

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

Volume XXVII, Number 29 *A parish in the classical Anglican tradition* August 9th, 2016

FROM THE RECTOR

Washington fiddles while history repeats itself

For the best part of a decade I have toyed with the idea of writing a book entitled “*Denial As A Means of Coping*.” After hearing the chants of “No more war!” at the Democratic Party’s recent convention in Philadelphia, I realize now is the moment to strike – to put pen to paper, or rather fingers to keyboard.

It is by no means solely the Democratic Party that is in a state of denial about the threat fundamentalist Islam presents to the U.S. and its Western allies. Many Republicans are similarly affected, as is a vast swathe of the mainstream media. Foggy Bottom, sad to relate, has been in a state of denial for best part of 200 years.

The tenacity with which America’s “cognitive elite” clings to denial as a means of coping can be measured in Washington’s reaction to the recent mass shootings in Chattanooga, San Bernardino, and Orlando.

In each instance, the assailants were dressed in Moslem garb and proclaimed themselves to be Islamists engaged in acts of jihad with shouts of “*Allahu Akbar*.”

The victims had no doubt whatsoever that their assailants were Islamists. Nor did the first responders. Indeed, the Orlando attacker proclaimed his allegiance to Isis several times during telephone conversations with the police.

Yet despite all the evidence to the contrary the authorities in Washington have insisted that there was considerable doubt about the motives of the attackers and declared that in each case a long and painstaking investigation was needed before responsibility for the atrocities could be laid at the door of any religion.

Similarly, after a Moslem truck driver slaughtered some 150 people during Bastille Day celebrations in Nice, the authorities both here and in France expressed doubts about the role of Islam as a motivating factor because the attacker was not known to be particularly devout. Go figure.

Mark you, things have been no better elsewhere in Europe, which is reeling under the influx of millions of refugees from the Middle East.

Police in many major German cities, for example, felt compelled to cover up the fact that thousands of young women had been sexually assaulted and even raped by gangs of Islamic men during the traditional New Year’s celebrations.

In France – scene of hundreds of horrific murders committed by avowed Islamic terrorists – it took the beheading of an elderly priest at his own altar and the torture of four others, including two nuns, for François Hollande, the socialist president, to concede that his country is at war with fundamentalist Islam.

Yet despite all this, here in America our president, together with many of our governing elite, cannot so much as bring themselves to utter the words “Islamic terrorist.”

There is absolutely no excuse for this. A cursory glance at the history books reveals that, from the very founding of the republic, the Islamic world’s relationship with the United States has veered between outright belligerence and impotent hostility.

America’s first two foreign wars were fought against Islamic terrorists, known as Barbary Pirates or Corsairs, who preyed upon U.S. merchant ships, enslaving passengers and crew and holding the wealthier, more influential individuals for ransom.

By 1804, the situation was so desperate that President Thomas Jefferson appointed Army Lieutenant William Eaton as Naval Agent to the Barbary States and ordered to him restore the deposed Pasha of Tripoli to his throne in hopes of ending the terrorist raids on U.S. maritime commerce.

Eaton and Marine Corps First Lieutenant Presley Neville O’Bannon, with 10 Marines and a Navy midshipman under their command, recruited a motley army of 500 Greek and Berber mercenaries and embarked on epic 600-mile trek across the desert from Cairo to Tripoli, in what is now Libya.

It was a remarkable feat of leadership. Mutinies, caused by friction between the Christian Greeks and Moslem Berbers, were put down with a show of 10 Marine bayonets.

In addition to rebellious troops and Arab camel drivers, Eaton and O’Bannon had to contend with severe shortages of supplies, which at one stage reduced them to eating a baggage camel.

However the tiny army eventually arrived at the City of Derne a short way from Tripoli where they were confronted by a very much larger force loyal to the usurper, Yussif Karamanli. Eaton wrote to the governor of Derne seeking safe passage. The governor replied: “My head or yours.”

On April 27th 1805 the opening shots were fired in the first land battle fought by U.S. armed forces on foreign soil since the Revolutionary War. Thanks to the gallantry of Eaton, O’Bannon, the midshipman and their 10 Marines, the U.S.

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

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

IN MEMORIAM: Fr. Jacques Hamel

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: The People of France and Christians everywhere

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

victory at Derne ended the First Barbary War.

The action is immortalized in opening line of the Marine Hymn: “From the Halls of Montezuma to the hills of Tripoli.” Sadly, however, the success of American arms was undone by American diplomacy.

From Derne, Eaton and O’Bannon planned to march across the desert and attack Tripoli from the land. But in the middle of their triumphant advance on Tripoli they were ordered to halt their attack and to return to Cairo.

Despite their overwhelming victory, Tobias Lear, the U.S. Consul to the North African Coast, had abandoned America’s ally, the rightful ruler of Tripoli, and signed a treaty with the usurper Yusuf Karamanli.

Worse, under the terms of Lear’s treaty, some 20 per cent of the Federal Budget was to be paid in tribute to Karamanli to save American shipping from the depredations of his maritime Islamic terrorists.

President Harry S. Truman once sagely observed: “The only things that are new in this world are the history you haven’t read.”

But, as history has rarely been taught in our schools for best part of two generations, it is no surprise that the Solons in Washington are in denial about the longstanding nature of our unhappy relationship with the Islamic world. Small wonder history is repeating itself. 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.”

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

We need help badly

The Sunday School is in desperate need of people to assist with the nursery during the 9:15 AM service. Current mothers, experienced mothers, stepmothers, mothers to be, foster mothers and men who mother, many hands make light work. Please consider stepping forward and signing up for the rotation. Look for the sign up form in the Church lobby.
DIANE NOVICKI

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Join us on August 9th

Our next meeting takes place in the Parish Library at 7.00 PM on August 9th. Please join us to help plan the up-coming Diocesan Synod. All are heartily welcome.

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, 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

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

Monday, 6.30pm: Bridge Club

Tuesday, 7am: Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

Thursday, 10am: Knitting Circle

Friday, 10.30am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Parish Life Committee

7.00 PM, Tuesday, August 9th

Afternoon Tea

Thursday, August 11th, 2 PM - 3PM

For reservations, please call the Parish Office

Tel: 410-560-6776

Weekly Silly Summer Supper

Wednesday, August 10th, 6.30 PM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TIMONIUM MD