

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

The aphorism: An economical expression of an obvious truth

I have always had a weakness for aphorisms. Really good ones impart instructive truths with a wry smile. Among some frequently quoted favorites are Oscar Wilde's definition of hypocrisy "vice's tribute to virtue" and Dr Samuel Johnson's observation on second marriages "the triumph of hope over experience."

Recently a friend sent me a collection of aphorisms that were entirely new to me. I'd like to share them with you:

1. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
2. Money will buy a fine dog but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
3. If you don't have a sense of humor you probably don't have any sense at all.
4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
7. Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
8. Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?
9. Stroke a cat and you will have a permanent job.
10. No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car
11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
12. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m - for example, it could be the right number.
13. No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
14. I've reached the age where 'happy hour' is a nap.
15. Be careful about reading the fine print - there's no way you're going to like it.
- 16 The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
17. Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?
18. Money can't buy happiness but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Cadillac than in a Ford.
19. After 80, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.
20. Always be yourself because the people who matter don't mind and the ones who mind don't matter.
21. Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.

Don't begrudge prayers for political friends or foes

Seldom in recent history have political differences been quite so bitter – so bitter in fact that some civic organizations have ceased toasting the nation's political leaders, while many congregations have abandoned prayers for those who govern the country.

Knocking folks off our prayer lists certainly satisfies our human craving to strike back. The problem is that Christians don't have the option of wreaking this sort of vengeance on those who offend them.

Quite the opposite. We are told to love our enemies, bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us and pray for those who are spiteful to us and persecute us (*Matthew 5:44*).

In short, we don't have the option to omit from our prayers the political leaders with whom we disagree. It doesn't matter whether we are for a policy or against it, offering prayers for those who guide the affairs of the country, whether they see things our way or not, is a solemn Christian obligation.

Indeed, praying for the civil authorities is one of the oldest customs of the Church. Intercessions on behalf of the government, for example, are at the very top of St. Paul's priorities in his instructions to St. Timothy on how he is to conduct services at the Church in Ephesus.

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness

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, Heidi, 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.

and honesty," he writes (*1 Timothy 2:1 & 2*).

Moreover, it doesn't matter in the least whether or not the civil authorities in question are Christian, pagan, or even atheist. We're obliged to pray for them no matter what their religious convictions.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers," writes Paul of the Emperor Claudius (*Romans 13: 1-7*), "For there is no power but of God ... For he is the minister of God to thee for good..."

Our Prayer Book's "Prayer for the President," thus, has a long and honorable history. It was adapted in 1789 from the "Prayer for the King" in the English Book of Common Prayer.

The original was first published in 1547, predating by two years the Book of 1549 -- the first official Prayer Book to be published in the English Language.

There was a heated debate among the American revisers as to whether or not it was appropriate for the Church to pray for a U.S. president who holds office for a limited term in the same way that it prays for a monarch who holds office for life.

This wasn't a mere matter of semantics. The English

The English Prayer Book contains no "Prayer for the Country" because the prayer for the reigning monarch is deemed to cover this need.

Canon Norris, a 19th Century Liturgical expert, explained: "It should be remembered, in all our prayers for the Queen, that we are praying for a blessing, not only on one whom we revere individually, but also on one who represents to our minds our unity and majesty as a nation." he said.

"When we speak of the head we speak of the whole. In praying God to bless the Sovereign of this realm, we intend to pray for a blessing on our land and nation. Were this not so, it might seem strange that nowhere in our Prayer-book in there a prayer for England."

The argument over prayers for the U.S. president seems to have been settled by Bishop William White. In a letter to Bishop Thomas C. Brownell of Connecticut, dated February 8, 1822, he observed scornfully:

"It may be questioned, whether in a government which gives no power commensurate with life, it be congruous to pray for the long life and prosperity of the first Magistrate; but it is contemptible to cavil at the title of 'God's servant,' as applied to an unbelieving President, when everyone,

who understands Greek, knows he is called so in Romans xiii.4." This, then, became our custom – at least until political partisanship abolished good manners. GPH✘

FROM THE TREASURER

Help keep the roof overhead

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)

11am: 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

A potluck lunch at the parish church

Information, call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026

Choral Events

As announced

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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