

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Don Ruthig

August 19th, 2014

FROM THE RECTOR

How the attack of the curmudgeons started

CONFESSIO*N* being good for the soul, I feel obliged to explain how I became a curmudgeon. The discovery took me quite by surprise. After all, I've always thought of myself as a relatively sweet-natured soul. Not so, it turns out.

I first diagnosed the onset of curmudgeonhood (if that is the appropriate word to use; I'm not entirely sure) while I was on vacation in Britain a few years back.

Reg, my brother-in-law, was watching a TV sports cast of a most peculiar game. The players were clad in luridly colored garments – ill-designed sweatsuits, positively plastered with advertisements. The field on which they were playing appeared to be made from Astroturf and was similarly plastered with advertisements. The spectators were a howling mob.

All of this was most peculiar since the game, itself, seemed vaguely reminiscent of Britain's national pastime – a decorous, gentlemanly and time-consuming pursuit called "Cricket."

"What on earth are you watching, Reg?" I asked.

"Cricket," Reg replied.

Suddenly black spots clouded my vision. I felt light headed and faintly sick. "It can't be cricket, Reg," I cried. "Tell me it's not true!"

At this point I should explain that cricket was always played in white flannel trousers, white flannel shirts, white woolen sweaters, and white canvas, or buckskin, boots.

The only color players were allowed to display during the course of play was on their caps – rather silly little affairs – on their belts, and around the neckbands of their sweaters.

Spectators at cricket matches (it would be quite unseemly to call them "fans") took pride in their stoicism and restraint. They unfailing applauded the "visitors" (a.k.a. the rival team) and defeat was accepted graciously, with faint murmurs.

The pitch upon which the game was played, moreover, was an immaculate rectangle of finely-manicured grass surrounded by a wide stretch of lush, well-trimmed lawn of the sort one finds only in England.

Now it might sound unpatriotic, but in the interest of accuracy and personal integrity, I need to confess that I have always found cricket a crashing bore – not a patch on that superlative game of all games called Baseball.

Indeed, cricket used to be as slow as molasses in January – so much so that, when forced to play it at school, I would always volunteer for the outfield. There I could read a book, safe in the knowledge that, in the unlikely event that a ball was to come my way, my team would have time to alert me.

Be all this as it may, when I left England cricket was not merely a game, it was one of Britain's most cherished national symbols – an only slightly more mobile equivalent of the Statue of Liberty, so to speak.

As long as the smack of leather on willow echoed in the land (cricket balls are bound in leather and bats are made from willow) one could rest assured that there would always be an England.

Now it is true that smack of leather on willow still

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

Wednesday, August 27th, 7.00 PM: Vestry Meets in the Cadwalader Room

Saturday, September 20th, 3.00 PM: Service of Rededication

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

echoes (assuming polyesters have not taken over the artifacts of cricket in the same way they have supplanted white flannel) but that is all that seems to remain of the time-hallowed sport.

True, most cricket matches still provide the traditional "beer tent," but doubtless the top selling offerings are Budweiser and a nicely chilled Chardonnay – so they are really quite different from the days when the only drinks available were draught and bottled Bass, and lemonade Shandy.

Next thing, the tea tents will be serving up espresso and lattes. Who knows? They probably already are!

A worrisome aspect about the culture shock arising from my "cricket trauma" is that it has affected my appreciation of the Olympic Games. I confess I find it hard to shed a tear as America's basketball "dream team" loses to Upper Volta or Outer Mongolia.

Actually, there is something almost poetic about bunch of highly paid athletic *prima donnas* getting a David & Goliath-like comeuppance. Besides, why on earth are professional athletes permitted to compete in the games in the first place.

The Olympics were once the sole preserve of amateurs and to my mind they should stay that way. Okay, so Russia cheats. But then they have always cheated. The way to deal with them is to disqualify them, not join in the cheating.

Things were different in my Great Uncle Tom's day. He represented England in the first modern Olympics back in 1896. Tom was officially a member of the gymnastic squad, although he took part in a number of other events as well because a number of athletes failed to turn up, having lost their way, run out of money or been kidnapped by brigands in the Balkans.

Back then, to qualify, it was not only necessary to be good at one's chosen sport, but athletes had to foot their own bill for travel and lodgings . . . You know, there's something really quite appealing about that idea . . . *Aaaaargh, black spots are clouding my vision . . . I'm feeling light headed and faintly sick . . . Stop me before I curmudgeonate again!* **GPH**✘

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

August 24th, 2014

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Corinthians 12:1-11

The Gospel: St. Luke 19:41-47

11.00 AM CHORAL MATTINS

The Psalter: Psalm 145

The First Lesson: Ecclesiasticus 1:1-10

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 19:41-47

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.

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, 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, Irma, Nina, Susan.

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

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 NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER TRINITY AND ST
BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE**

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 they will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

O ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who didst give to thine Apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach thy Word; Grant, we beseech thee, unto thy Church, to love that Word which he believed, and both to preach and receive the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Pages 200 and 249

Return Service Requested

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