

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Don Ruthig

April 2nd, 2013

FROM THE RECTOR

Debunking the Resurrection – a tedious Easter tradition

IT HAS BECOME an unhallowed Easter tradition for publicity hungry clerics to clamber into the pulpit and denounce the resurrection as “bunk.” Indeed, denials of the resurrection by trendy clerics are so frequent these days they scarcely rate a mention in the media.

One of the disturbing things about all this is how little outcry there is from the people in the pews of the mainline churches about the weird goings-on in the upper echelons of their denominations and jurisdictions – goings-on that are by no means confined to doubts about the resurrection.

To be sure, a few congregations have upped-stakes and moved on, while less motivated individuals have given up on church for the golf course.

But in most denominations a majority of the faithful appear to have opted to stay put and ignore the cacophony. It is not so much that most of them subscribe to the skepticism as are confused by it.

Indeed, many feel ill equipped to defend orthodoxy. After all, the folks attacking it usually can brandish impressive looking sheepskins from once distinguished seminaries and universities.

Those sheepskins, however, are often simply a cover for wolves in sheep's clothing. A master's of divinity degree does not necessarily a scriptural theologian make.

Indeed, there is good reason to suspect that only a very flimsy grasp of Holy Scripture is expected of many – perhaps the majority – of today's theology students.

That, at least, is one conclusion from the course offerings one encounters at many universities and mainline theological colleges. “Ecological Theology,” “Patriarchic Hegemony in the Old Testament” and “Gender Issues in the New Testament” do not appear to demand scriptural knowledge in any great depth and breadth. Rather the contrary.

Blame for this state of affairs lies not with the unfortunate graduates of such institutions, many, if not most, of whom arrived at their chosen schools bright-eyed, bushy tailed and full of enthusiasm for the faith.

The culprits are the intellectually lazy academics who lead spiritually underdeveloped minds astray by deliberately undermining trust in witness of the Evangelists and Apostles. Yet they, in turn, are merely the dupes of the real trailblazers.

Today the names of the authors of modern skepticism have largely faded from public memory. Who, for instance, remembers the long-retired Episcopal bishop John Shelby who thumbed his nose at the basic precepts of the faith he professed to espouse in books that were lauded as sophisticated scriptural scholarship?

Who remembers the Jesus Seminar – the group of 74 “scholars” who met regularly to vote on which parts of the New Testament they considered genuine (less than 18 percent they've decided)?

The problem with their brand of scholarship is not just that it is intellectually dishonest, derivative and predictable. Its exponents talents lie not so much in learning as garnering publicity and media hype.

It's worth asking how much media attention would be generated by books with such titles as Theologians Believe The

Bible Is True or Bishop Believes In God? Not much I'd warrant.

But, when all's said and done, the real issue is not what these folks think about God but, rather, what God thinks about them. And that's a horse of a wholly different color. **GPH**✘

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Tick, tock....Tick, tock

YES, that's the sound of the Garden Party countdown clock relentlessly beating out the days until May 4th. After all, it's only five short weeks away!

We guarantee a festive day. We'll have pipers and singers and Maypole dancers. Races and frolics for the kids. Lot's to eat - from high tea to hot dogs. A load of jumble. Games of chance.

And, of course, King Henry VIII will be joining us along with his motley jester. But beware, the King's goaler will be looking for miscreants to put in the stocks.

There will be the grand opening of our new pub, The Barley Mow, serving ice cold frothy beverages. And much, much more.

We hope you will all get involved by joining us on May 4th, but, more important, by lending your talents to making this the best Garden Party yet.

How can you help? Let us count the ways....

Americans call it White Elephant, the Brits call it Jumble. But whatever you call it, please rummage the corners of your closets for bric-a-brac,

collectibles, books, DVDs, CDs and oddities for our Jumble sale. But please no TVs or electronics. Tables are set up in the Parish Hall for your donations.

A new feature for this year will be a St Stephen's craft table. There are lots of talented people at St Stephen's creating all kinds of wonderful crafts. Here's a chance to show off yours by offering some of your handmade items for sale.

We'll need cakes for the cake table. This year we'll be selling whole cakes, half cakes, and quarter cakes for families both large and small. Cakes should be delivered to the church on May 3rd.

Help us with our advertising. Information sheets for Garden Party Program ads are in the back of the church. Help us by selling ads to the local merchants and businesses you frequent.

How about becoming a patron of the Garden Party? Your name will be listed in the Garden Party program acknowledging your generosity. There are several levels to choose from:

- Imperial Crown - \$100
- House of Windsor - \$75
- House of York - \$50
- House of Lancaster - \$30

Shortly we will have Garden Party posters to take to your grocery store, library, or any place else that has a bulletin board. We'll let you know as soon as they're available.

Finally, we need volunteers to work the day before and the day of the Garden Party. Sign-up sheets will be posted shortly in the vestibule. We hope you'll contribute your time to help us set up and run this great event. You'll be rewarded with lots of laughter and fellowship.

RSVPs wanted!

WE really need your RSVPs!

Come celebrate Anne Hawkins' retirement on Saturday April 6th, 2013. The party will take place at Rosa and Jim

In-Giving for AT JACOB'S WELL - Sunday, April 7th

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**

April 7th, 2013

8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.15 HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I St. John 5:4-12

The Gospel: St. John 20:19-23

FOR YOUR MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 66

The First Lesson: Wisdom 2:23 - 3:9*

The Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-12

**Apocrypha*

Halbert's home, 7929 Ruxway Road from 5 to 7 PM. Maps and directions will be available closer to the date. We are asking you to bring an hors d'oeuvre, salad or dessert.

Please RSVP by March 31st to either Rosa at 410-825-1592 or Donna Szper at 410-252-1499. See you there!

✠ 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: Fr Guy✠, Ray✠, Kathleen, Michael, Finton, Morris, Charles, Dawn, Betty Jean, Elliot, Sharon, Paul, Andy, Michael, Rosina Donna, Diane, John, David, Richard, Bill, Charlotte, Leo, Riley, Mary-Ann, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, Thelma, Mary, 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, Erline, 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, 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, Jimmy, Felicia, and Suzie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Hope, JoAnn, Larry, Aaron, Hope, Tom, Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Dean, Ned, 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

✠ 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

PREBENDARY: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley

VICAR: The Rev. Michael Kerouac

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Happy Riley
(410- 252-8674)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATORS: Happy Riley (410-252-8674)
Martha Miller (410-321-9038)

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 Easter Sunday and
The Annunciation of the Blessed
Virgin Mary**

Almighty Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that, as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 170, 235

Return Service Requested

St. Stephen's Anglican Church
11856 Mays Chapel Road
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