

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

October 9th, 2012

FROM THE RECTOR

Too many churches abdicate their duty towards our cities

THE exponential growth of Islam here in America comes as a tremendous shock to the average middle class Christian. This, to be sure, has always been a tolerant country. But above all it has been a Christian country. How is it, they ask, that this alien creed has so rapidly taken root?

The answer would seem to lie largely in the crime statistics. Violent crime is still something quite outside the average American's normal realm of experience.

Few of us, for example, live our daily lives in constant fear of robbery or assault. We go about our business confident in the fact that we will return unscathed, with our pocket books and persons intact. In the unhappy event that we become victims of crime, our friends will commiserate with us in our misfortune, but they are unlikely to imagine that it is inevitable that they, too, will ultimately share our fate.

Given a modest degree of luck, the average Joe and Jill can still anticipate going through life without becoming crime statistics – even in an age as lawless and violent as our own.

Our comparative security, however, is not shared by the folks who dwell in our inner cities. For far too many, daily life is a constant cycle of terror.

We who live in safer neighborhoods are familiar with the drug-inspired violence that has claimed the lives of so many young people in the inner cities. It is the standard fodder of our daily papers and the television news programs. But the power struggles of teenage druglords are by no means the primary cause of the terror that stalks our inner cities.

Lawlessness and amorality are so general that it could be reasonably argued that there are neighborhoods inhabited not so much by residents as hunters and the hunted. Robbery is a way of life; rape merely an option for an afternoon's entertainment.

The brutal young men responsible for the mayhem constitute only a tiny fraction of the population of our inner cities. Yet society seems powerless either to bring them to heel by force of law or to provide the moral education necessary to deter new generations of youths from swelling their ranks.

A criminal justice system that lacks both the will and the capacity to re-impose the rule of law leaves, by default, the thugs in command of the streets and those they prey upon in a state of hopelessness and despair. These are the circumstances in which Islam flourishes in our inner cities. And very small wonder . . .

Islam requires its adherents to live according to a strict moral code. It is imposing social discipline where before none existed, and, thus, restoring the community's self-respect. Its philosophy of self-reliance fosters self-supporting two-parent families in what was formerly the domain of impoverished single-parent families, headed by women.

It affords inner city dwellers an opportunity to nurture their children in love and economic security, and to raise them up with a strict sense of traditional morality.

Islamic communities, moreover, have demonstrated the will, and the ruthlessness, to do what government has proved unwilling or unable to do: drive the drug lords and pushers out of their neighborhoods.

However, there is a downside to this. For all their claims of moral rectitude, many Islamic leaders preach an ugly creed of crude religious hatred – anti-American, anti-democratic and, above all, anti-Semitic.

It would be easier to discredit Moslem religious triumphalism if their efforts to repair and restore the social fabric of the inner cities were simply a small part of a larger, more comprehensive effort by the mainstream Christian churches, the public schools and the government. But this is not so.

The public schools are one of the main sources of the moral relativism that is wrecking the inner cities.

Government has proved itself incapable of either inculcating morality or upholding the law. But, in truth, genuine moral leadership has to come from the churches – and, in this, we have been sadly remiss.

With the exception of the occasional individual parish, modern mainline Christianity is far from muscular. It is too timid, too lacking in zeal, and often too politicized to proclaim the Gospel as it needs to be proclaimed.

Frequently, it is more concerned with excusing the self-destructive and immoral behavior that is

destroying the inner city communities.

It has rightly been said that all that is necessary for evil to triumph is that men of good will do nothing.

In failing to preach, teach and practice the faith as delivered of Jesus Christ and the Apostles, we in the mainline churches have abdicated our God-given duty and, by default, ceded the initiative to the Moslems. **GPH**✱.

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Join us for the parish's traditional Fall Picnic

ST. STEPHEN'S oldest tradition -- the Annual Fall Picnic -- will take place at the home of Ellen Reather on scenic Dulaney Valley Road, Glen Arm, Sunday, October 14th at 1.00 PM. If great food, good company and crisp country air appeals to you, this is an event not to be missed.

Ellen's gracious home – address: 13201 Dulaney Valley Road, Glen Arm, MD 21057 – is the perfect place for a traditional family fall celebration. The house is set among rolling hills, and the trees should still be in fine color.

Ellen keeps a small herd of sheep – a happy reminder of St. Stephen's early picnics at the farm of Ruth Shriver and her late husband Charles just outside Westminster. Sadly, Charles passed away a couple of years ago, but Ruth is still with us, and we hope she will be able to join in the festivities.

The Parish Life Committee will provide beverages, not to mention the hot dogs and hamburgers – all grilled under the personal supervision of our gourmet treasurer, Bill Hawkins.

It would, however, be much appreciated if folks whose family names begin with letters from A to M should bring salads or casseroles, while those whose names start with letters N to Z should bring desserts or cake.

St. Stephen's Choir
invites you to
**A CHORAL
EVENSONG**
at 6.00 PM
at The Parish Church
Sunday, October 7th, 2012

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Being Sunday, October 14th, 2012

**8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION**

The Epistle: Ephesians 4:17-32
The Gospel: St. Matthew 9:1-8

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 102
The First Lesson: *Wisdom* 12:12-19
The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 9:1-8

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Something old, something (nearly) new -- our Secondhand Rose sale

SOME FOLKS (our rector, for example) seem quite incapable of throwing things out. The rector not only still owns the suit he was married in, but the sports jacket and slacks he wore on his honeymoon. In fact, his closets would fill a fashion museum with garments stretching back through the "Swinging London" era of the 1960s to the schoolboy styles of the 1950s.

We are betting that he is not the only one in the parish with closets and wardrobes crammed to overflowing with gently used clothing -- some vintage; some nearly new -- that desperately needs a new home.

Thus we decided that nothing could be more timely than a "Secondhand Rose Sale." We are looking for gently used clothing, clean and in good condition, from periods ranging from medieval to modern times. We would also be grateful for shoes, accessories, jewelry and purses in good condition. Curtains and drapes would also be welcome.

The sale is for the benefit of a Sunday School playground. The sale dates are: Friday, October 19th, from Noon to 8.00 PM; and Saturday, October 20th, from 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. We would also appreciate volunteers to help run the sale. For more information, contact Martha Miller's e-mail at eieiowe@comcast.net or call the parish office: 410-560-6776.

✠ PARISH PRAYER LIST ✠

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List as well as the guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice & Dr. Bob's Place. 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: Sharon, Paul, Andy, 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: Hope, JoAnn, 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: 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.

FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Miriam Emerson

THOSE WHO MOURN: Thomas Emerson and family

✠ 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

8.00 am: Said Eucharist

9.15 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 XVIII AND ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

LORD, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to with- stand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil; and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

Book of Common Prayer, Page 214

O ALMIGHTY God, by whose gift Saint Francis was conformed to Christ in poverty and humility, grant that, by walking in the footsteps of the Blessed Francis, we may follow thy Son, and, through joyful charity, come to be united with thee; through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with there and the Holy Ghost, one God, would without end. AMEN.

Return Service Requested

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