

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXV, Number 5

Edited by Don Ruthig

February 11th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

Don't let United Way politicize your giving

THE fashionable antipathy to the Christian faith is by no means solely confined to our "body politic," the courts, our public schools and the nation's secular colleges and universities. It is also deeply embedded in many of America's best-known charitable institutions.

This sprang to mind when a friend told me he planned to designate a portion of his annual United Way contribution to St. Stephen's.

I told him not to waste his time or his money. The United Way of Central Maryland struck St. Stephen's off the list of institutions worthy of its service 10 years ago.

The United Way didn't even do us the courtesy of breaking the news gently. Instead of a letter of explanation, a postcard arrived curtly announcing: "This is to inform you that your agency was **not approved** to receive donor designations . . ." [Their emphasis.]

The cut-off might have been unobjectionable if the United Way had been giving St. Stephen's money from its own pocket. But this wasn't the case. The United Way was merely passing along cash that participants in United Way campaigns specifically earmarked for St. Stephen's.

Many donors, you see, designate their gifts to be divided among specific recipients, not solely to the politically correct outfits the United Way deems worthy.

The United Way didn't offer this service solely from the goodness of its heart. It has been a useful tool for selling the group's fund raising campaigns in the work place – acting as a guarantee that at least part of the money will go to charities the donors favor.

People, not unreasonably, feel more comfortable about donating to large, amorphous outfits like the United Way when they are able to nominate their own churches and other local charities as beneficiaries.

It is not as though the United Way's services come free. The organization deducts a handsome percentage of the amount donated for passing the money on. Moreover, it hangs on to the cash for up to a year, drawing interest that it keeps for itself.

It is highly unlikely that the United Way's decision to drop St. Stephen's – and presumably churches like it – was impelled by economics. Implementing it almost certainly cost the organization money – donations from folks who have become aware their favored recipients have been dropped.

Sadly, the United Way's motive for cutting off donations is to coerce churches and other organization it views with disfavor into changing policies it deems politically incorrect.

For example, the Boy Scouts of America was struck off the recipients list by a number of United Way branches in a bid – ultimately successful – to force it to change its policy towards homosexuals.

It is one thing for an individual to make such a decision. But it is presumptuous beyond belief for an umbrella organization like the United Way to make the decision by fiat for them.

Actually, if one accepts at face value the United Way's excuse for striking St. Stephen's off the list, one has no alternative but to conclude it was inspired either by ignorance or sheer dishonesty.

The organization explained it had adopted a policy only to accept designated gifts for non-profits the core mission of which was health and human service.

Utter humbug! St. Stephen's has always been deeply engaged in the fields of health and human service.

Take for instance, our work at the Joseph Richey Hospice, At Jacob's Well, Glen Meadows Retirement Community, Broadmead, Mays Chapel Ridge Assisted Living, Power Back, College Manor, Union Memorial Hospital, GBMC, as well as

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

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

Tuesday, February 11th, 7.00 PM: Parish Life Meeting in Quimby Hall

Friday, February 14th, 7.00 PM: Valentine's Dinner and Auction, Quimby Hall

Tuesday, February 18th, 2.00 PM - 7.30 PM: Blood Drive, Quimby Hall

Wednesday, February 19th, 11.45 AM: The Ladies Who Lunch at The Peppermill

Wednesday, February 19th, 7.00 PM: Vestry Meeting in the Cadwalader Room

Tuesday, March 4th, 5.00 PM - 7.30 PM: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, March 12th, 6.15 PM: Lenten Studies begin in Quimby Hall.

Thursday, March 13th, 2.00 PM: Afternoon Tea in Quimby Hall

nursing homes like Lorian and our ministry to shut-ins.

And how about the Red Cross blood drives we organize and the other services we offer the community?

In short, it seems clear the United Way's action against this parish is simply another example of the mounting antipathy towards Christians and Christianity that is increasingly apparent among our self-anointed elite.

There is, however, no reason to take this lying down. The United Way relies heavily on corporate and peer pressure for the success of its fund drives. This year show some backbone. Tell them: "I'm not donating this year because you won't accept money for the charities I support."

Furthermore, it doesn't take much more courage to ask the boss for permission to set up a company-sponsored charitable collection pool and cut the United Way out of the loop entirely.

Do this, and the charities you support will certainly receive a much higher percentage of the money you collect. Your donations will not be levied a portion of the United Way's very considerable administrative overhead.

That said, there is something decidedly flawed about the whole concept underlying outfits like the United Way. Not least, there is something intrinsically amiss about letting other folk play Lady Bountiful with your money.

Besides, it simply isn't true that a bunch of professional do-gooders are likely to be better at allocating your charity dollars than you are.

In any event, the best way to institute a change of policy at the United Way is to give them a hearty dose of their own medicine: Grasp them firmly by the purse strings and their hearts and minds will follow. **GPH***

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Plan to join us on February 19th

THIS month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at 11.45 AM (please note the earlier time to ensure we get a table large enough - the Peppermill does not take reservations) at The Peppermill, on Wednesday, February 19th. Why not join us for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal? Good food and good fellowship --

Give the Gift of Life. St Stephen's Blood Drive Tuesday, February 18th

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
THE SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY**
February 16th, 2014
8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION
The Epistle: I Corinthians 9:24-27
The Gospel: St. Matthew 20:1-16
11.15 AM CHORAL MATINS
The Psalter: Psalm 20
The First Lesson: Joshua 1:1-9
The Second Lesson: I Corinthians 9:24-27

what more could you want? To reserve your place call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680. from the parish Life Committee

Valentines Dinner and Auction

THIS Friday is the "big night" for the Valentine Dinner and Auction. For those joining us for a festive dinner and an

auction loaded with wonderful services and items, we'd like to remind you that the attire for the evening elegant casual.

✠ 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✠, Fr Mike✠, Donna, Aida, Eunice, Cherry, Ruth, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, Suzie, John, Charlene, Rodney, Hamilton, Jane, Donald, Annie, Cynthia, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Linda Lou, Edie, John, Beth, Adele, Melba, Lydia, Chandra, Brady, Nina, Baby Charlie, Maryann, Angie, Oona, John, Ann, Cary, Janna, Martina, Leela, Bobby Sally, Isabelle.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Connie, Azalea, Stephen, Ann, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan

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

FOR REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Mary Nichols, Jack Weaver

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: Suzanne and the Fong Family, Elizabeth and the Weaver Family.

✠ 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
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 FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY AND SAINT
VALENTINE**
O LORD, we beseech thee to keep thy Church and household continually in thy true religion; that they who do lean only upon the hope of thy heavenly grace may evermore be defended by thy mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN
Book of Common Prayer Page 115
ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who didst strengthen thy blessed martyr Valentine with the virtue of constancy in faith and truth: Grant us in like manner for love of thee to despise the prosperity of this world, and to fear none of its adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
AMEN

Return Service Requested

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

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