

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

August 28th, 2012

FROM THE RECTOR

Time to tell Hollywood: Physician, heal thyself

AS I OBSERVED a few of weeks ago, Charlotte and I have watched more television during the past couple of months than at any other time during our lives. And closer acquaintance with the boob tube tends to get a fellow thinking,

For example, it seems strange to me that folks who so often complain about parsons who preach the word of God for more than 10 minutes at a stretch cheerfully permit Hollywood's rather more secular philosophers to preach to them for hours on end.

True, Hollywood's leading men and leading ladies are, from a physical perspective at least, rather more attractive than the average parson. But the fact of the matter is that God's ideas make a great deal more sense than the average sermon preached on primetime TV.

For example, Hollywood's philosophers have long been promoting the notion that it is a reasonable and responsible "life style option" for women -- young and not so young -- to have babies out of wedlock. To be sure, there are many single mothers (and fathers, for that matter) who are successfully raising children without a spouse.

But, at the same time, there are many others who are making a terrible hash of it. Yet even the very successful ones will usually agree that single parenting is not the best option.

The trouble with Hollywood -- and much of the nation's news media -- is that many folks who work there seem to have major problems telling the difference between the real world and the world of make-believe.

In the real world, babies dirty their diapers, have colic, experience teething trouble, develop diaper rash, howl all night, reject their bottles, refuse to burp and contract all manner of frightening illnesses.

In the world of make-believe, of course, they do all these things, too. But in the world of make-believe, the baby and parent are following a script. Things turn out happily -- or unhappily -- in exactly the manner the scriptwriter dictates.

The real world, however, is by no means so tidy. In the real world, there is nobody to write the screenplay. People are obliged to speak their own lines. And if they're tempted to follow Hollywood's script, they are likely to end up in awful trouble -- because the real world doesn't conform to Hollywood's rules.

When things go wrong in the real world, they tend to stay wrong because there is no scriptwriter to tie up the loose ends and give the story a happy ending.

Wishing on a star works only in Tinsel Town. The real world works according to an older and entirely different maxim: "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride." In the real world, there is only one person who can play God -- and that's God, himself. The devil may try to make you think otherwise, but he's lying.

This, perhaps, lies at the heart of the problem. Hollywood has treated producers, directors, scriptwriters and actors as gods for so long they have lost sight of the real one. If Hollywood truly wants to get back in touch with the real world, it needs to get back in touch with God. As things stand, there is something decidedly bizarre about Hollywood and its media groupies presuming to advise folks who live in the real world on how to live their lives.

A glance behind the tinsel shows the reality of the lives of many denizens of Hollywood bears little resemblance to the screenplays served up on TV and in our movie houses. Hollywood has been trying to follow its own script for the best part of 70 years and the toll in wrecked and broken lives is quite incalculable. It's high time we said: "Physician, heal thyself." **GPH**

Boring us to death . . . ?

WHEN IT COMES to news these days, it seems to be a case of either feast or famine. Surveys indicate that in many American news markets people would hardly be aware that elections were underway if they had to rely solely on the broadcast media.

Readers of the nation's daily newspapers, by contrast, could be forgiven for thinking that nothing else of any significance other than politics and politicking ever took place.

Okay, so this is not entirely fair. But, even so, it is possible to argue that the Soviet media provided "the masses" with a broader perspective on world events back in the days of Leonid Brezhnev than folks in America generally get today.

It is amazing how much news was available in Moscow in Brezhnev's day for those who craved it. For starters, there were far more current affairs publications in Moscow in the 1970s and '80s than are available in many U.S. news markets today.

To be sure, all were censored, but, even so, people were adept at reading between the lines. And, journalists, being what they are, were always searching for ways to sneak news past the censor.

Moreover, the Soviet press was far from monolithic. *Pravda*, was the Party newspaper, while *Izvestia* was the government's newspaper, and *Trud* was the paper of the trade union movement. Then there were the newspapers owned by the municipalities, the youth organization and the military, as well as those produced for the intelligentsia -- economists and the

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.

like.

All of these were Communist controlled entities, but they by no means shared the same agenda, and their interests and policy positions could be quite diverse. Certainly wading through the Soviet press was a pain in the neck. But a determined soul could read between the lines of a sufficiently broad spectrum of newspapers and periodicals to get a pretty good idea of what was going on in the world.

Here in the U.S. by contrast, there is often only one daily newspaper available in a market. Television and radio do not adequately compensate as an alternative news source. In the age of the soundbite, rarely does a news story which takes more than 15 seconds to transmit ever make it to the air-waves. This would not be utterly intolerable if the newspapers filled the void. But they don't.

The problem is not so much that the political opinions of the editors influence both their selection of the news stories they print and the "spin" that is put on them. Certainly, the America's press tends to toe a left of center "party line" as assiduously as the Soviet press of the Brezhnev era.

But the truly irritating thing about U.S. newspapers is not their politics, but the fact that they are so incredibly boring. Their "yawn quotient" exceeds even that of *Soviet Life*. But the journalists who produced that dreary organ had no choice. They were victims of an oppressive political system.

This excuse isn't open to the folks who work for America's newspapers. It's awfully sad when the best reason for reading them is the obituaries -- a fact that might explain why our daily papers are rapidly heading for extinction. **GPH**

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

Being Sunday, September 2nd, 2012

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

The Epistle: Galatians 3:16-22

The Gospel: St. Luke 10:23-37

FOR YOUR MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 104

The First Lesson: Ecclesiasticus 17:1-15

The Second Lesson: St. Mark 3:20-35

THE FLOWER COMMITTEE

Come, bloom with us

THE FLOWER COMMITTEE is looking for new recruits to help beautify the church for the Sunday services and to join us in planning the floral decorations for the great Holy Days of Christmas and Easter. No experience is necessary. All you need is "a good eye" and we will teach you the rest. Men are welcome. This is an "equal opportunity" committee. To join, call Anne Hawkins at the Parish Office. Tel: 410-560-6776.

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.

✠ 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: Andy, Frannie, Hellen, 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, Lelilah, 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, Gerardine, 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: Larry, 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. Lytle, 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.

FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Elizabeth Nass

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: Susan Nass

✠ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

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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

8.00 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 XII AND
ST AIDEN OF LINDISFARNE**

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve; Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 206

O MOST loving Father, who gavest thy servant Aidan the gifts of gentleness, simplicity, and strength: Grant us the same gifts that we, following his example, may persevere in commending the saving Gospel of thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *AMEN.*

Return Service Requested

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