

# St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

## How media betrays the nation and its investors

The incompetent narcissists who produce America's mainstream media have for decades been betraying both the nation and their shareholders – a fact that has been made manifest in the media's coverage of the run up to the 2020 Presidential Election.

Indeed, it should be clear – beyond all doubt – that it is the media that is primarily responsible for the extraordinarily low and ugly level of political discourse that disgraces not just the nation's capital and state houses, but our local council chambers.

It is a grave insult to the intellect of even the most low brow news consumer that the media treats seriously the overblown rhetoric and grotesque insults politicians of both parties routinely hurl at each other.

News ought to have some basis in truth. Back in the days when reporters (as they used to be called) actually practiced their craft, it was considered grossly unethical to a skill for a politicians.

The few who did so were usually assumed to have accepted graft for betraying their principles. Today many journalists apparently not only shuck off their ethics as a matter of course – they do so for free.

Back in the old days, politicians who wanted media exposure actually had to earn it with policy proposals or debating points that made some degree of sense. Otherwise they had to pay for it.

Politics is admittedly not the most principled of occupations. Politicians of all stripes are prone to make ugly and outlandish accusations against those who disagree with them.

Journalists once were expected to sort news from that type of blather. But today this basic duty is demonstrably honored mainly in the breach.

Like so many other occupations today, journalism's problems begin with the way in which aspiring news men and women learn the fundamentals of their trade – a word calculated to strike horror in the breasts of the denizens of the nation's newsrooms.

But journalism is a trade, not a profession, no matter the pretensions so many modern scribblers. It has more in common with carpentry and plumbing than “learned professions” such the Law and the Church. Even so the fact that it is a trade or craft should in no way diminish it.

However, as with so many trades in which skills were once traditionally passed on through the apprenticeship system, the teaching of news reporting has been taken over almost exclusively by colleges and universities. And it is much the worse for it.

Unlike architecture, engineering and agriculture, the academic environment is unsuited to the imparting of the skills necessary to be a good reporter.

A great newspaper tycoon once declared the qualifications for a news journalist to be “shorthand, typing, and a sort of low animal cunning.” Modern journalistic education teaches nothing of the kind.

The primary quality aspiring journalists really need to develop is an ephemeral one: It used to be known as a

“nose for news.”. An extensive working knowledge of what used to be called “civics” and a cynical appreciation of the way politicians and bureaucrats work is also useful.

In short, a journalist's real education should take place in the field rather than the classroom. Modern journalistic education, by contrast, places a heavy emphasis not on news gathering, reporting, but on “writing” in quotation marks. This foolish pretension that news writing is a form of literature is responsible for the interminable, self-indulgent screeds of woolly, ill-organized text that today passes for news reporting.

Real news writing is far from literature. It is essentially utilitarian – merely the vehicle by which news is transmitted. At best, news writing should be to a degree formulaic – the “who, where, what, how and whys” of events expressed in straightforward, declarative sentences.

The literary pretensions of today's journalists have led to

## 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:** Mavis, Pam, Eileen, Rebecca, Catherine, Bill, Richard✕, Janis, Daniel, Leona, Rachel, Elizabeth, Kim, 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 Tom, Michell, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, David, Wade, Sifa, Eileen, Ravi, Theresa, Larry Ricard, Judy & Scott

**FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Sam, Cameron, Jim, Diana, Caroline, Karen, Ardis, Mavis, Michael, Ian, Melba, Vinnie, Doug, Chip, Elizabeth, Lisa, Carey, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Kath, Rebecca, Colin & Christian.

**IN MEMORIAM:** Ann Bonnell

**THOSE WHO MOURN:** The Bonnell family

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

the laughable phenomena of reporters accusing each other of plagiarism – as if it might actually be possible to plagiarize tomorrow's fish wrapper.

It also, I suspect, engenders the apparently insatiable appetite for journalism awards; the veritable orgy of self-congratulation that encompasses the putatively sublime and the patently ridiculous – from the Pulitzers to the local sanitation department's “Journalist of the Year.”

Back in the days before journalism was a twinkle in the eye of the college deans of admission, most news men and women knew that their livelihoods depended on maintaining their readers' trust in the publications for which they worked. Thus, they knew that undermining that trust by promoting personal agendas – political or social – would ultimately conflict with their best own-interests.

This, lamentably, is a notion today's journalism school instructors have signally failed to impart. Small wonder, then, that the most avid consumers of today's mainstream media are the folks who produce it. And this, in turn, also explains why most of today's mainstream news organizations are on the ropes. GPH✕

FROM THE PARISH CLERGY

# New County rules on Covid19

Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch, Health Officer for Baltimore County, has promulgated the following order: “Beginning Thursday, July 23 at 9 a.m., Baltimore County individuals ages 2 and up are required to wear face coverings in any indoor business, service, organization or establishment that serves the general public. This includes, but is not limited to, retail establishments, recreational establishments, houses of worship and other locations open to the public.

Residents are strongly encouraged to wear masks in outdoor public areas where social distancing of at least six-feet is not possible. Exemptions to the decree are:

- Individuals who cannot wear a face covering (as defined in Governor's Executive Order No. 20-04-15-01) due to a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability;
- Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
- Individuals at food service establishments while eating or drinking, which shall all be subject to the same existing regulations and exceptions previously in place under the Governor’s Executive Orders and the Health Officer Orders

of the Maryland Department of Health . . . . In addition, all non-seated parties, must wear a face covering when moving in or about a restaurant or bar premises.

- Individuals are not required to show documentation that an exception applies.”

*The full text of th Health Department Directive and Order and the Interpretive Guidance can be found at the County web site.*

## Our Sunday service schedule

Holy Eucharist at will be said at 8.00 AM and 9.15 AM. Morning Prayer will be said 11.00 AM with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the ,month. Sunday School takes place at 9.15 AM

For shut-ins and folks st in quarantine we will be continuing our videos of Feast Day and Sunday Eucharists. These are posted on the **parish website (www.ststeve.com)**, **Youtube** and **Isaac the Eagle’s Facebook** page.

You’ll find them from 9.00 AM onwards every Sunday and Day of Obligation at **ststeve.com** at the bottom of the Home Page, under “Recent Blog Posts. A new midweek “broadcast” talk by the rector can also be found on the website every Wednesday or Thursday.

Meanwhile, we have opened a Post Office Box for the exclusive use of the treasurer. Please mail your offerings to: **St Stephen’s Anglican Church, P.O. Box 6161, Timonium, MD 21094**. All other mail should be sent to our street address. GPH✘ & JPN✘

## St Stephen’s Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093  
Office: 410 560 6776 · Rector: 443 425-2420  
Vicar: 717-398-6603 · Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

[www.ststeve.com](http://www.ststeve.com)

The Very Rev. Guy P Hawtin, Dean & Rector  
The Rev. John Novicki, Vicar ·  
Associate Rectors:

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. C. Daniel Bursi,  
The Rev. Dr. Norman Flowers,  
The Rev. M. Wiley Hawks & The Rev. Mark Newsome,  
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

## For Our Country.

*ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth.*

*In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St Stephens’s Anglican Church  
11856 Mays Chapel Road  
Timonium, MD 21093

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