

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church,
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXIII, Number 12

Edited by Anne Hawkins

April 3rd, 2012

FROM THE RECTOR

Poetry is not designed to be mouthed silently

ABOUT the most difficult thing in America today is finding a publisher for a volume of poetry. No matter whether they are tragedians, romantics or writers of comic verse, poets are cold shouldered by the major publishing houses.

Yet it wasn't always so. Poetry's decline as a popular cultural medium began less than fifty years ago. Indeed, publishers once vied for the services of leading poets and went out of their way to nurture the up-and-coming.

It was by no means unusual for poets to make a handsome living. Whitman and Longfellow by no means starved in garrets. Rudyard Kipling, poetaster of Imperial India, lived in considerable opulence. T. S. Elliott, Robert Frost and Ezra Pound were lionized and routinely feted.

Poor A. A. Milne took his poetry very seriously and would, doubtless, be appalled that today he is remembered only as the creator of Disney characters. Winnie the Pooh and Piglet came into being when Milne, as a joke, dashed off a tale about his infant son, Christopher Robin, and assigned the copyright to his wife for pin money.

But poetry's decline is only the tip of an iceberg. Writing standards, public and private, have been in free fall for more than a generation. Just take our newspapers. The tortured grammar and syntax might be forgivable if the contents weren't so banal and tedious.

Wars, for example, are many things – brutish, terrifying, gruesome and nasty – but they aren't boring. You'd never guess this from the filings from Iraq. Compare today's humdrum offerings with the work of the war correspondents during World War II, Korea and even Vietnam.

The same holds true in the world of books. Fiction or non-fiction, the publishers lists are dominated by the turgid and dreary. There are probably as many "great writers" published today as in the past -- namely, very few. The loss of craftsmanship has been most keenly felt in the great middle ground -- the journeymen writers of detective stories, romantic novels, "rattling good yarns" and non-fiction works, such as popular histories.

It's not that such titles have ceased to be published. The problem is that the quality of the writing has plummeted. One reason for the decline in standards is that editors aren't what they used to be. Media conglomerates, dominated by managers obsessed with the bottom line, tend to pare editorial costs to the bone. The result? Well . . . as my old dad used to say, "If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys."

Furthermore, the advent of electricity introduced the cheap electric light bulb to replace the expensive wax candle. This, in turn, eliminated the need for family members to read aloud to one another as source of economical entertainment.

Then, in the latter half of the 19th Century utilitarians used "silent reading" as an efficient, businesslike way of disseminating knowledge. Prior to that, everybody (ignoramuses and intellectuals, high brows and low, without exception) read aloud -- and not just the Bible, books and collections of poetry, but newspapers, magazines, public notices and private correspondence. Writers of all sorts, thus, framed their work to be read aloud.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 1st to April 8th

PALM SUNDAY: 8 AM Holy Eucharist
9 AM Sung Eucharist
11.15 AM Choral Eucharist
6 PM Choral Evensong

HOLY MONDAY: 6 PM Holy Eucharist
HOLY TUESDAY: 6 PM Holy Eucharist
HOLY WEDNESDAY: 6 PM Holy Eucharist

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 7 PM
Choral Eucharist & Stripping the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY - 12 NOON
The Seven Last Words From The Cross
3.30 PM Children's Way of the Cross
6 PM Communion of the Presanctified

HOLY SATURDAY
7 PM The Great Vigil of Easter

EASTER DAY
8 AM Holy Communion
9 AM Choral Eucharist
(followed by Easter Egg Hunt for Children 7 and under)
11.15 AM Choral Eucharist

Authors back then weren't concerned merely with the efficient transmission of information. They took just as much care about how their work would sound. Folks should bear this in mind when they struggle with Shakespeare, Dickens, Melville, Henry James and their contemporaries. It is only reading writers of the past aloud that we can fully grasp their ideas and appreciate the richness of their language.

However, thanks to television, computers and the internet, reading aloud is rapidly becoming a lost art. It is, indeed, ironic that in an age in which our means of communication has reached undreamed of heights our ability to express ourselves is approaching a nadir. **GPH**

FROM THE BRIDGE CLUB

Join us Sunday afternoon

THE Parish Bridge Club meets on Sunday afternoons at 3.30 PM to enjoy a relaxed game of bridge. If you are an experienced bridge player looking for a friendly game, why not join us? If you've grown rusty and would like reacclimatize yourself in cheerful, non-judgmental company, this is exactly the place for you. If, on the other hand, you are a complete novice but would like to learn the game, we will be happy to teach you.

✠ 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: Leo, 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, Heather, Laurie, Diane, Don, Lynn, Helen, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Edithann, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Joseph,

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
EASTER DAY**

Being Sunday, April 8th, 2012

**8.00 AM, 9.00 AM & 11.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION**

The Epistle: Colossians 3:1-4
The Gospel: St. John 20:1-10

FOR THE GREAT VIGIL
At 7.00 PM, on Saturday, April 7th, 2012

The Epistle: I Corinthians 5:6-8
The Gospel: St. Mark 16:1-8

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, Danny, Billy, Betty-

Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, 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, 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, Major Benjamin Hawkins, British Army

FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Helen Omohundro.

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: Charlotte Omohundro Hawtin and family.

Easter Flowers for St. Stephen's Altar

Here is a selection of beautiful spring flowers to decorate the church for Easter. Please make your choice and return this form to the church office with your check by Wednesday, April 4th. Flowers may be taken home after the 11:15 am service.

Lilies Small elite 6" 4-6 blooms @ \$10 _____ # of plants
Hydrangeas Four plus Blooms @ \$20 _____
Daffodils @ \$10 (6"pot) _____

Field Azalea @ \$15 _____ # of plants
Hyacinths @ \$10 (6"pot) _____
Tulips @ \$10 (6" pot) _____

Your Name:..... My gift is made IN HONOR OF,
IN MEMORY OF, IN THANKSGIVING FOR (Please Circle)

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
9.00am: 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.

**COLLECT FOR PALM SUNDAY &
MAUNDY THURSDAY**

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

ALMIGHTY Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, did institute the Sacrament of his Body and Blood; Mercifully grant that we may thankfully receive the same in remembrance of him, who in these holy mysteries giveth us a pledge of life eternal; the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. *AMEN.*

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 134 & 152

Return Service Requested

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