

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Don Ruthig

July 1st, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

The Founding Fathers speak for themselves

MUCH has been said and written about our Founding Fathers - and their religious beliefs and whether they intended to base our constitution upon Christian principles or secular ones.

This week, as we mark Independence Day, perhaps we might do them the courtesy of letting them speak for themselves. And who better to start than John Adams who on the day Congress approved the Declaration of Independence, wrote to his wife Abigail: "[July 4th] ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty."

"The general principles upon which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principals of Christianity... I will avow that I believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God."

In a letter to Thomas Jefferson in 1798, he said: "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

John Quincy Adams agreed. In a Fourth of July speech in 1837, he declared: "Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior? That it forms a leading event in the progress of the Gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity?"

Charles Carroll wrote to James McHenry, November 4 1800: "Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure...are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments."

Alexander Hamilton felt so strongly about the importance of faith in government he founded the Christian Constitutional Society. He explained: "Its object is first: The support of the Christian religion. Second: The support of the United States."

In 1787 after the Constitutional Convention: "For my own part, I sincerely esteem it [the Constitution] a system which without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests."

Patrick Henry in his last will and testament declared: "This is all the inheritance I can give my dear family. The religion of Christ can give them one which will make them rich indeed."

This had always been his view. In a speech to the Virginia House of Burgesses (May, 1765), for example, he said: "It cannot be emphasized too clearly and too often that this nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ."

John Jay, on October 12, 1816, observed: " Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."

Actually, he went further than that: "Whether our religion permits Christians to vote for infidel rulers is a question which merits more consideration than it seems yet to have generally received either from the clergy or the laity. It appears to me that what the prophet said to Jehoshaphat about his attachment to Ahab affords a salutary lesson." [N.B. II Chronicles 19:2 reads: "Shouldst thou help the ungodly and love them that hate the Lord?"]

James Madison declared to the General Assembly of the State of Virginia in 1778: "We've staked our future on our ability to follow the Ten Commandments with all of our heart. We have

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
Tuesday, July 8, 7.00 PM: Parish Life Committee Meets
Wednesday, July 16th, 12.00 Noon: The Ladies Who Lunch at the California Pizza Kitchen
Tuesday, July 22nd, 2.00 PM - 7.30 PM: Red Cross Blood Drive

staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We've staked the future of all our political institutions upon our capacity ... to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."

Benjamin Franklin was not a notable Christians but in his 1749 plan of education for public schools in Pennsylvania, he insisted that schools teach "the excellency of the Christian religion above all others, ancient or modern." And in 1787 when he helped found Benjamin Franklin University, it was dedicated as "a nursery of religion and learning, built on Christ, the Cornerstone."

This was not an aberration. On June 28th, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention, he declared: " God governs in the affairs of man We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel"

Like Franklin, Thomas Jefferson is a secularist hero. This, however, is what he had to say: "I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus ... God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever."

George Washington, in a speech to Delaware Indian chiefs, on May 12th, 1779, said: "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and Bible.. What students would learn in American schools above all is the religion of Jesus Christ."

At Valley Forge in 1778, he declared: "To the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian"

During his inauguration, he took the oath as prescribed by the Constitution but added several religious components to the ceremony. Before taking his oath of office, he summoned a Bible on which to take the oath, added the words "So help me God!" to the end of the oath, then leaned over and kissed the Bible.

The last word might fittingly go to the lexicographer Noah Webster. In the preface to his American Dictionary of the English Language, he wrote: " The duties of men are summarily comprised in the Ten Commandments, consisting of two tables; one comprehending the duties which we owe immediately to God - the other, the duties we owe to our fellow men

"In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government, ought to be instructed ... No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people."

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

July 6th, 2014

8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I St. Peter 5:5-11

The Gospel: St. Luke 15:1-10

For your MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: 32, 36:5-12

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 23:1-8

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 19:2-10

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.

That's telling it like it is. Have a happy Independence Day!
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.

✠ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093

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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 THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY AND INDEPENDENCE DAY

O LORD, who never failest to help and govern those whom thou dost bring up in thy stedfast fear and love; Keep us, we beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

O ETERNAL God, through whose mighty power our fathers won their liberties of old; Grant we beseech thee, that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain these liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Pages 191 and 263

Return Service Requested

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