

Saint Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXV, Number 44

November 11th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

Deafening silence over plight of Iraqi Christians

OUR NEWS media has been replete of late with outrage at the horrific display of Islamic fanaticism in Syria and Iraq – the wholesale slaughter co-religionists considered heretics, and the rape, abduction and enslavement of tens of thousands of women.

It is hard to believe that any American – with the exception, perhaps, of our homegrown Moslem fanatics – fails to share in an overwhelming sense of revulsion for the barbarities being committed in the name of Islam.

Oddly, however, people who rely for information on the nation's major newspapers and television networks might be led to imagine the Islamic State's victims are largely confined to Moslems who do not share their brand of Islamic fundamentalism and members of small pagan sects, such as the Yazidis.

A deafening silence, however, surrounds the fate of the large Christian minorities in Iraq and Syria. The ancient Christian communities in the region, the very cradle of our faith, have proportionately suffered more than any Moslem sect or ethnic or religious minority – and for a far longer time.

A decade ago the Christian population of Iraq was a million strong. Today it is estimated that only 300,000 remain, almost half of whom are refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan.

This tragedy has largely passed unmentioned in the American media. Even President Obama was generally ignored when he attempted to draw attention to the plight of Iraqi Christians during his September 10th speech on the threat posed by the Islamic State.

"We cannot allow these communities to be driven from their ancient homeland," the president said. Unfortunately, events had rendered the president's words obsolete before they were uttered.

Interviews with Christian refugees and their leaders indicate that few if any wish to remain in a beloved homeland in which they constantly fear for their lives.

For Christians in Iraq, the past three months have been the climax of 11 years of hell. The persecution that started within a year of the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003 cannot be attributed to a single group of Islamic extremists.

Cookie Walk at a Glance

November 2nd: Begin bringing donations for our gift and children's tables

Sunday, November 2nd: Bidding begins for the Knitters Silent Auction.

Sunday, November 9th: Volunteer sign-up sheets posted in Cadwalader Room. Please sign up.

Saturday, November 29th - Sunday, November 30th: Bring cut green donations for decorations.

November 30th - December 6th: Drop off Cookies

Tuesday, December 2nd, 10.00 AM and 6.00 PM: Volunteers needed to decorate wreaths and make centerpieces.

Wednesday, December 3rd, 10.00 AM: Volunteers needed to decorate wreaths and make centerpieces.

Thursday, December 4th - Friday, December 5th: Volunteers needed to set up and decorate Quimby Hall.

Saturday, December 6th: **THE BIG DAY!** Volunteers needed to 'work the Walk' and cleanup.

Sunday, December 7th: Bidding ends for the silent auction following 11.00 AM service.

Sunni insurgents, the Shiite militias and al-Qaeda in Iraq (renamed the Islamic State) all took time off from fighting each other to persecute their Christian neighbors.

In August, 2004, 11 people were killed when five churches in Baghdad and Mosul were bombed. Two more churches were targeted in November, and Christians began to flee to Kurdistan,

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.

Tuesday, November 11th, 7.00 PM: Parish Life Committee Meets in the Cadwalader Room

Wednesday, November 19th, 12.00 Noon: The Ladies Who Lunch at the Peppermill.

Wednesday, November 19th, 7.00 PM: Vestry Meets in the Cadwalader Room

Thursday, November 20th, 2.00 PM: Afternoon Tea

Saturday, December 6th: Cookie Walk

Jordan and Syria. Since then, at least 60 other churches have been bombed.

Clergy have been particular target. In [June, 2007](#), gunmen in Mosul murdered a Chaldean Catholic priest and three deacons because the priest refused to convert to Islam. In 2008, Mosul's Chaldean archbishop, Paul Rahho was kidnapped and murdered along with his driver and two bodyguards.

Lay Christians have been continuously attacked. Women who work have been threatened with death. Extortionists have routinely threatened to kill entire families unless they pay them \$10,000. Children have been kidnapped and held for ransom.

Things have gotten even worse since the Islamic State's recent offensive. Christians have been driven from their homes and their businesses have been expropriated, often as a consequence of betrayal by long time Moslem neighbors.

In Mosul and the countryside, Islamic State guerrillas were welcomed and many locals joined up to fight along side them. Others pointed out the homes of Christians, especially those of people believed to be wealthy.

Many Christians have spent days and even weeks in detention while being badgered to convert to Islam. Babies have taken from their Christian mothers' arms to be held for ransom. Busloads of young Christians have been driven off to slavery or worse. Believers have slaughtered in droves and Islamic fanatics have even brutally crucified Christian children.

Christians, however, have not been the only ones to suffer from the bizarre myopia that afflicts the American media.

Earlier this year, for example, the terrorist organization Hamas for months rained high explosive missiles on Israeli villages and cities. Yet when, after exercising extraordinary restraint, Israel felt compelled to defend itself, the American media, with a few notable exceptions, excoriated the Israelis for causing civilian casualties.

The suffering of the Israeli civilians killed, injured or just plain terrorized by Hamas' rockets was largely ignored. Nor was much outrage expressed over Hamas' practice of using human shields to protect its missile launchers – siting them in densely populated civilian neighborhoods, health facilities, United Nations compounds, even schools.

The obloquy meted out by the media to the Christian faith and Israel in no way reflects the views of the American public. Despite all the effort to marginalize our faith, this is still most definitely a Christian country, and Israel, the Middle East's only genuine democracy, is our loyal ally.

However it goes a long way towards explaining why the print media is shedding readers at an alarming rate, and the major TV networks are steadily losing viewers.

These declines cannot be blamed on a general decline in reading or a growing indifference on the part of the viewing public to national and international affairs. It is simply evidence that Americans are

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

November 16th, 2014

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Philippians 1:3-11
The Gospel: St. Matthew 18:21-35

11.00 AM CHORAL MATTINS

The Psalter: Psalms 32, 43
The First Lesson: Ecclesiasticus 27:30 - 28:7
The Second Lesson: St. Matthew 18:21-35

losing patience with cultural elitists who bite the hands that feed them. **GPH**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Fourth Annual Knitters 'Silent Auction' open for bids

THE KNITTERS have been at it again! Now in its fourth year, the knitter's Silent Auction is open for bids with another phenomenal array of hand-knitted items to be auctioned off in conjunction with the Cookie Walk.

Their impressive display is located in the hallway outside Quimby Hall. Come and check it out. You won't find affordable hand-knitted items of this quality anywhere - and just in time for holiday giving.

To bid simply put your name, phone number, and bid on the

✠ 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
ASSOCIATES: Rev. Michael Belt, Rev. John Novicki
DEACON: Rev. Wiley Hawks
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 (As Announced)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6.00 pm: Evening Prayer
Friday Noon: Healing Eucharist
Saturday, 5.00 pm: Family Eucharist.

sheet accompanying each item. Check back often to see if you've been outbid on something you really, really, really want! Bidding ends after the 11.00 AM service on Sunday, December 7th.

Bid early and bid often!

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

**Plan to join us on November
19th**

THIS month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at 11.30 AM at the Peppermill. Why not join us for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal? Good food and good fellowship -- what more could you want? Please call Joyce Perlberg at (410) 252-2680 to make your reservation.

✠ 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, 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, David, Wendy, John, Joy, Walt, Tina, Irma, Nina, James, Nancy.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Ann, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan, Paula, Hannah, Joseph, Scott, Charles, Devon, Mitch, Silas.

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

**COLLECT FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST
SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY and
HUGH, BISHOP OF LINCOLN**

GRANT, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Page 218

O HOLY God, who didst endow thy servant and bishop Hugh of Lincoln with wise and cheerful boldness, and taught him to commend the discipline of holy life to kings and princes: Grant that we also, rejoicing in the Good News of thy mercy, and fearing nothing but the loss of thee, may be bold to speak the truth in love, in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

AMEN

Return Service Requested

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
TIMONIUM MD
PERMIT NO. 181