

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

5 May 2015

FROM THE RECTOR

A fad that throws out baby with bath water

Multiculturalism is a popular fad with the folks who consider themselves the nation's intellectual elite. It would be wrong, however, to imagine that, in its present guise, this passion for 'cultural diversity' in any way represents the spirit that inspired the Statue of Liberty.

Nor does it reflect the sentiments expressed in the prayer For our Country (BCP, Page 36), which petitions God to 'fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues.' Quite to the contrary, in fact.

Most of the folks who espouse 'multiculturalism' are not promoting the assimilation of immigrants from a wide spectrum of disparate peoples into our unique American culture. Nor, for that matter, do they aspire to create a new American synthesis of cultures.

What the promoters of multiculturalism want to do is to abandon and destroy the culture that gave birth to this nation's constitution and shaped the 'American way of life'.

Far from creating 'one united people', they are trying to shatter what remains of national unity and replace it with a vast spectrum of competing interest groups, some – but by no means all – reflecting racial and ethnic divisions.

In other words, 'multiculturalism' is nothing of the kind. 'Multiculturalists' are not united in their desire for a vast diversity of cultures, but rather in their hatred of the Western Christian culture that forged our nation.

As such, multiculturalism would benefit from a modicum of truth in advertising – starting with a change of name.

Rather than 'multiculturalists', they would be better described as 'A-culturalists'. For most of those who espouse multiculturalism reject theistic – and, more specifically, Christian – culture in much the same way that 'A-theists' reject God.

This is all very well, of course. America, thankfully, is a free country. People who live here are at liberty to espouse or reject what they choose. Non-Christians are in no way obliged to convert to the Christian faith – or even to show respect for it.

But before those who are not Christian rush to sign-on with the forces of multiculturalism, they would be wise to consider the decidedly unpleasant consequences attendant on abandoning our Christian heritage.

Multiculturalism is based on an underlying premise that the best of American culture is not Christian in origin, but rather originates from self-evident truths. This is, in fact, entirely untrue.

The vast majority of what we consider to be American virtues: hard-work, self-sacrifice, charitableness and the like are what are best described as Judeo-Christian values.

Take, for example, the presumption of innocence that underlies our criminal justice system. Many, if not most, Americans seem to think that it is only natural for a person who has been arrested and charged with a crime to be presumed innocent until they have been proved guilty 'beyond reasonable doubt'.

There is nothing natural about it at all. Actually, nothing could be more unnatural for a person who has been arrested for a crime to be considered not guilty. After all, they were arrested in the first place on the basis of evidence indicating that their guilt.

Presuming a guilty person innocent until the case against them is proven makes sense only as an act of Christian charity. Otherwise it is simply chuckle-brained.

Similarly, treating people weaker than oneself, or poorer than oneself, or more stupid than oneself as equals makes sense only if one believes that all men and women are equal before God, the creator of us all.

To assert that fundamentally unequal people are equal – outside the realm of the Divine – is simply a lie. Unequal people cannot be made equal merely by human beings asserting such to be the case. Truth, ultimately, will out. **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, ring the parish office on 410 560 6776.

FOR REPOSE OF THE SOUL: David

FOR RECOVERY: John ✠, Hilarie, Jack, Donald, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Edie, Cary, Judy, Julie, Phyllis, Steve, Wendy, Matthew, Adele, Starr, Helen, Emily, Kathleen, Ned, Marty, Mark, Don, Linda, Elizabeth, Mary Lou, Cathy, William, Dan, Lindsey, Shelby

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Melba, Susan, Scott, Charles, Vinnie, Doug, Rusty, Ian, Lydia

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

FROM THE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School: Savannah Safari

St Stephen's will be offering Vacation Bible School once again this summer for children ages 4 through 10. Vacation Bible School will take place from Monday, 22 June to Friday, 27 June from 9am–noon. 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.

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

The Ladies will lunch on 20 May

This month the Ladies Who Lunch will meet at Michael's Cafe on Wednesday, 20 May at noon. Michael's is located at 2119 York Road in Timonium. (Visit michaelscafe.com to view a menu.) 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 18th.

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 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

St 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, 20 May, 12 noon:
The Ladies Who Lunch meet at Michael's Cafe
Thursday, 21 May, 2 pm:
Afternoon Tea

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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