

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Don Ruthig

April 15th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

Christian love and our response to the jihad

TODAY, as we debate the withdrawal of our military from Afghanistan, it might be worth considering the reasons that took us to that benighted land in the first place.

The terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon was a heinous crime. More than 60,000 people worked in the two buildings and it was only by the grace of God and the heroism of our police and firefighters that the vast majority of them were spared.

It is hard for Americans to grasp the fact that the people who planned and executed the attacks in such a barbarous, dishonorable and inhumane fashion were disappointed with a death toll of some 3,000 souls.

The buildings were assaulted at a time when most of the workers were likely to be seated at their desks. The fact that so many survived is a tribute to the ordinary American's courage and genius for organization and improvisation.

Americans were shaken to the core by the pitiless nature of the attack because – no matter what secularist politicians might say – our culture is the product of 2000 years of Christian thought. And Jesus' teachings leave us no alternative but to try to love our enemies – no matter how hateful their acts.

Animated by this, our first instinct in times of strife has always been to minimize the sufferings of the innocent non-combatants and to protect the helpless wounded – even at the expense of increasing the risks to our own fighting men.

To wage war by deliberately slaughtering the innocent and helpless is utterly repugnant to us. This is why terrorism is regarded as beyond contempt. And we are especially appalled by the way in which the Islamic terrorists behave because it is so entirely . . . well . . . un-Christian.

The terrorists show not the faintest shred of compassion or mercy. Women, children, old and young, they are all equally desirable targets. But, actually, our anger with the Islamic terrorists, while not completely surprising, is not wholly logical either. Islamic fundamentalists are not Christians.

But Jesus Christ's command to "love your enemies" makes sense only to Christians. To Islamic fundamentalists, this is incomprehensible folly.

For the terrorist, jihad is an act of piety. To the Western mind, however, it seems to embrace no discernible political objectives beyond killing – indiscriminately – as many people as possible who do not share the perpetrators' religious beliefs.

And those beliefs are ugly in the extreme. In practice, they require adherents to affirm there is only one God whose name is Allah, that Mohammed is his prophet, and to pray five times a day.

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

Mondays, 6.30 PM (Temporary Lenten Schedule):

Bridge Club at the home of Fr. Mike

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Breakfast Fellowship at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events

Sunday, April 13th, 6.00 PM: Service of Lessons and Anthems for Passiontide

Saturday, May 3rd, 11.00 AM-4.00 PM: British Garden Party and Fete

Holy Week Schedule

April 13th through April 20th

Palm Sunday

8.00 AM Holy Communion

9.15 AM & 11.00 AM Sung Holy Communion

6.00 PM Service of Lessons and Anthems for Passiontide

Holy Monday

6.00 PM Holy Communion

Holy Tuesday

6.00 PM Holy Communion

Holy Wednesday

6.00 PM Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday

7.00 PM Choral Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday

12.00 Noon The Seven Last Words from the Cross

3.30 PM Children's Way of the Cross

6.00 PM Communion of the Pre-sanctified

Holy Saturday

7.00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Day

8.00 AM Holy Communion

9.15 AM Choral Eucharist

(Followed by Easter Egg Hunt for Children 7 and under)

11.00 AM Choral Eucharist

Men who do so are then empowered to kill any man who does not share their beliefs and expropriate his property. Women, of course, fall into the category of property because – according to the jihadists' fundamentalist dogma – they have souls vastly inferior to those of men.

An extreme fundamentalist version of Islam was – and remains – to all intents and purposes Afghanistan's state religion. And the Taliban, acting on its religious precepts, established the country as the main operational base of the jihadist movement and its primary training ground for its war against the West in general, and America in particular.

Taliban rule was barbaric almost beyond belief. Before the arrival of American troops, for example, Afghanistan was, arguably, the worst place in the world to be a woman.

Not only were they confined to the home and denied an education, they could be brutalized and even killed at the whim of their male relatives. Moreover, men, and even boys, accused of failing to conform to the Taliban's barbarous version of Islam were mercilessly executed.

Today while it is still no paradise, thanks to the American intervention the public executions have stopped, and women are not only entitled to an education, but many also serve in the nation's legislature.

Should, however, the Taliban return to power in the wake of a complete U.S. withdrawal, we can look forward to an immediate return to the recent barbaric past, including the probable re-establishment of Afghanistan as an operational base and training ground for jihadists.

In short, our political leaders sorely need our prayers. The issues involved in Afghanistan put them between a rock and a hard place. For if the history of the past 100 or so years teaches anything, it is that, absent Christian principles, human life rapidly reverts to the Hobbsian condition: Solitary, nasty, brutish and short. **GPH**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Garden Party Checklist

How can you help make our Garden Party a success? Let us count the ways.....

✓ Rummage through your house for unwanted bric-a-brac, collectibles,

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
EASTER SUNDAY**

April 20th, 2014

**8.00 AM, 9.15 AM, & 11.00 AM HOLY
COMMUNION**

The Epistle: Colossians 3:1-4

The Gospel: St. John 20:1-10

For Your MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalms 118

The First Lesson: Isaiah 12

The Second Lesson: St. John 20:1-10

books, DVDs, CDs, etc. and drop them off on the jumble table in Quimby Hall.

✓ Sell advertisements and sponsorships for the brochure. Must be received by April 25th.

✓ Pick up a poster or two from the coffee room table and post at your local "haunts."

✓ Donate bottles of wine and spirits for our liquor wheel

✓ Bake cakes, pies, cookies or breads for our Bake Table. Bake small dessert items for the tea room. Baked goods should be delivered to the church on Friday, May 2nd.

✓ Lend us card tables for the tea room. Be sure to put your name on them so we can make sure you get them back.

✓ Lend us teapots for the tea room - but not your best silver or Limoges.

✓ Create a beautiful floral entry for our "Typically British" flower contest. Deliver to the church prior to 10.00 am on May 3rd.

✓ Crafters: Donate an item or two for sale on our Crafts Table.

✓ Sign up to help setup and/or work the day of the Garden Party.

✠ 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✠, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, Suzie, John, Rodney, Hamilton, Donald, Annie, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Linda Lou, Edie, Adele, Baby Charlie, Angie, Oona, Cary, Janna, Martina, Leela, Bobby Sally, Isabelle, Julie, Ray, Courtney, Mary, Phyllis, Liz, Joe, Indra, Ally, Marjorie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Ann, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan, Paula, John, Hannah.

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

Easter Flowers for St. Stephen's Altar

Here is the selection of beautiful spring flowers to decorate the church for Easter. Please make your choice and return this form to the church office with your check by Wednesday, April 16th. Flowers may be taken home after the 11:15 am service on Easter Sunday.

Lilies Small elite 6" 4-6 blooms @ \$10	<u> </u> # of plants	Field Azalea @ \$15	<u> </u> # of plants
Hydrangeas Four plus Blooms @ \$20	<u> </u>	Hyacinths @ \$10 (6"pot)	<u> </u>
Tulips @ \$10 (6" pot)	<u> </u>		

Your Name:..... My gift is made IN HONOR OF,
IN MEMORY OF, IN THANKSGIVING FOR (Please Circle)

✠ 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)

11.00 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 PALM SUNDAY AND
GOOD FRIDAY**

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified; Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before thee for all estates of men in they holy Church, that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Pages 134 and 156

Return Service Requested

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

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