

St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

August 22nd, 2017

FROM THE RECTOR

“Those who do not learn from history” redux

Mark Zuckerberg, who dropped out of Harvard to found *Facebook*, is advocating the adoption of “a universal basic income” – a concept that would give everybody in the country a paycheck regardless of age, wealth, family size or whether or not they have a job. “We should explore ideas like universal basic income to make sure that everyone has a cushion to try new ideas,” Zuckerberg said at his recent Harvard commencement address.

The basic universal income idea is attracting a lot of attention from the Silicon Valley crowd. Proponents claim it would alleviate “income inequality” and give workers greater financial security in face of robots and other high tech machines taking away jobs.

It's a pity Silicon Valley is full of so many college dropouts. Had Zuckerberg not dropped out of Harvard, he might have learned to heed the late Professor George Santayana before embracing looney notions.

Santayana is the chap who famously declared that those who will not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

In this regard, the basic universal income has already been tried and it failed spectacularly. The Roman Empire adopted the concept more than 2,000 years ago when citizens were being thrown out of work as employers turned to slave labor in order to compete with cheap imports from the colonies.

Far from developing new ideas, most Romans simply quit work and lived on the basic universal income. To prevent rioting and mayhem, the government was forced to keep the population occupied with sadistic gladiatorial shows. This ultimately bankrupted the city and made it ungovernable.

Zuckerberg should drop the idea. Congress doesn't need an excuse to make “bread and circuses” an “entitlement.”

Sin that masquerades as virtue

The funny thing about sin is it has an odd way masquerading as virtue. In other words, frequently the personal qualities we regard as particularly virtuous turn out, in practice, to be seriously sinful.

For instance, a clergyman of my acquaintance was fond of declaring that he made a point of “speaking his mind.” And certainly he was brutally frank in his opinions on every subject under the sun, especially when it came to the supposed failings of colleagues and acquaintances.

However he seemed utterly oblivious to the fact that frequently his unsolicited opinions – often based on inaccurate or incomplete information – were deeply hurtful to the folks on the receiving end. Indeed, he seemed to take some strange satisfaction in his victims' discomfiture.

In most other respects, he was a decent fellow. In fact, he had many good qualities. He was always ready to lend a hand and, financially speaking, he was generous to a fault. But his conviction that “speaking one's mind” is a virtue cost him many friends and greatly undermined his ministry.

The trouble was that he confused speaking his mind with speaking the truth when, in fact, there is a vast difference between the two. We live in an imperfect world in which, especially today, truth can be an elusive commodity. This, in turn, means we are always at risk of making judgments that are far from perfect – not to say, utterly wrong.

It is, thus, one thing to offer frank opinions when asked, but quite another to do so gratuitously. Moreover, while lying is clearly sinful, blunt honesty can sometimes serve to cloak a malicious desire to inflict hurt. Telling the truth should always be tempered with kindness.

“Speaking one's mind” can also manifest itself in grumbling – a very serious sin that, in fact, is rarely recognized as sinful. But read the Book of Genesis and you'll see that God takes a very dim view of grumbling.

Indeed, it wasn't worshipping the Golden Calf or sexual sins that led God to condemn the children of Israel to wander in the Wilderness for 40 years after their escape from Egypt. It was their predilection for grumbling – “murmuring” is the term the King James Version of the Bible employs.

Grumbling sounds such an innocuous activity that even the most saintly of us do it without thinking. Bishops grumble about the priests and parishes in their charge. Priests grumble about their bishops, vestries and parishes. Congregants grumble about all of the above, but especially about perceived parochial shortcomings. But grumbling is, above all,

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: Peter, June, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Aida, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Robert*, David, Jan, Susie, Sophia, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Cour Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John, David, Adrian, Tom, Michell, Aida, Mai, Al, Kathy, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, Isobel & Judy

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

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

uncharitable. And, as St. Paul points out so eloquently in the 13th chapter of his First Epistle to the Corinthians, charity is the paramount Christian virtue. Without it, nothing we say or do is worth anything. It is simply white noise.

Grumbling is usually sparked by an uncharitable misconstrual of events or actions. For example, after the Exodus from Egypt where the government was slaughtering their new-born sons, the children of Israel, in a remarkable display of ingratitude, grumbled that God had led them out so they could die in the Wilderness.

Because of the secretive nature of grumbling, the issues grumbled about cannot easily be addressed. Thus feelings of dissatisfaction fester and spread. And this causes divisions that weaken the community and destroy the unity essential for reaching its goals.

God harshly condemns grumblers because nothing more undermines the mission of Christian communities – whether they be parochial organizations, parishes, dioceses, or entire jurisdictions – than grumbling. Mercifully, we don't suffer from too much of it at St. Stephen's. GPH*

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Join us for the Fall Picnic

St. Stephen's oldest tradition – the Annual Fall Picnic – will again take place at the home of Ellen Reather on Dulaney Valley Road in Glen Arm, on Sunday, September 6th at 1.00 PM.

If great food and good company in a bucolic country setting appeal to you please plan to join us For those who tried walking on water last year, the pool will be uncovered and officially open, so bring a suit and take a dip. There's a changing room in the pool house

Ellen's gracious home, at 13201 Dulaney Valley Road, Glen Arm, is the perfect place for a traditional family fall celebration. The house is set among rolling hills, and the mature trees and her pasture is home to a small flock of sheep.

The Parish Life Committee will provide beverages, not to mention the hot dogs and hamburgers – all grilled under the personal supervision of our gourmet treasurer, Bill Hawkins.

It would, however, be much appreciated if folks whose family names begin with letters from A to M should bring desserts or cake, while those whose names start with letters N to Z should bring salads or casseroles.

Supplies for Mays Chapel school

Again this year, St Stephen's is collecting supplies for our neighborhood school, Mays Chapel Elementary School. There is a collection container in the Cadwalader room, and a list of needed supplies posted on the wall. In addition to traditional supplies such as backpacks, notebooks, pens and pencils, donations also needed are baby wipes, gallon and quart re-sealable plastic bags, Post-It notes, and paper towels. The response last year was greatly appreciated by the school. Tuesday, August 29th, is the last day for collection of supplies.

FROM THE KNITTING CIRCLE

Have a ball on Thursdays

Are the cares of the world weighing on your shoulders? Here's a way to relax in friendly and interesting company and acquire, or simply improve, a useful skill that not only calms the fevered brow.

Join us in the parish library on Thursdays at 10.00 AM. Can't knit? Cindie Baker, one of our most experienced knitters will teach you. Just set the time and place and she'll get you started. You'll have a ball.

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

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

Silly Summer Suppers

The season started at 6.30 PM on Wednesday, July 12th

Afternoon Tea

Thursday, August 24th 2.00 - 4.00 pm

The Annual Parish Picnic

1.00 pm Sunday, September 6th,

at 13201 Dulaney Valley Road, Glen Arm

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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