

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Don Ruthig

April 30th, 2013

British Garden Party and Fete - Saturday, May 4th, 11.00 am to 4.00 pm

FROM THE RECTOR

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread

CHARLOTTE long ago resigned herself to the fact that her husband will never be a handyman like her father. Sure, I can change light bulbs, do simple electrical repairs, hew wood and carry water. But the more complicated tasks involving carpentry or plumbing absolutely defeat me.

The best I can rise to is the ancient English art of "the bodge" – the leak under the kitchen sink patched up with the aid of a soda bottle and yards of duct tape, for example. A "bodge" is a temporary repair that functions adequately for a time but looks decidedly amateurish and a trifle bizarre.

I am acutely aware that I have no talent for carpentry, painting and plumbing. I take up hammer, nails, paintbrush and wrench only in desperation, when impelled by dire poverty or a sudden emergency. I only wish that the bodgers who trespass on my own areas of expertise -- literary bodgers -- exhibited a similar degree of humility.

They don't, however. They not only ensure our newspapers and magazines are turgid, tedious, homogenous and bland, they give themselves license to tinker with the works of some of our greatest literary geniuses.

If it's hard for anyone other than professional writers to get worked up about tomorrow's birdcage liner, just take a look at the crimes the literary bodgers have committed against works of literature which constitute the crucible in which the English language was formed: The Book of Common Prayer and the King James Version of the Bible.

To be sure, by today's standards, these books employ very large vocabularies: 16,000 words or so in the case of the BCP and approximately 20,000 in the case of KJV Bible. Shakespeare, by contrast, uses a vocabulary of 25,000 words.

Admittedly, this is considerably more than the 400 words the average person is estimated to use in daily conversation. In former times, however, breadth of vocabulary would have been considered objectionable only by the oafish and uneducated. Most people would have regarded it a valuable educational resource.

Neither the Prayer Book nor the KJV Bible is written in archaic language. It is not alien in the way of, say, Middle English or even Anglo-Saxon. Words like "thee" and "thou" and "wouldst" and "shouldst" are perfectly understandable and they are employed for a purpose – not least to make the language in which we speak to God majestic, meaningful, memorable and timeless.

These days plain, unadorned language is regarded as a virtue and the language used in both the prayer book and the KJV Bible can reasonably be described as plain and unadorned. Our modern liturgies, by contrast, aren't written in plain, unadorned language. They tend to be written in the mawkishly flowery style beloved of political speechwriters.

Take this sentence from Eucharistic Prayer C: "At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home."

This sad agglomeration of tired old clichés conjures up memories of the early Star Trek episodes or Lost in Space. It is prose of the kind one used to encounter only in greeting cards and romantic novels. Modern "praise music" is similarly unmemorable and devoid of serious theological content.

What's more, our literary bodgers are proving the truth of George Santayana's dictum: "Those who will not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." They are doing to English literature what the Visigothic emperors did to Latin poetry and prose – purging it of content and cluttering it with banal clichés and meaningless sounds.

If they had stopped there, their efforts might have been written off as inept but well meaning. Far from stopping there, however, they have tried to suppress works of genuine genius. What they haven't been able to suppress they have bowdlerized and vandalized.

Compare the Prayer for the Whole State of the Church in BCP of 1928 with the Rite One version in the 1979 Book. See how the Prayer of Humble Access and post communion Thanksgiving have been crudely expurgated.

This is not being done in isolation. It is a madness afflicting pretty well all of Western civilization. The Church of England has virtually abandoned the Book of Common Prayer, adopting first the Alternative Service Book and latterly the Book of Common Worship. Neither tome can in any way be described as an improvement on American Book of 1979.

The Churches of Ireland, Scotland and Wales have done the same, while Germany's Evangelical Church has long abandoned Martin Luther's translation of the Bible – the book which gave the German people their common tongue.

Even tiny Denmark has been rewriting the translation of the Bible that has traditionally been regarded as the standard by which Danish literature is judged.

None of this is accidental, of course. It reflects *weltanschauung* of the deconstructionist movement that has hijacked so much of academe – a world view that holds that everything is meaningless and that there is no such thing as empiric truth or beauty. This is a foolish, not to say wicked, conceit. The shame is we are letting them get away with it. **GPH***

STATE OF THE CHURCH: PART I

Report of the People's Warden

A WARDEN is a person charged with the care or keeping of "things". In the case of the Anglican Church the "things" are order and peace, the church buildings and facilities, and the properties belonging to the church.

Wardens have a particular duty to maintain order and peace in the church and churchyard at all times, and especially during services. In England a fine of £200 can be assessed for "riotous, violent, or indecent behaviour in any cathedral church, parish, or district church or chapel of the Church of England." I am happy to report that no such incidents have occurred at St Stephen's during the past year -- although the treasurer might welcome the extra income.

The second "particular duty" of the warden is the care and keeping of the church buildings and facilities. Our buildings, now approaching their 20th year, have the same maintenance needs of any structures of that age. Fortunately we have had no major structural repairs during the past year but time does march on and some needs are emerging.

The siding on the south wall of the sanctuary, under the windows, has shown signs of significant rot. In the coming months we will have to replace the siding in order to keep our building weather tight. We don't anticipate this to be a significant expenditure since the work is straightforward and can be accomplished by our own parishioners. At the same time the rain gutters will be rehung to remove water away from the building and prevent the damage from recurring.

Our buildings and grounds wouldn't be in such excellent condition were it not for the efforts of a group of parishioners whose dedication certainly merits the accolade of "unsung heroes." They clean the bathrooms, mop the floors, polish the brass, make the windows sparkle, cut the grass and trim the bushes, dust the pews, and do any number of other jobs to keep our church buildings and grounds as beautiful as they are. Their's is truly a labor of love. A heart-felt thank you to all of them.

The final "particular duty" of the warden is for the care and keeping of the properties belonging to the church. And it's amazing how much stuff we have!

This year a comprehensive inventory of the furnishings and fittings of the church was compiled. The result of the inventory was the doubling of our insurance coverage for our church furnishings and property.

But even as a dollar value can be assigned to many of our furnishings, they are, in fact, irreplaceable given their history and the path by which they found their home at St Stephen's. (Read "The Remarkable History of St Stephen's Altar" on our website as an example.) Hopefully we'll not need our insurance.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve this church and this congregation this past year as People's Warden. **DON RUTHIG**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Just the facts

WITH just a week to go before the Garden Party we've shifted our efforts into high gear to make this the best Garden Party ever. Our needs are many, so in the interest of brevity here are "just the facts" of how you can help.

- ✓ Round up your unwanted bric-a-brac, collectibles, books, DVDs, CDs, etc. and drop them off on the jumble table in the Parish Hall.
- ✓ Sell advertisements and sponsorships for the brochure. Must be received by April 24th.

Next Choral Evensong - Sunday, May 5th, 6.00 PM.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
ROGATION SUNDAY**

May 5th, 2013

**8.00 AM, 9.15 AM & 11.15 AM HOLY
COMMUNION**

The Epistle: Ezekial 34:15-31

The Gospel: St. Luke 11:5-13

For your MORNING PRAYER

The Psalter: Psalm 65, 67

The First Lesson: Ezekial 34:25-31

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 11:1-13

- ✓ Pick up a poster or two and post at your local "haunts."
- ✓ Donate bottles of wine for our liquor wheel and bottles of gourmet oils, vinegars, sauces, etc. for our bottle wheel.
- ✓ Bakers: Bake cakes and other baked goods for our Bake Table. Bake small dessert items for the tea room. Baked goods should be delivered to the church on Friday, May 3rd.
- ✓ Lend us card tables for the tea room. Be sure to put your name on them so we can make sure you get them back.
- ✓ Lend us teapots and teacups for the tea room - but not your best silver or Limoges.
- ✓ Create a beautiful floral entry for our "Best of British" flower contest. Deliver to the church prior to 11.00 am on May 4th.
- ✓ Crafters: Donate an item or two for sale on our Crafts Table.
- ✓ Sign up to help set up and/or work the day of the Garden Party.

Last, and certainly not least, come out on May 4th for a most enjoyable day. Bring your family, your friends and your neighbors. You'll have a Jolly Good Time.

✦ PARISH PRAYER LIST ✦

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List as well as the 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.

✦ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✦

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Web Address: ststeve.com

RECTOR: The Venerable Guy P. Hawtin
PREBENDARY: The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley

VICAR: The Rev. Michael Kerouac

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Happy Riley
(410- 252-8674)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATORS: Happy Riley (410-252-8674)
Martha Miller (410-321-9038)

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.

RECOVERY: Fr Guy✠, Ray✠, Kathleen, Michael, Finton, Morris, Charles, Dawn, Betty Jean, Elliot, Sharon, Paul, Andy, Michael, Rosina Donna, Diane, John, David, Richard, Bill, Charlotte, Leo, Riley, Mary-Ann, Linda Lou, Cynthia, Nancy, Judith, Deborah, Dorothy, Thelma, Mary, 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, Lelilah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, George, Eliza, Ray, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Steven, 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, Fran, Carol, Jimmy, Felicia, Susan, Anita, Christina and Suzie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Hope, JoAnn, Larry, Aaron, Hope, Tom, Rosa, June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Dean, Ned, Stephen, Rachel, Lydia; Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, Bobby, Kay & Emma, Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Susan, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, JoAnne, 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, Drake, Emily, and David

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, USA; Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt. Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes

**COLLECTS FOR THE Fourth Sunday after
Easter and St. Philip and St. James,
Apostles**

O almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

O almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life; Grant us perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth and the life; that, following the steps of thy holy Apostles, Saint Philip and Saint James, we may stedfastly walk in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer, Pages 173 & 238

Return Service Requested

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