

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

October 23rd, 2012

FROM THE RECTOR

Wishing upon a star is no substitute for reality

SOON after I arrived in the United States I came to the conclusion that the nation had long ceased to be guided and inspired by the principles laid down in The Bible. Instead, its animating philosophy seemed to be based on the fantasies derived from "*The Wizard of Oz*".

After all, diplomas and doctorates were being liberally awarded to legions of brainless scarecrows who were then given the freedom to undermine the credibility of America's schools and universities with their loony notions.

Praise and admiration were being heaped on heartless tin men in government and industry who routinely sacrificed the public good and the national interest on the altar of their own personal power and profit.

People were being hailed as heroes when their sole "act of courage" had been to embrace the latest popular follies, fads and fancies and bask in the glow of public approbation for their supposed leadership.

Moreover, public expectations seemed to be increasingly based on Judy Garland's "*Somewhere Over the Rainbow*" rather than actual reality.

A conversation on a radio talk show not so long ago shows the process continues apace. A caller contended that all would be right with American society if only people would love each other a bit more.

It's hard to quarrel with that. Clearly, if drug dealers loved addicts a bit more they wouldn't enslave them with narcotics. If muggers loved their victims a bit more they wouldn't rob and maim and kill them. If rioters loved their neighbors a bit more they wouldn't burn their homes and pillage their property. And so *ad infinitum*.

There is, however, nothing profound about this thought. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that loving each other a bit more is the answer to almost all society's ills -- at least those that aren't occasioned by accident or infirmity.

But the problem is not identifying the problem. If that's all there was to it, the Flower Children would have solved things back in the 1960s by teaching the world to sing "*Coke is it*."

Trouble is that while we know things would be very much better if we all did love people a bit more, the sad fact of the matter is that we don't love each other even the tiniest bit more. Indeed, these days it seems that we love each other an awful lot less.

Nor should we find this entirely surprising. There is nothing very natural about people loving other people in a generic sense -- beyond our immediate relatives and, perhaps, the folks in our own social circle. As for the wider world, most of the people in it are definitely suspect.

So where does this notion that we should all love one another come from? The answer is that Jesus commanded his followers to love their fellow men as much as they love themselves.

But the fact Jesus actually had to *command* us to love our neighbors is a sure indication that loving people outside our immediate circle of family and friends does not come naturally or easily. If it came naturally he wouldn't have bothered to mention it. If it came easily, he wouldn't have made such a big deal about it.

This solves the problem as far as Christians are concerned, but the talk show caller was not a Christian. Indeed, she

spoke disparagingly of Christians as she was making her point. It is something of a paradox that so many non-Christians subscribe to the idea that it is natural for people to love one another. How could they possibly have gotten such a bizarre idea? After all, there is nothing, for example, in evolutionary theory that could lead folks to believe it to be so. It certainly runs contrary to the course of the history of the 20th century.

Nor does the concept of altruistic love as a natural phenomenon square with a general rejection of moral absolutes or the adoption of "situation ethics." The notion that there are no moral absolutes and that ethics change according to the situation is the rationale for treating some people less fairly than others. Such notions engender feelings quite the opposite of love in that it permits us to put our own interests above those of others.

How can it, then, be that so many non-Christians subscribe to the idea that it is natural for people to love one another when, in fact, such a concept runs counter to everything else they believe?

The answer is that a generation or two ago the vast majority of Americans subscribed to the idea that the Judeo-Christian ethic of "do as you would be done by" was the right way to live. And, like Pavlov's dogs, their descendants still cling to the idea while rejecting the principles on which it is based.

But, in reality, nobody should be surprised that, as Christianity is driven out of the public square, we are loving each other a lot less not more.

There seems to be a disconnect here, Government and the courts appear to be working together to drive Christianity from the Public Square in order to promote . . . well . . . more Christian behavior.

Did their mothers not tell them that you can't have your cake and eat it? Wishing on a star is all very well, but it is no substitute for thinking that's

based on reality. But then, as grandma used to say: "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride." Go figure! **GPH**✕

AN EAGLE'S EYE VIEW

It's time to start thinking about Cookie Walk 2012

HERE I AM again. They won't let me air my views on politics or religion or, in fact, anything controversial. All they do is press-gang me into writing commercials for Cookie Walk 2012. The Cookie Walk will be early this year. The event takes place on Saturday, December 1st. from 9.00 AM to 1.00 PM.

I know I write pretty good advertising copy, but that doesn't mean that is all I want to do. I'm sure you would all benefit greatly from my 200 years-plus experience on a whole range of subjects from civil administration to church management.

Doesn't the First Amendment apply to brass eagles? [*No! Don't get fresh! - Ed*]

All I get is: "Isaac do me a favor and dig out some cookie recipes for the newsletter. You'll find them in the files."

It's no easy matter for a brass eagle to schlep up to the Rector's office, let me tell you. And when you get up there, can you find anything in the files? It's hard enough to locate the blessed man's desk, let alone unearth a filing cabinet!

Be that as it may, I've got nothing against the Cookie Walk. It makes a nice change of pace and it helps us all get in to the spirit of Christmas. But the fact of the matter is that my interest in it is entirely academic.

Brass eagles don't cook cookies. Some might say life for us is all spit and polish. But that's a very nasty concept. Actually we exist on a modest diet of brass polish and lemon juice. Expectoration, (a posh way to say "spitting,") is a horrid, filthy

St. Stephen's Choir
invites you to
A CHORAL
EVENSONG
at 6.00 PM
at The Parish Church
Sunday, November 4th, 2012

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Being the Feast of St. Simon & St. Jude, October 28th, 2012

**8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION**

The Epistle: Ephesians 2:19-22
The Gospel: St. John 15:17-27

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 118
The First Lesson: Isaiah 28:9-16
The Second Lesson: St. John 15:17-27

and disgusting habit. But I digress . . .

Brass eagles don't cook so I can take no credit for the recipes I will be publishing in the coming weeks. But they all come from our famous Cookie Walk Cookbooks and from James Beard's *American Cookery Book* -- so we know they work! They are also firm favorites with the St. Stephen's Cookie Walk crowd.

Among the first I shall be publishing is a batch of recipes for freezer cookies. You can make the dough in advance, freeze it, and bake to cookies in the week before the Cookie Walk.

One word of warning, however: The unbaked dough is delicious, so don't let the children get at it. Not only will you have to start all over again, but you'll have to put the kids on a diet *before* Christmas.

This year's Cookie Walk Cookbook won't really be a cookbook at all. Instead, we are going to publish a book of useful household hints. So bring you favorite household hints to church or email our editor Peter Threadgill (the best way) his address is petrus@ststeve.com. All hints must be in no later than Sunday November 11th. Thanks awfully! **ISAAC EAGLE**

✠ **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: Ray*, Charles, Polly, Dawn, Betty Jean, Elliot, 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.

REPOSE OF THE SOUL: The Rev. Canon Granville Henshaw.

THOSE WHO MOURN: The Henshaw family and the staff and students of Logos House.

✠ **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 XX AND
ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things which thou commandest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

ALMIGHTY God, who didst inspire thy servant Saint Luke the Physician, to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of thy Son; Manifest in thy Church the like power and love, to the healing of our bodies and our souls; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 217 & 253

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