

Saint Stephen's News

SAINT STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

17 February 2015

FROM THE RECTOR

President Obama is quite wrong about the Crusades

Sorry to say so, but either the President could do with an intensive course in world history, or he was being deliberately disingenuous when, at the National Prayer Breakfast, he claimed that the Crusades and the Inquisition are somehow the moral equivalent of the Islamic State's barbarism in Syria and Iraq.

Granted that that bad deeds have been done in the name of Christianity, but they have been aberrations, utterly contrary to the Church's teachings, and not a the behest of a theological imperative. Moreover, it was largely Christians, inspired by Christ's admonitions, who rid our country of slavery and Jim Crow.

By contrast mass executions, raping women, crucifying children, burying children alive, murdering homosexuals, stoning adulterers, mass enslavements, forced conversions, lopping off hands and feet (not to overlook the burning of a Jordanian pilot alive) have all been part of life's rich pattern throughout the entire 1,400 year history of Islam.

As Jonah Goldberg pointed out, in *The National Review Online*, the Inquisition and the Crusades aren't the indictments the president thinks they are. 'For starters,' he wrote, 'The Crusades — despite their terrible organised cruelties — were a *defensive* war.'

Then quoting Bernard Lewis, the 'greatest living English-language historian of Islam' he went on: 'The Crusades could more accurately be described as a limited, belated and, in the last analysis, ineffectual response to the jihad — a failed attempt to recover by a Christian holy war what had been lost to a Muslim holy war.'

The First Crusade, which began in 1095, was launched:

460 years after the first Christian city was overrun by Muslim armies.

457 years after Muslims conquered the Christian and Jewish Holy City Jerusalem.

453 years after the Christian country of Egypt was invaded and conquered by Muslims.

443 years after Italy was subjected to rapine and pillage by Muslim invaders.

427 years after Muslims armies first besieged the Constantinople, the capital city of the Christian Byzantine Empire.

380 years after Christian Spain was conquered by Muslim invaders.

363 years after France was first attacked by Muslim invaders.

249 years after Rome, a major centre of Western Christianity, was sacked and pillaged by Muslim armies.

The First Crusade was, thus, a much belated response to centuries upon centuries of church burnings, massacres, enslavements and forced conversions of Christians. Indeed, by the time the crusade began, Muslims had conquered two thirds of the Christian world.

In short, the very idea that the crusades were the moral equivalent of the barbaric history of Islam is sheer effrontery. **GPH**✠

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.

FOR RECOVERY: Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, Donald, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Edie, Oona, Cary, Janna, Martina, Leela, Isabelle, Julie, Ray, Mary, Phyllis, Liz, Joe, Indra, Marjorie, Steve, Wendy, John, Joy, Walt, Nina, James, Nancy, Janet, Connie, Hobie, Nathan, Matthew, Adele, Starr, Kathleen, Ned, Mark

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Lydia, Ann, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan, Paula, Hannah, Scott, Charles, Vinnie, Doug, Rusty, Ian

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

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Recalling General Lee's surrender at Appomattox

April 9th marks the sesquicentennial of the day on which General Robert E. Lee surrendered his 26,000 men, the remnant of the once invincible Army of Northern Virginia, to General Ulysses S. Grant of the United States Army in the parlour of the McLean House at Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia.

It occurred four years (minus only three days) from the moment that the first shot was fired at Fort Sumter in the harbour of Charleston, South Carolina, and marked the effective end of the bloodiest conflict in the Western Hemisphere since the Spanish conquest of Mexico three centuries earlier.

During that time, close to 700,000 men clad in blue, grey, and butternut, were killed or died of their wounds as the United States tore itself apart.

To commemorate that seminal period in American History, Confederate Major General Isaac Ridgway Trimble and a lady of the period will appear before us to tell the story of what happened and why. They will be portrayed by Alan and Jeannie Walden.

Mr Walden is the well-known broadcaster who, for almost two decades, was principal news anchor and commentator for WBAL Radio. He also is a much-traveled and respected historian, lecturer, public speaker, and historic interpreter.

Mr Walden serves as President of the Baltimore Council of the Navy League of the United States, Chairman-Emeritus of the Friends of Fort McHenry, Honorary Colonel of the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment of the Maryland National Guard, and as a member of the board of Historic Ships in Baltimore.

Mrs Walden was the first female director at NBC, is an accomplished professional actress and historic interpreter and has, for many years, appeared in period dress to participate in the Memorial Day ceremony at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens in Timonium where her husband is the perennial Master of Ceremony.

All are invited to join us at 7pm on Thursday, 9 April 2015 for what promises to be a very informative and enjoyable evening.

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper on 17 February

Saint Stephen's Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper takes place on 17 February at 5.00pm. These famous suppers are not only gastronomic events, they are also real inflation fighters. The price has remained unchanged for 26 years. We challenge you to find anything in Baltimore with a comparable record!

For a mere \$5 per adult you can feast on scrumptious pancakes and a heaping helping of the finest sausages the city has to offer. (You could manage seconds? Be our guest!) Naturally, there will be lashings of syrup, butter, and apple sauce, with low calorie equivalents for folks watching their weight. Beverages will be available at nominal cost. Kids under 12 can tuck in for half price (\$2.50) for the first two, and the other kids you bring along – your own or anyone else's – eat free. We challenge you to find a better deal in town than that! It can't be done! We have managed to hold our prices steady without compromising quality because the Pancake Suppers are not fund raisers but family affairs aimed at fostering fellowship and fun. If we make a profit, it's entirely accidental.

Join us for fellowship, fun and fantastically good food at this year's Pancake and Sausage Supper. It's the best value in Baltimore. Doors open at 5pm and close at 7.30pm.

FROM THE ANGLICAN FILM FORUM

Death in Holy Orders

Attention P. D. James fans! A screening of the BBC's 2003 adaptation of *Death in Holy Orders* is planned for two nights at Saint Stephen's. The production stars Martin Shaw as Commander Adam Dalgleish. Part 1 will be shown after the Pancake Supper on Tuesday the 17th, and Part 2 will follow on Thursday the 19th at 6.30pm. Each instalment is 90 minutes in duration. The clergy request that no one get any clever ideas.

FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE

Do you know a boy under the age of twelve who likes to sing?

Saint Stephen's Choir Academy, the voice-training programme which provides the choristers for our parish choir, is looking for new recruits. If you know a family member, neighbour, or random kid on the street who enjoys singing, wishes to receive a *free* classical music education, and who might be interested in earning a stipend in the process, please contact the Admissions Director, Mrs Cheryl Nickol, on **410 329 6399** or at **admissions@choiracademy.org**

More information is available on our website: **ChoirAcademy.org**

Saint Stephen's Anglican Church

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Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

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)

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 am: Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

Thursdays, 10 am: Knitting Circle

Fridays, 10.30 am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Tuesday, 17 February, 5 pm:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

(followed by screening of *Death in Holy Orders*, Part 1)

Wednesday, 18 February:

Ash Wednesday services at 10am and 7pm

Thursday, 19 February, 6.30 pm:

Screening of Part 2 of *Death in Holy Orders*

N.B. – There will be no February Afternoon Tea

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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