

# St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

Volume XXIX, Number 6    *A parish in the classical Anglican tradition*    February 20th, 2018

## THE LENTEN SERIES

### Christianity's role in forging our Constitution and culture

Love him or loathe him, President Ronald Reagan is remembered for his pithy observations about the state of the nation – and none, it turns out, more chillingly prescient than: “If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”

Judged by the cultural shambles in which we currently live, America's 40th President was speaking no less than the truth. That, at least seems to be the conclusion to be drawn from a survey by [LifeWay Research](#), the research arm of the Southern Baptist Convention.

According to LifeWay, the culture war may be lost and religious liberty might not be that far behind.

Some 70 percent of senior pastors at Protestant churches say religious liberty is on the decline in the United States, while 59 percent of Christians believe they are losing the culture war and 11 percent considers it already lost.

The LifeWay survey's findings raise “grave concerns about the moral direction of the nation from both the pulpit and the pew,” according to Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research.

“Ten years ago we were talking about who would win the culture war, and now we're talking about how will Christian rights be protected after the culture war. We've lost our home field advantage.” This “home field advantage” is the subject of this year's **Lenten Series**.

America's unique national culture was, from the very beginning, forged by the Christian faith. And this year's Lenten Series will explore the way in which Christianity founded, shaped and molded our republic – socially, artistically, legally and politically.

The five part series begins at about 6.45 pm, after Evening Prayer, on Wednesday, February 21st and will conclude on Wednesday, March 21st. Each presentation, each lasting about an hour, will be self-contained so that participants need not feel “lost at sea” if they can miss one or two.

As usual we will be offering not just food for thought, but food for the body as well – hearty soup, the best bread in Baltimore and beverages. If you feel you need more, you are welcome to bring a sandwich.

Over the past few years, hundreds of instances of religious persecution in the United States have been documented. And the targets have been exclusively Christians.

Evangelical Christians and Catholics have been labeled religious extremists by the military. Similarly the military has listed Christian organizations including the Family Research Council and American Family Association as domestic hate groups. Students have been ordered to stop praying in front of the Supreme Court and military and civilian chaplains have been told they can no longer pray in the name of Jesus

Christ.

Please join us to study issues that affect Christians of every persuasion. GPH✘

## FROM THE RECTOR

### Ah yes! I remember them well, but don't dare call me a geezer

One of my so-called friends has taken to e-mailing me Internet questionnaires crafted to betray the respondent's antiquity. With titles like “*The Older Than Dirt Quiz*,” they ask such questions: “Do you recall Five and Dime stores selling false teeth?”

Of course I do. I vividly remember the enticing pink and white objects bobbing around in bowls of white antiseptic – a necessary sanitary precaution as customers trying them on would slip ones that didn't fit back in the liquid. Indeed as a bold five-year-old I might have surreptitiously popped an upper set in my mouth. I know my friend Kenny May did.

The questionnaires go on to ask if one recollects such commonplaces as headlight switches on the floor; ignition

## 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:** Peter, Charlotte, Dorothy, Rodney, 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 & Robin

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**REPOSE OF THE SOUL:** Barry

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**FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:** Elizabeth Smith & Family

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

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**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.

switches on the dashboard; pant clips for bicycles without chain guards; soldering irons you heat on a burner; and using hand signals for cars without turn signals.

How could I forget them? False teeth aside, items of this sort are still regularly in use in my household – along with boot hooks, armbands, collar buttons, starched collars and hatband stretchers.

Familiarity with such things is indicative of a respondent's taste, not his antiquity.

The same goes for fond memories of Blackjack chewing gum, wax Coke-shaped bottles containing colored sugar water, candy cigarettes, soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles, roller skate keys, 45 RPM records, Hi-fis and metal ice trays with a lever.

And who isn't familiar with names like Packard and

Studebaker? In fact, I once owned a 1937 Packard Straight Eight convertible. In those days, of course, it wasn't a valuable antique, but just an "old car." It was a magnificent looking specimen, with spare wheels on the running boards, and a horn like a cruise liner.

Its primary drawback was that it did only about eight miles to the gallon. In order to drive any distance, I had to talk at least five people into going with me to share expenses. With great regret, I traded it in for a rakish Italian sports car with a long hood and headlights bigger than dinner plates.

When I got it home, however, I couldn't find the light switch -- a decided embarrassment. The mechanic at the local garage hooted with laughter when I asked him where the light switch was located.

It turned out the lights ran acetylene gas, generated by a chemical reaction between carbide and water. Putting on the lights was simplicity itself: You simply dropped a carbide pellet into the water reservoir and lit the gas jet with a match.

The effect was astounding. The vast lamps were veritable anti-aircraft searchlights. Incandescent beams probed the darkness for hundreds of yards ahead. This was very cool.

What wasn't at all cool was listening to my date laugh herself silly as she watched me light up the headlights and tail lights with a match. It was an operation that took a mortifying five

minutes and was accompanied by much bad language occasioned by burned finger tips.

In my next foray into the automobile market, I acquired an ancient Rolls Royce hearse -- an excellent vehicle, albeit a bit worn in second at the time I bought it.

I thought it was a station wagon and absolutely ideal for camping trips. Needless to say, my camping expeditions tended to be solitary affairs after my friends discovered the vehicle's macabre past. It's amazing how superstitious some folks are.

That's the trouble with these questionnaires: They lead you down the black hole of memory lane -- the Harley Davidson with foot clutch and "suicide" stick gear shift; the 1962 Chrysler Imperial with push button gear change and weird oblong steering wheel; the sheer elegance of Charlotte's 1963 Cadillac convertible; the dash and élan of the 1966 T-bird; the limpet-like road holding of the 1971 BMW 2002; and the sheer brute muscle of the 1977 Plymouth Fury . . .

According to these questionnaires, merely *remembering* these things makes you "older than dirt." Personally, I'd challenge that definition. But if it dates me to prefer my automobiles named after wild beasts and unfettered emotions than today's milksop offerings, so be it.

Bah! Humbug! Sonatas are for concert halls and Accords are for diplomats and statesman. GPH\*

## St Stephen's Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093  
Office: 410 560 6776 · Rectory: 443-425-2420  
Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

[www.ststeve.com](http://www.ststeve.com)

The Rev. Canon Guy P Hawtin, *Rector*  
The Venerable Michael Kerouac, *Vicar*  
The Rev. Michael Belt and The Rev. John Novicki  
*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: Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)  
11am: Choral Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)  
6pm: Choral Evensong (as announced) --  
[evensong.ststeve.com](http://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  
Thursday, 10am: Knitting Circle  
Friday, 10.30am: Bible Study

### MONTHLY & SPECIAL

## Lenten Series begins

Wednesday February 21st 6.45 pm

## The Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, February 21st, 7.00 pm

## The Ladies Who Lunch

*The Peppermill Restaurant*

Wednesday, February 21st 12.00 pm

To reserve: Call Sara Douglas 410-560-9026

## Choral Evensong

Sunday March 4th, 6.00 pm

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