

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

Short attention spans end in long term evils

Our new Friday morning Bible study focuses on the Book of Judges – and, if anything, it proves conclusively that the history of ancient Israel is not for the faint hearted. It is blood curdling and tediously predictable. The truly disquieting thing about it, however, is the light it shines on our own society.

The first 700 years or so of Israel's existence demonstrate that the human attention span amounts to little more than 40 years. Israel's pre-exilic history is nothing more than extended episodes of gross apostasy punctuated by tragically brief, swiftly forgotten, spells of virtuous living.

Forty years after the conquest of the Promised Land, for example, the Israelites had cast aside the God who had led them to victory and were "whoring after" the false gods of the people they had conquered.

After the 29-year reign of the virtuous King Hezekiah – itself a mere punctuation mark in best part of two centuries apostasy – came 55 years of the most dissolute rule by his son, the evil King Manasseh. You get the picture?

This would not, of itself, be quite so worrisome were it not for the clear parallels we see in our own time. It is not solely the increasingly zealous efforts to eradicate all traces of America's Christian heritage, though this should be disturbing enough.

But judging by recent emanations from Washington, our state houses and university campuses, the coming generation is woefully, if not willfully, ignorant of lessons painfully learned over the past half century.

Physician-assisted death or "aid in dying," for example, is now legal in nine jurisdictions: California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Montana, Maine (starting January 1, 2020), New Jersey (starting August 1, 2019), Oregon, Vermont, and Washington.

These laws (excluding Montana where there is no law) expressly state that, "actions taken in accordance with [the Act] shall not, for any purpose, constitute suicide, assisted suicide, mercy killing or homicide, under the law".

This is merely a transparent attempt to gild the lily. Weasel words cannot disguise the fact that nine jurisdictions in our country now permit euthanasia – a practice universally condemned as wholly immoral in the wake of the bloodiest war in history.

The most shocking thing about this is that among the most enthusiastic advocates of euthanasia are physicians and other medical professionals whose calling, one might reasonably assume, is to prolong life not to curtail it.

Sadly, such thinking is making its way into the mainstream of Western medicine. Indeed, The Netherlands has embraced euthanasia – voluntary and involuntary (once called murder) – for decades, while in Britain the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynecology prescribes euthanasia for seriously disabled new-borns.

The college has declared that "active euthanasia" spares parents the emotional and financial burdens associated with the upbringing of such children. In

practice the British courts spare parents "the emotional and financial burdens" of raising such children whether they want to be thus spared or not.

An explanation for this might be that Britain is a highly regulated welfare state and the financial benefits of killing disabled children actually accrue to the state, not to the children's parents.

The arguments for any form of euthanasia should be exceedingly disturbing, especially to the dwindling band of folks familiar with the history of the Third Reich.

(Note to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar and Ayanna Pressley: The Third Reich was an evil empire overthrown at the cost of untold human suffering just over 70 years ago.)

Today's arguments in favor of euthanasia are chillingly evocative of the Nazi propaganda campaign in the 1930s that ushered in laws mandating the

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, Donna, Skip, 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.

slaughter of the mentally and physically disabled.

Initially, the laws were applied only to infants, but within a very short time large numbers of the adult mentally ill were being shipped to the experimental extermination center in a clinic just outside the idyllic little town of Idstein in Germany's Taunus Mountains.

Not long after that, the diagnosis of "mental disability" was applied to an increasingly wide range of people, including habitual criminals and homosexuals, while the ranks of the physically disabled were deemed to include "undesirable" racial types. Very soon the Holocaust was under way.

I wouldn't dream of equating of earnest, hard-working American physicians and British obstetricians and gynecologists with the monsters who staffed Hitler's extermination camps.

But the German medical professors whose theories about the comparative value of lives empowered the Nazis to implement their hideous agenda were no less honest, earnest and hard-working than the U.S. and U.K. advocates of utilitarian end of life policies.

Moreover, the theories, ancient and modern, that underpin the practice are all based on the same false assumption: They fallaciously presume that the severely disabled and elderly contribute little of value to society.

Tell that to Helen Keller and the host of others who have overcome grievous handicaps to inspire, educate and inform their fellow men!

We live in an apostate and dangerous world and, if we are to survive, we need to develop attention spans a mite longer than those in ancient Israel. GPH✘
FROM THE TREASURER

Please help to keep the flat 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. To date we have received slightly more than \$1,500. So we still have a long way to go.

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

St Stephen's Anglican Church

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Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

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: Sung Eucharist

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

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

The Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, 7.00 PM, August 21st

Ladies Who Lunch

Noon, Wednesday, August 21st

Venue to be announced

Information, call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026

Choral Events

As announced

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St Stephen's Anglican Church
11856 Mays Chapel Road
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