

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

Washington policy wonks are bewildered by religion

The disconnect between Washington's elite policy makers and the average American Joe – embodiment of the general U.S. population (the folks they, theoretically at least, serve) – has been increasingly apparent to astute observers for decades.

However, in recent months – and most notably during the current presidential election season – the gulf between governors and the governed has been thrown into such high relief it should be glaringly obvious to all but the most oblivious.

One of the areas in which it is most prominently on display is that of security. All the opinion polls, for example, indicate that concerns about domestic terrorism are among the issues uppermost on the average American mind.

Yet the government's supine response to the terrorist attacks in Chattanooga, San Bernardino and Orlando demonstrates that Washington does not share anywhere near the same degree of concern about the issue as the general public.

The most pressing issue on Washington's collective mind seems to be how to enable men who imagine themselves to be women, and women who imagine themselves to be men, to use restrooms assigned to people of their biologically opposite sex.

Urgent though this problem might be, it is difficult to imagine that the LBGTQ "community" (a word that incongruously evokes images of coffee klatches, quilting bees and sales of work) is any less concerned about the threat of terrorism than their "straight" neighbors.

The horrific slaughter of innocents at the Orlando gay bar – not to mention the systematic persecution and execution of homosexuals in Iran and territories occupied by the Islamic State and its surrogates – indicates that they are even more likely to be singled out as targets by Islamic terrorists than heterosexuals.

Despite this, the solons in Washington are currently importing 10,000 Moslem refugees from areas of the Middle East in such a degree of violent turmoil that vetting them effectively to weed out terrorists is declared by our security services to be quite impossible.

The perverse thing about this is that there are thousands of no less deserving refugees from war torn regions in the Middle East who can easily be effectively vetted.

Scandalously, for example, more than 3,000 Iraqi interpreters and their families, under the threat of death for having served with the U.S. armed forces, have been awaiting visas to enter the U.S. for more than three years.

Similarly, the government has turned its back on tens of thousands of Iraqi and Syrian Christians who under the threat of death not only from Islamic State fanatics but also their Moslem neighbors.

This is inexcusable. No group of people is in greater danger than Syrian and Iraqi Christians. Thousands have already been tortured, enslaved and slaughtered. Yet of the 3,312 refugees from Syria admitted to the U.S. since October, 2014, a mere 38 were Christians. The rest were Sunni Moslems – co-religionists of the Islamic State fanatics.

Meanwhile, scores of Iraqi Christians who have fled Islamic State territory for safety in America have been arrested and imprisoned pending deportation. This is despite the fact that 300,000 immigrants from Muslim countries were welcomed into the United States last year.

It is time we figured out why the folks who run the country on our behalf – the top policy wonks, spin doctors and civil service technocrats – plainly fail to comprehend the vital forces that animate not only the average American, but the rest of human kind. And not the least of these animating forces is religion.

Washington today is dominated by people educated at the nation's most highly regarded universities, most of which are secular institutions and decidedly materialistic in their view of the world.

Conventional notions of the spiritual get short shrift even in their divinity schools. They are, in fact, far more interested in eliminating evils such as masculine nouns and pronouns from the vocabulary, as well as catering to the neuroses of the terminally self-absorbed with safe spaces and speech codes.

Religion plays either no part at all in their lives or an exceedingly modest one. This means it is difficult for them to conceive that religion could be an overwhelming influence in the lives of any but the most simple-minded of people.

Indeed, there seems to be a prevailing assumption among the Washington elite that religious faith largely arises from primitive, unscientific superstition. Thus, in their eyes, all religions – Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Santeria, Wicca, and even outright Satanism – are equal.

This assumption is reflected in fashionable interpretations of the First Amendment that fail to acknowledge the profound differences between the various faiths practiced here and the contributions each has made not just to America's spiritual life, but to its social and

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, Edie, Bill, Alan, Terry, Helen, Jim, Adele, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Aida, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Tom, Robert, David, Jan, Susie, Sophia, Bobby, Lee, Pam, Cary, Courtney, Marie & Joanna.

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

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IN MEMORIAM:

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FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:

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

political culture as a whole.

In short, our elite is blind to the fact that the United States' Constitution and Bill of Rights were forged on the anvil of Judeo-Christian thought and practice, a primary object of which is to foster tolerance and social harmony

Equally, their prejudices prevent them from perceiving the vast moral difference between the fruits of America's Judeo-Christian legal heritage and those of Islamic Sharia Law.

The former's crowing achievements are enshrined in the declaration that every individual is endowed by their Creator with "unalienable rights" among which are the right to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The latter's "gifts" mankind are the horrors of holy war, terrorism, forced conversion, enslavement and the subjugation of women.

Ignoring the fact that imams in mosques here and all over the world preach a gospel of hatred towards the West and howl the slogan "Death to America", Washington's spin doctors declare the "real Islam" to be a "religion of peace."

On this bland assumption, Foggy Bottom is tasked with seeking diplomatic solutions with people who interpret offers to negotiate as

signs of weakness and who see any compromise on their own part as sacrilege and blasphemy.

Meanwhile, Washington has recklessly encouraged militant Islam, with its known propensity for violence, to insinuate itself into positions of influence not only among the inmates of America's prisons and the desperate inhabitants of our decaying inner cities, but also into the highest echelons of government.

By government *diktat*, Islamists have been empowered to shape anti-terrorism policy for the nation's security services, among others the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Department of Homeland Security. Indeed, the Homeland Security operation at Dulles Airport – the largest serving the nation's capital – is almost entirely in the hands of Moslems.

Blinded by self-regard, the Washington elite remains simply bewildered by a militant faith that inspires its adherents to sacrifice the lives of themselves and their children in order to force the world to submit to its precepts.

They didn't get it on September 11th 2001. And they clearly don't get it now. GPH✘

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

School drive great success

We received overwhelming support for the May's Chapel Elementary School supplies drive. All the backpacks requested were donated, plus all supplies needed to fill the backpacks. The school nurse, Mrs. Lanier, sent a thank you note expressing the school's gratitude and appreciation. We will seek additional opportunities during the year to support the school.

PRISCILLA HUFFMAN

St Stephen's Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093

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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, 6.30 pm: Bridge Club

Tuesday, 7 am: Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

Thursday, 10 am: Knitting Circle

Friday, 10.30 am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday, September 21st, 12.00 PM

Pappas Restaurant & Sports Bar

Afternoon Tea

Thursday, September 8th, 2.00 PM

Final Silly Summer Supper

Wednesday September 7th, 6.30 PM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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