

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

It's time for education to get back the basics

It's heresy, I know, but I can't help feeling there is something intrinsically ridiculous about the notion that all children, virtually without exception, will benefit from a higher education. Indeed, even the idea of requiring every child to attend high school until the age of 18 or so seems fundamentally daft.

Some people are simply not intellectually equipped to earn a worthwhile college degree. Others are more practically or technically inclined and would find great benefit from learning a trade as an apprentice or studying for a profession – such as engineering, architecture, the law and the like – as an “articled clerk.”

For many such youngsters, their final years in high school are, in truth, a tedious waste of time. Yet they are obliged to mark time for an extra two years or so simply to obtain the high school diploma without which meaningful employment is exceedingly hard to find.

Surely it would be better for young people who wish to leave school to take up an apprenticeship or become an “articled clerk” to be awarded an intermediate school leaving diploma or its equivalent.

The fact of the matter is that this system worked admirably a couple of generations ago. Indeed, one might objectively observe that as far as “the trades” are concerned the average standard of craftsmanship was markedly superior back then than it is today.

Nor was the competence of lawyers, architects or engineers in the slightest degree inferior to that of graduates from today's law schools and universities.

Abraham Lincoln became a lawyer as an articled clerk. So, too, did Senator Sam Ervin, who chaired the U.S. Senate's investigation of the Watergate scandal. Both were notably capable attorneys. (*After* Ervin had been called to the bar, he graduated from Harvard Law School largely to polish his political resume.)

Similarly, Sir Barnes Neville Wallis, Britain's premier scientist during World War II, left school at 17 to become an engineering apprentice. Among Wallis' most famous inventions was the “Bouncing Bomb” that enabled Royal Airforce “Dam Busters” to destroy Germany's hydro-electric dams on the River Ruhr.

He was also responsible for the revolutionary geodetic design of the fuselage and wing structures that gave the RAF's Wellington Bomber its uniquely robust airframe. Photographs of Wellingtons that brought their crews home safely despite extraordinarily heavy damage are truly impressive.

The sole beneficiaries of our obsession with higher education for all are in reality the folks employed in the “educational industrial complex” itself – teachers, college/university instructors, academics, researchers and, above all, the grossly overstaffed ranks of administrators – together with the pandering politicians who advocate universal free college tuition.

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: Pauline Flowers

THOSE WHO MOURN: Fr. Norman Flowers and family

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

The losers, however, are legion. They are the children – many of them later to become high school dropouts – who cannot read, write or do simple math. They are the college graduates whose worthless degrees have loaded them with student loans and landed them with jobs such as coffee shop barista. They are the voters too ignorant of the history of the country to make an informed choice.

The philosopher George Santayana's observation that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it applies as much to commerce and industry as it does to political affairs. Thus it seems fair to conclude that among the biggest losers are the businesses unable to find adequately qualified recruits. As a consequence, many of America's companies are run by

managers strong in theory, but woefully short of practical experience in the ways their industries work.

None of this should surprise folks familiar with the laws of supply and demand. Indeed it should have been obvious to the solons who proposed with notion of universal higher education that a vast expansion of the process would likely result in a similar decline in the quality of the product.

Teaching is no different from any other field of endeavor. The cadre of truly gifted teachers is limited. The pool of capable teachers is considerably larger, but, none the less, far smaller than the number of mediocrities. And even the mediocrities far outshine those at the very bottom of the barrel who – by virtue of the insatiable demand for instructors – hold down jobs in all the branches of education (including our colleges and universities as a glance at the average prospectus amply demonstrates).

The aphorism “those who can do – and those can’t teach” was recognized as a tongue-in-cheek jibe aimed at an honorable, but occasionally pompous, profession. Today it might well read: “Those who can do; those can’t teach – and those who can’t teach do so too.”

As a computer programmer who decided against going to college explained: “It seemed foolish to spend tens of thousands of dollars to be taught by a person who knew less about my subject than I did. It’s not an accident that so many Silicon Valley entrepreneurs are college dropouts.”

This sums up what is wrong with the whole notion of universal higher education. Our colleges and universities have abandoned their time-hallowed function of teaching a relatively small intellectual elite to think. Instead, they have adopted a role which with a few exceptions – largely in the realm of the sciences – they are largely unsuited: Imparting practical skills that equip young people for jobs in industries, trades and professions that were hitherto responsible for training their own workforces. And as all our political parties embrace the present system, things seem destined to get worse before they get better. GPH✘

FROM THE TREASURER

Help keep the roof overhead

The time has come to replace the flat roof over the Cadwalader Room. The cost of replacing it will besome \$29,000. The Vestry has appealed for donations to cover the cost. To date we have received checks and pledges totaling slightly more than \$8,500. 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: 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

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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