

St. Stephen's News

St. Stephen's Anglican Church,
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

November 8th, 2011

FROM THE RECTOR

It's okay to love animals, but don't give 'em a vote

THE Tale of Peter Rabbit was one of my favorite books when I was a small boy, and rabbit pie was one of my favorite dishes. I raise the subject because, aged five, I was able to do two things that many adults today are apparently unable to do: Distinguish between fantasy and reality; and recognize that animals are not simply "less-abled" human beings.

This struck me while listening to an earnest young student discuss animal behavior. It rapidly became clear that the learning being propounded was second hand – acquired from textbooks, authored by folks who had no more first hand knowledge of animal behavior than the student.

A genuine understanding of animal behavior might seem a less than important item on the school curriculum compared, say, with English literature, foreign languages, social studies and sex-ed. But actually a lack of a first hand acquaintanceship with animals and, indeed, the land, itself, is gravely skewing social – and political – attitudes, especially in the realms of biology and the environment.

It is not merely a case of people not knowing where their food comes from or how it is produced – though that is truly a serious matter. Indeed, judging by the exceedingly odd shapes of the chunks of meat on display in supermarkets these days, even butchers are ignorant of the anatomy of the animals they dismember.

Our ignorance of things agricultural creates serious confusion in many areas of plant and animal husbandry – not least the realm of genetic engineering, a science that has been a tremendous contribution to feeding the world's hungry.

It is by no means a new phenomenon. We have been engaged in genetic engineering for millennia, creating higher yielding cereals and improving breeds of domesticated animals. One of the oldest examples of genetic engineering in animal husbandry on record is found in the 30th Chapter of the Book of Genesis – an account of Jacob's efforts to improve to quality of his herds of cattle and goats.

The difference between genetic engineering in Jacob's day and our own is that while methodologies are essentially the same, modern science enables us to speed up the process enormously.

It is important to bear this in mind when weighing arguments about genetically engineered food – for many of the objections fall into the realm of "ignorance and vain superstition."

Similarly, many animal rights groups appear to be labouring under a similar ignorance of animal behavior and husbandry. Indeed, farmers and others in the field of animal husbandry find the contention that animals have "rights" similar to human rights entirely perverse. Of course, it is wrong to harm or maltreat animals in our care, but it is equally wrong to anthropomorphize (*He's showing off his 'mastery of English' again -- Isaac Eagle*) them by endowing them with near human qualities.

While evolution certainly represents scientific orthodoxy, leading evolutionists no long subscribe to Darwin's "stairway" theory. Darwin postulated that there are many "steps" between us and the great apes and chimpanzees, but the distance between us and them is one of degree and not kind (*Darwin, 1871/1982, p 445*).

Modern theory, by contrast, asserts that people differ in kind and in degree from animals. Evolution is really about diversity and differences rather than progress up a stairway. For instance, they believe only people can take the perspective of others. Only humans have minds that can reinterpret observable events, attribute reasons and causality, and see the world as others see it.

Actually, folks who worked on farms could have told them that centuries, nay, millennia ago. "Dumb animals" are by no means dumb, but nor are they intellectuals.

How on earth did we develop our strange modern fads and fancies? Part of the explanation might be that in 1938, agricultural workers accounted for about 25 percent of the U.S. labor force, while a majority of people lived in small rural communities. Today less than two percent of American workers work on the land, while most people live in cities or suburban communities.

As our direct acquaintanceship with farm animals and their counterparts in the wild has declined, so our impressions about them have been increasingly formed by fantasy stories, cartoons, Disney movies and the like. Deer have morphed into Bambi, bears into Yogi, and chimpanzees into Bonzo, the animal world's lovable, cuddly clowns.

This is a completely false impression. Animals do not have our reasoning powers – or anything like them. Treating animals in the field or in the wild

as household pets is fraught with danger. Indeed, the most vicious creature I ever met was the cutest little Jersey bull you ever did see. The runner up was Oliver, an oh-so-appealing Basset Hound. **GPH**✘

COOKIE WALK 2011 APPEAL

■ **We need help to assemble the Cookie Walk mailer, Tuesday & Wednesday, November 8th & 9th beginning at 9.00 AM**

■ **We also need new and nearly new gifts, as well as antiques for the Cookie Walk Gift Table. (No jumble please!)**

■ **Christmas decorations are welcomed for the Cookie Walk.**

FROM THE MAGISTER CHORI

We shall sing Evensong Sunday, November 6th

To my horror, I recently learned that several of our evensong *aficionadi* ventured out to St Stephen's last month expecting Choral Evensong, only to be greeted by an empty carpark and a locked door. This is the most efficient way to lose a loyal following, and I humbly apologize to those of you who were inconvenienced. I know from personal experience that such an occurrence is frustrating and disheartening, and I do hope you'll give us another go.

The fact of the matter is the choir is in a rebuilding stage. Broken voices and the absence of a reliable source from which to recruit have drastically reduced our numbers, and we have not been 'ready for primetime'.

We were able to announce the cancellation through our e-mail list and evensong.ststeve.com, our website, but were unable to communicate in time to those who only get word of our events through the Parish Newsletter.

If you have internet access, please subscribe to our monthly evensong e-mail announcements by sending your e-mail address to music@ststeve.com. You can always obtain up-to-date information from evensong.ststeve.com, our evensong website. (Note: don't use a 'www' with that address.) Thank you for your understanding at this difficult time, and we hope to see you all on Sunday, November 6th at 6.00 pm when we present our first Choral Evensong of the season. **ADRIC**

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Being Sunday, November 13th, 2011

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM

HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-20

The Gospel: St. John 4:46b-54

11.15AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 30

The First Lesson: II Kings 5:1-15a

The Second Lesson: St. John 4:46b-54

IDEAS FROM ISAAC

Don't forget the Cook Book

THE 2011 Cookie Walk Cook Book is going to be an anthology of your favorite drinks. To ensure that it's a truly comprehensive guide to the art of making and mixing beverages, we need your recipes for all your favorite drinks -- alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

The rector has promised us the secret of his devastating "Montgomery Martini" -- a beverage invented by the American infantry in World War II and named in honor of the well-known British general. This is the drink that gives the Brits their stiff upper lips!

We plan this to be a cook book in the true Anglican tradition. But to make it so we'll need your recipes for punches, teas, shrubs, smoothies, malts, shakes, hot and cold drinks, and flavored alcoholic drinks. Anything you love that is potable.

Please bring your favorite recipes to church or email our editor Peter Threadgill (the best way) his address is petrus@ststeve.com. All recipes should have been in no later than Sunday, November 6th, but we can stretch it a bit.

PS: I wish to make it crystal clear that there is nothing wild about brass eagles. We are civilized and decorous birds. So please do not confuse us with the non-metallic variety. As to the vote, America would be a much better place if brass eagles ran the government, no matter what the rector says. **ISAAC EAGLE**

✠ 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 to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office at 410 560 6776.

RECOVERY: Deborah, Doris, Dorothy, Thelma, Mary, Adele, Linda, Jan, Liz, Bob, Wyatt, Jim, Reta, Sara, Michael, Tammy Sophie, Gracie, Paula, Blair, Melvin, Noah, Mavis, Heather, Laurie, Diane, Don, Lynn, Helen, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Robert, Nancy, Edithann, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, Patty, Antonio, Ray, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Fran, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tom, Lelilah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Marian, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy; Ellen, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, Bryan, Jason, Joan, Frances, Pat, Michael, Leslie, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Robert, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, Alma, Christine, John, Henry, Naomi, Pam, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Gloria, Lee Emily, Bruce, Regina, Lewis, Madolin, Linda, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, Jody, Sheila, Jo Anne, John, Geradine, Thomas, Jeanne, Sister Catherine-Grace, Maxine, Ann Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Rebecca, Dorothy, Joanne, ✠Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Doris, Carol, Suzie and Jennifer.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Ned, & Stephen, Rachel, Robert & Renee, Lydia; Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, Doris, Drake, Bobby, Kay & Emma, Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, David, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Tom, Susan, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, Jo Anne, Mary, Gregory, Isabel, Bobby, Dorothy, Darren, Scott, Rebecca, William, Charles, Joyce, Asfa, Eleanor, Kathy, Linda, James, Barry, Ann, Evelyn, Jeanette, Elizabeth, Virginia, Mildred, Chris, Stephen, Carol, Sandra, John, Mary, Michael & David

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: LTC R.J. Lytle, PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, USA; Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Charles Watts, USN; Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt. Col. Harry Hughes, USAF.

✠ St. Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093
Tel.: Office (410) 560-6776; Rectory (410) 665-1278
Web Address: ststeve.com.

RECTOR: The Venerable Guy P. Hawtin

VICAR: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am -- Holy Communion

9.15am -- Holy Communion

(Nursery & Church School)

11.15am -- Morning Prayer

(1st. Sun. of the month: Holy Communion at 11.15am)

(1st Sun. of the month: Choral Evensong at 6.00pm)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday: 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Friday: Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday: 5.00 PM Family Eucharist.

**COLLECTS FOR TRINITY XX AND
ALL FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheefully accomplish those things which thou commandest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN*

O GOD, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers: Grant to the faithful departed the unsearchable benefits of the passion of thy Son; that on the day of his appearing they may be manifested as thy children; through Jesus Christ our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, on God, world without end. *AMEN*

Return Service Requested

Timonium, MD 21093
11856 Mays Chapel Road

St. Stephen's Anglican Church

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