

Join us for Silly Summer Suppers - Thursdays at 5:30 pm

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXIV, Number 24

Edited by Don Ruthig

June 25th, 2013

FROM THE RECTOR

Neo-pagans hijacking hospital chaplaincies

ST. STEPHEN'S is one of the relatively few "mainline" churches in the area that still maintains an active ministry in the wider Baltimore community. We provide pastoral care at retirement communities, assisted living facilities, hospitals, nursing homes and hospices. We also serve as chaplains for local clubs and organizations, including the Navy League and the St. George's Society.

Our Pastoral Care Team, headed by Happy Riley, our new Director of Pastoral Care, has plenty to keep it busy. After all some 80 percent of Americans not only consider themselves to be religious, the vast bulk of them describe themselves as Christians.

The faith of our (founding) fathers, it turns out is rather more resilient than the prophets of doom predicted. Thus it is decidedly premature for folks to proclaim that we have entered "the Post-Christian Era."

This news has come as a grave disappointment to the neo-pagan "New Agers" who hoped to profit from Christianity's demise. The stubbornness with which even "unchurched" Americans cling to their religious heritage – whether it be Christian, Jewish, or, latterly, Moslem – presents a serious obstacle to neo-pagans' efforts to promote their beliefs.

After all, folks who think of themselves as Christian, Jewish or Moslem generally consider the notion of communing with crystals, rocks, earth goddesses or any other exotic surrogate deity just a little bit weird.

This, however, has not deterred some of the more determined neo-pagans. What they have been unable to achieve openly, they are attempting to accomplish by stealth.

Instead of openly declaring the true pagan nature of their faith, they are posing as Christians in a bid to hijack chaplaincies at unsuspecting institutions such as hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, the military and prisons.

It takes a high degree of sensitivity and tolerance to serve as a chaplain in such venues. Chaplains must be prepared to minister to the spiritual needs of people of all faiths, not solely their own. It is a servant ministry not a proselytizing one.

It is perfectly possible for a Christian chaplain to offer comfort to a Jew, a Moslem, or a Buddhist. But frequently the best comfort a chaplain can offer a patient of a different religious persuasion is to find a minister of their own religion to visit them.

The line peddled by the neo-pagans, however, is that tolerance, sensitivity and understanding is not enough. Chaplains, they argue, should stand above – or apart from – religion

Chaplains, they argue, should keep their personal religious beliefs out of it. Rather, they should be required to serve as all-purpose "spiritual counselors" rather than ministers of any particular religion.

Furthermore, they advocate protocols that make it very difficult for lapsed, or non-practicing, Christians to be reconciled with their faiths.

They claim that chaplains should primarily serve people classified as "non-religious," or "anti-religious." ("Religious" folks, apparently, are supposed to be served by their own pastors.) The "non-religious" are defined as folks who do not go regularly to church. The "anti-religious" are defined as those who express some anger about the church they used to attend.

According to the neo-pagans, any mention of Christianity to the "non-religious" or "anti-religious" is somehow "unprofessional" or "unethical." Instead, they should be encouraged to develop "alternative" – for which read "neo-pagan" – forms of spirituality. Prayer wheels, medicine bags and dream catchers are in, so to speak, while the sacraments of the church are most definitely out.

To describe such ideas as insidious and deceitful is an

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephens

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Bible Study at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in the Parish Hall

Thursdays, 5.30 PM: Silly Summer Suppers

Thursdays, 7.00 PM: Bridge Group meets in the Parish Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the vestibule

Special Events

Wednesday, June 26th: Vestry meets at 7.00 PM in the vestibule

Thursday, July 4th: Fourth of July Silly Summer Barbecue

Sunday, September 8th: Parish Picnic at the home of Ellen Reather

understatement. Actually, experience shows that many of the people who fall into these "non-religious" or "anti-religious" categories – particularly the Christians – often welcome reconciliation with their faiths.

The fact of the matter is that much of the spiritual comfort a good chaplain offers is not "God talk," but talk about baseball, football, the movies, or whatever happens to be the patient's passion. Comfort might come with prayer or communion. But often it is given simply by holding a hand.

Sadly, the neo-pagans' proselytizing is finding sympathetic ears in a number of major institutions – not only at the universities and major corporations that run many of the nation's most important hospitals and nursing homes, but at government entities, such as the military and the Veterans' Administration, too.

The "Neo-pagans, thus, seem to be succeeding in creating a clear field for the promotion of their own bizarre beliefs, while denying Christians an equal opportunity to do the same.

And the most unspeakable thing about it is that they – and their fellow travelers in academia, the bar, hospital administration and government – are doing so by shamelessly exploiting the vulnerability of people in desperate emotional and spiritual need. **GPH**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

It's time for some summer silliness

It's Silly Summer Supper time again. Join us every Thursday at 5.30 pm in the Parish Hall for a seriously good supper at a very silly price.

Our chefs are combing their cookbooks for tasty menus for your enjoyment. And what a deal it is; entree, salad, delicious bread, and dessert for a mere \$10 per person. And it all comes with a side of St Stephen's fellowship.

As usual we will have beer, wine, and sodas for a nominal charge, and the lemonade is still complementary.

As has become tradition, stay after dinner for a lively game of Bingo led by our colorful caller, Bill Hawkins. And, since it's a Thursday night, you can cap the evening off with a friendly game of bridge with the bridge group.

All this, and still only \$10. There's no better deal in town.

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**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
June 30th, 2013
8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION
The Epistle: I St. Peter 3:8-15
The Gospel: St. Luke 5:1-11
11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalm 62, 63
The First Lesson: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, 18-23
The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 19:16-30

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, JoAnne, 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, Susan, Christina, Dawn and Suzie.

News from the Diocese

The Diocese of the Eastern US (DEUS) has begun publication of a Diocesan newsletter, "DEUS Among Us." To learn more about what's going on around the Diocese pick up a copy in the literature rack outside the church office, or check it out on our website in our newsletter archive.

✠ 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: Brice, Reta, Kathleen, David, Evelyn, Ellen, Mimi, Val, Stacy, Dino, 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, Sara, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, Heather, Laurie, Lynn, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian,

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Hope, JoAnn, Larry, Aaron, Hope, Bob, Paige, Tom, Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Ned, Stephen, Rachel, Lydia; Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, Bobby, Kay & Emma, Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Susan, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, 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, Drake, Emily, and David

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, USA; Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes

FOR REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Betty and Patricia

✠ 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 THE Fourth Sunday after
Trinity and Saint Peter the Apostle**

O GOD, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy; Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal.
Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN

O ALMIGHTY God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to thy Apostle Saint Peter many excellent gifts, and commandedst him earnestly to feed thy flock; Make, we beseech thee, all Bishops and Pastors diligently to preach thy holy Word, and the people obediently to follow the same, that they may receive the crown of everlasting glory; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN
Book of Common Prayer, Pages 194 and 244

Return Service Requested

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