

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXIV, Number 29

Edited by Don Ruthig

July 30th, 2013

FROM THE RECTOR

Living in the age of limited vocabularies

THE GREATEST enemy of literacy today is not the graphic sex, foul language and gratuitous violence that features increasingly in the television programs and movies we watch and the books we read.

Certainly, prolonged heavy breathing, four-letter words and the sound of pounded flesh do nothing to improve literacy – or advance the plot for that matter. But they are merely symptoms, not the disease.

The real enemy of literacy, I would contend, is “Spellcheck” – the computer program that enables us to check our spelling in an e-mail or college essay at the touch of a button. Just as the pocket calculator has diminished the average person's ability to perform simple mathematical calculations, so Spellcheck is responsible for shrinking their command of the language.

Spellcheck, you see, does away with our need to learn to spell, and this, in turn, does away with our need for dictionaries. The problem here is that the dictionary used to be the tool that people used to increase their vocabularies.

Thirty years ago, for example, a popular feature in *The Reader's Digest* was: “It pays to increase your word power.” Radio stations, moreover, earned a sizable chunk of revenue from advertisers offering surefire methods of improving one's ability to speak eloquently and persuasively.

Today *The Reader's Digest's* circulation is in steep decline, while the folks who sell vocabulary enhancing books and tapes no longer seem to find it advantageous to advertise on the radio. Today's Americans don't seem much interested in articulacy or eloquence.

This declining interest in articulacy has not been without consequences. It is probably the factor most responsible for the coarsening of our culture.

William of Wykeham – founder of Winchester College, the great English school, and New College, Oxford – rightly observed that “manners maketh man,” but he might equally have added the corollary: “Language maketh manners.”

Forty years ago, President Richard Nixon was hideously embarrassed by the content of tape recordings of his discussions with aides in the Oval Office. The transcriptions made public were peppered with the words “expletive deleted.”

What embarrassed Nixon beyond measure was not so much the subject he was discussing, but the obscene and vulgar language he used to express his views.

It was language utterly incompatible with the dignity of the Oval Office. It was language that appalled the bulk of the electorate. And it was language that he would never have dreamed of using in front of his family and friends. But then, Nixon, in normal circumstances, was a mannerly and courteous man.

Today, by contrast, obscenities that would have made Nixon and his aides blush are the currency of everyday speech. Lewdities, once confined to the barrack square and the ship's forecandle, color the speech not just of the “Great Unwashed” but what was once known as “Polite Society.”

This casual use the ugliest English expletives by everyday speech by the gamut of people from dock workers drivers to talk show hosts, from shop assistants to movie stars has totally devalued the epithet. When all speech is obscene, how can one tell when one's being insulted?

My father was certainly not prudish and prissy, but he despised folks who swore continually and routinely dished out obscene insults. It was, he claimed, the sign of a limited vocabulary.

This did not mean father was incapable of expressing his displeasure. He was, in fact, the master of the elegant epithet or, if you prefer, the eloquent insult.

When, as children, we incurred his wrath we would be described as “addle-pated clown, “maggoty headed monster” or “lily-livered loon.”

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephens

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Bible Study at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall

Thursdays, 6.30 PM: Superior Summer Supper, Quimby Hall

Thursdays, 7.00 PM: Bridge Group meets in Quimby Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events

Wednesday, August 14th: Ladies Who Lunch, Ginza Restaurant, 12.00 Noon.

Wednesday, August 21st: Vestry Meets in the Cadwalader Room, 7.00 PM

Sunday, September 8th: Parish Picnic at the home of Ellen Reather

Rudeness invited the description of “churlish dolt,” “urchin-snouted dog wart,” “prating clotpole” or “ill-bred bum-baily.” Uncalled for tears were shed by “mewling brats,” “whining toads,” or “sniveling scantlings.” And this is but a mere sample of the epithets at his disposal.

Indeed, I remember my brother and I watching him give a rowdy soccer fan a voluble dressing down – lasting a good five minutes – during which he did not once repeat himself.

The only response the unfortunate recipient was able to make was an admiring: “Blimey, Guv.”

Father was by no means unique in this ability. Most people with a decent education and a mildly extrovert personality – especially schoolmasters – were equally expert in the realm of amusing eloquent insults.

It was you see a product of their education. They didn't learn much about sex or global warming, but they very well versed in geography, mathematics and foreign languages, not least Latin and French – both wonderful sources of epithets and insulting epigrams.

But the primary source of their store of insults came from the study of English literature and religion – notably William Shakespeare and the Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible.

That they mined Shakespeare probably comes as no great surprise, but the King James Bible? How about “whited sepulchers” and “blind guides”?

Youngsters back then were rarely subject to “time outs” and similar modern disciplinary measures devised to avoid harming children's self esteem. But then folks believed that self-esteem – like the esteem of society at large – had to be earned.

Eloquent dressings down were certainly not intended to enhance the self-esteem of the recipients, but to tell them to shape up. For youngsters, however, the colorful language softened the blow – and gave us some fascinating words to look up in our dictionaries. **GPH***

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Chefs needed

WE STILL have several openings on our Superior Summer Supper calendar for chefs to prepare all or part of a meal for these enjoyable Thursday repasts.

Please consider signing up to make an entree, salad and bread, or dessert, or any combination of the above.

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join us on August 14th

THIS month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at 12.00 Noon at Ginza Japanese Restaurant, Yorktowne Plaza Shopping Center, 56 Cranbrook Road, on Wednesday, August 14th. Why not join us for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal? Good food and good

NEW TIME!! Superior Summer Suppers - Thursdays at 6.30 PM. Join Us!

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**
August 4th, 2013
**8.00 AM, 9.15 AM, & 11.15 AM HOLY
COMMUNION**
The Epistle: I Corinthians 12:1-11
The Gospel: St. Luke 19:41-47a
For your MORNING PRAYER
The Psalter: Psalm 42,43
The First Lesson: Lamentations 1:1-12
The Second Lesson: St. Luke 19:41-47a

fellowship -- what more could you want? To reserve your place call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680

Thank you, Blood Donors

OUR summer blood drive collected 26 units of blood. A heartfelt thank you to all who participated.

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.

RECOVERY: Susan, Brice, Reta, Kathleen, David, Evelyn, Ellen, Mimi, Val, Stacy, Dino, 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, Sara, Tammy Sophie, Paula, Blair, Heather, Laurie, Lynn, Katherine, Hindra, Ravi, Elizabeth,

Brian, Tracey, Edithann, Jay, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, 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, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, William, Betty, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tom, Leliah, 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, JoAnne, 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, Christina, Dawn, Shirley, Daniel and Suzie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: JoAnn, Larry, Aaron, Hope, Bob, Paige, 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, 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, Daniel, 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, Ian Cadwalader serving in Afghanistan.

FOR REPOSE OF THE SOUL: Robert B. Taylor

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: Scott and the Taylor Family

☩ 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
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.

**COLLECTS FOR THE Ninth Sunday after
Trinity and Saints Mary and Martha
of Bethany**
GRANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN
Book of Common Prayer, Page 200
O GOD, heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ enjoyed rest and refreshment in the home of Mary and Martha of Bethany: Give us the will to love thee, open our hearts to hear thee, and strengthen our hands to serve thee in others for his sake; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
AMEN

Return Service Requested

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11856 Mays Chapel Road
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