

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

December 18th, 2012

FROM THE RECTOR

A Lesson in Tolerance for "Ministers of Truth"

Oscar Wilde famously declared that hypocrisy is the tribute vice pays to virtue. And nowhere is the truth of his observation more evident than in our politically correct elite's unceasing demands for America's Christian majority to show "tolerance" towards religious minorities.

What this means in practice is the complete suppression of public Christian and Jewish religious forms and festivals - Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, pagan and neo-pagan.

This is not "tolerance" as the word is rightly understood. Rather, it is the reverse of it: "tolerance" as defined by the Ministry of Truth in George Orwell's seminal novel *1984* - "war is peace," "love is hate," etc.

However there is such a thing as genuine religious tolerance - as Charlotte and I discovered years ago when we lived in a village 3,000 feet or so up in Germany's Taunus Mountains.

Early on the first Saturday morning after our arrival we were awakened by the pealing of the bells of the village church. Soon our church bells were answered by church bells in the next village along the mountain range...then the next, and the next, and the next. To our amazement, the merry cacophony echoed through the clear mountain air for what seemed an hour or more.

The following Saturday we were awakened in the self same way, and the following Saturday and the Saturday after that. Indeed, each Saturday morning was greeted with the cheery sound of church bells. Intrigued, we asked the elderly man who lived next door to explain the custom.

He told us that it started early in the 17th century, during the Thirty Year War, when protestant princes battled their Roman Catholic neighbors for the domination of northern Europe. By the end of the slaughter more that a third of the German population had been wiped out.

"Half the villages in the Taunus were predominantly protestant, while the other half were predominantly Roman Catholic," our neighbor said.

"But the soldiers didn't take much notice of who was protestant and who was catholic. They killed and pillaged quite indiscriminately. People discovered that whether they were protestant or catholic didn't really matter. They were equal partners in misery.

"Our village is mainly catholic. The sole survivors of the war were eleven women. And the situation wasn't much better in the protestant village just below us. Things were so desperate villagers began ringing their church bells just to tell folks in the other villages - protestant and catholic - they were still alive. After 30 years, it just became a habit."

The villagers' hard-learned religious tolerance was especially manifest at Christmastide. Churches in Roman Catholic villages would be thrown open for protestant Christmas services, while protestant churches would welcome Roman Catholic priests to celebrate Midnight Mass.

"The horror of the Thirty Year War taught us that our religious differences are not important." said our neighbor. "What really matters is we share a common humanity."

Somewhere in this there is a lesson for Americas's self-appointed "Ministers of Truth." **GPH** (Reprinted from St Stephen's News, December 2009)

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE

The Best Christmas Gift of All

Stuck for Christmas presents? Why not give the gift of life this Christmas. It will be the best gift you will ever choose to give. One unit of blood can help save the lives of three people.

We will be holding our Red Cross Blood Drive here in the parish hall on Wednesday, January 9th, from 3.00 PM to 8.00 PM. We hope you will be able to spare us an hour of your time during this season of need. If you have never given blood before, please consider it now, as this is the time of the year when stocks are exceptionally low.

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

FROM THE FLOWER COMMITTEE

Deck the Halls....

The annual decoration of the sanctuary will take place on Saturday, December 22nd, beginning at 9 AM. Volunteers are needed to help hang roping, arrange greens and flowers, and prepare the church for our Christmas services. If you can help please call the church office at 410-560-6776 or put your name on the sign-up sheet on the coffee hour table.

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join Us on December 19th

The Ladies of St Stephen's will hold their Christmas lunch at Bluestone Restaurant on Aylesbury Road, Timonium, at noon on Wednesday, December 19th. As has become custom, ladies are invited to bring their gentlemen with them to this time of good fellowship and good food. Call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680

✠ 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.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

Schedule, Dec. 24th, 2012 to Jan. 6th, 2013

CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday, December 24th

4.00 PM: Children's Christmas Service & Blessing of the Creche

7.00 PM: Family Candlelight Eucharist

10.30 PM: Choir sings carols followed by Solemn High Christmas Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY

Tuesday, December 25th

10.00 AM Sung Holy Communion

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

The Feast of St. Stephen

Comm. Sunday, December 30th

8.00 AM: Holy Communion

9.15 AM: Holy Communion

11.15 AM: Morning Prayer

NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Feast of St. Sylvester

Monday, December 31, 2012

11.15 PM: Holy Communion

NEW YEAR'S DAY

The Feast of The Holy Name

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

10.00 AM: Holy Communion

EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 6, 2013

At 6.00 PM The Choir will sing:

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS FOR EPIPHANY

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Being December 23rd, 2012

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

For The Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

The Gospel: St. John 1:19-28

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 80

The First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 3:1-17

RECOVERY: Fr Guy✱, Ray✱, Morris, Charles, Dawn, Betty Jean, Elliot, Sharon, Paul, Andy, Michael, Rosina Donna, Diane, John, Robert, David, Richard, Bill, Charlotte, Leo, Riley, Mary-Ann, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, 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, 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, Fran, Carol, and Suzie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Hope, JoAnn, Larry, Aaron, Hope, Tom, Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Stephen, Rachel, 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.

Christmas Memorial Flowers

To make a contribution towards the Church Christmas decorations in honor or memory of a loved one please complete this form and return it with a check (payable to St. Stephen's Church and marked Christmas flowers) by December 19th.

Name of Donor:.....

- Poinsettias** (Pink, Red or Jingle Bells) 6 inches, single (5-8 blooms) @ \$10 (# of plants)
- 7 inches, double, (10-12 blooms) @ \$16 (# of plants)
- 8 inches, triple, (red) (12-18 blooms) @ \$27 (# of plants)

Total # of plants _____ **Total amount enclosed: \$** _____

My gift is **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

8.00 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 THE Third Sunday of
Advent AND Saint Thomas the
Apostle

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. *AMEN*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 9

Everliving God, who didst strengthen thine apostle Thomas with sure and certain faith in thy Son's resurrection: Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in thy sight; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *AMEN*

Return Service Requested

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St. Stephen's Anglican Church
11856 Mays Chapel Road
Timonium, MD 21093