

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

It's irritating how much gets lost in translation

There is a lot more to the art of translation than simply reaching for a foreign language dictionary. Indeed there are certain foreign words that defy accurate translation – e.g. the German word *gemuetlich* and its Danish equivalent *hyggelig*.

Both words are usually translated as “cosy,” but the English word in no way conveys the full extent of the warm, companionable, togetherness implicit in *gemuetlich* and *hyggelig*.

Similarly, the word “epistle” is translated from both Latin and Biblical Greek as “letter.” but, in fact it is a literary form for which there is no English equivalent. Certainly, however, “letter” is a far better translation than “book.”

That said, at Pentecost, the disciples were given “the gift of tongues” by the Holy Spirit. Even so, the remarkable people who work as simultaneous translators for governments, big business and the United Nations somehow achieve similar results without divine assistance.

Having attempted to do the job on a couple of occasions myself, I know from personal experience how remarkably skilled the true professionals are. For a rank amateur like me, it was an utterly nerve wracking experience.

The problem is that it doesn't matter how well you speak a foreign language, if you are not a native there are bound to be gaps in your knowledge that catch you completely unaware.

When, for example, our family moved to Germany, my wife Charlotte's command of the language was quite rudimentary, but I, on the other hand, was fluent.

I have a good ear for languages. My accent was better than average. I was entirely comfortable discussing political, social, economic and business issues in the German. And I had no trouble reading a restaurant menu. What could possibly go miss?

Plenty, it turned out. When Charlotte took me shopping for household appliances, the gaps in my knowledge became embarrassingly apparent.

“We need a dishwasher and a tumbler dryer,” Charlotte told me as we walked into the show room. I had no idea what they were called in German. Dish washers and clothes dryers has never figured in the books I'd read. Indeed such articles had never crossed my mind English, let alone German.

I swallowed hard and resorted to literal translation. The bemused salesman, however, failed to grasp what I meant by a *tellerwaeschmaschine* and a *trommelntrockner*.

In any event, by dint of a good deal of giggling, arm waving and pointing at miscellaneous household equipment, we shook hands on a *geschirrspueelgeraet* and a *waesetrockner*.

Mercifully, Charlotte – always a fast study – swiftly picked up the language from the ladies in our village and soon became an expert in everything from homemaking to auto repair to industrial economics.

We were fortunate that our most embarrassing mistakes took place in the relative privacy of a department store show room. There have been many far less fortunate . . . for example, the U.S official who wrote the speech President John F. Kennedy delivered in West Berlin in 1963. Proclaiming his solidarity with the beleaguered city, then being heavily harassed by the Soviets, his speech writer had the president declare: “*Ich bin ein Berliner.*”

The message JFK intended to convey was that, in spirit, he was a citizen of Berlin. What, in fact, he said was: “I am a jelly doughnut.”

The words that would have proclaimed him a citizen of Berlin are: “*Ich stamm aus Berlin.*”

Still worse is the case of the anonymous American advertising executive charged with introducing the U.S. cigarette brand “More” to the German market.

The word “more” translates into German as “mehr.” The trouble is that “Mehr” doesn't have quite the same ring in German as “More” des in English. It was therefore decided to market the cigarette under the brand “M” using the slogan “*M ist mehr.*”

It was a catastrophic decision. The designer who laid out the type on the advertising posters placed the capital “M” and the “*ist*” so close together they could easily be read as the word “*mist.*”

Unfortunately, the word “*mist*” translates into English

Parish Prayer List

Our Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List and guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice. To add a name to the prayer list, or visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office (410) 560 6776.

FOR RECOVERY: Mavis, Pam, Eileen, Rebecca, Catherine, Bill, Richard, Janis, Daniel, Leona, Rachel, Elizabeth, Kim, Dorothy, Donna, Skip, Dan, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Heidi, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Neal, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Jan, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John Tom, Michell, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, David, Wade, Sifa, Eileen, Ravi, Theresa, Larry Ricard, Judy & Scott

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Sam, Cameron, Jim, Diana, Caroline, Karen, Ardis, Mavis, Michael, Ian, Melba, Vinnie, Doug, Chip, Elizabeth, Lisa, Carey, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Kath, Rebecca, Colin & Christian.

IN MEMORIAM:

THOSE WHO MOURN:

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt. Col. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; USAF; Cpt Fiodor Strikovski, US Army.

as “dung” or, rather more genteily, “horse manure.” The slogan “More horse manure” prompted hoots of laughter throughout Germany, but few cigarette sales. The slogan was hurriedly changed to “*M = mehr*” but it failed to save the situation. *M* disappeared from the tobacconists' shelves in short order.

The perils of linguistic ignorance were graphically illustrated by Kurt Weisskoppf, the Reuters news agency's East European economic correspondent, a man fluent in more than a dozen languages.

Kurt came to Britain as a refugee from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia just before World War II. “We were lodged in a small English seaside town utterly different from Prague and its cosmopolitan café society, he said. “

“We desperately wanted to find a café where we could talk and read newspapers like we did at home. None of us spoke English. So we scraped together a little money, gave it to a chap who claimed to speak a few words of English and sent him out in search of a café.

“Hours later our intrepid explorer returned triumphant. ‘I have found the café . . .’ he announced grandly. ‘It is called ‘Café Open!’ ” GPH

FROM THE CLERGY

Thanksgiving Day Service

Despite Covid19, we still have much for which to give thanks. We shall be holding our Thanksgiving Day Eucharist, as usual, on Thanksgiving Day, November 26th at 10.00 AM — repeat 10.00 AM. Let join together to show God our appreciation for his all blessings before we tuck into turkey and all the trimmings on Thursday, November 26th.

FROM PARISH LIFE

COVID Cookie Walk2020 and Knitting Auction

Even though we are all limited by the pandemic, the knitting auction will take place starting 1 November 2020 at the church, and end on 19 December 2020.

We have over 50 items to auction. Each is lovingly done by someone in our knitting Circle. There are lots of hats, scarves, sweaters, shawls and mitts for your buying and gifting pleasure. As usual, we will have a “Buy it Now” at the bottom of each bid sheet, so you can get your item immediately. Each item’s starting bid is the cost of the yarn. Each of our knitters has spent hours knitting to

bring you this fabulous array of handmade items. The more you bid, the more we can give to our charities, which include St. Stephen’s Church (www.ststeve.com), Christ Child Society of Baltimore (www.christchildbaltimore.org) and The Heifer Project (www.heifer.org). Please stop by anytime the church is open to view and bid on these lovely items.

Jellies and Jams will be available after 1 December 2020. The price is \$6.00 per jar. Our wonderful soup mix will also be available for \$5.00 a package. Jezebel Sauce, that spicy condiment, will be selling for \$5.00 a jar.

Homemade cookies (prepackaged) will be available by the 1 pound box for \$12.00. Cookies will only be available on December 19th between 9:00 am and noon.

Our Sunday service schedule

Holy Eucharist at will be said at 8.00 AM and 9.15 AM. Morning Prayer will be said 11.00 AM with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month. Sunday School takes place at 9.15 AM

We are continuing our videos of Feast Day and Sunday Eucharists. These are posted on the **parish website** (www.ststeve.com), **Youtube** and **Isaac the Eagle’s Facebook** page from 9.00 AM onwards every Sunday and Day of Obligation. They are listed at the bottom of the Home Page, under “Recent Blog Posts. A new midweek “broadcast” talk by the rector can also be found on the website every Wednesday or Thursday.

Meanwhile, please mail your offerings to the Treasurer’s Mail Box: **St Stephen’s Anglican Church, P.O. Box 6161, Timonium, MD 21094.** GPH✉ & JPN✉

St Stephen’s Anglican Church

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www.ststeve.com

The Very Rev. Guy P Hawtin, Dean & Rector
The Rev. John Novicki, Vicar ·
Associate Rectors:
The Rev. C. Daniel Bursi,
The Rev. Dr. Norman Flowers,
The Rev. M. Wiley Hawks & The Rev. Mark Newsome,
Mrs Happy Riley, Director of Pastoral Care
& Wedding Coordinator

SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Said Eucharist
9.15am: Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)
11 am: Sung Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)
Choral Services (as announced) – evensong.ststeve.com

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6pm: Evening Prayer
Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist
Saturday, 5pm: Family Eucharist

For Our Country.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth.

In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St Stephens’s Anglican Church
11856 Mays Chapel Road
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