

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church,
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

March 28th, 2012

FROM THE RECTOR

Don't begrudge prayers for your political foes

ON NOVEMBER 6th we will go to the polls to elect a President. And this renews a debate that has engaged Christians for the best part of two and a half centuries: *Is it theologically acceptable to pray publicly for political leaders – particularly those whose policies we bitterly oppose?*

Crossing political opponents off our public prayer lists certainly satisfies an ugly human craving to strike back at our enemies. Christians, however, don't have an option to wreak spiritual vengeance on those who offend them.

Jesus' maxim that we should love our enemies, bless them that curse us, do good to them that hate us and pray for them that spitefully use us and persecute us (*Matthew 5:44*) applies just as much to politicians with whom we disagree as folks who have actually declared war on us.

Indeed, praying for the civil authorities is one of the oldest obligations of the Church. Intercessions on behalf of the government, for example, are at the very top of St. Paul's priorities in his instructions to St. Timothy on how he is to conduct services at the Church in Ephesus.

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty," he writes (*1 Timothy 2:1 & 2*).

Moreover, it doesn't matter whether or not the civil authorities in question are Christian, pagan, or even atheist. We're obliged to pray for them no matter what their religious convictions.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers," writes Paul of the Emperor Claudius, an ardent pagan (*Romans 13:1-7*), "For there is no power but of God ... For he is the minister of God to thee for good...."

Our Prayer Book's "Prayer for the President," thus, has a long and honorable history. It was adapted in 1789 from the "Prayer for the King" in the English Book of Common Prayer. The original was first published in 1547, predating by two years the Book of 1549 – the first official Prayer Book to be published in the English Language.

There was a heated debate among the revisers of 1789 as to whether or not it was appropriate for the Church to pray for a U.S. president. A president holds office for a limited term, while a monarch who holds office for life.

This wasn't a mere matter of semantics. The English Prayer Book contains no "Prayer for the Country" because the prayer for the reigning monarch is deemed to cover this need.

Canon Norris, a 19th Century Liturgical expert, explained: "It should be remembered, in all our prayers for the Queen, that we are praying for a blessing, not only on one whom we revere individually, but also on one who represents to our minds our unity and majesty as a nation . . ." he said.

"In praying God to bless the Sovereign of this realm, we intend to pray for a blessing on our land and nation. Were this not so, it might seem strange that nowhere in our Prayer-book in there a prayer for England."

The argument over prayers for the U.S. president seems to have been settled by Bishop William White. In a letter to Bishop Thomas C. Brownell of Connecticut, dated February 8, 1822, he observed scornfully: "It may be questioned, whether in a government which gives no power commensurate with life, it be congruous to pray for the long life and prosperity of the first Magistrate; but it is contemptible to cavil at the title of "God's servant," as applied to an unbelieving President, when everyone, who understands Greek, knows he is called so in *Romans xiii.4*."

The prayers for the president remained in the Prayer Book. And they were apparently regarded by Americans in precisely

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 1st to April 8th

PALM SUNDAY: 8 AM Holy Eucharist
9 AM Sung Eucharist
11.15 AM Choral Eucharist
6 PM Choral Evensong

HOLY MONDAY: 6 PM Holy Eucharist
HOLY TUESDAY: 6 PM Holy Eucharist
HOLY WEDNESDAY: 6 PM Holy Eucharist

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 7 PM
Choral Eucharist & Stripping the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY - 12 NOON
The Seven Last Words From The Cross
3.30 PM Children's Way of the Cross
6 PM Communion of the Pre-sanctified

HOLY SATURDAY
7 PM The Great Vigil of Easter

EASTER DAY
8 AM Holy Communion
9 AM Choral Eucharist
11.15 AM Choral Eucharist

the same way Canon Norris viewed the English supplications on behalf of their monarch – as prayer not just for an individual, but for the well-being of the nation as a whole. Indeed, it was not until the 1928 revision that the Church felt it necessary to include a "Prayer for the Country" in the BCP.

Even so, some folks might question whether it is appropriate to mention by name "Barak our President" and "Martin the Governor of our state" in prayers for civil authorities that also encompass prayers for the community as a whole. The fact of the matter is that it was always customary to do so – at least until the present bitter political partisanship abolished good manners. **GPH***

FROM THE BRIDGE CLUB

Join us Sunday afternoon

THE Parish Bridge Club meets on Sunday afternoons at 3.30 PM to enjoy a relaxed game of bridge. If you are an experienced bridge player looking for a friendly game, why not join us? If you've grown rusty and would like reacclimatize yourself in cheerful, non-judgmental company, this is exactly the place for you. If, on the other hand, you are a complete novice but would like to learn the game, we will be happy to teach you.

THE LENTEN STUDY

All you want to know about Christianity etc .

THIS YEAR'S Lenten Study is a freewheeling series of five seminars entitled "*All You Wanted To Know About Christianity But Never Had The Courage To Ask.*" The series continues on Wednesday evenings at 6.45 PM (after Evening Prayer) 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, Essenes and the Dead Sea Scrolls just raise a hand. We are offering food for the body as well -- a hearty soup, the best bread in Baltimore and choice of beverages. If that's not enough, bring a sandwich.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
PALM SUNDAY**

Being the Sunday Before Easter, April 1st, 2012

**8.00 AM, 9.00 AM & 11.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION**

The Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

The Gospel: St. Matthew 27:1-54

FOR YOUR MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalms 24

The First Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-2

The Second Lesson: St. Mark 11:1-11

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, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, 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, 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, Major Benjamin Hawkins, British Army

✠ 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: Leo, Riley, Sallie, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Goff, Robert, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, Dr. Devadadson, Thelma, Mary, Adele, Linda, Jan, Liz, Bob, Wyatt, Jim, Reta, Sara, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, Melvin, Heather, Laurie, Diane, Don, Lynn, Helen, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Edithann, Jay, Perry,

Easter Flowers for St. Stephen's Altar

Here is a selection of beautiful spring flowers to decorate the church for Easter. Please make your choice and return this form to the church office with your check by Wednesday, April 4th. Flowers may be taken home after the 11:15 am service.

Lilies Small elite 6" 4-6 blooms @ \$10 _____ # of plants
Hydrangeas Four plus Blooms @ \$20 _____
Daffodils @ \$10 (6"pot) _____

Field Azalea @ \$15 _____ # of plants
Hyacinths @ \$10 (6"pot) _____
Tulips @ \$10 (6" pot) _____

Your Name:..... My gift is made IN HONOR OF,
IN MEMORY OF, IN THANKSGIVING FOR (Please Circle)

.....

✠ 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 PASSION SUNDAY &
THE REV. JOHN KEBLE, TRACTARIAN**

WE beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people; that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 132

GRANT, O God, that in all time of our testing we may know thy presence and obey thy will; that, following the example of thy servant John Keble, we may accomplish with integrity and courage what thou gives us to do, and endure what thou givest us to bear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy

Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

Return Service Requested

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