

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH • TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

A yearning to play God on the college campus

There's no need to scratch your heads about the epidemic of political correctness that afflicts our college campuses – the speech codes, the trigger warnings, the creation of safe spaces, the bizarre theories about “gender,” and the campaign to recast personal pronouns to accommodate the aforementioned theories.

It was all entirely predictable. Indeed, it was the inevitable consequence of the success of the campaign to drive all expression of Christianity from the Public Square.

Banning corporate prayer in schools drove a coach and horses through the First Amendment. When the courts upheld far-reaching restrictions on the right to the free exercise of religion, they effectively declared open season on all the other rights enumerated in the amendment.

The failure of politicians and the media to defend vigorously the religious rights of Christians, thus, puts in jeopardy the freedom of all speech, as well as the freedom of the press, and the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances – and not just on college campuses, but everywhere in America.

This has been the goal of tyrants for generations. Indeed, the first item on the agendas of, Lenin, Stalin, Hitler *et al.* was to silence the Church – the moral conscience of their nations.

The unpopularity of Christianity among the ambitious and powerful, including many who frame U.S. Government policy, should come as no surprise. Fashionable radicals have been campaigning against the faith for centuries

The French philosopher, Voltaire, for example, wrote: “Religion [*by which he meant Christianity*] is the chief cause of all the sorrows of humanity. Everywhere it has only served to drive men to evil, and plunge them in brutal miseries . . . it makes for history an immense tableau of human follies.”

In America the influential 19th century thinker Benjamin Franklin Underwood similarly declared: “Christianity appears an unmitigated evil; a superstition which although it had its origin in innocent ignorance and credulity, has been the greatest obstacle to human progress that mankind has had to encounter.”

These assertions stand in stark contrast to the actual teachings of the faith. Yet St. John the Evangelist, almost two millennia before they were uttered, warned us to expect the animosity.

“Marvel not, brethren, if the world hate you,” he wrote, explaining that the faith would be hated for the obligation Jesus imposes on us not merely to love our fellow Christians, but to love our non-Christian neighbors as well, even those who hate us.

Hating a faith because it imposes on its adherents an obligation to love their fellow men sounds a bit weird – at least until one realizes that the obligation to love one's neighbor is a far from popular notion, particularly in an age such as ours.

Not least, the obligation to love our neighbor decidedly inhibits our ability to play God. And there in, as Hamlet might say, lies the rub. Dr. John Dewey, father of modern American education theory, was quite open about it. Indeed, he launched the effort to drive Christianity out of our schools.

He explained: “The objection to supernaturalism [*by which he meant Christianity*] is that it stands in the way of an effective realization of the sweep and depth of the implications of natural human relations. It stands in the way of using the means that are in our power to make radical changes in these relations.”

Dewey had a utopian vision of totally reordering American society on socialist lines. But people tend not to submit

cheerfully to radical change and Dewey realized that the changes he sought could only be imposed by coercion and subterfuge – methods entirely contrary to the notion of loving one's neighbor. Thus, from Dewey's perspective, Christianity had to go.

Social engineers like Dewey exercise a tremendous influence in government today. And they are aided and abetted by a large number of folks who want to play God on a smaller stage.

Many, if not most of them, would be appalled at the notion of a total reordering of society. Rather, their ambition is to shed their obligations to their fellow men in narrower, more modest spheres.

Some have abandoned traditional sexual morality. Some want to live by the letter of the law rather than its spirit – businessmen who use legal trickery to cheat their employees, customers and shareholders; plaintiffs and attorneys who

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.

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, Finnie, Kim, Kendall, Gloria & John.

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

IN MEMORIAM: Billy, John

THOSE WHO MOURN: The Kerouac Family, The Finn Family

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

seek to enrich themselves by filing deceitful and frivolous lawsuits.

Then there are those in the political sphere who embrace the sociopathic notion that their personal ambitions are so important that it doesn't matter how they achieve them – that ends justify means.

Dewey's campaign against the faith has been so successful that if you enter the two words “hate Christians” into your Internet search engine, you'll discover literally millions upon millions web sites devoted to promoting hatred of Christianity. Yet the baleful consequences of such campaigns have been plain for centuries.

Voltaire's thought laid the intellectual foundations of the French Revolution. Worship of the “Goddess of Reason” supplanted Christianity and paved the way to the Great Terror – a bloodletting that led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands: aristocrat and commoner; rich and poor.

Other leading anti-Christians – Lenin, Stalin, Mussolini, Hitler, Chairman Mao, Pol Pot, *et al* – have slaughtered millions, and morally and economically devastated the nations that have fallen under their sway.

Here in America, the legacy of Underwood and Dewey can

be seen in the social and moral decay that afflicts all levels of society – in broken families; crime ridden, poverty stricken inner cities; school systems that indoctrinate rather than educate; functionally illiterate school leavers; and widespread governmental and corporate corruption.

The chickens have come home to roost because Christian ethics, encapsulated in the obligation to love our neighbors, have been supplanted by a system of “situation ethics” – an up-dated description our oldest human failing: our fundamental desire to make up our own rules.

Like us, Adam and Eve wanted to be as Gods, deciding for themselves what is good and what is evil. It cost them their home in the Garden of Eden, and it puts at risk the rights to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness that our Founding Fathers sacrificed so much to secure for us. GPH✘

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Worship, fellowship, coffee and cookies

Worship and fellowship are a tradition at St Stephen’s where the call to worship is followed by the warmth of chatting and refreshments at Coffee Hour. Part of the value of the after service mingling is in its preparation by your fellow members who set out the goodies for all to share.

The preparation is simple, especially when the value is considered. The church provides coffee, juice, cheese, crackers, cookies and fruit, and the preparer simply plates them in the kitchen and sets them out on the table. Supplies, napkins etc are in the cabinet under the coffee urn.

For those who enjoy preparing something home cooked, feel free to bring that as well.

Coffee Hour prepping is open to all gals or guys who wish to serve. Also, a coordinator is needed to help follow up on sign ups.

To help with coffee hour, fill in your name for a date on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board by the side door or contact Priscilla or Dick Huffman, (301-646-4422) (443-764-6554).

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

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 Rev. Canon Guy P Hawtin, *Rector*

The Venerable Michael Kerouac, *Vicar*

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

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

The Diocesan Synod

October 4th to October 7th

Parish Life Committee

Tuesday, October 10th, 7.00 PM

Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday October 19th, 12 noon

(Venue to be decided)

Trafalgar Day Tea

Sunday, October 30th, 2.00-4.00 PM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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