

St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

March 7th, 2017

FROM THE RECTOR

America's 'public masters' don't take faith seriously

Reaction to the prayers offered at President Trump's rallies demonstrate, with chilling clarity, just how out of touch the technocrats who run our organs of government and the mainstream media are with average Americans.

This is not a solely a criticism of the “progressive left.” It applies across the entire political spectrum. Washington's elites seem palpably uncomfortable with what they apparently dismiss as naïve displays of public piety.

They, thus, plainly fail to comprehend the vital animating role that religion plays in the lives of ordinary people – and not just here in America but all over the world.

Washington has been dominated for more than a century by people educated at the nation's most highly regarded universities, most of which have morphed into secular institutions with a decidedly materialistic view of the world.

Conventional notions of the spiritual get short shrift even in their divinity schools.

Naturally enough, a majority of this elite are, in a philosophical sense, materialists. 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 the overwhelming influence in the lives of any but the most simple of people.

It is an attitude graphically illustrated by *The Washington Post's* contemptuous dismissal of evangelical Christians as “poor, uneducated and easy to command” – a wholly mistaken assumption as an inventory of an average mega-church parking lot amply demonstrates.

This inability to take religion seriously means many of the folks who make policy, or who implement it, are oblivious to the effects of one of the most profound influences on the people they theoretically serve.

Indeed, a prevailing assumption among this elite seems to be that religious faith largely arises from primitive, unscientific superstition, and thus all religions – Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Santeria, Wicca, and even Satanism – are equal.

It is an assumption reflected in the interpretations of the First Amendment that effectively ban Christian thought and opinion from many areas of the public

square—schools for example. Similarly, Christians have been forced by an aggressively secularist judicial elite to abandon traditional doctrinal beliefs in dealing with employees and people who seek to do business with them.

This displays a woeful – almost certainly willful – ignorance of the enormous, indeed overwhelming, contribution Judeo-Christian thought has made not just to America's spiritual life but to its social and political culture as a whole.

Not least, our Constitution and Bill of Rights were forged on the anvil of Christian thought.

In short, it is high time we asked the folks who have made public policy for the past half century some very hard questions. They smugly style themselves “public servants,” yet they act as our public masters. It is high time they were called to account. GPH✘

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: Timothy, Peter, Hilarie, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Alan, Terry, Helen, Jim, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Aida, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Tom, Robert✘, David, Jan, Susie, Sophia, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Courtney, Marie, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John, David, Adrian, Michell, Aida & Mai

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

IN MEMORIAM: Lambert Filer; Bill Lee

THOSE WHO MOURN: Jeffrey Filern and family; Tracy Collins

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; Lt Cdr Emma Hawkins, RN; MSGT Michael Holter, USAF; Cpt Fiodor Strikovski, US Army

LENTEN SERIES

Study the roots of the faith in Genesis and Exodus

The Books of Genesis and Exodus go to the very core of our faith. Over the past 100 years, however, their value both historically and doctrinally has been increasingly questioned. Indeed, many clergy who consider themselves cutting edge theologians shun them as the literary equivalent of mad aunts in the attic. This year's Lenten Study will examine the first two “Books of Moses” to assess them as historical documents and to consider the contribution they have made to the development of the Christian faith.

Join us for a series of five Wednesday evening studies on this fascinating subject. They will begin at 6.30 pm from March 8th and continue at the same time until Wednesday in Passion Week, April 5th. Each study will be self-contained so you can miss a couple and not feel out of it. So join us to hear what Adam and Eve have to teach about human nature. Find out about Ur, Abraham's hometown and why he told Pharaoh that his wife, Sarah, was his sister. Learn how Joseph's economic policies condemned the children of Israel to slavery. Discover why the Israelites worshipped the Golden Calf.

In addition to food for thought, we shall as ever be offering a hearty soup, the best bread in Baltimore and beverages of your choice. Feel free to bring a sandwich.

FROM ANNE HAWKINS

Inviting you to a Tea Party on Thursday, March 9th

Tea parties are wonderful affairs for meeting new friends and renewing old acquaintances. This is why St Stephen's teas are so popular. It has been a very long time since we have had a good old fashioned tea party. Things have been so busy of late

what with preparing for the Cookie Walk and decorating the church from Christmas (then taking it all down again after the Epiphany) that we just haven't had the time to prepare for one..

However we are planning to hold a Tea Party at 2.00 PM on Thursday, March 9th. The only variable is the weather. In case of snow and ice, we shall have to move things to a later date. To reserve your place, call Happy Riley in the Parish Office. Tel: (410) 560-6776.

PARISH YOUTH

Youth Play Group meets

Mark your calendars! The second Parish Youth Play Group will be on Saturday, March 4th, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Weather permitting, there will be lots of outdoor activities and free play. **LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF SOCCER, BASKETBALL, JUMPROPE OR ANY OUTDOOR GAMES.** Indoor activities planned if there's rain or snow. There will also be a table set up outside (weather permitting) for fellowship time for the parents. The current plan is every other Saturday. Questions: email Carolyn Kerouac at carolyn.kerouac@gmail.com, or Rachael Odengo at raqueloke@yahoo.com.

St Stephen's Anglican Church

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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

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

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

Choral Evensong

Sunday, March 5th, 6.00 pm
 RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Parish Tea Party

Thursday, March 9th, 2.00 pm
 RSVP: Happy Riley (410) 560-6776

The Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday, March 15th, 12.00 noon
 The Green Turtle, Hunt Valley
 RSVP: Judy Jones (443) 841-7221

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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