

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

1 September 2015

FROM THE RECTOR

À la recherche du temps perdu

The brouhaha over the Confederate battle flag has morphed from demands for the removal of all public vestiges of the Confederacy to the obliteration of the reputations of the once highly regarded presidents Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson.

Both men are being denounced by the politically correct as slave owners whose roles in establishing our representative republic were motivated by a desire to maintain their privileged positions in society. With Jefferson and Jackson's reputations down the drain can George Washington's be far behind?

Whether the effort to besmirch the characters of some of our greatest leaders is the work of knuckle-dragging Luddites, or whether it is animated by a darker agenda is difficult to tell. But whatever the motives, they are the product of an appalling degree of ignorance.

It should be obvious to all but the confederacy of dunces who are running this campaign to obliterate our history that it is plainly ridiculous to judge events of the past and the people who participated in them by the standards of the present.

Communications, for example, were primitive by today's standards a century ago. Thus it was impossible to prevent the outbreak of war in 1914 after Russia issued the order to mobilise its troops.

Its landmass was so vast and its military organisation so cumbersome that once issued the order could not be revoked. It was as though the mobilisation took on a life of its own – a situation impossible to imagine today.

Similarly, to compare social conditions in the 18th and 19th Centuries with those of today is utterly pointless. It is only within the last 50 years that our industries have become sufficiently efficient to generate the surplus income needed to sustain an army of some 40 million unemployed.

While people out of work today certainly do not enjoy a lavish standard of living, it is infinitely higher than the abject poverty endured by the mere 13 million thrown out of work during the Great Depression – an event only 80 years in our past.

The gulf in living standards between the wealthy and the working classes was far greater in the 18th & 19th Centuries than it is today. But the expropriation of the assets of the wealthy would have been insufficient to raise the standards of the masses.

This is clear from the economic histories of France and Russia in the wake of their respective revolutions. Neither event appreciably improved the living standards of the workers and peasants. Living standards, in fact, declined as a consequence of the disruptions caused by the uprisings.

It would be no less mistaken to condemn great British social reformers of the 19th Century, such as the author Charles Dickens, for voicing support for the Confederacy during the Civil War.

Dickens was no supporter of chattel slavery. Indeed, he thought it a great evil. But he thought it better than the wage slavery practiced in the cities of the North where ship loads of Irish immigrants, herded into crowded disease-ridden tenements, died in droves.

Reformers like Dickens pointed out that, however inhuman the system, it was in the Southern slave-owners' best interests to protect their 'investments' by keeping them as healthy as possible – providing them with adequate clothing, food, shelter and medical attention.

Northern factory owners had no such incentives. They could pay their employees slave wages to work in dangerous conditions for impossibly long hours. When they were too ill or too injured to work, they could be easily replaced by the next shipload of immigrants to arrive at the docks.

It might be that Dickens and his fellow reformers were on the wrong side of history, but they had no inkling of how much better

things would be 150 years later. And, in any event, life for many of the freed slaves was as hard if not harder after the Civil War than it had been before.

Certainly it is true that legislation passed under Reconstruction decreed they should be paid wages. But there were, initially at least, few people willing or able to employ them – thus the system of sharecropping came into being.

It would also be wrong to imagine that the labour unions in the North welcomed President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Far from it.

The 19th Century forebears of the same union leaders who today applaud the besmirching of America's great men were bitterly opposed to emancipation – fearing the competition from the newly freed slaves would drive down the already beggarly wages in the industrial North.

The proponents of the campaign to expunge all memories of America's heroic past are eerily reminiscent of the Islamic barbarians of Taliban and ISIS who are busily wiping out all vestiges of past civilisations in the Middle East.

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 SOUL: Ruth

FOR RECOVERY: Hilarie, Jack, Donald, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Edie, Cary, Judy, Julie, Phyllis, Steve, Wendy, Matthew, Adele, Starr, Helen, Emily, Marty, Don, Linda, Elizabeth, Cathy, William, Dan, Lindsey, Shelby, Rob, Dick, Melissa, Paula, Sandra, Diane, Hobie, Nathan, Francine, Susan, Holly, Hayley, John, Nancy

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Melba, Scott, Charles, Vinnie, Doug, Rusty, Ian, Lisa, Fritz, Carey

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

There is nothing new about such endeavours to destroy the symbols of a politically or religiously incorrect past. In the Byzantine Empire, during the 8th and 9th Centuries religious fanatics called Iconoclasts destroyed thousands of Icons depicting of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin and other important scriptural figures.

During the Reformation of the 16th Century, Protestant fanatics, in a veritable orgy of destruction, smashed religious images, destroyed countless art works, and even demolished glorious gothic abbeys in a effort to eradicate all traces of catholic piety.

Again in the 17th Century, during England's Great Parliamentary Rebellion, Puritan soldiers under the command of Oliver Cromwell, destroyed much of what remained of England's religious cultural heritage – earning a degree of odium that is still palpable more than three centuries later.

By no means is all history heroic. It is fraught with ambiguity. Even so, it is folly to judge the past by the standards of the present. History should be viewed in the same light as Oliver Cromwell's portrait. When the artist fawningly asked Cromwell how he wished to be depicted, he replied: 'Paint me warts and all.' GPH

FROM THE PARISH CHEFS

Silly Summer Suppers are in full swing

Each Wednesday at 6.30pm through September 9th the chefs of St Stephen's are 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, and wine is \$3 per glass or \$5 for two.

If you are handy in the kitchen (or even if you are not) you are welcome to join our team of volunteer chefs.

FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE

Now hiring choirboys – apply today!

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**

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

The Ladies will lunch on 16 September

The Ladies Who Lunch will meet at Basta Pasta on Wednesday, 16 September at noon. Basta Pasta is located at 60 West Timonium Road in Timonium. 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 14th.

FROM THE PARISH TEA PARTY

Afternoon Teas need your reservations

Afternoon teas have become so popular that we have had to limit the number of reservations we can accept. We are able to comfortably serve 40 guests. Last month we had 56 sign up, and after having to turn some people away, some of those who reserved places did not turn up. In order to avoid this problem in the future, we will limit seating reservations to 40 guests. We ask that you please make a reservation using the sign up sheet in the main reception area, leaving your name and a contact number. If you later find yourself unable to attend, please contact the Parish Office immediately so we can offer your place to the next person on the standby list. **ANNIE HAWKINS**

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. M. Wiley Hawks, *Priest · 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)
Wednesdays, 6.30 pm: Silly Summer Suppers
Thursdays, 10 am: Knitting Circle
Fridays, 10.30 am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Sunday, 6 September, 6 pm
Parish Hymn Raffle
Wednesday, 16 September, 12 noon
The Ladies Who Lunch meet
Thursday, 17 September, 2 pm
Afternoon Tea
Saturday, 19 September, 6 pm
Parish Picnic

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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