

Weekly Musing † January 9, 2012

There are several worthy saints this week, although it is proper to remember that not all of those commemorated on the calendar are properly speaking, saints. Some date from a period when our branch of Christianity had stopped making saints in a formal way and when the very name “saint” implied a kind of “popery” repugnant to many. William Laud was the Archbishop of Canterbury from 1633 – 1645 under the ill-fated Charles I. The last few years is the period known as the English Civil War.

William Laud was the son of a master tailor a relatively humble origin that would not have been possible in the church in an earlier age, generally speaking. He lived in a time, though it was almost one hundred years after the English Reformation, that was still marked by intense religious in-fighting. The general factions were the puritans, mocked by Shakespeare and the source of the infamous witch trial of both England and America, and those who wanted a church and liturgy perhaps different from Rome but similar in its adherence to ancient formularies. Laud, as his king, was not on the Puritan side. No king much favored the puritans because they had little use for the divine rights of kings or the other hide bound traditions of hierarchical Christianity.



Eventually Laud underestimated the obdurate Scots who under Catherine de' Medici were devout Catholics but later became devout Calvinists. The Scots were the most puritan of the puritans. Laud was eventually tried and put in the Tower of London. He was later beheaded even though he received a pardon from Charles I. By this time, Charles had insufficient influence over government and would follow Laud to the scaffold four years later.

Charles I

One might wonder why we commemorate Laud and in addition one might be more than a little repulsed by executions in the name of religion. The sort of Christianity that our modern liturgy follows is the kind that Laud favored. It is catholic in its form and content (one might as well say orthodox, actually) and for

Anglicans, it is the liturgy, the prayer book, that is the focal point of religious practice and religious theology. It was much later, actually not until the 19th century and the Oxford Movement, that what Laud supported actually won out. It has only been in my life time that the Eucharist in church has resumed its rightful preeminence.

Laud lived in a time when Christianity and politics were rightly yoked because Anglicanism was (and still is) the state church in England. This is very different from the American model for better or worse. Thus it seems foreign to us when executions occur in the name of religion. When England executed Jesuits under Elizabeth I, it is important to remember that most of them had sworn to personally kill the queen and thus were guilty of treason (most were in fact English). Such are the vagaries of history.



News from St. Luke's

Thanks to Ted and Bess Lovec and the ECW for hosting a going away party for Laura and Leah Rathe. Kay Johnson said she hadn't seen a going away party of the magnitude for a parishioner since she has been at St. Luke's.

Remember that the parish **Annual Meeting is January 22** (Sunday) after the 10 am Eucharist. We need at least a couple of more people running for vestry at this point. Dick Wood and Mike Jackson are running for re-election. Holy Brown is willing to stand for Junior Warden again and I have nominated Lisa Malody for Senior Warden. If you are willing to run for vestry or as a delegate to diocesan convention (October 12-14 Helena) let me know.

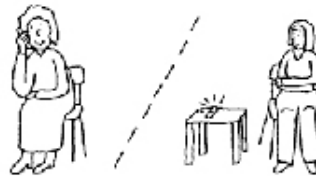
Our new improved youth group, which has anywhere from ten to fifteen young people a week, will meet on Wednesday from 6 - 8 pm.

Youth confirmation will start Wednesday, March 7 at 5 pm. This is open to young people at about the 7th grade, though exact timing is up to parents.

*The Rev. Canon Gary Waddingham
Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Regional Canon, Diocese of Montana*

GOING TO UNIVERSITY

HOW TO MAKE SURE YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE REMAIN GOOD CHRISTIANS



TELEPHONE THEM ON A DAILY BASIS



HAVE A MEMBER OF THE CHRISTIAN UNION INTERCEPT THEM



SUPPLY THEM WITH A TERMS WORTH OF SERMON AUDIOCASSETTES



PROVIDE THEM WITH SOME INFORMATIVE PAMPHLETS

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PUNISHMENTS

A PORTFOLIO OF SANCTIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO COMMIT MISDEMEANOURS AT THE CHURCH YOUTH CLUB



ATTENDING AN ENTIRE MEETING OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL



COMMUNITY SERVICE IN THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL PENCIL-SHARPENING DEPARTMENT



DOING A TALK AT THE CHURCH GROUP FOR SLIGHTLY OLDER PEOPLE



A DAY'S HARD LABOUR ON THE CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

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