

Saint Stephen's News

SAINT STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

Volume XXVI, Number 9

A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

10 March 2015

FROM THE RECTOR

Culture warfare and its baleful consequences

The United States has been engaged in a culture war for more than a century, though most Americans seem blissfully unaware of the fact. And, indeed, the terrifying truth is that traditional America is not only losing the battle, but will ultimately lose the war, if the sleeping majority fails to awake in time to save it.

Over the past 100 years or so, many of our most cherished customs and traditions have been 'called to the bar of reason, ruthlessly interrogated and cross-examined' by the self-anointed intellectual elite and 'found wanting'. As a consequence, the America we see today would be quite unrecognisable to our grandparents and great-grandparents.

Traditional educational methods, for example, have been tossed out. 'The sage on the stage' has been elbowed aside by 'guide on the side.' Children, we are told, don't need to be taught. We simply have to awake their natural thirst for learning . . .

Nowhere have the effects of the culture war been more keenly felt than in the realm of religion.

Only 40 years ago, for example, only the boldest – or most foolhardy – of politicians would have failed to list the Bible as the book that had most profoundly influenced their lives.

Today only the boldest – or most foolhardy – of politicians would dare suggest that children might benefit from gaining a nodding acquaintanceship with the Bible at school.

Many of our self-anointed intellectual elite, of course, dismiss a belief in God as hopelessly primitive and embarrassingly superstitious.

In Europe – a place many of America's intellectuals fawningly turn to for approval – the embarrassment is so acute that the continent's enormous historic debt to Christianity was deliberately omitted from the European Community constitution.

However, protecting children from the baleful influence of Holy Scripture is not without its downside. Like it or not, the Bible – as the writings of the Founding Fathers attest – was our republic's most influential foundational document.

Pretending this is not so deprives coming generations of the ability to comprehend the founders' vision and, thus, manage the republic they bequeathed us.

Actually, the disastrous effects of the politics of denial are readily apparent – and not only in our inner cities, but in our legislatures, work places and corporate boardrooms.

Like the myths of the ancient world, antique virtues such as honesty, integrity and loyalty are increasingly dismissed as 'quaint and amusing, but of no real relevance to our lives'.

This might be all very well were it not that a large body of people, unencumbered by the concerns of our intellectual elite, have launched an entirely different type of cultural war.

They find American customs, traditions and intellectual pretensions so utterly hateful they are bound and determined wipe the United States off the face of the earth.

Divine revelation or not, the Bible contains much practical advice for people in our position – not the least of which is the fifth commandment: 'Honour thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.'

This is a chilling warning that nations perish when their populations no longer cherish and respect the traditions, customs and beliefs upon which they were founded.

History provides us with ample examples of the truth of this – ancient Israel, Judah, the Greek city states, Rome, Byzantium, France circa 1939, to name but half a dozen.

Britain and France are last beginning to awaken, albeit fitfully and uncertainly – to the Islamic challenge. The question is whether America is prepared to learn from history . . . or repeat it? **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, Don, Linda

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

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

FROM THE TREASURER

Good news on the financial front

Economics is aptly known as the 'Dismal Science'. So much of it seems to involve unhappy predictions of doom and gloom. Thus it is comforting to report that the parish is weathering the current patch of appalling weather reasonably well.

Giving is down a bit, but over all it has held up rather better than in similar periods during previous years. This should not be interpreted as a cause for complacency. It is still important to keep up with your pledges as wind, rain, snow, sleet and ice not only push up our utility bills, but can exact an expensive toll on the church fabric.

And it is particularly fortunate that giving has held up this year as we confronted with an unexpected expense of \$4,000 plus to replace our ancient fire alarm system – the one that had been installed at the time the church was built. Let's hope the new one lasts as long.

The really good news, however, is that our Building Fund is close to reaching its \$100,000 goal. Currently it totals \$85,443. This leaves only \$14,557 to raise. Please consider giving if you haven't done so already. **William Hawkins**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Lenten Study: Exploring The Torah

The first five books of the Old Testament are known to the Jewish people as The Torah. The Church refers to them as the 'Books of Moses'. Surprisingly, perhaps, few Christians today study them in the depth they deserve. This is a pity, for they are the very foundation of our Faith.

It is hoped that this year's Lenten Study, 'Exploring The Torah', will go some way towards rectifying this. So why not join us to learn what the books have to tell us about who we are, where we come from, and how we should live. We shall investigate claims by fashionable theologians that The Torah should be largely ignored because it promulgates racism, slavery, revenge killing, capital punishment, and the subjugation and exploitation of women. And we shall explore what archaeology has to tell us about the books and the events they record.

The studies – by Fr Guy Hawtin and Fr Mike Kerouac – will offer plenty of time for discussion. Each study will be self-contained, so if you miss one or two – or even more, for that matter – you'll not be left dangling.

Why not join us at 6.30pm after Evening Prayer on the five Wednesday evenings in Lent (25 February and 4, 11, 18 & 25 March) for body and soul. We're offering beverages, hearty soup and the best bread in Baltimore, not to mention plenty of food for thought.

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

The Ladies will lunch on 18 March

This month the Ladies Who Lunch will meet at Barrett's Grill on Wednesday, 18 March at noon. Barrett's is located on the second level of the Hunt Valley Town Center. Why not join us for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal? Good food and good fellowship – what more could you want? Please ring Joyce Perlberg on **410 252 2680** to make your reservation; she will need a final count by the 16th.

FROM THE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School: Savannah Safari

Saint Stephen's will be offering Vacation Bible School once again this summer for children ages 4–10. Vacation Bible School will take place from Monday, 22 June to Friday, 27 June from 9am–12noon. This year's theme is 'Savannah Safari – Where Kids Discover How Love H.E.L.P.S. Others'. It is themed around life in an African village and is based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan. There will be a modest \$20 fee to cover snacks, crafts and supplies. To process your child's registration, please telephone the church office on **410 560 6776** and speak to Happy Riley.

SAINT STEPHEN'S CHOIR ACADEMY

A fun and rewarding experience promoting artistic and intellectual development in a highly select team of boys

BENEFITS

- Gain a formal classical music education from an accomplished Peabody Conservatory graduate
- Develop discipline, social skills, and self-confidence
- Earn credentials which score high on high school & university applications, leading to scholarships
- Regularly perform alongside professional musicians

TUITION

- Full-scholarships and half-scholarships are available
- Choristers are paid stipends to foster a professional commitment to rehearsals and performances

Talented boys of all faiths are encouraged to apply.
To schedule an interview, please contact the Admissions Director, Mrs Cheryl Nickol: admissions@choiracademy.org • 410-329-6399

ChoirAcademy.org

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

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

Wednesday, 11 March, 6.30 pm: Lenten Study III

Wednesday, 18 March, 12 noon:

The Ladies Who Lunch meet at Barrett's Grill,
Hunt Valley Town Center, 2nd level

Wednesday, 18 March, 6.30 pm: Lenten Study IV

Thursday, 19 March, 2 pm:

Afternoon Tea

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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