

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church,
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXIII, Number 8

Edited by Anne Hawkins

March 7th, 2012

FROM THE RECTOR

Lessons to be learned from the culture wars

AMERICA has been enmeshed in a culture war for at least a century, although until quite recently most people seem to have been blissfully unaware of the fact. However, as the author and social critic Lee Harris put it: "Over the past 100 years or so many of our most cherished customs and traditions have been called to the bar of reason, ruthlessly interrogated and cross examined by the intellectual elite and found wanting."

Quietly, unobtrusively, but utterly implacably they have been reconstructing America to their own liking. One of the most useful tools for advancing their cause has been "political correctness."

In a polite society such as our's, charges of "racism," sexism," and the like are effectively suppress the discussion, not mention criticism, of policies aimed at overthrowing the principles upon which our republic was founded. Nobody wants to risk being labelled a bigot.

As a consequence, almost imperceptibly the America we see today has become a place that would be quite unrecognisable to our grandparents and great grandparents.

Not least, traditional educational methods have been tossed out. "The sage on the stage" has been tossed out in favor of the "guide on the side." Children, they say, don't need to be taught. We simply have to awaken their natural thirst for learning . . .

Nowhere have the effects of the culture war been more keenly felt than in the realm of religion. Only 40 years ago, only the boldest – or most foolhardy – of American politicians would have failed to list the Bible as the book that had most profoundly influenced their lives. Today only the boldest – or most foolhardy – of politicians would dare suggest that children might benefit from gaining a nodding acquaintanceship with the Bible at school.

Many of our self-anointed intellectual elite, of course, see a belief in God as hopelessly primitive and embarrassingly superstitious. In Europe – a place many of America's intellectuals fawningly turn to for approval – the embarrassment is so acute, the continent's enormous historic debt to Christianity was deliberately omitted from the proposed European Community constitution.

But protecting children from the baleful influence of Holy Scripture has a downside. The Bible – as the writings of the Founding Fathers attest – was our republic's most important foundational document. Pretending this is not so deprives coming generations of the ability to grasp the founders' vision and, thus, manage the republic they bequeathed us.

Actually, the disastrous effects of this policy are readily apparent – and not only in our inner cities, but in our legislatures, work places and corporate boardrooms. Like the myths of the ancient world, antique virtues such as honesty, integrity, and loyalty are increasingly dismissed as "quaint and amusing, but of no real relevance to our lives."

This might be all very well were it not that a large body of people, unencumbered by the concerns of our intellectual elite, have launched an entirely different type of cultural war. They find American customs, traditions and intellectual pretensions so utterly hateful they are bound and determined to wipe the United States off the face of the earth.

St. Stephen's
Choir of Men & Boys
A CHORAL EVENSONG
FOR ST DAVID'S DAY
at 6.00 PM
at The Parish Church
Sunday, March 4th, 2012

Divine revelation or not, the Bible contains much practical advice for people in our position – not the least of which is the fifth commandment: "Honour thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

This is a chilling warning that nations perish when their populations no longer cherish and respect the traditions, customs and beliefs upon which they were founded. History is littered with ample examples of this – ancient Israel, Judah, the Greek city states, Rome, Byzantium, France circa 1939, to name but half a dozen. Europe is clearly faltering under the Islamic challenge. For

THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE
INVITES YOU TO A
SOUP & SWEET SUPPER
MEETING
AT 6 PM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH
IN THE PARISH HALL

America the question is: "Are we prepared to learn from history – or repeat it?" **GPH**✘

FROM THE EAGLE'S EYRIE

Folks who whine about obesity are often culprits

THE so-called "Obesity Epidemic" leaves me cold. I have never worried about what the people in the pew look like. It's not what's in your old tum-tum that counts, but what's in your heart.

Frankly, I can't understand what's so attractive about the "emaciated look." Why on earth would perfectly nice looking people envy vacuous models of both sexes who look like they are constructed out of pipe cleaners and ball point refills?

That said, it seems to me the people who whine most about the "Obesity Epidemic" are the very people who have caused it. The reason so many children are overweight isn't so much that they eat too much, but that they exercise too little.

Television and Play Stations are only partially responsible for this. The real culprits are found at school and in the home. They are the folks who forbid students to play ball games, tag and other traditional school yard games at recess for fear a child might get hurt. They are parents who so organize their children's time there is no time for spontaneous play out in the open air. Remember, I've got my eye on you!. **ISAAC**

FROM THE BRIDGE CLUB

Join us to learn to play Bridge without tears

BRIDGE -- no matter what Poker players might say -- is the greatest, most enjoyable and most satisfying card game ever invented. And, contrary to what some folks might have told

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**
Being Sunday, March 11th, 2012

**8.00 AM & 9.00AM
HOLY COMMUNION**

The Epistle: Ephesians 5:1-14
The Gospel: St. Luke 11:14-28

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalms 27

The First Lesson: Proverbs 4:7-18
The Second Lesson: St. Luke 11:29-36

you, it is really enjoyable to learn. All you need is a good, easy going teacher and partners who are fun to play with.

If you would like to learn the game with a particularly pleasant bunch of people, why not join us on Sunday afternoons at 3.30 PM in the Parish Hall. St. Stephen's Bridge Club is not just for tyros. We welcome all experienced player who are looking for a good natured game.

THE LENTEN STUDY

All you want to know about Christianity etc .

THIS YEAR'S Lenten Study will be a freewheeling series of five seminars entitled "*All You Wanted To Know About Christianity But Never Had The Courage To Ask.*" The series will begin on Wednesdays at 6.45 PM (after Evening Prayer) starting on February 29th and continuing until March 28th.

Participants will join in a "no holds barred" interchange with a panel of five experts on everything from Archaeology to Zwingli and all stops in between. If you want to find out about sex and "Original Sin," or the pros and cons of infant baptism, or Essenes and the Dead Sea Scrolls, or the "lost Books of the Bible" just raise a hand. We offer nourishment for the body as well as the soul -- a hearty soup, the best bread in Baltimore and choice of beverages.

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

RECOVERY: Riley, Sallie, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Goff, Robert, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, Nancy, Dr. Devadadson, Thelma, Mary, Adele, Linda, Jan, Liz, Bob, Wyatt, Jim, Reta, Sara, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, Melvin, Noah, Mavis, Heather, Laurie, Diane, Don, Lynn, Helen, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Robert, Nancy, Edithann, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, Patty, Antonio, Ray, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Fran, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tom, Lelilah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy, Ellen, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, Bryan, Jason, Joan, Frances, Pat, Michael, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Robert, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, Alma, Christine, John, Henry, Naomi, Pam, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Gloria, Lee Emily, Bruce, Regina, Lewis, Madolin, Linda, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, Jody, Sheila, Jo Anne, John, Geradine, Thomas, Jeanne, Sister Catherine-Grace, Maxine, Ann Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Dorothy, Joanne, ✠Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Doris, Carol, Suzie and Jennifer.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Jennifer, Brendan, Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Ned, Stephen, Rachel, Robert & Renee, Lydia; Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, Drake, Bobby, Kay & Emma, Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, David, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Tom, Susan, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, Jo Anne, Mary, Gregory, Isabel, Bobby, Dorothy, Darren, Scott, Rebecca, William, Charles, Joyce, Asfa, Eleanor, Kathy, Linda, James, Barry, Ann, Evelyn, Jeanette, Elizabeth, Virginia, Mildred, Chris, Stephen, Carol, Sandra, John, Mary, Michael and David

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: LTC R.J. Lytle, PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, USA; Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Charles Watts, USN; Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt. Col. Harry Hughes, USAF.

✠ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093
Tel.: Office (410) 560-6776; Rectory (410) 665-1278
Web Address: ststeve.com

RECTOR: The Venerable Guy P. Hawtin

VICAR: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am: Said Eucharist

9.00am: Sung Eucharist (*with Nursery & Church School*)

11.15am: Choral Mattins (*1st Sunday: Choral Eucharist*)

6.00pm: Choral Evensong (*1st Sunday only*)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6.00pm: Evening Prayer

Friday Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5.00 pm: Family Eucharist.

COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT & ST CHAD, BISHOP

ALMIGHTY God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 127

ALMIGHTY God, whose servant Chad, for the peace of the Church, relinquished cheerfully the honours that had been thrust upon him, only to be rewarded with equal responsibility: Keep us, we pray thee, from thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, and ready at all times to step aside for others, that the cause of Christ may be advanced and thy blessed kingdom enlarged; In the name of Him who washed His disciples' feet, even

Jesus Christ our Lord, *AMEN*

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
TIMONIUM MD
PERMIT NO.181

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