

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

Humpty Dumpty shows that sometimes you just can't win

“No good deed goes unpunished.” It is an old saying the truth of which was brought home to me quite forcefully during the recent Senate Judiciary Committee hearings into the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court.

The hearing, I might observe, was not the Judiciary Committee's finest hour, though, to be sure, it did not sink to depths plumbed during the Kavanaugh hearings. The questioning on this occasion was simply rather silly.

Silliest of all was Senator Maizie Hirono of Hawaii who asked Judge Barrett if she had ever made improper sexual advances to anyone. Later she took the judge to a task for using the term “sexual preference” when answering a question about how she would deal with issues involving the multiplicity of sexual choices open to folks these days.

Sen. Hirono – clearly a self-anointed expert on both grammar and genetics – claimed the term “sexual preference” is deeply hurtful to people in the category encompassing “x the unknown” multiplicity of sexual identities.

It is discriminatory because “sexual preference” implies they have a choice in the matter of sexual identity whereas, according to Sen. Hirono, they are born that way.

This is a questionable assumption. Beside the fact that medical opinion on the acquisition of sexual identity is by no means settled, definition of the term “sexual preference” is not a matter for debate.

Its meaning should surely be defined by the person or persons who coined it. And, oddly enough, I have a very good claim to be the chap who introduced the term “sexual preference” to the English language.

It came about in the mid-1960s when the word “gay” could be sung without giggles by prurient-minded choir boys. Back then it had not yet made its way to the mainstream and was still a code word largely employed to homosexuals.

I was, at the time, researching an article on background to the Danish government's decision to legalize pornography – an article ultimately published in Britain's “Guardian” newspaper.

It was a serious piece of political analysis and, to get the Danish government's side of the story, I obtained an interview with the Danish Interior Minister, the official responsible for the administration of the new law.

He was a courtly elder statesman named K. Axel Nielsen. And he patiently gave detailed answers to some abrasive and occasionally impertinent questions during a very long interview.

(His job-like patience might well be partly explained by his natural politeness, but, just as likely, because I was a friend of his daughter and son-in-law who had twisted his arm to give me the interview.)

When I came to transcribe my short-hand notes I saw that in referring to both heterosexuals and homosexuals, he had used a Danish expression that translates as “sexual preference.”

(The Danes had also reformed their country's “Blue Laws” penalizing homosexuals and he was explaining the reforms applied equally to both groups.)

The question that confronted me was: “How does one render the Minister's words in English?” I researched the expression and could find no trace of it ever having been used in English language periodicals either in Britain or across the Atlantic.

Reading through the entire interview, it was clear that Minister Nielsen was explaining the process by which his government reached its decision to legalize pornography in a careful, measured and neutral manner.

My article was intended to be a serious piece of political analysis contributing to a debate that was taking place in other countries in Europe, as well as in Britain and the United States.

It seemed to me that only honest way to present the interview would be to avoid paraphrasing Minister Nielsen's words as much as possible and to translate his words literally when possible to portray clearly the tone he adopted. Thus I contend, for better or worse, 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: Mavis, Pam, Eileen, Rebecca, Catherine, Bill, Maxine, Richard✘, Janis, Daniel, Leona, Rachel, Neal, Elizabeth, Kim, Dorothy, Donna, Skip, Dan, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Heidi, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, 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:

THOSE WHO MOURN:

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

expression “sexual preference” made its way into the English Language.

That, however, was only part of my good deed intended to uphold the integrity of the press. I also had to arm wrestle the op-ed page editor of The Guardian, who argued that, while the expression might sound just fine in Danish, it smacked of euphemism when translated into English.

I stuck to my guns and the phrase survived. I thought no more of it, but then, a couple of years later, upon gay liberation's arrival in Britain, a gay friend who worked on another newspaper thanked me profusely for introducing the phrase. By contrast, other gay writers upbraided me for importing the expression. They weren't upset because they thought it in anyway discriminatory. They accused me of debauching the English language.

Now Sen. Hirono has added her ten cents.

Actually, the nitpickers remind me of Humpty Dumpty in Lewis Carroll's *Alice through the Looking Glass them*. “When I use a word,” Humpty told Alice, “it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more nor less.”

Try as you might, sometimes it seems you just can't win. 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

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Vicar: 717-398-6603 · Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

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

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

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