inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness need to remember there are people -- at home and abroad -- who worship that other god, the god of human reason. They are true believers who will never abandon striving to subordinate our God-given rights to some fashionable collectivist vision of the "common good."

After the Constitutional Convention, a woman asked Benjamin Franklin what sort of government the participants had given America. "A republic, ma'am," Franklin replied, "... if you can keep it."

Let us pray we have the courage, the wisdom, the vision and, last but not far from least, the charity to keep it -- and not merely for our sakes, but for the sake of the entire world. **GPH**

Join us to hear

ST. STEPHEN'S CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS CHORAL EVENSONG

6.00 PM Sunday, August 2nd, 2009

FROM THE TREASURER

Pity the poor treasurer in earnest this summer

ABOUT this time of year I usually start writing tongue-in-cheek articles beginning "Pity the poor treasurer . . ." They are intended gentle reminders that the parish's bills don't take a holiday when our parishioners set off on vacation. The message is that we would much appreciate you paying your pledges before you go away rather than after you come back.

The reason for this is that sacred institutions -- in common with many secular ones -- suffer from cash flow problems in the summer months. Your kind response my reminders over the years have enabled us to get through the summer doldrums without having to dip too deeply into our modest reserves.

This year, however, is different. The recession continues to bite hard. Overheads have been rising -- and rather more steeply than usual. At the same time, the summertime cash flow blues are a much deeper shade than usual.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Sunday, July 19th, 2009

8:00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Roman 6:3-11

The Gospel: St. Matthew 5:20-26

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 94:1-22

First Lesson: Genesis 4:1-16

Second Lesson: St. Matthew 5:20-26

I and the vestry would very much appreciate it if you were able to help us out this summer by bringing your pledges up to date before you head for the hills or the seaside. Of course, we understand that some folks will find it difficult to do so. Summer sometimes spells cash flow shortages for people as well as parishes.

But if you are able to bring your pledge up to date without putting yourself into the poor house, I'll guarantee there's one parish treasurer who'll fervently give thanks for your thoughtfulness. **God bless & bon voyage, BILL HAWKINS**

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE

Please give blood on July 13

OUR NEXT Community Blood Drive is scheduled to take place in St. Stephen's Parish Hall on Monday, July 13th. The Red Cross team will be at the church from 3.30 PM to 8.00 PM. Please call me, Anne Hawkins, at 410-308-2771 or the church office, to make an appointment to your life saving donation.

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

Fifth Sunday After Trinity

GRANT, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in

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

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093
Tel.: Office (410) 560-6776; Rectory (410) 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

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.

all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*
Book of Common Prayer. Page 195

✠ 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: Carl, Charlotte, 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. Le-liliah, 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: Col. Scott Taylor, U.S. Army, Alex Bursi, U.S. 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.

**THE HYMNS FOR THE
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Sunday, July 19th, 2009

PROCESSIONAL: 276 (Nun danket)
Now thank we all our God

GRADUAL HYMN: 404 (Song 67)
My God, accept my heart this day

SERMON : 353 (Caithness)
Majestic sweetness sits enthroned

COMMUNION: 190 (Luise)
Let thy blood in mercy poured

RECESSIONAL: 489 (Sicilian Mariners)
Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

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