

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

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FROM THE RECTOR

Karl says 'Marxism' is not the same as Marx

COMMENTATOR Charles Murray recently warned readers of *The Wall Street Journal* that capitalism – the economic philosophy responsible for America's greatness – has image problems. People, he said, have been disgusted by the banking and finance scandals said to be responsible for the current severe recession.

Capitalism's image has been so badly tarnished, he claimed, that some of our most successful capitalists, especially in the high technology field, are ashamed to admit that they are capitalists because many of them are political liberals.

Actually, the surprising thing about this is that someone might be surprised by it. After the best part of half a century of trashing capitalism in our schools, universities, news media and Hollywood, it is nothing short of amazing that apparently there are folks out there who still have something good to say about it.

It is, however, a sad sign of the times that a majority of the folks responsible for publicly trashing capitalism – educators, journalists and editorial writers (interchangeable terms these days) and Hollywood scriptwriters and the like – appear to have no genuine understanding of that which they affect to despise.

Worse, perhaps, they are just as ignorant about the political, social and economic philosophy they appear to favor as a substitute for capitalism: Socialism.

Trouble is most of America's self-anointed "cognitive elite" seem to have abandoned analytical thinking in favor of emoting. No longer do they think. They feel. And this renders constructive debate pointless – for there is no arguing with "feelings."

Thus, Socialism – contrary to all available evidence – is seen by many of our intelligentsia as a more equitable, kindly, caring and efficient way of ordering society than the system that has served America for more than 200 years. For them, Socialism engenders all sorts of warm and fuzzy feelings.

Actually, there is nothing in the least bit warm and fuzzy about Socialism. Indeed, Karl Marx, the chap who dreamed it up, would be appalled to imagine anybody could be so naively mistaken.

Marx dubbed his system "Scientific Socialism" because he believed he had – by painstaking historical, economic, political and social analysis – demonstrated that its advent would be inevitable in all industrially advanced countries.

Just as Charles Darwin postulated the physical evolution of the species, so Marx postulated the political, social and economic evolution of the human race. That's why he called Socialism "scientific."

According to Marx, in the first evolutionary stage, the highly skilled industrial "proletariat" – the "mechanics" of the 19th Century, "technocrats" in modern parlance – would seize power from the owners of capital. They would then institute a "dictatorship of the proletariat," Marx's term for a society presided over and ordered by a technocratic elite.

Subsequent evolutionary stages, according to Marx's thesis, involve the "building of Socialism" and the eventual emergence of "Communism" – a system under which all human beings live, totally selflessly, for one another. (If you can buy that notion, I've got a bridge in Brooklyn going cheap.) But, be that as it may, so convinced was Marx of the inevitability of Scientific Socialism, he had little time for

folks who wanted to force the pace. After all, evolution, in theory at least, moves at its own rate.

Thus when informed by the Communards, who briefly seized power in Paris in the wake of the 1870 Franco-Prussian War, that they had launched the first "Marxist revolution," Marx brusquely dismissed the notion. "But we are all Marxists," read their explanatory telegram. "I'm not a Marxist," was Marx's terse reply, "I'm Marx."

Marx judged France insufficiently advanced industrially to be considered ripe for Scientific Socialism. And he felt the same way, for that matter, about Germany and the largely agrarian United States. He anticipated Britain, his adopted home, would be the venue of the first Marxist revolution.

What Marx would have made of the revolutionaries who, during the course of the 20th Century wrapped themselves in the Marxist banner, is a matter for conjecture. But by his own definition, Russia, China, Vietnam and Cambodia -- neither at the time of their "revolutions" nor even now -- could be considered ripe for genuinely "Marxist" revolutions.

I personally discovered that the thugs who ruled the Soviet Union were especially touchy about this uncomfortable fact at a dinner in Moscow with a group of senior Soviet apparatchiks, during the period known here as "détente".

It was a convivial seven-course meal, and, inevitably towards the end of it, I was asked the perennial question: What do you think about the [Bolsheviks'] October Revolution?

Perhaps inspired by the vodka, I puckishly replied: "I'm sure it was a very nice revolution, but I don't think you can really call it a 'Marxist' revolution. It looks more like absolutism, preceding the rise of the bourgeoisie."

A stony silence descended on the table. Feet shuffled uncomfortably. "Are you trying to tell us there has never been a Marxist revolution?" asked the most senior apparatchik.

"Oh no," I countered, "There most certainly has been, a Marxist revolution. Just not here."

"Are you suggesting China . . .?" he asked frostily. (At that time the Soviets were fighting an undeclared shooting war with the Chinese on the Siberian border.)

"No! No!" I said, warming to my subject, "They are even more backward industrially speaking than you people are. I was actually thinking of the United States . . ."

"You can't be serious," he said.

"Oh, yes I am," I replied, "Just look at the Forbes 1000 and the Fortune 500. Very few of those companies are in fact controlled by the folks who own them. They are actually run by professional executives – the very people Marx would call the highly educated industrial proletariat."

"That is enough," declared the apparatchik, pushing back his chair. "The dinner is over!"

They rose as one and walked out, leaving my Soviet official "minder" ashen faced.

"Promise me, Hawtin," he begged, "never do this again. I know you British have a sense of humor, but this wasn't funny. It was very dangerous."

He was right. My argument struck far too close to the bone. To the Russians, it betrayed a disconcerting familiarity with *Das Kapital*, Marx's seminal work – a massive tome that should be must reading for all Soviet analysts . . .

At least they didn't stiff me with the bill. But it's a point to ponder: If Marx were alive today he might well embrace modern American capitalism as the first step on his road to political/economic Nirvana. May be it's time for America's ivory tower Socialists to face up to the fact that Marxism and Marx are beasts of quite a different color. **GPH**✘

St. Stephen's Flowers

This year we tried using a "Flower Diary" instead of the traditional "Flower Chart" for those who would like to dedicate Sunday's altar flowers. But the experiment has been an abject failure! Folks seem unable to find the miserable thing.

From now on "A Flower Chart" will stand in the reception area, together with a book to record your dedications. Your \$40 donations should be left in the box by the chart or the church office.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Being Sunday, August 19th, 2012

**8.00 AM & 9.00 AM
HOLY COMMUNION**

The Epistle: I Corinthians 15:1-12
The Gospel: St. Luke 18:9-14

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 101
The First Lesson: Ecclesiastes 5:1-7
The Second Lesson: St. Luke 18:9-14

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Come join us at the Ginza

THE LADIES WHO LUNCH will meet at the Ginza Japanese Restaurant on Cranbrook Road at York at 12 noon on Wednesday, August 15th. Why not plan to join us for an hour or two of good food, great fellowship and fun? You won't regret it.

To make your reservation, just give Joyce Perlberg a call at Tel: 410-252-2680. See you there!

FROM THE PARISH CHEFS

Silly Summer Suppers

THE MOMENT you have all been awaiting has arrived. Each Thursday the chefs of St. Stephen's are serving the 2012 series of "Silly Summer Suppers."

Actually, it's hard to think of a less appropriate name than "Silly Summer Suppers" for these remarkable gastronomic events. The only thing silly about these suppers is the price -- entrée, dessert and salad for just \$10. Soda costs a buck and wine at \$3 per glass and \$5 for two.

It's a time for the whole family to socialize over a relaxing meal that you don't have to cook. Afterwards you can visit with friends and even enjoy a light hearted game of Bingo. What's not to like about it?

✠ 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: Michael, Rosina, Timothy, Donna, Diane, John, Robert, David, Richard, Bill, Charlotte, Leo, Riley, Mary-Ann, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, Dr. Devadadson, Thelma, Mary, Adele, Linda, Jan, Liz, Bob, Wyatt, Jim, Reta, Sara, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, Melvin, Heather, Laurie, Lynn, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Edithann, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, Patty, Antonio, 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, Leliliah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Ray, 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, Maxine, Ann, Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Joanne, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Doris, Carol, and Suzie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Aaron, Hope, Tom, 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, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, 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, Carol, Sandra, John, Mary, Michael and David

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: LTC R.J. Lyle, PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, USA; Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Charles Watts, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes, Lt Nicholas Clouse USN, Major Benjamin Hawkins, British Army.

✠ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

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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

8.00 am: Said Eucharist

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

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

6.00 pm: Choral Evensong (1st Sunday only)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6.00 pm: Evening Prayer

Friday Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5.00 pm: Family Eucharist.

**COLLECTS FOR TRINITY X AND
THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**

LET thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of thy humble servants; and, that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

O GOD, who on the mount didst reveal to chosen witnesses thine only-begotten Son wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening; Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may be permitted to behold the King in his beauty, who with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 203 & 247

Return Service Requested

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