

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Anne Hawkins

September 18th, 2012

FROM THE RECTOR

Reading Circle redux: Time to move our lips when we read

ABOUT the most difficult thing in the world 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 not 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 Afghanistan. Compare today's hum-drum 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. The loss 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. And, as my old dad used to say, "If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys."

But the real villain of the piece is our modern habit of "silent reading." It was the utilitarians of the 19th Century who promoted silent reading. Before that, every one (ignorami and intellectuals, without exception) read aloud – and not just books and collections of poetry, but newspapers, magazines and private correspondence.

Writers of all sorts, thus, framed their work to be read aloud. They 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 by 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.

Curiously enough, we at St. Stephen's have an abundance of folks who excel at reading aloud – among them, for example, Dan Bursi, Brock Johnson, Sev and Martha Miller and Gordon and Mavis Turner.

Until six or seven years ago, one of our most successful evening programs was The Reading Circle. Members would gather weekly to read each other's favorite poems, passages of prose from books they particularly admired and even entire novels.

The Reading Circle went out of business when a number of our most talented readers moved away from Baltimore – not least Major Cal Collier and his wife Melba.

Cal, a distinguished U.S. Air Force veteran, was a remarkably able and popular Bible teacher. He also had a deep knowledge of a broad range of literature from the sacred to the comic. His readings from Brer Rabbit were not to be missed.

It was all such fun that we recently explored the possibility of reviving the weekly Reading Circle. It would be an hour to a 1-1/2 hour program in which, for instance, members would present a chapter of a Dickens or Mark Twain novel, nonsense verse by Edward Lear, a Stanley Holloway monologue and, say, a chapter of Wind in the Willows or Winnie the Pooh for the kids. The aim would be to offer something for folks of all ages.

We plan to hold our first meeting at 6.00 PM on Thursday, September 29th – the Thursday immediately following the final Silly Summer Supper for the year.

It should not only be fun, but a painless way of following the old Readers' Digest advice and increasing our word power. We do hope you will give this new program your support. **GPH**

FROM THE PARISH CHEFS

The Last of the Summer Wine

THE CHEFS of St. Stephen's will be serving the final "Silly Summer Supper" of the 2012 season on Thursday, September 19th at 5.30 PM. This is positively your last chance until next summer to eat a really super supper at a very silly price.

Actually, the name than "Silly Summer Supper" does not in any way describe the food we serve for these remarkable gastronomic events. The grub is absolutely terrific. The silly thing about about these suppers is the price -- entrée, dessert and salad for just \$10. Soda costs a buck and wine at \$3 per glass and \$5 for two.

September 19th is the last time until next year for your family and friends to socialize over good home cooking you didn't have to prepare yourselves. Afterwards you can visit with friends, enjoy a light hearted game of Bingo and, if you so choose, a rubber or two of Bridge. What's not to like about that?

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Our "Secondhand Rose" sale

SOME FOLKS (our rector, for example) seem quite incapable of throwing things out. The rector not only still owns the suit he was married in, but the sports jacket and slacks he wore on his

The Ladies Who Lunch

This month the Ladies Who Lunch will be sampling the fare at Barretts' Restaurant in Hunt Valley.

Why not join us at 12 noon on Wednesday, September 19th for good fellowship, great fun and fine food.

To reserve your place, call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680. We are looking forward to meeting you there!

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Being Sunday, September 23rd, 2012

**8.00 AM & 9.15 AM
HOLY COMMUNION**

The Epistle: Ephesians 3:13-21
The Gospel: St. Luke 7:11-17

11.15 AM MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 14
The First Lesson: I Kings 17:8-9, 17-24
The Second Lesson: St. Luke 7:11-17

honeymoon. In fact, his closets would fill a fashion museum with garments stretching back through the "Swinging London" era of the 1960s to the schoolboy styles of the 1950s.

We are betting that he is not the only one in the parish with closets and wardrobes crammed to overflowing with gently used clothing -- some vintage; some nearly new -- that desperately needs a new home.

Thus we decided that nothing could be more timely than a "Secondhand Rose Sale." We are looking for gently used clothing, clean and in good condition, from periods ranging from medieval to modern times. We would also be grateful for shoes, accessories, jewelry and purses in good condition. Curtains and drapes would also be welcome.

The sales is for the benefit of a Sunday School playground. The sale dates are: Friday, October 19th, from Noon to 8.00 PM; and Saturday, October 20th, from 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. We would also appreciate volunteers to help run the sale.

For more information, contact Martha Miller's e-mail at cieiowe@comcast.net or call the parish office: 410-560-6776.

✠ PARISH PRAYER LIST ✠

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List as well as thde guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice & Dr. Bob's Place. 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: Paul, Andy, Frannie, Hellen, Michael, Rosina, Timothy, Donna, Diane, John, Robert, David, Richard, Bill, Charlotte, Leo, Riley, Mary-Ann, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, Dr. Devadadson, Thelma, Mary, Adele, Linda, Jan, Liz, Bob, Wyatt, Jim, Reta, Sara, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, Melvin, Heather, Laurie, Lynn, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Edithann, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, Patty, Antonio, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Fran, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erline, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tom, Leliliah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Ray, 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, Maxine, Ann, Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Joanne, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Doris, Carol, and Suzie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Larry, Aaron, Hope, Tom, 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, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, 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, 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, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes, Lt Nicholas Clouse USN, Major Benjamin Hawkins, British Army.

✠ 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

8.00 am: Said Eucharist

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

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

6.00 pm: Choral Evensong (1st Sunday only)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6.00 pm: Evening Prayer

Friday Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5.00 pm: Family Eucharist.

**COLLECTS FOR TRINITY XV AND
ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST**

KEEP, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

O ALMIGHTY God, who by thy blessed Son didst call Matthew from the receipt of custom to be an Apostle and Evangelist; Grant us grace to forsake all covetous desires, and inordinate love of riches, and to follow the same thy Son Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

AMEN.

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 210 & 250

Return Service Requested

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