

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXIV, Number 45

Edited by Don Ruthig

November 19th, 2013

FROM THE RECTOR

Does God need our help to decide what is right?

THE controversies currently engulfing the mainline churches of the English-speaking world – the Episcopal Church included – are authored by folks who make the remarkable claim that they have God's enthusiastic support for flouting both Scriptural authority and catholic order.

They assert they are able to "discern" God's mind because his revelation to mankind was not, as the Church traditionally taught, completed in the incarnation, earthly ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

According to them, it is an on-going affair, continuing apace for ever – well, at least until they "discern" God wants them to stop.

"Discernment" is, of course, a very ancient concept. Indeed, since the church's very inception, Christians have been trying to discern the mind of God.

But until quite recently it was a reasonably straight forward process: If you wondered what God thought about something or other, you looked it up in the Bible and the Scripture explained to you what God's opinion was.

Today's cutting edge theologians, however, consider such notions unsophisticated, old fashioned and simple-minded. Instead they "discern" God's mind by endlessly discussing the most outlandish of notions and then taking a vote on which one is right.

God, of course, doesn't actually get a vote in the process. But then he apparently doesn't need one because the cutting-edge folks are self-appointedly doing his thinking for him.

Fuddy-duddies who protest this oddly one-sided practice are dismissed with the explanation that the Church has been doing this sort of thing since the Apostolic Age.

Judging by the results, however, one can't help feeling that if these folks actually tried reading The Bible before they voted on what they think God had in mind when he inspired it, the results would be rather different. As things stand, they understandably tend to get hold of the wrong end of the stick.

For example, a bishop, noted for his enthusiasm for overthrowing doctrines established in the days of the Apostles, claims: "It took the Church 30 years to realize that gentiles could be Christians. [And] it took 1,830 years for the Church to realize that slavery was wrong . . ."

Cookie Walk at a Glance

Key Dates for a Successful Event

- Sunday, November 3rd:** Begin bringing donations for our Gift and Children's Tables
- Thursday, November 7th:** Bidding opens for the 3rd Annual Knitter's Silent Auction
- Sunday, November 10th:** Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available in the Cadwalader Room.
- Saturday, November 30th/Sunday, December 1st:** Bring donations of greens to the church
- Sunday, December 1st - Thursday, December 5th:** Drop off cookies
- Tuesday, December 3rd, 2.00 PM.** Volunteers needed to set up Quimby Hall for work days
- Wednesday, December 4th, Thursday, December 5th, 10.00 AM.** Workdays. Volunteers needed to make table baskets, wreaths, and greens arrangements.
- Friday, December 6th, 10.00 AM:** Volunteers needed for final setup
- Saturday, December 7th:** The Big Day. Volunteers needed help with the sale and for clean-up.
- Sunday, December 8th.** Bidding ends for the Silent Auction following 11.15 AM Service

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephens

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Breakfast Fellowship at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall

Wednesdays, 6.30 PM: Bridge Group meets in Quimby Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events

Wednesday, November 20th, 12.00 Noon. Ladies Who Lunch at Basta Pasta.

Wednesday, November 20th, 7.00 PM. The Vestry meets in the Cadwalader Room.

Thursday, November 28th, 10.00 AM. Thanksgiving Day Service. Sung Eucharist.

Saturday, December 7th, 9.00 AM. Cookie Walk, Quimby Hall

But if he'd actually bothered to read the Bible before opening his mouth, he might not have made a fool of himself. He's wrong on both counts, you see.

The Book of Acts informs us that not long after the election of the first Deacons, St. Philip had baptized an Ethiopian eunuch – a gentile if ever there was one (Acts 8:16-39).

It also describes St. Peter's vision on the roof of the house in Joppa. This prompted his baptism of the gentile Roman centurion Cornelius and his entire gentile household (Acts 10:1-48) long before the execution of St. James the Great in AD 43 (Acts 12:2).

Moreover, Acts records that the Council of Jerusalem, which met in AD 49, decreed – citing Scriptural authority and Christ's revelation – that it would be wrong for Jewish Christians to ask gentile Christians to undergo the rite of circumcision.

In short, the Council affirmed that, from its very inception, the Church had always been open to gentiles.

And the idea that it took the Church 1,830 years to wake up to the evils of slavery is equally outlandish. St. Paul's Epistle to Philemon, a member of the Church at Colossae and his Epistle to the Colossians (Col. 3:22-4:1) radically redefine the relations between master and slave. No impartial reader can possibly construe Paul's words as condoning slavery – quite the reverse, in fact.

Perhaps the most important lesson we can learn from The Bible is that people – professed Christians included – have routinely flouted God's Commandments since he chiseled them in stone for Moses on Mount Sinai 3,500 years ago.

The difference is that once upon a time people felt ashamed at transgressing God's laws. Today, by contrast, the "theologians" who overthrow them feel a quiet pride in doing so – thanks to their convenient talent for discerning God's mind. GPH✘

Free to a good home

TAKING advantage of a rebate program offered through BG&E, we were able to replace all of our sanctuary lighting with much more efficient LED lamps - a reduction in the power used by almost 80%.

As a result we have a supply of slightly used but still serviceable 90 watt indoor/outdoor floodlamps available for adoption in the Cadwalader Room.

If you have outdoor flood lights and would like some spare bulbs please feel free to grab some. Not only are they free, but you can no longer buy 90 watt bulbs in the store.

Please help the Treasurer

IT'S THAT time again. Pledge letters for 2014 have been sent out and our beleaguered Treasurer needs your help to complete the formidable job of preparing our budget for next year.

Please help him by returning your pledge commitments for 2014 to him, if you haven't already done so. You can drop them in the mail or

Cookie Walk is coming. Start you Ovens!

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

November 24th, 2013

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

For the Epistle: Jeremiah 23:5-8

The Gospel: St. John 6:5-14

11.15 AM CHORAL MATTINS

The Psalter: Psalm 103

The First Lesson: Isaiah 25:1-9

The Second Lesson: St. John 6:5-14

at the church office, or put them in the offering plate on Sunday.
The Treasurer thanks you.

Cookie Walk Reminders

DON'T FORGET to visit the Knitting Circle's Silent Auction and bid on some of the many beautiful items there.

Do you have Nandina, Holly, Boxwood, Magnolia or Pines that need trimming? Contact Martha Miller at 410-321-9038. We're looking for greens for table decorations and our greens bags.

Tables have been set up in Quimby Hall for donations of gift table items. Unlike Jumble, these items should be new or in new condition - suitable to give as a gift for family or friends.

Check out your closet shelves for things you may have received that just weren't your taste, or weren't something you could use. They may be just what someone else is looking for.

It's not too early to start baking and freezing cookies. If you don't have a favorite recipe of your own try our recipe of the week, Fruit Cake Cookies. It was a big hit last year.

Why not make an event of it? Invite a friend or two over for an afternoon of baking, friendship, and a nice cup of tea or glass of wine when the work's done. Many hands do, after all, make light work.

FROM THE COOKIE WALK KOOKS

Cookie recipe of the week

James Beard's Icebox Cookies

INGREDIENTS:

1 Cup Butter; 1 to 1-1/2 Cups Granulated Sugar; 1 Teaspoon Vanilla, 2 Eggs, 3 Cups Sifted Flour; 1/2 Teaspoon Salt

Cream the butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in vanilla and eggs. Add flour and salt sifted together and stir until well blended. Divide the dough into three parts and form rolls. Roll each roll in waxed paper and store in refrigerator or freezer until firm. With a sharp knife, slice 1/8 to 3/8 inch thick. Place on greased cookie sheets and bake in a preheated 375F oven until cookies turn a delicate beige. Remove from pan and cool on racks. Cooking time depends upon the thickness of cookies as does yield of 4 to 6-1/2 dozen cookies.

✠ 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: Katherine, Roberta, Susan, Donna, Aida, Eunice, Cherry, Ruth, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, Suzie, Pat, Mary John, Charlene, Bill, David, Wyatt, Richard, Shaye, Mavis, Eleanor, Bobbi, Carmen, Rodney, Hamilton, Jane, Donald, Mary, Helen, Tammara, MaryAnn, Annie, Carolyn, Cynthia, Evelyn, Edith, Jason, Kim, Dee, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Leonard, Linda Lou, Ben, Edie, John, Beth, and Maryann.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Connie, Azalea, Stephen, Ann, Paige, Lydia, Remi, Melba

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, Ian Cadwalader serving in Afghanistan.

✠ 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 Rev. Canon Guy P. Hawtin

PREBENDARY: The Rev. Canon Rhae E. Kelley

VICAR: The Venerable 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.

COLLECT FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY AND CECELIA, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

O GOD, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil, and make us the sons of God, and heirs of eternal life; Grant us, we beseech thee, that, having hope, we may purify ourselves, even as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer, Page 117

O GOD, which makest us glad with the yearly festival of blessed Cecilia thy Virgin and Martyr: grant, we beseech thee; that as we do venerate her in our outward office, so we may follow the example of her godly conversation. Through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end.

AMEN

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
TIMONIUM MD
PERMIT NO. 181

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