

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXV, Number 4

Edited by Don Ruthig

February 4th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

The confessions of an unrepentant book addict

SOME folks are addicted to tobacco; some to heroin and cocaine. My addiction, I confess, is to books. Fortunately, Charlotte, my wife, shares my clearly incurable literary addiction.

Being a bookworm has many pluses – not the least of which is that we are never bored. Unlike most folks, we never begrudged the hours spent in doctors' waiting rooms. They were simply welcome opportunities to crack open a book. Too bad our present GP is a model of efficiency!

There are downsides, however. When we moved from New York to Baltimore, for example, we had to hire an engineer to check our new house to make sure the walls and floors were capable bearing the weight of the thousands of books in our library.

Trouble is our collection has continued to grow. It doesn't seem to matter how many books we give away – you simply can throw away old friends – the total never seems to decline.

To be fair, 25 years or so ago, Charlotte did try to put the brakes on. But it didn't work terribly well. Somehow I just couldn't stay away from bookshops.

"Where's daddy?" she would ask the children.

"He's out committing books again," they would cynically reply.

Recently we both acquired electronic books (Kindles or whatever they call them) in an effort to curb our ravaging of the rain forests. But somehow they don't seem to have reduced the inflow of hard copies.

It is possible, at least in theory, to store thousands of volumes in one electronic book. But in practice, the blasted batteries tend to run out at the most inconvenient times, which does little to enhance the reading experience.

What's more, buying books electronically just isn't the same as browsing the stacks in a real bookshop. By "real book shop" I don't mean one of the big chains, the shelves of which increasingly stocked with volumes of politically correct mush.

Secondhand bookshops are the only ones that truly qualify as "real." The eclectic collections of volumes lurking on their dusty shelves can keep the average bookworm enthralled for hours.

John Calvin brushes shoulders with St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte Bronte with Edgar Wallace, Jane Austin with Raymond Chandler, not to mention loonier musings of Marx, Mary Baker Eddy and L Ron Hubbard.

Sadly, however, the Internet, Google and the lamentable state of American liberal arts education are combining to make secondhand bookshops pretty well as extinct as the woolly mammoth.

Another regrettable consequence of the rise of the Internet, Google and the like, is the decline of the research library. And it is not just that the research sections in our public libraries are rapidly disappearing. Student access to college and university libraries is also becoming increasingly restricted.

No less unfortunate, newspaper libraries (and, of course, those of magazines, as well as the TV and radio networks) have all but vanished. Why spend hours plowing through inky clippings when more or less the same thing can be accomplished in just a few minutes at a computer keyboard?

The trouble is that the Internet is a far less reliable tool than a good clippings library. For starters, the Internet material is generally unfiltered. The information dredged up from it has not been sifted and screened by an experienced news librarian.

It is, moreover, difficult, if not impossible, to find detailed information on the Internet about all but the most earth shattering events of recent history that took place prior to the Internet age. Thus the demise of the clippings library has resulted in a grievous loss of "institutional memory" in the nation's newsrooms.

In short, the advent of the Internet has done a graver disservice to journalism. The unreliable nature of so much of the information

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Breakfast Fellowship at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall

Wednesdays, 6.30 PM: Bridge Group meets in Quimby Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events

Tuesday, February 11th, 7.00 PM: Parish Life Meeting in Quimby Hall

Friday, February 14th, 7.00 PM: Valentine's Dinner and Auction, Quimby Hall

Tuesday, February 18th, 2.00 PM - 7.30 PM: Blood Drive, Quimby Hall

Wednesday, February 19th, 12.00 Noon: The Ladies Who Lunch. Location to be announced.

Wednesday, February 19th, 7.00 PM: Vestry Meeting in the Cadwalader Room

Thursday, March 13th, 2.00 PM: Afternoon Tea in Quimby Hall

on the Internet is evidenced in the print media's ever expanding "Corrections" columns.

Worse, the demise of the clippings libraries and the rise of the Internet is arguably largely responsible for the recent irritating spate of plagiarism allegations in the nation's newsrooms.

There is, in truth, something inherently ludicrous about the notion that the folks who write the news can actually commit plagiarism. After all, they are not writing "literature." Rather their work's primary purpose is to hold the advertisements apart. Its ultimate destination is to line the bottom of tomorrow's parrot cages.

In the days before the Internet, much of the background material that followed the opening paragraphs of a news story was cleaned from the clippings library, affectionately known as the "morgue." Today such background details are often the product of an Internet search.

In practice, no journalist claimed ownership of the "copy" in the clippings in the morgue. It was regarded as the property of the news organization. Some journalists – often egotists who imagined themselves more talented than the original writer – rewrote the material.

But more often than not "morgue jobs" tended to echo the original text verbatim, especially when the reporter or rewrite-man or woman was up against a deadline. And nobody bitched about.

But, of course, back in those days reporters were usually former "copy boys and girls" who had learned their trade from the hardened professionals who had graduated to the newsroom and copy desk. Today they usually come direct from journalism school, brandishing journalism degrees.

To earlier generation of media moguls, a journalism degree would have seemed an odd concept – a bit like a degree in plumbing or janitorial services. Lord Beaverbrook, a legendary Anglo-Canadian newspaper tycoon, claimed the qualifications a journalist needed were "shorthand, typing and a sort of low animal cunning."

"By-lines" back then were earned – not wantonly distributed to every Tom, Dick and Harriet in the newsroom. This, doubtless, explains why the news stories of yesteryear seem so crisp, concise and easy to understand, unlike the column upon column of turgid, self-indulgent prose that so often passes for news today.

And, then, in those days, professional journalists – no matter their personal convictions – shrank from giving a political twist to their reportage. Politics, they believed, should properly be confined to the editorial and op-ed pages. Allowing it to seep into the news pages would debase the product and lose readers.

Lamentably, that – along with shorthand and low animal cunning – is among the lessons conspicuously absent from the modern journalism school curriculum. **GPH***

Give the Gift of Life. St Stephen's Blood Drive Tuesday, February 18th

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
February 9th, 2014
8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION
The Epistle: Colossians 3:12-17
The Gospel: St. Matthew 13:24-30
11.15 AM CHORAL MATINS
The Psalter: Psalm 21
The First Lesson: Joel 3:9-17
The Second Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17

Time for a change of time?

THERE probably was a good reason, way back when, that our Matins service was scheduled for 11.15 am. But we're considering a change - a mere 15 minute change - to 11.00 am. It's common knowledge that the food at Sunday brunches rapidly becomes inedible after about 12.30. Perhaps an earlier start will make it possible for worshipers to get to brunch before the fried eggs turn to frisbees and the bacon to shoe leather. Not only that, but early arrivers for the 11.00 service just might run into some of the mysterious "early risers" that have worshiped at 9.15. Please make your thoughts, either pro or con, known to Fr. Guy or Fr. Mike.

✠ **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 Rev. Canon Guy P. Hawtin
VICAR: The Venerable 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.

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE
**Valentines Dinner and Auction-
Sold Out!**

WE'VE reached that magic number - 64. That's the number of dinners chefs Wolfgang and Puck can produce in our very small kitchen, and the number of diners we can comfortably seat in Quimby Hall. The list of auction items has grown to 36 but more can be accommodated. If you have an item or service to donate please call Judy Kight at 410-592-9291.

✠ **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: Fr Guy, Donna, Aida, Eunice, Cherry, Ruth, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, Suzie, Mary John, Charlene, Rodney, Hamilton, Jane, Donald, Annie, Cynthia, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Linda Lou, Edie, John, Beth, Adele, Melba, Lydia, Chandra, Brady, Nina, Baby Charlie, Maryann, Angie, Oona, John.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Connie, Azalea, Stephen, Ann, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes, Ian Cadwalader serving in Afghanistan.

**COLLECT FOR THE PURIFICATION OF
THE VIRGIN MARY AND ST TITUS,
APOSTLE AND CONFESSOR**
ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN
Book of Common Prayer Page 231
BLESSED Lord, who didst charge Saint Titus to speak the things that accord with sound doctrine and to offer himself a patter of good works: Grant to all thy people to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age, that they may with sure confidence look for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end.
AMEN

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