

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXIV, Number 46

Edited by Don Ruthig

November 26th, 2013

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Cookie Walk is fast upon us

THE balmy days of late can easily fool us into thinking the holidays are still in the distant future, but it's already Thanksgiving week and the beginning of the annual race toward Christmas - and the race toward Cookie Walk!

Hopefully your ovens have been going and your freezers are bursting with cookies. We're asking each parish family to bake 10 pounds of cookies so we can meet the demand of the clientele we have developed over the years.

You may start bringing your cookies to St. Stephen's beginning on **Sunday, December 1st** and then throughout the following week. Please have your cookies here by noon on **Friday, December 6th**, so we have time to organize and label them for the sale.

Beginning on **Saturday, November 30th**, greens may be dropped off at the back of the church building. We are in need of magnolia, nandina, holly, boxwood, and assorted pines and firs for our table arrangements and greens bags.

The schedule for setup week is listed in the calendar below. Please note that, for people who would like to help but can't work during the day, there will evening hours for making wreaths and table decorations on Wednesday, **December 4th**.

Our gift table is shaping up nicely but there's still time to donate new or like-new items. Once again, please have them to the church by noon **Friday, December 6th**.

A heartfelt thank you in advance for all of the hard work you all contribute to the Cookie Walk. It's success is due entirely to the esprit de corps and generosity of our parish, and we thank you.

Cookie Walk at a Glance

- Saturday, November 30th/Sunday, December 1st:** Bring donations of greens to the church
- Sunday, December 1st - Thursday, December 5th:** Begin to 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

FROM THE RECTOR

False messiahs and the Culture Warriors

THE expression "Culture War" seems to be invoked incessantly these days to explain the root of every dispute in spheres as far apart as the Christian religion and Washington politics.

Today's "Culture War," in fact, have precious little to do with culture. Far from it. Rather, the underlying causes of the conflicts are profound divisions in people's understanding of the basic nature of human beings.

On one hand, there are the folk who believe that human nature has improved over the years, and that, ultimately, human society is perfectible - albeit in the far distant future.

People on the other side take a rather more baleful view of humankind. They believe that human nature is fundamentally flawed - tainted by a predisposition to sin - and that social progress can only be achieved by painstakingly striving to emulate

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

- Thursday, November 28th, 10.00 AM.** Thanksgiving Day Service. Sung Eucharist.
- Saturday, December 7th, 9.00 AM.** Cookie Walk, Quimby Hall
- Thursday, December 12th, 2.00 PM.** Afternoon Tea, Quimby Hall
- Monday, December 23rd, 9.00 AM:** Volunteers needed to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

God.

Those whose faith lies in human perfectibility dismiss folks who believe the contrary as unimaginative and hidebound. And it is clear their contempt for tradition and their bracing belief in "human progress" resonates with many Americans these days.

The history of the past century, however, makes it difficult to share their confidence. Never before has man striven so hard in the search for social perfection, yet, sadly, the end result of this effort has been immeasurable human misery.

But actually, the "Culture War" goes back far further than the 20th Century. Indeed, it is exactly what Jesus is talking about when he warns against false messiahs and prophets in the Gospel read on the 25th Sunday After Trinity (*St. Matthew 24:23-31*).

Gentiles, no less than Jews, are as susceptible to the siren song of false messiahs and prophets offering visions of heaven - on earth as often as above. And the consequences have been numberless deaths.

The French Revolution, for example, promised a glorious future of liberty, equality and fraternity. All it delivered was death and destruction on a scale hitherto unknown.

Karl Marx, an apostle of atheism and the expositor of "scientific socialism", would probably take exception to being described as a messiah. But he was, in fact, exactly that.

His political program aimed at the creation of heaven upon earth - a decidedly religious vision even though Marx's God is evolution rather than the God of the Bible. Millions have been sacrificed on the altar of that vision.

Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler, Vladimir Illyich Lenin, Mao Tse Tung, Francisco Franco, Juan & Evita Peron, Papa Doc, Pol Pot, Jacques Bokassa, President Mobuto, Robert Mugabe, the list of false messiahs is endless and the number of their victims is beyond calculation.

But the fact of the matter is that they could not have carried out their programs without the enthusiastic consent of large numbers of ordinary people who succumbed to their rhetoric and endorsed their messianic visions.

Psalm 146 tells us: "Put not your trust in princes, nor in any child of man; for there is no help in them." It is not an incitement to anarchy or even an argument in favor of a cynical approach to politics.

It is simply a warning against attributing to our political leaders messianic qualities and powers - and expecting of them quick fixes to intractable problems or other things they cannot or should not deliver.

The Romans of the First Century AD were acutely aware of the dangers presented by such unrealistic expectations. Their mistrust of the human ego was prominently on display when victorious Roman generals were awarded triumphs.

They were driven through Rome in gilded chariots, with their faces painted scarlet to represent the god Mars. A slave stood behind them holding their laurel wreaths, and whispering constantly in their ears: "Remember, you are merely a man."

Monthly In-Giving for At Jacob's Well - Sunday, December 1st.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

December 1st, 2013

**8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.15 AM HOLY
COMMUNION**

For the Epistle: Romans 13:8-14

The Gospel: St. Matthew 21:1-13

For your MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 50

The First Lesson: Isaiah 28:14-22

The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 21:1-13

It is a statement that is as applicable to those who aspire to lead the nation today as it was to the aspiring leaders

Personally, I'd like to see a rather better track record before I bet the farm on human perfectibility. Till then, my money stays on Original Sin. **GPH**✘

FROM THE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Help yourself by helping us

The holiday season is upon us – and so is the end of our financial year: Please remember that a special contribution to St. Stephen's may help to reduce your tax burden for the year 2013. For example, in addition to reducing your taxes by a deduction based on the present value of your securities, Capital Gains Tax can be avoided with a gift of securities that have appreciated particularly greatly over the years. Please contact Treasurer William Hawkins, if you have questions. And remember, if in doubt contact your tax advisor.

✦ 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 ✦

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RECTOR: The Rev. Canon Guy P. Hawtin

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 SUNDAY NEXT
BEFORE ADVENT AND ST. ANDREW
THE APOSTLE**

O GOD, we beseech thee O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

ALMIGHTY God, who didst give such grace unto thy holy Apostle Saint Andrew, that he readily obeyed the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ and followed him without delay; Grant unto us all, that we, being called by thy holy Word, may forthwith give up ourselves obediently to fulfil thy holy commandments; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 225 & 226

Return Service Requested

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