

St. Stephen's News

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

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

August 11th, 2009

FROM THE RECTOR

It takes a long attention span to avoid apostasy

STUDYING the history of ancient Israel is not for the faint hearted. It is blood curdling and tediously predictable. That is the nature of sin. But the truly disquieting thing about it is the light it shines on our own society.

The first 700 years or so of Israel's existence demonstrate that the human attention span amounts to little more than 40 years. Israel's pre-exilic history is nothing more than extended episodes of gross apostasy punctuated by tragically brief, swiftly forgotten, spells of virtuous living.

Forty years after the conquest of the Promised Land, for example, the Israelites had cast aside the God who had led them to victory and were "whoring after" the false gods of the people they had conquered.

After the 29-year reign of the virtuous King Hezekiah – itself a mere punctuation mark in best part of two

This claim is misleading in as much as that Britain is a highly regulated welfare state. The financial benefits of killing disabled children would, thus, accrue to the state, not to the children's parents.

The arguments for any form of euthanasia should be exceedingly disturbing, especially to the dwindling band of folks familiar with the history of the Third Reich – an evil empire overthrown at horrendous cost in human suffering just over 60 years ago.

They are chillingly evocative of the Nazi propaganda campaign in the 1930s that ushered in laws mandating the euthanasia of the mentally and physically disabled.

Initially, the laws were applied only to infants, but within a very short time large numbers of the adult mentally ill were being shipped to the experimental extermination center in a clinic just outside the idyllic little town of Idstein in the Taunus Mountains.

Not long after that, the diagnosis of "mental disability" was applied to an increasingly wide range of people, including habitual criminals and homosexuals, while the ranks of the physically disabled were deemed to include "undesirable" racial types. Very soon the Holocaust was under way.

I wouldn't dream of equating of earnest, hard-working American physicians and British obstetricians and gynaecologists with the monsters who staffed Hitler's extermination camps. But the German medical professors whose theories about the comparative value of lives empowered the Nazis to implement their hideous agenda were no less honest, earnest and hard working than the U.S. and U.K. advocates of utilitarian end of life policies.

Moreover the theories, ancient and modern, are all based on the same false assumptions. Not least, they presume that the severely disabled and elderly contribute little of value to society. Tell that to Helen Keller and the host of others who have overcome grievous handicaps to inspire, educate and inform their fellow men!

We live in an apostate and dangerous world and, if we are to survive, we need to develop attention spans a mite longer than those in ancient Israel. **GPH✘**

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centuries apostasy – came 55 years of the most dissolute rule by his son, the evil King Manasseh. You get the picture?

This would not, of itself, be quite so worrisome were it not for the clear parallels we see in our own time. It is not solely the increasingly zealous efforts to eradicate all traces of America's Christian heritage, though this should be disturbing enough.

It is the way in which the coming generation seems ignorant of lessons painfully learned over the past half century. The media is replete with examples.

For instance, among the proposals apparently contained in the Health Care legislation currently under debate in Congress are mandatory end of life counselling for older people and the limitation of health care for the elderly. If this is not the actual practice of euthanasia, it is a major step towards it.

The most shocking thing about such ideas is their source – physicians and other medical professionals whose calling, one might reasonably have assumed, was to prolong life not to curtail it.

Sadly, such thinking is making its way into the mainstream of Western medicine. Indeed, The Netherlands has embraced euthanasia – voluntary and involuntary – for decades, while in Britain the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology has been calling for euthanasia for seriously disabled new-borns.

The college, which is supported on the issue by a number of leading geneticists and bio-ethicists, has declared that "active euthanasia" should be considered to spare parents the emotional and financial burdens associated with the upbringing of such children.

Join us to hear

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

6.00 PM Sunday, September 6th, 2009

FROM THE CHURCH WOMEN

Lunch with the ladies on Wednesday, August 19th

GOOD COMPANY, good food, and good conversation in comfortable surroundings -- what's not to like about that? This is what we offer when you join the Church Women for their monthly luncheon and get-together.

This month we will be lunching at Sabors restaurant at the Graul's Center on Padonia Road, in Timonium. Why not pencil it in your diary and plan to meet us there?

If you would like to come, please call Ann Bonnell at tel: 410-560-1130 as her to reserve a place for you. You won't regret it.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
Sunday, August 16th, 2009

8:00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION
The Epistle: I Corinthians 12:1-11
The Gospel: St. Luke 19:41-47
11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalm 43
First Lesson: Lamentations 1:1-12
Second Lesson: St. Luke 19:41-47

FROM THE CHOIRMASTER

Join us at Choral Evensong

EVENSONG, a fusion of the monastic prayer offices of Vespers and Compline, is one of the jewels of the Anglican tradition. Presented by St. Stephen's Choir of Men & Boys on the First Sunday of every month, Choral Evensong begins at 6.00 PM and generally lasts between 30 and 40 minutes.

Visitors from all faith traditions are heartily welcome to join us in prayer, and all are invited to stay for a light reception following the service. Bring a friend. **ADRIC**

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

Ninth Sunday After Trinity

GRANT to us, O Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we, who cannot to any thing that is good without thee, by thee may be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer. Page 200

✠ 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.

✠ 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: Joseph, Rachel, Frank, Carl, Charlotte, Cal, 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, Lelilah, 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: Richard, 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, John, Robert, Mary, Michael

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Col. Scott Taylor, U.S. Army, 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.

THE HYMNS FOR THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday, August 16th, 2009

PROCESSIONAL: 274 (Albany)
Ancient of days who sittest throned in glory

GRADUAL: 518 (St. Leonard)
Judge eternal, throned in splendour

SERMON: 484 (Truro)
Lift up you heads, ye mighty gates

COMMUNION HYMN: 466 (Lytlington)
God be in my head

RECESSIONAL: 551 (Ein' feste Burg)
A mighty fortress is our God

St. Stephen's Traditional Episcopal Church

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