

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Don Ruthig

August 12th, 2014

FROM CURMUDGEON CENTRAL

It's time to send the Bard back to school

I'm sorry. I can't help myself. Black spots are clouding my vision . . . I'm feeling light headed and faintly sick . . . An attack of the dreaded curmudgeons is coming on . . . I'm powerless to resist . . .

READING Shakespeare – which, admittedly, involves the ordeal of putting down the iPhone and picking up a book – one rapidly realizes how profound his influence on the English language has been.

While it's true the Bard plundered the Book of Common Prayer for all manner of figures of speech, especially when he was in a rush, his personal contribution to our tongue is absolutely vast.

Indeed, one can hardly turn a page without encountering a phrase or saying which has been absorbed into every day parlance – or what, before the dawning of this present illiterate age, was every day parlance.

Consider, for example, the following phrases picked at random from Macbeth: “sleep that knits up the raveled sleeve of care”. . . “daggers in men's eyes”. . . “we have scorched the snake not killed it”. . . “blood will have blood.”

These, and hundreds of other figures of speech coined by Shakespeare, were grafted into the daily vocabulary not just of a highly educated elite, but of ordinary men and women throughout the English speaking world.

The breadth of the vocabularies of ordinary people was why it was such a pleasure to conduct what used to be known by folks in the news business as “*vox pops*.”

Vox pop is an irreverent newsman's (uh! sorry, newspaper's) abbreviation of the Latin expression “*vox populi*” which translates as “voice of the people.” (Today “*vox pops*” are usually called “person on the street interviews” – another politically correct genuflection towards the drastically declining erudition of folks in the media.)

In any event, 40 or so years ago, reporters sent out to quiz passers-by on the streets of America's cities, towns and villages on matters of the day could bank on notebooks full of quotes, remarkable for their aptness and eloquence.

Certainly, by no means all of them had a flawless command of English grammar, but a vast majority were able to express themselves with commendable precision and a considerable degree of eloquence.

Today's “*vox pops*”, by contrast, are sorry affairs – stumbling and bumbling, and positively smattered with “likes” and “kindas” and “sortas.” Don't look for enlightenment in today's “*vox pops*.” Simply watch them and weep.

There is a very simple reason for the precipitate decline in the average American's command of the English language. Shakespeare is no longer taught in our schools, except in the most bowdlerized forms.

The excuse is exactly the same as those offered for today's inept Prayer Book revisions: Shakespeare's English is old fashioned and too difficult for modern people to understand.

This is complete poppycock – unless you define “old fashioned” to mean that he uses a vocabulary far in excess of 1,000 words. Of this, he's undoubtedly guilty. Shakespeare's vocabulary logs in at about 24,000 –

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

Mondays, 6.30 PM: Bridge Club meets in Quimby Hall

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Breakfast Fellowship at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events

Wednesdays, 6.15 PM: Silly Summer Suppers in Quimby Hall

Wednesday, August 20th, 12.00 Noon: The Ladies Who Lunch at the Green Turtle

Saturday, September 20th, 3.00 PM: Service of Re-dedication

Saturday, September 20th, 5.00 PM: Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 21st, 10.00 AM: Combined 9.15 AM and 11.00 AM Services (8.00 AM service unchanged). Service of Confirmation

Sunday, September 21st, 3.00 PM: Service of Ordination with reception to follow

dwarfing even the Prayer Book's 16,000 and the King James Bible's 20,000 or so.

But that's the whole point of teaching Shakespeare to school kids. It vastly expands their vocabularies and teaches them to use their newly acquired word-power effectively, enabling them to communicate precisely, eloquently and with the nuance that's needed to convey complex and sophisticated ideas.

The notion that Shakespeare is outmoded holds water only if one accepts the contention that mankind would be far better off if Western civilization were to go into a permanent decline.

There are, of course, a number of people in this country, including members of the educational establishment, who view such a prospect with approval. Restricting the ability of people to communicate is a surefire method of achieving such a lunatic goal. Civilization hangs, first and foremost, on the communication of ideas.

However, most of the folks who dismiss Shakespeare as outmoded and pointless are by no means iconoclasts.

Some subscribe to the notion that challenging children to master difficult subjects such as Shakespeare would subject them to unbearable levels of stress. Others seem to believe that the computer age has rendered Shakespeare's style of communication obsolete.

Nonsense! My dad used to point out that if pictures really were worth a thousand words, people would still be drawing on cave walls.

But, who knows? If the anti-Shakesperians manage to maintain the upper hand, cave wall art might well be in for a big revival. **GPH**

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Plan to join us on August 20th

THIS month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at 12.00 Noon at The Green Turtle, on Wednesday, August 20th. Why not join us for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal? Good food and good fellowship -- what more could you want? To reserve your place call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680.

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

August 17th, 2014

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Corinthians 10:1-13

The Gospel: St. Luke 15:11-32

11.00 AM CHORAL MATTINS

The Psalter: Psalm 115

The First Lesson: Ezekial 14:1-11

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 15:11-32

FROM DIANE NOVICKI

Dear Sunday School Parents

In order to teach the lesson of charity we will be collecting an offering in Sunday School every Sunday for the Zambia, Africa Anglican Diocese.

I have been telling the children about the church in Africa but would appreciate it if you could urge your child to bring a small age appropriate offering (\$.25-\$1.00) to

church.

This offering of love teaches the children to care for others.
In Christ, **DIANE NOVICKI**

✠ 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 Mike✠, Fr Tim✠, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, John, Rodney, Hamilton, Donald, Annie, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Linda Lou, Edie, Adele, Baby Charlie, Angie, Oona, Cary, Janna, Martina, Leela, Bobby Sally, Isabelle, Julie, Ray, Courtney, Mary, Phyllis, Liz, Joe, Indra, Ally, Marjorie, Steve, Judy, David, Wendy, John, Joy, Walt, Tina, Nina, Irma, Susan .

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Ann, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan, Paula, Hannah.

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

✠ 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*)

11.00 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.

COLLECT FOR THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY AND SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN

O GOD, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth; We humbly beseech thee to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Page 199

O GOD, who hast taken to thyself the blessed Virgin Mary, mother of thy incarnate Son: Grant that we, who have been redeemed by his blood, may share with her the glory of thine eternal kingdom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

AMEN

Return Service Requested

St. Stephen's Anglican Church
11856 Mays Chapel Road
Timonium, MD 21093

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