

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church,
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

February 14th, 2012

THE LENTEN STUDY

All you want to know about Christianity etc . . .

THIS YEAR'S Lenten Study will be a freewheeling series of five seminars entitled "*All You Wanted To Know About Christianity But Never Had The Courage To Ask.*" The series will begin on Wednesdays at 6.45 PM (after Evening Prayer) starting on February 29th and continuing until March 28th.

Participants will join in a "no holds barred" interchange with a panel of five experts on everything from Archaeology to Zwingli and all stops in between. If you are puzzled by the relationship of Jerusalem (old and new) with Christianity, have at it. If you would like to know the real cause of England's row with Rome, just ask. If you want to find out about sex and "Original Sin," or the pros and cons of infant baptism, or Essenes and the Dead Sea Scrolls, or the "lost Books of the Bible" just raise a hand.

As usual we will be offering nourishment for the body as well as the soul -- a hearty soup, the best bread in Baltimore and choice of beverages. If that doesn't satisfy you, bring a sandwich.

FROM THE RECTOR

On 'flag worship' and the politically correct

THERE are so many distractions in our lives today -- the radio, the telephone, text messaging, Tweeting and the like -- that new words have entered virtually unnoticed into our common vocabulary, one of the latest of which is "Multitasking." It's a newly-minted way to describe the practice of doing a whole bunch of things at the same time.

It was a talent not much admired by our ancestors who coined the phrase "jack of all trades, master of none" to describe "multitaskers." But, like so many things our forebears disapproved of, modern circumstances have transformed an ancient vice into a latter day virtue.

One thing that multitasking has certainly not done is extend our attention spans and improve our ability to listen. Hence a question posed to me by a visitor who attended a service recently: "What's with the flag worship in the middle of the service? Isn't it just a little bit jingoistic?"

For the multitaskers among us, perhaps I should explain that the term "jingoism" came into being in 1853 during the run up to the Crimean War. It is directly attributable to a piece of doggerel published in the English satirical magazine *Punch*. It included a verse which read:

*We don't want to fight,
But, by Jingo, if we do,
We've got the men,
We've got the guns,
We've got the money, too."*

In other words, "jingoism" is probably aptly defined as an "arrogant, gleeful, and highly belligerent expression of patriotism."

However the business involving the national flag after the Offertory -- while admittedly old fashioned and undoubtedly politically incorrect -- is neither flag worship nor is it in the least bit jingoistic. Quite to the contrary, in fact.

There's nothing in the words of the fourth verse of *My Country 'tis of thee* that can in anyway be interpreted as "belligerently patriotic." They read:

*Our fathers' God to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might,
Great God our King.*

St. Stephen's
Choir of Men & Boys
A LENTEN
CHORAL EVENSONG
at 6.00 PM
at The Parish Church
Sunday, March 4th, 2012

Far from being arrogant, they are humble -- an earnest plea for God's aid in maintaining the precious freedoms with which he has endowed us. There is no hint of arrogance in this verse. It does not suggest we are responsible for the freedoms we enjoy, nor does it so much as suggest our ancestors gave them to us.

The hymn makes it clear that our freedoms were bestowed upon by God and God alone, and that our continued enjoyment of them depends ultimately not upon our own efforts, but upon the protection that he alone offers.

One suspects these sentiments are viewed with disfavor by many "opinion makers" not for their tone, but because they they invoke the name of God. Many politicians today subscribe to the notion that it is they who are responsible for such liberties we enjoy and that they have the right to "regulate" those freedoms as they see fit. Thus they find the the sentiments the hymn expresses downright offensive.

The idea that "rights and freedoms" are defined by political philosophies and conferred by the political classes is encountered in places as widely spread out as Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Russia, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, even the British Isles and Scandinavia. As a consequence, no other country in the world upholds and affirms the God-given rights enjoyed by the citizens of the United States of America.

It is particularly disheartening to see that so many Americans take their God-given rights so lightly that they fail to recognize how deeply those freedoms been eroded over the past half century or so. It is even more worrisome to see the process continue apace still largely unrecognized.

As rector of St. Stephen's, I sincerely hope that as long as the parish exists its people will have the humility, wisdom and, yes, courage to flout popular opinion and to continue what the politically correct so casually disparage as "flag worship." It is a vital weekly reminder of how precious our God-given freedoms are to us. It is also a well earned rebuke for how feeble we have been in upholding them. **GPH**✠

Re-purposing pre-owned cars

ISAAC EAGLE writes: The rector has overlooked another unhappy aspect of the practice of minting words like "multitasking." It is a gross abuse of our language by folks who ought to know better -- one that devalues the English language by undermining vocabularies.

I confess I still can't fly over an automobile sales lot without tossing my cookies (figuratively speaking) at signs that read: "Pre-owned cars!!!!" Shakespeare never used "pre-owned," nor for that matter did Mickey Spillane. It didn't even appear in the tabloids until a money grubbing used car salesman of dubious literacy coined it as a clunky euphemism for "second hand."

It is not hard to understand why used car merchants would try to expunge the stigma attached to the words "used" and "secondhand" in connection with automobiles. But now the term "pre-owned" is being adopted by realtors to describe

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
QUINQUAGESIMA**

Being Sunday, February 19th, 2012

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM

HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Corinthians 13:1-13

The Gospel: St. Luke 18:31-43

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 103

The First Lesson: *Wisdom* 7:7-14

The Second Lesson: St John 15:1-17

houses that are slightly less than brand spanking new. One wonders what can have possessed them? Are they, perhaps, married to used car sales people? Or are they utterly devoid of good taste? Or could it be that they are actually verbal terrorists determined to massacre the English tongue?

Be that as it may, yet another verbal abomination recently crossed my horizon. I heard it first on "Antique Road Show" I am sorry to relate -- and the English version, no less.

While pontificating on a perfectly respectable vintage Louis Vuitton steamer trunk, a very youthful expert opined that such artifacts were in great demand among the "chic" and were often "re-purposed." By the time, I picked up my beak from the floor I had learned that steamer trunks were generally "re-purposed" as coffee tables.

What was an apparently decent, well educated young man doing using a hideous non-word like "re-purpose" when an apt and entirely appropriate word like "convert" lay readily to hand?

True, "convert" lost some appeal when the rector's father "converted" a batch of empty straw covered Chianti bottles into table lamps. But not everybody's dad is apt to "convert" -- by dint of much sawing, hammering and cursing -- an antique Sheraton side table into an uneven rhomboid purported to be a knife box.

But if this word "re-purposed" is allowed to catch on what on earth will become of "converts" to Christianity? I haven't yet heard cutting edge "clergy persons" referring "re-purposed atheists, agnostics and Moslems," but you can bet it's only a matter of time. Pip! Pip!

✠ **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: Riley, Sallie, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Goff, Robert, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, Dr. Devadadson, Thelma, Mary, Adele, Linda, Jan, Liz, Bob, Wyatt, Jim, Reta, Sara, Tammy Sophie, 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, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy; Ellen, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, Bryan, Jason, Joan, Frances, Pat, Michael, 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, Dorothy, Joanne, ✠Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Doris, Carol, Suzie and Jennifer.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Jennifer, Brendan, Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Ned, Stephen, Rachel, Robert & Renee, Lydia, Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, 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 and 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.

FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Arthur Thompson.

✠ **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: Said Eucharist

9.15am: Sung Eucharist (*with Nursery & Church School*)

11.15am: Choral Mattins (*1st Sunday: Choral Eucharist*)

6.00pm: Choral Evensong (*1st Sunday only*)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6.00pm: Evening Prayer

Friday Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5.00 pm: Family Eucharist.

**COLLECTS FOR SEXAGESIMA
& SAINT VALENTINE**

O LORD God, who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do; Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN*
(Book of Common Prayer, Page 112)

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who kindled the flame of thy love in the heart of thy holy martyr Valentine: Grant to us, thy humble servants, a like faith and power of love, that we who rejoice in his triumph may profit by his example; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *AMEN*

Return Service Requested

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