

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXV, Number 24

Edited by Don Ruthig

June 24th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

PBS doesn't believe America so beautiful

FORGET about "nothing succeeding like success." The Political Correctness Movement's motto would more aptly read: "Nothing exceeds like excess."

The thought sprang to mind while watching the PBS Television series *American Masters* recently. A narrator on the series, hopelessly in the thrall of political correctness, saw fit casually to dismiss the song *America the Beautiful* as expressing anti-Semitic and anti-immigrant sentiments.

"These people are quite beyond parody," was my first reaction. My second was to err on the side of charity and to reach for my computer to check the words – just in case I had misjudged him.

Low and behold! I found three versions. The first dated 1893 was entitled "A Poem For July 4th." The second and third versions, dated 1905 and 1913 were what might best be described as "polishes" of the original.

Having spent a good deal of time pawing over Nazi documents and records during six years in Germany, I flatter myself that I am pretty good at detecting anti-Semitic and Xenophobic sentiments.

Frankly, I can find absolutely noting anti-Semitic or anti-immigrant about *America the Beautiful*. It is a simply a song that extols the inspiring history of this truly wonderful country.

Nowhere does it advance the claim that America should "rule" other countries – as in *Rule Britannia* (so beloved of the audiences at the Promenade Concerts, sponsored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, PBS's infinitely superior inspiration, mentor and source of programming).

Nor does it claim that America is superior to other countries as in *Deutschland, Deutschland uber alles!* It is simply a paean to American exceptionalism – an entirely different kettle of fish.

Nor, for that matter, is it a bloodthirsty call to revolution, such as *La Marseillaise* or socialist and communist anthems such as *The People's Flag is deepest red!* or *Arise ye starvelings from your slumbers!*

But judge for you selves

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!*

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!*

*O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife.
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine!*

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

Mondays, 6.30 PM: Bridge Club meets in Quimby Hall
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

Wednesdays, 6.15 PM: Silly Summer Suppers in Quimby Hall
Monday, June 23rd - Friday, June 27th, 9.00 AM - 12.00 Noon: Vacation Bible School
Tuesday, July 22nd, 2.00 PM - 7.30 PM: Red Cross Blood Drive

*O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.*

At first, I wondered whether perhaps the real objection to the song is that it invokes the name of God, with the petition that he "shed his Grace" on our country. But it surely can't be that – because God is worshipped by both Jews and Moslems as well as Christians. Nowhere does the song invoke a specifically Christian God.

Actually, I think the real objection to *America the Beautiful* is that the history it extols is the history of a nation the founding of which was inspired by a uniquely Christian vision.

And in this unbuttoned and unbridled age of ours how can such sentiments as "*confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law*" be acceptable for public utterance? .

Over the past couple of decades or so, claims by Christians that they are experiencing discrimination because of their faith have been routinely written off as over-sensitivity or even paranoia. But the experience over the last few decades – especially in the realm of public prayer and displays of such religious symbols as crosses, Christmas cribs and the Ten Commandments – cannot be so lightly dismissed.

Indeed, Christians might well be forgiven for adopting the wry Israeli proverb: "Just because you're paranoiac, it doesn't mean somebody's not trying to kill you." **GPH**✘

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Summer suppers at a silly price

The best dining deal in town has begun once again. Join us on Wednesday evenings following evening prayer (around 6.15 pm) for the best meal \$10 can buy - an entree, salad, and dessert all for just one sawbuck.

Non-alcoholic beverages are provided and inexpensively priced beer and wine are also available.

Like to cook? There's still a need for additional chefs to fill out the season's roster. Sign up for all or part of a meal on the sheet posted in the Cadwalader Room.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

June 29th, 2014

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I St. John 3:13-24

The Gospel: St. Luke 14:16-24

11.00 AM SUNG MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: 15, 19

The First Lesson: Job 31:13-28

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 14:16-24

FROM DIANE NOVICKI

Noah's Ark Vacation Bible School

ST. STEPHEN'S will be having Vacation Bible School beginning on Monday, June 23rd and continuing through Friday, June 27th, from 9.00 AM - 12.00 Noon.

There will be a modest \$20 fee to cover snacks, crafts and supplies. For additional siblings the fee is \$15 each.

There's still time to enroll your children. Please call the church office, 410-560-6776, with your name and address so that we may send registration forms to you. The forms, along with the fee, are to be brought with you on the first day of VBS.

Confirmation Classes to begin

In anticipation of the upcoming visit of Bishop John Vaughan in September, confirmation classes will begin shortly. For further information or to sign up for these classes please call Brock Johnson at 410-825-8007.

Red Cross Blood Drive July 22nd

Sign-up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary for the upcoming Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, July 22nd.

Summertime is a particularly critical time of need for blood donations. Please plan to give if you are able.

✠ 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 Mike✠, Fr Tim✠, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, 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, Steve, Judy.

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

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

COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY AND SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

O GOD, the strength of all those who put their trust in thee; Mercifully accept our prayers; and because, through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping thy commandments we may please thee, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord

AMEN

ALMIGHTY God, by whose providence thy servant John Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of thy Son our Saviour by preaching repentance; Make us so to follow his doctrine and holy life, that we may truly repent according to his preaching; and after his example constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Pages 188 and 242

✠ 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.

Return Service Requested

St. Stephen's Anglican Church
11856 Mays Chapel Road
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