

# St Stephen's News

**ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND**

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FROM THE RECTOR

## The yellow brick road leads to self deception

Once upon a time I used to joke that our enthusiasm for the cult of self-esteem proved that the literary source of America's animating philosophy was no longer *The Bible* but *The Wizard of Oz*.

Not any more. The joke, it turns out, is on me. My attempt at humor was simply a statement of fact. We have so lost touch with reality we seem to believe, like some half-crazed medieval sultan, that pronouncing something so will make it so.

It isn't just that we award diplomas to brainless scarecrows, medals to cowardly lions and testimonials to heartless tin men. That's bad enough. But our capacity for self-deception in even more sensitive spheres constitutes a real and present danger to not just to America, but our entire Western civilization.

Despite the slaughter in Nice, Istanbul, Paris, Orlando and Sand Bernardino, we still hear politicians of all persuasions proclaim that "genuine" Islam is a religion of peace. Experience, however, teaches us something quite different.

A majority of Moslems might well wish to live and let live. But it does not necessarily follow that Islam is a religion of peace – any more than it follows that because all herrings are fish, all fish are herrings.

Fourteen hundred years of history demonstrate that Islam is a very far from a peaceful religion. All major conversions to Islam have been by the sword. And this shouldn't be at all surprising since Mohammed designated the sword as a primary instrument of conversion.

The crusades, brutal though they were, were a much belated response to more than 400 years of the same sort of Moslem atrocities we are witnessing in the Middle East, the Far East, Europe and in our own country today.

During those four centuries, the flourishing Christian communities in North Africa and the Fertile Crescent were wiped out by fanatical Islamic hordes. Those who were not slaughtered – mainly women and children – were enslaved.

Christian Sicily was subjugated. So too was much of Italy. Moslem hordes swept through Portugal and Spain, eventually invading modern day France and sacking Bordeaux.

The Frankish leader Charles Martel finally stemmed the Islamic advance at the Battle of Tours in 732 AD. Meanwhile armies commanded by Charlemagne, the First Holy Roman Emperor, had freed much of Italy by the end of the 9th Century.

Sicily remained an Islamic satrapy from 827 AD to 1091 when Norman warriors liberated the island. The Moslems, however, were not completely driven out of the Iberian Peninsula until the late 15th century.

Indeed, the Islamic world's name for the non-Islamic world is "the World of War" which helps explain why many Islamic fanatics regard slaughtering non-Moslems as not simply a pious act, but a religious obligation.

This, in turn, brings us to the reasons behind the recent failed coup in Turkey: When, in 1922, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Turkish Republic, overthrew the Ottoman Empire, he set about a series of reforms, establishing it as a secular state.

In 1924, the caliphate was abolished. Islamic law was separated from secular law and the Sharia Courts were closed. In 1926 a Turkish penal code modeled after that of Italy was promulgated, together with a civil code modeled on the Swiss civil code, granting women equality with men.

Kemal explained: "We must liberate our concepts of justice, our laws and our legal institutions from the bonds which, even though they are incompatible with the needs of our century, still hold a tight grip on us."

He went on to abolish the wearing of religious garments – the fez and the veil – and to reform Turkish education, doing away with the Islamic madrassas, and establishing co-educational schools and colleges on western lines. Arabic script was abolished and a Roman alphabet was introduced.

Kemal's reason for excluding public expression of the Islamic religion from national life was that he believed it to be incompatible with a modern state that hoped to maintain peaceful relations with its neighbors.

## 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.

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**FOR RECOVERY:** Hilarie, Phyllis, Edie, Bill, Terry, Helen, Jim, Adele, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Aida, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Tom, Rosemary, Robert, David, Jan, Susie, Beth, Sophia, Bobby, Lee, Pam, Warren, Cary, Courtney, Jason Richard, John, Marie, and Alan.

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**FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Stephen, Melba, Scott, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Ned, Cindy, & Bruce.

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**IN MEMORIAM:**

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**THOSE WHO MOURN:**

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**ON ACTIVE SERVICE:** Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, Lt Col. Harry Hughes; & Lt Cdr Emma Hawkins, RN

And because he believed that the virulent aspect of Islam would impel its more fanatical followers to attempt to re-impose it as a political system, he made the armed forces the guardians of the new constitution.

Since Kemal's death in 1938, the military has indeed stepped in on a number of occasions to prevent Islamic political parties taking over the government. Each time, however, the armed forces handed control back to secular parties once the situation had stabilized.

The current Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, to the consternation of many knowledgeable observers, has been purging secularists from the government, the judiciary and the armed forces, closing media outlets and arresting

journalists At the same time, he has implemented a program of Islamization considered by many to be unconstitutional.

Turkey, meanwhile, has become the Islamic State's most important recruiting ground, as well a conduit for ISIS's contraband oil from Syria and Iraq, the source of much of the cash it needs to supply its terrorist army.

Against this background elements in the military, unwisely perhaps, mounted a coup in an attempt to preserve the nation's secular constitution. Its failure might be hailed as a triumph for democracy, but the consequences could be baleful should it be used as an excuse to impose authoritarian and theocratic Islamic rule.

Since the turn of the century the U.S. has hubristically played an influential role in keeping Turkey's armed forces out its political affairs . . . which calls to mind George Santayana's caveat: "Those who will not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." GPH✘

FROM THE TREASURER

## Pity the poor treasurer!

"Are there no work houses? Are there no prisons?" that was Ebenezer Scrooge's to people who begged him for alms at

Christmas time. But I hope it won't be your response to your church treasurer's annual summertime plea.

The trouble is that folks cast all cares aside when they go away vacation and among the cares they cast aside are all thoughts of poor church treasurers struggling to make ends meet with no pledge money coming in.

Parishioners go on vacation. Church treasurers get to go on vacation too – but only if they are up-to-date with the bills. And, sad to relate, bills never take a holiday.

Please do me a favor and bring your pledges up to date before you go away. That way I can take care of the bills and go away myself. Scrooge would say: "Bah! Humbug!" Personally, I'd much rather say: "Have a great vacation."

WILLIAM HAWKINS

## Parish Life meets August 9<sup>th</sup>

St Stephen's Parish Life meetings are taking a summer holiday for July. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> in the church library from 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Everyone who crosses the threshold of the church is considered a member of the Parish Life Committee. Please join us to plan the social life of the parish.

PRISCILLA & DICK HUFFMAN

## 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](http://www.ststeve.com)

The Ven. Canon Guy P Hawtin, *Rector*

The Ven. Michael Kerouac, *Vicar* ·

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki,

The Rev. Robert Ludwig, *Associate Rectors*

The Rev. M Wiley Hawks, *Pastoral Care Chaplain*

Mrs Happy Riley, *Director of Pastoral Care & Wedding Coordinator*

### SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Said Eucharist

9.15am: Choral Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

11am: Choral Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)

6pm: Choral Evensong (as announced) –  
[evensong.ststeve.com](http://evensong.ststeve.com)

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6pm: Evening Prayer

Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5pm: Family Eucharist

## Calendar of Events

### WEEKLY

**Monday, 6.30pm:** Bridge Club

**Tuesday, 7am:** Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

**Thursday, 10am:** Knitting Circle

**Friday, 10.30am:** Bible Study

### MONTHLY & SPECIAL

**Wednesday, August 3rd, 6.30 PM**

The Weekly Silly Summer Supper

**Wednesday, August 11th, 2.00 PM**

Afternoon Tea

*To reserve, call the Parish Office:: 410-560-6776*

**Wednesday, August 17th, 12.00 Noon**

The Ladies who Lunch

at a venue to be announced

*To reserve, call the Parish Office:: 410-560-6776*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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