

# St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE TREASURER

## Please help keep the roof over our heads

Old style flat roofs are particularly vulnerable to leaks and the 30-year-old roof over the Cadwalader Room is no exception. Indeed, over the past couple of years, it has had increasing difficulties keeping out the rain and snow. Sad to say, the time has come to replace it.

The Rev. Dan Bursi, an architect in secular life, has drawn up plans for a replacement that should eliminate the problems flat roofs present. The new roof will have a gentle slope that will enable it to shed rain and melting snow more easily.

Your vestry has sought bids for the job from roofing contractors and the replacement will cost some \$29,000. Donations to cover the cost will be most gratefully accepted. Please prayerfully consider helping us keep the roof over our heads by sending your contribution to The Treasurer, St Stephen's Anglican Church, 11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21057. Mark your check "Flat Roof Fund." God bless you – Bob Reynolds

A JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> MEDITATION

## The wisdom of God versus human reason

Independence Day is one of the most important public holidays in the world. July the Fourth should not be regarded as solely an American celebration. America's independence should be celebrated by the entire free world. For without a free and independent United States, the free world wouldn't be free.

The U.S. made it possible for the nations of Western Europe to shake off the Nazi yoke, the German people included. America's steadfast opposition to Communist totalitarianism not only kept Western Europe free, it enabled the people of Eastern Europe – including the people of the Soviet Union, itself – to throw off the yolk of Marxist socialism.

Nor was it only the people of Europe and the Middle East who have benefited from America's dedication to the cause of freedom: The people of Burma, Malaya, Indonesia, the Philippines and the islands of the Pacific occupied by the forces of Imperial Japan were liberated at the cost of much American blood. And Taiwan, South Korea and democratic Japan are free thanks to the United States' vigilance.

But while the Fourth of July should be an international celebration, it is important to remember the people who made these celebrations possible -- the people who defined principles that underpin this great nation and the people who dedicated their lives to translate the founding fathers' vision into reality.

The American Revolution is unique among the many revolutions that have taken place since the Surrender at Yorktown. It is unique because it is the only one that did not "consume its authors or its children."

This is because it is unique in a more fundamental way: It is the only revolution that was impelled by a genuine spirit of Christianity. Far from seeking to impose any particular political or religious vision on anybody, the purpose of the American Revolution was to enable individuals to exercise their God-given gift of free will.

This is what was meant when the men who drafted and signed the Declaration of Independence, affirmed that our Creator has endowed each and every one of us with the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Certainly, the founding fathers expected that our individual pursuit of happiness would, somehow or other, involve the practice of the Christian faith – that's what they meant by the word "religion." But they did not seek to dictate what brand of Christianity people should profess or, indeed, that they should espouse any religion at all. Indeed, they left the question of religious belief up to the individual.

In other words, they were careful not to tamper with the fundamental qualities manifest in our humanity: our freedom to make our own decisions: right or wrong, wise or foolish; to worship God or to reject Him . . . This might seem self-evident today, but at the time it was an entirely novel concept.

## Parish Prayer List

Our Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List and guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice. To add a name to the prayer list, or visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office (410) 560 6776.

**FOR RECOVERY:** Catherine, Richard✘, Janis, Parisa, Daniel, Judy, Leona, Charlotte, Bryan, Rachel, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Dan, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Neal, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Jan, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John, Adrian, Tom, Michell, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, David, Wade, Sifa, Theresa, Lisa, Larry Ricard & Scott

**FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Caroline, Karen, Ardis, Mavis, Michael, Melba, Sam, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Kath, Rebecca, Catherine & Elizabeth

**IN MEMORIAM:**

**THOSE WHO MOURN:**

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE:** Lt. Col. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; USAF; Cpt Fiodor Strikovski, US Army.

This is the critical difference between the American Revolution and the other great revolution of the 18th Century, the French Revolution. The French revolutionaries claimed to have been inspired by the American example. But this is true only to a superficial degree.

The French revolutionaries were not seeking to uphold the God-given rights of the individual to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Quite the opposite, in fact. Theirs was a collectivist vision. The motto by which they defined their enterprise was "liberty, equality and fraternity." Their aim was to subordinate the individual to the common good – an entirely theoretical concept defined by a political elite.

But the fundamental difference between the American and French revolutions lies not so much in the visions of the protagonists as in their respective religions. The Americans were inspired by the teachings of Jesus and the belief that each one of us is equally beloved by his Creator and endowed with inalienable rights.

The French revolutionaries, by contrast, worshipped

worshipped an entirely different God: the mind of man. They acknowledged no higher authority than that of human reason. In fact, they instituted worship of the "Goddess of Reason" as France's official state religion – abandoning the public worship of the human mind only when the appalling consequences of it brought human reason into disrepute.

It is not accidental that the fruits of the American Revolution have been a degree of human intellectual achievement and material prosperity hitherto unrealized by the human race. History teaches us we'll continue to prosper so long as we uphold the rights endowed upon the individual by our creator.

Nor, I would further contend, is it accidental that the fruits of French Revolution and the others it has inspired – notably the Bolsheviks in Russia, the Nazis, the Fascists, Mao in China, Pol Pot's in Cambodia -- has been a tidal wave of misery and death unprecedented in human history. While God is a benevolent creator, human reason turns out to be an insatiably blood-thirsty tyrant.

It is vital to understand that the two revolutionary visions are utterly incompatible. It is impossible to reconcile governance founded on the principle of the divinely endowed rights of the individual with a collectivist vision

directed by the political and sociological fads and fancies derived from human reason.

Small wonder then that young Americans have been called upon many times over the past 225 years to shed their blood, indeed to lay down their lives, to uphold the rights and worth of the individual against the dictates of the human intellect. Few of them have been philosophers. But most of them have been instinctively aware that their obligation to fight was rooted in America's intensely close relationship with the Bible.

However we who worship the Creator that has endowed us with inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness need to remember there are people – at home and abroad – who still worship that other god, the god of human reason. They are true believers who will never abandon striving to subordinate our God-given rights to some fashionable collectivist vision of the "common good."

After the Constitutional Convention, a woman asked Benjamin Franklin what sort of government they had given America. "A republic, ma'am," he replied, ". . . if you can keep it." Let us pray we have the courage, the wisdom and vision to keep it – not merely for our sakes, but for the sake of the entire world. 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 Very Rev. Guy P Hawtin, Dean & Rector  
The Ven. Michael Kerouac, Vicar ·  
Associate Rectors:

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki,  
The Rev. M Wiley Hawks  
and The Rev. Dr. Norman Flowers

Mrs Happy Riley, Director of Pastoral Care & Wedding  
Coordinator

### SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Said Eucharist

9.15am: Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)  
11 am: Sung Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)  
Choral Services (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  
Noon: Bible Study  
Friday, 10.30am: Bible Study

### MONTHLY & SPECIAL

## The Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, 7.00 PM, July 17th

## Ladies Who Lunch

Noon, Wednesday, June 17th  
at The Bluestone, Timonium

Reservations, call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026

## Choral Events

As announced

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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