

# Saint Stephen's News

SAINT STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

Volume XXV, Number 47

Now in our Twentieth Anniversary Year!

2 December 2014

## FROM THE RECTOR

### The perils of hiding from unfashionable realities

A young acquaintance shocked me recently while discussing the horrific onslaught by the Islamic State terrorists in Iraq and Syria. He confessed he had only a vague idea of where the two countries were located and an even hazier notion as to goals of the terrorists' campaign of mayhem and slaughter.

What really amazed me is that he was most certainly not a stupid man, nor, by the lights of our time, ill educated. He is a graduate of one of our local universities and holds down a responsible job that demands a considerable degree of initiative.

Even so he had emerged from our education system with only the sketchiest idea of the nature and shape of the world we live in, or how it got to be that way.

But then, of course, geography has not been taught as a subject in public schools, here or on the other side of the Atlantic, for years – decades even. The same is true of history, geography's companion discipline. The two subjects are now loosely lumped together under the heading 'Social Studies.'

If 'Social Studies' were simply a harmonisation and rationalisation of two closely related subjects, that would be one thing – unnecessary, perhaps; excessive, probably; but essentially benevolent in its intent. When one examines its fruits, however, one can see the results have been anything but laudable.

Today my young friend and, indeed, a majority of American children have only the haziest picture of the geography of the country in which they live and an even vaguer idea of its history. As to world geography, forget about it.

This has exceedingly serious implications for the future of democracy: Not least, an electorate which cannot locate New Jersey, New York and Staten Island on a map can scarcely be expected to pass an informed judgment on the government's response to Hurricane Sandy.

Nor is an electorate so wholly ignorant of world geography, geology and geopolitics equipped to assess the logistical, political, economic, military and health policy implications for the U.S. in crises in such far away places as Iran, Iraq, Syria, Dafur, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

In short, our abandonment of the serious study of geography in our public schools leaves America prey to demagogues, deceivers and fanatics of every stripe. And the same goes for the bowdlerisation of our history.

More than 30 years have passed since my daughter asked: 'Mommy, what did men do during the Revolution?'

Her schoolbooks dealt extensively with how the revolution affected women, Native Americans, and, to a lesser extent, slaves. But the roles of the founding fathers and the fighting men were treated so casually as to virtually ignore them. Things have not improved in the interim.

The problem is that social studies as a subject was conceived neither to teach us history nor inform us about the world in which we live. Its

primary purpose seems to be social engineering – to impart 'proper attitudes' and foster 'appropriate behaviour.' In short, it is history and geography bent to the purpose of social engineers.

Why, for example, teach children to locate the continents or the world's capitals when learning how far flung places are tends to undermine the goal of teaching them to think globally?

Similarly, our self-anointed Solons have expurgated religion from Western history – presumably on grounds that religion is divisive, or gets in the way of our sex lives, or some other such nonsense.

Thus the role of theology – an all-consuming hot intellectual interest of the world from the Dark Ages, through the Middle Ages and the Renaissance to the 20th Century – are entirely ignored in the exploration of events that shaped our planet.

One might not like religion or the religiously minded any more than one likes leprosy, syphilis and the Black Death. But all three played a major role in shaping the foundations upon which our history is laid. And discussion of them should not be suppressed simply because they are distasteful.

## The 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. 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:** Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, John, Rodney, Donald, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Linda Lou, Edie, Adele, Baby Charlie, 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, Nina, James, Nancy.

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

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

Moreover, if we fail to understand the past, it is unlikely we shall understand the present, and this bodes evil for that which is to come. And, as it happens, a worrisome failure to understand the past is currently threatening our future.

Our political leaders have repeated told us that Islam is a religion of peace and Islamic resentment against the West is largely fuelled by the devastation inflicted on the Moslem world by the Crusades.

What they failed to have explained, however, is that the Crusades were the West's much belated response to more than 400 years savage jihad that had destroyed countless thriving Christian communities in North Africa and the Middle East and had subjugated all Portugal, Spain and Sicily and much of France and Italy to brutal Moslem rule.

Nor do they explain that terrorism, kidnapping and enslavement have been the primary tools of Islamic evangelism from its very inception, and that the United States has been a victim of jihadist aggression from the very moment of its independence.

In 1793, for instance, 11 American ships were seized by Barbary pirates – Moslem terrorists operating out of Algiers and Tripoli – who kidnapped, enslaved or held to ransom innocent Christian men, women and children.

Unable to raise funds to pay the ransom for the crews, the U.S. representative was compelled to borrow from a friendly Jewish moneylender living in Algiers to pay the nearly \$1 million ransom. But this only served to encourage terrorism.

Well into the first third of 19th century, two thirds – repeat two thirds – of the U.S. federal budget went to paying off the maritime terrorists whose direct descendants today hijack, bomb, kidnap and massacre not just in the Middle East, but on a world-wide scale.

Such knowledge might not encourage people to support current counter-terrorist policies – rather the contrary. But absent such an historical perspective how can they form worthwhile opinions one way or the other. **GPH**

## Cookie Walk at a Glance

### Now

- Now accepting donations for gift and children's tables
- Bidding is now open for the Knitters' Silent Auction
- Volunteer sign-up sheets are posted — *Please sign up!*

### Now through Wednesday, 3 December

- Bring cut greens for wreaths and centrepieces

### Now through Friday, 5 December

- Drop off cookies

### Tuesday, 2 December (10 AM & 5 PM)

### and Wednesday, 3 December (10 AM)

- Volunteers needed to make wreaths and centrepieces

### Thursday, 4 December—Friday, 5 December

- Volunteers needed to set up and decorate

### SATURDAY, 6 DECEMBER (8 AM–3 PM): *All hands on deck!*

- Volunteers needed for serving and cleanup

### Sunday, 7 December

- Silent auction bidding ends following 11 AM service

## THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

7 December 2014

**8.00, 9.15 & 11.00 AM EUCHARISTS**

*The Epistle.* Romans 15:4–13

*The Gospel.* St Luke 21:25–33

**FOR YOUR MORNING PRAYER**

*The Psalter.* Psalm 25

*The First Lesson.* Isaiah 52:1–10

*The Second Lesson.* St Luke 1:26–56

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

## Join us for Christmas lunch on the 17th

The ladies of Saint Stephen's will hold their annual Christmas lunch at Bluestone Restaurant, 11 W Aylesbury Road, Timonium, on Wednesday, 17 December at noon. Ladies are invited to bring their gentlemen with them to this time of fellowship and good food. **Please let us know you're coming by 9 December.** Bluestone requires an accurate count for our reservation. Call Joyce Perlberg on 410 252 2680.

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

To make a contribution towards the Church Christmas decorations in honour or memory of a loved one, please complete this form and return it with a cheque—payable to **Saint Stephen's Church** and marked for **Christmas Flowers**—by 22 December.

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettia colour (*circle one*): RED · WHITE · PINK

Single (6 inches, 5–8 blooms) @ \$10 · # of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Double (7 inches, 10–12 blooms) @ \$16 · # of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Triple (RED only, 8 in., 12–18 blooms) @ \$27 · # of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is... (*circle one*):

IN HONOUR OF · IN MEMORY OF · IN THANKSGIVING FOR

(*dedication*): \_\_\_\_\_

## Saint Stephen's Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093

Office: 410 560 6776 · Rectory: 410 665 1278

Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

[www.ststeve.com](http://www.ststeve.com)

The Ven. Canon Guy P. Hawtin, *Rector*

The Ven. Michael Kerouac, *Vicar*

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki, *Associate Rectors*

The Rev. Mr M. Wiley Hawks, *Deacon* · Adric, *Magister Chori*

Mrs Happy Riley, *Director of Pastoral Care & Wedding Coordinator*

### SUNDAY SERVICES

8 AM: Said Eucharist

9.15 AM: Choral Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

11 AM: Choral Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)

6 PM: Choral Evensong (as announced: [evensong.ststeve.com](http://evensong.ststeve.com))

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6 PM: Evening Prayer

Friday 12 NOON: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5 PM: Family Eucharist

## Calendar of Events

### WEEKLY

**Mondays, 6.30 PM:** Bridge Club

**Tuesdays, 7 PM:** Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

**Thursdays, 10 AM:** Knitting Circle

**Fridays, 10.30 AM:** Bible Study

### MONTHLY & SPECIAL

**Saturday, 6 December, 9 AM:** The Cookie Walk

**Wednesday, 17 December, 12 NOON**

The Ladies Who Lunch — Christmas Lunch at Bluestone  
'Significant Others' are invited!

**Thursday, 18 December, 2 PM:** Afternoon Tea

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Timonium, MD 21093

11856 Mays Chapel Road

Saint Stephen's Anglican Church

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