

St. Stephen's News

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

Vol. XX, Number 49

Edited by Anne Hawkins

December 15th, 2009

FROM THE RECTOR

A lesson in tolerance for "Ministers of Truth"

OSCAR Wilde famously declared that hypocrisy is the tribute vice pays to virtue. And nowhere is the truth of his observation more evident than in our politically correct elite's unceasing demands for America's Christian majority to show "tolerance" towards religious minorities.

What this means in practice is the complete suppression of public Christian and Jewish religious expression and the concomitant glorification of non-Christian religious forms and festivals – Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, pagan and neo-pagan.

This is not "tolerance" as the word is rightly understood. Rather it is rather the reverse of it: "tolerance" as defined by the Ministry of Truth in George Orwell's seminal novel 1984 – "war is peace," "love is hate," etc.

However there is such a thing as genuine religious tolerance -- as Charlotte and I discovered years ago when we lived in a village, 3,000 feet or so up in Germany's Taunus Mountains.

Early on the first Saturday morning after our arrival we were awakened by the pealing of the bells of the village church. Soon our church bells were answered by church bells in the next village along the mountain range . . . then the next, and the next, and the next. To our amazement, the merry cacophony echoed through the clear mountain air for what seemed an hour or more.

The following Saturday we were awakened in the self same way, and the following Saturday and the Saturday after that. Indeed, each Saturday morning was greeted with the cheery sound of church bells. Intrigued, we asked the elderly man who lived next door to explain the custom.

He told us that it started early in the 17th century, during the Thirty Years War, when protestant princes battled their Roman Catholic neighbors for the domination of northern Europe. By the end of the slaughter more than a third of the German population had been wiped out.

"Half the villages in the Taunus were predominantly protestant, while the other half were predominantly Roman Catholic," our neighbor said.

"But the soldiers didn't take much notice of who was protestant and who was catholic. They killed and pillaged quite indiscriminately. People discovered that whether they were protestant or catholic didn't really matter. They were equal partners in misery.

"Our village is mainly catholic. The sole survivors of the war were eleven women. And the situation wasn't much better in the protestant village just below us. Things were so desperate villagers began ringing their church bells just to tell folks in the other villages – protestant and catholic – they were still alive. After 30 years, it just became a habit."

The villagers' hard-learned religious tolerance was especially manifest at Christmastide. Churches in Roman Catholic villages would be thrown open for protestant Christmas services, while protestant churches would welcome Roman Catholics priests to celebrate Midnight Mass.

"The horror of the Thirty Year War taught us that our religious differences are not important," said our neighbor, "What really matters is we share a common humanity."

Somewhere in this there is a lesson for America's self-appointed "Ministers of Truth." **GPH**

FROM THE WOMEN'S GROUP

Christmas Lunch, Dec. 16th

THE Ladies of St. Stephen's will be meeting for their Christmas Lunch at 12 noon at the Reef Grill, Padsonia Road, on Wednesday, December 16th. Pressure of the season means reservations must be made early. To book your place, call Anne Bonnell at Tel: 410-560-1130.

THE SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

December 24th, 2009 to January 10th, 2010

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24th

4.00 PM: Children's Christmas Service & Blessing of the Creche

7.00 PM: Family Candlelight Eucharist

10.30 PM: Choir sings carols followed by Solemn High Christmas Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 25th

10.00 AM: Sung Holy Communion

THE FIRST SUNDAY

AFTER CHRISTMAS

The Commemoration of St. Stephen & The Feast of St. John the Evangelist

Sunday, December 27th

8.00 AM: Holy Communion

9.15 AM: Holy Communion

11.15 AM: Morning Prayer

NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Feast of St. Sylvester

Thursday, December 31st, 2009

11.15 PM: Holy Communion

NEW YEAR'S DAY

The Feast of the Holy Circumcision

Friday, January 1st, 2010

10.00 AM: Holy Communion

SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Commemoration of the Epiphany, January 6th, 2010

8.00 AM: Holy Communion

9.15 AM: Holy Communion

11.15 AM: Holy Communion

6.00 PM: A Festival of Lessons & Carols

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

The Third Sunday In Advent

O LORD Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. *AMEN.*
Book of Common Prayer. Page 93

✠ 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: Rachel, Louisa, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Deborah, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Helen, Joseph, Joshua,

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

Sunday, December 20th, 2009

8:00 AM & 9.15 AM

HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

The Gospel: St. John 1:19-28

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 80

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Second Lesson: St. Luke 3:1-17

Rachel, Frank, Carl, Charlotte, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, James, Patty, Antonio, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Bob, Fran, Doris, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, Polly, Katherine, William, Betty, Cal, Wendell, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Dorcas, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom, Leliliah, Jennifer, Miriam, Harriet, Karen, Steve, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Marian, Edith Anne, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy; Ellen, Jim, Patricia,

Bonnie, Mary Ann, Robert, Christine, 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, 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, John, Geradine, Thomas, Jeanne, Sister Catherine-Grace, Maxine, Ann Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Rebecca, Dorothy, Joanne, *Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Debbie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Rachel, Robert & Renee, Lydia; Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis,orgetta, Carolyn, 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 ;David

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.

Christmas Memorial Flowers

If you wish to make a contribution towards the Church Christmas decorations in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete this form and return it with a check (payable to St. Stephen's Church and marked Christmas flowers) by Sunday, December 20th.

Name of Donor:

Poinsettias

of plants

Color (Please Circle)

6 inches, single (4-6 blooms) @ \$8

Red, Pink or Varigated

7 inches, double, (7-10 blooms) @ \$14

Red, Pink or Varigated

8 inches, triple, (10-15 blooms) @ \$22

Red, Pink or White

Total enclosed: \$ _____

My gift is made IN HONOR OF, IN MEMORY OF, IN THANKSGIVING FOR (Please circle)

**✦ 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.

**THE HYMNS FOR THE
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

Sunday, December 20th, 2009

PROCESSIONAL: 2 (Veni Emmanuel)

O come, O come, Emmanuel

GRADUAL: 9 (Merton)

Hark! a herald voice is calling

SERMON: 11 (St. Stephen)

The King shall come when morning dawns

COMMUNION HYMN: 197 (Picardy)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

RECESSIONAL: 5 (Helmsley)

Lo! He comes with clouds descending

Return Service Requested

Timonium, MD 21093
11856 Mays Chapel Road

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

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