

St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

April 24th, 2018

FROM THE RECTOR

Just as Henry Ford said, this history book's bunk

Pioneering carmaker Henry Ford famously declared: "History is bunk" and a legion of critics denounced him as a cultural Neanderthal. Ford, however, seems to be getting the last laugh. The history books at use in our schools today seem intent on proving his point.

The latest – produced by the textbook publishing house Pearsons and copyrighted for 2019 – is perhaps the most egregious example to date.

Entitled "*By the People: A history of the United States*", it is intended for Advanced Placement students. But far from offering a dispassionate review of the nation's history, it reads in large part like an editorial in an unabashedly left wing journal.

Prior to the upheavals of the 1960s, high school history was generally treated as a serious academic discipline rather than an opportunity to propagandize the nation's youth.

Historians, who took the discipline seriously, recognized that natural partisanship made it difficult, if not impossible, to assess news reportage dispassionately as history. Thus empirical history was deemed to begin with events that no longer directly influenced current times.

In Britain, for example, history generally ended with the 1851 Great Exhibition in London's Hyde Park. Events later in the decade, such as the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny, were treated as current events because issues surrounding them still affected current events.

The American Civil War was similarly categorized as a current event and taught in the context of the Western Powers' wars of colonial expansion. The rationale for this was that the *casus belli* for the war lay in irreconcilable economic disagreements, while the issue of slavery arose later.

On the same basis, the Austrian-Prussian War and the Franco-Prussian War were taught as current events, as were the more or less contemporaneous Danish-Prussian Wars over the so-called "Schleswig Holstein Question."

[Lord Palmerston, the British prime minister at the time, not entirely jokingly observed: "There are only three people who have understood the Schleswig-Holstein question: Prince Albert, who is dead; a German professor who has gone insane; and myself . . . And I have forgotten it."]

[The Schleswig-Holstein Question – actually a protracted territorial dispute – was ultimately settled in Germany's favor by plebiscite after the First World War.]

The First World War, the Russian Revolution and its aftermath, the Second World War and the Korean War were, as a matter of course, treated as current affairs, as were developments in the Middle East, Africa, China and elsewhere in Asia.

The debauching of history was well underway in the 1980s when our son, Nicholas went to college. To my amazement, he was taught the Vietnam War as history – despite the fact that the issues involved in the conflict and its outcome were – and continue to be – hotly disputed.

[For example, the Tet Offensive by the Vietcong and North Vietnamese Army are still preponderantly taught as a defeat for the United States, whereas, in fact, it ended in an overwhelming American victory.]

Part of the blame for debauching history lies with ever increasing influence of the left on American academe. But another factor has been the increase reliance on the computer for the purposes of research.

Original sources – documents, contemporary news reports and the like – are increasingly difficult for both school teachers and students to access. Newspaper "morgues" have long ceased to exist. As a consequence, "institutional memory" has disappeared from both the newsroom and common room.

Pearsons' "*By The People: A History of the United States*," graphically illustrates the baleful results of teaching contemporary

events as history. Its account of the 2016 Presidential Election is so ludicrously one-sided it lacks anything that could reasonably be described as dispassionate.

For example: "*Trump's supporters saw the vote as a victory for the people who, like themselves, had been forgotten in a fast-changing America—a mostly older, often rural or suburban, and overwhelmingly white group. Clinton's supporters feared that the election had been determined by people who were afraid of a rapidly developing ethnic diversity of the country, discomfort with their candidate's gender, and nostalgia for an earlier time in the nation's history. They also worried about the mental instability of the president-elect and the anger that he and his supporters brought to the nation.*"

Or how about?: "*Most thought that Trump was too extreme a candidate to win the nomination, but his extremism, his anti establishment rhetoric and, some said, his not-very-hidden racism connected with a significant number of primary voters . . .*" [Note "some said"—a common tactic to insert one's personal opinion.]

The book also falsely claims among other things that Michael Brown, who was killed by police in Ferguson, Missouri in 2014, "*was left on the street for over four hours while his parents were kept away at gunpoint.*"

This is neither history nor current affairs. And it would have been equally objectionable had it been written from a contrary perspective. It is, in fact, simply another lamentable example of what President Trump dubs "Fake News." The philosopher George

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, Charlotte, Bryan, 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, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, Isobel, Judy, Elizabeth, Wade, Michael✕, Priscilla, & Sifa

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

FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Stephen

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.

Santayana warned that those who will not learn from history will be doomed to repeat it. Ominously for America's future, the nation's children will be unable to learn from history when they are not being taught it. GPH✕

Church & Missions Sundays

The word "parochial" is used as a metaphor in the secular world for a very good reason. Parishes tend to be inward looking, mindful of the needs of their parishioners and the communities in which they are located. The Church's mission to the wider world tends to take a back seat.

However the national Church and its missions at home and abroad still need funding. The good news is that there are funds available to take care their needs. The bad news is the money is still in your wallets.

More good news: St Stephen's vestry has a plan that will take

care of the problem as painlessly as possible. The four Sundays After Easter are designated as "Church and Missions Sundays."

We are asking you each Sunday prayerfully to set aside – in addition to your usual pledge – an extra \$10 or so for the national Church and its missions. Envelopes will be provided with you orders of service.

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Mark your calendars for our British Garden Party

Please set aside Saturday, May 5th, on your calendar and join us at St Stephen's annual ethnic festival: our British Garden Party and Fete. The Parish Life Committee has been planning for months to lay on an absolutely spiffing show.

We'll have a bagpiper and Maypole dancers. Races and frolics for the kids. Lots to eat – from high tea to hot dogs. A load of jumble. Games of chance. And, of course, King Henry VIII will be joining us along with his entourage. But beware, the King's goaler will be looking for miscreants to put in the stocks. (*Editor's note: Gaoler is the English English for jailer. What's more, it is pronounced the American way – "jailer." Go figure!*) Our traditional British pub, The Barley Mow will be serving fine wines and ice cold, frothy beverages. There will be pub food aplenty, and much, much more.

We hope you will get involved by joining us on Sunday, April 8th, and by lending your talents to making this the best Garden Party yet. If you can't make it to the meeting you can still help! Let us count the ways

Americans call it White Elephant, the Brits call it Jumble. But whatever name you use, please rummage the corners of your closets for bric-a-brac, collectibles, books, DVDs, CDs and oddities for our Jumble sale. We interested in everything except TVs or electronics. Tables are set up in the Parish Hall for your donations.

There will also be a St Stephen's craft table. There are lots of talented people at St Stephen's creating all kinds of wonderful crafts. Here's a chance to show off yours by offering some of your handmade items for sale.

We'll need cakes for the cake table. We'll be selling whole cakes, half cakes, and quarter cakes for families both large and small. Cakes should be delivered to the church on Fri. May 5th.

Help us with our advertising. Information sheets for Garden Party Program ads are in the back of the church. Help us by selling ads to the local merchants and businesses you frequent.

How about becoming a patron of the Garden Party? Your name will be listed in the Garden Party program acknowledging your generosity. There are several levels to choose from:

- Imperial Crown - \$100; ■□House of Windsor - \$75
- House of York - \$50 ■□House of Lancaster - \$30

Shortly we will have Garden Party posters to take to your grocery store, library, or any place else that has a bulletin board. We'll let you know as soon as they're available.

Finally, we need volunteers to work the day before and the day of the Garden Party. Sign-up sheets will be posted shortly in the Cadwalader Room. We hope you'll contribute your time to help us set up and run this great event. You'll be rewarded with lots of laughter and fellowship.

St Stephen's Anglican Church

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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

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

The British Garden Party
Saturday, May 5th, 11.00 AM - 4.00 PM

The Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, May 16th, 7.00 pm

The Ladies Who Lunch
Wednesday, My 16th 12.00 pm
Venue to be announced
Reservations: Call Sara Douglas 410-560-9026

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181

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