

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH • TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

16 June 2015

FROM THE RECTOR

The key to a successful future lies in the past

A dispassionate observer assessing the current state of America would be obliged to conclude that George Santayana, the Spanish-born philosopher and man of letters, was dead on the money when he said: 'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.'

Evidence that we have forgotten the past is legion in almost every sphere of American life. Enterprises, endeavours and activities in which we were once the envy of the world – education, health care, culture, jurisprudence, commerce, the military, foreign affairs and our bodies politic (federal, state and local) – are in varying states of disarray and dysfunction.

We are so enmeshed in bureaucratic red tape that the great civil engineering projects of our past – the railroads, the interstate highway system, the electric power grid for example – could never be undertaken today. They would be overwhelmed in the planning stage by a morass of government regulation.

Small business formation, the nation's economic backbone, is at a nadir. Our great corporations reply on creative accounting and their legal departments to defend them against rapacious government, predatory competitors, and dishonest customers. Health care institutions obliged conduct batteries of superfluous tests to defend and the staff themselves against frequently frivolous malpractice suits.

Our military contorts itself to accommodate the fads and fancies of the politically correct in ways that by any sensible standard would be recognised as adversely affecting readiness and fighting efficiency

Our justice system is sclerotic. The civil courts are clogged with tort actions and class action that are more than not fatuous, if not downright deceitful. The criminal courts are similarly overwhelmed. Our jails are bulging with non-violent offenders, while too many violent offenders go virtually unpunished.

This worrisome situation pertains despite the fact that more than two thirds of all the lawyers in the world live and practice in the United States ... or may be because of it.

But nowhere are the baleful consequences of Santayana's maxim more evident than in the realm of education. Large numbers of young people mainly, but by no means exclusively, from our inner cities and impoverished rural communities, leave school functionally illiterate in both in reading and math.

Even in our wealthier neighbourhoods, youngsters are woefully deficient in the knowledge of history, geography, 'the classics', American culture, and what used to be called 'civics'.

In short, upon graduating high school at an age when most of them are able to vote they are utterly ill equipped to make informed judgments about the candidates and parties seeking their votes.

Yet 70 years ago the vast majority children left school able to read, write and figure – even those who dropped out in the 7th and 8th grades because they needed to work to help support their families. What's more, most of them had a good working knowledge of the world's continents and could name the capitals of most important countries.

American history was a vital part of the curriculum so the vast majority of children were familiar with the events surrounding the founding of the republic and the principles that animated the men who framed the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

And all this was achieved by a cadre of people, the vast majority of whom did not possess a university degree. Back then most had earned diplomas from teachers' colleges, while many simply had nothing more than a high school education.

What's more, they all proudly called themselves 'teachers' and they would have awarded D-minuses for pomposity to any pupil who had the temerity to style them 'educators'.

Relatively few youngsters in those days went to college. University was the province of the wealthy or the academically inclined. Standards were rigorous. A bachelor's degree was worth at least that of a modern master's, and certainly the equal of many of the doctorates awarded today.

Young people aspiring to enter a profession – the law, engineering, architecture, accountancy and the like – learned the business from working as 'articled clerks' for people already well established in their chosen field.

The time spent 'in articles' could last anything from five to seven years, with examinations being administered periodically to assess progress. Sometimes they were paid a modest salary; sometimes they actually paid a fee – usually relatively small – to the firm for the privilege of being taught the business.

Their lack of a college education in no way inhibited their success. Thomas Edison, the prolific inventor, never darkened the door of a college. Abraham Lincoln took articles to become a highly successful lawyer. The same is true for many of our legal luminaries, including Senator Sam Ervin, who shrewdly chaired the Senate Watergate Committee.

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 THOSE WHO GRIEVE: Priscilla Huffman, upon the death of her mother, Mary Walker

FOR RECOVERY: John ✠, Hilarie, Jack, Donald, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Edie, Cary, Judy, Julie, Phyllis, Steve, Wendy, Matthew, Adele, Starr, Helen, Emily, Kathleen, Marty, Don, Linda, Elizabeth, Mary Lou, Cathy, William, Dan, Lindsey, Shelby, Olan, Rob, Dick, Melissa, Ned, Paula, Sandra, Diane, Hobie, Nathan

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

Young folk who wanted to learn a trade – carpentry, bricklaying, black-smithing, motor mechanics, mining, watchmaking dress-making and, odd though it might seem, scientific research – took up apprenticeships for five years or more and learned their trades from master craftsmen.

Occupations that are styled as 'professions' these days were merely trades back then. There were, for instance, no such things as journalism schools. Youngsters entering journalists in those days were, formally or informally, regarded as apprentices and learned their trade while practicing under experienced editors.

Peruse the microfilms at the local library and you'll discover that newspapers and periodicals were much better because of it. In those days they genuinely 'covered' the cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods in which they circulated.

By contrast with the ponderous, self-indulgent offerings on the newsstands today, the press of 70 years ago was lively, well written and interested in all areas of life, not merely the doing of the political, commercial and social elites.

The ironic thing about all this is that the 'educators' and 'social scientists' that administer I.Q. tests to our children and young adults claim that the I.Q. of the average citizen has been increasing by a full 3 percent every decade since the early years of the 20th Century.

In view of the entire aforesaid, one wonders how this could conceivably be so. Indeed, one might be led to conclude that the folks administering the tests are either grossly deluded or are blatantly cooking the books. **GPH✠**

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 PARISH CHEFS

Silly Summer Suppers

The moment you have all been waiting for is here: at 6.30pm, each Wednesday, starting 24 June, the chefs of St Stephen's will be serving the 2015 series of *Silly Summer Suppers*.

It's hard to think of a less appropriate name than 'Silly Summer Suppers' for these remarkable gastronomic events. The food is absolutely scrumptious – and there is plenty of it. Actually, the only thing silly about these suppers is the price – entrée, dessert and salad for just \$10. Soda costs a buck; wine is \$3 per glass or \$5 for two.

By the way, if you are handy in the kitchen (or even if you are not) you are welcome to join our team of volunteer chefs. In fact, if you decide to do so, you'll be welcomed with open arms. When you come to think about it, cooking your way to heaven isn't such a bad idea.

FROM THE TREASURER

Church treasurers find that summertime is far from easy

Summer is not the best-loved time of the year for church treasurers. The trouble is that parishioners frequently forget the church when they go on vacation, and this can place havoc with the cash flow. And a healthy cash flow is essential for keeping the lights lit, the air conditioning cooling, and the doors open.

So please take pity on the poor church treasurer struggling to make ends meet in the summer season, scrabbling under the pews in hopes that small change might have fallen from parishioners' pockets. How much simpler life would be for him if he could anticipate a nice smooth cash flow.

We know you have a lot of calls on your time and your treasure, but if you are a little behind with your pledge we would be most grateful if you'd bring it up to date. It would be so nice if the treasurer didn't have to hide under his desk when the plumber or the electrician comes to call.

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, 17 June, 12 noon:

The Ladies Who Lunch meet at Tark's Grill
(contact Joyce Perlberg on 410 252 2680)

Wednesday, 24 June, 6.30 pm:

Silly Summer Suppers begin!

Sunday, 5 July, 6 pm:

Patriotic Hymnfest

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St Stephen's Anglican Church

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